

EXCERPTS FROM THE HISTORY OF LUZERNE COUNTY

By H. C. BRADSBY

(Readers will enjoy Mr. Bradsbys quaint, paranthetical remarks more if they keep in mind that he was writing this history of Luzerne County forty-five years ago, and refers to conditions as he knew them, not as they are in 1938.) —EDITOR

At this juncture the assembly of Pennsylvania passed an act restoring the dispossessed Yankees to their lands and recalling Armstrong and Patterson and their forces.

The settlers at once set about organizing to punish the offenders. Franklin was elected colonel of the troops. A petition was sent to the assembly at Philadelphia. When that body failed to act, Franklin endeavored to interest Congress and the Assembly of Connecticut in the wretched fate of the Wyoming people. He succeeded in reviving the slumbering energies of the Susquehanna Company and in July, 1785, that company met and reaffirmed its rights in these disputed lands.

Then Franklin conceived this plan to create a new state out of Northern Pennsylvania. The disputed territory was to be dismembered and down-trodden Wyoming was to be set free from the thralldom of Pennsylvania.

Wise heads at Philadelphia saw the gathering storm and on December 24, following, the assembly of Pennsylvania passed an "Act for quieting disturbances at Wyoming and pardoning certain offenders." The law was consequently disregarded.

SECESSION THREATENED

The ball set in motion by the bold and fearless Franklin was now being rolled onward by such men as Oliver Walcott, Joel Barlow and Gen. Ethan Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga. Stout hearts and heroes who had braved the tempest of battle during the Revolution, and who sympathized with the widows and orphans of their comrades in their sufferings and wrongs were gathering at Wyoming, and the result could not be mistaken.

The authorities of Pennsylvania saw at once that the infamous policy which had pursued was fast leading to dismemberment of the State, and that the time had arrived for other and prompt measures. A division in the ranks of the Yankees was determined upon, and the question arose, who can accomplish it?

PICKERING MAKES ENTRANCE

Timothy Pickering, a native of Massachusetts and a man of distinguished ability, was at this time engaged in the practice of law in Philadelphia. He was requested to visit Wyoming and examine the condition of affairs here. This he did in August and September, 1786, and returning to Philadelphia reported "that the Yankees were entirely satisfied with the constitution of Pennsylvania, and were ready to submit to its government, provided they could be quieted in the possession of their farms."

A few days after this report, September 25, 1786, the act creating the county of Luzerne passed the assembly, and Matthias Hollenback, Timothy Pickering and others were commissioned justices, with power to hold courts, etc. Pickering was also appointed prothonotary, clerk of the court and register and recorder. Lord Butler was commissioned high sheriff.

On December 27, following this event, the Susquehanna Company held a meeting at the State house in Hartford, Conn., when measures were adopted preparatory to the organization of the new State.

CALL FOR ELECTION

On the same day, at Philadelphia, the Assembly of Pennsylvania passed a supplement to the act creating Luzerne County, by which Timothy Pickering, Zebulon Butler and John Franklin were appointed to notify the electors of Luzerne County that an election would be held there on the first day of February, 1787, for the election of one supreme councilor, one member of the house of representatives and a high sheriff. Thus, Pennsylvania succeeded, in dividing the Yankees, and now they were no longer one people united against a common enemy.

As the first day of February approached the breach widened and on the morning of the election "for the first time" says Miner, "was presented the spectacle, equally gratifying to foes and painful to friends, of open and decided hostility among the Wyoming People."

Franklin and his adherents, remembering Pennsylvania's oft repeated and plighted vows and the outrages of Armstrong and Patterson, would not trust Pennsylvania without security. Confirm us in our titles, and protect us in our possessions, said they, and then we will swear allegiance, but not till then.

FRANKLIN IS TEMPTED

The election was held, but not without riot and confusion. Col. Nathan Denison was chosen a member of the executive council, John Franklin was elected to the house of representatives and Lord Butler to the office of high sheriff of the county.

It was understood if Franklin could be reconciled, the new state project would be seriously damaged. It was, consequently, a prime object to seduce him from his former connections.

With this view he had been appointed with Pickering and Butler to give notice of the election, and it was with this view he had been elected a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly.

It was doubtless intended as an exquisite stroke of political management. It was a cunningly-spread net, in which most men would have been caught. But Franklin was not so to be taken, for he stubbornly adhered to his first position, refusing to take a seat in the assembly or the oath of allegiance.

(Continued From Last Week)

OUR PUZZLE CORNER

STUDY IN ALPHABETICS
IN THE GARDEN
YOU FIND
OBJECTS
IN THIS SCENE

WHAT'S ALL THE SQUAWKING ABOUT
DRAW A LINE FROM 1 TO 40 AND YOU'LL SEE...

21 SKILLINGS + ARE + EYE + RREL

WHAT ANIMALS?

SPECIAL TODAY 6 DIMES FOUR 50¢

BANK

WASTE

CAN YOU SEE 10 ERRORS?

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IT'S TRUE!

By Wiley Padan

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DELLA LIND,
BLONDE VIENNESE SINGING STAR of the HAL ROACH-MGM MUSICAL COMEDY EXTRAVAGANZA "SWISS MISS," WAS OBSERVED BY STUDIO SCOUTS IN A LONDON PLAY, and PREVAILED UPON TO TAKE A SCREEN TEST.

Stan LAUREL
WAS AN UNDERSTUDY TO CHARLIE CHAPLIN WHEN THE TWO FIRST APPEARED IN LONDON MUSIC HALLS!

Oliver HARDY
MADE A LIVING SINGING WITH THE NEWS REELS IN AN ATLANTA THEATRE BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS!

Leo SAYS...
ERIC BLORE
WAS IN THE BRITISH ARMY DURING THE WAR.

WALTER WOOLF KING
SINGS IN 5 LANGUAGES. HE SPENT HIS BOYHOOD IN SALT LAKE CITY, WHERE THE CHOIRMASTER of THE MORMON CHURCH ENCOURAGED HIM TO DEVELOP HIS STERLING VOICE.

LITTLE BUDDY

By Bruce Stuart

\$1.20 TO CLEAN FOUR SHIRTS?? THAT'S HIGHWAY ROBBERY!! WHEN MY DAD HEARS THAT HE'LL GO WILD!!

VELLY SOLLY!! THAT'S MY PLICE!! NO CAN DO CHEAPER!!

HERE'S YOUR MONEY, MR. LUNG = BUT WE'LL NEVER BRING OUR LAUNDRY HERE AGAIN!!!

VELLY SOLLY!! GOOM-BLYE!!

THAT FELLER SHOULD'A BEEN A INDIAN INSTEAD!!

WHAT TA YA MEAN?

HE SURE KNOWS HOW TO SCALP PEOPLE!!

ONE LUNG LAUNDRY

DASH DIXON

By Dean Carr

HAVING SAFELY ESCAPED FROM XLD, THE SPACE SHIP IS NOW SPEEDING THROUGH SPACE TOWARD JUPITER WHERE THE DOCTOR'S DAUGHTER IS HELD CAPTIVE!

BUT HOW WILL WE AVOID THEM?

I HAVE JUST COMPLETED A DETECTOR THAT WILL WARN -

THERE IT GOES NOW!

QUICK! TO THE CONTROLS!! WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT INTO AN INVISIBLE PLANET!

WHAT'S SO DANGEROUS ABOUT THESE INVISIBLE PLANETS?

THE MAIN DANGER IS IN NOT BEING ABLE TO DETECT THEM!

BZZZZZZ

HIDDEN DANGERS!! CAN THEY ESCAPE THEM???

DETECTIVE RILEY

By Richard Lee

RILEY'S SWEETHEART, JEWEL, HAS BEEN DESPERATELY TRYING TO FIND THE INTREPID SLEUTH, NOW MISSING FOR SOME TIME = SHE DOESN'T KNOW HE IS HELD PRISONER AND CLOSE TO DEATH!! HER FATHER, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, HAS AIDED THE SEARCH, BUT THERE ARE STILL NO CLUES TO RILEY'S WHEREABOUTS!!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY BROWN? THIS IS OFFICER JONES!! WE'RE HOT ON THE TRAIL OF THE GAS-HOUSE MOB, BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND THEIR SECRET DEN YET!! THEY'RE HOLDIN' RILEY PRISONER, AS SURE AS I'M BREATHING!

I'LL SEND YOU FOUR OF MY BEST MEN TO HELP NAB THOSE YELLOW DOGS!!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO WORRY? SEE, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE RILEY IS SAFE!!

INTERESTING, BUT I FEEL I SHOULD HELP FIND HIM, TOO!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS CHILD!! WHAT COULD YOU DO, WITH A PACK OF GORILLAS?

I HAVE A HUNCH, THAT'S ALL!! IF IT WORKS MY SWEETHEART WILL BE FREED - IF NOT, I'LL BE NEAR HIM, ANYWAY!!

OH DAD DEAR, THIS SUSPENSE IS UNBEARABLE!! WHERE CAN HE BE?

NOW YOU STOP WORRYING JEWEL I'M SURE EVERY THING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!!

FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW!!!

By H. T. Elmo

THE WOMEN OF ITALY DURING THE 12th CENTURY ALWAYS SAID "PRAYERS BEFORE ENTERING THE WATER FOR A SWIM IN THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD PREVENT DROWNING"

FRESH WATER FISH LIVE 250 FT BELOW SEA LEVEL, IN DEATH VALLEY, CAL., THE LOWEST AND HOTTEST POINT IN NORTH AMERICA!! FISHES ARE ALSO FOUND IN ALPINE LAKES OVER 15,000 FT. ABOVE SEA LEVEL!!!

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
DISCOVERED THE CACAO BEAN AND WAS THE FIRST WHITE MAN TO DRINK CHOCOLATE!!!

XINDOOS OF RANGOON BAPTISE THEIR NEW CLOTHES BY SOAKING THEM IN A HOLY RIVER AND THEN WEARING THEM WRINGING WET!!