

# EXCERPTS FROM THE HISTORY OF LUZERNE COUNTY

By H. C. BRADSBY

(Readers will enjoy Mr. Bradsbys quaint, parantetical 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

There were people enough here to begin to form scattered neighborhoods before there was such a thing as social life.

The very first visitors were nomads, wandering aimlessly across the mountains and along the winding streams, coming in sudden surprise upon the wigwams and brush and bark villages, to sit in that calm stolidity of the natives about the camp fires, and then silently pass on.

This strange creature was piloting the way across the continent—the vanguard to the millions that were soon to follow—and those, too, who came to possess—the nation builders, as they have been proudly called by their descendants.

Indeed, they were far more than that; they were both the world's map makers and the founders of the new civilization. The reflex of their lives have re-mapped the world—recast the fate of the human race.

Bundled in this strange, uncouth creatures, these lonely wanderers were the restless spirit of independence and liberty—the rights of man as against the "divine" rulers. These people were a strange development of their age and time—the marvel of all history—the glintings of the luminous civilization that was to follow them; whose developing food had been persecutions by church and state, and sect and heretic, and whose strong and unconquerable manhood and supreme self-reliance had come of cruel blows, or risen, phoenix-like, from the flames.

### TYPICAL CHARACTER OF OLD TIMES

"Old Michael"—the ancient "sexton and high constable"—John Michael Keinzle, was a most interesting and typical character of the good old times. The wicked boys of that day knew him only as "Old Pickle." He commenced as sexton and grave-digger, and was elected high constable of Wilkes-Barre in 1806, and in his many offices served until his death in 1846.

He was a stumpy, red-faced, bushy-haired and stub-whiskered Swiss. Beneath a rough exterior was a kind heart and infinite love of children, though the wild boys thought him a very ogre. In loyalty and obedience he was a martinet to his church and the law of the land, and yet he would rebuke the judge or the minister with equal bluntness at which he deemed the slightest departure from the proper form. All must behave in his presence—little children, great judges or venerable divines.

One of the olden time boys has furnished a reminiscence that is so graphic a picture of the times and customs of the people that we can not do better than give it substance, much of it in his own words:

"I can remember being one of a soldier company of which Ned Mallery was captain and Ned Babb was first lieutenant. Our guns were made in the carenter shop of John P. Babb of good wood, with a snap spring on the side, which filled our purpose, and was not dangerous. We used to parade on the Saturday half-holidays (School then commenced by the sunrise and kept until sundown). We paraded on the river bank, near old Michael's residence, which was in the Airndt storehouse on the edge of the bank opposite Morgan's tavern. On these occasions Michael would frequently pass along our line and give each of the boys a penny, a great prize to every one of us. We knew he was poor, and we never forgot his kind heart.

"He was constable and sexton of the churches, and attended to the opening and cleaning, lighting and bell-ringing, and always snuffed the candles, wearing in the church pumps, and silently, with snufflers, would pass around during the singing. He was the servant of the town, and in many ways its master. On Sunday he sat in the gallery to watch the boys, and woe to the urchin who did not keep still or made a noise. Every night at 9 he rang the bell of the old meeting-house on the square, a notice to the merchants to close up, for all abroad to retire to their homes, and everybody to go to bed. This he did without pay or any reward save that of good conscience, and in this he was as punctual as the sun in all weather.

"He had a pound on the river near his residence, and cattle found at large at night were driven there and the owner must come and pay his fine. When he found a man drunk and helpless on the ground he went for his wheelbarrow and on this took him to the pound, dumping him in with the domestic animals. In the winter, when the snow would cover the way or coal-ash sidewalks, Michael would be up before day while others slept and with his snow plow drive along the walks and have all the snow off before the people were up. This, too, was voluntary and with no pay attached.

"The pleasure of doing good was his reward. He had the only hay scales in the place, near his residence and the pound. Lon chains were attached to a beam, fastened to the wheels of the wagon, and all was raised clear of the ground, and the weight ascertained. Thus, he was weighmaster, too. His charge for each job was ten cents.

"No man was ever more fearless in the discharge of official duties. Many a time he would make an arrest, take the prisoner to the door of the jail, then turn his prisoner loose after frightening him terribly. This latter applied mostly to youths of the town, when, which was not frequently, he could catch them. He had "clumb the mast" in vindication of this claim when a wag intimidated a doubt, and he ascended the steeple of the church and stood upon the small ball, 125 feet from the ground.

(Continued Next Week)

## IT'S TRUE!

By Wiley Padan

**MAUREEN SULLIVAN and DENNIS KEEFE.**  
M-G-M'S TWO YOUNG IRISH PLAYERS, ARE TEAMED IN THE COMEDY "HOLD THAT KISS"

**MICKEY ROONEY**  
TOOK BETTY JAYNES' YOUTHFUL SCREEN SINGER, FOR A JOY RIDE ON A SAN FRANCISCO HIRE TRUCK RECENTLY!

**JESSIE RALPH**  
IS A MEMBER OF THE WELL-KNOWN TOWN HALL CLUB OF NEW YORK.

**George BARBIER**  
WAS BORN IN PHILADELPHIA, NOV 7<sup>th</sup>. IN HIS 35-YEAR CAREER, HE HAS PLAYED 750 ROLES!

**Edward BROPHY**  
WAS BORN IN N.Y. FEBRUARY 27<sup>th</sup>. STUDIED AT UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

## OUR PUZZLE CORNER

**ACROSS**

- 1- STRONGLY ATTACHED...
- 3- EGYPTIAN SUN-GOD...
- 6- NOTE OF MUSIC...
- 7- EPOCH...
- 8- FRENCH FOR "THE..."
- 9- SMALL RUG...
- 11- TO OBSTRUCT...
- 13- ABBR. FOR EAST INDIES
- 14- YOU AND I...
- 15- CLOTHED...

**DOWN**

- 1- FANCIED...
- 2- ORGAN OF HEARING...
- 3- BEFORE...
- 4- LONGED FOR...
- 10- ATMOSPHERE...
- 12- REVERENTIAL FEAR...

HERE IS ANOTHER STREET SCENE IN ALPHABETIC... FIND TEN 'S' OBJECTS...

## LITTLE BUDDY

WHAT'S THE JOKE?

HA! HA! THAT'S SURE A FUNNY ONE!!

YOU AIN'T EVEN GOT A PAIR OF SHOES AN' YOUR FATHER IS A SHOEMAKER, TOO!!

THAT'S NOTHING!! LOOK AT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER!

HE HASN'T A TOE IN HIS HEAD AND YOLK FATHER IS A DENTIST!!

## DASH DIXON

A POWERFUL RAY IS SENT UP FROM THE PLANET TOWARD THE SPACE SHIP!

THE RAY SEEMS TO BE HARMLESS!

GOOD GOSH, DOCTOR! THE SHIP'S MOVING!

THE RAY'S DRAWING US DOWN TO THE CITY!

IT MUST BE A MAGNETIC RAY!

LOOK AT THE FUNNY BUILDINGS!

WE'RE MOVING PRETTY FAST! LOOK OUT! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!!

WHAT HAPPENS ON THE INVISIBLE PLANET???

## DETECTIVE RILEY

IF YOU DON'T TELL IN WHAT PRISON YOU CLAMPED OUR BOYS YOU'LL GET ANOTHER DOSE OF THE FLOODED CHAMBER!! SPEAK FAST, THEIR BREAKAWAY IS OVERDUE, ALREADY!!

I DON'T KNOW!!

YOU'RE A LIAR!! NOW SPILL IT!! IN WHAT COOP ARE OUR PALS LOCKED? GIVE ME THE CHIN MUSIC AND I'LL GET YOU FREE!!

SET ME FREE MY EYE!! YOU'D KNOCK ME OFF IN A SECOND IF YOU KNEW!!

YOU'VE GOT TWO MORE SECONDS TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND!!

MY MIND'S MADE UP! I WOULDN'T TURN RAT FOR YOU NOR ANYONE ELSE—NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME!!

OKAY, WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!!

**BANG!**

WHAT WAS THAT?

## FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW!!!

THE NATIVE DOCTORS OF SUMATRA COMPOUND "CURES" FOR ALL AILMENTS, WHETHER IT IS, TOOTHACHE, BACKACHE, STOMACH TROUBLE OR WHAT NOT, FROM THE FOLLOWING INGREDIENTS: SHELLS, COMBS, PINS, TEETH, SAW-DUST AND BLACK GREASE!!!

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN TOP WINDOW HAVE THE UPPER HALF OF THEIR EYES ADAPTED FOR VISION IN THE AIR, AND THE LOWER HALF ADAPTED FOR VISION IN THE DARK WATERS!!!

IN EARLY TIMES AN APPLE WAS KNOWN AS A NAPPLE!!

IN CERTAIN PARTS OF HOLLAND, THE INHABITANTS USE CELERY LEAVES TO STOP TOOTHACHE!!!

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SINK IN THE WIDELY KNOWN SWIMMING POOL OF DROTWICH, ENGLAND!! THE EXTRAORDINARY BUOYANCY OF THE WATER IS DUE TO THE BRINE—OBTAINED BY SALINE... SEA WATER—PUMPED INTO IT, FROM NATURAL BRINE SPRINGS 200 FT. BELOW.