

### EXCERPTS FROM THE HISTORY OF LUZERNE COUNTY By H. C. BRADSBY

(Readers will enjoy Mr. Bradsbys quaint, parenthetical 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

(Continued From Last Week)

Years come and years go, and the wilderness that was early Luzerne County begins to thin out, and the land begins to be dotted with log cabins. That is, every few miles on the way can be seen in the distance the blue curling smoke lazily ascending from these outside, low, mud-and-stick chimneys. This, now, is the glorious log-cabin day and age. Let us examine one, and, if we can, secure the shadow ere the substance has gone forever.

As you approach you are impressed with the squat and heavy, solid appearance of the building. The roof is of split clapboards, weighted with heavy poles. There is not so much iron as a nail in the whole building. The batten door is made of the same kind of boards, and swings on wooden hinges. It has a wooden latch, to which is attached a leather string that passes up and through a small hole to the outside. To pull this string is to raise the latch, and permit the door to open. To lock the door it is only necessary to pull the string inside, and then no one on the outside can open it. Hence, there is much friendly significance when one says to another "My latch string always hangs out for you."

#### SETTLER PROUD OF HIS LARDER

You will notice as you approach that to your right, and near the end of the cabin, somewhat to the front of the house, is a very small cabin, a kind of a baby to the main building. This is the meat house. The lord of the manor is evidently a little proud of the larder, and hence it sets a little to the front of the big cabin. It speaks for him a good provider, "and juicy hams and red gravy" galore. Farther off there you see the stables covered with straw, and the stacks of grain and hay, and about the premises are cows and calves, and horses, with long hair and bushy manes and tails, and razor-back hogs, the largest part apparently the head, on account of the long snout. On every hand there are evidences of plenty and content.

Pull the latch and walk in, where a hearty and cheerful welcome will greet you, even the long-haired cubs will "bay you a deep-mouthed welcome" that will be stopped only by the authoritative voice of the master. The wide, blazing fire, extending nearly across the whole end of the house, adds to the brightness, and the iron lard lamp, with a rag for a wick, the recent great improvement over the scraped turnip that did duty as a lamp, you hardly notice as it burns away stuck in a crack in one of the logs.

The good wife and the strong and red-cheeked girls are preparing the evening meal. The spare ribs hanging in front of the fire are turned frequently, and their odors at once whet your already keen appetite. The bread is in the oven, and on this is a lid with the edges curled up to hold the heaps of coals that are on the top, while there are still more under the oven. An iron pot is hanging by the crane, and is boiling furiously. While these preparations are going on, take an inventory of the room.

#### "GRANNY" SITS IN THE CORNER

You are in one of the two split-bottomed chairs. The old chest can be seats for three or four of the family; then there are two or three three-legged stools. Then there is a bench made of a split log, with legs to it, that is seats all along one side of the table, but is moved around at pleasure. Over there is "granny", with her "specs", the brass rims nearly worn out, and all looking as old as she does, except the new yarn string that holds them in place.

At the other end of the 14x20 room are two beds, end to end, with barely room for a person to squeeze between them. On these are such high feather mattresses, and over these gay-figured red and white woolen coverlets. A gay calico "valance" hangs around the legs of each big bedstead, and under each big bed you know there is a trundle bed... the ancestor of the folding bed. The trundle bed was at one time a universal feature of the old log cabin, from which came that barbarous expression from some sour old bachelor about "trundle-bed trash".

The floor is of puncheon—split logs—dressed down with an axe tolerably well, but still full of big cracks; the window, a hole in the wall, covered with a piece of greased paper through which the light shines dimly. On the walls hang strings of sage, onion tops, and a beautiful wreath of red peppers. Some loose boards are laid on the cross-beams, and the stairway is cleats fastened to the wall. This is the girls' boudoir, and the walls around it are hung with dresses and female clothing.

But supper is now ready and steaming hot, and you seat yourself around the puncheon table with the happy family and fall to with a will.

(Continued Next Week)

**IT'S TRUE!** By Wiley Padan

**MICKEY ROONEY**  
HAS HAD 14 YEARS OF STAGE AND SCREEN EXPERIENCE AND PLANS TO BE A DIRECTOR WHEN HE IS 21!

**Freddie BARTHOLOMEW and MICKEY ROONEY**  
ARE PALS IN M-G-M'S "LORD JEFF", DRAMA OF BRITISH MERCHANT MARINE TRAINING SCHOOL

**MICKEY ROONEY** HAS PLAYED DRUMS IN 32 BANDS! IT'S A HOBBY TO PLAY THE DRUMS IN EVERY BAND HE HEARS.

**HERBERT MUNDIN** IS ALSO KNOWN AS LOUIS BYRD AND BOBBY VERRIER.

**Charles COBURN**  
STAGE STAR FOR 40 YEARS, WAS HEAD OF THE UNION COLLEGE MOHAWK DRAMA FESTIVAL.

**OUR PUZZLE CORNER**

HERE'S A PRETTY SCENE ALONG THE WAYSIDE IN ALPHABETICALLY... FIND TEN "W" OBJECTS HERE...

**DO THIS CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**  
1- TO BE LEARNED BY A PUPIL...  
3- FINISHED EATING...  
4- A SEED VESSEL...  
6- RETAIL DEALERS...

**DOWN**  
2- FIXED...  
5- PECULIAR, STRANGE...

**THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT!**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53

**DRAW A LINE FROM 1 TO 53...**

Copyright Lincoln Newspaper Features, Inc.

### LITTLE BUDDY

WILLIE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THE SWELL FURNITURE IN HIS HOUSE!! LET'S GO OVER AND SEE HOW GOOD IT REALLY IS!!

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!!

YEP ALL OUR FURNITURE PIECES ARE REAL GENUINE ANTIQUES, FELLERS!!

WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT BUDDY? I WONDER HOW OLD THE FURNITURE REALLY IS?

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY, BUT SOME OF THESE PIECES ARE SO OLD THAT ALL THE PAYMENTS MUST HAVE BEEN MADE ON THEM!!!

Copyright Lincoln Newspaper Features, Inc.

### DASH DIXON

**SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR!!!**

EVERY TIME WE MOVE WE SEEM TO GO HIGHER!

LOOK! WE'RE UP OVER THE CITY ALREADY!

THE EXPLANATION OF THIS IS SIMPLE!

AS YOU KNOW, GRAVITY IS THE FORCE THAT HOLDS THINGS TO THE EARTH! BUT, THERE IS NO GRAVITY ON THIS PLANET!! THAT'S WHY WE FLOAT IN THE AIR!!

LOOK! HERE COMES SOMEBODY FROM THE CITY!

WHAT EXCITING ADVENTURES AWAIT?? THEM ON THIS STRANGE PLANET

Copyright Lincoln Newspaper Features, Inc.

### DETECTIVE RILEY

I WOULDN'T DO ANY SQUEALING IF YOU SLICED ME INTO A THOUSAND PIECES AND AS FOR THE GIRL YOU'RE GOING TO TORTURE, I WOULDN'T TALK, EVEN IF SHE WERE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S DAUGHTER!!

YOU'RE DUE FOR A SHOCK RILEY, BECAUSE THAT'S JUST WHO IT IS—THE DA'S DAUGHTER JEWEL BROWN—YOUR SWEETHEART!!

YOU'RE MAD! YOU'RE INSANE! YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS! THIS IS A SNATCH! YOU'RE TREADING ON UNCLE SAM!!

I'M TREADING ON NOBODY EXCEPT YOU AND THIS DAME!! WILL YOU TALK?

NO!

PUT HER ON THAT TABLE AND STRAP HER DOWN! SPIKE GO INSIDE AND BRING IN THAT RED BOTTLE ON THE SHELF IN THERE—THE RED ONE!!

Copyright Lincoln Newspaper Features, Inc.

### FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW!!!

CERTAIN RARE SPECIES OF MINKS IN WESTERN RUSSIA EAT NOTHING BUT CAVIAR!

COFFEE IS SERVED TO BATHERS IN THE SWIMMING POOLS OF TURKEY!! THEY DRINK IT IN THE WATERABLE BATHS!!

TRACE OF COPPER MAKES THE OYSTER ATTACK OR SET—THERE ARE 60 MILLION OYSTERS PRODUCED ANNUALLY IN THE UNITED STATES

IN 100 AMERICAN COPPER PENNACLES THERE IS ENOUGH COPPER IN ONE CENT TO SET THE SETTING OF 60 MILLION OYSTERS

COTTON GARMENTS WERE WORN IN CHINA OVER 1000 YRS. BEFORE THE CHRISTIAN ERA!!

BESIDES HIS OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS NAPOLEON WAS ALSO AN EXPERT SWIMMER!! DURING HIS CAMPAIGN IN ITALY, HE PERSONALLY SAVED TWO SOLDIERS FROM DROWNING!

Copyright Lincoln Newspaper Features, Inc.