

# 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)

## THE BATTLE OF WYOMING (Continued)

The repulse of Col. Plunkett closed the year 1775, and from that source no further invasion was expected that season. Alarms, however, from the Indians at the north were serious.

Through the action of the leading men of the town the Indians were induced to come to Wilkes-Barre in September, 1776, to hold a council, in which the Indian Capt. John represented the savages and Col. Butler the colony.

Capt. John made quite a speech, which, if correctly interpreted, was filled with the affectionate term, "brother", in nearly every sentence, and friendship was effusively expressed. The Indians wanted peace and brotherhood with the settlers; asked that they have a "fire-place" here and a great council, and "wampus" and "calumets" galore. The white man very promptly suspected these over-friendly professions; and, as time proved, it was merely savage cunning to get their warriors among the people and when disarmed, murder them at will. This all increased the fears and dread of the people.

October following, three chiefs from the Six Nations at Onondaga arrived and brought a "talk" from the "great head". This was more of their hypocritical pretensions of brotherly love and another plea for a great "fire-place" at Wyoming. They complained that in a cow trade with a white man a certain Indian had been cheated, and demanded restitution, and also wanted flour given to them to take home to their hungry people.

Col. Butler promptly sent word to Roger Sherman of the dangers threatening, and asked for arms to place in the hands of the people for defense against invasion.

## ALLIANCE AGAINST LIBERTY

Soon reports arrived giving information that the British under Col. John Butler (his command being mostly Canadians and Indians) were at Oswego, and now the people were convinced the savages were in alliance with the British and were joining Burgoyne.

The town of Westmoreland extended north to the State line following up the Susquehanna river, and in the neighborhood of Tioga Point (Athens) were the strong Indian settlements of Newtown, Oquaga, Sheshequin, Chenango, Owego, and Chocoutout. From these points they could quickly float in their canoes to Wilkes-Barre.

Chapman, in his history, estimates in round numbers there were 5,000 settlers in Westmoreland at this time. Hon. Charles Miner corrects this statement and from the records shows that the approximate number was 430 able-bodied men, or a total of 2,580 population.

The patriotic vigilance of the settlers is given in the proceedings of a town meeting of Westmoreland, March 10, 1776:

"Voted, That the first man that shall make fifty-weight of good salt-petre in this town shall be entitled to a bounty of 10 pounds sterling, lawful money, to be paid out of the town treasury.

"Voted, That the selectmen be directed to dispose of the grain now in the hands of the treasurer or collector, in such way as to obtain powder and lead to the value of 40 pounds sterling, lawful money, if they can do the same."

The Continental Congress having recommended the appointment of committees of vigilance in every town, and the arrest of persons hostile to the cause of liberty, a committee of inspection was established, a measure that became the more pressing necessary, as, with the breaking out of war, and the prohibition of the part of Connecticut of any further emigration to Wyoming, there had come in strange families of interlopers from Minniskink, from Westchester, N. Y., from Kinderhook, and the Mohawk, neither connected with Pennsylvania nor Connecticut, between whom and the old settlers there was neither sympathy in feeling nor community of interests—Wintermoots, Vangorders, and Von-Alstines.

A path of communication was opened by the disaffected between New York and Niagara, to strike the Susquehanna some twenty miles above Wilkes-Barre. Some of these new and unwelcome settlers soon made their sentiments known, and disclosed their hostility to the American cause, while others for the time remained quiet, though subsequent events showed the purpose of their emigration to the Susquehanna.

John Jenkins, Sr., and Capt. Solomon Strong were chosen members of the Legislature to attend at Hartford, with instructions to request the Assembly to demand of Pennsylvania 4,000 pounds sterling for losses sustained by invasions and property destroyed. The people took steps to build forts.

The General Assembly of Connecticut had to raise and organize the Twenty-fourth regiment of Connecticut militia at Westmoreland.

The Wintermoots (suspected people) had purchased land and had erected a fort near the head of the valley (Pittston). To counteract this the settlers built a fort above this near the Jennings and Harding families. Forty Fort was strengthened and sites for forts at Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Hanover and Plymouth were arranged.

(To Be Continued)

**GUY KIBBEE**  
WAS BORN IN EL PASO, TEXAS ON MARCH 6th. JOINED A STOCK COMPANY AT AGE 14 & PLAYED FROM COAST TO COAST FOR 27 YEARS.

**RUTH HUSSEY**  
DARK-HAIRED and DARK-EYED, CAME TO HOLLYWOOD FROM PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, via RADIO and THE STAGE!

**LEW AYRES**  
AS "COUSIN HENRY," PUTS A CRAMP INTO RUTH AND BOB'S ROMANCE!

**BOB YOUNG**  
TAKES BOXING LESSONS FROM ANTHONY MARLOW, SINGING TUGLIST!

**RUTH HUSSEY**  
PLAYS THE FEMININE LEAD IN "G-M-W'S RICH MAN, POOR GIRL"

## OUR PUZZLE CORNER

## LITTLE BUDDY

By Bruce Stuart

BUDDY WILL YOU GO TO THE GROCERY STORE FOR ME? TAKE COUSIN OSCAR WITH YOU!!

OKAY, MOM! SINCE I LAST SAW COUSIN OSCAR HIS APPLE HAS GROWN BIGGER!

BUDDY LIKES TO KID ME ABOUT IT!! WELL, LET'S GET GOING TO THE STORE!

I WANT TWO POUNDS OF COFFEE AND A POUND OF BUTTER!!

WHAT TOOK YOU BOYS SO LONG? YOU WERE GONE ALMOST AN HOUR?

WE HAD SOME TROUBLE AT THE STORE!!

THE GROCERY MAN ALMOST HAD COUSIN OSCAR ARRESTED, WHEN HE SAW HIS BIG ADAM'S APPLE. HE CALLED A POLICEMAN RIGHT AWAY!! HE THOUGHT HE WAS SWALLOWING HIS EGG!!

## DASH DIXON

By Dean Carr

MOGO, THE MECHANICAL MAD-MAN, IS HOLDING DOT, DASH AND THE DOCTOR PRISONERS ON HIS SHIP!

HA-HA-HA HA-HA-HA HA-HA-HA

WHAT A WEIRD VOICE!!

THAT'S MOGO!!

I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU, DOCTOR! BUT I HAVE OTHER PLANS. FOLLOW MY MECHANICAL MAN, HE WILL LEAD YOU TO ME!!

WE'RE CAPTIVES OF MY BITTEREST ENEMY!!

HO-HO-HO!! THE GREAT DOCTOR OZOV, MY CAPTIVE!!

THIS BEAST HAS NO REGARD FOR LIFE! WE MUST FIND SOME MEANS OF ESCAPE!!

CLANK CLUMP

THE 'MECHO' MAN IS LEADING THEM TO 'MOGO' THE MAD-MAN CHIEF AND IT MAY MEAN DEATH!!

## DETECTIVE RILEY

By Richard Lee

THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE KIDNAPPERS IS ON IN FULL FORCE!!!

CRASH BANG BANG CRASH

HOIST YOUR DUKES!! EVERY BLASTED ONE OF YOU!! WHERE'S RILEY AND THE GIRL, AND WHERE IS YOUR LEADER THAT "HOOKED HAND" MUGG?

RILEY AND THE DAME ARE UPSTAIRS! THE CHIEFS INSIDE SOMEPLACE

HELLO RILEY AND MISS JEWEL!! SEEMS LIKE AGES SINCE I LAST SAW YOU!! HOW DID THEY TREAT YA?

AWFUL, BUT LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT NOW!! SAY, GET US OUT OF THESE STRAIGHT-JACKETED ENWOTS?

JUMPING JUPITER!! THERE GOES THE "HOOKED HAND"! HE'S TRYING TO MAKE A GETAWAY!!

IN MY CAR, TOO!! LET'S MAKE A QUICK DIVE FOR HIM BEFORE HE GIVES US THE SLIP AGAIN!!

## FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW!!!

By H. T. Elmo

**THE PLAGUE OF FLIES CAUSED WOMEN TO USE MAKE-UP!!**  
THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS MADE UP THEIR EYES AS A PROTECTION AGAINST THOSE INSECTS, NOT TO BEAUTIFY THEMSELVES!!!

**A 14-YR-OLD CHINESE EMPRESS**  
WAS THE FIRST TO DISCOVER SILK!!!  
BACK IN 2700 B.C. SI LING CHI OBSERVED THE WORK OF THE NATIVE CATERPILLARS, SO NUMEROUS IN HER COUNTRY, AND BEGAN EXPERIMENTING WITH THE THREADS THEY SPUN, RESULTING IN THE FIRST SILK FABRIC!!!

**TINY EELS, ONLY A HALF-INCH LONG,** ARE PACKED IN CANS AND WIDELY SOLD IN SPAIN AND ITALY....

**IN CENTRAL NIGERIA, AFRICA** THE NATIVE PLACES A LION'S BODY ON THE ROOF OF THE HUT OVER THE ENTRANCE, SO THAT ROAMING LIONS WILL BE FRIGHTENED AWAY!!!