

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

(Continued From Last Week)

THE BATTLE OF WYOMING

True, a part of Col. John Butler's command were Indians, and when our people fled he could do little or nothing in restraining pursuit, even had he tried. It is known that he tried to do so. The contrary was charged to be true at the time by the survivors.

The Battle of Wyoming first went into history as a cold-blooded and merciless massacre; the post-prandial orgie being the curdling story of Queen Esther and the Bloody Rock, where prisoners of war were led out by the Indians, stood around in rows and this she-monster walking along the lines with a huge war club or tomahawk, braining the poor fellows. The first stories that found their way into print were gleaned from the flying fugitives that found their way into Delaware, when each one had told the other of the dreadful sights he had seen, and then the writers who listened to the narratives had allowed nothing to be lost in transmission. There never was a battle but that the first flying reports that went out from opposing sides differed widely on important facts.

Night closed upon the dreadful scene of havoc. The pursuit of the flying soldiers could not have been very long or rapid, as the enemy only approached Forty Fort the next morning and asked an unconditional surrender. Colonel Zebulon Butler and seventeen of his soldiers had escaped to the mountains during the night. Colonel Denison remained and was in command; in command of a lot of women and children, and a few wounded and aged men; this was not much to surrender—women, children and broken hearts.

The victors gained terms of honorable capitulation; agreeing to respect private property and requiring the soldiers taken to pledge not again to take up arms against the king of England. These were not only honorable, but, under the circumstances, very liberal terms. A fact that should not be lost sight of is, that in the articles of capitulation, Colonel John Butler had inserted a clause allowing the "suspects" that had been driven away by the Yankees, to return and live here in peace and quiet and to repossess their properties. There is historical significance in this particular clause.

VALLEY WAS DEVASTATED

The observance of the terms of surrender was kept only so far as no further massacre or human life was taken. But private property was not fully respected. The beautiful valley was devastated—the torch applied to the homes and buildings, and blackened waste took the place of the whilom pastoral scenes. Wilkes-Barre, where there were twenty-five buildings, was left with but three houses in the place—all else was in ashes. The Indians, drunk, engaged in plundering and destroying. The English commander, Butler, tried to restrain the red devils, but not to much avail. And it is now believed that this fact hastened his departure.

The invading army remained in possession of the captured fort until July 8, when Col. John Butler called his army together and took up his return march northward.

The women and children had fled to the country; several had floated down the river as soon as the news of the disaster on the night of the 3rd of July was known. Many others fled across the mountains and through the terrible wilderness back to Connecticut. These were new widows and freshly orphaned children mostly, whose protectors lay dead and unburied on the fatal and bloody field. Here was the pitiful story that the years have but little modified. The ghastly details of each family in those dread days has not and never will be written. There were a few old men with these fleeing crowds of sufferers—so old and helpless mostly as to be like the infants, but an additional burden; children were born and children died on the long and terrible way. The heroes were dead—the greater heroines lived and hovered their helpless broods, baring their breasts to the elements and even the brutal savage in the protection of the young lives God had given. When we talk of war and its grim brutalities, we think of strong, brave, rough men, but here were widows and young mothers tasting the bitter dregs of woe—broken hearts and a fortitude sublime.

It is estimated that about 160 were killed the day and evening of the battle and that 140 escaped. This estimate is given by Hon. Charles Miner and we accept it as the nearest correct now ascertainable.

REINFORCEMENTS COME TO WYOMING

On the evening of July 3rd, that had closed on the awful field of carnage, Capt. John Franklin arrived at Forty Fort, with the Huntington and Salem company, about thirty-five men all told. He and Col. Denison conferred and determined to send to Wilkes-Barre for the cannon, call every possible aid to Forty Fort and defend themselves to the last extremity. A messenger sent out early on the next morning reported the people flying and the scheme therefor wholly impractical. Following on the "Old Warrior's path", he reported seeing a fleeing crowd of 100 women and children and only one man with the fugitives. This was Sheriff Jonathan Fitch.

It should be mentioned here that Captain Blanchard surrendered the fort at Pittston, Fort Brown, on the morning of the 4th to a detachment of Col. John Butler's command.

(To Be Continued)

WALLACE BERRY
BERRY WAS ALMOST CRUSHED BY A HORSE-ON MOM'S STABLEMATE'S SET! THE HORSE HAD BEEN TAUGHT TO PUSH A MAN AGAINST A WALL IN HIS LAST PICTURE AND HE DID THIS BERRY WHILE THE TRAINER WAS OFF THE SET!

Mickey ROONEY
GOT SO INTERESTED IN THE GAME OF POOL HE WAS PLAYING WITH BERRY IN A SCENE FOR "STABLEMATE" THAT THEY MISSED HALF THEIR LUNCH HOUR!

SAM WOOD
GAINED EARLY FAME IN HOLLYWOOD WITH THE WELL-REMEMBERED RACING PICTURES OF THE WALLACE REID! FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS WOOD DIRECTED REID, GLORIA SWANSON and RUDOLPH VALENTINO!

LEO SAYS!
MICKY ENTERTAINS BETWEEN SCENES ON THE SETS WITH SOME OF HIS OWN PIANO COMPOSITIONS.

MICKY
ALSO IS WRITING A SCREEN PLAY CONCERNING THE ADVENTURES OF A BOY WHOSE CHILDHOOD IS PASSED ON THE BURLESQUE STAGE.

OUR PUZZLE CORNER

FIND TEN OBJECTS HERE

ARTISTIC ARTIE HAS DRAWN HIS PAL... MAKE A LINE FROM 1 TO 38

PERFECTION

CAN YOU GET 10 WORDS OUT OF THE WORD "PERFECTION"?

FIND TEN THINGS WRONG IN THIS GOOFYGRAPH...

LITTLE BUDDY

By Bruce Stuart

SAY, MISTER! HOW MUCH ARE THESE FLOWERS? IT'S MY GIRL'S BIRTHDAY AND I WANNA BRING HER SOME!!

TEN CENTS FOR THESE AND TWENTY CENTS FOR THOSE!!

THESE SMELL SWEETER THAT'S WHY THEY'RE MORE EXPENSIVE!!

GIMME THE CHEAPER ONES FOR TEN CENTS!! SHE'S GOT A GOLD!

DASH DIXON

By Dean Carr

WHO SHOT THE FIERY FLAME RAY FIRST? THE DOCTOR, OR THE FIEND MOGO? WHOEVER DID WINS, AS THE OTHER SHIP DROPS DOWN THROUGH SPACE A CHARRED MASS!!!

WHEEW! WHAT A CLOSE CALL THAT WAS!

MOGO WILL NEVER BOTHER US AGAIN!

NOW WE CAN CONTINUE ON TO THE MOON WITHOUT ANY MORE TROUBLE!

DOCTOR! LOOK!!

THE SHIP'S STOPPED! THE ROCKETS HAVE GONE DEAD ON US!!

GOOD GOSH! WE'RE IN THE EARTH'S GONE DEAD INFLUENCE! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE OR WE'LL CRASH ON THE EARTH!!

CAN THEY GET GOING AGAIN BEFORE THE EARTH'S GRAVITY PULLS THEM TO DESTRUCTION???

DETECTIVE RILEY

By Richard L...

YOU SAY SOMEONE BROUGHT A DOPED DRINK TO YOUR CABIN? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT ALL MEANS!

IT SIMPLY MEANS THAT SOME OF THE OPIUM GANG ARE ABOARD YOUR SHIP, CAPTAIN - AND I INTEND TO FOOL THEM AT THEIR OWN GAME!!

SO WHAT, ALMOND EYES?

SO I PUT DINK ON TABLE FOR DETECTIVE - PLETTY SOON HE TAKE SIP AND THEN E'LYTHING GO BLACK!

THEY WILL BE RETURNING AFTER DARK - I'LL BE GLAD TO WELCOME THEM!

RILEY HURRIES BACK TO HIS CABIN

-AND SPRAWLS HIMSELF ON THE FLOOR - AN EMPTY GLASS BY HIS SIDE....

FACTS YOU NEVER KNEW!!!

By H. T. Elmo

MIRRORS ARE BURIED WITH UNMARRIED WOMEN IN SWEDEN, SO THEY CAN ARRANGE THEIR HAIR TO APPEAR TO ADVANTAGE ON THE DAY OF RESURRECTION!!

MEN'S JACKETS, WITH THE OWNERS' FACES DESIGNED ON THEM, WERE A POPULAR FASHION IN FRANCE DURING THE 16th CENTURY....

AMONG THE ANCIENT PHOENICIANS IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T SWIM TO EAT BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT - IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY COULD THIS LEARN THE SECRETS OF SWIMMING!!

A LONDON CAT ADOPTED AND NURSED A MUSKRAT FOR 6 MONTHS... AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD THE CAT CALMLY DEVoured IT!!

WHEN AN INDIAN WISHED TO BECOME ENGAGED, HE DUS UP ROOTS OF THE BLOOD-ROOT PLANT AND RUBBED ITS RED JUICE ON HIS HAND... HE THEN PRESENTED THE STAWRED HAND TO HIS BELOVED... IF SHE WAS WILLING TO MARRY HIM, SHE WOULD SHAKE HIS HAND AND THUS, THEY BECAME ENGAGED!!