

POST SCRIPTS

EPH McCOY TALKS ABOUT BEARS

A cold draft swished across our desk one day this week and just as we were getting ready to yell "Close that door!" we swung around and there was Eph McCoy, The First Settler, his buckskin leggings damp with snow, his old fur cap pulled jauntily down over the ear that was frozen while he was scouting for Sullivan in 1779.

"How, son!" he said, grinning, and leaning his long Pennsylvania rifle against the safe, within quick reach.

Once, absent-mindedly, in welcoming Eph, we tried to shake hands with him and found ourselves clutching at thin air. Eph guffawed so lustily that time and caused us so much embarrassment we never give him any greeting now more than a friendly "hiya" and a gesture toward a seat in the corner, where his ghostly transparency won't startle some innocent visitor.

"Well," we began, as Eph settled himself and bit off a prodigious chew of the evil-looking twist tobacco he swears by. "I haven't seen you since I interviewed you for Miss Dangerfield of the Times-Leader last summer. I've been wondering where you were. Only the other evening Ralph Hazeltine was in asking about you."

Eph ruminated briefly. "Ralph Hazeltine. Is that John's son?" he asked. "John, the feller that plays a fife so good?"

Eph frequently mixes up his generations. "No," we explained. "This is John's great-grandson, Ralph. He lives down at Trucksville."

"Oh," Eph said. "I knew his great-granddaddy. Never heern a man who could coax more music out of a fife than Johnny Hazeltine. He could tell them about bears."

We didn't understand Eph's reference to bears. "What have bears to do with Mr. Hazeltine?" we inquired.

"Well, son," Eph slipped a knife out of his belt and began to carve his initials in the window sill, "that's what I came to see you about. Have you heern these stories goin' about about Pike County bears?"

"Do you mean those stories John Cummings has been writing in his column in The Inquirer?" we asked.

"Them's the ones," Eph said. "This newspaper feller's been praisin' Pike County bear. He tells about one which started chasin' a huckleberry picker in July and both of them kept runnin' until the follerin' January when the bear fell through some thin ice and the huckleberry picker escaped. Now, son, that was quite a bear, but he was downright lovable alongside some of the Luzerne County bears I've seen. Darned if this feller Cummings ain't libellin' our county bears. Why I recollect one we called Mean Limp, 'cause his one hind leg was crippled. He got caught in one of Abe Pike's big traps but he just bit the trap in half like it was sugar taffy. Everybody in this part of the country shot at Mean Limp but he just snickered at bullets. Nobody knows how old he was, but there were codgers 80 and 90 who had seen Mean Limp while they were boys. He died of old age, I guess, and when they brought him in stretched out on two bob-sleds he weighed 1,365 1/2 pounds and they got enough lead out of him to take the 143rd Pennsylvania Volunteers halfway through the Civil War 'thout gettin' any bullets from the government."

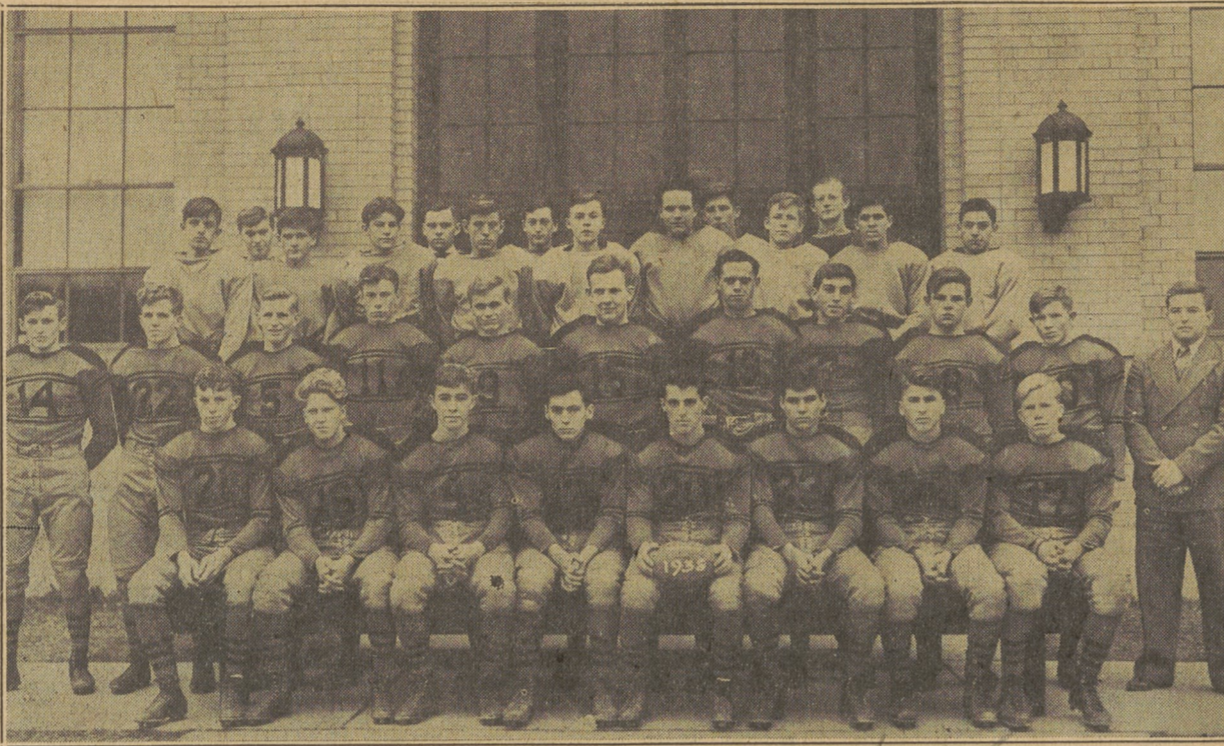
"This newspaper feller says one Pike County bear called Old Nasty kept the State Highway Department tryin' for 10 years to build a road less than a mile long through the Pike county woods. For 51 weeks of the year, Old Nasty would come out every morning and chase the road men and they couldn't shoot him because it wasn't bear season. When bear season came Old Nasty would go and hide and the highway men would work like mad on the road. Soon as the season was over Old Nasty would come back and chase 'em again. So they could only work one week a year on the road and it took them 10 years.

"Now I believe that story, son, 'cause I know bears, but this Old Nasty wouldn't last a day over on North Mountain, where they's bears that really is ferocious. I read where Kiefer got a grizzly last September out in the Canadian Rockies. Why, son, the only reason they ain't grizzlies in the East is that the couldn't stand the competition here. Our bears chased 'em out of the county and they didn't stop 'till they got on the other side of the country. Right after I come out here after the Revolution there was one bear here had an awful mean disposition. One day a Mohegan hunter came through here and this old bear spied him and set out after him. The Mohegan headed down the valley to the East with the old bear high-tailin' after him. The perspiration was dripping from the Indian so fast it made

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CONSUMERS FILE COMPLAINTS WITH COMMISSION

CHAMPS SCORED TWICE AS MANY POINTS AS OPPONENTS



This stalwart squad of Kingston Township High School has won the local scholastic football championship for the second successive year.

First row, left to right: Lawrence Isaacs, Donald Bulford, Lewis Evans, George Schmol, Ernest Holdridge (captain), Lawrence Newhart, Ralph Heale, and Harold Fritges.

Second row: Donald Davis, Donald McFadden, Robert Fritges, Wallace Perrin, Roland Fielding, David Evans, Karl Barkowski, Louis Spaciano, Michael

Stencil, Robert Beck, and Coach Walter Hicks. Top row: Bernard Wisneski, Edward Fielding, Dale Parsons, William Djerof, Amandus Dalley (manager), Robert Griffith, Howard Jackson, William Jones, Wallace Thompson, John Judge, Chester Dalley, Fred Smigel (assistant manager), Robert Pritchard, Arja Brown. Missing: Claude Warden, Lauris Graves, Paul Gallagher, Michael Chersin and Richard Winter.

EPIDEMIC OF MUMPS CHECKED, NOXEN COMES OUT OF QUARANTINE

SIXTY CASES IS KNOWN BUT DANGER IS PAST

A ten-day quarantine which closed Noxen schools and churches and caused cancelling of many Thanksgiving activities was lifted this week and Dr. L. T. MacDougal of Tunkhannock, Wyoming County medical director, expressed opinion the epidemic of mumps which provoked the quarantine is under control.

The first cases of mumps were reported three or four weeks ago and when the total reached 35, health authorities and school officials became alarmed. On November 18, when more than 60 cases of mumps had been discovered, Dr. MacDougal and C. D. Vaughn, health officer, declared a quarantine.

Although the ruling effected only persons under 18 years of age the churches in the community co-operated by canceling services. Schools were closed for thorough fumigation and the moving picture theatre was ordered to admit only patrons over 18 years of age. As a result of the quarantine, the epidemic is believed to have been checked.

"There are still about 60 cases under individual quarantine," Dr. MacDougal said, "and we are maintaining a close watch in Noxen but we have every reason to believe that we have eliminated any chance of further spread."

In addition to the quarantine, Noxen was struck by a record-breaking snow-storm on Thanksgiving Day and the drifted highways, added to the absence of activities, slowed the town down considerably.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party of the Berean Class of Shavertown M. E. Church will be held Tuesday night, December 6th, at the home of Mrs. William Llewellyn of Mt. Airy Road.

Guild Ends Strike With Independent

But Printers' Action May Block Publication This Week

Although The Sunday Independent signed a year's contract with striking American Newspaper Guildsmen on Monday, ending a two-month strike of reporters against that newspaper, it is probable publication will be impossible this Sunday because of refusal of printers to return to work.

The printers, who are members of the International Typographical Union, an A. F. of L. affiliate, were negotiating for a new contract when the Guild, a C. I. O. union, called its strike on four Wilkes-Barre newspapers on October 1, forcing their suspension.

Until Wednesday afternoon, when the I. T. U. met and refused to permit any of its members to report, The Independent had planned to give Wyoming Valley this Sunday its first local newspaper in two months. The three dailies, which closed down at the same time as the Independent, have not been negotiating with the Guild.

The contract with the Guild included a 40-hour, five-day week, pay minima, Guild shop and dismissal indemnities.

New Police Chief Is Walter Covert

Council Fills Vacancy Left By Death Of Leonard O'Kane

Walter C. Covert, a member of Dallas Borough police force for the last four years, was elected Chief last Friday night to fill the vacancy left by the death of Leonard O'Kane.

Mr. Covert was a member of the Dorrancien police force from 1918 until 1921, when he resigned to go on a farm at Huetsville. His work on the local force has been commended by Burgess Herbert A. Smith and councilmen. He will fill Mr. O'Kane's unexpired term, which will continue through 1939.

NOXEN PTA MONDAY

The Parent-Teacher Association of Noxen will be held on Monday night.

Neighbors Of Judge James Get Ready For January 17

Rested and smiling after a pleasant, three-week vacation in Texas, Governor-elect Arthur H. James came home this week to tackle the gargantuan job of selecting his cabinet, formulating Administration policies and supervising some 11,000 State appointments.

Meanwhile, his neighbors in Luzerne County made preparations for traveling by thousands to Harrisburg on January 17 to witness the inauguration which, despite Judge James' request for simplicity, will probably attract an unprecedented crowd.

Already, hotels in the Capital are sold out and a warning has been issued that it is likely there will be no sleeping accommodations for visitors. Even hotels in cities about Harrisburg are booked up solidly for the inauguration. The State Farm Show, which attracts about half a million people, will open on January 16, the day before Judge James' inauguration.

Two special trains, with sleeping accommodation, will leave Wilkes-Barre on Monday night, January 16. The occupants will make the cars their homes while in the capital. The trains will return to Wilkes-Barre on Wednesday morning.

Special Trains Scheduled

Other special trains will leave early on the morning of the inauguration and will return that night.

Snow Aids Hunters In Assault On Deer

Heavy Doe Kill Reported By Local Sportsmen This Week

Roaring guns brought down an immense number of doe this week, as deep snow, perfect for tracking, moderate temperature and very little sunshine provided an ideal background for the antlerless deer season.

In the Back Mountain section alone hundreds of deer were shot. Chief Ira C. Stevenson of the Harvey's Lake police force counted 75 doe being carried out on cars Monday afternoon, and Chief Walter Covert of Dallas saw nearly fifty deer carried through Main Street Monday and a similar number Tuesday. William Evans, hunting in the Poconos, reports that a woman in Blakeslee saw 200 fresh killed doe going out in one day.

Illegal shooting of bucks was rare, according to County Game Warden Philip Sloan of Kingston, although two beautiful bucks were killed by automobiles at Harvey's Lake and another big buck was reported found dead in the North Mountain woods. Patrolman Fred Swanson found a 16-point buck, described as one of the finest animals ever seen in this region, on the Harvey's Lake road last week, and this Monday picked up a large buck on the Noxen road where it had been struck by a motorist.

Success of local hunters ranged all (Continued on Page 8)

Sixty Citizens Sign First Protest Filed

Borough Solicitor Preparing Second Formal Complaint; Jurchak Proposes General Meeting Of Consumers To Discuss Needs Of Back Mountain Water Consumers

COUNCIL AGREED DECISIVE ACTION NECESSARY

(See Editorial, Page Six)

One complaint against Dallas Water Co. was filed this week with the Public Utility Commission, a second petition will be presented before the end of the week and a movement was started to call all consumers served by the small companies in this section to a general meeting to discuss the need for an expanded service.

The first petition was filed by a group of consumers in the Parrish Heights Section of Dallas, served by Dallas Water Co. The complaint was signed by about 60 persons, the same group which directed a vigorous protest to the company last summer, according to Mr. Disque. Mr. Disque was called upon to advise the consumers because he was a leading figure in a successful campaign by consumers several years ago.

ATTORNEY M. F. MacDONALD TO SUCCEED JUDGE McLEAN ON LUZERNE COUNTY BENCH

Gov. George H. Earle named Attorney Michael F. MacDonald yesterday afternoon to succeed the late William S. McLean as Judge in Luzerne County. Attorney MacDonald is a native of Sugar Notch and an early associate of Judge Arthur H. James. He won state-wide prominence in prosecuting Hanover Township officials on charges of graft.

Attorney Arthur L. Turner, solicitor for Dallas Borough Council, is preparing a second petition, authorized by the councilmen at their meeting last Friday night, and it is likely this complaint will be in the hands of the Public Utility Commissioners before the end of the week.

Proposes Public Meeting

Meanwhile, Attorney Peter Jurchak, who conferred with an engineer of the Public Utility Commission on November 16 relative to a complaint against Trucksville Water Co., proposed that all dissatisfied consumers gather at a public meeting to discuss complaints and formulate a request to the P. U. C. for a general survey in Dallas and neighboring communities to determine the needs and what steps should be taken to satisfy them.

Service in Dallas Borough was normal this week and attaches of the water company reported no complaints, a situation contrasting sharply with last week, when a broken pump and a break in a main kept some consumers almost completely without water service for four days. Obviously, the break-down last week was an unavoidable emergency but, coming on top of frequent complaints from about one-fourth of the company's consumers, it provoked officials to decisive action.

Staunchly behind the drive for adequate service are real estate men, who, although deploring the unfavorable publicity for a community liability, predict a sizable building boom here after the opening of the Luzerne bypass if some of the civic problems are solved before then. Elmer Parrish, a local real estate man for a number of years, is authority for the statement that prospective tenants invariably bring up the question of water supply. Since Parrish Heights is one of the sections most often inconvenienced, Mr. Parrish has offered to give Dallas Water Co. deed to a plot large enough for a well and Walter Brown, veteran well driller, has guaranteed to strike a good water supply if the company will drill where he designates.

Served By Fire Companies

Consumers in the Back Mountain section now receive water from five independent companies, Dallas Water Co. and Shavertown Water Co., which are subsidiaries of the same company; Mt. Greenwood Heights Co., Trucksville Water Co. and the Wallo Water Co. The last-named has about 25 consumers, all of whom have adequate service. At one time or another, complaints have been made to all of the other companies.

If appeals to the Public Utility Commission are unavailing, three courses will be open to consumers if they join to insure better future service:

1. A merger or consolidation of all local independent companies to combine their facilities and resources.

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Election Outcome Still In Dispute

Court's Hearing On Two Questioned Districts Postponed

The official tabulation of returns from Luzerne County in the November 8 election will remain unsettled until December 19 when the court en banc will hear the Democratic County Committee's appeal from the Board of Election's action in throwing out the vote of two election districts.

The appeal was to have been heard last Friday but was postponed by agreement. Until the court acts upon it, it is impossible to say whether Judge Arthur H. James, Republican, or Charles Alvin Jones, Democrat, carried Luzerne County. The Board of Election refused to include one district in Hazleton and another in Wilkes-Barre because of charges of fraud against officials in the two districts, both overwhelmingly Democratic.

Democrats claim Jones won the county by 137 votes. Republicans insist, with the two districts out, James won by 400 or more votes. Upon the outcome of the quarrel rests the disposition of about \$85,000 worth of election bets.

YEAR'S LAST MEETING

The Trucksville Ladies' Aid Society will meet at Trucksville M. E. Church on December 8 at 2 p. m. for the final meeting of the year. Hostesses will be Mrs. David Williams, Mrs. Edward Williams, Mrs. Herbert Williams, Mrs. Arch Woolbert, Mrs. George Reynolds, Jr.

New Hospital Plan Goes Into Effect

'Two-And-One-Half Cents A Day' System Approved Locally

A group hospitalization plan, conducted by the Hospital Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania under the sponsorship of Wyoming Valley hospitals, received the approval of the Pennsylvania Insurance Commission this week and went into effect yesterday.

Popularly known as the 2 1/2-cents-a-day plan, the system is designed to meet the needs of the middle classes, said George T. Bell, executive director. "The rich can afford hospitalization, and the poor receive it free; it is for the benefit of the middle classes that this plan is sponsored."

Subscription rates entitle the subscriber to 21 days of free hospitalization upon the advice of his doctor in either Nesbitt Memorial, General, Mercy or Homeopathic hospitals. The plan is open only to regularly employed persons, who must enter from their place of business.



(Illustrated by Terry Kilburn, as Tiny Tim in 'A Christmas Carol').