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POST SCRIPTS

ODDS AND ENDS OF THE WEEK

JOB

They say Governor James promised only one job — and that to his boyhood friend, John J. Roberts of Plymouth, and thereby hangs a story.

Roberts, who was formerly secretary of the Howell Mine Drill Co., lost his position when the company was reorganized. Later he became ill, and his recovery was delayed because he worried continually about his unemployment. His condition became serious and he was taken to a Philadelphia hospital.

Just before Christmas the then Governor-elect was in Philadelphia and learned that John was in a hospital. James went to visit him. Roberts had been delirious but he recognized his old friend. "Hello, Governor," he said. James took his hand. "It's still Arthur to you, John," he said. "I've got to get well and get a job," Roberts mumbled, semi-deliriously. The Governor leaned over the bed and said: "Get well and you won't need to hunt for a job. I've saved one for you."

John didn't remember the Governor's visit when he recovered but his nurses told him of his good fortune. No one knows what John's job at Harrisburg will be, but they agree it is the only one Governor James promised. It will have to wait a while, though, for tomorrow John J. Roberts will go under the surgeon's knife at Jefferson Hospital for his fifth operation.

ALUMNI

During his gubernatorial campaign Arthur James, who was graduated from Dickinson Law School, attended a meeting of local alumni at Wilkes-Barre and was drawn into a discussion concerning the place of the next meeting in his eye, "suppose we have the next meeting in the Executive Mansion at Harrisburg." Since the electorate was still to have its say, the alumni greeted Judge James' promise with good-natured doubt. "We'll get that in writing," said Judge E. Foster Heller, old friend of James. The Governor then wrote his promise on the back of an old envelope and the members of the gathering affixed their signatures thereto.

News Item: The next meeting of the Wyoming Valley alumni of Dickinson College will be in the Executive Mansion on Front Street, Harrisburg, in a few weeks.

DIVINING

The other night the school directors of Dallas Borough were discussing the new well they intend to dig and someone suggested facetiously that they hire a "diviner" to locate the site of the well with a peach twig.

That turned the subject for a while to divining rods, once held in solid repute here, and R. B. Shaver told of a man who insisted on drilling a well in the middle of a driveway because a diviner's rod had pointed there. "Water witches" and "dowzers" and such have almost disappeared in this section of the country but there are many who remember the day when they prospered at their fantastic trade. They employed a tough, springy, freshly-cut forked twig, which they held with moderate firmness while walking over the ground. The twig was supposed to indicate the presence of underground water by the movement of the but end, either upward or downward. Usually the twig was hazel, willow, peach, witch hazel or apple, sometimes plum, pear, cherry, beech or holly, but home diviners dispensed with twigs and began using buggy whips, jointed carpenter rules, clock springs, fence wire, rods of steel, aluminum, gold, silver, ox-horn and ivory. "Divining" was so widespread that geologists and general scientists went to great lengths to expose it. Tests have been held all over the world, and no diviner has ever succeeded in satisfying any reputable scientific body of the infallibility of his method.

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Wilkinson Learns Political A. B. C.'s At 'Class' For Freshman Legislators

(Special To The Post)

Don Wilkinson of Forty Fort, new Representative to the State Legislature from the Sixth District of Luzerne County, which includes Dallas and its vicinity, went to school this week, with 91 other "Freshmen" in the G. O. P. delegation to the House.

Elwood J. Turner, Speaker of the House and a graduate cum laude of the University of Practical Politics, called the Republican newcomers to the "classrooms" in Penn Harris Hotel to learn their political A. B. C.'s. His plan, he said, is to teach the stu-

Sub-Zero Weather Rides Into Dallas On Wings Of Gale

Fifteen Inches Of Snow Fall Here Within Two Weeks

ICE HARVEST BEGINS

The tail end of a storm which raised mountainous waves along the Atlantic Coast and imperiled shipping, lashed Dallas bitterly this week and gave this section its worst weather of the winter.

After two months of comparatively mild weather, which had seen pansies blooming in one local garden, winter arrived finally on Friday, the 13th, on the wings of a six and one-half inch snow fall. On January 18 and 19 six and three-quarters more inches of snow fell. Another inch fell on January 20 and 21. Light falls on Tuesday and Wednesday morning brought the total for the two weeks to about 15 inches.

Although there were reports from some sections that the temperature had dropped to 14 degrees below zero on some of the recent cold mornings, the lowest reading at the filter plant of Scranton-Spring Brook Water Co. at Huntsville, where an official record is kept, was 6 degrees below on the morning of Friday, January 20.

Gale Whips This Area

Stiff winds, which reached a velocity of 50-miles-an-hour, whipped the rural area and sent snow-clouds scudding. Employees of the State Highway Department kept all roads clear and ashed, but the drifting snow piled high on sidewalks in Dallas and made walking difficult. Commonwealth Telephone Co. reported no serious trouble but a number of minor breaks which kept repairmen busy.

The annual harvest of ice at Mt. Springs, back of Noxen, was begun yesterday by Arthur L. Stull & Co. The ice there is about 14 inches thick. It was reported, and when the harvest is in full swing 70 men will be working cutting ice for shipment through Dallas to the ice houses in Wilkes-Barre.

There is about 10 or 11 inches of ice on Burt Bryant's pond at Meeker, where only water ice has been cut so far. The harvest will begin within a few days, however, if the weather continues cold. The ice on Harvey's Lake is about 8 inches thick.

Steam Shovel, Stuck, Aided By State Truck

A giant steam shovel and conveyor of B. G. Coons Construction Co., of Kingston was stranded on the ice of Main Street for over a half an hour Wednesday morning, until a State Highway Department truck came to its rescue.

The steam shovel, which had been used for digging cellars on Goss Manor, made the Main Street hill only after the State truck dumped a load of ashes about the conveyor wheels and then pushed the contraption from behind.

WANTS 'KING' PROMOTED

Congressman J. Harold Flannery proposed in Washington this week that Congress confer the rank of captain in the marine reserves on Faustin E. Wirkus, Dupont native, who became "King" of the West Indian island of La Gonave several years ago. Discovered by William Seabrook, Wirkus wrote a book about his experiences as monarch of the island while he was a non-commissioned officer in the marines. Wirkus is employed in the brokerage business in New York now.

REGRET—14 YEARS LATE

Roy G. Pensyl, Bloomsburg storekeeper, received 50 cents this week from someone who wrote he was "ashamed" because he had stolen candy from Pensyl 14 years ago. "If I didn't settle even the smallest matter," the conscience-stricken culprit confessed, "I'm sure I would go to hell."

LEE COMES HOME FROM TRIUMPH ABROAD



In high spirits after a dramatic triumph in London and a honeymoon jaunt through Europe, Lee Tracy, Shavertown moving picture star and his recent bride spent Saturday and Sunday here with Lee's mother, Mrs. W. L. Tracy, before entraining for Hollywood, where the personable actor will begin a new film.

Movie Star Here Two Days On Return From London Hit

LEE AND HELEN HAPPY, HIS MOTHER REPORTS

Lee Tracy, Shavertown's own movie star, left Sunday evening for Hollywood with his bride of last summer, Helen Thomas, after a whirlwind two-day visit at the Pioneer Avenue home of his mother, Mrs. W. L. Tracy.

When the Tracys, who are still honeymooning, landed in New York late last week, Mrs. Tracy went to the big city to spend a few days with her son and daughter-in-law. The threesome arrived here Saturday morning and spent the week-end visiting old friends in this section. Since Lee was due in Hollywood yesterday to begin work on a new picture for RKO, "What is a Fixer?" the couple had to cut their visit short.

After a triumph run in Robert Sherwood's "Idiot's Delight", which played in the Apollo Theatre at London until late in December, Lee took his bride on a real honeymoon trip through Europe. The couple visited Belgium, Berlin, where "the people seemed happy and prosperous in spite of all", and Switzerland, where they spent most of their time skiing.

Receives Four Offers

In New York Lee received four offers to appear in productions on Broadway. Producer Jed Harris, who started Lee on his way to stardom with a hooper's part in "Broadway," offered him a part in a new play, and Phil Benning, another first-flight producer, had a play for Mr. Tracy to read, too.

Lee took his mother and wife to see "Abraham Lincoln" and after the performance they visited Raymond Massey, who played the title role in the production. Mr. and Mrs. Tracy had visited Mr. Massey at his home in England last fall and there Lee satisfied a secret ambition when he served as pin-boy at the Massey's private bowling alley.

The famous actor and his bride are in splendid health and Lee is ready for the Hollywood grind again. The picture he is to make is the story of a press agent, first cousin to the reporters Lee had been portraying for so many years. His association with local newspapermen made him quite concerned over the strike in Wilkes-Barre.

"It was nice having Lee and Helen home for a while," said Mrs. Tracy. "I'm always happy when they're here, and I guess that's partly because they seem so happy when they're together."

Councilmen To Pass On Budget Wednesday

Dallas councilmen will pass final judgement on the borough budget for the current year at their regular meeting next Wednesday night. Indications are that the levy will be the same as last year, 15½ mills.

A tentative budget, prepared by financial committeemen John Durbin, Peter Clark and Morgan Wilcox, was adopted by Council January 12th and is open for inspection at the Davenport Street home of Secretary William J. Niemeyer until the end of this month.

Observers Retire From Conferences On Valley's Strike

May Be Called However To Take Part In Further Peace Moves

BOTH SIDES FIRM

A move to negotiate separately with the publishers of Wilkes-Barre's three suspended newspapers was launched by striking American Newspaper Guildsmen yesterday afternoon after conferences held during the last week with three impartial observers had failed to produce a plan satisfactory to principals in the 16-weeks-old strike.

The observers, Walter Harris, organizer for the C. I. O. Textile Workers Organizing Committee; Charles Weissman, Wilkes-Barre business man, and T. M. B. Hicks, industrial commissioner of Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce, offered to retire but it was intimated that they might be called upon to serve in further conferences. Both publishers and the Guild thanked the three men for their services.

After yesterday's meeting had ended, the Guild promptly issued an invitation through sub-committees to L. J. Van Laeys, of the Record, John Hourigan of the Evening News and Col. Ernest G. Smith of the Times-Leader to negotiate separately for a contract. The publishers indicated they will answer within 24 hours.

The conferees held their first session last Thursday and continued their discussions until Tuesday when the observers asked for a recess until yesterday. Throughout the conferences, the issue of whether the Guild represents a majority of all non-mechanical employees, as it claims, was the chief stumbling-block in the way of a settlement.

Hines Names Committee

While the conferences were in progress here, Lewis C. Hines, new Secretary of Labor and Industry for Pennsylvania, held a meeting at Harrisburg with labor leaders and named a committee of six to seek a settlement of the newspaper strike. On that committee are Claude M. Baker of Indianapolis, International president of the Typographical Union; Leo J. Buckley, New York, international president, Stereotypers and Electrotypers Union; O. C. Skelton, Drivers and Chauffeurs Union, Local 299, Scranton; Thomas Etzrodt, Philadelphia, International Pressmen's Union; James L. McDevitt, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, and Lester Thomas, secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Industrial Union Council.

A committee from the Guild went to Harrisburg yesterday afternoon to confer with Hines.

One of the newspapers involved, The Independent, resumed publication last Sunday and the entire run of 40,000 copies was sold by noon. The normal circulation is 25,000.

The Office Workers' Union, which disputes the Guild's rights as a bargaining agent for all non-mechanical employees, this week withdrew its petition for a hearing before the National Labor Relations Board, but was understood to have filed a new petition. A hearing, postponed once, has been scheduled for February 16, but the change of petitions may result in another delay.

WILL ERECT LIGHTS

Although the heavy fall of snow has prohibited skating in this section, sliding enthusiasts have enjoyed nearly three weeks of ideal conditions. The snow-covered links at Irem Temple Country Club have been crowded nearly every afternoon, according to Manager Carl Schlingman. At present night sledding on the Country Club slope is forbidden, but lights will be erected some time next month for the convenience of sleigh-riding parties, said Mr. Schlingman.

Women's Glee Club Scores Another Hit With Its 'Big Broadcast Of '39'

Flanked by tableaux representing the early and the modern days of radio, the Glee Club of Dallas Junior Women's Club gave its "Big Broadcast of 1939" before an appreciative audience in Dallas High School auditorium last night.

Seated beside a battery set on one side of the stage, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whitesell represented radio's pioneer days and danced a stately waltz to a radio transcription. Opposite them were Miss Alice Hand and Ralph Walp, who danced to swing music pouring from a modern radio set.

James To Outline Fiscal Problems On Radio Tonight

Address Will Climax Busy Week For New Chief Executive

A GOOD BEGINNING

Governor Arthur H. James will address the people of Pennsylvania at 7:45 tonight over a state-wide network, reporting on his stewardship at Harrisburg.

The address, which will be carried locally over Radio Station WBRE, Wilkes-Barre, is expected to deal with financial problems the Plymouth jurist has encountered since he became Governor a little more than a week ago. He will explain how he proposes to attack those problems.

The State Capitol hummed with activity this week as the new Administration moved swiftly to put his policies into effect. The sailing was not smooth, however, for Governor James learned, before his administration was a day old, the taste of defeat.

His setback was administered by a strong Democratic minority in the Senate, which effectively blocked confirmation of two of Governor James' Cabinet members—Sheriff William J. Hamilton of Philadelphia as Secretary of Revenue and Major Lynn G. Adams of Harrisburg as Commissioner of Motor Police. Efforts of the Republican majority to raise the two-thirds vote necessary for confirmation were blocked repeatedly by the Democratic minority.

Labor Attacks Adams

The objections to Major Adams sprung from charges by labor groups that he "protected the corporations" and used "brutal" methods on workmen. After confirmation had been blocked by the Democrats, the Republican Senators granted spokesmen for the C. I. O. and the United Mine Workers a public hearing on the police head early next week.

The opposition to Sheriff Hamilton's appointment was based upon charges that he retained about \$17,000 worth of fees in violation of an act of the 1937 Legislature and that he "invaded" the Senate when he tried to serve legal papers on former Lieut.-Gov. Thomas Kennedy during the stormy reorganization session January 3.

While his Senate was squabbling, however, Governor James made significant headway along a number of other fronts to untangle problems left by the Earle Administration and to get Pennsylvania started toward economic and social recovery.

Forestalling a threatened breakdown in relief disbursements as a result of exhaustion of the Earle Administration's biennial appropriation of \$165,000,000 for relief, Governor James encouraged the Legislature to transfer \$26,000,000 from the Motor License Fund, signed bills making \$12,000,000 of that sum available immediately, enough to finance Pennsylvania's relief rolls to March 1 or a little later.

Fires 900 Employees

To offset such an expenditure, he called for Cabinet members to study their departments to see which jobs could be cut, then, after lengthy conferences with his Cabinet, ordered the dismissal of more than 900 State employees for a total saving of \$1,750,000 by the end of the biennium on May 31. By so doing, he hopes to have the budget in balance by June, except for the deficit resulting from heavy relief expenditures this winter.

Other significant James moves of the week:

1. The introduction in the House of a bill outlawing "macing" as a misdemeanor punishable by fine or imprisonment or both. This bill, which bears the Governor's personal sponsorship, is the one to which he referred in his inaugural address.

2. The appointment of Dr. Raymond T. Bowman, assistant professor of economics at University of Pennsylvania, a Democrat, as deputy secretary.

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County Would Change Noted Hairpin Curve

Elimination of "Hairpin Curve" on the Wilkes-Barre-Pocono mountain route, where 38 persons have been killed, was proposed to the Luzerne County Commissioners this week. W. J. Carroll, district engineer of the State Highway Department, Scranton, explained new plans which would re-route the highway and cut the present steep incline to a seven per cent grade.