

## POST SCRIPTS

ODDS AND ENDS OF THE WEEK

### RETREAT

We have seldom struck so sour a note as we did in our anti-Spring diatribe last week. Practically no one enjoyed it. People scowled furiously at us on the street. Our best friends and severest critics jumped on us. One charming correspondent, whose remarks were otherwise exceptionally encouraging, jolted us with the line, "It's only some old sour-puss who can mean what you wrote!" Four buds popped bravely out on a bush beside our office window and on the first day of Spring a robin, wearing earmuffs, hopped up on our window sill and winked.

### EUROPE

The boys who burn the cables from Europe are having a difficult time these days, not only because of the fantastic speed with which boundaries are being shifted, but because of the strict censorship which prevails in capitals abroad. Hitler's latest move was carried off with such suddenness that it surprised both radio and newspaper correspondents. The coverage by radio has been nothing like what it was during the Munich crisis and the five newspapers we've been reading every day frequently have had five different versions of what was happening. A typical example came on the morning when The New York Times' correspondent reported that "one million people lined the two-mile, flag-draped, garlanded route and cheered themselves hoarse" as Herr Hitler returned to Berlin on his return from Czechoslovakia. On the same morning the United Press reported that "only a few scattered groups of citizens were awaiting the return of the Fuehrer, and many of these, including the labor memberships, had been aroused from their homes by Storm Troopers and huddled in the cold rain and wintry wind, stamping their feet and clapping their hands to keep warm." There was no question about which report we wanted to believe, but the fact remained that we couldn't tell which was true. All week, the bewildered correspondents had Rumania playing a game of "on again, off again, on again, Finnegan". In the morning, Carol would be with Hitler; by afternoon, he would be with England. Maybe that will be settled, anyway, by the time this is published. The most incredible episode of all was in the Carpatho-Ukraine, which was actually under three flags in 27 hours. In three days Carpatho-Ukraine, smallest sector of the tripartite Czech State, fought two wars—the first to drive out the Czechs, the second to keep Hungarians from coming in. Then in mid-week we lost our Atlas somewhere and became so confused we began ignoring everything in the papers except the sports section.

Later a citizens' meeting was held with Dallas Borough Council and the councilman authorized a formal complaint filed with the P. U. C. The Commission sent engineers here to make a survey but no date has been set for hearings and there has been no intimation of any move that might provide a permanent solution to a problem which has handicapped this community for 40 years.

In recent weeks leaders in the movement have been annoyed by the delay in securing relief and have discussed prospects for better service with informed persons here and at Harrisburg. As a result of their discussions they have come to the conclusion that the set-up here prevents much hope for permanent relief under the plan that has been followed. They have suggested that some new and more direct move be launched—and the decision to investigate the possibility of acquiring a municipal system is the result.

### COLLAPSE

If we believed anything this week it was the report on European affairs. Rev. C. Duane Butler of Lehman brought back from Ohio Wesleyan University, where he had several informative chats with Canon Charles E. Raven of Ely Cathedral, England. As master of Christ College, Cambridge, and one of the court preachers to His Majesty, George VI, Canon Raven plays no small part in formulating England's policies, and his opinions, therefore, command respect. Canon Raven, according to Rev. Mr. Butler, admits England is not prepared for war, but he believes also that Adolf Hitler's reign will end within another six months. He bases his opinion upon reports received from strategic points in Germany, where antagonism to Hitler's ruthlessness is mounting. There is less satisfaction, however, in the good Canon's belief that Goering will succeed Hitler. The Englishman has reasons to believe, too, that the Berlin-Rome axis is not as solid as it was, an opinion which has been borne out by news dispatches this week. No propaganda machine, Canon Raven believes, can wipe out the traditional hatred between Germans and Italians. In one of his conversations with the local

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## CONGREGATION WILL BURN LAST NOTE ON NEW CHURCH

A \$2,000 note—representing the last indebtedness on the brick church built after First Christian Church of Sweet Valley was destroyed by fire in October, 1926—will be burned with appropriate ceremony next Friday night.

The note, which was paid off early this month, will be burned on a platter and the ashes scattered to the four winds. The ritual will be a part of a program being planned by Rev. Ira C. Button, pastor.

When the old church burned the congregation built a tidy new brick

## Believe New Plan May Solve Problem Of Water Service

### Local Group To Confer At Capital With PUC On Monday Morning

Irked by delays in securing satisfaction in their campaign for more adequate water service in this section, consumers this week determined to accept what seems to be the last resort and set out to investigate the possibility of establishing a municipally-owned water system here.

Henry Disque, who has been prominent in leading the crusade for better service, asked James Franklin, Dallas Borough councilman; Mrs. James Schmerer, leader in the consumers' protest, and Howell E. Rees, managing editor of The Post, to be members of a committee to confer with the Public Utility Commission to discuss this development.

The committee has an appointment for a conference with the staff of the Commission at Harrisburg next Monday morning. At that time the local people will present the case for the consumers and invite the Commission's co-operation in determining how a publicly-owned water system can be promoted and financed.

"I have never advocated municipal ownership," Mr. Disque said, "but there seems to be no other way to get satisfaction. I am informed by qualified experts that a solution under our present set-up might take years. The consumers have waited long enough for relief. Now we propose to get action. We have nothing to lose, and we may find that the municipally-owned plant is the logical, and perhaps the only, solution to our problem. Lets find out about it, anyway."

Although many consumers of the water company have no difficulty since the utility carried out an improvement program several years ago, residents of the higher sections of town frequently are without water. The situation grew so unbearable last November that 60 consumers banded together and asked for better service, addressing their complaint first to the Water Company and later to the Public Utility Commission.

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In recent weeks leaders in the movement have been annoyed by the delay in securing relief and have discussed prospects for better service with informed persons here and at Harrisburg. As a result of their discussions they have come to the conclusion that the set-up here prevents much hope for permanent relief under the plan that has been followed. They have suggested that some new and more direct move be launched—and the decision to investigate the possibility of acquiring a municipal system is the result.

Upon its return from its conference with the P. U. C. staff, the committee will make a full report of its findings and probably will be enlarged to include a greater representation of the community. It is planned tentatively to hold a public meeting, which would be addressed by some qualified authority on municipal ownership, so everyone may have an opportunity to become acquainted with the matter before any plan is recommended or adopted.

## Aviator Sounds Alarm

A Buffalo-New York mail plane aviator aroused farmers at Chapman Lake last week when he spotted a house afire below him. By zooming his ship, sounding his landing siren and circling the blazing building, the aviator awakened farmers and attracted their attention to the fire.

edifice which was dedicated on April 24, 1927, and a debt of \$7,000 was assumed. The first note, for \$5,000, was paid off some years ago.

Rev. Mr. Button will review the history of the church at the ceremony next Friday, securing much of his information from Mrs. Elizabeth Smith and Mrs. Martha Bronson, oldest active members of the church. The Shawnee Warblers will sing and members of the congregation will participate in the program of entertainment.

## Valley Newspapers Closed By Strike, Prepare To Publish

### Idle Since Last October, 500 Newspaper Workers Hail End Of Suspension

Idle five and one-half months as the result of a strike called by the American Newspaper Guild, Wilkes-Barre's three newspapers were preparing last night to renew publication within a few days—possibly next Monday.

The strike, which attracted national attention, came to an end early Wednesday morning when members of the Guild voted, 108 to 24, to accept an agreement approved by their representatives and the publishers following several day's conferences with John L. Lewis, C. I. O. head, in New York City.

Before resuming publication, however, the newspapers had to negotiate contracts with the International Typographical Union and the Pressman's Union, who had not been on strike, but whose contracts expired last October. Conferences began on Wednesday and moved so rapidly an early agreement was expected.

When the newspapers publish again, 500 men and women will pick up their tasks where they dropped them after the Guild called its strike on October 1.

### Wages Yet To Be Fixed

No wage schedule is included in the agreement which ended the strike but it contains provisions for the creation of a five-man arbitration board which is to begin conferences immediately to establish a schedule.

Among principal objectives gained by the Guildsmen are these: The Guild shop, a stipulation that employees in the editorial, advertising, circulation and business offices shall be members of the Guild or shall become members within 30 days.

Severance pay on dismissal, beginning with one week's pay after six months' employment and increasing to 20 weeks severance pay for veteran employees. Dismissal is to be only for proven incompetency after warning.

A five-hour day on holidays, five-and-one-half day week, effective immediately, and a five-day, 40-hour week, effective Labor Day.

Time and one-half in cash or equal time off for overtime.

Two weeks' pay with salary and a continuation of the present policy of sick leave.

Reinstatement of all employees, without prejudice; no dismissals to make contract effective, and no pay cuts.

The wage rates are still to be established by the arbitration board. Two members will be selected by the Guild, two by the publishers. These four will elect the fifth member within five days. If they cannot agree, selection will be made by Jonathan Eddy, executive vice-president of the Gu'1, and Eugene McKinnon, representative of the publishers.

In case Eddy and McKinnon fail to agree, both parties are to accept as fifth member of the board Dr. Thomas Larkin, umpire of the Anthracite Board of Conciliation. The negotiations must be concluded within 60 days.

### Strike Began In October

The strike was the second called in Wilkes-Barre within a year. On Election Day, November 2, 1937, The Record was closed for a week by a Guild strike. The agreement which settled that controversy expired on October 1, 1938, and when that date came and no contract had been agreed upon the Guild called a strike against the three dailies and the one Sunday newspaper.

Two of the newspapers managed to publish for one day without reporters, but on October 3 all papers shut up tightly.

A jurisdictional dispute between the Guild and the Office Workers' Union, one a C. I. O. affiliate, the other an A. F. of L. affiliate, delayed negotiations for several months because the publishers declined to meet with the strikers until the National Labor Relations Board had determined which union had the right to represent employees.

In November The Sunday Independent, by negotiating separately with the Guild, reached an agreement but the I. T. U. reversed its decision and The I. T. U. refused to permit printers to work until its new contract had been accepted by all papers. In mid-November the I. T. U. reversed its decision and The Independent resumed publication.

Late in January the Office Workers' Union agreed to disband and its members joined the Guild. With the knotty "jurisdictional" issue eliminated conferences were resumed hopefully but sporadic meetings during the next month failed to produce a settlement. The conferences were interrupted again a week ago when the Guild turned down what the publishers called their "best offer."

### NEW POLE ERECTED

A new telephone pole was erected at Birch Grove yesterday to replace the one snapped off by an automobile on Tuesday night.

## COST OF PROBE MOUNTING TOO FAST, BIERLY WARNS

### Controller Asks District Attorney To Conserve Appropriation; Left-Over Witnesses Expensive

Alarmed by the rapidly-mounting expense of Luzerne County's Grand Jury investigation of "padded payrolls", County Controller Robert M. Bierly warned the District Attorney's office this week that unless a different policy is followed in summoning witnesses the cost of the probe will be triple what the court anticipated.

The Grand Jury is inquiring into the charges of District Attorney Leon Schwartz that State Highway Department payrolls were "padded" in excess of \$500,000 during the last year's bitter election campaign.

Mr. Bierly's protest was aimed particularly at the custom of calling more witnesses than can be heard in one day. On nearly every day since the Grand Jury investigation began there have been from 15 to 22 witnesses who have had to come back a second day because they were not called as quickly as expected. Witnesses, most of whom testify only a half-hour or less, received \$3 a day.

### Witnesses Complain Of Delay

The first complaint came from the witnesses themselves, especially those who were summoned from distant parts of the county. Since they receive mileage expense only once, their fees, when they are called back a second day, frequently are used up by their expenses and they protested that they

cannot afford to return to Wilkes-Barre a second day without getting mileage expense.

On Monday 19 witnesses waited all day and had to be called back on Wednesday because the jury did not reach them. On the following day 15 witnesses were left over.

It was estimated that the cost of the probe, now ending its second week, has been about \$3,085 to date and Mr. Bierly estimated that if District Attorney Schwartz calls the 3,000 witnesses available it will take 90 days to complete the testimony and the original appropriation of \$10,000 granted by the court will be exhausted within a few weeks.

Most of the men summoned to testify this week were laborers and their stories were merely a repetition of the information which has been accumulating since the investigation began. No prominent political figures have been called yet and probably the most important witnesses will be summoned last.

## JURY DISAGREES AFTER BEING FORCED TO SPEND NIGHT IN COURT HOUSE

Spending a night in the court house because all hotels in the city were filled didn't pacify a split jury which disagreed this week in the suit of a Honolulu newspaperman who wants the county to pay a reward to him for his services in helping to capture a murderer.

When the jury had failed to agree by nightfall court house attaches began to search for accommodations. All hotels were filled. There was no tourist home large enough to accommodate the jurors. And, ever since the bedbugs ate up \$7,000 worth of court house couches, there have been no sleeping rooms for jurors at the court house.

The two women and 10 men spent a restless night, draped over chairs or stretched out on makeshift beds. Maybe that had something to do with the fact that they were still unable to agree when court convened next morning. After a poll of the jurors, Judge Thomas F. Farrell dismissed them.

## Police Say Hower Passed Bad Checks

### Visitor Arrested After Business Men Complain

Charged with having passed fraudulent checks upon business men in this section, Lester A. Hower, alias Lester Harvey, 29, Riverside, Northumberland County, was committed to Luzerne County jail this week in default of bail after being given a hearing before Justice of the Peace Harold Lloyd of Shavertown.

Hower was arrested Saturday about 5 p. m. as he was preparing to leave town. Constable J. E. Ide of Lehman apprehended him at the Greyhound bus terminal in Wilkes-Barre. Hower had a ticket for Binghamton, Ide said. The constable had the man admitted to the county prison and brought him to Shavertown on Tuesday night for a hearing on charges of obtaining money under false pretenses and passing fraudulent checks. Justice of the Peace Lloyd fixed the bail at \$600.

According to Ide and Lloyd, Hower was released from Columbia County jail on January 30. He came here on a visit. In passing one of the checks he went to a local business place shortly after bank hours, made some purchases, and asked that a check for \$120 to himself be cashed so he could pay. When the store protested that the check was too large to cash, Hower wrote his own check for \$10, which was cashed, and took the change. He has a criminal record in several counties in Pennsylvania, police say.

## Alderson Group Wins Play Tournament

The group of amateur actors from Alderson M. E. Church won the play tournament sponsored by Dallas District Youth Council at Dallas Borough High School on Tuesday night. The winning play was "Wild Hobby Horses". The prize was \$10.

The entry from Shavertown M. E. Church, which won a preliminary tournament, competed with Alderson and were awarded second-prize of \$5. Judges were Mrs. Warren Taylor, Miss Mary Nolan, Miss Catherine Buckley and J. D. Hutchison.

## Alderson Man Dies; Three In Hospital After Smash-up

### Peter Davis, 68, Victim Of Crash; Condition Of Mrs. Herson Is Serious

A Harvey's Lake man died and three other persons are in the hospital—two of them in serious condition—as a result of an automobile crash on the wide curve at Birch Grove, below Trucksville, on Tuesday night.

Peter Davis, 68, Warden Place, Harvey's Lake, died at 10 Wednesday morning in Nesbitt Memorial Hospital. A passenger in the automobile, he suffered a fractured skull, fractured ribs, and cuts about the face, head, body and legs.

The injured: Geraldine Herson, 41, Warden Place, Harvey's Lake, lacerations of face and body, possible fracture of spine. Condition serious. Berkley Herson, 34, Warden Place Harvey's Lake, driver of the car, lacerations of face and body. Condition fair.

Mrs. Mary Hubbell, 23, Warden Place, Harvey's Lake, lacerations of chin, possible fracture of jaw; cerebral concussion. Condition serious.

Cecil Hubbell, husband of Mary, was discharged after treatment and was able to return to his home at Warden Place.

Mr. and Mrs. Herson and Mr. Davis were rushed to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston, while Mr. and Mrs. Hubbell were taken to General Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

### Snapped Off Telephone Pole

The five people were riding in a Buick coupe and were bound for Harvey's Lake when the accident occurred about 9:30 Tuesday night. Berkley was driving. Motorists who stopped to see the wrecked car expressed the opinion that the driver lost control, since there was no ice which would have caused the car to skid. Later that night a light snowfall did make the highway treacherous.

On the curve near the Birch Grove street car station the car left the right side of the highway and rocketed across, struck the guard rail and then smashed into a telephone pole, severing it about two-thirds of the way up. A crowd quickly gathered and extricated the injured from the demolished automobile and carried them to the hospitals. A wrecker from James Oliver's garage towed the car, which is almost a complete wreck, to Dallas.

Mr. Davis, a former resident of Larksville, has been living at Warden Place, Harvey's Lake, for about six months. He lives a few doors from the Hersons. He is survived by a son in Larksville.

## Fire Company Auxiliary Has Enjoyable Banquet

Women of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. auxiliary held a lovely banquet at the Tally Ho grill on Tuesday night. There was an entertaining program.

The following attended: Mrs. Maude Eipper, Mrs. Florence Schooley, Mrs. Marie Shaver, Mrs. Edith Templin, Mrs. William Franklin, Mrs. Marcus Ide, Mrs. Charles Kinsman, Mrs. James Franklin, Mrs. Kathryn Van Campen, Mrs. Earl Monk, Mrs. Marie Cairl, Mrs. Clyde Veitch, Mrs. Joseph Wallo, Mrs. G. A. A. Kuehn, Mrs. Mary Kamor, Mrs. George Snyder, Mrs. William Cobleigh, Mrs. Daisy Joseph, Mrs. Rozilla Carlin, Mrs. Hazel Hildebrand, Mrs. Freda Hughey, Mrs. Jennie Newman, Mrs. Walter Davis, Mrs. Joseph Schmerer, Mrs. Sarah Disque, Mrs. Nancy Brace, Mrs. D. P. Honeywell, Mrs. Sherman Warden, Mrs. Ira Frantz, Mrs. John Frantz, Mrs. T. R. Williamme, Mrs. Margaret Evans, Mrs. Maude Baker, Mrs. Margaret Robinson, Miss Helen Himmler, Miss Marion Eipper, Miss Arline Ide.

### MISERICORDIA DANCE

Miss Kathleen Stack is general chairman of a tea dance of the Women's Athletic Association of Misericordia College, to be held April 10 at Fox Hill Country Club.

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## LAST WEEK OF ROLL CALL BRINGS CALL FOR SUPPORT

The last week for people of this section to contribute to the annual Roll Call of the American Red Cross begins today.

A group of volunteer workers from Dallas Junior Women's Club will be at the local post office this afternoon, tomorrow morning and Monday afternoon to solicit contributions for the annual Roll Call of the American Red Cross.

A booth will be placed in the post office through the courtesy of Joseph Polack, postmaster, and at it local folks will have an opportunity to make

their contributions. The young women who have volunteered to serve are Edna Whitesell, Barbara Oliver, Millie Devens, Alice Yapple, Viola Morrett, and Wilma Elston.

Both Daddow-Isaacs Post, American Legion, and its auxiliary have endorsed the Roll Call and contributed to it. Pupils of Dallas Borough schools were invited to contribute this week by T. A. Williamme, supervising principal, who is in charge of the school division. The names of contributors will be announced in The Post next week, when reports of volunteer workers have been received.