

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

ROYAL LYNE, Correspondent
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SHAVERTOWN - MT. GREENWOOD - TRUCKSVILLE

Miss Ruth Evans of Carverton Road has returned from a visit to Trenton, N. J., where she attended the graduation exercises at Ryders College, Friday evening. Miss Evans finished classes at Ryder earlier in the summer and has accepted a secretarial position with the Hessler Laundry at Wilkes-Barre.

Miss Charlotte Cease of Oak Street has returned home following a motor trip to Montreal and Quebec.

Rev. Harry Savacool and Harold Croom of Trucksville are building a cottage at Dimock Camp grounds.

Arthur Garringer of DeMunds Road is visiting at Woodhaven, at the home of his sister, Mrs. Fred Reuter.

The Friendship Class of the Trucksville M. E. Church will hold a wiener roast Friday evening at the Carle farm on Harris Hill Road.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rhodes and son, Paul, visited the Epworth League Institute at Sydney, N. Y., over the weekend. Their son Paul is attending the conference.

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Swartz and son, Ted, have returned following a visit for the past week with Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Ralph Finnen of Shavertown has returned to his home after a week's vacation in New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Houser were visitors at the World's Fair the past week.

Mrs. William Hunt and children, Ida, Mildred, Wilma and Sanford vacationed at Harvey's Lake last week.

Mrs. Herbert R. Frankfort and infant daughter have been removed to their home in Shavertown from the General Hospital.

School Board Meeting

Kingston Township School Board met Monday evening with Directors Appleton, Bennett, Earl and Henning present. Resignation of Miss Anderson, supervisor of music was read by the secretary and on motion of Mr. Henning accepted. Following a discussion of the repairing of the school typewriters by Mr. Dampf of Shavertown, the question was referred to the property committee. The board voted to approve the new contracts of the buses: Mr. Novicki, \$135 per month; Mr. Rineman, \$140, and Mr. Corson, \$98.88 each for two buses. Teachers' payroll for the first of the month was ordered paid when due.

Field Day Plans

Trucksville Fire Company committees for the field day met Monday evening with general chairman Richard Rees presiding. Present: athletic committee chairman Harry Long, Royal Lyne, Jr., Glen Bulford, and William Roberts; refreshments, Eugene Considine, chairman; Jack Lewis, William Hewitt, Francis McCarthy, Albert Groblewski, Gene Platt; publicity, Royal Lyne, Sr.; amusements, Lyle Carle and William Mathers. Plans were completed for a number of sports, including races of all kinds for boys, girls, men and women. Two of the features of the day will be the greasy pig catch and mull ball game in the afternoon. The proceeds will be used to make repairs to the fire hall and equip it as a clean and pleasant meeting place for the community.

LAKETON

MRS. MARIE OBERST
Correspondent

Mrs. Walter Hermebaul entertained Sunday at Croop's Glen in honor of her husband who celebrated his birthday anniversary. Present: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hermebaul, Sr., Wilkes-Barre; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hermebaul, Jr., Kingston; Rose Mary Hermebaul, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hermebaul, Mrs. Oswald, Bob Oswald, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stubblebine, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pope, Fred Stubblebine, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Grey and children, Doris and Bobby.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hermebaul and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hermebaul, Kingston, spent Saturday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gay.

Mrs. Frances Hoenger and son, William, Mr. and Mrs. George Arnold, Jamestown, N. Y., Adelbert Brown and daughter, Mary, visited Mrs. Marie Oberst on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lerch and Mr. and Mrs. Victor Brown spent the weekend at Binghamton, N. Y.

Rev. Gerald Boice and family of New York are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Corey Gray.

A large crowd attended the Women's Democratic picnic at Croop's Glen on Saturday. Refreshments were served and every one reported a good time.

Mrs. Henry Titus entertained Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ahlbrandt and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lerch on Tuesday night.

A Farmer Dance will be held at Pike's Creek Hall, Friday night, August 25, sponsored by the Women's Democratic Club. There will be good music and entertainment.

Fire Fighting Was Made Exciting By Run-Away Horses In Old Days

John Merical Ought To
Know After 25 Years
As Fire Fighter

Spry Jack Merical of 138 Lake Street, Dallas, who will celebrate his 86th birthday come September 2, is one of the few Wilkes-Barre firemen to have survived the horse cart days, and still feel able to answer a fire bell.

For 25 years Jack served as tiller man on the hook and ladder truck of Fire Company Number One—the Ross Street station. He's been in retirement for some 17 years, now, but the instincts of a quarter century of fire fighting still live.

He entered the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department back in '97—in the days when three stalwart horses pulled the ponderous hook and ladder, and it took a real man to manipulate the tiller wheel.

Up until his retirement in 1922, he rode three trucks, two of them motorized. The last truck he manned still answers calls from Hose House Number Five.

"When I first went to work as a fireman," Jack recalls, "we were on duty all hours of the day and night—and you should have seen some of those nights."

He and his wife and three other couples used to keep house just above the station on Ross Street. Jack's clothes were draped at the side of his bed. When the fire bell rang, he would slide into his waiting trousers and gum boots and make for the rail. "I betcha those pants and boots would have gone down the rail by themselves from force of habit, if I hadn't jumped into 'em quick."

"In the winter time, being a fireman was pretty tough. That gong used to pound us out of bed and down that icy rail with the temperature down as low as zero, and sometimes below, young feller, you just try turning out into a snowy night with nothing on but a short, pair of pants and boots. We earned our money, all right."

"Sometimes—in fact, most of the time, I never got around to buttoning up my pants until we were out on the street. On cold nights, that wasn't so good."

The recent fire on South Main Street—and the one which razed a lumber yard in South Wilkes-Barre—weren't any worse or harder to handle than some of the ones which occurred in the days when Jack served.

One of the longest stretches he ever put in was during the fire which gutted the Isaac Long building on Public Square.

"We were called out early in the evening, and worked several hours at top speed to get the blaze under control. The fire was supposed to be out, and we went back to the hose house. I no sooner got under the covers for a good nap, however, when the gong clanged again."

"The blaze had broken out once more. Back we went, and we never got home until the next night. That was a real fire."

Jack also helped to fight the fires which destroyed the Weitzenkorn Clothing Store and Globe Store on Public Square. That Weitzenkorn blaze broke out on one of the coldest nights of the year. The hook and ladder truck was covered with ice, and for a time Jack himself was frozen to his post at the ladder crank.

"We used to have some real excitement on the old hook and ladder," Jack says.

"One time we went out to a fire just off Hazle Street, above the railroad tracks. But the horses got scared and ran away—nearly pulled old Dan Thomas, now dead, right off the driver's seat. If a train had been coming along the tracks when we crossed, I wouldn't be here talking to you today."

"With the rear end of the truck swaying on and off the sidewalks along Hazle, we went up that hill hell bent for leather. Dan finally got 'em under control at the top and turned down Park Avenue to get back to the blaze."

Jack's job was to steer the rear end of the truck. He had two or three bad crack-ups during his services on the tiller wheel.

One of the worst ones he had, he recalls, occurred at the corner of South Main and Hanover Streets.

"One of the boys was running to catch the truck, and I was watching him instead of the road ahead. I didn't see a street car that was rounding the corner there."

To make a long story—and one of which Jack is a little ashamed—short, the rear end of the hook and ladder struck the street car head on. The driver couldn't stop the horses of the truck, and the protruding ladders, took all of the windows out of the street car, and the crash so damaged the fire truck that it couldn't be used for nearly a week.

"The trucks the fire company has now are swell. Press a button and the ladders go right up."

But when he first went to work at the Ross Street Station, he used to have to crank the 85-foot ladders to the desired length, "and that was real work, believe you me."

Jack Merical dates his arrival in Wilkes-Barre, appropriately enough, with one of the biggest fires in the history of the city. He came to the city about 1865, shortly after the big Avondale fire, from Kingston,

N. Y., where he was born in 1853. He lived with Charley Johnson, who owned a big livery stable on Mechanics alley—now State Street—and worked for several years in the stable.

He left the livery stable to drive a team for M. B. Houpt, Wilkes-Barre contractor. After a few years with Mr. Houpt, he decided to become an undertaker's helper and worked with Ed Phillips, one of the prominent funeral directors of the day, for a time.

"One of my pals in that business was Lou Kniffen. If I had stuck with it, I might be where Lou is today. But I wasn't sorry to get into some other line. Dead people didn't appeal to me."

"I liked being a fireman from the first—hard work and long hours and everything else. I'm not sorry I made that choice."

When he was retired on a half-pay pension at the age of 69, Jack came out to Dallas and bought the house where he and his wife now live with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Art Dungey. Besides being perhaps the oldest city fireman still in these parts, Jack is proud of another distinction.

"Isabelle and I have been married for nearly 63 years—and we still get along just as well as we ever did."

His wife, Isabelle Clark Merical, was born in the home of her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Clark, at the corner of Union and Franklin Streets in Wilkes-Barre.

"The old canal," Mrs. Merical recalls, "ran right through our backyard—where the Laurel Line runs now."

"Seems like my husband must have run right past my home when he first came to Wilkes-Barre. You did come to the town on a canal boat, didn't you, Pa?"

"Nope," Jack said, "I came on train, from New York City."

"Well, it would have made a good story, anyway," said Mrs. Merical, more or less disappointed.

They were married on May 6, 1877, and made their home first on River Street and later on Franklin Street, where the Central M. E. Church now stands, before Jack's of diphtheria.

Mr. and Mrs. Merical had six children, two boys and four girls, but only the two youngest girls—Ruth Merical, Dungey of Dallas and Jean Merical Strunk, wife of Russell Strunk of Kingston—are still living. The others died in infancy of diphtheria.

Their two little boys, Edgar and Clarence, were taken away by the dread disease when they were less than three years old. Emma, their first child, died in infancy and Maud, their second, lived to be five years old.

The couple had a grand celebration to mark their 60th wedding anniversary two years ago—but tragedy kept many of the firemen expected to attend, away from the party. A couple days before their anniversary, the young son of George Reed, one of Jack's best firemen friends, was electrocuted during a fire company practice session. Firemen invited to celebrate with the Mericals attended his funeral instead.

"I felt very bad about that accident," said Jack, sadly. "But those things happen. There's a lot of danger in being a fireman."

Jack and his wife are intensely proud of their three grandsons—Jack Dungey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Art Dungey, and Allan and Malcolm Strunk. They love the three boys as much as if they were their own. The youngsters remind them

FAIR CALF



NEW YORK—A maid, a calf and a name. The maid has just christened the calf with the name Grover A. Whalen. If you need to know, Mr. Whalen is President of the New York World's Fair 1939. The calf took part in ceremonies marking the laying of the cornerstone of the Borden exhibit at the Exposition.

Tourists Spend Large Sums

Visitors and vacationists spent \$296,600,000 in Pennsylvania last year it was announced in Harrisburg this week. The value of expenditures equals about \$30 per capita. The popularity of Pennsylvania as a tourist State is steadily increasing.

Will Hold Shoot

Overbrook Gun Club will hold a shooting match, open to the public, on Sunday, August 27 at Kozemchak's farm on the Fernbrook-Huntsville road.

Republican Lead

Susquehanna County registration figures show that Republicans lead Democrats in that county by two to one. Democratic party has lost more than 1,000 voters since May.

somehow of two little boys that never grew up.

Mr. and Mrs. Merical belonged for 38 years to the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Wilkes-Barre, but now attend services at Dallas Methodist Church regularly.

They have a wide acquaintance on the West Side and in Wilkes-Barre. Friday afternoon one of their best friends, Mrs. Ross Anderson of Dallas, came to call.

Jack was sitting on a bench in the back yard of his home, taking it easy after some vigorous weeding in the flower garden, when he went around to see him.

"Come to the house and see Mamma," he said. "She knows more about me than I do myself."

"I do know one thing, though," he said, with a little sigh. "I could still manage that old tiller wheel, but fire fighting is for young folks. I can't get around so good anymore."

But he strode up into the house so fast we were out of breath by the time we got to the parlor.

ANNOUNCING

THE OPENING OF
THE LADY'S SHOP
GRACE T. CAVE, Prop.

40 MAIN STREET
DALLAS, PENNA.

SATURDAY
AUGUST 26th, 1939

With a complete Fall Showing of the newer fashions in apparel and accessories for infants, children and women.

This Week's HEADLINE! Special!

A&P
ESTABLISHED 1857
FOOD STORES

CANNED Vegetable SALE!

Red Ripe **TOMATOES** No. 2 Can **5c**
Case of 24 Cans \$1.19

Corn or **String Beans** Iona New Pack No. 2 Can **17c**
Dozen Cans 67c : Case of 24 Cans \$1.33

IONA TOMATOES or **FANCY CORN** A&P Golden Bantam 3 Cans **23c**
DOZEN CANS 89c : CASE OF 24 CANS \$1.75

"Our Biggest Seller"
IONA PEAS No. 2 Can **25c**
Dozen Cans 98c : CASE OF 24 CANS \$1.95

KELLOGG'S Corn Flakes 2 Pkgs. **13c**

OCTAGON LAUNDRY Soap 4 Big Cakes **15c**

Fresh Baked, A&P **WHOLE OR CRACKED WHEAT BREAD** 2 Loaves **15c**

Pie Cherries No. 2 Can **10c**

Smoked Pork Squares lb. **12c**

Sandwich Spread Ann Page Pint Jar **19c**

Sparkle Desserts A. Page 3 Pkgs. **10c**

Evap. Milk White House 10 Cans **10c**

Concentrated **SUPER SUDS** 2 Big Pkgs. **37c**

PALMOLIVE SOAP 5 Cakes **27c**

THIS WEEK'S CANDY SPECIAL:

Assorted **Spiced Strings** lb. **10c**

SPRY or CRISCO 1-lb. Can **19c** 3-lb. Can **49c**

8 O'CLOCK COFFEE 1-lb. bag **15c** : 3-lb. bag **43c**

MASON JARS Pts., doz. **59c** : Qts., doz. **65c**

FAMILY FLOUR (Sunnyfield) 24-lb. bag **65c**

PASTRY FLOUR (Sunnyfield) 24-lb. bag **55c**

Full Podded **Fresh Peas** 2 lbs. **19c**

ITALIAN PRUNES 2 lbs. **19c**

MALAGA GRAPES 2 lbs. **15c**

CALIF. ORANGES doz. **35c**

U. S. No. 1 **ONIONS** 5 lbs. **10c**

Elberta Freestone **PEACHES** 6 lbs. **25c**

Genuine 1939 Baby Spring **Legs of LAMB** lb. **23c**

CHUCK ROAST Prime Cuts of Steer Beef Front Cuts Best Center Cuts lb. **15c** lb. **19c**

SMOKED PORK SQUARES lb. **13c**

POLISH HAMS 1 3/4-lb. can **99c**

Veal Loaf 1/2 lb. **9c**

Cheese Loaf 1/2 lb. **9c**

Home Style Loaf 1/2 lb. **9c**

Pickle & Pimento Loaf 1/2 lb. **9c**

FILLETS OF COD lb. **11c**

GENUINE HADDOCK FILLETS lb. **19c**

LITTLE NECK CLAMS 100 for **53c**

A&P Food Stores
These prices effective until close of business, Sat. Night, Aug. 26