

THE QUESTION WE COULDN'T ANSWER

People have a way of asking questions which we can't answer because the authority to answer rests with someone else.

"Why," a public-spirited gentleman asked us, "is it always so difficult to locate a fire in this section after the alarm is sounded?"

It's a good question. When we submitted it yesterday to the chief of one of the local fire departments he agreed that it was a good one.

It would seem easy enough to decide upon a simple alarm system. One blast of the siren might mean "house call—no fire" and be reserved for meeting nights.

Moreover, it should contribute to the solution of a problem which has always annoyed firemen and the local telephone company.

As we explained, it is not within our province to answer our friend's question, but we believe it deserves some discussion at the next meeting of the four volunteer fire companies in this section.

THE DALLAS POST

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

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No. 1

Townsend Plan Gains Following in Dallas Area

Group Headed By Doll Boasts 100 Members; To Found Second Club

Encouraged by assurances that the Townsend Plan will reach the floor of the United States Senate at its next session, Townsend Club No. 1 of Dallas, spearhead in the local drive to arouse interest in the highly-controversial plan, is preparing to capitalize on the gains it has made in the last six months.

To an extent surprising to those who have been uninformed, Dr. Francis E. Townsend's scheme to provide pensions for retired elderly persons through a tax on the nation's business has been winning strong support throughout the Dallas area and at its meeting next Tuesday night Townsend Club No. 1 of Dallas will discuss plans for organizing a second club in this section.

Since its inception in 1934, the plan has had a staunch following among elderly persons in this section, but the support was never crystallized until last Spring, when a small group organized a club. The membership now is just a few short of 100 and the meetings every other Tuesday night draw about 30 persons.

The officers who have led the campaign to enlist local people in Dr. Townsend's campaign to make his plan a law are Stanley Doll, president, P. P. Vosburg, vice-president; William Myers, treasurer, and Jesse Franklin, secretary.

Would Pension Elderly

Far from being a pension program the Townsend Plan has been broadened in recent years to include many economic factors which were not a part of it originally. Basically, according to the local club, it provides for retirement of the estimated 10,000 persons in the United States who are now 60 years of age or older.

Townsendites claim the retirement of 10,000 persons will not only leave jobs open for young unemployed men and women but, as a result of the pensions, will increase purchasing power and thus stimulate business.

Township Seeks Offer On Bonds

School Board Will Open Bids On January 29

A bond issue of \$20,000, authorized by the voters last November, has been offered for bid by Dallas Township School District, which has fixed Monday night, January 29, at the date for opening and studying offers.

Twenty bonds, each of \$1,000 par value, with three per cent interest payable semi-annually, will be sold. The issue will be dated February 1, 1940, and bonds will become due on each February 1 for 20 years.

Year In, Year Out, The Consumer Pays More Than He Should For Milk, Because He Ignores A Problem

(This is the first of a series of articles discussing factors which control the cost of milk. The Post is eager to publish contributions representing different viewpoints. Another article will appear in an early issue.)

In a vague sort of a way, most people who read newspapers know that there is a milk problem. They see newsreels of farmers who, having milked their cows, proceed to dump the milk in country lanes.

They read that Americans are, for some reason, not consuming as much milk as they need for health and stamina.

They are informed that milk will go up one cent a quart because the drought has increased the dairyman's costs.

They may even wonder, once in a while, why they have to pay so much for a quart of milk they buy at the store as they do for a quart delivered by a milkman in a shiny truck at their door.

But the average person never bothers to add all these things up, and so he goes on, year in and year out, paying as much as four cents more than he should for his quart of milk—the price of his indifference to a major American problem.

The farmers are organized. After years of taking their medicine silently, farmers in the Dallas area are mobilizing right now under the banner of the Milk Producers' Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The dealers are organized. Batteries of attorneys and lobbyists are ready to arise at the slightest threat to the considerable investment the dairy companies have made in plants and trucks.

The milkmen are organized. Their unions see that the men who deliver your morning bottle of milk get what they consider to be a fair wage.

Even the State has its finger in the pie—the powerful Milk Control Commission, which hears petitions from dairymen and dealers and decides from the evidence how much each is to receive and how much the consumer is to pay.

Methodists Adopt Intensive Plan

Members Aids Pastors In Advancing Church Cause

Thirty Methodist churches in the Wilkes-Barre District will conduct "Advance Meetings" this week and next as part of a church-wide program to achieve progress through an intensive program arising from the suggestion of church members.

Dr. Verne L. Smith of Central Church, Wilkes-Barre, will be guest speaker on Tuesday night at 7:30 at the "Advance Meeting" at Dallas Methodist Church, where Rev. Francis E. Freeman is pastor.

John Durbin will lead the group which will discuss "What We Can Do to Enlarge Church and Sunday School Attendance During Lent". Mrs. Laura Patterson will have charge of a second group, which will discuss "How We Can Increase World Service Interest in Giving During Lent".

The discussion groups will report to a general meeting at 8:30 and committees will be named to follow up suggestions. Dr. Smith will deliver the closing words from 9 to 9:30, during which period there will be a consecration service.

The reports of such district meetings will be carried to Binghamton, where there will be an all-day meeting of representatives from all parts of the conference on January 22.

Water Service Restored After Tank Explodes

No Shortage, Warhola Promises; Fragment Sheared Five-Inch Tree

The destruction of Shavertown Water Company's 5,000-gallon storage tank, which exploded on New Year's Day, will cause no shortage of water to consumers in that section, according to assurance given yesterday by Leslie Warhola, manager of the utility.

Full service was restored within a few hours after the big reservoir blew to bits on Monday afternoon and continued, without any complaints, through the week. The tank was constructed primarily as a reservoir for a reserve supply in dry weather, Mr. Warhola said.

Completing his investigation, the utility head expressed the opinion yesterday that the explosion was caused by the freezing of an air release valve or a check vent, or both. The tank, which is situated near Mt. Greenwood Road, above Jacob Laux's was about 20 feet long and eight feet in diameter. It was constructed of metal, about 3/8 of an inch thick.

Houses in the vicinity were shaken when the tank exploded with a deafening report, which was heard by persons two miles away. Jagged pieces of metal were found 200 feet away. One whizzing fragment sheared a five-inch apple tree owned by Harry Ritts. No other property damage was reported, Mr. Warhola said.

The explosion occurred about 4:30 p. m. Mr. Warhola began the work of restoring service immediately and by 9:30 all consumers had an adequate supply.

Local Child Dies Of Rare Ailment

Thomas Karns Victim Of Lymphatic Leukemia

Thomas A. Karns, 2, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Karns, Davenport Street, Dallas, died at 2:12 Wednesday morning of acute lymphatic leukemia, one of the most puzzling diseases known to the medical world.

No cure for the disease has ever been discovered and specialists who came here to observe the child confessed their inability to halt the ailment, in which white corpuscles are said to "eat" the red corpuscles. The boy had been ill for about two months.

Services were held at the house at 7:30 last night. The body has been taken to Dillsburg, near Harrisburg, the home of Mrs. Karns' parents, where services will be held this afternoon. Interment will be at Dillsburg.

The boy is survived by his mother and father and two sisters, Margaret and Patricia.

32.55 Inches Of Rain Fell Here During 1939

The rain fall for this section during 1939 was 32.55 inches according to Scranton-Spring Brook Water Co. In December 2.11 inches of rain fell, of which nearly half, .92 of an inch, fell on December 20. Mean temperature for December was 35.7 degrees.

Significant News Of Last Year, Taken From The Files Of The Post.

- March 3: Community Center Plan Makes No Headway At Joint Session Of Dallas Borough And Dallas Township Officials. REAL ESTATE CONTINUES RISE HERE DESPITE DROP ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY. Sherman Hildebrand Gets First Air Flight On His 72nd Birthday. Mrs. Kate Wilson, 87, Dies Five Weeks After Daughter.

HEADLINES OF 1939

- Lee Tracy, Shavertown Movie Star, Spends Two Days Here On Return From London. John C. Wilson, 86, Dies At Dallas Township. Observers Retire From Conferences on Valley's Strike.

- February 17: DISTRICT ATTORNEY PROBES 'PAYROLL PADDING' CHARGES. Says State Highway Department Lists Were "Padded" In Luzerne County During Bidder 1938 Election Campaign. Civic Groups Lay Plans For Building Community Center.

POST SCRIPTS

The following document was discovered among a litter of confetti, empty bottles and badly-broken resolutions early last Sunday and submitted to The Post's "Lost and Found Department" in the hope that it would come eventually into the hands of the proper persons.

If the Executor mentioned reads this, he may claim the document by presenting himself at the offices of The Post, with proper identification.

The document: "I Nineteen Hundred and Thirty Nine, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do hereby make and publish this, my last will and testament, in order, as justly as I know how, to distribute my interest and holdings to those who survive me.

"That part of my estate which is known as Time, having been mine merely for life, and being irrevocable and non-transferable, is no longer at my disposal; but except for this possession all else in the world I now proceed to devise and bequeath:

"Item: To young men, I bequeath and devise ambition, courage and honesty; to young women, charm, sensitivity and honor; to those who are no longer children, I bequeath memory, that they may constantly live their youth over again and again; and to my most beloved friends, the old ones, I leave the contentment of old age, the respect of their children, and the blessing of wisdom, to be theirs, in entirety, until they fall asleep.

"Item: The lust for power I bequeath to Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin, with the assurance that it will, eventually, cause them as much misery as they have created for me.

"Item: My holidays, I bequeath and devise as follows: To patriots, I give Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays; to all small boys, Independence Day; to warriors, Memorial Day; to humorous columnists and the Presidents of the United States, share and share alike, Thanksgiving Day; to John L. Lewis and William Green, Labor Day; to all children, Christmas; to bibulous folk, New Year's Eve.

"Item: I bequeath to the United States of America what is left of democracy and I charge this legate with the preservation and perfection of democracy until such time as it will be safe elsewhere in the world.

"Item: The Rome-Berlin axis, slightly fractured, I bequeath to Benito Mussolini, with the suggestion that he hang it in plain sight as a warning against future embarrassing entanglements.

"Item: The stars, all leafy bowers and the music of the waltz I leave to lovers, together with anything else which falls with the eminent domain of romance.

"Item: All Saturdays during the school term and the entire months of July and August I bequeath to children, subject to certain privi-

New Bus Schedule Brings Protest

Change Slight Families Along Upper Road

A new bus schedule, which leaves the Mt. Greenwood section without service on Sundays and holidays, brought protests from residents of that area this week, particularly from persons who are unaware of the change, which became effective January 1, braved Monday's near-zero weather to wait for buses which never came.

Under the new schedule the first north-bound bus leaves Wilkes-Barre for Dallas at 4:50. The last bus from the Public Square leaves at 2 a. m. The first bus from Dallas will leave at 4:05 and the last bus at 1:10 a. m. Twelve trips which are scheduled daily on weekdays along the upper road will be eliminated on Sundays and holidays.

Buses will leave Harvey's Lake picnic grounds daily at 6:50, 7:50 and 9:10 a. m. and 1:10, 3:50 and 5:10 p. m. The trip from Harvey's Lake will take 30 minutes and the trip into Wilkes-Barre from Dallas 35 minutes, according to the new schedule.

Card To Neighbor Travels 3,000 Miles

Two days before Christmas Burt Jones of Pioneer Avenue, Dallas Township, mailed a Christmas card to his next-door neighbor, Floyd Sanders.

Six days later Mr. Sanders received the card. It had been sent to Dallas, Texas, and returned, traveling over 3,000 miles to go 100 feet.

The detour was not without precedent, however. Mail to Dallas, Pa., is so often misdirected to Dallas, Tex., and vice versa that it has ceased to be a joke. A S. Culbert, express agent at the Lehigh Valley station, keeps a Dallas, Tex. phone directory hanging on the wall for reference, so often does he receive shipments which should have gone to Texas.

January 6: Keelersburg Regains Composure As Police Withdraw; Margaret Martin's Slayer Still Free. UNITED MINE WORKERS, 40,000 STRONG, BEHIND MOVE TO END NEWSPAPER STRIKE. Ground Is Broken At Lehman As Work Starts On New \$10,000 High School.

January 13: Dallas School Board Threatens To Sink New Well Because Of Inadequate Water Service. Marilla Martin, 59, Dies At East Dallas. Thief Takes 40-Gallon Tank, Motor And Pump From Harvey's Lake Boat House.

January 20: NINE TRAINS CARRY COUNTY DELEGATION WHICH SEES ARTHUR H. JAMES INAUGURATED AS GOVERNOR. Ex-breaker Boy Outlines Recovery Plan And Asks Co-operation Of Labor And Capital. Mrs. A. R. Holcomb Passes 84th Birthday, Says She "Feels Too Young To Be So Old".

January 27: Sub-Zero Weather Rides Into Dallas On Wings Of G. FIFTEEN INCHES OF SNOW FALL WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

- CIVIC PROGRAM FOR 1940 1. More community spirit in Dallas area. 2. A concrete highway from Dallas to Tunkhannock. 3. Centralization of police and fire protection. 4. Better fire protection and lower insurance rates. 5. More sidewalks.

Maurice Girton, School Principal, Dies Suddenly

Body Will Be On View This Afternoon At 2 In School Auditorium

Maurice J. Girton, supervising principal of Dallas Township schools for the last 12 years, died suddenly at 3:30 yesterday morning at his home on Overbrook Avenue of a heart attack.

The news of his passing shocked the entire community and evoked an outpouring of tributes to the kindness, the sympathy and the conscientious character of the soft-voiced educator who has won such sincere respect from his pupils, his associates and townsmen.

The body, which will be at Brickel's funeral parlor this morning for those who wish to view it, will be moved to the Dallas Township High School auditorium this afternoon, where it will rest in state, flanked by a guard from the faculty and student body, from 2 to 4, as sorrowing friends file before the coffin.

Services will be held tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon at 1 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shavertown. Rev. Herbert E. Frankfort will officiate. Brief services will be held later at Bloomsburg, where Mr. Girton will be buried.

A native of Hemlock Township, near Bloomsburg, Mr. Girton was the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Girton. He was educated at Bloomsburg Normal School and Pennsylvania State College, where he received his B. S. degree.

Came Here In 1928 He began teaching in 1911 at Buckhorn, and in his second year was named supervising principal. After four years at Buckhorn he went to Pottsgrove as supervising principal, where he taught six years, also as supervising principal, before accepting his post at Dallas Township in 1928.

He was a member of the Pennsylvania State Education Association and the National Education Association, a member of Bloomsburg Lodge, F. & A. M., and of Shavertown Lutheran Church.

His outstanding characteristics were his sympathy and his kindness. Commenting on Mr. Girton's character, one of his faculty members said yesterday, "He came nearer to being a truly great man than anyone I know."

Rather than delegate duties to others, Mr. Girton preferred to perform them himself and somehow, despite the burden of responsibilities he assumed, he managed to do every job well. His school was a model of smooth operation and both the teachers and his pupils idolized him for his fairness and his sympathetic interest in their problems.

As an unusual administrator, he was known for the keen interest he had in the financial welfare of the school district and in athletic events. His influence was apparent in every phase of school life and his passing leaves a vacancy which it will be difficult to fill.

Surviving him are his widow, his father, S. M. Girton of Danville R.

(Continued on Page 8)

How Long Will You Remember

- ... when Slovakia seceded from Czechoslovakia and became an independent state under German protectorate. ... how long it took Germany to capture Warsaw. ... the date on which Pius XI died. ... how many men Joe Louis fought in 1939. ... when the first Yankee Clipper flew across the Atlantic. ... when Russia invaded Finland. ... how many men died in the ill-fated Squalus. ... who won the National League pennant. John D. Grant's illustrated Chronology of 1939 on Page Six, supplementing the local news.