

### Business Dead? Not According To These Figures

#### Record-Breaking Sales Filed At Court House Herald Strong Upswing

By JOHN V. HEFFERNAN

More than any other month in a period of nine years, March of 1940 gave testimony of investments that prove Luzerne County definitely on the road back to stable business and industry. Conditional sales filed in the office of Prothonotary Peter M. Margie ran the highest total cash value recorded since 1931, the year at the close of the vast development of the motorcar industry.

Between March 1 and March 25 Luzerne County firms and individuals engaged in a variety of business and industries lodged with various manufacturers a record-shattering list of orders calling for expenditure of exactly \$441,141. That in itself is more than a 50 percent gain over the average new-equipment expenditure for the months of last year, when total purchases were slightly in excess of three million dollars, or at the rate of \$250,000 a month.

With six days of business added to March 31 the indications looked to certainty of exceeding in March the total of a half million dollars of investment in various machinery and equipment or at the rate of six million dollars a year. Conditional sales are a sure index of business and industrial trends. But, of course, they take no account of contracts where manufacturer and consumer enter a cash deal. However, most new buying is on the conditional plan if there is omitted the minimum of corporations with cash on hand for capital investments.

#### Truck Sales Top List

Trucks ran away with the high total of investment by March buyers. For the first 25 days of March the new truck equipment cost \$106,166. Next highest investment was made by independent anthracite operators who purchased new equipment whose value is \$91,879. Shop operators were third with investment of \$67,160 in a wide range of devices. Automobiles were the farthest down on the list of new buying that they have been in recent history. New car contracts had a face value of only \$9,251 in 25 days.

Renovizing and modernization campaigns among householders had their effect in \$16,575 of new installations for family comfort and convenience and for interior property improvement. To the more than \$90,000 spent by independent mine operators for general equipment, the nearly \$50,000 spent for stripping shovels, there may be added \$4,706 expended on labor-saving shaker-shutes.

With Spring here and Summer not far away the purchase of trailers hit a new high record of \$37,620. Store owners invested in new appliances a total of \$33,650 while farmers spent for added equipment a total of \$2,388. Dupont's Lincoln Theatre added a marquee for \$2,555. To home comfort can be added the expenditure of \$4,650 in installation of stokers suited to the burning of anthracite. Air-conditioning installations were many, one at a price of \$1,150 but many others attached to furnaces.

The coming of warmer weather and more general thirsts was reflected by a sudden spurt in sales of automatic beer-cooling devices to a total value of \$4,191. Popularity of non-alcoholic drinks is indicated by Keystone Bottling Company's installation of \$16,300 worth

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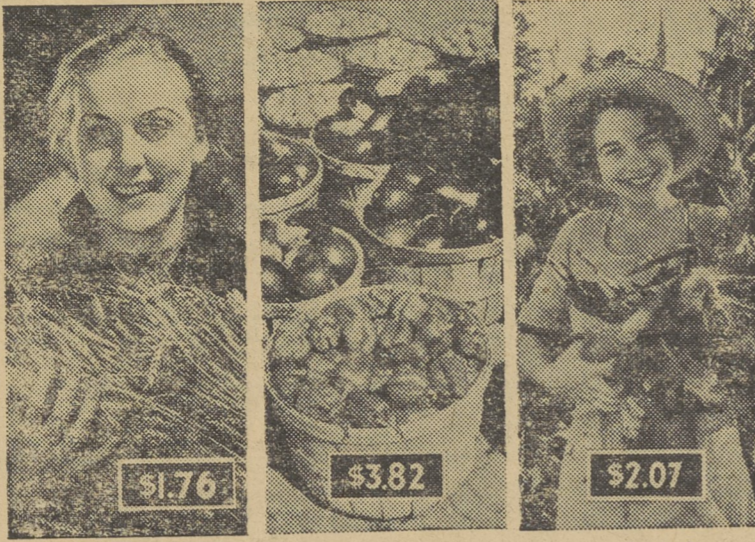
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### Fertilizer Brings Pennsylvania Farmers More Than Twenty-Two Million Dollars



Extra dollar returns on wheat, vegetables, and corn, which farmers received nationally for each dollar spent on fertilizer.

The gigantic sum—three billion dollars—which farmers have received from the Government under the AAA since 1933 is equalled by the extra dollar value of increased yields produced by fertilizer in the same period, according to estimates made from personal interviews with 32,000 farmers in 35 States.

Pennsylvania farmers gave the interviewers grass-root facts which show that for every dollar they spent for fertilizer they received an average return in increased yields of \$2.41. In other words, Pennsylvania farmers spent \$9,137,000 for fertilizer. The extra return which they received from its use amounted to \$22,061,000, leaving an increased income above the cost of the fertilizer of \$12,924,000.

The returns from each dollar Pennsylvania invested in fertilizer, as shown by The National Fertilizer Association survey, varied

from crop to crop. Tomatoes led the list with an increased value return of \$11.88. Tobacco ranked well up with a return of \$5.22. Other crops reported were potatoes, which brought \$3.78 for each dollar invested; corn, \$2.87; and apples, \$2.60.

Pennsylvania farmers also had their say about the effects of fertilizer on quality of crops. Over 53 per cent said they got better market quality in all cash crops, while 68 per cent said they got better feeding quality in grain and hay, and 20 per cent declared they observed better shipping quality in fruits and vegetables.

Average return in increased yields for all crops in all States shown by the survey was \$3.60 for each dollar spent on fertilizer. Nationwide, the crops showing highest rate of return were: tobacco, cotton, fruits, and vegetables.

of bottling machinery, with Arrow Bottlers adding equipment at a price of \$3,900. Marshman Wyoming Laundry installed \$3,000 worth of latest devices.

#### Farmer's Trade In Horses

Signs of the times were seen in a transaction by which a Stillwater farmer, Walter Danilowicz, traded in a horse and equipment for gasoline-powered machinery, the animal bringing only a value of \$75 and its belongings having a worth of \$200. Charles Van Tuyle of R. F. D. Pittston also traded in livestock at \$40.20 on machinery. Among outstanding purchases in the first 25 days of March were the following:

Smith-Bennett Co., Kingston, printing press, \$10,000; Mondlak Bros., Port Griffith, printing press, \$1,200; Capparell Stripping Co., Hazleton, dragline, \$34,500; Friedman's Express, 14 Pullman trailers, \$36,332; William Dushay, Peckville, 11 Diesel trucks for use on

northern Susquehanna flood control project, \$85,000; Charles Namur, Duryea, power shovel \$4,500; Central Excavating Co., Avoca, power shovel, \$7,900; James W. Noyle, Freeland, power shovel, \$36,800.

Power equipment in strippings and independent coal operations reached vast new development in the anthracite fields in the past three years and is continuing to get farther and deeper into the industry, accounting for the ability to step up coal production without new hiring of labor.

#### Lake Rises Three Feet

Harvey's Lake, which was about three feet below its normal water level a few weeks ago, has risen to nearly normal as a result of the thaw last week.

It is estimated an infant in the United States will eat \$88.76 worth of food in its first year.

### Meet Blas Domingo Francisco (Take A Breath) Caridad Garat y Santaya

Naturalization Chief Philip Forte and his assistant, Andrew Novak, looked quizzically at the name signed by the somewhat exotic-appearing gentleman filing his intentions at Luzerne County Court House to become a citizen of the United States, full-fledged and with the right to vote and everything.

The name had forty-three letters, and here is the form in which the bland caller wrote it out: "Blas Domingo Francisco de la Caridad Garat y Santaya." Count for yourself, but see a student or professor in Castilian Spanish if you would have the entire interpretation of that monicker.

"Is that your name?" Phil Forte wanted to know. "Or is it the description of the province in the country from which you came?"

"It's my name," said the caller, with something in his voice that wasn't so much accent as it was the echo of a brook washing itself over a bed of pebbles.

"There's a lot to it," put in Andy Novak.

So, the forty-three-lettered Santaya let it be known for the first time since he fled Cuba back in

1916 that he is one among many of the nobility of the island republic, all forced to flee under the terrorist reign of General and President and Dictator Gerardo Machado, the same gentleman who finally had to take to his own heels in advance of the machetes of men faithful to Batista.

Santaya is descended from the purest of the Castilians who came out of Spain to Cuba to open the island's vast natural resources and to win American sympathy back in 1898 because of sugar plantation relationships with American capital. Even Winston Churchill's help extended to the "Butcher" Weyler army of Spain failed to halt the march of freedom and Cuba Libre. The halt awaited the coming of the dictators and with the first of them, Machado, Wyoming Valley's Santaya found it healthful to get away.

The noble gentleman has become a practical miner—of all things. He resides at 112 South Welles Street, Wilkes-Barre.

#### CAMPAIGN GAINS



G. Harold Wagner

... whose campaign for the Democratic nomination for State Treasurer is meeting with encouraging response throughout the State. A former Burgess of Dallas, Mr. Wagner has travelled widely through the State since he moved away from here, building a reputation as one of the group of trained investigators who work for Auditor General Warren R. Roberts.

### Laketon Seniors To Give Comedy

#### Fine Cast Rehearsing For Production April 3

The Senior Class of Lake Township High School will present "Meet Uncle Sally", a three act comedy by Jay Tobias, on Wednesday night at the school.

It is one of those rare and really funny plays with every member of the cast taking a hit part. There's action every minute with excuriatingly funny situations brought about by such characters as Uncle Sally, Jennie, the Swede cook, and Snorkins, the cockney butler.

The members of the cast are: Robert Payne, Ruth Rogers, Florence Melusky, Ruth Stevenson, Richard Williams, Charles Kern, Ilga Brin, Josephine Hummel, Leo Johnson, Elizabeth Sorber, Otis Allen and Tom Garrity.

The play is being directed by Miss Margaret M. Dunn, faculty adviser. Tickets may be secured from any member of the Senior Class or may be purchased at the door.

### Life-Long Resident Of Sweet Valley Dies

Alexander Trescott, 83, a life-long resident of Sweet Valley, died on Monday night of general debility. He leaves his widow, Fannie, and these children: Mrs. Pearl Brink of Benton; Mrs. Susie Hontz, James, Arthur, Joseph and Mary Trescott, all of Sweet Valley. Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon in Sweet Valley Christian Church, with Rev. Ira Button officiating. Interment was in Sweet Valley Cemetery.

### Young Man Killed When Car Skids

#### First Motor Fatality Of 1940 In Dallas Area

The first highway fatality in the Dallas area this year occurred last Friday night when Roland Grater, 28, 341 Pierce Street, Kingston, was killed when his car skidded on the icy road near Castle Inn, on the Harvey's Lake road.

Grater and two companions, John Brolley, 28, and Walter Kalacinski, both of Wilkes-Barre, were bound for the Lake, where they intended to skate. The coupe, which Grater was driving, struck an icy stretch, skidded, and left the highway, cracking two telephone poles, which fell across the road.

Brolley was taken to his home in a semi-conscious condition, but his condition was improved considerably this week and he was considered out of danger. Kalacinski was uninjured, although he suffered from shock.

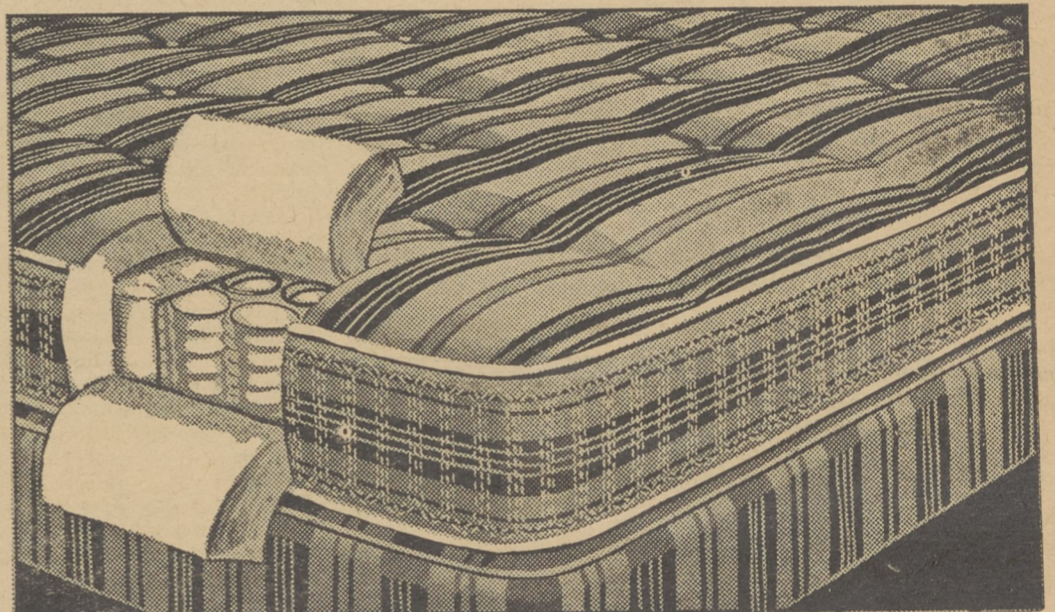
Grater, a clerk at the offices of the American Stores Co., lived with his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Tyson of Kingston. He is survived by his parents and three sisters, who live at Gratersford, near Norristown, where the funeral was held on Tuesday.

### Seek Scout Uniforms From Former Members

Because all girls of the Dallas Troop, Girl Scouts, are eager to have uniforms for the district rally to be held in the Kingston Armory on April 27, Miss Dolton, troop leader, has asked the co-operation of former scouts who may have uni-

forms no longer useful to them. She has requested that such persons communicate with her at Dallas 313. Miss Dolton's troop, together with the troop led by Miss Dorothy Wenner and the Brownie Pack in charge of Miss Helen Anderson, plan to take part in the rally.

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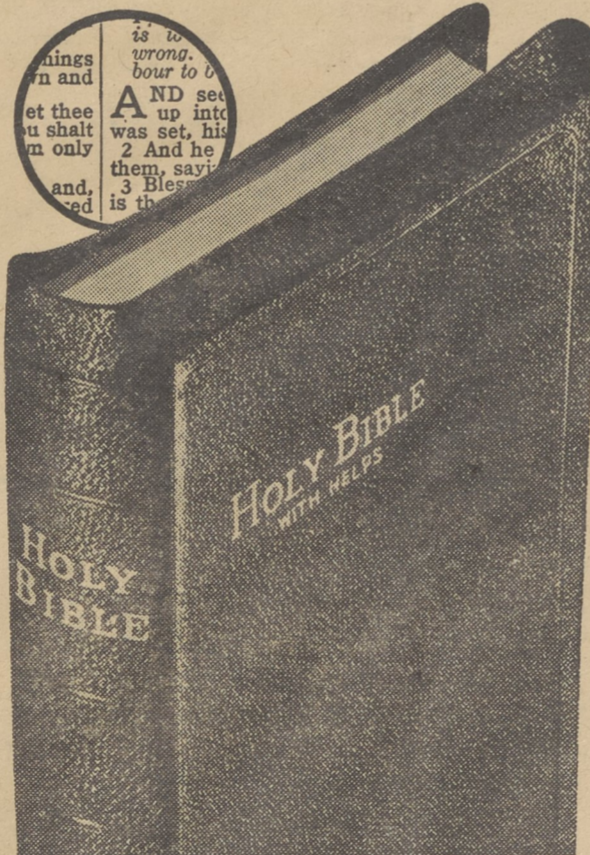
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