

# Rambling Reporter Gives Impression Of Sordoni's Picnic For His Employes

## Admires Epicurean Skill Of Affable Host And Likes Spirit Of Men Who Make Up Organization

We had a darn good time at the Sordoni picnic. We like a host who broils the steaks and gets grease in his hair serving them. Next time we run a Cooking School there'll be none of those fancy dames telling how to cook steaks. We picked our choice for that department Saturday afternoon. Now for fish and clams we'd pick Harvey Houghton but for juicy open fire steaks and hospitality we'd pick A. J. Sordoni.

It's getting so a man can't count on much help from the weather and the government lately. We know how the Senator must have felt when the thunder and lightning started and the rain began to pour. We once ran a garden wedding with about the same celestial help.

The new 24x80 foot rustic addition to the dining shelter offered ample accommodation and the whole party could have easily been held indoors had the storm not abated.

When you looked over the thousand or more men seated at the tables it was good to see the faces of so many citizens of the Dallas area. You also realized what an important part the Sordoni organization has played in furnishing telephones, light, employment and new construction in this area as well as in providing good men and good families for our neighbors.

Among the old timers in telephone circles enjoying the fun was Bert Stroh of Shavertown, former manager of the Commonwealth Telephone Company. Rheumatism keeps him in a chair most of the time, but he looks good—says he feels well and certainly enjoyed the party.

"Bill" McIntyre turned photographer's assistant for the day and did a good job gathering the captions for pictures.

There must have been a thousand automobiles parked in the fields surrounding the grove. They attested, better than words, to the employment given by the Sordoni interests, not only to its own men but to those in scores of other business in Wyoming Valley and in other industries. Employees from 14 Sordoni organizations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New England attended.

Ray VanHorn's Hill-Billy Orchestra was a hit attraction. It also gave us an opportunity to see a number of our Luzerne County Gas and Electric friends tooting trumpets and playing drums instead of reading meters.

All varieties of wild flowers and fungi grow in the wooded glen—and there is a rank growth of ferns. More than once Senator Sordoni has driven 50 miles or more with a friend to bring home an especially beautiful fern from some mountain side or secluded spot.

Streams in the glen that appear to babble over natural waterfalls weren't always running in that direction, maybe they ran the other way.

Beside a shaded, walled bridge, pure mountain water surges from an aged wooden water pipe covered with moss. Convenient earthen mugs help the parched visitor to slake his throat.

Though there was beer and birch beer on tap all day, there were few persons who missed the opportunity to drink from that mountain spring.

Ten to 12 helpers were kept busy most of the afternoon drawing beer and birch beer for the guests. Signs conveniently placed pointed the way to "the used beer place." Right there the WPA could have taken some tips from Sordoni efficiency on the proper layout for picnic ground sanitation.

Twelve or 15 round brooder houses from the abandoned chicken department of Sterling Farms made convenient shelters for card tables and players. Their semi-circular arrangement gave the appearance of an African village—though the African game was not in evidence.

Most of the deep-voiced frogs in the pool were brought there some years ago from Louisiana—not as tadpoles but as full grown granddaddy frogs. They like to doze in the sun on big water lily pads along the margin of the pool, coming to life only when a flitting insect disturbs their slumbers or stirs their appetite. Then, quick as a flash, there is no more insect. The Senator likes to steal up back of a lazy frog and prod him with a timothy straw or blade of grass. Then there is a quick leap and a splash and no more frog. Many of these amphibians are larger than a saucer as they rest on the lily pads. We knew a frog once we thought was larger, but that was when we were a boy. We never saw him—only heard him on summer nights.

Because bad boys like to throw stones at frogs, there is a rule at Sordoni's pool that children must be accompanied by their parents during nature study jaunts . . . and the nature study must be made of live creatures—not dead ones. Because bad children sometimes grow up, Senator Sordoni has erected a low sign at a most frequented part of the pool with these words: "Some of my friends like to throw stones at frogs. Those who do will please

### DECOY BULLFROG DEFILES SHARP SHOOTERS IN POOL AT A. J. SORDONI ESTATE

Because bad boys like to throw stones at frogs, there is a rule at A. J. Sordoni's handsome estate at Harvey's Lake that children must be accompanied by their parents when they come to see the bass-singing Louisiana frogs in the Senator's pool.

Because bad children sometimes grow up, the Senator has erected a sign, which says: "Some of my friends like to throw stones at frogs. Those who do will please throw stones at this one."

In the shallow water near the sign is a life-size China frog. So far the decoy has escaped, although, unfortunately, the same can't be said of some of the real ones.

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The appearance of Sterling Hotel trucks laden with food reminded us that the initials A. J. S., also stand for Arlington Hotel, Binghamton; Jermyn Hotel, Scranton, and Sterling Hotel, Wilkes-Barre, Montrose Inn, fourth in the Sordoni chain completes the picture by symbolizing A. J. Sordoni management.

When ever there were matters that needed attention to keep the party rolling smoothly there you would find the host. At one time during the height of the storm the cooks broiling the beef had an exciting half hour when hot fat caught fire and threatened the pavilion. The Senator stayed in the middle of things until all danger was removed, then for an hour turned chef's assistant carving the beef.

The beef, dozens of slabs of it, was purchased especially for the party and broiled over open fires. It was delicious.

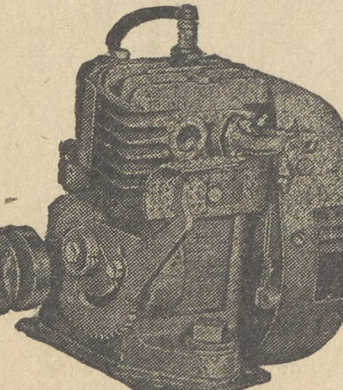
Lightning flashed and the hills echoed with thunder as guests stood silently around the edges of the pool to witness the unfurling of the American flag. With the storm above and the beautiful woodland setting as a background it would have taken a pretty hardened American not to have been moved by Senator Sordoni's ringing patriotic address of welcome.

Everybody wanted to sing the Star Spangled Banner and tried heroically but it took "God Bless America" to make the hillside ring. Senator Sordoni paid an affectionate tribute to his wife when he dedicated the flag pole. He said that she had picked the spot for its location. Then, with whimsical humor, he told the story of the hams and horses and the man who was boss in his own house. Although he spoke with a grin, we knew what he said was sincere for he had once told us that he attributed his success to the influence of his mother, discipline learned in the United States Army and the counsel of Mrs. Sordoni.

### Students Make Survey Of Church Membership

John Frank and Howard Bock, students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and employees of the American Mission Board of the Lutheran Church, are making a religious survey of Kingston Township, Dallas Borough and Dallas Township for St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

### Briggs-Stratton Motors



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# Supervisors Get Warm Invitation

## Invited To Be Guests Of Firemen August 9

Serving as an emissary of good will from Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company, Burgess Herbert A. Smith of Dallas extended a personal invitation this week to the supervisors of Lehman, Jackson and Dallas Townships to be guests of honor at the firemen's "Good Fellowship Meeting" on Friday night, August 9.

Burgess Smith visited each of the supervisors to thank them for the co-operation they have given the volunteer company in the last year and to present the invitation.

In the meantime, members of the fire company are conducting a short but spirited summer membership drive in an effort to give added significance to the "Good Fellowship Meeting." The annual drive for members is held late in the year, but this month's effort will supplement the usual campaign.

Members enlisted within the next two weeks will share the welcome with the township supervisors at the special booster smoker on August 9. A special effort also will be made to have a good turnout of present members. Refreshments, including sandwiches and chocolate milk, will be served and there will be a short program of entertainment.

Aside from its significance as a gesture of gratitude to the municipal officials who have shown such splendid co-operation toward the firemen in the last year, the meeting will acquaint members with the progress the company has made in the last year, its present financial condition and its plans for the future.

At the meeting last Friday night Harry Ohlman's committee which has been working on plans to establish fire hydrants in the borough was thanked for the progress it has made so far and was instructed to continue its work. Mr. Ohlman's committee will attend the next council meeting to explain several new suggestions.

The firemen also saw for the first time samples of the filing cards which are being filled out by Paul Winter, who is making a survey of water sources on farms in this section. The cards, which contain information about each farm, will be kept on the fire truck and will provide essential information in case of an alarm from any one of the recorded farms.

### Mrs. Bertha Carkhuff Is Called By Death

Mrs. Bertha Carkhuff, 48, R. D. 2, Dallas, died Monday morning at 7:10 in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital where she had been a patient since July 25. Mrs. Carkhuff, a native of Sweet Valley, moved to Dallas eight years ago from Lyndwood, Wilkes-Barre.

She is survived by her husband, George; four children, Mrs. Mary Williams, Scranton; Mrs. Reginald Saunders, Chase, and Thomas and Marvin, both at home; her father, A. T. Rood of Lyndwood, and these brothers and sisters: Corey Rood, Shavertown; Beryl Rood, Lyndwood; Mrs. James Altemus, Shavertown; Mrs. Zella Arner, Lyndwood; Mrs. Peter Paulson, Korn Krest; Mrs. Gordon James, Chase; and Almon Rood, Alderson.

The funeral was held from the home of Howard Harris, 857 Anthracite Avenue, Kingston.

# THESE PUPS KEEP COOL DURING 'DOG DAYS'



"Dog Days" are no menace to these breeze-swept canines who are spending the hot spell at Atlantic City's Steel Pier. Rex (upper left) rides an aquaplane behind a speedboat. Mitzi, the dancing dog (below), performs with the clowns. Kneehi (upper right) teaches traffic safety to children and Sookie (below) has a role in a marionette show. In the lower center are two dog doubles. The long-haired fellow at the left is Tippi, who is being held by his owner, Mrs. Lorena Carver. Facing him is Snookie, the pet of Con Colleano, tight wire rope artist.

# Shaul Purchases Seven Tractors

## Contract Buying Hits Mid-Summer Slump

Trade warnings that radio manufacturers will be converted to defense programs and provision of war caused heavy buying of amusement and information devices during July, but the heaviest contract purchases in Luzerne County for the mid-summer term were of tractors, one of which cost \$39,000 for delivery to Frank E. McCormack of Wilkes-Barre and Hanover Township.

The great power units, driven by Diesel oil and used in coal-stripping and excavation work caused their contractor operators to invest during July, a total of \$159,000. W. H. Shaul, operating at Dallas, bought seven of the mechanical units for a total investment of \$47,000.

July reflected the midsummer let-down in all but the tractor purchases, these in turn reflecting the transfer to technological development of the production of hard coal, at vast saving of man-power.

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# Storm Floods Streams, Maroons Two; Lightning Kills Five Cows In Field

Sweeping out of the west with demonic fury, a fierce thunder storm laid a trail of damage behind it as it passed over Beaumont and Dallas last Saturday afternoon.

Although the storm was at its worst in the Beaumont-Centerville section, the thunder peals above Dallas were sufficient to make solid homes tremble, and blinding lightning flashes threatened communications which had already been disrupted by the previous day's storm.

Five cows were killed and a sixth was injured on the farm of Walter

Dershimer at Beaumont when lightning struck a tree under which the cattle were standing.

Michael Denkas and his son, Thomas, of Larksville, were marooned on a small island in Bowman's Creek when that stream rose suddenly during the storm. State Troopers from Tunkhannock rescued the father and son, who said the water seemed to come down the creek in a wall several feet high.

Roads about Dallas, particularly in the Centerville section, were gouged deeply by washouts. Some witnesses reported huge hailstones, "which looked like icicles."

### Shavertown Youth Wins Award At Legion Camp

Richard E. Jones of Shavertown, who already had several important awards for oratory, won an oratorical contest at the American Legion's boys' camp at Indiantown Gap last week.

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### Wilson Family Reunion

The 29th annual reunion of the Wilson family will be held on August 11 at Farmers' Inn.

# High School Boy Drowning Victim

## East Dallas Youth Lost Life At Lake Louise

Despite heroic rescue efforts by a companion, Thomas Miller, 17, Dallas Township high school pupil, was drowned last Thursday in Lake Louise on the C. F. Goeringer estate in Franklin Township.

Miller, who would have been a senior at the high school in September, went to the pond with Irene, Margaret and Ben Brace. The youth went under near a "step-off" and Ben Brace, who is about 18, went to his rescue.

Failing to save the lad, Brace ran for aid and in about 20 minutes Mr. Goeringer found the body. A call was sent to Dallas firemen for a pulmotor but there is none in the borough so State Police were summoned from Harvey's Lake. They worked over the boy for more than two hours before Dr. G. L. Howell, deputy coroner, pronounced death.

The victim was buried on Sunday afternoon at 2, with services in charge of Rev. Francis E. Freeman, pastor of East Dallas Methodist Church, of which the boy was a member. Interment was in Marsh Cemetery at Centerville.

Surviving are Miller's parents and the following brothers and sisters: Edmund, Wilkes-Barre; John, Wilkes-Barre; Mrs. Ernest Martin and Mrs. Kenneth Martin, Kunkle; Alfred, Vernon, and Howard, Wilkes-Barre.

# 'Pursuit Of Happiness' Is Grove Theatre Play

That rollicking treatise on "bundling", was the practice followed by suitors in Colonial times, who were compelled to do their courting on cold nights in a bed which, for morality's sake, was divided by a centerboard. The story concerns a British ranks during the Revolution and falls in love with a saucy American lass.

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Hats? Your mind's eye frames your face with a pastel shaded halo.

Foods? A cool, jolly dinner, with exciting news of the family's day.

Sporting goods? A slashing tennis game. A well-hit drive from

the tee. A hard-hooked fish and a screaming reel.

Some people say that all enthusiasm should be taken out of advertising. In books and speeches they crusade for bleak little ads that give nothing but thread counts, strength and chemical tests, dimensions and prices. What a pity if they had their way!

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