

"The Totem Pole"

Harrisburg, July 1—Big Jim Duff, Pennsylvania's hard-hitting politically-fisted Governor has returned to his favorite seat here in the Capital City, after the past week's GOP Convention, a little the worse for wear and tear but more grim and determined than ever.

In Philadelphia last week, he took one of the worst political drubbings of his life. He lost his battle to swing the big 73-man delegation into the anti-Dewey camp.

The fact that his presidential preference did not win the candidacy is unimportant in face of the basic issues at stake. As we've mentioned before in these columns, Pennsylvania's part in the National GOP Convention—or rather the outcome of its final actions—was concerned mainly with the battle between two warring factions within the party.

Generally speaking, one faction could be considered as headed by Jim Duff. The other faction represents the Republican Old Guard hierarchy at its best: U. S. Senator Edward Martin, G. Mason Owlett and Joseph R. Grundy.

The Martin-Owlett-Grundy combine supported Dewey from the beginning, while Duff strongly opposed Dewey and as head of the big Pennsylvania delegation, Duff hoped to swing a majority of the delegates into his camp.

Thus two warring factions came to political blows at the convention. Duff lost, when Ed Martin, catering to the wishes of the Old Guard political bosses, suddenly and dramatically withdrew from his "favorite son" presidential role and threw his support behind Governor Dewey.

The victory was strictly a victory for the behind-the-scenes operators of the Republican Party in Pennsylvania, industrialists Grundy and Owlett, the latter the president of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association.

Duff has bumped his noggin more than once with Messrs. Grundy and Owlett, the most spectacular being the manufacturers' association banquet not so long ago, when Duff in a speech shook the gentry out of their comfortable after-dinner lethargy by daring to assert that industry in Pennsylvania should lead the way for deflation through

reduced prices of products. "That started the clamor in the rumpus room," Grampaw Pettibone commented. "The manufacturing lads looked as though they had been shot, so speechless and startled were they."

On the other hand Ed Martin has always been a good party man, especially during his term as Governor. Consequently when the boys behind the silk curtain beckoned, he came unhesitatingly to their side.

All of which poses a nice problem in tactics. Duff has two more years left as Governor. During that time he can be expected to expand his independent attitude and policy. What the manufacturing lads want—the gentry who fought him—will probably get the semi-brush-off in retaliation.

"Which means," warned Grampaw Pettibone chokingly from within his cloud of pipe smoke, "that the fireworks will be lighted when the Legislature meets next year. And then too, Duff still controls the fate of many of the 40,000-odd State employees. Political friends of those delegates who bucked Jim Duff may find the going slightly rough in coming months."

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Mrs. Mable Gay Is Hostess To Bible Class

Mrs. Mable Gay entertained the members of the Women's Adult Bible Class of Orange Wednesday. Games were played and lunch served to the following: Mrs. Martha Stanton, Mrs. Nora Dymond, Mrs. Myrtle Berlew, Mrs. Emma Perrigo, Mrs. Mabel Bell, Mrs. Sarah Bedford, Mrs. Ella Mathers, Mrs. Gertie Perry, Mrs. Eudora Baird, Mrs. Lydia Jones, Mrs. Freida Perry, Mrs. Florence Ross, Mrs. Elizabeth Risch, Mrs. Mary Emmanuel and the hostess.

THESE WOMEN!

By d' Alessio



"Oh, it was nice at the seashore, but I'm glad to be back where I can wear something civilized!"

SAFETY VALVE

FROM NANTUCKET

Dear Editor: Just a few lines to inform you not to come to Nantucket at this time. It is cold as heck up here. The roses are just starting to form buds. Other years at this time, the houses were covered with roses in full bloom.

There are but few people here as the season is so backward. The business people here are worrying for fear it will be a very bad year for them, as they depend on the summer trade for about seventy-five per cent of their business. Everything is very high.

We arrived on June 16 and it has rained every day beside a lot of fog. I just looked out over the ocean and counted twelve fishing boats netting for blue fish and cod. These boats are about sixty feet long and carry crews of seven men. A big Air liner bound for Ireland just passed over. They pass over our place every day. They fly very low going over here.

I had to stop writing and go to the kitchen to warm my fingers. I'm afraid the ink well will freeze. The kitchen stove and two fireplaces are going full blast and still it is cold. The rain and wind will have to stop some day or the rest of our country will dry up.

By the way Siasconset just got a fire truck like Jackson's and Sweet Valley's. I guess I have bored you with this letter, but all I can do is write letters until the weather changes. Remember me to the boys as you meet them. Mrs. Smith and daughter, Kathleen are fine and hope to enjoy some salt water swimming before long.

I attended Union Lodge F.&A.M. at Nantucket last night.

So long neighbor,
Ernie Smith

● If Nantucket is as cool as you say, Ernie, look out for visitors. —Editor.

Your Health

Five hundred persons in the United States will die of scarlet fever this year.

If the death rate from scarlet fever one hundred years ago prevailed today, there would be 50,000 deaths from this disease this year.

Scarlet fever used to be fourth chief cause of death in the United States—now it is fifty-third.

It isn't scarlet fever now so much as its complications that affect the health of human beings. More than one third of its victims suffer from insidious complications which affect the ears, sinuses, kidneys, joints, and especially the heart.

In the five-year period, 1940 to 1944, 2,275 persons died of scarlet fever in the United States.

During the same period, more than 700,000 persons in this country suffered from the disease and its complications.

While it is true that scarlet fever is now in a phase of comparative mildness, there is always the possibility that it will again become epidemic and severe.

In former years, there were epidemics of scarlet fever in which half of those who took the disease, died.

Immunization is recommended for all those exposed to this disease.

Many damaged hearts have been caused by scarlet fever.

See you at the Library Auction in Howard Risley's Barnyard July tenth.

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Preference will in all instances be given to editorial matter which has not previously appeared in publication.
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According to a recent announcement research developments offer reasonable promise that within a few years synthetic gasoline will be produced from coal at a cost close to that made from petroleum and natural gas.

FARM TOPICS

Control Potato Blight—Spray regularly to guard against late blight attacks on potatoes. 8-4-100 bordeaux or a fixed copper spray (2 pounds of actual copper to 100 gallons of water) should be applied at weekly intervals.

Prune Black Raspberries—When new canes of black raspberries are 20 inches high, pinch or cut off an inch or two of the tip. This pruning causes the canes to send out vigorous side branches which will be headed back next spring.

Avoid Farm Accidents—An unobstructed view where the farm driveway enters the highway will help to avoid accidents. For heavy, slow-starting trucks or other farm equipment, the unobstructed view in either direction should extend at least 830 feet.

Side-Dress Vegetables—A side-dressing of complete fertilizer, such as 5-10-5 or 4-12-4, will hasten the harvest and increase production of most garden crops. Work the fertilizer into the soil with hoe or cultivator.

Lubricate Tractor—Be sure to keep the farm tractor well oiled and greased. Proper lubrication reduces friction, wear, and heat.

Avoid Deep Cultivation—Feeding roots will be cut by deep cultivation close to growing plants. Cultivate just deep enough to kill weeds and break the surface crust.

Barnyard Notes

Stealing a moment to prop up a wilting tuberous begonia Tuesday before lunch, we were interrupted by two well-dressed gentlemen who approached from around the corner of the barn.

One of them wore a Shrine pin; the other a medal of the Immaculate Conception. One was an old friend. The other a stranger. A brief glance at the roses and they quickly came to the point of their mission. "You had a classified ad in The Post last week for a handyman. Answers were to be addressed to Box L. We'd like to talk to the advertiser. We've got a young man we can save, if we can get that job for him."

"He's spent nine weeks preparing for A. A. He's been in A. A. for six weeks. Who is Box L? We'd like to talk with him about this young man. He's been 'sick'. We'd like to see him get a chance in the country."

Then we tumbled. A torrent of answers came in response to our questions about Alcoholics Anonymous and all the while thrills played leap frog up and down our spine.

Here were two men as gentle and humble as the early disciples, yet fired with the enthusiasm of a Billy Sunday convert. They were in our yard on a mission and by the set of their faces and the tone of their conversation, you knew that they were determined to accomplish their purpose.

They readily gave us the background of their organization and its local history.

There are three branches of Alcoholics Anonymous in Wyoming Valley; one in Kingston, one in Wilkes-Barre, and one at the county Jail.

The last they referred to as a "hospital" where six beds are available, and added proudly "We've got a fine unit at the jail."

"But," we asked, "are fellows in jail the kind who will carry on the ideals of A. A.; have they the stability?" "You bet they have!" came the answer. "We always send an old hand to visit them every day and help conduct the meeting."

Then the fellow with the Shrine pin cut in. "Let's be frank. We've all been in jail. I don't believe there are two of us in the Kingston unit who haven't." "That's right," said his companion.

"Why we had a fine fellow join A. A. but in spite of that he asked to be separated from all temptation and has taken a cell at the jail. It's a great thing that 'hospital' at the county prison."

"How do you get members?" we asked. "Pick 'em up at saloons?" "We go anywhere to look after a 'drunk', replied the Shriner; "but, only if he requests it. We don't go around in the saloons or the gutters picking up men. Most of our contacts come from requests for help mailed by relatives or the 'sick' ones themselves to Alcoholics Anonymous in care of Kingston or Wilkes-Barre postoffices."

"Not long ago we had a request from a miner who had been on a binge for more than a week. Somehow he got hold of his son's typewriter and wrote 'Help me' and signed his name. We got him in A. A. and he's done a swell job."

The Shriner's friend interrupted, "but he had a close call after he'd been a member almost a year. One day he called me up and said, 'Tomorrow I'm going to face a crisis'. I laughed at him. What kind of crisis? He was in earnest. 'Tomorrow, I'm going to draw the biggest pay since I've been a member of A. A. When I leave the mine I'm going to pass several saloons. There's one where all the boys will stop—and I'm afraid I'll stop, too.'"

That was enough for the boys from A. A. "We asked him what time he'd get his pay and leave the mine and made an appointment to meet him at 2:30. That's what we did and two of us with Tom walked right by that saloon. We were with him three hours, had a fine lunch in a restaurant, and he has been 'ok' ever since. And the last I knew he was out helping other guys walk past saloons on pay days."

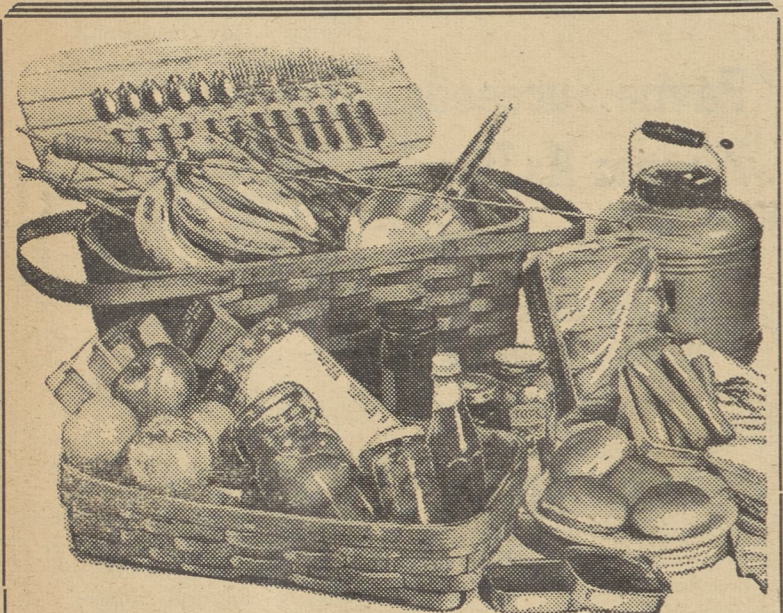
"We're great travellers—all of us in A. A. The Philadelphia gang comes up to conduct our meetings and we go to Scranton, Philadelphia and Buffalo to conduct their meetings. We'll go any place to help a 'drunk'. (A member of A. A. makes no bones about using that term—Editor) 'Nobody knows how hard to sit on another drunk's chest, as well as a fellow who's gone through it himself. Why the other night we got a call from a fellow in Scranton to give him some help. When we walked in, who should be with him but one of our members from Dallas and another from Tunkhannock. There isn't any place we won't go when a fellow—man or woman—really wants help."

Then reflecting a moment, the speaker became more intimate. "I think we've got one of your old schoolmates in our Scranton unit. Her trouble was bridge. Whenever she played bridge, there were cocktails. But she observed that she was the only one who got 'sick'. During one of those sicknesses she woke up in the home of her sister in Ohio after a \$300 taxi ride from Scranton. That convinced her that she couldn't take liquor socially like the others. She's one of our best members now."

"We've all kinds of people in A. A.: scientists, physicians, lawyers, ministers, nurses, businessmen, housewives—and jailbirds, too. But, they've got one thing in common and they know it. They can't use liquor—not even one little drink. Oh, some of them slip. We all slip, but if we can keep a person well for six months, we can save 75% of those who will accept A. A."

"The weekends and Saturdays are tough for most of us. That's why many of our meetings are scheduled for Saturdays. The oftener we can meet, the better. We have recreation and food at our club rooms."

We absentmindedly snipped a bloom off one of our roses as we listened. "But," we asked, "Alcoholics Anonymous? you've mentioned some names." The reply was immediate. "Only the names of those who want them mentioned; those who are proud to let the world know how far they've come since they joined A. A. And now that Box L. Where did you say that farm is located?"



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