

# "The Totem Pole"

Harrisburg, August 19—The professional horn-blowers are working up a fine spit-and-polish on their instruments these days and on many a dull sunshiny afternoon will be found deep in the hills, testing said instruments with varying toots and honks.

Object of this musical harangue is to prepare for the forthcoming activities next month when both the Republicans and Democrats open their Fall political campaigns in Pennsylvania.

Technically and theoretically the Republicans in this State have already opened their affair, having some months ago announced that they quietly stole into a Franklin County village by name of Chambersburg for their opening ceremony.

Since that time nothing has been heard from GOP headquarters here—until recently when the boys let it be known that they were inviting one Tom Dewey, their Presidential candidate, to officially open the campaign in Pennsylvania next month in Pittsburg.

For some reason they apparently decided to start all over again. How many more starts they are going to have before they really get under way, nobody around here seems to know for sure.

On the other hand the Democrats are still fretting and fussing over their opening event. Efforts are being made now, through proper channels, pipelines and sundry discouraging and devious devices, to brow-beat President Truman into being on hand for their official opening in the Keystone State.

"Fact of the matter is," confided Grandpaw Pettibone from behind his dark glasses, "that both sides know they are going to need all the help they can get to put the big and important State of Pennsylvania in the proper column."

The politicians in Washington are not unaware of the 4,000,000 votes floating around within the confines of Pennsylvania, nor are they overlooking the vastly important 35 electoral votes tucked away under the Pennsylvania blanket.

They are, in effect telling the boys here: "Woo those votes as you've never wooed before, Bud."

Similarly the word is being passed on down the line. By the time matters really get rolling a month or so hence there should be enough blood-thirsty politicians on the loose to keep matters fairly lively for the populace.

But notwithstanding all the commotion created in the upper circles, it will be the lads on the home front—the local candidates—who will really spearhead activities.

"This is what the politicians call a 'grass-roots' year," our old political sage informed us, licking the remnants of a chocolate bar from his fingers. "This is the year, you'll find all those political birds working hard and furiously on the folks at home—nothing like it in recent years."

And for the sake of a united front at least, bristling Jim Duff has patched up his differences (for the time being) with other leaders of the GOP in Pennsylvania and all appears to be peaceful in that camp.

By the same token the Democrats have no major disputes on their vests and all appears to be serene there too—which leaves both opponents licking only minor wounds before joining battle.

## SAFETY VALVE

### CONSUMERS SHOULD OPPOSE HIGHER WATER RATES

Dear Editor:

With regard to increased water rates in Dallas and Shavertown.

There has been a flood of increases in utility rates in the past year. Some of them may be justifiable, particularly where operating expenses have been greatly increased and these form a large portion of the company's return. Conversely, when prices recede, operating expenses should reduce, and rates should be lessened. Even if consumers should concede that an increase should now be allowed, they must, to be consistent, ask for a corresponding decrease when prices fall.

In order to do this intelligently, the consumers should know the basis upon which the company employed these high prices in computing the requested increase. This information, the consumers can secure if they will file a formal, not informal, complaint, before the date the increase in rates becomes effective.

This will place the burden of proof upon the company, and it must furnish, among other information, a complete inventory and appraisal, and an operating statement. If the consumers do not avail themselves of this opportunity, then at any subsequent date, when they desire a rate decrease, the burden of proof is upon them. This is a very disadvantageous situation in many ways.

Consumers should not admit that present inflated prices constitute grounds for a higher valuation upon which to base rates, for the Superior Court has held in the Equitable Gas case "reproduction cost under ordinary circumstances and reasonably stable prices is a theoretical value based upon uncertain and fugitive data and the Commission is not obliged to accept such estimates which would increase such theoretical value where they are based upon highly inflationary prices and where the economic conditions are uncertain and unstable."

Despite this dictum, one large company in the western part of the state based its increase upon just such inflationary prices as the Court has condemned. It may be that others are in the same position, possibly the Dallas and Shavertown Water Companies among them.

For many years the Federal Power Commission has refused to consider the reproduction cost theory as a basis for ratemaking, as have the California Commission and some others. The Pennsylvania Commission has been according greater weight to original cost than formerly. This is another reason why the consumers should not be appalled by the thought of a valuation based upon present prices.



HIS BOYHOOD AMBITION WAS TO BE A FARMER. HE PROCEEDED TO BUY & DEVELOP A FARM AFTER GRADUATING FROM PENN STATE, BUT AFTER A YEAR HE DECIDED TO MAKE EDUCATION HIS LIFE'S WORK. TODAY, HIS HOBBY IS WORKING AROUND HIS FARM AT BEAUMONT.

HIS FIRST TEACHING POST WAS AT THE GERMAN TOWN ACADEMY. LATER HE BECAME AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE U. S. PENNA WHERE HE RECEIVED AN M. A. DEGREE IN 1924 & PH. D. IN 1935. FROM 1929-36 HE WAS DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEWARK, N. J.

COMING HERE IN 1936 TO HEAD BUCKNELL JR. COLLEGE HE SOON MADE PLANS TO DEVELOP IT INTO A 4-YEAR, INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION...AIDED BY AN AMBITIOUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES & INTERESTED CITIZENS THE JR. COLL. ACQUIRED EIGHT LARGE RESIDENCES SUITABLE FOR COLLEGE BUILDINGS OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD...  
● DR. FARLEY MADE THE COLLEGE AVAILABLE FOR AIR FORCE TRAINING DETACHMENTS DURING THE WAR YEARS.

## EUGENE S. FARLEY.

THE JUNIOR COLLEGE BECAME WILKES COLLEGE IN JUNE, 1947, AND DR. FARLEY WAS NAMED ITS FIRST PRESIDENT...BECAUSE OF HIM YOUTH CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE...

### Lehman Police Hold Third Annual Dance

Members of the Lehman Police Association wish to express their appreciation to the scores of friends and neighbors who attended their third annual dance held in Huntsville Recreation Hall Tuesday evening. Over two hundred and fifty people attended. Proceeds will be used to pay for uniforms and equipment.

Committee in charge: Chief Joe Ide, Captain L. E. Beisel, Joe Regon, Fred Davenport and John Major.

saved. The total cost of the consumers' case, in both the Scranton and Spring Brook districts, did not exceed \$350,000. Not many investments are as remunerative.

Very truly yours,  
W. L. Lance



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## Barnyard Notes

### THE NATURE EDITOR

He takes the city train, and on the way he ponders neat and charming things to say about the country he has lately left. The countryside, bereft of his society, resumes the battle—weeds among legumes, cows in cornfields, bugs in the potatoes, drought and flood and woodchucks in tomatoes—the humdrum daily diet of disaster. Safe behind his polished desk, the master in his purplest prose. (oh lavender the smooth ink flows!) poetically praises rains—the smells of barns—blue summers—phrases flow like syrup from his urbane pen. The farmer reads and snorts—and then he loudly swears his wits are growing dim, or else Dame Nature spends her scowls on him, and saves her smiles and kisses for the nature editor.

BIANCA BRADBURY.  
In the New York Herald-Tribune

### THINGS

Sometimes when I am at tea with you,  
I catch my breath  
At a thought that is old as the world is old  
And more bitter than death.

It is that the spoon that you just laid down  
And the cup that you hold  
May be here shining and insolent  
When you are still and cold.

Your careless note that I laid away  
May leap to my eyes like flame,  
When the world has almost forgotten your voice  
Or the sound of your name.

The golden Virgin da Vinci drew  
May smile on over your head,  
And daffodils nod in the silver vase  
When you are dead.

So let the moth and dust corrupt and thieves  
Break through and I shall be glad,  
Because of the hatred I bear toward things  
Instead of the love I had.

For life seems only a shuddering breath,  
A smothering, desperate cry;  
And things have a terrible remembrance  
When people die.  
—Aline Kilmier.

### LAW OF DIMINISHING WORKERS

(Figures certified as of December 31, 1947)

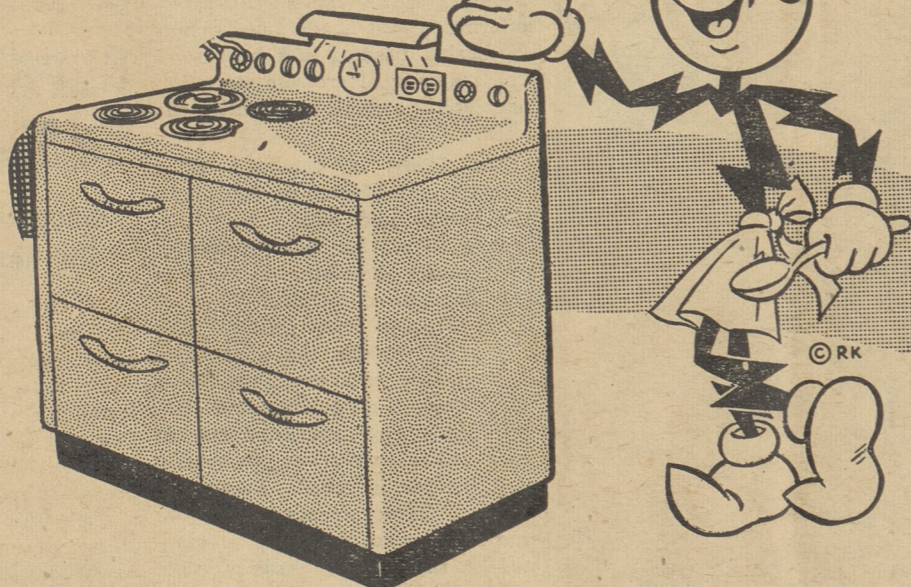
Population of United States	135,000,000
People 65 or older	37,000,000
Balance left to do the work	98,000,000
People 21 years or younger	54,000,000
Balance left to do the work	44,000,000
People working for the government	21,000,000
Balance left to do the work	23,000,000
People in the armed services	10,000,000
Balance left to do the work	13,000,000
People in state and city offices	12,800,000
Balance left to do the work	200,000
People in hospitals and insane asylums	126,000
Balance left to do the work	74,000
Bums and others who won't work	62,000
Balance left to work	12,000
People in jails	11,998

BALANCE 2  
TWO—you and I! And you'd better get a wiggle on, because I'm getting tired of running this country alone!  
—Contributed by L. L. Richardson.

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