

## Irene Arnold Writes About Visit To Famous Kirk O' the Heather

(Continued from Last Week)

**Kirk o' the Heather**  
The Wee Kirk o' the Heather is truly a lovers' shrine. Thousands of happy young couples have chosen for the place of their wedding, this little kirk.

Organ music which originates in the Wee Kirk o' the Heather is heard throughout Forest Lawn by means of speakers hidden among the shrubs and trees.

The Wishing Chair is the forefront of the Wee Kirk o' the Heather was built of ancient stones from Annie Laurie's kirk in Scotland. The tradition is that good fortune will forever smile upon the bride and bridegroom who sit in this chair on their wedding day and, hand in hand recite together the verse on the tablet in front of it—

"Dressed in our best and all alone,  
We sit within the Wishing Chair  
Which bodes success for everyone  
Exchanging bridal kisses there."

The love story of Annie Laurie has always been of interest to me. Born in Maxwellton in 1682, Annie Laurie was the daughter of Sir Robert Laurie, a Scottish Baronet and owner of Maxwellton Castle. Noted for her beauty and charm, she had many suitors, among them Douglas of Fingland, who was of an opposing clan. When Douglas refused to comply with Sir Robert's demand that he renounce the clan and king for which his father had died, Sir Robert would not sanction the marriage and locked his daughter in her room. Unable to see his sweetheart, Douglas one night stood beneath the window of the room in which her father had imprisoned her and sang to her the impassioned and beautiful song of love which bears her name—the ballad so dear to the hearts of all the world.

"for bonnie Annie Laurie I'd lay  
me doon and dee."

"And t'was there that Annie  
Laurie g'ed me her promise  
true."

Shortly afterward he enlisted, and fell on the battlefield of Flanders—but his song and his Annie Laurie have become immortal.

The actual communion tokens which she used more than 250 years ago, with her portrait, her will and scenes at Maxwellton are in the Historical Room.

The romantic saxon legend of Kerry and Aldyth ties in with the carved old English stone love seat in a section near the church. Facing each other with hands clasped through the carved stone ring in center of seat this vow pledged by many young couples who visit Forest Lawn—

"Thy hand in mine—This ring  
doth bind—My heart to  
thine."

The legend has been treasured by the county folk of Sussex since 1066 A. D.

Kerry, the young warrior in King Harold's Legions, fell in love with Aldyth, the golden-haired daughter of a Saxon farmer. Aldyth returned his affection, but her parents refused to sanction a betrothal. Kerry vowed that their love should be sealed, despite parental objection. Inspiration came to him in a dream, it is said, and he fashioned a ring through a stone pillar on a lofty point overlooking the English Channel. Patiently he toiled, and when the ring was finished on the eve of the Norman invasion—Aldyth contrived to meet him. There on that wind-swept hill they clasped hands through the ring, kissed and pledged undying devotion.

Kerry went off to repel the invaders with a light heart. Aldyth knelt each night beside the stone ring, praying for her lover's safe return.

The Saxons, on foot and armed only with little axes and clubs, fell like weeds before the mounted and armored knights of William the Conqueror. Kerry survived the Battle of Hastings unscathed, and when he returned home he and Aldyth were married—for the legend tells that her parents could not prevail against them, so powerful was the spell of the stone ring.

**Church of Recessional**  
Lastly we come to the Church of the Recessional which was built as a sacred memorial to the message of Rudyard Kipling's famous

poem, "Recessional." This church is a reproduction of the enchanting Parish Church of St. Margaret, in Rottingdean, England, where the great soldier-poet went for prayer. There, within ancient and hallowed walls, he was inspired to write his immortal plea for humility and reverence—for faith in God, which he called "Recessional".

The old Saxon doorway and the Norman tower which survived many battles and wars in ancient times are faithfully reproduced in the Church of the Recessional.

In the Kipling Museum Room, located inside the Church of the Recessional are pictures, letters and documents, concerning Kipling. Here, too, is a life-size bronze bust of him, modeled from life by P. Syngé-Hutchinson and sent by him from England to Forest Lawn. The Kipling Window, enshrined in this room, was inspired by the soldier-poet's ballads and stories.

Youth's Corner, an alcove in the forecourt, features the inspiring poem, "If," carved in stone. If we can apply the first stanza of Kipling's "If" to fit in with our everyday life, in such a troubled world, maybe the burdens wouldn't be quite so hard to bear. "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you,

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, or being lied about, don't deal in lies, or being hated, don't give way to hating, and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise".

The crowning feature of the Church of the Recessional is the "Song of the Angels" Chapel. This exquisite Chapel provides a fitting shrine for Bouguereau's great painting "Song of the Angels," which hangs about the altar, and for which the chapel was named.

Music soft and sweet finds form and color in the painting, formerly in the world-famous Wanamaker Collection. Bouguereau's work is distinguished for its exquisite flesh tones and for the third dimensional quality with which he has endowed it. In the "Song of the Angels," there is interesting contrast in the graceful relaxation of the sleeping mother and child and the angel figures, lightly poised as though they might wing their way back into the skies when their music has ended. It is said that the models for this original 19th century masterpiece were the artist's wife and child and that the three angels hovering over them were also modeled by his wife. It is in this Chapel that many find a retreat for meditation and prayer.

Upon leaving, we all agreed that it was a day well spent, for we

## Betrothed



MISS JOAN R. COOLBAUGH

Announcement has been made of the betrothal of Miss Joan R. Coolbaugh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Laing Coolbaugh of Trucksville R. D. to Donald Britt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Britt of Sweet Valley. No date has been set for the wedding. Miss Coolbaugh is a graduate of

Lehman-Jackson Township High School, Class of 1949. She has been employed by Luzerne County Gas and Electric, Kingston.

Mr. Britt was also graduated from Lehman-Jackson Township High School, class of 1950. He is employed by Natona Mill.

## John Baur, President, Of Boy Scout Council

John Baur of Shavertown was elected president, and Peter Lincoln, secretary at the Scout Council Troop 232, St. Therese's Church last Monday. Other officers: Joseph Polacky, treasurer, Stephen Waldow, Shavertown, quarter master, Edward M. Buckley, Dallas, chairman of activities, Paul Laux, Shavertown, publicity, Herman Seiber, Kingston, Institutional Representative.

John Baur Jr. and Eugene Heinrichs were awarded merit badges. Scout Master is John Butler, Shavertown, and E. P. Heinrichs, Dallas.

were refreshed in mind and in spirit; acquiring a deep-down sense of satisfaction.

IRENE ARNOLD  
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Los Angeles 44, Cal.

## Stapling Machine Rejuvenates Books

Since purchase of a heavy stapling machine in January, many of the thinner children's books at Back Mountain Library have been repaired and put back into circulation. Over two hundred gay little books with beautiful illustrations have been rejuvenated.

Miss Miriam Lathrop, librarian, staples the books strongly, then covers the stapling with Mystic Tape, to seal in the prickles. Mystic Tape, purchased in large rolls for economy, can be peeled off and replaced when the book becomes dog-eared or the title undecipherable.

Another project to add to the library stock, now under way, is dissection of surplus copies of National Geographic, and building of related articles into one stapled volume. Miss Lathrop plans to make up volumes on birds and insects as well as colorful books on Mexico and South America.

National Geographic offer information not available elsewhere. Miss Lathrop says that Dallas Township school borrowed a Geographic containing an article on spiders about two years ago, and was loath to part with it at the end of the year. It filled in the gaps in the class project.

National Geographic books, compiled of selected material, will be of great benefit to teachers.

## Miss Joan Shafer Is Bride of Kenneth Booth

Announcement has been made of the marriage of Miss Joan Shafer daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Shafer of West Nanticoke to Kenneth E. Booth, son of Mrs. Audrey Booth of Harveys Lake. The couple was married at a double ceremony with Miss Florence Everetts of Nanticoke and Melvin Hankey, cousin of Mrs. Booth, of Nanticoke. Rev. A. Ward Campbell performed the ceremony in Evangelical United Brethren Church, West Nanticoke.

A reception was held at the Shafer home and the Booths left for Niagara Falls. They are residing at Loyallville.

Miss Shafer wore a brown gaberdine suit with gold accessories. Her shoulder bouquet was of yellow tea roses.

Mrs. Booth is a graduate of Harter High School. Mr. Booth was graduated from Lake Township High School and served for three years with the U. S. Air Force.

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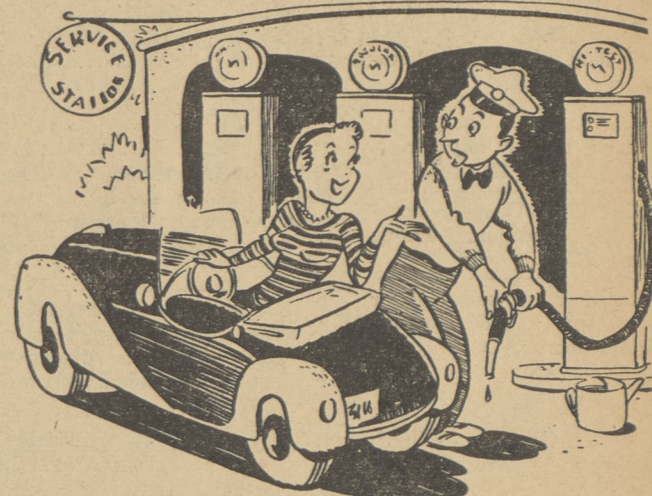
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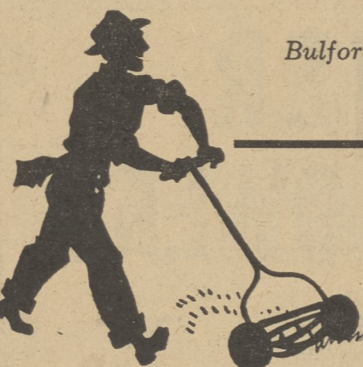
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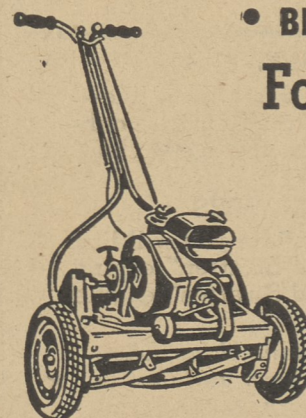
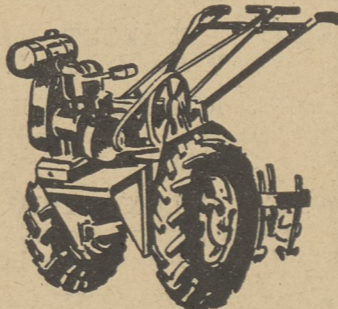
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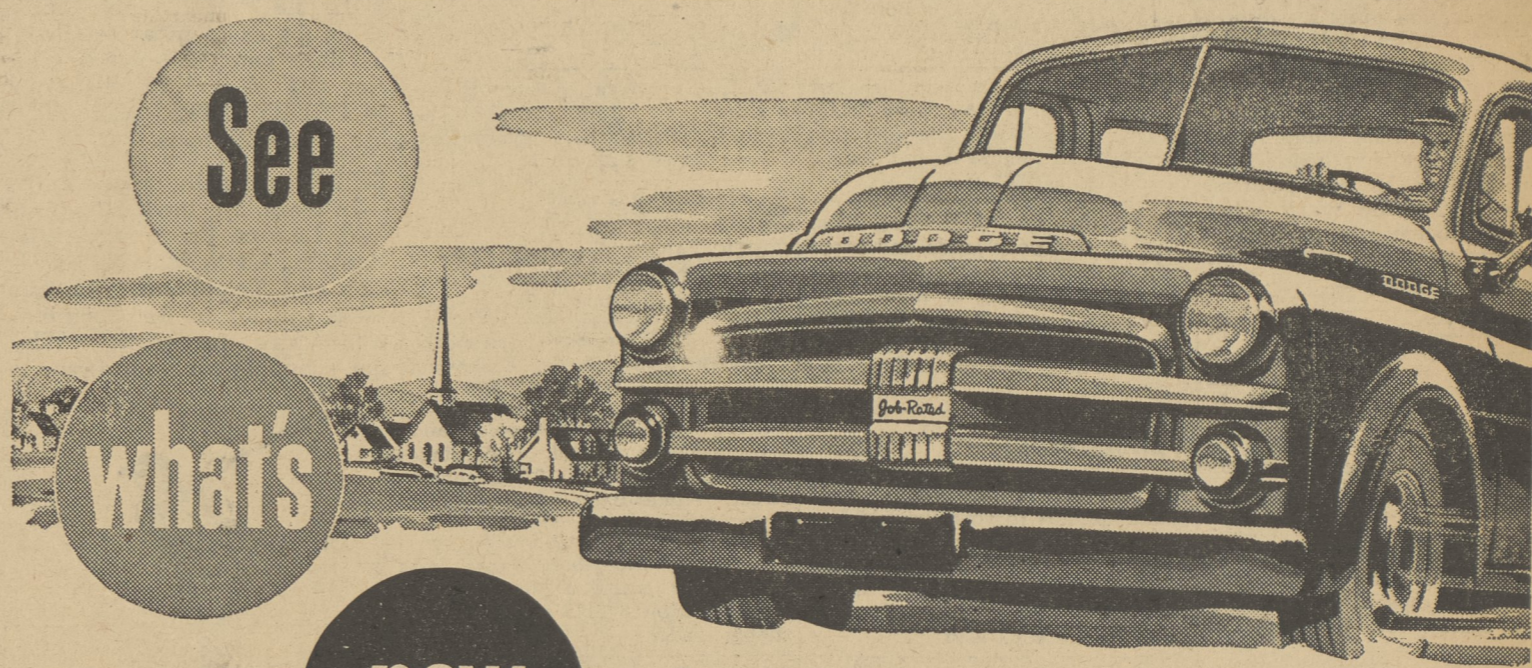
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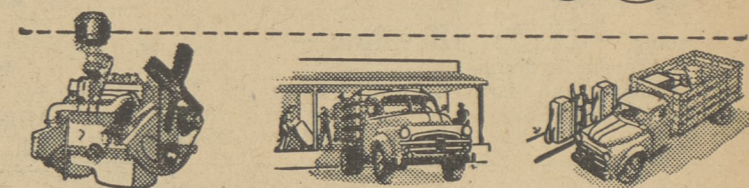
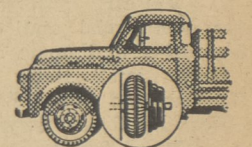
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