

By MRS. T. M. B. HICKS

We've had a number of mice as house guests during the past winter. There was the occasion when a young mother mouse was careless enough to get caught in the trap instead of licking off the bacon fat and leaving the trap unprung, as I

### Dallas Exchange Is Cut To Dial

A. J. Sordoni Makes First Call To Governor

Dial telephone service became a reality in Dallas and the Back Mountain area Monday night at 11 when Andrew J. Sordoni, Sr., board chairman, Commonwealth Telephone Company, and State Secretary of Commerce, made the cut-over to automatic service in a brief ceremony witnessed by approximately 250 officials of other Pennsylvania telephone companies, community representatives and executives of associated companies.

The first call over the new system was made by Mr. Sordoni to Governor Fine in Harrisburg.

The cut-over to automatic service effected more than 3,000 subscribers of Commonwealth's Dallas Exchange.

The actual cut-over was preceded earlier with a dinner at Hotel Sterling for out-of-town guests. Seated at the speakers' table were Andrew J. Sordoni, Sr., president, Commonwealth Telephone Company; Wilfred Gillen, president, Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania; Henry T. Inman, vice president and general manager, The Bell Telephone Company; Harold Scott, vice president, Pennsylvania Company for Banking and Trusts; Harold H. Young, R. L. Bennett, A. F. Snyder, W. M. Wakefield, W. B. Jeter, Attorney William A. Valentine, directors, Commonwealth Telephone Company; Loren M. Berry, president, L. M. Berry Directory Corp.; Clyde S. Bailey, executive vice president, United States Independent Telephone Association; Colonel Gustav Hirsch, consulting engineer, Columbus, Ohio; and Andrew J. Sordoni, Sr., chairman of the board, Commonwealth Telephone Company.

Chairman Sordoni noted that the cut-over of the Dallas Exchange to dial service was the climax of an improvement program begun in the Dallas and Back Mountain area in December 1950 when construction of the company's new main and district office was begun on Lake Street, Dallas.

The main office was dedicated and formally opened last January and work was begun immediately for the exchange's conversion to automatic service. Preparation for dial involved installation of central office equipment, of approximately 3,000 dial telephone sets, rewiring of the subscribers' premises and construction of cable and additional wire facilities.

Chairman Sordoni pointed out

### Sports Car Road Races Start Saturday At Newell Wood's At 11

Road races at Senator Newell Wood's estate at Harveys Lake will start tomorrow at 11 a.m. The second is scheduled for 12:30, third 1:30, fourth and fifth concurrently at 3, and the sixth at 4 p.m.

Each race consists of ten laps around the 3.5 mile course.

Preferred parking space, open only to members of Giant's Despair Hill Climb Association, will be close to the pits, dug to the right of Senator Wood's home and below the starting line.

Three other parking lots are open to the general public, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Caldwell McClintock, Jr., is official time and score-keeper for both the Giant's Despair Hill Climb contest and the road races.

The Hill Climb classic starts this morning at 10, up until noon a run for record. Second run for record is scheduled from 1 to 5 p.m.

Trial runs took place both at Giant's Despair and the road race

### DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT THERE'S SOMEBODY WHISTLING AT YOU

Don't look now.

But if you're young and pretty and somebody whistles it may be only Mrs. A. C. Devens' new female parrot, Polly, aged 40.

Polly was purchased a week ago in Forty Fort as a companion for Mrs. Devens' bachelor parrot who travels under the misnomer Polly O'Boyle, aged 43. More dignified, he is not half as apt to whistle at the girls as his new lady friend. She learned the habit from her former owner, a music teacher, who also taught her how to sing the scale.

First indication of the problems a whistling parrot can cause came last week when Mrs. Devens' daughter, Mildred, went down to Forty

Two days after she enriched the humus pit, baby mice came stumbling out into the open, one from the fireplace, one from under the hot water heater in the kitchen, a third making it from step to step, down the attic stairs. Almost starved, all three of them, a mere wisp of grey fur.

So we are accustomed to mice. But until last Tuesday night, we never saw one coming down the fireplace bricks, head first.

This, we said to ourselves, can't possibly be true. Squirrels can shin up and down a tree, either standing on their heads or their tails, whichever suits them best. But mice, no. The arrangement of their claws is against it.

We closed our eyes experimentally. It's probably the heat, we reflected. And it's been a tough week-end, what with the auction and all. It's an optical illusion.

Comforted, we opened our eyes. There hung the mouse.

He had braked to a full stop now and was resting, his eyes fixed on the lighted lamp.

Then, as we watched him, he slowly extended a foreleg, unfolding a delicately veined black wing. He extended the other wing, folded both wings close to his flanks, shuddered slightly, closed his eyes, and went to sleep.

We went out into the kitchen and got a tea-towel. Then, remembering that bats have sharp little teeth, we substituted a turkish towel for the thin striped model.

The bat quivered when shrouded, gave a muffled squeak, and subsided. Released outdoors, he flitted off into the thin drizzle.

We felt better. The heat hadn't been playing us tricks. Mice don't scuddle down a wall on their heads. We didn't have bats in the belfry.

Revived, we broke out the latest wadunit from the Back Mountain Library, poured a glass of iced tomato juice, and settled down to catch up on our literature, neglected during the hectic period of the annual auction.

that cost of the new main office and conversion of the exchange to dial most more than \$1,600,000. Since World War 2, Commonwealth's improvements, dial conversions and service extensions program has cost \$5,000,000. The company's plant valuation has today reached the \$10,000,000 figure.

The Commonwealth Telephone Company today has more than 25,000 subscribers and encompasses the largest area in the State served by an independent company. The territory served is approximately 100 miles from north to south and 60 miles from east to west, giving service in Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Columbia and Schuylkill Counties.

course yesterday, also technical inspection for all cars entered.

Sixty-five cars are entered for the road race, fifty-five for the Hill-Climb. Owners of all entries are members of the Sports Car Club of America. Cars are small, powerful, and acrobatic.

Membership is still open in the non-profit Giant's Despair Hill-Climb Association, entitling the holder of a membership card to preferred parking both at Giant's Despair and at 'Brynfan Tyddyn'.

Cars for the Antique Auto Show Friday and Saturday, opening in Kingston Armory 1:30 to 10:30, have been coming in over the road since yesterday. They are all in tip-top driving condition, polished until they shine like mirrors.

Tomorrow night is the big Victory Dinner Buffet, starting at 7 p.m. at Irem Temple Country Club Pavilion. Awards and trophies will be presented. The dinner is open to the public.

Fort to bring Polly out to her new home. Polly whistled at everybody on the street, but when they stopped at an ice cream store, Polly whistled so realistically that a girl on the corner took her seriously and came right over to the car.

She was a little embarrassed, but a good sport when she saw the fine feathered whistler.

Polly and Polly O'Boyle are both excellent talkers with Polly having a little the edge in an argument.

Mrs. Devens says that at 40 they are both relatively young, since parrots are known to live as long as 200 years. By that time probably Polly will no longer be interested in whistling at the girls.

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER, A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

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BOX SCORE		
Back Mountain Highway Deaths and Serious Accidents Since V-J Day		
	Hospitalized	Killed
DALLAS	10	18
DALLAS TOWNSHIP	5	8
LEHMAN	1	1
KINGSTON TOWNSHIP	42	5
JACKSON TOWNSHIP	2	1
MONROE TOWNSHIP	3	1
ROSS TOWNSHIP	2	1
LAKE TOWNSHIP	12	1
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP	1	2
TOTAL	76	26

### Laing Firemen Test 3 Pieces Of Equipment

Committee Plans To Draw Specifications And Place Order Soon

Members of the committee to select a new fire engine for Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company were thrilled this week with the performance of three engines sent here for demonstrations on the hills surrounding Dallas.

The three engines, demonstrated on alternate days, were a Mack, manufactured in Allentown, and driven here by Berwick Fire Company; a Ward-LaFrance, manufactured in Elmira, and a Central, mounted on a Chevrolet chassis.

All three performed beautifully. Those who tested the apparatus were members of the new engine committee headed by Henry Peterson and composed of Ben Edwards, Fred Price, Nort Bert and Fire Chief James Bessecker.

The big white Mack truck was given a thorough pumping test, until officials of Dallas Water Company asked the firemen to discontinue similar tests on all engines because of the shortage of water. The Mack was equipped with a two-stage pump and carried a 500-gallon booster tank. The firemen hooked up a 2 1/2 inch line and a 1 1/2 inch line and still had enough pressure to keep a fog line in operation.

The central equipment carried a 500-gallon pump and a 500-gallon booster tank, mounted on Chevrolet chassis.

Within the next week the committee hopes to have a demonstration of American-LaFrance equipment also manufactured in Elmira.

After having first hand demonstrations of as many pumps as possible, the committee will draw up a list of specifications for an engine best suited to meet local needs and then select the equipment which meets specifications.

The order for the equipment will be placed shortly since about seven months are required before delivery.

About \$6,500 has been pledged toward the purchase with \$3,500 in hand. New equipment will cost approximately \$14,000. Contributions have averaged lower than anticipated, the largest being \$500.

The company plans to retain its old Mack engine which has been in service almost thirty years. It will be stripped of most of its equipment so that it can carry an auxiliary water tank of greater capacity.

The company will meet Monday night at the Library Building to discuss further details and to hear reports from Harold Smith, general chairman of solicitation.

Mr. Smith has urged all citizens who have not been solicited to make their pledge or payments to W. B. Jeter, president of First National Bank, who is treasurer of the fund.

### Contractor Injured When House Collapses

David Ide's home in Idetown, built by pioneer ancestors over one hundred years ago on one of the first land grants in the area, collapsed Wednesday around noon. The wreck, says Mrs. Ide, will have to be cleared away and a house built from the foundations. Much of the original lumber, hardened and seasoned by years, will be usable, but the loss is great.

Operations were being carried out to ease the upper stories of the frame structure down to a new foundation, already built to take the load. The weight shifted, the structure buckled, and fell four and a half feet, crushing the new foundation.

Ernest Fritz, Idetown, contractor, was trapped beneath the flooring in a shallowly excavated portion, but was able to make his way to the main cellar and walk up through the outside entrance steps. Bruised about the back and neck, he was taken to Nesbitt Hospital for X-Rays and further examination.

### Circus Comes To Town



"Saturday is Circus Day in the Back Mountain". This is the second year that the Dallas Kiwanis Club and the Back Mountain YMCA have sponsored Mills Bros. Three Ring Circus. Advance sale of tickets gives the treasury of these two organizations the greatest income. Friends are urged to secure their tickets early. Some forty stores and offices in the Back Mountain area are selling advance tickets. Any member of the Dallas Kiwanis Club or Back Mountain YMCA has tickets to sell. The two organizations will play host to hundreds of special guests on Circus Day. Invitations for delegations from: Children's Service Center, Crippled Children's Association, Georgetown Settlement House, Old Ladies' Home, St. Michael's Orphanage, St. Stanislaus Orphanage, Sutton Home and the West Side Settlement Home, have been extended.

### LOCAL OWNERS WILL DISPLAY THREE ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILES

Harry Ruggles, Idetown, is in charge of the antique automobile show today and tomorrow, Kingston Armory. The show is being held in connection with the Giant's Despair Hill Climb and the road races at the 'Brynfan Tyddyn' course around State Senator T. Newell Wood's Harveys Lake estate.

Among the cars exhibited will be "America's finest antique automobiles—owned by many of America's ranking industrial and business leaders," according to Mr. Ruggles. Two are owned by Mr. Ruggles himself. One is a 1911 Buick Roadster, white with a black top and black leather seats, brass trim and brass headlights and carriage lamps.

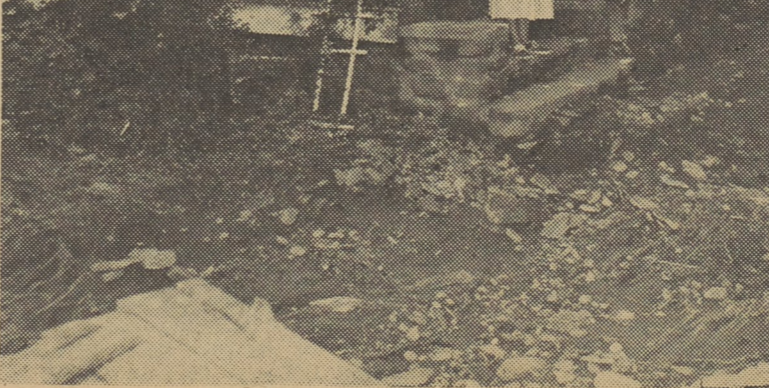
The other is a 1908 Thomas "Landulet", a small town car with black and maroon coloring and brass trimming. This car has been in Mrs. Ruggles' family since the fall of 1908, and Mrs. Ruggles has the letter written to the Thomas Company ordering the car.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bertels, Huntsville, will have on exhibition their 1927 Packard Touring car, painted gray with red trim and red leather seats.

One of the most interesting cars will be a 1910 Matheson, made in Forty Fort, and believed to be the only one in existence. The car is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matheson, who will drive it from Wayne, Pa. Mr. Matheson will be one of the judges for the show.

On July 11, Mr. and Mrs. Ruggles drove to Ithaca in their Buick to participate in the Show of Antique Cars held in Cornell's Barton Hall.

On September 24, they and Mr. and Mrs. Bertels will drive in the Glidden Tour of the Antique Automobile Club, Washington, D. C.



The spot where Snake Run, swollen with a flash flood, cut a new channel early Tuesday morning, isolating Mrs. Ben Johnson and her two tiny children, and closing their only avenue of escape to the plank bridge in the left foreground, only a few short feet away.

### Mother And Two Children Drown In Truckville's Worst Tragedy

A young mother, sleeping fitfully because of the heavy storm, mindful of the need for covering the children and closing windows against the shifting wind, stumbled from her bed shortly after four A. M. on Tuesday. She heard the roar of the stream and felt water on her bare feet.

A second later the cottage rocked on its foundations as something heavy struck the back porch a crushing blow.

### Dr. S. R. Schooley Is Getting Better

The condition of Dr. Sherman Schooley who is a patient at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital shows continued improvement.

While still unable to sit up in bed or have visitors, his spirits are good and he is taking an active interest in the affairs of the community and the Democratic Convention.

On Sunday Dr. Joseph Vanderveer, head of the cardiology department of the Benjamin Franklin Clinic, Philadelphia, examined him, and advised that he remain quiet for a period of six weeks and then take a three months rest after which he might return to office practice.

Dr. Vanderveer is assistant professor at University of Pennsylvania Medical School and on the staff of the Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. and Mrs. Schooley became acquainted with him when he spoke before the general practice group at Bedford Springs last year.

During the period he has been in the hospital, Dr. Schooley has received hundreds of cards and letters from his friends and patients. One was a cablegram from William MacIntyre in London. Many others were received from medical associates and old friends throughout the country.

He takes a great interest in all of them and can't quite understand why so much fuss is being made over him.

He was especially delighted when he received a couple of gallons of drinking water from the spring on the old Schooley homestead. "That's nectar for the Gods" was the way he received it.

### McCarty In Hospital

Chief of Police Francis McCarty, Truckville, is still at Mercy Hospital undergoing extensive tests and X-Rays, with no diagnosis up to date. He was admitted after two severe hemorrhages July 12. Up to date he has had five transfusions.

### Mrs. Lina Booth, 70, Dies At Loyalville

Mrs. Lina Booth, wife of Earl Booth, Lake Township Supervisor, was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery Thursday afternoon, following services conducted at the Bronson Funeral Home by Rev. Ira Button, and Rev. Everett Lord.

Born at Pikes Creek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Wesley, Mrs. Booth had lived in Loyalville ever since marriage.

There are two sons, Walter, Washington; and Clifford, Harrisburg; a daughter, Mrs. Lewis B. Thomas, Lake Silkworth; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; two brothers, Ernest and Walter Wesley, Loyalville; and a sister, Mrs. Leona McHugh, New Jersey.

### Where Raging Torrent Swept Three To Their Death

Ben returned home at 7 a.m., found water still running through the house, and thought the family had found haven with a neighbor. Operations for recovery of the bodies were not started until 9 a.m. Howard Woolbert set wheels in motion.

Shavertown and Truckville volunteer firemen, and many recruits from the community kept watch along the banks of Toby's Creek, Shavertown under direction of R. W. Edmondson, Truckville under William Long.

At 11:20 the first body, that of little Ellen, was recovered from Toby's Creek just below Shaver's Store, by Rev. Robert Webster, who was carried under by the torrent, and made the bank with difficulty, bearing his pathetic burden.

By noon the twenty-five year old mother had been found, having been swept down stream and through the conduit. Hours later, at 7:45, the body of two-year old Charles was found in the impounding basin at Pringle.

State Police assisted local police and citizens in their grim search for victims of the worst tragedy the area has suffered in years.

All three of the drowned will be buried in Edge Hill Cemetery this afternoon, following services conducted at 2 by Rev. Russell Straw and Rev. Robert Webster from the Frederick Funeral Home in Plymouth.

Photo by Paul Bieley