

Old Tales Recount Harrowing Days For Early Back Mountain Settlers

By GARFIELD JACKSON

Here is a bit of local history that just came to mind, and I thought it might be of interest to Dallas Post readers who may have heard the same story and could verify or add to it.

It is concerning a family that lived on the mountain near where the old Wyoming Camp Ground was. I read this story in a Sunday School paper many years ago, but have never learned the name of the family mentioned in the story.

During the days before the Wyoming Massacre the Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers fought for possession of the Valley and much property was destroyed. Settlers were driven out, and those from Connecticut moved to the Back Mountain wilderness until things got quiet. They cleared land and built log buildings for themselves and their stock, waiting for things to be settled so that they could again return to the Valley.

There were three husky boys in this family, and the father told the boys that they could each take a bag of grain and go to Pete Harris' mill and have it ground into

flour. The trip would require a day. The boys got their grain ready and intended to start early in the morning to go to mill. So the father took down the family Bible, and while the family gathered round, a chapter was read, and then they sang a hymn and had prayer before the boys left.

When they were about ready to leave on their journey, the father suddenly said, "Boys! Something tells me that you should not go to mill today. It seems like a divine warning, and it is so strong that I can't let you go." So the boys were very disappointed, but remained at home talking among themselves of their father's strange behavior.

So late in the afternoon, one of the boys took a walk from home, to a place where he could look down on the Valley, and he smelled smoke and was anxious to learn the cause. This was near what is known as the Look-Out. He saw many places in the Valley where smoke was rising, and hurried home to report, and the whole family came to see, and discovered that the Indians who had attacked the

THESE WOMEN!

By d'Alessio



"Remember that Congressman we helped send to Washington? Well, there he is in Bermuda!"

settlors had spent the previous day right on that spot and had never discovered the little family that had been so close all the while.

I told this story to a well known historian who said he thought it to be folklore, as the early deeds for property in the Back Mountain were never made out until some time after the Wyoming Massacre. But I have been told by my forefathers that the settlers who were driven out of the Valley came up over the mountain and built buildings and cleared land for crops and afterwards had deeds made out for their holdings, after surveys were made.

The mill mentioned was known as the Tuttle (Tuthill?) mill, powered by a water wheel, and was located on a creek near the Stone Bridge in Forty Fort. This mill was also operated by Pete Harris at one time. Mr. Harris was one of the first forty settlers in Forty-Fort.

Back Mountain Toastmasters Install New Officers At Dinner Meeting

Officers of Back Mountain Club 1553, Toastmasters International were installed at a dinner meeting at Donachie's Thursday night.

Past President John Woychick called the meeting to order and after thanking the group for their help afforded him during his tenure of office, turned the gavel over to the evening's Toastmaster, Jerry Fritzen. Mr. Fritzen introduced the new officers as follows: President, Jack Hogan; Educational Vice-President, Jerry Fritzen; administrative Vice-President, George Norton; Treasurer, Don Edwards; and Secretary, Dick Maslow.

President Hogan thanked the group for their faith in him and promised that the year 1962 would be a year of growth and accomplishment as far as the Club is concerned.

Speakers for the evening were John Woychick, whose topic was "Milk Price Control", and Bill Morgan, who recited from "The Bombardment". The evaluators were Ward Jacquish and Walter S. Black.

Present at the meeting were the following: Paul Monahan, Ward Jacquish, Walter S. Black, John Woychick, Jack Hogan, Keith Yeisley, Don Edwards, Bill Morgan, Jerry Fritzen, and George Norton.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian educational organization of over 2800 clubs, providing its members with opportunities to improve their abilities to speak in public, conduct

meetings and develop their executive capacities through practice, mutual constructive criticism and assumption of responsibilities within the organization. It's also a great deal of fun! We'd like to invite everyone to our next meeting to be held at the Dallas Library Annex building on February 15 at 8:15 P.M.

1963 Farm Show Will Precede Inauguration

Date for the 1963 Farm Show has been set by the Farm Show Commission for January 7 to 11.

Ordinarily the Farm Show opens the second Monday in January, as it did this year. Next year's switch to the first Monday was occasioned, as explained by H. R. McCulloch, commission secretary, by the 1963 gubernatorial inauguration.

The State's administrative code stipulates that its governors must be inaugurated the third Tuesday of January immediately following their election. Next year the third Tuesday, January 15, comes in the same week as the second Monday, January 14.

Next year's inaugural is scheduled for the Farm Show Building. Governor Lawrence was inducted there three years ago when severe weather conditions — a combination of rain, sleet, and snow—forced transfer of scheduled open air ceremonies in front of the Capitol—to the in-

doors. Soon afterward the Legislature passed an act decreeing that future inaugurations be indoors at the Farm Show.

So, to avoid a conflict with the inaugural ceremonies, next year's Farm Show will forego its usual "second Monday" opening, and move up to the first Monday. That date incidentally, will be only one calendar day earlier than this January 8 opening.

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4-H CLUB NEWS

The first meeting of the Cloverleaf 4-H Club of Luzerne County, will be held February 15, at Trucksville Fire Hall, at 8 p.m.

All last year's members are requested to attend. The Pins for those members with a completion for the past year will be given out.

Members are urged to bring guests who are interested in joining a 4-H Club.

This year's slogan is "4-H is good for YOUTH and good for you."

The 4-H is an international organization. More than 55 countries in the world have 4-H or an organization patterned after 4-H.

4-H is sponsored by United States Department of Agriculture and Pennsylvania Extension Service.

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