

## CIVIL WAR GUNPOWDER BURNS BOY

Black powder which may have been kept as a souvenir of Civil War battles nearly caused serious injury to a thirteen-year-old boy who was fascinated by his discovery.

The home of the late John Letson, Davis Street, Trucksville had been vacant since his death several weeks ago. His sister, Miss Bessie Letson, a resident of the Old Ladies Home, Wilkes-Barre had asked Harry Snyder, Dallas, her brother's friend to tear down several small buildings on the property.

Since Mr. Letson kept many mementos locked in the sheds, the neighborhood youngsters were highly interested in the demolition.

Young Thomas Cully, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cully, S. Pioneer Avenue was looking over the rubbish piled in the yard when he came upon an olive oil bottle labeled "Gunpowder."

He sped home and sprinkled some of the contents on papers in the incinerator. As he turned toward the house to secure matches, some of the powder spilled on the ground. It is believed that he then set the bottle down. He lit the papers. There was an instantaneous explosion. The boy was thrown backwards by its force. The flame found the trail of powder grains, igniting his left sleeve.

Herbert Hill was looking out his dining room window at 6:15 p.m. when he saw his young friend and neighbor running to him. "Uncle Herb," Tom called, "Get me to a doctor, quick."

Mr. Hill quickly removed the hooded jacket and shook the flames from inside the sleeve. In a jiffy he was on his way to Nesbitt Hospital with the frightened lad.

Dr. Joseph Sparlat performed a correct damaged tendons in the right index finger of the left hand which lead to the forearm. Deep puncture wounds and lacerations of the same member were cared for. Several sutures were needed for the gash in his forearm. Burns of the face and left hand were found to be superficial.

Tom's dad who was away hunting on Monday, states that no trace of the powder jar was found, nor were there any glass fragments in the wounds, the entire container having disintegrated.

Tattoo marks caused by the powder will be removed later by plastic surgery. Dr. W. C. Marsden will check the lad's eyes to ascertain whether any damage was done. Tom's general condition is good.

Mrs. Herbert Updyke who resides not far from the Letson home states, that the elderly gentleman sent her son a small packet of gunpowder with a note that "it was taken from the effects of Lt. Henry Bertels who was killed in the Battle of Petersburg in Virginia during the Civil War and who is interred in Hollenback Cemetery." "The bottle the Cully boy found may be some of the same, but we are not sure," she said.

Tommy's dad, also a student of the Civil War, is a member of Back Mountain Civil War Round Table.

### Rainbow Girls

Initiation will be held on the first Thursday in December. There will be rehearsal on the first Sunday in December.

On Saturday there will be a dance with Disc Jockey Joe Shaver at the Dallas Jr. High from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Jim Besecker Takes First Ride On Town Ambulance As A Patient

James Besecker, Sr., is a patient at Nesbitt Hospital where he is showing some improvement after being admitted Saturday afternoon following a heart attack.

He had not been feeling up to par last week but continued his real estate duties Saturday morning and in spite of a pain in his chest accompanied a prospect to Harveys Lake to look at a property.

On his return home at noon, he told Mrs. Besecker, that he did not feel like eating but would lie down. About 2 the prospect called to close the deal, and Mr. Besecker went to his office to make out the papers.

Leaving the office, he could not quite make it home, but stopped in to see Dr. Harry Gallagher who sent him home to bed to await the arrival of his own physician, Dr. Charles Perkins, who had him taken to the hospital in Dallas Community Ambulance.

While Jim loves to have callers, friends are urged not to visit him at the hospital where he will be a patient for some weeks, but to send cards instead.

His son, Donald flew up from Florida as soon as he learned of his father's illness. Jim Besecker has taken hundreds of rides on errands of mercy in this community on both the Henry M. Lang Fire Truck and the Community Ambulance, but this was his first trip as a patient.

## Post Commander Dies Suddenly

### Military Rites Set For This Afternoon



JAMES F. DAVENPORT

Military rites will be accorded the late Commander of Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post this afternoon when James Fred Davenport is buried at Chapel Lawn.

Last night Legion comrades conducted services for a commander who had been inducted only two months ago.

This afternoon, Rev. Norman Tiffany and Rev. Kenneth O'Neill, present and past ministers of Lehman Methodist Church, will officiate at Disque Funeral Home.

Commander Davenport, 54, was taken ill Monday morning after going to his employment in the credit office at Pennsylvania Power and Light Company. He was brought home by a fellow employee, and died at 10:15 a. m. He had suffered similar heart attacks before.

A veteran of World War II, he and his wife, the former Florence Weintz, operated the Maple Hill Rest Home in Lehman for seven years.

He was a member of Lehman Methodist Church; Lehman police force and police association; Lehman fire company. He was vice president of Back Mountain Police Association.

He will be badly missed in Lehman, where the children adored him, and where everybody knew that he could be counted on in any kind of an emergency. He had the welfare of the community at heart. During the early years of the Fire Company, it was Mr. Davenport who personally donned a white apron and roasted the turkeys at Jackson Fire Hall for the annual banquet.

Clocks were his hobby. Any old clock, discarded because it was broken, or coming across the auction block, was to him a challenge. He painstakingly adjusted, repaired, and oiled the faltering mechanisms, and got the clocks to ticking again, spreading out the parts and the tools on the kitchen table.

Born in Hoboken, Nebraska, he was son of Mrs. Mary Conway of Trucksville and the late William Davenport. He lived at Meeker for some years before moving to Lehman nine years ago.

He leaves his widow; two children, Mrs. Margo Oncay, Lehman; and James, Jr., Tonawanda, N. Y.; four grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. Conway; brothers: Marshall and Willard, Luzerne; John, Shickshinny; Elmer, Garden Grove, California; sisters, Mrs. Helen Carr, Luzerne, and Thelma, Santaniello, N. J.

### Local Collection For Brown Family

Nine members of the Walter Brown family who died in an early morning fire in their home near Renovo Thursday had many friends in the Dallas-Kinkle area, who are taking a collection for three surviving children.

Couderport radio station WFRM will be the collection station. Donations should be sent there. The parents and seven children, ages 4 to 15, were trapped in their home in a remote corner of Clinton County by the fire. Like that which killed three and severely burned four of Clarence "Shorty" Shaver's family at Laketon last week, the Clinton County fire evidently started from a coal or wood stove.

Surviving are Charles Brown, 10, and Sandra, 17, who stayed with neighbors that night, and one married daughter.

### Jackson Grange Notice

Members of the Jackson Grange are requested to take candy, peanuts, fruit, any other goodies to the Grange Hall on December 8 or 15 for guests at the Maple Hill Nursing Home, Lehman.

## Two Robbed On Tuesday

### Bunker Hill, Dallas Doors Forced Open

Police from Dallas Township, Kingston Township, and Wyoming Barracks are continuing investigation of burglaries of two homes Tuesday, evidently only hours apart.

Among the booty taken from the home of Robert Slater, Shrineview, was a .22 calibre automatic, when the front door was pried open between noon and 4 p. m.

Kitchen door of the home of Joseph Yuhas, Bunker Hill, Kingston Township, was also pried open that morning, and piggy banks, loose money, and some cameras were included in the receipts gained by ransacking the house.

Both parties were out at the time of the robberies.

Hunters were suspected in the Bunker Hill robbery, according to Police Chief Herbert Updyke, as some were seen by near-by power line workmen. However, another connection might be drawn from the fact that five or six forest fires have broken out in that area over the past week, probably set, according to Frank Klimek, forest ranger.

Assistant Chief Stanley Gardiner suspects juveniles in the Slater robbery.

## Biggest Santa Comes To Town

The biggest Santa Claus that ever visited the Back Mountain region arrived in Dallas late Tuesday night and stands twenty-four feet high in front of Dallas Hardware where he is ready to greet everybody.

The mammoth Santa Claus was obtained earlier this year by James Hutchison, owner of the store, from a Danville Merchant who offered the hearty old fellow to the City of Danville if the city fathers would erect him. There was some hesitation so, Mr. Hutchison, got Santa and brought him to Dallas to please Back Mountain kids.

He worked most of Tuesday night erecting him. Santa stands so tall that his head and shoulders extend above roof of the building, and his legs are so long that even the tallest man can walk between them into the front door of the store.

Everybody knows Santa's worth, especially the children, but Mr. Hutchison said it cost more than \$200 just to paint him, and David Schooley, Comptroller of the Boston Store, said that he must have originally cost more than \$1,500.

### Plans Holiday Tea

Members of McAuley Guild, College Misericordia, will hold a Christmas Tea at Regina Hall at the college on Sunday. Honorary chairman is Sister Mary Celestine, president of the college.

Committee chairman: Mrs. Al Jr. Crane, president, Mrs. Ralph Daley, general chairman, Mrs. Dominic Manganello, program chairman, Mrs. John J. Feeney, publicity.

### Boy Scouts Troop 232

Boy Scout Troop 232 will stage a Parents Night Monday evening with the annual Christmas party. There will be a Court of Awards. Each Boy Scout is asked to bring a fifty cent gift for exchange. Scout mothers will bake cupcakes and cookies, and the committee will furnish sodas.



## College Lyric Theatre To Present Anderson's Broadway Triumph

College Misericordia's Lyric Theatre will present MEDEA tonight and tomorrow night at 8:15 p. m. in Walsh Auditorium.

This old Greek classic drama was Euripides' prize-winner in the Athens drama festival of 431 B. C. The Jeffers' modern adaptation was Judith Anderson's great Broadway triumph in 1947.

The violent Medea whose suffering and jealousy were so magnificently expressed in the Anderson portrayal will be played in the Misericordia production by Theresa Pacewicz.

Jason, the role of Dennis King in the first New York production, will be played by Robert Runda, faculty member of King's College Drama Department.

Jack Keating, student of Wilkes College, will play Creon. Misericordia freshman, Nancy Shupnik, will play the nurse, the character interpreted with so much feeling by Irene Reed in the original New York production. Frank Bebey, student of King's College, will play Aegeus.

The three Corinthian women will be portrayed by seniors Carol Zionce and Penny Martini and freshman Joanne Zavada. Andrea Tomasko, freshman, will play Jason's slave; attendants will be Carol Ann Petrosky, junior, and Ann Marie Wysocki, sophomore.

## Was It A Miracle That Saved Three Fire Victims' Pictures?

Harveys Lake Fire Chief Thomas Garrity relates this incident as the miracle of the fire that snuffed out three lives at Loyalville.

"When the fire truck arrived," Mr. Garrity says, "it wasn't necessary to break a window or open a door to play a stream of water on the holocaust. The entire structure was in flames, doors, windows out. "Water pressure would have broken through any of the flaming sides of the house. The interior was being consumed by crackling tongues of fire, partitions and ceilings were falling."

"It was impossible to believe anything inside could have remained untouched by the intense heat. Then suddenly a draft, a gust of heat, raised a burning carpet covering a box in the kitchen and from it flew a sheaf of burning paper, impossible to save except three pieces which Stephen Glova grasped, extinguishing the flaming edges with his hands."

Those pieces of seared paper were photographs. Photographs of

the three children who lost their lives in the fire.

Mr. Glova showed them to George Chukinis, Luzerne photographer, who said that he could enlarge them.

The portraits were placed on each victim's coffins at the funeral.

## Eipper Elected For Third Term

Robert J. Eipper, a graduate of Dallas Township Schools, and son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Eipper, Demonds Road, has just been re-elected to a third term as a Connecticut State Representative.

A resident of Roxbury, Mr. Eipper is part owner of a large Dairy Farm. His son, Robert, is also associated with him in the dairy business.

Mr. Eipper's victory was noteworthy because he is a Republican and Connecticut went Democratic.

## Fire Wipes Out Over 70 Pigs

### Chase Farmer Loses Cows And Antiques

Still undetermined is the cause of a fire which wiped out between seventy and one hundred head of livestock and a second-floor full of valuable belongings Saturday, leveling a barn belonging to Reuben Gabel, Schoolhouse Road, Chase.

Well over seventy pigs, many sows due to farrow, and shoot, and four cows, some with calves, died in the uncontrollable blaze which wrought a total loss before Jackson or Lehman Fire Companies arrived.

More pigs were saved from the enclosure outside the barn.

Mr. Gabel, a livestock farmer, and his wife Teresa, were awakened a few minutes before the fire, between 3 and 4 in the morning, by their dogs barking. They looked out for prowlers, but could see none. The fire was not yet evident, and they returned to sleep.

One dog was tied in the barn and he may have been barking at early flames or smoke. He too died in the fire.

Light from the blaze was visible three miles away on Chase Mountain, where it was spotted by hunters Robert Thomas and Foster Smith, Larksville.

Thomas, son-in-law of the Gabels' close friends Mr. and Mrs. John Headman, Polles Road, recognized the barn, and the two hunters sped to the scene in their car, and tried to telephone Jackson Fire Company from the Gabels' home. There was a bad connection, and it was necessary to use neighbor George Russ's phone.

Lehman company was also called, and some twenty men from each township responded. Lehman Chief Lee Wentzel and Fred Fielding, in charge of the Jackson group, could only hope to protect the house, 250 feet from the barn.

Mrs. Gabel lost a number of antiques and a collection of silverware, stored on the second floor.

Neighbors are getting together a fund to help the elderly couple over their loss. The barn was insured for only a little, according to Mrs. Headman.

## Red Cross Will Trim Trees At Red Rock Radar

Wyoming Valley Chapter Red Cross will decorate at Red Rock Tuesday, trimming two trees, hanging garlands in mess hall, Base Exchange and recreation hall, and using poinsettias in the chapel.

Following the hanging of the greens, there will be a party for pre-school children of servicemen stationed at the Base, with a gift for each child.

Nanticoke Chapter will provide gifts for each of the 175 men stationed at Red Rock.

Wyoming Valley Chapter, says Mrs. Edward Gilroy, will sponsor a Voice from Home program. Each service man may "cut" a record of his voice, which will be sent home to his family anywhere in the world for a Christmas greeting. Sophie Vnuokowski, home service director, will officiate.

Going with Mrs. Gilroy from this area will be Mesdames Walter Davis, Ellwood Swingle, George Seeland, Margaret Dykman, Chester Nesbitt and Clinton Myers. June Shell-hamer and Mrs. Charles Ray, with Mrs. Gilroy, are making arrangements.

## Tommy Andrew Gets Many Letters After Interview By Mel Allen

Tommy Andrew, Perrin Avenue, Shavertown was surprised last week to receive several letter congratulating him on his appearance on Mel Allen's NBC Radio program, Monitor, which emanates from New York City.

Keith Yeisley, a former local boy, who is now employed as a salesman for the Lilly Tulip Corporation, Baltimore wrote that he was driving through Washington last Saturday when he heard Tom speaking over the program on Rabbit Breeding. He stated that he thoroughly enjoyed the show and felt a nostalgia for his old home and its people when Mr. Andrew mentioned Shavertown.

A few days earlier the local rabbit fancier had received another letter from M. L. Love, South Carolina who commented on the excellence of the discourse and expressed his appreciation for southern rabbit breeders who had gained many tips from the program. Not knowing Mr. Andrew's address he had asked James Blyth of Pittsburgh, Chairman of the National Rabbit Breeders Association to forward his correspondence.

Tom, who serves as a judge in all the major shows held in the nation, is an authority on the subject of rabbits and their by products. As chairman of the Commercial

### FIRE-BUG SUSPECTED IN BUNKER HILL AREA

Forest rangers and Bunker Hill residents extinguished the sixth forest fire in five days on that mountain Tuesday night around 8, possibly the work of a pyromaniac, according to authorities.

The fire, close to the summit of the north end, covered several acres before being brought under control by Forest Ranger Frank Klimek and eight or nine men with rakes and "Indian tanks."

Although the hunting season brings on an outburst of fires every year, Klimek suspects these recent flare-ups to be the work of a fire-bug. The fires were too close, he says, to be accidents.

Tuesday's fire was readily visible from Parrish Heights, Dallas.

## Tragic Victims Laid To Rest

Three little girls were buried Saturday morning at Chapel Lawn, victims of the worst tragedy in years in the Back Mountain, when fire roared through the Clarence Shaver home at Laketon and took the lives of Mildred Virginia, Cynthia, and Susan, leaving four other members of the family in precarious condition.

Throng of people called at the Glova Funeral Home Thursday and Friday evenings, and attended the funeral Saturday morning when three caskets, each bearing on its closed lid a picture of its occupant, were carried from the chapel. Rev. George W. Clements, pastor of Emmanuel Mission, conducted the last rites. Rev. William Schell, a former pastor, offered prayer.

Pallbearers for Virginia were David Fine, William Edwards, Carl Shinal, Robert Lohman, Richard William, and Stanley Palmer.

For Cynthia, Ellis Patton, Howard Grey, William Hartling, and David Williams.

For Susan, Edward Newell, Gary Anderson, Edward Edwards, and Carl Carey, Jr.

Sixteen girls from Lake-Lehman High School formed an honor guard under direction of Mrs. Carrie Rood. Not able to attend the funeral were the parents of the girls, both patients at Nesbitt Hospital; brothers Richard, Robert and David, all suffering from burns and smoke inhalation at Nesbitt Hospital.

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## Shaver Family Much Improved At Hospital

### Mr. Shaver, However, Shows Little Change Since His Admission

With the exception of Mr. Shaver, whose condition shows no improvement, all of the victims of the disastrous fire at the Shaver home at Loyalville last Wednesday morning, showed improvement this week at Nesbitt Hospital.

Mrs. Shaver, who for a time could not talk above a whisper because of smoke inhalation, is doing nicely and submitted to chest x-rays yesterday.

Richard, badly burned at the back, is doing well and was out of bed for a few moments, his shoulders swathed in medicated bandages. He asked for his slippers so that he could walk down the corridors.

Bobby, who was burned on the arm, hand, face and ears, is coming along well.

And the baby, David, who had his hair singed and was bruised when he was thrown out of a window is good.

Peggy is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Dale Oney and attended classes at Lehman Monday with the Oney's daughter Carol.

Jackie Thomas who lives with the Shavers and was the hero of the fire, is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gray at Loyalville.

Peggy, Jackie, Carol and Mr. Gray visit the family at the hospital every evening, driving to Kingston in Mr. Gray's car.

Great-Hearted Community Never has this community witnessed a more spontaneous outpouring of constructive sympathy than was shown after the horrifying news of the holocaust which took the lives of three little girls.

"Thought you might need more milk. They say it's the best thing for smoke inhalation," was the comment of the milk truck driver.

A neighbor hustled into the Dale Oney House where survivors of the Clarence Shaver family had been sheltered that dreadful night. She had four loaves of fresh bread. Another neighbor brought spaghetti, enough for a regiment.

"Have you enough coffee? sugar? butter? I'll bring you some."

"What about bathing? I've got a warm jacket I can spare."

Mrs. Ziba Smith was at her sister's house all day, cooking, cleaning, restoring the Oney house to some sort of order after firemen and newspaper reporters had made it their headquarters. Mrs. Smith's realistic approach was, "Let's get those coffee cups into the sink and washed up. Let's clean up this kitchen. Too many traces of what happened here during the night."

Mrs. Smith got it organized in no time. "Mrs. Oney's my baby sister," she explained, "and this fire was a great shock to her. Those children were in and out of the house, just like her own." Then she dashed home, snatched some chickens out of the freezer, and was back again with the makings for a big chicken soup.

Dale Oney stayed home from work to handle Red Cross inquiries and the many technicalities that arise from a catastrophe.

Rev. George W. Clement of the Emmanuel Mission to which the Shaver family belonged, came to see what he could do.

Before the embers had cooled, a fund had been started. All service clubs of the area set wheels in motion. Harveys Lake Lions at a special executive session, voted \$500. Eastern Star voted support. Dr. Aaron Lisses, contacted at his office at the Narrows Shopping Center on the eve of leaving for Puerto Rico, and informed that all the children were near-sighted and that all glasses had been destroyed by fire, said leave it to him, if the sight-saving program didn't handle it, he would in person.

A fund started by Jim Ward, Station WBAX exceeded \$28,000 and several hundred dollars received by the Dallas Post for relief.

And as always, there were the sightseers, strangers who thronged the premises Sunday for a vicarious thrill, people who trampled sacred ground under the slim guise of intelligent observation, but who were in reality there from curiosity, and should have been kind enough to stay home, leaving the community to its misery.

Mr. Moran is a graduate of Coughlin High School and the University of West Virginia.

Officers and directors for the coming year attended the Lieutenant Governor training program Tuesday, November 27, at the Fox Hill Country Club.

## Dallas High Team Honored By Kiwanis

Kiwanis honored Dallas Area High School football team, West Side Conference champions, at the weekly meeting last night.

Speaker was James Moran, Coach of King's College football team, and the entire Dallas team, plus coaches and faculty representatives, was there.

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## Silver Dollar Celebration At Giant Markets



TIMES PHOTO BY REFICE

Jack Hodin, operations manager of Giant Market, checks over shipment of more than 50,000 silver dollars to be used in the store's \$50,000 Silver Dollar 30th Anniversary Sweepstakes. The silver dollars, which are at the Northeastern Pennsylvania National Bank, also will be used for the Giant Markets payroll on Saturday. From left: Allen Robinson, Scranton, assistant head teller at the bank; L. F. Butkiewicz, Scranton, head teller and assistant vice president, and Mr. Hodin.



Rabbit Department of the National Association of Rabbit Breeders, he receives mail from all parts of the country and foreign lands.

Every weekend finds visitors at his home from all sectors of Pennsylvania to discuss problems with him on his favorite subject. He also lectures to interested groups.

Tom says that he was interviewed by Mel Allen some weeks ago while at a Rabbit Show but never expected to be on a national hookup.