

NEWS FROM POST CORRESPONDENTS

BEAUMONT, Mrs. William Austin 639-2544
DALLAS, Carol Ann Williams 674-4109
FERNBROOK, Mrs. George Shaver 674-5460
HARVEYS LAKE, Mrs. Albert Armitage 639-9531
IDETOWN, Bess Cooke 639-5137
JACKSON TWP., William Hughes 696-1005
LEHMAN, Mrs. Morton Connelly 674-2488
MT. ZION, Rev. Charles Gilbert 388-7261

NOXEN, Mrs. Elida Beahm Kelly 639-8522
RUGGLES, Mrs. Glenn Kocher 639-5618
SHAVERTOWN, Mrs. F. W. Anderson 675-2001
SWEET VALLEY, Mrs. Thomas Sayre 477-3731
TRUCKSVILLE, Nelson Woolbert 696-1689
EAST DALLAS, Kenn Higgins 674-2301
OAK HILL, Mrs. Stephen L. DeBarry 639-5242

TRUCKSVILLE

MINUTES TO FIREMEN
 Ladies Auxiliary of Trucksville Fire Company met recently, with Mrs. Jacob Harrison presiding, at new Kingston Township Municipal Building.
 The ladies donated \$800 to the company toward the purchase of a fire hose. Two new members were introduced, Mrs. Corinne Jones and Mrs. Margaret Mieczkowski.
 Tickets were given out for a fish supper to be held by the Auxiliary April 30 at the Trucksville Methodist Church Educational Building.
 Eileen Marth is chairman and Mrs. J. Harrison, hostess.
 Twenty-four members attended. David Schooley, Harris Hill Road, chairman of advertising for the fine circus which will open at the outside Armory on Wednesday, April 21 and continue through Saturday, April 24.
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan Rees, Pittsburg, will spend Monday and Tuesday with his brother and sister-in-law, and Mrs. Richard Rees, Orchard Street.
John Is Two
 John Rundle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rundle, Maple Street, celebrated his second birthday on Sunday. Guests were Robert Heslop, George Stofia, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. George Stofia, Harris Hill Road, celebrated his fifteenth birthday on Saturday with a family party.

Sweet Valley

Billy Ferrey spent Monday at Lancaster visiting Mr. and Mrs. Jay Long and son.
 Rev. Kirby Jones has been confined to his home with illness.
 A reception was held on Wednesday evening in honor of Rev. and Mrs. John Barchey. Rev. Barchey is the new minister at the Church of Christ. They were presented with gifts by the Sunday School Classes and the church.
 Thomas Creasing, who remains a patient at General Hospital after a mine accident in October, is impatiently waiting for the arrival of leg braces, so he will be able to get home for visits with his family.
 Rev. Andrew Derrick was guest minister on Thursday evening at the Lenten Service at Maple Grove Church.
 This Saturday night at 8 p.m. is the night of the big western show at Ross Elementary School. Don't forget to make plans to attend.
 Tommy Creasing, Kindergarten student at Lake-Lehman has just recovered from a bout with the chicken-pox.
 At Church of Christ, morning service and 2:30 Singing, a quartette and pianist from Johnson Bible College. The pianist is Bob Andrews, formerly of Sweet Valley, Sterling Meade, minister of Church of Christ, Williamsport, with his daughter Karen, called on Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Cragle Sunday evening. Also from Williamsport was Mrs. Genevieve Benscoter.
 George Is Fifteen
 George Stofia, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. George Stofia, Harris Hill Road, celebrated his fifteenth birthday on Saturday with a family party.

RUGGLES

The following were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Oberst and all attended the 70th birthday anniversary of their sister, Mrs. Oscar Whitesell of Roaring Brook: Mr. and Mrs. Dean Kocher, Candy, Douglas, Dean, 2nd and Rolanda of Batavia, N. Y., Mr. and Mrs. William Hillard, Dean, and Larry, of Chester.
 Miss Mary Keener of Alderson spent the weekend with her cousins, the Glenn Kocher family.
 Mrs. Erents Slocum and Clifford Grey are convalescing at their homes after being patients in the hospital.
 Mrs. Allen Sorchick entertained the Ruggles WSC at her home Thursday evening, Mrs. Charles Williams presiding. World books were turned in. An oyster supper under the chairmanship of Mrs. Clarence Grey and Mrs. Richard Schooley was planned for April 9th. A rummage sale under direction of Mrs. Glenn Kocher will be held in May. Everyone is urged to start saving good used clothing, shoes, knick-knacks, and small appliances, household needs, and potted plants.
 Several bake sales are planned for the summer. The president urged that several carloads of members plan to attend the Wilkes-Barre District meeting at Montrose, April 13.
 Those attending: Mesdames Robert Traver, Kenneth Williams, Glenn Kocher, Richard Schooley, Darrell Loomis, Carl Smith, Clarence Oberst, h. Charles Williams.
 Next meeting will be held April 15th, Holy Thursday, when a special program will be presented.

Mount Zion

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Detrick of Sullivan Trail may not be Back Mountain people in the usual sense. But they do attend Mt. Zion church and we are glad to be called their friends. Frank is a retired railroad engineer. They live in what is called by a sign on the road "The Century House." While they have owned the place 28 years they lived in it only as a summer place for awhile. Now for some years it has been their permanent home.
 Before I forget to mention it Mr. and Mrs. Detrick were cited both in the pastor's announcement and also in his sermon. They have the rare distinction of celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary. The church flowers last Sunday morning were presented in their honor by the Mary Lewis Bible Class of which Mrs. Detrick is a member.
 I think it was our first year living up here on Mt. Zion that we visited the Detricks at their home. It stands well up on the terrace and is surrounded by the marks of some good horticulturist who loves the land. I guess we will have to say that is Mrs. Detrick, for she is the one with the green thumb. On behalf of the man of the manor however I would say he has been the one who engineered the lawn mower to keep the lawns smooth. I can't begin to tell about all the flowers, shrubbery and trees that adorn the place. It has been a long time since I visited the ground. The inside of the house bears witness to its ripe old age. The wide boards, well-finished, and the period furniture and the kitchen adornments all tell of the beauty of days gone by but perpetuated by the modern touch of an artistic hand.
 Mr. and Mrs. Detrick are old fashioned but not out of date nor behind the times. They keep the glory of the past but enjoy the modern improvements. They live among lovely antiques but light their home and pump their water with P.P.&L. They read today's news and hope for tomorrow's blessings.
 Mrs. Burrel Brace whom I first knew in 1936 as Mable Conklin when I first became her pastor is now in General Hospital for observation, X-rays and treatments. I talked with her sister Marie Shaffer who had just come from visiting the hospital and she could not tell definitely just how Mable was. In some ways she was better than when she was admitted but still needed a lot of improvement. Mable has had a lot of serious troubles and we all hope she can have much better health and soon.
ON TOWARD EASTER!
 The Pittston Gazette had asked me for the closing article of its Lenten series, which is on an Easter theme, and the Dallas Post asked me for something about Easter for its Easter Tabloid edition. Both of these commitments are taken care of. But I had been wondering whether, in view of the candidates we have been hearing at the West Pittston Congregational church, I would be still interim pastor through Easter. Last Sunday I found out. The church has called a man to be its pastor but he has to give his church 3 months notice before he can leave. So that takes me through Easter. Possibly even as far as Pentecost Sunday the 6th of June. Not only in my Sunday sermons but also on my Wednesday night Lenten sermons the thinking all points toward Passion week and Easter. I even have a confirmation class of 6 teenagers whose training for church membership by Palm Sunday I am overseeing so that they can be ready for communion on Holy Thursday. It gives me a sense of going on to completion of a program to be allowed to go through Easter. And from what some of the people say, they feel the same way.
 All of this, of course, is not Back Mountain news. Only it serves to show how related Back Mountain concerns are with the concerns of other communities as well, — even of Africa! We are quite interested. It would be an interesting thing if we could see a large map with Dallas, Pa., printed in large letters, and red lines running to all subscribers, the whole 4000 of

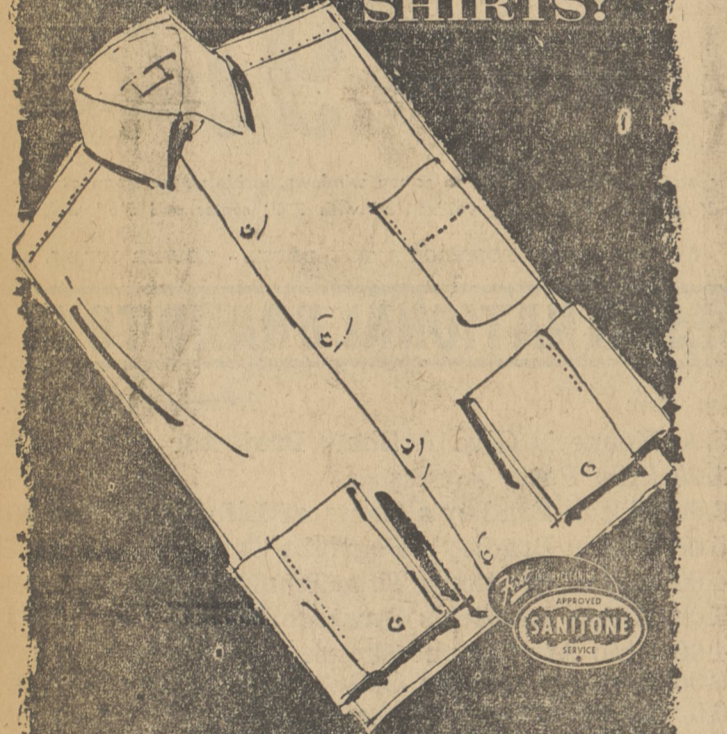
Carverton

Last Tuesday night I took a set of Dottie's slide and a tape recording of her commentary on them over to the Carverton W. S. C. S. I probably would have read Dottie's written script on the story instead of playing her tape recording, but somewhere along the line the script had been misplaced. For we had been requested to send tape, script and slides to a prominent church in Michigan. We sent them and did not check them over when they were returned until Tuesday. Then we discovered we were not only short the script but short also 16 slides from the set. We don't know just where they went, what became of them. But anyway I went on with the showing and the tape and then talked off-hand with the ladies and answered questions. They were friendly, of course and appreciative. I was pleased at what Melinda Sutton told me about what she heard of Bishop Newell Booth say down at Buckhill Falls a week or so ago. He told of the fine medical work "Dottie Gilbert" was doing especially for the future of Africa. Bishop Booth was formerly Dottie's bishop in Africa but now he is bishop in Harrisburg of a new Methodist area.
 Those present at the W. S. C. S. business meeting before the slide program were: Naomi Prynne, Betty Scureman, Doris Robbins, Iva Wall, Melinda Sutton, Nora Neilson, Doris Stearn, Joan Krzanowski, Hilda Coon Leda Sutton, Blanche Platt, Edyth Kromelbein, Florence Sickler and Margaret Reid.
 After the meeting a wholesome lunch was provided by the ladies. They remembered how I liked my coffee: "Do you still want your coffee as a flavoring for cream and sugar?" I did! They also recalled the night when the charge gave me a birthday (50th) party at the Grange Hall, accompanied by a dishpan band and a mound of cake.

WITCHCRAFT

When I saw Mrs. T. M. B. Hicks Jr. being interviewed by Ted Lawrence the other night I thought how she can be thankful she is living now rather than 300 hundred years ago. Back in those days it would have done no good to testify on her own behalf as she did on TV, "I'm not a witch, I'm just a nice old lady!" If there were witch hunters around they could have cooked up reasons to accuse her and hanged her.
 They did that very thing to our 9-times-great-grandmother Lydia Gilbert. According to the book she was the fifth victim of execution for hanging for practicing witchcraft. She was wife of Thomas Gilbert of Windsor, Conn., our Gilbert ancestor in America. It does not say whether she was "a nice old lady". The story is that Thomas Allyn was walking behind Henry Stiles and was carrying a gun. By careless handling the gun went off and killed Henry Stiles. Thomas Allyn was tried and found guilty of manslaughter by misadventure and fined. Three years later Lydia Gilbert was charged with practicing witchcraft and causing the death of Henry Stiles! The indictment reads: "Lydia Gilbert thou art here indicted that not having the fear of God before thy eyes thou hast of late years or still dost give entertainment to Satan the great enemy of God and mankind and by his help hast killed the body of Henry Stiles besides other witchcrafts for which according to the law of God and the established law of this commonwealth thou deservest to die."
 When you look into the matter of witchcraft it gives you the creeps. In The Interpreters' Bible commenting on Exodus 22:18 "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live", it says: "Sorcery generally consists in superstitious rites connected with earlier forms of religion now discarded. But the religion of Yahweh demanded absolute loyalty and to participate in other cults was regarded as religious high treason, punishable by death." Further on the comment is added, "This verse was used to justify the punishment of witchcraft in the Middle Ages and in early New England."
 The dictionary defines witchcraft as having "compact with an evil spirit, especially with the Devil."
 Not only was belief in witchcraft and of its divinely ordained punishment as based on the Hebrew code required by Christian people but to deny it was the very worst thing you could do. It was the greatest of heresies. You dared not shrug off the matter of great-grandma's witchcraft by saying you didn't believe in it. I'm glad I was not born in that era! And I am glad to say that 9-times-great-grandmother Lydia's granddaughters are actively opposing witchcraft's ignorance with kindness and the love of God.

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TRAVERS HAVE TWINS
 Mr. and Mrs. Clayton L. Traver, Idetown, R. D. 1, Dallas announce the birth of twin sons, March 20 in Nesbitt Hospital. Richard Lee weighed in a seven pounds, three ounces and was nineteen and a half inches long, Robert Lynn weighed in at six pounds and 6 ounces and was nineteen inches long.
 Mrs. Traver is the former Irene Snyder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snyder, of Dallas. The Travers have four other children, Pamela, Tommy, Patsy and Lisa.

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