

# the forty horseman Fred Eck heads of 200 years past library associaton

By D. A. WATERS

Feb. 6, 1769—two hundred years ago today, forty horsemen from the east rode to the top of the Moosic Mountains, near the southern end, and saw spread out before them the snow-covered Wyoming Valley. These, "The First Forty", were the advance company for a hundred more expected in a few weeks. They thought they were completing a project of new settlements which had dragged on for over 15 years. Over 100 years before (1662), the land had been granted by King Charles II to Connecticut under a charter reading, "To the South Sea on the West part." About 18 years later (1681), it had been included in a big grant from the same King to William Penn. The real rulers were the Iroquois Indians living over 100 miles to the north. Connecticut Yankees had been living on the Delaware for 15 years. In 1753, the Susquehanna Company had been formed to buy and settle lands on the Susquehanna. A committee of seven, having inspected the area, had gone to Albany to complete purchase of not less than 200 square miles from the Indians. Colonial governors and other

officials were meeting representatives of numerous Indian tribes to secure their aid in the approaching war against the French. The meetings were called, "The Albany Congress of 1754."

The Congress had nothing to do with land, but with the help of Deacon Timothy Woodbridge and an old trader, Col. John H. Lydius, the committee was able to get in 18 Iroquois Sachems, give them a few drinks, and get their signatures on a deed dated July 11, 1754, granting title to a large area to 694 named individuals.

Payment of "2000 pounds current money of the Province of New York" was counted out to the Indians on the front steps of Lydius' house. Some refused to sign, stating it was against established Iroquois policy to sell any lands at Wyoming.

By the same methods, in the same town, in the same week, agents of the Penns got another group of Sachems to sign a deed for other lands west of the Susquehanna farther south. Both deeds were later protested on the grounds the signers had no authority to sell.

When Yankee surveyors appeared in the Wyoming Valley several times in 1753-55, they were warned off by Teedyuscung, chief of the local Delaware. Then the French War prevented any settlements.

Several of The First Forty, or members of their families, had been active in the project for years. Stephen Gardner and Benjamin Shoemaker had served on the Purchasing Committee, as had Ezekiel Pierce and John Smith, fathers of Timothy Pierce and Timothy Smith of the Forty. John Jenkins, Gardner's son-in-law, a surveyor, had been over the lands in 1753-55.

Gardner, Jenkins, Thomas Bennett, William Buck, John Comstock, Simeon Draper, Oliver and Timothy Smith, and perhaps others with the Forty, had been settlers in 1762-63, and had survived the Massacre on Oct. 15, 1763, which will be mentioned more fully later.

There are people living in Dallas and nearby areas today whose families were in Wyoming Valley in 1762-63, over two hundred years ago.

Not in the forty, but well known before and later were Ezra Dean, John Dorrance, Daniel and Obadiah Gore Jr., and Parshall Terry. Terry is credited with discovering anthracite coal near Mill Creek, Wilkes-Barre in 1762.

Frank Slaff presided over his last meeting of the Back Mountain Library Association Jan. 30. Mr. Slaff is no longer eligible to head the organization, as he has recently moved from the area, taking up residence in Wilkes-Barre.

Succeeding him in the official chair is Fred Eck, long time member of the Library Board. Mr. Slaff asked for a moment of silence to pay due respect to Durelle T. Scott Jr. who had held the office of president until his grave illness, when Mr. Slaff, vice president, succeeded him.

Elected to the vice presidency was Homer B. Moyer. Mrs. Fred Howell was again elected secretary. Bruce Slocum was elected treasurer.

Named to the Board of Directors were these members of the Library Association: Mrs. James Alexander, Mrs. Edward Boltz Jr. Mrs. Frank Townend, Donald S. Anthony, Homer Moyer, each to serve for three years.

Carl Goeringer and Bruce Slocum were nominated and elected for a term to expire in 1969.

Peter H. Arnaud's term, to expire in 1970, was confirmed by the board. He had been appointed to fill a vacancy.

Mrs. Howell read the minutes of the last Annual Meeting. Mrs. Martin Davern, Librarian, presented the annual report.

Mr. Moyer gave the report on finances, including an unexpected windfall of \$1,000 from the estate of the late Florence George.

Dallas School District contributed \$1,000, Lake-Lehman \$300. Dallas Senior Woman's Club was credited with a gift of \$150, the Morris Foundation \$500.

Friends of the Library contributed \$1,276, and fines mounted to an astonishing \$1,532.52.

Book Club Revenue was \$595.63, money for Memory Books \$137.00.

As always, the Auction produced the major amount of the revenue needed to run the Library. A gross of \$24,195.28 was reduced to a net of \$17,163.79 when all bills had been paid.

Donald Anthony, chairman of the 1968 Library Auction, recommended that the chancing off of a car be eliminated, as revenue was small, not commensurate with the effort involved, and organizations were using car raffles as drawing cards to such an extent that the drawing card was losing its attraction.

George McCutcheon, Auction chairman for 1969, agreed. Auction accounts outstanding amount to \$523 for 1968, and for prior years, Judged non-collectible, \$446.75.

Stefan Hellersperk reported for the property committee,

citing the removal of two mapletrees from the front bank, and the painting of two rooms in the main library building.

Mrs. Alexander presented the report on Friends of the Library: Mrs. John Vivian on Public Relations; Mrs. Ornan Lamb on the Book Club.

Mr. Slaff, in relinquishing the chair to Fred Eck, said that he was sorry to leave the community, but that he was happy to leave the Library in such capable hands.

Mrs. John Murphy, new president of the Library Book Club, was in charge of serving refreshments.

Present were: Mr. Slaff, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Davern, Mrs. Dana Crumo, Mrs. John Murphy, Mrs. DeWitt Smith, Mrs. Alexander, William G. Moss, Mr. Anthony, Mr. McCutcheon, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eck, Mrs. Vivian, Mrs. Lamb, Homer Moyer, Mrs. Boltz, Mrs. Frank Townend, Stefan Hellersperk, Mrs. T.M.B. Hicks.

## German student festivity

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, the German students at Lake-Lehman High School were guests at "Deutsche Nacht" or German night at the Continental Inn on the Luzerne-Dallas Highway where the students had the opportunity to enjoy a taste of German life.

The unique atmosphere consisted of a German dinner menu and German table decorations. The program featured music by a student German band and group singing. The students themselves wore characteristic German pins and dress.

Along with Miss Jo Anne Knapp, sponsor and instructor of German, some members of the faculty enjoyed the festive evening. These guests were: Mrs. Florence Finn, Mrs. Virginia Marchakitus, Miss Jane Morris, Miss Martha Phillips, Mrs. Martha Smith, Mrs. Rita Smith (who is a native of Germany), and Miss Theresa Wilk.

## WATER

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announced, with a large pipe to be laid across the highway, extending up Carverton Road

## justice says no to new jp change

The oldest justice of the peace in point of service in the newly divided sector of Dallas Township, Franklin and Kingston Townships, is John Fowler of Orange, who is now beginning his 32nd year in that post.

Mr. Fowler, who has resided in the Back Mountain for 43 years, has definite misgivings as to the success of the new magisterial districts resulting from a constitutional amendment.

Squire Fowler said that the move will place taxes upon taxes for residents and he believes that voters did not understand the issues at the time it was placed on the ballot.

Cases, he said, are few and far between and with a greater distance to travel, folks are unlikely to pursue or file charges in many cases if it proves an inconvenience. It is much easier, he says, to go to a justice in one's own community.

"The job is not very remunerative," reports Mr. Fowler, "It doesn't pay to keep the lights lit. If the issue were to come up again I feel it would be defeated," he stated. When asked about the role of the law association in the change, he replied, "It is the lawyers who want the job."

Mr. Fowler, whose term does not expire until 1974, says he will not run for the new post. He retired as a mine foreman in 1952.

## rummage sale

Members of Maple Grove United Methodist Church of Pikes Creek are planning a rummage sale on Feb. 5, 6 and 7. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily.

where it will branch into a "Y" and give a more adequate flow to those on Harris Hill, Lehigh and Oak Streets.

Trucksville Water Company asked for a June 1 deadline since winter excavation is more expensive and there is danger of caving during the spring thaw, disturbing new lines.

Mr. Hetzel said the first increase would become effective Feb. 1 with the figure set at \$5.06 per month and a second raise of 94 cents to follow in several months. He reminded persons that they were receiving pretty cheap water as compared to other communities. Rates were slightly over \$2 per month.

Since the quality of the water has not improved much since the installation of a line from Huntsville, all those contacted felt they would be paying for value not received at the present time. In addition to lack of pressure and unclear water, the smell has been most offensive to a number of those turning on the taps.

Louis Ranier wondered why a reservoir up on the top of the hill would not be more suitable.

Although water commission members were not in favor of a rate increase until the matter was solved, Attorney Merton Jones advised that any act which might jeopardize progress should be considered.

Mr. Jones reported he filed a formal complaint on behalf of Kingston Township Supervisors on Nov. 18, that on Dec. 27 he was informed Trucksville Water Company had hired a Harrisburg law firm who asked for a continuance until Dec. 26.

He also noted that the Department of Health would serve as co-plaintiff. The late December deadline brought an answer but stated no course of action and on Jan. 16, Jones filed for a clarification.

The special counsel said he had not seen the five year plan of improvements which the Trucksville Company said it had outlined and Col. Hetzel admitted the PUC had not received such either.

Mr. Jones said the owner of the water company, "Now realizes that we won't get off his back until something is done and more has been accomplished in a short time than in 31 years."

Ralph Heister, sanitation engineer of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, reiterated earlier statements that "Our responsibility is to see

that our people get safe water." He reported there had been 10 breaks in two of the lines since November, five instances where the pump lost its prime and a breakdown in a reciprocating pump.

He said loud pulsations were now causing annoyance to many users and he felt that the water company had not acted as rapidly as it could in providing relief. He advised users to continue boiling water until an "adequate supply is determined, based on samples taken. It is the pollution from backflow which presents the hazard."

Mr. Heister said new legislation permits the health department to petition court to take over and make corrections to companies who fail to do so. However, he noted, this had not been tried as yet.

Arthur Lehman, Department of Health, Harrisburg, related that a source of supply must be available before this is done and that the Department had given Trucksville Water Company until Feb. 1 to announce what they planned to do.

Representative Frank O'Connell, when asked what the legislators could do, said that the new law recently passed and mentioned above was one way of combatting such situations as the Trucksville crisis. He announced that he was open to suggestions if other methods could be offered.

Eugene Goffin, vice chairman of the local commission, said very little is offered on the problem in the Second Class Township Code. He said it has been old history that when a legislator wishes to rectify some utility abuse, tremendous lobbying defeats the cause.

"Supervisors," he said, "Operate in a rather limited sphere and the water commission is confined to generating interest in problems, correlating evidence and keeping the heat on. By and large we are an investigatory committee with

recommendations subject to approval of the supervisors." It was Mr. Goffin who proposed voting against the increase.

Rev. Gommer, in summing up the evening's agenda, told his listeners that "we have a real problem, we are not satisfied where we are and feel deeply our community responsibility. I urge you to keep better records of complaints and support the direction we have taken. Open meetings will be held so that we may share our progress with you and we will work until the community has water as it should be."

## POLICE

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Back Mountain would be an impossibility at this time, but Dr. Mailey said that it would come in time, probably not in "our lifetime", but then again "possibly in the next five years."

"Consolidating geographically is impossible," he said "mainly because of the psychology involved, but doing something now, along the lines of water, police, sewers, purchasing councils, is not wasted."

Fred Lamoreaux, Dallas Township supervisor chairman, said that five policemen representing all the communities appeared on the scene Sunday at a three-car collision about 100 yards from the township police office.

"That and people not knowing which police department to call is being done every day," he said.

Harold Brobst, president of Dallas Borough Council, speaking on behalf of the borough, asked the group, which was chaired by LaRoy Zeigler of Kingston Township, to retain the institute to make the survey.

Mr. Brobst also raised the possibility of having women serve as dispatcher for police calls and other clerical duties.

## ALARM

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been receiving threatening calls and this, too, was likely the work of a prankster.

After ascertaining that there was no blaze and Sands' prize winning cattle were safe, all apparatus returned to its stalls while Trucksville Firemen went through an anxious night, fearful that some disturbed person was at work and might fail to call should a real fire develop.

The excitement over three companies of volunteers crawled back into bed, returning home as a downpour started to spread wet snow over the entire area and Carverton residents breathed a sigh of relief that tragedy had been averted.

## correction

John Sperl, Dallas, who figured in an accident Jan. 19 at Huntsville Road, was mistakenly listed at that time as being unemployed.

Mr. Sperl, for the last four years is a construction worker with a local company and during the winter months is sometimes unable to work because of inclement weather.

Mr. Sperl has also denied a report that he had introduced the woman who assisted him to the hospital as his wife. He is not married.

He also took exception to claims that a friend has been in the habit of dropping him off in the front of his home. This has not been a habit, he said.

Mr. Sperl is a member of the Dallas Community Ambulance Association and The Dallas Fire Company, since moving here from Philadelphia 11 years ago.

## dividend

Directors of UGI Corp. declared the regular quarterly dividend of 30 cents a share on the common stock of the company, payable March 31, 1969 to holders of record Feb. 28, 1969.

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