

The concern that underlies about all the activities of Mt. Zion people for several days has been how Harold Seiple was getting along. For he has been having a tough time through two major operations and at this writing his condition remains serious. The fact that he is now in the "intensive care unit" means that everything is being done for him that can be done. Some signs of improvement have been noted by some but not enough to take him into a different category from "serious." If prayer can be thought of as a pipe into heaven there are a whole lot of pipes being used to capacity. (I am not sure that "pipes" is the best figure of speech but you get the idea!) In other words we are all going for him.

We have been glad to note that Lena Hastie, who also had a tough time and was herself in "Intensive Care" for several days has now been out and on her way to complete recovery. I heard that "Squire Fowler's" wife also was in "intensive" and not doing well. If my memory serves me rightly she is the one who taught our Dorothy to knit soldier wear back in the Second World War days before Dottie went into training to be a nurse and from there went into the Army Nurse corps. My recollection is that Mrs. Fowler was a prodigious knitter and put many, many stitches on and off her needles to the comfort of many a person in those days.

Roland Sweitzer spent many a day going down hill from the day he was taken sick. And one cannot do other than be thankful those days of suffering are over. Nevertheless our sympathy goes to those who loved him and lost him. Last Sunday afternoon May 11 Catherine and I attended a rich concert presented in the Forty Fort United Methodist Church by the choir augmented by other singers and an orchestra. All this was done as a kind of tribute to and dedicated to the pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. F. Porter Adams who now have left that pastorate to hold the official position of District Superintendent of the Binghamton United Methodist churches.

It was one of my privileges Wednesday to attend the first annual Conference of the new Wyoming United Methodist Church in Johnson City. I saw not only Porter Adams but also his father, a retired minister, whom I took occasion to congratulate on his son's advancement in honor and, of course, responsibility. To which father Adams replied that he "hoped Porter would make good," just as any father would modestly express his own hopeful concern. And while I was at it I told "Bob" Germon the newly appointed pastor to the Forty Fort United Methodist Church that I was glad to be one to welcome him back into this Wilkes-Barre district, to which he replied that he was glad to be coming back among us. (He was pastor of the Trucksville church a few years ago before going to the Union Center pulpit.)

After having such a wonderful fill of a musical program Sunday I was also to enjoy still another spine tingling experience Monday night. (Can't I think of some better word to express the kind of emotional feast we had that night?) I don't think it was so much my spine that tingled as the nerve endings in my epidermis! Anyway, Catherine, who would have revelled in that program even more than I because of her greater capacity to take it in, had to forego that experience on account of a previous commitment at the church. But to me she said "You gotta go!" So she made her plans for Papa to enjoy it by taking him over to College Misericordia in time for the presentation at eight and then hurried back to do her stuff at an important meeting at Mt. Zion at the same hour. Then she got back to pick me up so I got home in time for a seat at the table for a plate of sugar cookies especially sorted out by Mildred Lloyd for my delectation. And I was glad to find that Cathy had arrived at the concert so that she heard some of the last end of Franz Schubert's Rondo Brilliant Opus 70 for violin and piano, which was a major experience in dramatic violin work by Martin Friedmann accompanied by the incomparable Clifford Balshaw on the piano.

As long as I happened to be reporting on the last of that remarkable program I might as well continue. For that final number was enough to make you quiver with delight and wonder at how under the sun any man could manipulate a bow like that. (I wondered what

he was going to do about the long, loose, curling horsehair that had broken loose from the lower end of the bow and was flying high wide and handsome for several notes. But in just the right moment he reached and pulled that hair loose from its last moorings as if nothing happened. I was glad it was not a string from his violin!) Some of the notes called for a wildness of beauty touched with humor that somehow made the artist pound his right foot on the floor in two or three hilarious thumps!

Now I must go back to the beginning to say that the brief notice I had seen in the paper was to the effect that two former well beloved artists from our valley well known and listened for my hearers of Philharmonic concerts were back for this presentation by College Misericordia. These artists were Martin Friedmann with his violin and Laila Storch with her famed oboe. Many times I had singled out that oboe in concerts to listen to it above all other sounds for her clear rippling tones. Of course I just had to get to this concert. The first two parts of the program were for the oboe, violin and harpsichord. Incidentally I always enjoyed the gentle timbre of the harpsichord, an ancestor of the piano. And Clifford Balshaw could take care of that gentle instrument as well as of the grand piano in the last part of the performance where only the violin was with the piano.

Well, it seems hardly fitting for me who knows so little about music and pitifully lacking in any of its skills to go on and on. But I did feel the wonder of it which does not go away with other concerns of life that crowd around. In thinking of the fact that this concert was "free," remind me to make a sermon on "free salvation" sometime. To whom was the concert free? Yes, to me and others but what a lot of costly hours and years of skillful study and training went into that "free" 1 1/2 hours of concert!

Shavertown
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necticut Wednesday evening to visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Stahl. Tom left on a ride over the Endless Mountain chain with his father-in-law, a relaxing sport they both enjoy and what pleasant weather they had.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Blaine and little Brad came up from Allentown for Mother's Day and her parents are visiting there this week. Margaret will probably take in the Flower Show at Hess Store during her visit.

Fred and I spent Mother's Day weekend in Allentown with Susie and Bill, enjoying the relaxing atmosphere for a few days. Everything is in bloom, their season being somewhat warmer than ours.

Mrs. Gosart's Cancer Dressings Group will hold a Covered Dish Luncheon at their next session in June. These are really a great bunch of gals.

Mrs. Richard McRae and children, New York State, were here for Mothers Day and attended the Mother Daughter Dinner at St. Paul's. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Rudy. Carole came the farthest distance for the big event.

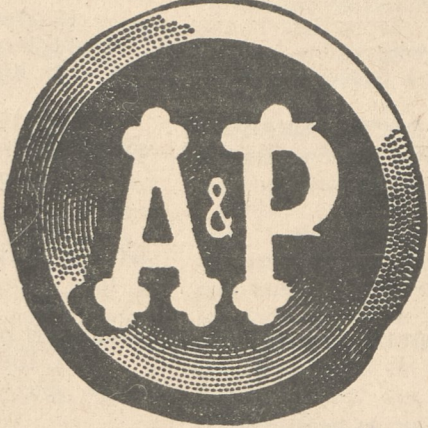
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ash spent the weekend in New York City where they visited his ailing brother, Sterling and his mother. This is truly a family who believes in helping each other.

a sincere thank you
That anniversary party was sure a surprise. I had warned that there was to be no celebration but Susie and Dottie went to such pains to make it a happy day for us that I had to relent.

We wish to thank our many friends who shared the special occasion with us and a sincere thank you for the lovely cards, gifts and flowers. Just knowing that true friendship is one of the most precious bonds is enough of a gift to us both. We are deeply grateful to so many.

The Mother Daughter Supper prepared by the Brotherhood of St. Paul's found the men putting on a real nice affair. Grandma Dilg was the oldest mother present and Mary Lou Button the youngest. Pink carnations decorating the tables went to the oldest mothers seated and there were many other prizes distributed. George Weaver chairman was assisted by Elwood Dungey and Wally Gosart in planning the event. Saturday evening, the Couples Club will have a progressive Dinner which should prove to be a real nice evening out.

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