

My Typewriter Talks

Some of my friends say my writing sounds just like I talk. That's supposed to be a compliment, implying that my typewriter doesn't get too much in my way when I write. Credit must be given to the machine for printing the letters I punch. If I punch the right keys, I should be happy.

We stayed at church long enough Sunday to help with the singing of the first hymn and to hear how the anthem went with just two boys singing it, Jeffrey Emanuel and Dickie Holmes. They did well. They had the courage and the previous coaching to do it.

We left church early to go down town to hear how two guitars in the hands of trained young people performed. They were part of the worship service, doing the part of the Old Testament reading. Only the scripture consisted of the singing of Psalm 8 to the tune of "Streets of Laredo," accompanied by the guitars and the church organ. The music and psalm were arranged by Professor Ros Santos of the Wilkes music department. The congregation was asked to sing along with the two young people.

When you stop to think about it, probably all the psalms were originally written to be sung and accompanied by some stringed instruments. This service Sunday should not have seemed such a novelty to us. We just are in the habit of hearing guitars in church, but there is no reason why they should not be used often.

Some stories have been handed down from my ancestors about the commotion caused when somebody (maybe one of my folks!) introduced, or tried to, a bass viol into the choir of the New England church. I believe the minister in holy indignation ordered them to "take that devil's fiddle out!" I don't think the devil ever owned that fiddle!

Recently it was my duty to officiate at a funeral. It began at a funeral home in a neighboring town and was to continue at an old unused church in the Peace Cemetery far over the hills up near the skyline. What a beautiful day for that long journey! Our own elevation above sea level is 1225 feet. But that drive took us past a road marker with 2334 feet elevation indicated! We passed through several towns with evidences of abandoned worked-out coal mines. And a large lake up high in the hills. Finally there was the cemetery up a side road. And the church. A man came out from

the church to ask if I had a Bible with me, for there was none in the church. I assured him I had my service book with me. The pews were the old time box pews. There were no doors to the pews but the seats and backs were at right angles like boxes. The pulpit was several steps above the floor level. The man told me this church was built in 1848 to replace a log building that had burned down. Three different faiths had used the building on separate Sundays. This was before the present day ecumenical movement.

It seemed significant to me that both the church and the cemetery were named Peace. The three faiths now have large churches and congregations in nearby towns. But Peace Church remains a place for what we were using it for on that day. The 20 some people who came from far and near to recognize one another after years of separation, had the usual visit by the grave side and then the church was closed "in Peace," as it had opened.

Another of my friends at Valley Crest died suddenly over the weekend. Emma Smith was one whose speeches were always brief but to the point, often a blunt point. One Holy Week season I had just finished singing "Were You There when they crucified my Lord," and Emma made this comment: "It must have been a terrible experience for his mother and friends around the cross to watch him suffer and die. Terrible!" It was more to her than just a tune. She was there.

When I was pastor at Orange I was sending out my parish paper, Three-Point News, to the service men. One went to a certain Lewis Evans in the Navy, on shipboard somewhere in the Pacific. Sometimes I used to hear from him. The other day I had a brief note from his mother, Mable Evans, who works in Wilkes-Barre. "My family is well," she writes. "Three of the grandsons are Navy bound if they pass: Lewis, the oldest and the twins." Also says another grandson, "George's gets out in December, was in for three years."

By the way, the stamp on Mabel Evans' letter celebrates "xi Botanical Congress International" with flowers "fouquieria splendens" pictured on it.

When Catherine came home from Dallas she held out a paper bag, "Handle it carefully! It's a present for you from Annabell!" More than a dozen bantam eggs! I said, "You be sure you tell Annabell I

said 'Thanks', for that is very good of her." I like eggs beaten up foamy with sugar and vanilla and milk. Makes me think I'm eating ice-cream.

We almost got out of eggs. For Catherine suddenly got a yearning for honey cake. Guess she was thinking of the Jewish holidays. So all but an egg for breakfast disappeared, they were in the honey sponge. Nothing else but a little flour and the honey tasted clear through it. I was over at Joe Perry's and so we had honey.

Sometimes it comes at six in the morning, sometimes at midnight, the call of the hoot owl. Somehow it always strikes me as kind of friendly, as if to let me know I am never alone, that some expression of livingness is about. The other night there was not only one call but an answer a few seconds away. The tone seems a little above middle C a note or two. The call is not greatly different from that of the mourning dove, but coming mostly in the night when other calls are silent. The other night at about bed time we heard it while we were locking up the back porch, and the sound seemed to come from the evergreens along the edge of the pond.

Coombs aboard USS Albany

Fireman Barry W. Coombs, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert F. Coombs, RD 2, Dallas, is serving aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Albany homeported in Mayport, Fla. The Albany recently participated in extensive operations at the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Range near Puerto Rico. The operations were designed to test the ship's weapons systems and to provide training for the crew.

The men of the Albany also had the chance to visit numerous ports in the Caribbean.

United Penn shows increase

At a meeting of the board of directors of United Penn Corp. held Sept. 9, a quarterly dividend of 35 cents per share was declared to all shareholders of record Sept. 19 payable Oct. 3, the bank has announced.

United Penn Corp., the holding company for United Penn Bank, issued two shares of its stock for each share of stock in the Miners National Bank of Wilkes-Barre last July 1; therefore, present shareholders of United Penn Corp. will receive the equivalent of 70 cents per share, up from 65 cents per share of the Miners National.

Mr. William J. Pack, president of United Penn Corp., in his announcement of the increase, indicated that this is further evidence of the benefits that will be realized by the shareholders of United Penn Corp. as a result of the reorganization plan of a one-bank holding company.

Jackson Twp.

We note with regret the death of Zigmund Wojciechowski, at Wyoming Valley Hospital, Sept. 12. He and his wife operated "Zig's" Economy Market for many years and he was noted for the really superior kielbasi he made and sold.

Brownie Troop 658 will hold meetings this year at the Jackson Township firehall, Tuesdays from 4 to 5:15 p.m. Mrs. Henry Zbiek and Mrs. William Burk are troop leaders.

Mr. and Mrs. George Devens, Steele Road, Jackson Township, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Partington and son, Robert Jr., of Plymouth, recently returned from a two-week vacation in Michigan, Ontario, Canada, Niagara Falls and Buffalo, N.Y. While in Montague, bordering Lake Michigan, they visited with Mr. and Mrs. George Newberry, former residents of the area.

In Buffalo, N.Y., they attended a dinner in honor of Mr. and Mrs. James Rinus, formerly of Trucksville, who celebrated their Golden Anniversary, Aug. 30.

Another highlight of their trip was seeing the dry river bed on the American side of the falls, where the water was diverted to the Canadian Horseshoe Falls. Rock testing is being done in an effort to prevent further erosion and to maintain the beautiful contour of the Falls. Their trip was pleasant, especially the visits with friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Unger of Stuttgart, Germany, recently flew into New York where they were met by their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Demko who brought them to their home in Chase Manor. They spent four weeks here, sightseeing and visiting with their daughter, Gisela and grandchildren, Andy 4 and Susie 3.

The Demkos took them to New York City a day before they were to return home and the group enjoyed the scenic boat trip up the Hudson River. The Ungers enjoyed their visit very much, were happy to see their daughter's home and surroundings and get acquainted with their grandchildren. Before they left however, both agreed that while "it was a nice place to visit, they would not want to live here."

Mrs. William Pethick, Chase Manor, has been feeling under the weather at her home, but is improving at this writing.

Birthdays will be celebrated by Mrs. Edgar Lashford, Mrs. Alden Wagner, Stern Smith, Elmer Laskowski and Mark Ivan.

home from Vietnam

William Sponseller Jr. is home from nearly a year in Vietnam. He landed early Thursday morning, Sept. 11, in California. He telephoned his mother, Mrs. Sponseller Sr., Follies Road, that he'd fly home Friday after getting himself a good night's sleep.

NOXEN

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Yellitz, Middleboro, Ky., and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kitchen, Barbara, Peter, Kimberly and Alison, Buffalo, N.Y., spent the weekend with relatives in Noxen.

William Race returned to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Robert Goble after spending four weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Yellitz in Kentucky. Mr. Yellitz was promoted to vice president of Middleboro Tanning Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Coole visited Fred's mother, Mrs. John Kilburn, at a hospital in Wellsboro Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Straley spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Moyer, Three Churches, Va.

Carl Hackling spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Patton and Family, Milan.

Ladies Aid Society of St. Luke's Lutheran Church is holding its annual bazaar Oct. 9 at the Parish Hall. More details will be published at a later date.

Harry Keiper has returned home after having surgery at the General Hospital, Sunday. His condition is very good.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Wall and Harry Siglin spent a week's vacation at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bailey and family at Hartford, Conn. The Walls also made a tour of Massachusetts and Maine.

Mr. and Mrs. William Inman, Kingston, called on Mr. and Mrs. Loren Case, Sunday. The all called on Mrs. Myrtle Kocher in Ruggles. Mrs. Kocher has been ill, but is somewhat improved.

Larry Pederson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Wall recently spent a month on a European tour. He is now enrolled at Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Hess,

attended the funeral of Howard Nash in Nanticoke Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Hess recently attended the 40th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Rinckenberger, Kingston.

Mrs. Margaret Riehl, Wilkes-Barre, spent the weekend at the home of the Ray Guntons. All were guests for dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Holmgren and family Sunday. Mrs. Gunton celebrated her birthday on that day.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Denmon, Pamela, Ricky and Mark, spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Pellitieri and family, Trenton, N.J.

Mrs. Thomas Lane, Avenel, N.J., spent the weekend at the home of her mother, Dorothy French.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schenck spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Schenck in Westfield.

Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly and son, James Jr., Milnesville, called on Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kelly Sunday.

Dallas High senior Merit semifinalist



JAMES PICHERT

James Pichert, Dallas High School senior, has been named semifinalist in the 1969-70 National Merit Scholarship Program.

James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Pichert, 53 Carverton Road, Trucksville. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Chorists, Golf team, Student Council. He is manager of the basketball team. Jim is an active member of Trucksville Methodist Church and represents the youth at conferences, district and sub-district levels. After graduation he plans to attend college and will major in mathematics.

James is one of 15,000 semifinalists among the nation's most intellectually talented high school seniors. They will compete for about 3000 Merit Scholarships to be awarded in 1970. The semifinalists were the highest scorers in their states on the NNSQ test given last February to some 750,000 students in 17,250 schools nationwide.

They must advance to finalist standing to be considered for the Merit Scholarships to be awarded next spring. Semifinalists become finalists by receiving the endorsement of their schools, substantiating their high NMSQT performance on a second examination, and providing information about their achievements and interests.

High school grades, accomplishments, leadership qualities, and extra-curricular achievements of the finalists are evaluated, along with test scores, in selecting Merit Scholarship winners.

NMCS identifies the semifinalists to all regionally accredited colleges and universities and to other scholarship-granting agencies and sources of financial aid. Studies in former years have shown that about half of the semifinalists received financial aid from sources other than the Merit Program.

Names of the 1969-70 Merit Scholarship winners will be announced April 30, 1970.

Winners of four-year Merit Scholarships may receive up to \$1500 a year for four college years, depending on their individual need. Winners of the National Merit \$1000 Scholarships will receive their non-renewable one-time awards upon enrollment as full-time students in accredited U.S. colleges or universities.

Rotary grow stronger both in numbers and service. The plan calls for each club to select five-man teams charged with bringing in a new member. The club showing the greatest percentage increase will receive a plaque.

Rotary District 741 currently has more than 1500 members in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Lasting Books, 1944-1964 outstanding publications

Outstanding books published between 1944 and 1964 are included in a special collection now at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

Although practically all of these titles are part of the library's basic collection, this special collection brings additional copies all together in a convenient location for interested patrons.

The collection is called "Lasting Books, 1944-1964." Among the books included are those of exceptional literary merit, Camus' "The Plague" (1948), an allegorical novel of human nature under stress and "The Leaning Tower" (1944), a collection of Katherine Ann Porter's short stories, among the finest ever written in our times.

Some of these books give inspiration or pleasure. "Seven Storey Mountain" (1948) is Thomas Merton's

extraordinary record of religious experience. Joseph Wood Krutch in "The Desert Year" (1952) describes the changing seasons of our southwest desert country.

There are also outstanding books for the non-specialist such as "Geoffrey Chaucer of England" (1946), Marchette Chute's biography of the poet, and a number of contributions toward the solution of contemporary problems. Conant's "Education of American Teachers" (1963), Harrington's "The Other America" (1962) and Harper Lee's "To Kill A Mockingbird" (1960).

Rotating collections on a variety of subjects have been loaned to the Back Mountain Memorial Library and other local public libraries through the facilities of the Osterhout Free Library, Wilkes-Barre District Library Center.

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