

# My typewriter talks

by THE REV. CHARLES H. GILBERT

It was 11 years ago this last Christmas that we had a real snow storm in Pittston. Not merely were the highways blocked by my backyard and egress driveway were full. It was an intellectual problem for me. I was willing, even eager to clean out my backyard, for I needed the space to turn around with my car before driving out. You simply did not attempt to back out that driveway. For the drive was six feet, seven and one quarter inches from First Methodist's brick walls to St. John the Evangelist's rugged gray stone blocks. If you scraped this side you got red brick dust on your car finish. If you scraped the other side you left some of your car enamel on those nice jagged rock blocks. I was always sober when I drove in, and never scraped either temple much!

But my intellectual problem was, what shall I do with this shovel of snow I had all poised to heave? In the yard for awhile I could throw one way or the other. But in that drive it was just too much to carry each shovel-full out to Church Street—which was already blocked with snow.

The Lord seemed ready to provide the answer. St. John's church needed coal and the only way to the coal chute was through our driveway. It had to be an ecumenical drive before ecumenicity was the accepted thing. But when that big truckload of coal came backing in, the driveway was smoothed down and I could drive out! Moral, if you can't shovel it out, have it rolled down!

And when I did drive out I had a trip to make up in this country, for Mrs. Ed Miles had

phoned me that the snow had broken down the roof of a house on the property next to them which I was in the process of buying for a summer vacation spot. Imagine driving out in such weather!

But that was when I had 11 less years to my credit! Anyway, as I drove past this present place I saw a "For Sale" sign on the house. This was a place we used to admire when we lived in the Carverton parsonage and made pastoral calls on the families here.

Thereon hangs another story. Mrs. Sosca was living here with her small children. On the first day of deer season her husband was a hunting casualty. She did not want to live here anymore, so she hung out the "For Sale" sign.

We had a place with a snow-broken roof. She had a place with the tragedy of a husband's sudden death.

Incidentally, that winter I had two hard attacks of "the virus", (whatever that is!) and concluded I would need to retire before long.

The outcome of all these various "providences" brought about our beginning to purchase this property and get rid of the other. Which was quite complicated but by the grace of God and kind friends and a trusting bank it all came to pass. Considering everything I decided to ask for retirement at the session of Wyoming Conference in the spring of 1959. There were a lot of repairs I could and did make that first year. And it has been so every year since. But not so many crucial matters.

A few people know the story of my amateur plumbing repairs. The steel pipes under the bathroom floor were corroded full so the water would not flow. I had gained some ex-

periences in parsonages helping a committee do copper soldering and I thought I knew a lot about it. So I tore out those steel pipes full of rust, and by making nine copper joints I got the new pipes fitted in place. Down cellar I went full of hope, I turned the water on, came back to see how well I did. Alas! Water was coming through the ceiling of my study. Upstairs I found I had nine leaks to re-solder!

Eventually I got it done and the floor relaid in place. And gained a somewhat humbler opinion of my do-it-yourself abilities!

Here we are in 1970, going on toward 11 years in retirement. My steam with the snow shovel is not quite so powerful and confident as it was ten years ago. But I can do some. Eventually I hear a voice from the door or yard calling out, "You've done enough of that shoveling. Stop right now!" And in the house if it is mid-morning we have another cup of coffee if any is left from breakfast. If it is in the afternoon we have a cup of tea—with honey in it!

The difference between way back then, and now, when the weatherman has a warning report I have to phone my dear Valley Crest friends whom I miss when I can't go, telling the lady at the switchboard that "I will not be down off our hill today!"

That's the story back of this place which is getting toward being 140 years old. But with 50 years of the ministry behind me, and all the rest of my life ahead of me I thank God for the contacts I have with many friends by telephone and U.S. Mail.

For all who are kind enough to read this column I wish you the best for 1970—plus!

## HARVEYS LAKE

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schultz and children, Sherri and Freddy, Burlington, Vt., spent the Christmas holidays visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Casey, Maureen, Debbie and David, Warden Place; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lew Schultz and Frankie, Idetown, and friends and relatives in the Back Mountain.

Ruth Ann Zorzi, Princeton, N.J.; Mr. and Mrs. John Zorzi, John and Kathy, Hamilton Square, N.J., and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zorzi, Wilmington, Del., spent the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. John Zorzi, Harveys Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wilson, RD 1, Harveys Lake, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Dec. 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stitzer, James Street, Shavertown, celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary New Year's Day.

Mrs. Stitzer is the former Sylvia Ellsworth. Mr. Stitzer, a retired carpenter, enjoys watching football on television and enjoys a round of golf. He is a veteran of World War I and enjoys traveling whenever he can.

## Flood named man of year

Congressman Daniel J. Flood will be given the "Man of the Year" Award at a testimonial dinner sponsored by the National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation Saturday evening, Jan. 31, at the Host Inn, Wilkes-Barre.

According to testimonial committee chairman Thomas Burke, Mr. Flood will be feted for his outstanding achievements on behalf of his fellow man. All contributions will be used to establish the Daniel J. Flood Research Fellowship by the National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation.

Testimonial plans include a gala cocktail party with entertainment and dancing prior to the dinner with a reception for Dan Flood. The prices of tickets are \$50, \$75, and \$100.

Notables included on the honorary committee include Hubert H. Humphrey, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Senator Mike Mansfield, Governor Raymond P. Shafer, and Vice Admiral Hyman G. Rickover. Back Mountain residents included on the planning committee are Kenneth R. Bayliss, Frank Burnside, Dr. Guy Ferrer, and the Rev. Howard E. Hartzell.

Mrs. Hazel Gillette, Center Street, Warden Place, and Plymouth Street, Wilkes-Barre, is a medical patient in the Wyoming Valley Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, where she is undergoing a series of tests and X-rays.

About 140 children attended the annual Christmas party given by the Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company, Dec. 14 at the fire hall in Idetown.

The auxiliary helped Santa Claus distribute gifts to the children and served refreshments. Later, movies were shown.

The gifts and stockings that were left over from the party were taken to the children's wards of the General Hospital in Wilkes-Barre and the Nesbitt Hospital in Kingston, and distributed under the direction of Carol Blejwas and Betty MacDougall, members of the fire company's auxiliary.

Newly-elected officers for 1970 are: president, Harold Grey; secretary, Walter Blejwas; treasurer, Bill Casterline; financial secretary, John Chesnovitch; captain, Lloyd Jennings; fire chief, Jim Casterline, and assistant fire chief, Ralph Snyder.

Directors for three years are Ed Kupstas, Ed Gilmer and Bernard Rollman.

Auxiliary to Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company, Idetown, had to cancel its Christmas party due to illness of several mem-

## channel 44 elects Mellman

Dr. Robert A. Mellman, superintendent of Dallas Schools, has been elected president of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Television Association for a one year term. The association is comprised of representatives of business, industry and education and is responsible for the complete operation of educational TV on channel 44.

A member of channel 44's board for the past five years, Dr. Mellman will also serve as chairman of the executive committee and as ex officio chairman of all standing committees.

In commenting on plans for the coming year, Dr. Mellman stated that the association's site committee is currently looking for a permanent location for channel 44. Now located in studios at Marywood College, expansion in every phase of operations of the educational TV station will soon necessitate that WVIA-TV be housed in other quarters.

bers. However, after the meeting which will be held Jan. 21 at the firehall, the ladies will go out to dinner at a place which will be decided on the spur of the moment! That way, no headaches and no disappointments!

Our Lady of Victory Altar and Rosary Society held its Christmas dinner recently at the Harveys Lake rectory, Sandy Beach.

Guests included the Rev. Kenneth T. Horan, director of Catholic Social Services of Diocese of Scranton; Sister Victoria and Sister Veronica, College Misericordia, who are instructors of the parish religious classes.

Carols were sung around the Christmas tree and fireplace. Mrs. William Purcell lead the singing, accompanied by the pianist, Tillie Loveland. Industrial table centerpieces were created by Rene Makar, Dallas.

Hostesses of the punch hour which preceded the buffet were: Mrs. Daniel Warner, Mrs. Regis Brice and Anna Stenger.

Chairman of the event was Mrs. Adam Hozempa. The Rev. Patrick Healey, pastor, is moderator of the society and Mrs. John Stenger is president.

The Harveys Lake Sunset Beach Association held its Christmas party and dinner recently at the Castle Inn, Dallas.

Special guests were Herman Kern, mayor of Harveys Lake Borough; Mrs. William Connolly, association officer; president, Fred Kohl; vice president, Kay Burns; treasurer, Arabella Levan, and secretary, Michael B. Rushton.

Jack Lynch served as toastmaster. Special awards were presented to Catherine Bonavina, Betty Bird and Barbara Grula.

Entertainment was provided by Walter Szura and Jim Fisher, accompanied by Helen Scarlet. Music was provided by a local orchestra. About 75 members and guests attended.

Sympathy of this community is extended to Martha Condoras, Picnic Grounds, on the death of her brother, Franklin (Jack) Higgins, who died at his home in New York City Dec. 23.

Mr. Higgins, a former resident of Harveys Lake, was an apartment manager for many years. Harveys Lake residents should remember when he served on the police force during the 1920's or early 1930's with the late Capt. John T. Ruth, First Street.

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**WEAVERS BATTER DIPPED FRIED CHICKEN BREAST** 1-lb., 12-oz. pkg. **\$1.49**  
**FRENCH BRAND COOKED BREADED VEAL STEAKS** 1-lb. pkg. **89¢**

**SEAFOOD**  
**LARGE FROSTED PERCH FILLET** lb. **43¢**  
**TASTE O' SEA, HEAT & EAT FISH & CHIPS** 1-lb. pkg. **59¢**  
**TASTE O' SEA KRUNCHEE, HEAT & EAT FISH FILLETS** 8-oz. pkg. **39¢**

**FRESH! FRESH! ACME FRESH!**  
**Juicy Thin Skin Large TANGERINES** **39¢**  
**WASHED CRISP CARROTS** 2 1-lb. cello bags **25¢**  
**MAINE RUSSET POTATOES** 5-lb. bag **39¢**  
**FRESH CUT COLE SLAW** 8-oz. pkg. **19¢**

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**JACK RABBIT MARROW BEANS** 1-lb. pkg. **25¢**

**JACK RABBIT, LARGE DRIED LIMA BEANS** 1-lb. pkg. **21¢**

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