

The iron mortar foot-cracker

There are special doings that come every year in our lives incidental to the birth of that special new Baby in the little town of Bethlehem long ago. Our church, along with many others, takes time to prepare special music that will have as its highlight the outlook of that Baby and his life.

At Mount Zion on Christmas Eve morning our Allelujahs sang some of their favorite carols as part of the prelude. One thing Cathy played made me remember living in a city where all kinds of church bells rang at about the same time; she said that was no wonder, because it was called "Carol of the Bells!"

Then in their anthem "Now the Holy Child is Born", the choir became an orchestra playing cymbals and triangle and tambourine which I liked very much. At the offertory Sue White and Cathy played a recorder duet for the first time; I enjoy hearing them practice together and hope they'll do it again soon.

One thing we have to expect around Christmas time is bad weather, and it was so bad Christmas Eve that we stayed at home instead of going down to the 11 p.m. service at St. Stephen's. Since Cathy had been to rehearsals the past two weeks, you can know that it was VERY sleety sleet that night beating against our east windows.

Every year our church here is decorated with about 30 poinsettias given by different members of the congregation and it's Cathy's job to

arrange them for the Sunday near Christmas. This year they did trip duty, for they were delivered in time for the Candlelight service on Friday evening.

Then on Saturday morning they were part of the decorations for a beautiful wedding. Our neighbor Ron Thomas, who was born the year we moved into our house, married a delightful young lady named Patty Shannon, who he met when he was in Alabama in the Army.

His sister Gwen was bridesmaid, brother Jim was usher, "baby" brother Seth was ring bearer, and Aunt Mary Jane played the organ. We're always happy to be included in things involving this wonderful family, for of course I am "Uncle Charlie" to them all.

During all the jubilation of the holidays, our very dear friend Charles Banks of West Pittston passed away at the age of 90. He was a veteran of the mines and of the Christian faith. Until recent years he enjoyed coming up here to walk around our "estate", and we benefitted from his store of horticultural knowledge. His "green thumb" had been trained in England and polished by many years of experience in his own back yard in West Pittston.

I had an accident the week before Christmas which involved one of our oldest antiques. I was in the cellar pounding something on my workbench, which jarred some things to the floor. One of them was a cast iron mortar, which fell upside down with the rim hitting my right foot a glancing blow just above my little toe.

I was curious to know just how heavy it was, so I weighed it; it weighs nine pounds. The pestle didn't hit me, but that weighs another pound and a half. Anyway, it's a very useful tool, but not the sort of thing to drop on your foot.

I have sometimes used it in making my own whole wheat cereal, long before the present fad of "Natural food" came along. I would take the grains of wheat, pound them up and then cook them for breakfast; really delicious. Sometimes I turn it upside down and use the bottom as an anvil. And it is dandy to hold anything you are working on that you don't want to move around. I have no idea where it came from or how old it is, because it's one of those things that has always been there.

I've had visions of myself wearing a plaster cast and walking on crutches, only Cathy says a walker is better and easier to handle. But instead of that, the doctor strapped it with adhesive tape and said to "Use it, but don't abuse it".

So I'm not going to start playing football, and when we went to the ballet I didn't volunteer to take the place of the Nutcracker. Actually, that mortar and pestle work very well at cracking nuts, only I can't eat them any more so I don't need to crack any. I couldn't see the picture of the foot when Dr. Gelb showed it to us, but the mortar is evidently quite good at cracking bones, too!



O'Connell takes oath as senator

Frank J. O'Connell, Jr. took the oath of office Tuesday to become a state Senator for the 20th District, with a pledge to study ways of capping state spending.

O'Connell took the oath of office in the Senate chambers at noon and then attended a ceremonial swearing-in in the suite of the state Supreme Court at 1:30 p.m. In attendance at the ceremony were Lt. Governor-elect William Scranton III, who served as master of ceremonies; Rev. Charles Gommer, Jr., who gave the invocation; and Rev. Anthony J. Norkunas, who pronounced the benediction; and Commonwealth Court President Judge James S. Bowman.

A reception followed at the American Legion, State Street, Harrisburg.

About 300 of Sen. O'Connell's constituents and friends were also in attendance at the ceremony.

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SECOND TIME AROUND--Despite all the hoopla, the great American soft drink is really just making a return visit to mainland China, as this photo from decades past demonstrates.

Al Majewski snapped it when he was in Tientsin in 1946. But the real philosophical problem at the heart of the matter is whether Americans or Coca-Cola came first.

ONLY YESTERDAY

50 years ago-Jan. 5, 1929

Dallas Borough Council members met and voted to increase the salary of Chief Avery who will be on duty eight hours daily.

Rotarians entertained the Rotary Anns at the home of Rotarian and Mrs. Claude Isaacs.

More than 225 persons of the younger social set attended a formal dance given by the senior class of College Misericordia in Wyoming Valley Woman's club house.

O.E. Nash of Shavertown was fatally injured trying to veer his automobile from a ditch along Huntsville Road as it was skidding backward on the icy pavement.

Annual congregation of the Huntsville Christian Church was held Dec.

29 preceded by a covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

Lake basketball teams started out the year with a defeat for both. The Sandy Beach Five lost to Wilkes-Barre YMCA 57-25. The high school team was defeated by Foster Township 48-29.

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Miers celebrated their 31 wedding anniversary.

W.H. Herman celebrated his birthday anniversary at a family gathering during the holidays.

J.R. Oliver, local Atwater-Kent dealer, attended a dealer meeting at Hotel Casey, Scranton.

James Besecker was elected president; Milford Shaver, secretary; Harry Garrahan, treasurer; Harold Titman, fire chief; and Clyde LaBar, assistant fire chief, at a recent

meeting of the Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company.

40 years ago-Jan. 6, 1939

Margaret Martin's slayer still free as clues collapse but police continue search with stern vigor that clues will be unearthened.

Boy's prayer to Margaret Martin answered when father finds job. A Philadelphia boy wrote that he asked Margaret to intercede with God for his father who had been out of work for four years.

Wyoming Valley's three-month-old newspaper strike took a new turn this week when officials of 42 mine locals, representing more than 40,000 mine workers, received word to take off their coats and help to end the strike.

Dallas Borough Council to consider new budget for 1939 at meeting next Thursday.

Ground is broken at Lehman as work starts on new \$100,000 high school being constructed under PWA provisions.

Married-Mary E. Heltzel to Richard Mathers; Elizabeth Williams to Walter David.

Anniversaries-Mr. and Mrs. Otis Allen, 55 years.

High school basketball games will resume tonight when the Dallas Borough boys and girls travel to Laketon and Lehman Township schools tangle with Dallas Township on the Dallas floor.

You could get -Chuck roast \$.15 lb.; smoked bacon \$.15 lb.; flour 24-lb. bag \$.65; butter 2 lbs. \$.63; sauerkraut lg. can \$.05; bread \$.05 loaf; catsup 2 14-oz. bots. \$.19; Philadelphia cream cheese 2 3-oz. pkgs. \$.17; oranges 2 doz. \$.35; sweet potatoes 3 lbs. \$.14.

30 years ago

First National Bank, Dallas, has purchased the former Ritter building on Main Street from A.C. Devens and will shortly start a building expansion program which will double the working and office space of the bank, W.B. Jeter, president, announced yesterday.

Work is progressing rapidly on the new building for Sweet Valley Frocks and Monk is installing the heating in the 50x112 concrete block structure.

Natona Mills is now finishing goods manufactured in the six mills of Native Laces and Textiles.

Huntsville Christian Church selects officers for the new year.

Harry Lee Smith, owner of Smiths Economy Store, was elected president of Dallas Business Association at its annual meeting Monday night.

Mrs. Lillian Rood Oliver, formerly of Shavertown, has been appointed organist and choir director at High Street Methodist Church, Binghamton, New York.

Engaged-Jane LeGrand to Charles Cuccio; Jane Carr to H. Eugene McCarty.

Married-Evelyn Boice and Louis Kelly; Elsie Cardenis and Shermit Sickler.

Deaths-John S. Evans, Shavertown. Now playing at local theatres-"Dream Girl", Shaver Theatre.

Among the many new homes and business places under construction in the Back Mountain Area is Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Edwards' Pennsylvania farm house located high on the former Moss farm northeast Huntsville.

You could get-Picnics \$.39 lb.;

standing rib roast \$.59 lb.; oysters \$.59 pt. can; margarine \$.38 lb.; coffee \$.51 lb.; bread \$.13 loaf; Nabisco premium crackers \$.25 1-lb. pkg.; dog food 5-lb. bag \$.63; oranges 2-doz. \$.45; grapefruit \$.05 each; tomatoes \$.19 pkg.; yellow cooking onions 5 lbs. \$.23.

20 years ago-Jan. 2, 1959

For the first time in recent history, Harveys Lake is frozen over before January. All during the Christmas holidays skating has been good and banner crowds have taken advantage of the smooth ice.

Mrs. Fred Anderson is made acting postmistress, sworn in on the last day of 1958 to handle Shavertown.

Engaged-Madalyn Beline to William Young.

Married-Priscilla Ann Boston to Dana Westbrook Swan 2nd.

Deaths-George Fenton, Birch Grove; Mrs. Lesa D. Weber, Trucksville.

Now playing at local theatres-"The Defiant Ones", Tony Curtis, Sidney Potier, Himmler Theatre-"A Tunnel of Love", Doris Day, Richard Widmark, Forty-Fort Theatre;"In Love and War", Robert Wagner, Dana Wynter, Luzerne Theatre.

William L. Conyngham, Chase Corners, was named treasurer of Wilkes-Barre General Hospital \$2 million Building Fund Campaign.

A-2C Paul Heslop has arrived in England for an 18-month tour of duty following a 60-day leave at home after an 18-month tour of duty on Okinawa. Naomi Shaver has received an appointment to the staff Visiting Nurse Service of New York.

You could get-Pork loins \$.29 and \$.39 lb.; turkeys \$.41 lb.; rye bread \$.17 loaf; cinnamon rolls \$.35 pkg.; Kosher dill pickles \$.33 qt.; swiss cheese \$.59 lb.; mixed nuts 16-oz. can \$.89; Wisk \$.89; carrots 2 cello pkgs. \$.19; sweet onions 2 lbs. \$.15.

10 years ago-Jan. 9, 1969

Dallas Township residents will now have 24 hour full-time police protection. Housed temporarily in the Van Horn residence near the Outdoor Theatre, they will operate from this base until the new municipal building is ready in the spring.

Wilkes-Barre YMCA Youth Division announces the start of a nine week bus program for boys from the Back Mountain Area beginning Jan. 18.

Lake Township supervisors retained Henry Stefanowicz as police chief and named Walter Hoover as chairman.

The 1962 Impala owned by Glenda Wagner was stolen from in front of Crown Imperial Lanes New Year's Eve sometime between 10 and 11 p.m. Dallas Township and State Police are continuing the investigation.

West Side Vo-Tech School announces it will offer evening classes in their trade extension.

Engaged-Linda Mary Cook to Clark Van Orden; Myra Schroer to Joseph Skirchak; Joan Spangenberg to 2nd Lt. Robert Belles.

Married-Alice Parsons and Staff Sgt. William S. Hartling.

Anniversary-Mr. and Mrs. George Bliss, 53 years.

Wyoming Valley West topples Dallas Mountaineers in opening conference game.

Lake-Lehman drops opener to GAR 66-55.

Dallas raises police chief's salary

(Continued from page 1)

Assn.

fact. But we believe a Kingston Township, Dallas Borough and Dallas Township nucleus, with interested businesses from Franklin, Lake, Jackson and Lehman townships represented would be appropriate.

Harveys Lake already has a business association and may wish to affiliate in some way with a Back Mountain group. Or it may choose to participate on a selective basis while continuing its more specific tourist development effort.

A business organization can do a lot for the economic development of the Back Mountain. We suggest action on this project during 1979. Let us know if you agree.

Strike up the band

Perhaps the richest of the Back Mountain traditions is the excellence of its bands.

Music organizations have played a notable role in the community's past, and today both Dallas and Lake-Lehman high schools have fine bands. Although there is little activity on a college level at either College Misericordia or Penn State, there used to be post-high school community bands which provided the area with entertainment.

John Miliauskas, director of the award-winning Lake-Lehman High School Band, was a key figure in one community band, in the Ruggles area. But it's been a number of years since the many alumni of high school bands, area adults and collegians had an opportunity to continue their instrumental performing artistry.

We believe that the time is ripe for a renewal of that tradition. The talent is here. Leadership is available. Local band directors tell us the music and facilities would likely be available on loan.

We've discussed the Back Mountain community band proposal with a number of educators and musicians and everyone seems to believe the time is right.

Let us know what you think.

What happens next?

Harveys Lake council members will have a couple of significant topics to discuss as they open the new year Thursday night.

First, what happens in the wake of Gamma Corporation's withdrawal from the cable television franchise award? Will Back Mountain Telecable continue with their competitive bid, including the features that Gama agreed to? Will other bidders surface? Will the acquisition of Telecable by a Hershey firm proceed now that it's likely that Back Mountain Telecable is awarded a formal franchise at Harveys Lake?

Secondly, what progress has the borough made on its peren-

(Continued on p. 8)