

# The Mount Joy Bulletin

Jno. E. Schroll, Editor and Publisher

ESTABLISHED JUNE, 1901

Published Every Thursday at No. 11 East Main St., Mount Joy, Pa.

Subscription, per year .. \$2.00  
Six Months ..... \$1.00  
Three Months ..... .60  
Single Copies ..... .05  
Sample Copies ..... FREE

Entered at the Postoffice at Mt. Joy, Pa., as second-class mail matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Member, Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association

Publication Day, Thursday  
Copy for a change of advertising should reach this office Tuesday. We will not guarantee insertion of any advertising unless copy reaches the office not later than 9 a. m. preceding day of publication.  
Classified ads will be accepted to 9 a. m. publication day.

## EDITORIAL

Government spending this year will total \$83 billion—more than the entire national income in the boom year of 1927. Per capita cost has risen . . . to \$83 for this year's spending, or 40 percent of the average per capita income of \$143.5. Experience has it that when the tax take goes above 25 percent of the national income, inflation is here. Present tax bill of 40 percent places the nation well out on the inflation limb now.

Out in Detroit 3,000 men seeking work, all laid-off factory workers, mobbed a hall there for work at shoveling snow, all seeking a little Christmas money. 1,000 were hired at \$1.41 an hour and 2,000 turned away.

Why didn't they hire at least 2000 at \$1.00 an hour or better still, all of them at 75 cents. In that way all would have been benefitted and three times as much snow would have been shoveled for the same money.

Pick up any daily newspaper, glance at the headlines on the front page, and you'll find one to half a dozen cases where some government official is on the carpet for questioning. But, just let a few basketball players get caught selling out for a few hundred fast bucks and that takes the headlines away from those who are accused of such small things as kicking around the tax money, influencing REA officials, buying expensive gifts with government money, and—oh well, you know what.

Politicians have strained their ingenuity to discover new sources of public revenue. They have doubled the indirect taxes, such as customs due on imports and exports. They have continued the extraordinary taxes of wartime into peacetime. They have broadened perilously the field of the income taxes as well as the property tax. The foregoing was said not last month when our income taxes were increased but more than 2,000 years ago! Socrates, an Athenian orator. And just a few years after the speech was made mighty Athens fell like an overripe apple.

As everyone knows, the prices of industrial stocks, as listed on the exchanges, tend to change from day to day. Some times the variance is substantial at other times it is slight. And many wonder why this should be so.

The answer is that a stock is much like any other piece of property. Its going worth is simply the figure at which one group is willing to sell it and another group is willing to buy it. In a word, the price goes up and down in accordance with the sound old law of supply and demand. If demand is greater than supply, the price generally rises. If the reverse is true, the price generally declines.

A similar situation exists in the case of homes, land, crops and about everything else that is widely bought and sold. The price always represents a meeting of minds between would-be sellers and would-be purchaser. Individual judgment of worth is the determining factor.

So there's nothing at all mysterious in the fluctuations in price that take place in the stock markets. They are natural, inevitable, and desirable. And stocks do offer one advantage that is true of few kinds of property. The current price is always known. There's no guess work involved on either side. All anyone has to do is telephone a broker and ask what the quotation is that day.

To repeat, stock prices are governed by the same forces that determine property values of all kinds. And that, my friends, is exactly how nearly everything else should be sold.

### A CASE OF SURVIVAL

Some of the policy makers in the office of Price Stabilization seem to have small knowledge of retailing's economic problems, or of established pricing methods which have been in general use for years and have proved completely sound.

As an example, top OPS men have bitterly criticized the Herlong Amendment to the Defense Production Act, which guarantees retailers a percentage margin approach to price control. In other words, retailers are allowed to total up their wholesale costs and other expenses and add a certain percentage to arrive at the selling price. This is the way retail business has always operated. But OPS apparently wants a system of controls under which the retailer could be forced by law and by interpretations of law to absorb all or a substantial part of price increases which he can do nothing about.

Documented statements have been presented to Congressional committees by retail experts showing that retail profits are far too small to make this possible. They state that retailing's very survival as a progressive, aggressive industry depends upon the maintenance of established pricing methods. In most retail businesses, the margin between a profitable and a losing operation is very small—only a few cents out of each dollar received from customers. Even that modest profit has been tending downward lately.

From the point of view of the consumer, fair and open competition at the retail level offers the surest protection against excessive prices and profits. The best controls ever conceived are a mighty poor substitute for a free market.

## Oppose Air Base

(From page 1)

the taking of 3,500 acres of some of the best farm land in the entire country for this base is not in the best interest of Lancaster County, the state of Pennsylvania, or the United States.

No one site in the county has definitely been chosen by the Air Force and every farm is still potentially in danger. The actual acreage necessary to construct the two-and-one-half mile runway for planes, and necessary buildings represents only a fraction of the land which would be affected.

There would be an area "several miles wide" in all directions where, for example, poultry and egg production would be impossible because of the noise of the jet planes, according to E. W. Collenbach, head of the Pennsylvania State College Department of Poultry Husbandry.

Most individual county farm organizations are already supporting the program of the Farm and Home Committee, and this week the Pa. State Council of Farm Organizations unanimously passed a resolution opposing the "use of fertile lands by state and federal agencies for governmental purposes of any kind".

J. Z. Herr, Elizabethtown, is secretary of the Farm and Home Committee, and Martin S. Musser, Mt. Joy RD is treasurer.

Ethan C. of C. Opposes  
Cultivating of facilities and use of productive farm land were listed as reasons for the Elizabethtown Chamber of Commerce's opposition to the proposed Lancaster County Air Base here in a letter to Sen. James H. Duff.

The letter said the Chamber had voted the proposal down by a large majority and the decision was based on two primary points:

"Establishment of the base here would result in a great influx of people to this community which would result in overcrowded schools, overtaxed sewage facilities, inadequate housing and many other serious problems.

"Establishment of the base no matter where it is located, should definitely not take place where it would require the use of productive farm land."

President Robert L. Madeira, speaking for the body said that the outstanding feature of the decision was the fact that the group of small business and professional men voted against it in spite of the fact that they would enjoy an immediate business boom were the base

## HAPPENINGS — of — LONG AGO

### 20 Years Ago

December 26, 1931

Friendship Fire Company will hold its sixty-third annual banquet in the United Brethren church here January 8.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ellis gave a chicken and waffle dinner Sunday in honor of Mrs. Ruth Gingrich's birthday.

By a new law effective January 1st, all live stock dealers and brokers must be licensed.

Mount Joy Borough Council held its annual turkey dinner at Chester Armstrong's Washington House. Eighteen were present.

Miss Ada Shelly, while working at her car after it stalled on Chickies Hill, was dragged a short distance when it suddenly started off.

Mr. and Mrs. William Strickler announce the engagement of their daughter Mary K. to Walter W. Barto, of Philadelphia.

Miss Josephine Shank won the doll contest at Dr. E. W. Garber's Rexall Store.

An investigation into the operating costs of the State Government was authorized by the Penna. Legislature.

The State Police seized a copper still in full operation in Huston Rogers garage at Kinderhook.

Five members of the Pennsylvania State Game Commission have resigned.

The American Legion played Santa Claus to the children here, passing out 650 toys, 650 oranges and 650 boxes of candy.

When voters elect a cheap man, they get cheap service that is the most expensive luxury the country has.

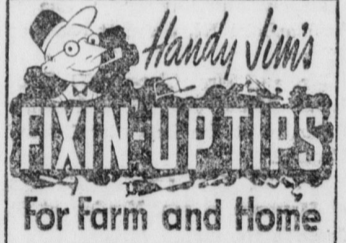
lult here.  
The use of rich farm land was opposed no matter where the base might eventually be constructed. The letter stated that a number of Lancaster groups are in favor of it as long as it is not built in their own back yard.

"It is easy to be generous with the other fellow's situation as long as your own is not jeopardized. Therefore, we in Elizabethtown make no apology for this stand."

As for the patriotic aspect, the correspondence again referred back to the land problem explaining that there was plenty of unproductive soil in the Northeast to provide for a base. "Preservation of farm land would constitute a truly patriotic stand," they said.

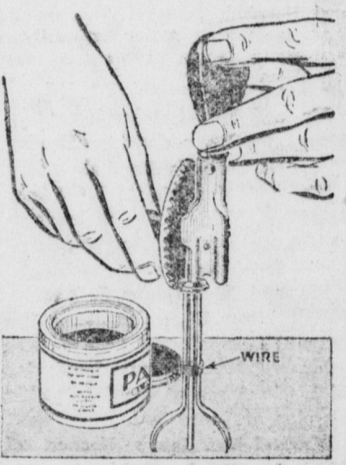
The body argued that the base would not necessarily have to be close to Middletown and expressed belief that adequate personnel could be obtained by the Air Force anywhere in the Northeast.

Joseph F. Gingrich is the specially appointed representative and chairman of the Industrial Committee in Elizabethtown and he has asked Washington to keep him informed of any developments.



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**THE BULLETIN**  
Is on sale each week at Kulp's News Agency and Tyndall's Store, West Main street.

## Base Will Rout School

(From page 1)

the equal of steel in strength. Plans for the joint junior-senior high school have been underway in the three districts for the past two years. The board hopes to be able to receive bids shortly after the first of the year.

The board, however set no completion date because of material shortages. Officials previously hoped to have it completed by the Fall of 1952.

The proposed school is to be located on an optioned 20-acre tract of land along the Mount Joy to Marietta road, about a mile from Mount Joy. Most of the land is now owned by Henry Brubaker with two acres being on the Elmer Shearer property.

The building, to be called the Donegal High School, will be two stories high with a total of 98,000 square feet of building space to

provide a gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria and classrooms, including an art room, shop classroom and a shop unit for agricultural, general woodworking and metal shops. Cost of the building has been estimated at \$1,200,000. The gymnasium will provide a standard basketball court which could be divided into two practice courts with a total seating capacity for 1,000. The auditorium would seat 800, and the cafeteria 300.

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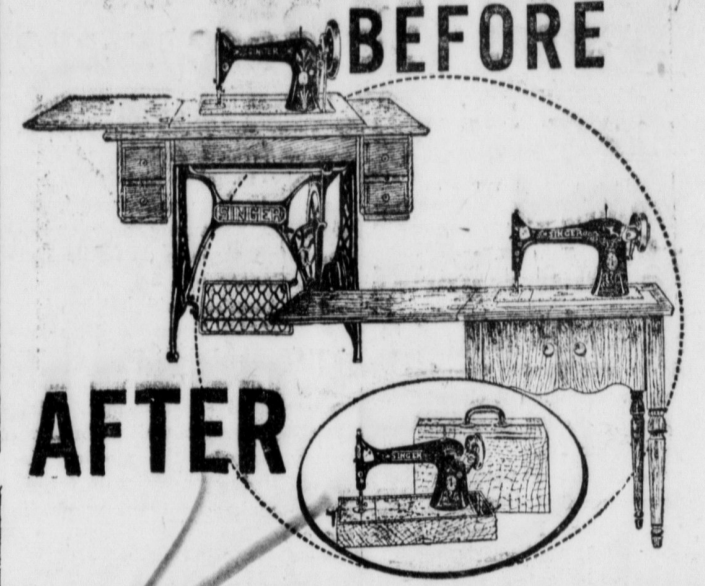
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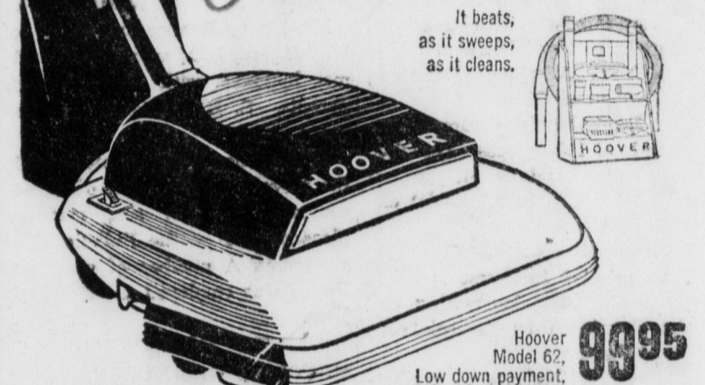
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