

MIDDLETOWN FIREMAN DROPS DEAD WHILE FIGHTING \$160,000 FIRE—FIVE OTHERS INJURED

Roma Restaurant and McCarter Furniture Company Store and Contents are Totally Destroyed—Loss Partly Covered by Insurance

Middletown, N. Y., Dec. 12.—Alfred Bradford, driver of the Ontario fire apparatus dropped dead from heart trouble and excitement, George C. Hammers a member of the Monahan Engine company sustained a rupture of the blood vessels of the right eye. Policeman Leon I. Moore and three firemen were overcome by smoke and narrowly escaped death during a \$160,000 fire here this morning.

The Roma restaurant a one story at 102 North street, where the fire originated and the three story building of W. J. McCarter Furniture company at 104 North street together with contents were totally destroyed. The Roma restaurant building was estimated at \$15,000 and the contents at \$10,000. The McCarter furniture building was estimated valued at \$35,000 and contents at \$100,000.

The fire, which was discovered about 1:50 o'clock started in the cellar of the restaurant and burned to the kitchen above, through the rear of the building and soon enveloped the entire building in flames. The flames ate their way to the rear of the McCarter building also a frame one and in a very few minutes that too was a roaring mass.

A three story building, containing three stores on the ground floor and apartments above, on the north side of the burning buildings and a three story brick building containing two stores and apartments above on the south side of the burning buildings were saved from serious damage by the heroic efforts of the firemen. The McCarter Furniture Company had within the past few days added about \$35,000 worth of stock to their already heavy supply. This supply consisted greatly of upholstered furniture and mattresses. The excelsior and other filling in the mattresses was excellent fuel for the flames which made stubborn fire for the firemen to combat. In addition to this combustible stuff a tank of turpentine exploded and scattered a mass of live coals, which caused fire to break out in other places. The firemen fought the fire until seven o'clock.

Firemen Bradford's death put a gloom over the firefighters. He was a popular man and liked by all the firemen. During the fire he was instructed to go for a tank of gasoline for one of the other fire trucks which was working. He had returned with the gasoline and just as he stopped from his apparatus to the ground, he dropped dead.

It is understood that the loss on the restaurant building is partially covered by insurance, but nothing on the contents.

The McCarter loss on both the building and contents is said to be about half covered by insurance.

TRUANT BRIDE GOES BACK HOME

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Dorothy Martin Hillman, runaway bride of Edward Hillman, Jr., son of a millionaire merchant, returned from New York on Wednesday like a runaway school girl, in custody of her mother. Awaiting them was a small army of reporters and cameramen, but Dorothy and her mother turned the collars of their coats up over their faces and dashed for a taxicab, headlights booming at every step. Mrs. Hillman turned on her pursuers and gave her opinion of them in plain language. "The 'Fools' she said, and, to a station guard, "Can't you keep them off?" The chase ended at the Martin home in Evanston where the doors slammed in the faces of the pursuers. Mr. Hillman did not meet his bride. It is understood he is waiting in the home of his parents for some overtures from her.

WILL HAVE ONE CHRISTMAS OUT OF JAIL

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 11.—W. A. Wilkins, 65 of Richmond, Va., has spent the past 20 Christmases in jail. This Yuletide he expects to be on "the outside looking in." The aged man was arraigned in police court here and pleaded guilty to soliciting alms on the streets. "Judge, I have spent the last 20 Christmases in jail and I pray God you won't make me do it again," he pleaded. "I served terms for burglary and highway robbery in Virginia but I came to Atlanta to remake my life. I was down and out—here I am." Judge Holloway, moved by the prisoner's plea, sentenced him to the Stockade until noon Dec. 24.

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL WITH TOURIST CLUB

The pupils of the Opportunity school and their teachers Miss Mable Knowles and Miss Margaret Eagan were guests of the Tourist Club at the clubs annual Christmas party held Wednesday afternoon at the Deerpark club hall. The tree was in a position where it could be readily seen on entering the hall and was decorated with many beautiful lights as well as the many other ornaments and goodies that make such a tree beautiful.

Miss Marjorie Dedrick sang a number of Christmas songs and Mrs. Charles Ackerman read two poems, which were enjoyed by the members of the club as well as the guests. The guests also did their share to entertain. They sang two of their school songs and a whistling one and Peter Andriack played two selections on the mouth harp.

The guests were then served with cocoa, sandwiches and cake. Just about the time the guests were through eating, the postman blew his whistle and came in loaded with gift for each of them. There were silver pencils for the girls and jackknives for the boys. Mrs. Richard Swinton impersonated the postman.

At the conclusion of the entertainment the regular business meeting of the club was held, with the president Mrs. Herbert Kirk presiding. A committee composed of Mrs. R. G. Thorpe Mrs. W. V. Berg and Mrs. John Swinton was appointed to confer with a similar committee of the Community Club to see what can be done in the local theatres toward showing an educational picture on Saturday afternoon at least once a month, that will be of special interest to children.

Announcement was made of the next series of lectures given by Mrs. Atwell, which will take place on Tuesday evening December 16 in the Sullivan Avenue school auditorium.

BROTHERHOOD HOLDS MEETING

At the regular monthly meeting of the Drew Brotherhood Thursday evening the secretary was authorized to send telegrams to Senators Copeland and Wadsworth asking them to use their efforts in behalf of the Cranton bill. The Cranton bill, if passed, will put all prohibition employees under civil service rules, and so take that department out of politics.

Chairman Lyle Wells of the entertainment committee for the month of January was given full power to act in the matter of putting on a minstrel frolic sometime during that month.

In the absence of President Charles H. Turner, Vice-President Lyle Wells presided. After the business session refreshments were served. Following the refreshments, a game of indoor baseball and basketball were played. Raymond Sharp's team defeated Rev. Versteeg's team in the baseball game to a score of 22 to 15. Rev. Versteeg's basketball team was victorious to the score of 22 to 20.

SCHOOL APPROPRIATION DEFEATED BY 88 VOTES

Newburgh, Dec. 11.—Newburgh residents in a special election held Wednesday by a vote of 88 defeated a proposal to appropriate \$1,087,000 for erection of a new high school on the Belvidere site at the northwest side of the city. The vote was 1,046 against 958 for the proposal. The vote was received at the house of Columbian Engine Co., and the court house. The vote was heavily against the proposal at the court house and for it at the west side voting place.

SAMUEL GOMPERS IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Lardo, Texas, Dec. 12. (Associated Press)—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation labor, arrived at the American border here at seven thirty in a critical condition suffering from bronchial infection.

GAZETTE'S EXTRA EDITION

The Gazette is printing an extra edition of Christmas advertising today. We had requests for space that would have filled another section of eight papers, but they came in too late to be handled in time for today. If these requests had come in only three or four days earlier, the Gazette today would have had 24 pages.

ERIE DEAL WILL BE COMPLETED

New York, Dec. 12.—O. P. Van Sweringen of Cleveland arrived in New York yesterday to make another attempt to complete the preliminary steps of his 13,000 mile railroad system, with total assets of a billion and a half dollars, and including the properties of the present Nickel Plate, the Erie, the Chesapeake & Ohio, the Pere Marquette and the Hocking Valley. One of his first steps was to give out a statement that the Nickel Plate lease plan would go through.

Following this he held a conference with representatives of the Pere Marquette. While no information was given out concerning this meeting, it is understood that a lease, similar to that which has been submitted to the Erie Railroad was placed before the representatives of the company. Should the Erie accept the proposal lease at the meeting today, an that seems likely it is expected that the lease with the Pere Marquette may be completed in short order.

Bankers and others familiar with the lease proposal prophesied yesterday that the deal with the Erie would be completed today. A meeting of the Executive Committee is to be held early in the afternoon, followed by the regular directors meeting. According to the present plans the lease arranged between counsel for the Van Sweringens and the committee representing the Erie will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Erie and later to the directors.

KILLS GIRL CHUM BOY OF 16 ADMITS

Camden, N. J., Dec. 11.—"What! Me charged with murder? Why I didn't mean to kill her—she was my sweetheart," Stanley Curtis 16-year old schoolboy almost shouted these words last night when told in the City Hall that all the facts in connection with the shooting of Betsy Ross, 16, in her home in Gloucester on Tuesday night, would be presented to the Grand Jury within a week.

The boy, at first, had denied the shooting. He said that when he called upon his sweetheart at the home of her sister, Mrs. Margaret Bell, she found in his pocket several pictures. She insisted upon destroying them. A violent quarrel resulted. His revolver was lying on the table.

The girl picked up the revolver after they patched up the quarrel and began playing with the gun, and it was accidentally discharged.

However, when the boy was told there had been a witness to the shooting, he said:

"I'll tell you the truth. Betty and I have been sweethearts, school sweethearts for more than two years. When she insisted upon tearing up the pictures I picked up the gun. I pointed it at her to frighten her, when it went off. I didn't mean to kill her or hurt her. I loved her too much for that."

Curtis said he had been carrying the gun for protection.

"There had been a Jack the Peppercorn scare around Gloucester and I wanted to protect Betty."

The girl's body was found by her sister, Mrs. Margaret Bell, with whom she has lived since the separation of her parents.

After leaving school two weeks ago to try to get a job, Curtis continued to meet the girl. Almost every day he called for her at school and took her home on the handlebars of his bicycle.

LAUGHED OUT OF HIS BANK ROLL

Pittsburgh, Dec. 10.—With only a slight clue to work on, police here today were searching for the friend of Samuel Balking, who "laughed Samuel out of \$3,019.

According to Balking, his friend, known only as "John" agreed to help him to count \$3,020, drawn from the bank to make sure the bankmade no mistake. While counting, "John" kept up a running series of funny stories, then tossed the bankroll on a table. After "John's" exit, Balking discovered a roll of newspaper neatly wrapped in a \$1 bill.

INJURY CASES ARE CONSIDERED BY COMMISSION

Referee Makes Awards to Several Persons in This City

Thirty-five cases were heard before Referee R. J. Cooper in the Workmen's Compensation hearing held in the Common Council room of the city hall in Middletown Wednesday from 9 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon. Among them were the following:

John Barber, 51 Barlow street, Port Jervis, employed by the George W. Case Company of Port Jervis received \$123.38 for nine and a half week's disability.

Warren L. Casterlin, 25 Washington avenue, Port Jervis, employed by the Erie Railroad, received \$135.37 for seven and one-third week's disability. George Gordon, of Matamoras, Pa. received \$180 for nine weeks disability.

A. D. Shaw, of Port Jervis, employed by Jacob Mennoff of Port Jervis was awarded \$330.74 for the partial loss of both his legs.

Sanford Ryerson, Port Jervis, employed by Holmes & Stoll, Port Jervis received \$12.56 for two week's disability.

Fifteen claimants received no award two were held for medical examination, and one transferred.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN AT DINNER

Captain Warren Patton Coombs, World War veteran, and Methodist minister was the principal speaker at the annual banquet of the Brotherhood Bible class of the Presbyterian church Thursday evening.

The Captain spoke on four lines of strategy that are endangered in America. The first was "Disregard of the law." The second, "The love of luxury." The third was, "Avoidance of hard work" and the last was "The loss of spiritual ideals." He is a wonderful speaker and held the attention of his audience throughout his talk. At the conclusion of his address he asked the audience to rise and repeat the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The turkey dinner which was prepared by the Willing Workers was served to 130 men.

ORANGE CHAPTER ELECTS OFFICERS

Officers for the ensuing year were elected by the members of Orange Chapter No. 33, Order of Eastern Stars at the regular meeting Thursday evening. The new officers are:

Worthy Matron—Mrs. Ida Laidley. Worthy Patron—John J. Toth. Associate Matron—Mrs. Ida Cowan. Conductress—Miss Esmogene March. Associate Conductress—Mrs. Ruth Still Hornbeck.

Treasurer—Mrs. Josephine Hawkins. Secretary—Mrs. Josephine Hamilton.

Chairman of Trustees—Mrs. Martha Munnich.

After the business session, clam chowder, saltines and coffee were served. The new officers will be installed on January 8th.

THIRD ENTERTAINMENT OF TEACHERS' COURSE

Tonight at 8 o'clock the third entertainment under the auspices of the teachers of Port Jervis, N. Y. will be given.

Neal O'Hara, the well known humorist, will appear and it is promised us that we shall have an evening of rare pleasure, laughter and fun.

Accompanied as he is with many theatrical producers he will, we hope, prove to be remarkably apt with funny stories and lectures.

His topic, "Funny Folks and How They Get That Way" ought to bring many of us out to find the secret.

Ladies' Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid Society of the Baptist Church held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Nellie Cosner on Orange street. A chicken supper was served to the 17 members present. After which the regular business meeting took place. It was decided to hold a fresh pork and sauerkraut supper at the church on Thursday evening, January 22. The next regular meeting of the society will be held at the home of Mrs. A. Rake on Ave. M, Matamoras. At the close of the meeting a social chat was enjoyed.

MOTOR VEHICLE LAW VIOLATION BRINGS REBUKE

Highland Falls President Pleads Guilty to Three Charges

Albany, Dec. 11 (Special)—Chester Wygant, president of the village of Highland Falls, was rebuked by Deputy Motor Vehicle Commissioner John P. Hennessey yesterday afternoon for failure to comply with the law which compel omnibus owners to file a bond for the protection of their passengers. Decision in the case was reversed until Mr. Wygant has turned in his registration plates in compliance with an order by Commissioner Charles A. Harnett.

Wygant in addition to violating the bonding provision of the highway law and refusing to turn in his plates also failed to properly transfer the registration certificate of a car which he recently purchased. He pleaded guilty to each of the three violations.

According to the complaint when Wygant was told of the violation of the law by inspectors from the Motor Vehicle Bureau he tried to intimidate the inspectors, declaring that he would have them arrested. The violation was reported to Commissioner Harnett who ordered Wygant's license suspended and the return of the plates.

At the hearing before Mr. Hennessey, Wygant produced a letter from a lawyer which was in reply to a request by Wygant on the right of the state to compel the filing of a bond by omnibus owners. The lawyer wrote that he did not believe the provision was state-wide in application but would investigate and give him the correct facts. Wygant's said that the opinion of the lawyer was responsible for his belief that he did not have to comply with the bonding law.

Wygant said that he was sorry he violated the law and that he would comply with its provisions in the future. He told Mr. Hennessey that he has already filed the bond and that he has not been running his car since he was ordered to hand in his registration plates. Jane Wygant, his wife, and business partner, was also summoned to appear before Mr. Hennessey.

"You the president of your village," said Mr. Hennessey, "and you expect your citizens to live up to and respect the laws. If you do not set an example for respect of the laws I cannot see how you can expect your citizens to do so."

BOY ACCIDENTALLY SHOT BY BROTHER

Donald Hinman, aged 16, of 12 West street, was accidentally shot by his little brother, Dale Decker, aged 6, when Donald attempted to take a .32 caliber rifle away from him in their room.

In the attempt to get the gun it was accidentally discharged. The bullet entered the left side along a rib, tearing its way under the skin and coming out at the back, and lodged into the woodwork near a closet door.

Dr. L. H. McAllister was called and treated the injured boy, whose wound is not considered serious, as it is merely a flesh wound.

PRESIDENT GETS BACK LOST DIME

Washington, Dec. 11.—President Coolidge's mail today brought him a dime forwarded by a man in Racine Wis., whose accompanying letter explained why he sent the coin to the President. The letter follows:

Racine, Wis., Dec. 9, 1924.

Dear Cal: Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

You do not know me, but one day before you were elected I was walking in back of you. You dropped a dime, but you did not notice it. I picked it up and kept it because I was hungry. It got me a hot cup of coffee and two rolls. Well, I have plenty of dimes now, so I am returning one in the place of yours.

Yours truly,

A FRIEND.

A CORRECTION

In the advertisement of the Army & Navy Clearing House on page 16 of this issue it states that the six Buddy Dolls will be given away on December 27th. This is, of course, an error. The dolls will be given on December 24th, Christmas Eve.

PUBLIC SERVICE MEN IN GROUP INSURANCE

Plan Announced at Meeting of Employees Held in Middletown

Middletown, Dec. 11.—One hundred and twenty employees of Orange County Public Service Company, Inc., from Middletown and Port Jervis, met in Masonic Temple Wednesday night for a dinner in the first employees' welfare meeting, arranged under the service plan of the Charles H. Tenney Company, of Boston, of which the local company is now a subsidiary.

The feature event of the evening was the campaign put on as the closing event of the program to enlist 75 percent of the 120 employees of the company in a benefit group insurance. At the initial passing of the cards by H. E. Dunkle of the Life Extension Institute, of New York; Skinner Jewell and H. E. Clapp of the Connecticut General Insurance Company, and Errol Deemer of the Equitable Life Insurance Company, 85 signed. Cheers and hurrahs followed Mr. Clement's announcement that the quota had been reached, and that all those who had signed, could go home with a \$1,000 dollar insurance policy to comfort them. Those who did not sign have 60 days in which to make up their mind.

President D. E. Manson, recently elected to this position in Boston, gave the opening address of the evening and told those present something of the general policy of the C. H. Tenney Company, and of the desire of officials in Boston and elsewhere to keep in touch with the exceedingly progressive subsidiary in this county.

Dr. E. N. Bullock, First Aid Medical Advisor for the Tenney company, spoke of the urgency for public service employees, perhaps more than in any industry, to be prepared at all times to meet the constant emergencies that are always arising. He got his idea across forcibly that a little knowledge of the rudiments of care for the injured may save a life, an arm or a leg, where ignorance would mean disaster. He urged the Orange county men to take up the Tenney scheme of first aid instruction. "You can give all the money you want," he said, "to widows and orphans after the husband or father is injured or possibly killed but you cannot place a dollar and cents value on human life."

Following the doctor, Mr. Clement announced the First Aid Committee that has been appointed to train employees. The chairman is Charles T. Pauley and the other members, Walter Clark, Port Jervis; William Keeler, Charles Stahl and Margaret Walling all of Middletown.

E. W. Neal, of Pittsfield, Mass., spoke further on the Tenney Safety First work, and also touched on the insurance plan later brought up.

H. E. Dunkle, of the Life Extension Institute of New York further explained the plan, and immediately following his talk, the campaign was put through.

YOUTHFUL HUNTER IS SHOT IN LEG

Stroudsburg, Dec. 11.—While on a hunting trip in the section back of Devil's Hole, this county, shortly after the noon hour, Wednesday, Harry Smith, a young man of Stroudsburg, was accidentally shot in the left leg by Charles Yoch, aged about 19 years, also of Stroudsburg. Yoch says his Winchester .32 caliber was supposed by him to have been on "safe" when he was carrying it in his right hand, but it went off, the bullet passing through the left leg from the back and coming out of the front of the leg about half way between the knee and the ankle of the unfortunate victim.

Four of the party of hunters, who had just made a drive carried Smith, after stopping the wound, as best they could, all the way to Paradise water tank, a distance of two miles, where they placed him in a Ford auto and rushed him to the office of Dr. Clark at Mt. Pocono. Lester Smith, a brother of the injured hunter, called for the Kisor ambulance, which responded and conveyed the injured youth to the Monroe County Hospital.

Registration Blanks

Acting Chief of Police Stephen Campbell announces that there are on hand in the chief's office registration blanks for all makes and models of automobile for the year of 1925. Get your blanks and 1925 license now.

POSTAL ROBBER SAYS HE KNOWS WHERE LOOT IS

But He Refuses to Tell Because Judge Gave Him Twenty-five Years

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Sentenced today to twenty-five years in the Federal Penitentiary for participation in the \$2,000,000 Rondout mail train robbery, Herbert Holliday, one of six prisoners who had pleaded guilty, tonight admitted that he had concealed \$100,000 of the loot. But he refused to turn over any of the money or the bonds unless the sentence imposed by Judge Cliffe is reduced.

"Sure, I've got the money," he told Grand Miller, Chief Post Office Inspector. "I've got twenty-five years sentence, too. Now what are you going to do about it?"

Holliday and his five companions were waiting as officers made their plans to start the prisoners to Leavenworth prison when he confessed that he possesses the missing loot. He had received the heaviest sentence of all, a total of 177 years on eleven counts, which, as the sentences were to run concurrently, would keep him in prison for 25 years.

Although Holliday has confessed to participating in the robbery, he had steadfastly refused to tell what he had done with the loot or admit that he had it. He also refused to testify for the government during the trial, as the arch-plotter of the robbery, of William J. Paly, former postal inspector, and James Murray, Chicago politician, who had elected to stand trial. They, too, received sentences of twenty-five years.

Those sentenced with Holliday were Brent Glasscock, was a chief of the robbers, and Jesse, Joseph and Willie Newton.

Joseph Newton, 22 years old, the youngest of the brothers, received a three years' sentence, and Jesse, who did nothing more than help guard the loot, was left off by Judge Cliffe with the lightest sentence, one year and one day. Glasscock, Willis and Willie Newton, the latter of whom was wounded during the robbery, and who was brought to court today on a stretcher, were sentenced to twelve years.

"Since the entrance of a plea of guilty on the part of these defendants, the court has taken time to survey the situation and has taken into consideration recommendations of those departments most concerned in the case, the Attorney General and the Postmaster General," said Judge Cliffe, in announcing sentence. "These recommendations will be filed with other papers in the case."

Mrs. Avis Glasscock, wife of Glasscock, and Mrs. Louise Brown, friend of Willis Newton, were the only relatives or close friends of the prisoners in court.

Glasscock, who, with his wife, was found in Battle Creek, Mich., about ten days before the trial, was the chief government witness, and aided federal authorities in recovering more than \$1,250,000 of the loot.

WEST STREET SEWER FINISHED SAYS MAYOR

Built by City at Cost of \$5,000, and Half of Contract Price

Mayor Sheldon announced today that the West street sewer would be completed today with the exception of a few minor details. This work was done under the direct supervision of the Common Council and Superintendent of streets and sewers Jackson by city employees.

The sewer is larger and will carry away more water than the proposed one, bid on by contractors, last Spring. The cost of construction within the city's appropriation for the job of \$5,000 and a saving of \$5,000 over the lowest contractor's bid.

The sewer during the last few heavy rains has taken care of the water readily. It was very noticeable that there was no pond of water at the junction of Pine and Glass streets during those storms.