

## Most Anything At A Glance

BY ABIGAIL

Death appears to have "fingered" our little community here. After reading the account of the latest tragedy, locally, I can't help but wonder the reason why we have been singled out for all this misery. Nine children have been violently killed in this little district in the past two months. That is more of that type of death I have seen in all my years totaled up. . . . And all in two months. We were all laid low when word of the Wills' family disaster was received locally. Three children and a mother victims of as fiery holocaust. No sooner than we began to recover from that shock when two more youngsters were killed instantly in an automobile wreck at Franklinville. Sad and bad as that was, now comes the hardest news to take—four more little innocent lives accidentally and needlessly taken. Just think, a little more precaution by individuals concerned and these happy, healthy little juveniles would still be in our midst, playing gleefully and attending school. A little more caution by all of us when handling cars and fire would save many of us untold misery and suffering. . . . One can't help wondering why it all had to happen to us.

Someone is going to reap the golden harvest in this district soon. While information has been extremely scarce about the Camp Ritchie deal, I learned from pretty good authority this week that some good news, and I believe reliable, is coming our way. We understand that contractors are contemplating hiring at least 2000 construction men for the big Government job. These workers will be with us for at least a year. What we are going to do with the portion that comes our way, remains to be seen. Certainly it means more business for the theaters, grocery stores, clothiers, restaurants, and garages. When you stop to analyze the situation, do you know that 2000 more people would better than double the old 'burg at present.

Certainly all the apartments and houses that are now vacant will be quickly nabbed. Several already have been rented. Alright, so they are only going to be with us for a year, what then. "Then" remains to prove itself. Anyway, after the construction men leave I believe that several thousand Government employes will take to the location and with the latest word that Fountaindale residents will remain status quo, these individuals will have to spread out to Emmitsburg, Waynesboro, Blue Ridge Summit and Thurmont. I can't help but think we will benefit greatly from the big deal. . . . Anyway, what have we to lose?

Just let me open my big mouth and comment on the weather and boy what happens? Last week I mentioned an old-fashioned winter and how I enjoyed the beautiful snow. I forgot to say that for several days a little of the stuff is all right, but after begging passing motorists and pedestrians to dig my car out of the drifts and ruts, I am sick and tired and filled up with any and all old-fashioned winters. From now on I'll take the "modern ones."

On of my tipsters passes along this bit of information concerning the snow removal of the State Road from here to Taneytown. Seems as though there is some sort of jurisdictional dispute between the crews of Frederick and Carroll Counties as to whose duty it is to maintain highway clearance. The net result, I hear, is that neither did the job, and I am informed that the road is in terrific condition. One wreck was reported this week, caused

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# 4 Die In Explosion Here

## PRICE CONTROL DATA SHEETS NOW AVAILABLE

Hugo R. Hoffman, Acting Price Director for the State of Maryland, has announced that banks throughout the State are scheduled to receive copies of the general ceiling price regulation. Citizens requesting copies of the regulation, which explains the recent price freeze, may obtain them from these banks, local associations of commerce, or from trade associations.

Banks in the State will receive their copies by mail within the next few days from the Office of Price Stabilization in Baltimore. When this mailing is accomplished, those requesting information on the price regulation in areas outside of Baltimore may obtain copies from either the Emmitsburg Chamber of Commerce or the Farmers State Bank.

Mr. Hoffman said, "The Maryland Office of Price Stabilization is doing everything within its power to place information concerning price regulations into the hands of every citizen. We are especially indebted to the members of the Maryland Bankers Assn. and to the members of the various Chambers of Commerce for their help in distributing these copies of the price regulation."

## Restaurants Under Regulations

Some Maryland restaurants which never before provided menus for their customers may now have them because of the recent price regulation.

Mr. Hoffman called attention to the fact that restaurant owners must preserve all menus used during the last 10 days of the freeze base period (Dec. 19, 1950 to Jan. 25, 1951) and all menus thereafter.

Compliance with this regulation poses very little difficulty for the majority of eating places, for most restaurants keep a book of bill of fare by weeks or longer periods. However, the new experience of keeping a daily file is on the schedule of the "quick snack" shops which often have their menus written with chalk on the blackboard or scribbled in some conspicuous place.

It should be explained that the regulation requires only the preservation of all daily menus. In the case of the cafeterias and quick snack shops, compliance is assured by the preservation of the record of the daily menus, and does not mean that written menus must be presented to each customer.

Spokesmen for the OPS also reminded businessmen that three lists must be ready for examination by the first day of March. These lists are (1) a list of ceiling prices; (2) a list of price differentials, and (3) a list of the kinds of commodities and services delivered or offered for delivery during the base period.

## Suit Verdict Favors Local Man

A verdict of \$221.36 in favor of the plaintiff was returned Tuesday in Circuit Court by Associate Judge Patrick M. Schnauffer at the conclusion of a suit growing out of an accident on the St. Anthony's-Motter Station Rd.

Ernest Floyd Keilholtz, Rocky Ridge, entered the suit to his own use and that of the Farm Bureau Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. against James Werking of the same neighborhood.

Keilholtz testified he was proceeding over the road when a truck pulled out in front of him from a side lane. He said he cut to the right and crashed into a telephone pole and fence, considerably damaging his car. There was no collision between the vehicles. The truck, he claimed, belonged to Werking. James McSherry was attorney for the plaintiff; Parsons Newman and Byron W. Thompson represented Werking.

## Dr. Beegle Again Heads Pen-Mar League

The Pen-Mar Baseball League held its initial meeting of the 1951 season Tuesday night in the VFW Home, Littlestown, Pa.

Officials of last season were unanimously elected to a second term. They include: President, Dr. D. L. Beegle, Emmitsburg; vice president, Bernard H. Weaver, Littlestown; secretary-treasurer, C. A. Elder, Emmitsburg.

From all indications the same clubs that comprised the league in 1950 will again be members of the circuit this year. Included in the league are Emmitsburg, Littlestown, Thurmont, Taneytown, Blue Ridge Summit, Hanover, Westminster, and McSherrystown, the latter copping the pennant last year.

Several amendments to the by-laws were proposed for adoption at the next meeting, Feb. 20. A lengthy discussion was held concerning opening the circuit to 10 clubs, possibly including Fairfield and/or Cashtown and Arendtsville. Action will be taken on this at the next session.

Representing Emmitsburg were Dr. D. L. Beegle, C. A. Elder, Guy R. McLaughlin and J. Norman Flax. Also discussed was a later opening of the circuit and an earlier finishing date.

## Character Witnesses Free Youth From Jail

Character references from some leading Thurmont citizens stood Calvin Charles Kinna, 21, in good stead this week as Associate Judge Patrick M. Schnauffer suspended a four-year sentence in the State Reformatory for Males on a grand larceny charge.

Kinna, never in trouble before, pleaded guilty to a criminal information that, with a juvenile, he entered the property of Harold R. Willard, who operates the East End Garage and filling station at Thurmont, on Sept. 14 and stole approximately \$203 in cash and a German-make revolver. The juvenile has not been given a hearing.

Kinna testified that he had lost some money on punchboards and entered the property through an open window to try to get it back. The two youths took some tin boxes, which contained the money and split the proceeds, State Trooper 1-c Kenneth Bond, who made the investigation, said. The trooper said the revolver and some of the money was returned. Both Kinna and Willard testified that the youth had made restitution for his share of the loot.

Kinna testified he is employed regularly by a shoe company at Thurmont, is a National Guardsman and attends church. Willard testified the youth had apologized to him several times for participating in the affair.

Mayor D. Saylor Weybright, Cashier Thomas E. Steffy of the Thurmont Bank; Dr. George Zinkham of Jimtown, and Edward P. Oden of Frederick, testified Kinna had an excellent reputation, was industrious and honest.

Judge Schnauffer, indicating that the testimony of the character witnesses had weighed heavily in Kinna's favor, warned the youth that if he got in further trouble, the same men couldn't come to court to testify in his favor again. It is up to the defendant to lead an exemplary life in the future, he said. Holden S. Felton was attorney for Kinna, and State's Attorney Charles U. Price appeared for the State.

## Railway's Revenues Up

The Western Maryland Railway estimates its net income for the 12 months of 1950 at \$5.3 million after taxes and charges. For the previous year, the company reported a net income of \$4 million.

## Local Tax Bill Seen Ready For Presentment

Emmitsburg's tax rate will soon become law, that is as far as the 15-cent sewer bond retirement tax becoming a permanent fixture is concerned. It was learned this week from Town Officials that the bill that would cause the 20-year tax to be come permanent, has been legally drawn up and is ready for presentment to the State Legislature in the near future.

The tax was levied 19 years ago in order to pay for the present town sewer system and will expire next year if the proposed bill now in the Legislature isn't passed.

At present Emmitsburg has the lowest tax rate, 50c, for its population, in Frederick County. The current rate is 35 cents on the \$100 and the additional increase of 15 cents will give it a permanent income of 50 cents.

Officials were quick to explain that if the bill is passed it will not mean an increase in the tax rate, but more than likely a decrease, if town expenses are able to stabilize themselves. The 15 cents will be added to the general fund and a large portion of that will go to maintenance of the Vigilant Hose Co., which in the past few years has seen operating costs rising sharply. Delegate Melvin Derr will present the bill shortly.

## Miss Cadle Bride of William Lower

Carolyn Edwards Cadle, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Cadle, Emmitsburg, became the bride of William Boyer Lower last Friday evening at the bride's home. Mr. Lower is the son of Mrs. Martha Boyer Lower and the late Donald E. Lower, Biglerville, Pa.

They were married by candlelight in a setting of magnolia leaves and white tulips in the presence of the immediate families.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of pusan lace and nylon net over satin. The gown was fashioned with a lace bodice and long sleeves pointed over the hand. The bouffant skirt of nylon net with matching lace insets had a short train. The bride wore a Juliet cap of matching lace with a fingertip veil. Her only jewelry, a pearl necklace, was a gift of the bridegroom. She carried a white orchid with lilies of the valley.

Miss Cadle's only attendant was Miss Phyllis Bower of Emmitsburg.

Robert Eicholtz of Biglerville, was best man.

The pastor of the bride, Rev. Adam Grim, performed the ceremony. Preceding the ceremony, Miss Shirley Hackenberg of Washington, D. C., sang "Be Mine."

The bride is a graduate of St. Joseph's High School and attended St. Joseph's College. She is a senior in the University of Maryland Hospital School of Nursing.

Mr. Lower, a graduate of Arendtsville High School and is a senior at the University of Maryland.

## RECOVERING FROM FALL

Mrs. Martha Alexander of near St. Anthony's, has returned home from the Gettysburg Hospital where she was a patient for the past month. Mrs. Alexander suffered a broken back in a fall the day before Christmas while on her way to work at St. Joseph's College, where she has been employed for the past 25 years.

Mrs. Alexander has recovered sufficiently to be able to be up and move about with the aid of a back brace.

Roughage is the basis of dairy cow feeding.

## POWER FAILURE DUE TO UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES

A combination of circumstances and coincidences termed "almost unbelievable" caused a general electric power failure throughout the Potomac Edison System early Tuesday afternoon.

While the low voltage conditions prevailed at varying times throughout the system, the Emmitsburg area was affected for approximately three quarters of an hour, beginning at 1:20 p. m., continuing until 2:05 o'clock.

A detailed explanation of the unusual power failure was given Tuesday evening by District Manager Robert L. Smith, in the following statement:

"As a result of an almost incredible series of circumstances the entire P-E System was either without power or suffered low voltage conditions for periods varying from 20 minutes to an hour and a half shortly after noon Tuesday.

"Only interconnections with neighboring utility companies prevented a much more serious situation.

"Shortly before one o'clock a steel crane operated by a contractor working on a Cumberland flood control project was swung into one of the company's 33,000-volt transmission lines. The resulting short circuit flashed back to the Cumberland power plant, disrupting equipment and throwing that plant off the line. The plant could function but power could not be put on the line. Within five minutes of the trouble at Cumberland a valve in a condensed steam line at the R. Paul Smith Plant at Williamsport blew up forcing the largest of the plant's three units to shut down.

"This amazing coincidence was further complicated by the fact that the company's third main power station at Riverton, Va., was shut down for routine inspection and repairs. As a result the entire P-E System was left dependent on the two older units at Williamsport and several small stand-by stations. These were unable to handle the System requirements for electricity and as voltage dropped it became necessary to cut off service until the interconnections with other companies could be brought into operation.

"Service was completely restored at approximately 2:40 p. m. Repairs at Williamsport were completed within a few hours and the Cumberland plant was back in service in a somewhat shorter time."

Company officials state that "no such combination of conditions has ever occurred previously in their experience and that such a coincidence is almost unbelievable."

They are most thankful for the interconnections with other companies which again proved their value, Mr. Smith said.

## Chimney Fire

The Vigilant Hose Co. responded Wednesday night to a chimney fire on the Jacob Adams farm tenanted by the Hartle family and located near the property of Charles Bollinger, Motters. Slight damage was reported.

## BANK CLOSED MONDAY

The Farmers State Bank, Center Square, along with other banks throughout Frederick County will close Monday in celebration of Lincoln's birthday. The banks will also close on Thursday, Feb. 22 in observance of the birthday of George Washington.

## Strikes Increase In 1950

The Labor Dept.'s Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the number of strikes in 1950 broke a four-year record. However, the Bureau says there was a 25 per cent drop in strike-caused idleness.

## Children Are Victims Of Kerosene Fire

Violent death snuffed out the lives of four district children early Tuesday night as the family was preparing the evening meal. The tragedy was the second of its type in the past three months, making a total of eight killed by fire since Dec. 3. Ironically, the disaster occurred about a half-mile from the conflagration that practically wiped out the George B. Wills family.

Explosion of a can of kerosene in the home of Charles Springer has resulted in the death of four of the Springer children.

Maryland State Trooper 1-c Kenneth Bond said that the catastrophe occurred when Mrs. Springer poured kerosene over some wet wood in the kitchen stove and the kerosene can exploded. Flaming kerosene was thrown over the children and the four ran out of the house.

Alice Springer, aged six, died at 9:30 o'clock Tuesday night at the Warner Hospital; Donald, aged nine, died at 3:57 Wednesday morning, and John, aged seven, died at 6:48 Wednesday morning. Gary, aged three, died at 1:50 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

According to Trooper Bond, nine children were in the kitchen with their mother when the explosion occurred. In addition to the four who were burned the others were: Mary Ellen, 18; Raymond, 14; Charlotte, 11; Virginia, 10, and William, five.

The mother, Mrs. Martha Springer, was making a fire in the kitchen stove in anticipation of the return of the father, Charles Springer Jr., from work at Magnus Metal, in Waynesboro, Pa.

Finding the wood wet, and believing that all coals in the stove were out, she poured some kerosene from a half-filled two-gallon can into the wood. The kerosene ignited and the explosion hurled the can from Mrs. Springer's hands and scattered flaming kerosene on the four smaller children.

The kerosene also set fire to curtains in the kitchen and to clothing of the children which had been placed near the stove when they returned from school.

Mrs. Springer, her daughter, Mary Ellen, and Charles Knott Jr., Thurmont Rt. 2, a lodger at the Springer home who is employed at night, dashed out into the yard after the fleeing, burning children. They beat out the flames and tore the clothes from the children.

The father arrived at the home a few moments after the catastrophe occurred.

A daughter-in-law, Mrs. Charles Springer Jr., who resides about an eighth of a mile from the home was notified by one of the children and went to the home of Martin Stouter to call a doctor and the Emmitsburg VFW ambulance.

Because of the bad condition of the roads near Annandale, in the mountains two miles southwest of Emmitsburg, the ambulance could not get closer than about three-quarters of a mile of the home. The adult members of the family carried the burned children down the icy roads to the ambulance and they were taken to the Warner Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.

The mother was treated at the Warner Hospital for extensive burns about the arms and hands. Mary Ellen Springer and Charles Knott were also treated for burns about the hands suffered when they beat out the fire on the children's clothes.

In addition to the children at home, Mr. and Mrs. Springer are parents of four others—13 in all. They are Charles Jr., Emmitsburg R.D.; Albert Springer; Doris, Catonsville; Betty, another daughter, was visiting at the time of the accident.

Dr. C. G. Crist, Adams County coroner, said the death of the children was due to first and second degree burns of the entire bodies.

The fatal burning occurred less than a mile from the home of George Bernard Wills, where a young mother and three children perished in a conflagration. Explosion of a kerosene stove was listed as the cause of that fire in which the mother and three children perished.

Funeral services will be held this morning at nine o'clock from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Fr. Michael J. O'Brien officiating. Interment in adjoining cemetery.

## SURPRISE PARTY HELD

A surprise birthday party was held last Saturday night by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Strine in honor of their niece, Miss Anna Bentz, on her 20th birthday.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Strine, Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Eckenrode, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bentz, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Crum, Miss Betty Smith, Robert Baumgardner, Miss Mabelle Carson, James Strine, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mathias, Miss Nancy Beegle, Glenn Gillespie, and Miss Anna Bentz.

## HONORED AT ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Quinzy Ovelman, Emmitsburg, were the guests of honor at a dinner held at their home last Sunday in observance of the couple's 49th wedding anniversary.

Attending the affair were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Reed, Hagers-town; Mr. and Mrs. James O. Hughes and daughter, Patricia, Baltimore; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Rodgers and daughter, Norma Jean, Taneytown; Grover Hughes, Taneytown, and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fitez, Emmitsburg.