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Just in - Montgomery

Members of the Montgomery County Board of Education will present the diplomas at the commencements of the various senior high schools of the county as follows, it was announced by Edwin W. Broome, county superintendent of schools: Monday, June 15—Richard Montgomery (Rockville), Thomas C. Darby; Damascus, Mrs. Julian B. Waters; Poolesville, Mrs. Daniel C. Walser. Tuesday, June 16—Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Dr. E. F. Kohman; Gaithersburg, Julius P. Stadler. Wednesday, June 17— Montgomery Blair (Silver Springs), George W. Davis.

Excavation work for the construction of an overpass at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad crossing at Rockville is underway and is being pushed. The structure, which is to be a single steel arch and to cost approximately $80,000, will be located about 200 yards south of the present grade crossing, where 14 Williamsport High School students were killed in April of last year. It is understood the work will be completed within four or five months.

The average payment to Montgomery County farmers for raising soil-conserving rather than soil-depleting crops will be $14.40 per acre, according to a schedule announced by Dr. T. B. Symons, director of the State extension service. The State average will be $12.30 per acre, about $2.30 higher than the average throughout the country. The average is established by estimating the value of 13 staple crops produced during the last 10 years. Maryland produces more valuable crops than the general aver- Dr. Symons explained.

The Rockville Christ Episcopal Church, through Canon A. B. Rudd, is giving housing space to the Works Progress Administration sewing room for about six weeks. The Farmer's Banking and Trust Company, through Mr. Green, President, gave two rooms in their building last winter. The Richard Montgomery High School will show its hospitality as soon as school is out. As the result of this generous community cooperation eighteen women, who help to earn their own and their families' living by making garments, bedding, etc., for families under the care of the MCWB, are able to go on working.

The County Commissioners approved the application for re-zoning a site known as the Dillon property, at Lincoln avenue, Kensington, near the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad tracks, changing it from residential to commercial classification.

Ira C. Whitacre, secretary, to the County Commissioners and Albert M. Bouic, newly appointed council to the board, have been authorized to arrange the sale of bonds to refund securities maturing between July 1 and October 1. The refunding operation involves $194,000.

HISTORIC MARKERS STOLEN

During the past few weeks vandals have begun to destroy and take away the historic markers erected through the efforts of Mr. J. Alexis Shriver, Director Historical Markers for the State Roads Commission, and already five have been taken from Charles and Prince George's Counties.

The Police Department of the District of Columbia has been actively at work endeavoring to check any junk dealers who might have received these markers from the vandals. (The markers being of aluminum are more valuable than they would be if they were of cast iron). The Police Department of Baltimore is issuing a circular to all junk dealers in an endeavor to locate any place where the markers may have been disposed of in Baltimore, and the State Police Department is also cooperating in an endeavor to see if any of these markers have been disposed of to junk dealers throughout the State.

As the State Roads Commission has placed approximately 200 of these markers throughout the entire State in the various counties, for the purpose of drawing tourists there to see the points of historic interest, which has been most successfully carried out in Virginia and other States, it is a matter of deep concern to each County that markers be erected.

Any information leading to the arrest and conviction of vandals who wish to destroy such valuable assets to the State should be promptly reported to the State Police Department or directly to the State Roads Commission, so that the matter can be followed up.

It should be a matter of pride to the residents of each community to help preserve historic spots, which are not only interesting to us but draw people from all over the United States into each community.

The markers which have been taken away are: "Araby," "Rose Hill," "Piscataway," "Governor Smallwood's House," "Haber de Venture," and the State Roads Commission is planning to erect about 25 additional markers this year.

KENSINGTON

Edward R. Saunders who has been a member of the Town Council for the past two years, was elected mayor of Kensington last Monday night. Mr. Saunders is thirty-five and the youngest mayor in the town's history. Thomas H. Tremearne and Edwin A. Noyes were elected to the Town Council. They will take office on July 1.

Mrs. Emmett Thompson of Fredericksburg, Virginia, has been visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Landick, Jr.

Mr. Welles Meriam has gone to Boston to attend the graduation exercises at Simmons College. His daughter, Miss Edith Meriam, will receive the degree of Bachelor of Science from the School of Library Science. Mr. Meriam will also visit his mother and his brother, Mr. Richard Meriam.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Henderson are sailing from Baltimore for Nassau, Bahama Islands, to visit the Rev. George A. Griffiths for several weeks.

Paul Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee, has been elected Chancellor of the Forest Glen Knights of Columbus. Mr. Lee is the youngest man ever honored with the office.

CELEBRATION JUNE 11 AT HOME FOR AGED

Several thousand persons from all parts of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, which includes more than 600 churches in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, are expected to attend the celebration June 11 of the tenth anniversary of the Methodist Home for the Aged in Gaithersburg.

The afternoon program will include addresses by prominent ministers, music by the combined choirs of churches of Washington and vicinity, a concert by the band of the National Training School for Boys and other features. Payment of $10,000 on the debt of the home, which has already been raised by Supt. Herman M. Wilson, will climax the afternoon program.

In the evening guests of the home will render a program and motion pictures will be shown on the lawn. Following the afternoon program, refreshments will be served.

WATER PLANT DEDICATED

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's new 10,000,000-gallon filter plant and pumping station at Burnt Mills was dedicated in honor of the late Robert B. Morse at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Morse, former chief engineer of the commission, designed the plant which bears his name, but lived to see it only about three-fourths finished.

All Prince Georges and Montgomery County officials and civic leaders, most of whom knew him personally, were invited to the dedication. The public also was invited.

Dr. Robert H. Riley, chairman of the Maryland State Board of Health, and Dr. John Gregory, adviser to the commission, were the principal speakers. T. Howard Duckett, chairman of the commission, presided.

During the exercises a tablet in memory of Morse was unveiled on the main building of the plant.

Mr. Morse pioneered in a new field when he designed the concentric filters used in the plant. Each is of 5,000,000 gallons a day capacity. The first has been in operation more than a year. The second has not yet been placed in operation.

After the dedication exercises visitors were escorted on an inspection tour of the plant which is the largest engineering project ever developed in Montgomery County and provides a system of water filtration said to be the equal of the finest in the world.

Hardest Resin

The hardest resin known is made from amber.

LEE DENIES ROAD BODY BROKE LAW

E. Brooke Lee, former member of the State Roads Commission, who was criticized by the State Survey Commission in its report on the roads commission, said that he had offered to appear before the investigating body when it was collecting roads commission data, but that his offer had been ignored.

Mr. Lee, who was a member of the State Roads Commission from April 30, 1931, to May 2, 1934, said that the survey commission's charge of actions by the roads commission "contrary to law" is a "general and indiscriminate accusation hurled at the previous Democratic State Roads Commissions by a partisan political survey commission.

"I am certain that the Roads Commission did not break any laws while I was a member of that State agency.

"The 1933 regular session of the Legislature changed the allowance of most of the State gasoline money from the previous basis of road mileage to distribution based on population. Under this change Montgomery County shared proportionately with Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties, which are other thickly populated counties that contain metropolitan districts, and with Allegany County, which includes the city of Cumberland, etc.

"In connection with State roads funds deposited in Montgomery County banks during the banking holiday of 1933, both Montgomery County banks in which State roads funds were deposited opened 100 per cent after the bank holiday. The State Roads Commission funds were covered by the pledge of adequate amount of bonds. The deposits were withdrawn during my term as a member of the State Roads Commission. No State Roads Commission funds were ever impounded or lost in any Montgomery County bank.

"My expense accounts were always submitted in complete, itemized detail and were approved for disbursements as other routine expenses were approved."

GIANT STANDPIPE TO BE ERECTED

The largest standpipe in the suburban district of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties is to be erected at Greenbelt, Maryland, a feature of the Resettlement Administration's housing project. The standpipe will have acapacity of 2,000,000 gallons and will cost about $45,000 and normally would have to be financed through a Sanitary Commission bond issue. The structure will be turned over to the Sanitary Commission upon completion. Water mains are now being laid to Greenbelt and connection will be made through an extension of the Edmonston road mains.

The Commission is also extending the Rock Creek trunk sewer from the East-West Highway to Connecticut Avenue, a $100,000 P. W. A. project.

Other big items on the Commission's $423,000 P. W. A. pjrogram to be completed this Summer include the extension of its lines from Four Corners to Kensington and from Cheverly to Lanham. Both will be begun soon, according to Mr. Hall. The Cheverly-Lanham project will be utilized for the extension to the Glenn Dale Sanitarium, he explained.

As evidence of the continuance of the building boom in the suburban area, Mr. Hall said the Commission is making from 60 to 80 new house connections a week. About 100 more connections have been made this year than in 1935 to date, and many more miles of subdivision water and sewer lines laid.

The commission recently authorized a 2-mile extension of the Blair Road main to Hillandale in Montgomery County.

FUSIONISTS SPLIT OVER RELIEF ISSUE

A split in the fusion bloc of the Board of Montgomery County Commissioners was responsible for the abolition of the Department of Public Welfare.

With his two fusionist colleagues voting against him, Charles E. King, Rockville, introduced the successful motion to vote the county agency out of existence and restore the office of supervisor. King was supported by the Democratic members, Richard H. Lansdale and Robert D. Hagner.

The commissioners' action settled an issue in dispute for some time. Some contended the functions of the agencies overlapped, causing much unnecessary duplication and superfluous expense, while others supported the Department of Public Welfare's existence on grounds that the county goverment should have independent jurisdiction over its relief matters. The department administered only county funds, while the board handled Federal and State relief grants.

The board's action does not affect the county poorhouse, which will remain an independent agency, with King as director, receiving a $600 annual salary.

Longest Texas Longhorns

The record length of Texas longhorns is believed to be a pair possessed by a curio store in San Antonio, Texas. It has a total length from tip to tip of 8 feet 1½ inches. Measuring along the horns, they are over 9 feet.

All Sorts of Muskets in Use During Revolution

In the American Revolutionary war the battling patriots of the new world carried all sorts of muskets, and a few were armed with the long rifle, later known as the Kentucky rifle. At Bunker Hill the British troops carried smoothbore muskets, and the farmers and militiamen who faced them likewise were armed with smoothbores, with the likelihood that a few of the last named carried the rifle that had been introduced into this country by German immigrants.

The smoothbore musket of the revolution, and the weapon with which a majority of Washington's troops were armed, was the French Charleville musket, says a writer in the Chicago Tribune. It had a maximum range of about 880 yards, or a half mile, and an accurate range of about 100 yards. If a soldier could hit a man or a horse at 100 yards with his musket he was considered a good shot, the order of the officers to the men then invariably being to "wait until you see the whites of the enemies' eyes." The long rifle, on the other hand, a weapon in existence at that time, had a maximum range, with a full charge of powder, of about 1,320 yards, or three-quarters of a mile, and was accurate up to 150 to 200 yards, depending entirely upon who was doing the shooting. Some of the most skillful of the marksmen of that time could shoot the old long rifle accurately at a distance of even more than 200 yards.

Close Weaving Is an Art Common With Araucanians

Araucanian textiles are beautiful examples of the craft. They are closely woven and have a deep, rich nap. They are prized also for their characteristic designs, the blending of colors and the quality of their dyes. It is well to know quality, however, for aniline dyes have in recent years gained some favor with the natives and replaced to some extent the vegetable coloring used for centuries.

Close weaving is an art which nature forced upon the Araucanians, states a writer in the Washington Star. Persistent rains at certain seasons of the year have led them to fashion cloth and robes as waterproof as possible. A variety of colors and striking patterns, make the garments gay and lovely.

Ponchos usually are woven with stripes or rectilinear designs. Sometimes a Greek cross forms the center of the pattern, and others have small squares with zig-zag sides. The background is usually blue or black and in bringing out the pattern, the Indians use a method which has been followed for generations. Upon the wool that is to remain white, the craftsman ties strips of leather or resistant vegetable fiber. After the dyeing is completed, the coating is removed.

Mistletoe First State Flower

The mistletoe was the first state flower to be chosen, Oklahoma making the choice in 1893. Since that time many states have chosen flowers and have changed from one flower to another. Selections have been made by vote of the school children, by vote of the state legislatures and some stand by general adoption. A national flower still remains to be chosen, the dogwood, rose, mountain laurel, daisy, columbine and golden rod having been suggested. The wild rose was chosen for the United States by vote of the readers of Nature Magazine, but no flower has been officially selected. The rose is very popular in state-naming lists, the District of Columbia selecting the American Beauty rose, Iowa and North Dakota, the wild rose, New York, the rose, and Georgia, the Cherokee rose.—Detroit News.

The Brown Thrasher

Graceful and alert, his reddish brown back, head, tail and wings make him blend into his surroundings so well that the sly Brown Thrasher is often overlooked. There are some black markings across the upper part of the wings. This black is bordered with white, so that two white bars seem to extend across each wing. The side of his head is light yellow-gray. The eye is pale yellow. The throat, breast and other underparts are pale gray, tinted with light brown. The undermarkings are black. His feet are brownish gray, and the beak is dull blackish brown. The Brown Thrasher ranks with the mockingbird as a songster.—Indianapolis News.

Violin Has Not Changed

While every other musical instrument of the modern orchestra, with the organ and piano, have undergone such changes in construction as almost to make them different instruments, the violin has not changed for the better in the last 300 years. Amati, Stradivarius, Guarnerius, and the others, found the perfect model, and although many attempts have been made to improve on it, they have resulted in failure. The Cremona type became the class model for the violin and it is accepted as such, universally.

May Be Cause of 'Quakes

Scientists believe that earthquakes are very rarely due to volcanic explosions below ground. We live on the solid crust of the earth, which is some forty miles thick and continually subject to slow earth movements. These put the earth's crust into a state of strain, which increases until it becomes too great at one point for the strength of the rock to resist. Then there is a sudden slip or rupture, which appears on the surface as an earthquake.

Degrees for Presidents

Forty-nine American universities and colleges have conferred degrees on Presidents. Collegiate honoring of Presidents began with George Washington and has continued almost uninterruptedly.

Stop on Your Troubles

Jud Tunkins says troubles are like colds. It's unfair to scatter 'em around among innocent bystanders.

AVERAGE NET WORTH OF FAMILIES RISES

Special Survey Shows Home Mortages Reduced.

Minneapolis.—The average insured family has 80 per cent more cash in the bank today than it had in 1933, and has reduced the mortgage on its home by 10 per cent in the same two-year period, according to a survey of 10,000 policy holder families, by the Northwestern National Life Insurance company of Minneapolis.

An average reserve of $356 per family of cash on hand and in banks, was reported as of the spring of 1933 in response to the insurance company's questionnaire; this compares with $464 per family at the present time, an increase of $108, or 30 per cent.

A reduction in the size of the average mortgage from $3,464 in 1933 to $3,110 in 1935 was shown in the reports. Approximately 49 per cent of the policy holders investigated were home owners; the average home valuation was $5,301. Half of the homes owned were clear of encumbrance; the remaining 50 per cent were mortgaged.

The average amount of life insurance owned per family was $7,710 in 1933, and $8,199 in 1935, an increase of 6.3 per cent.

The average net worth of each family, including equity in home but exclusive of life insurance, was $2,953 in the spring of 1933, and had risen to $3,440 two years later, the survey showed, an increase in average wealth of 16 per cent. The 10,000 families were selected at random from policy holder lists.

A special survey of urban housing conducted in 61 cities by the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce showed a reduction in the average mortgage on owner-occupied homes of 3.29 per cent from 1933 to 1934. The fact that the reduction for the two years from '33 to '35 totaled 10.22 per cent in the insurance company's survey would seem to indicate that the average family is paying off its obligations at an increasingly rapid rate, the report concludes.

Common House Fly Found to Carry Million Germs

New York.—Two scientists recently examined 400 house flies to determine how important that common insect really is in the spread of germs. Securing flies from all sorts of places they found that the average number of bacteria carried per fly was more than 1,000,000, reports the American Institute of Sanitation.

"Under the microscope the fly appears like an animated feather duster. The legs and body are covered with fine hairs which carry countless germs from place to place. Each of its six legs have two hairy pads in which a sticky fluid is secreted. By means of these adhesive pads on its feet a fly can perform the novel trick of walking upside down on a ceiling. But those pads, so useful to the fly in defying gravitation, pick up all sorts of bacteria as the scavenger walks along.

"A single fly may alight on a dozen objects in a few minutes and leave an unseen trail of germs that would be appalling if made visible to the eye of a housewife. Yet it is easy to demonstrate scientifically that a housefly literally sheds germs with every step he takes."

Confederates Rejected Man Who Lived Century

Nashville, Tenn.—Too frail for the Confederate army, William M. Bess, Nashville citizen, was not too frail for the battle of life. He died at the age of one hundred, just 21 days before his one hundred and first birthday.

Full of vigor until the last days of his life, Bess was able to take a daily walk of about three-quarters of a mile. Until three years ago, he would "walk down to Nashville," a distance of nearly 12 miles, whenever he took "a notion."

When the Civil war broke out, Bess volunteered, but because whooping cough and measles had settled in his lungs, he was ruled too frail.

Chinese Girl Student Wins Maine Scholarship

Orono, Maine.—The University of Maine's School of Education held a scholarship contest.

First prize in English went to Miss Mary Chin Heung. Both her parents were born in China. She was born in Portland 17 years ago. Not only a good scholar, she stars, too, in baseball, basketball and field hockey.

Find Many Mental Ills Among Workers

Dallas, Texas.—Fully 50 per cent of all persons employed in American industries suffer form varying degrees of emotional or mental ill health, according to Dr. H. L. Pritchett, professor of sociology at Southern Methodist university.

Many men and women who are highly successful in business and are entirely rational, nonetheless suffer from emotional maladjustment, Pritchett said.

Relatively few people are engaged in the type of work they really wish to follow, he said. Most people are engaged as they are because of compulsion or circumstance.

First Railroad in Ohio

The first railroad in Ohio, which ran from Adrian, Mich., to Toledo, was fostered by our northern neighbor, the Wolverine state. At the outset there was little confidence in the success of the enterprise. It was described in the Michigan legislature, which granted the charter, as merely "a fanciful scheme that could do no harm and would greatly please certain citizens of Toledo."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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Beginning of Volley Ball

Volley ball was invented in 1895 by William G. Morgan, then physical director of Holyoke (Mass.) Y. M. C. A. He created the game to supply the need for a gymnasium sport that was competitive, yet not combative. A tennis net and a rubber bladder, taken from a basketball, were the crude implements originally used. The game was intended for middle-aged men who could not indulge in a strenuous sport like basketball. It is now an "all-ages" sport, the boys having speeded it up so much that the action is little short of cyclonic. Women also play the game.

Fire Most Disastrous

A serious fire is about the most disastrous thing that can happen to a business. Out of every 100 industrial and commercial companies whose buildings burn, only 57 attempt to survive and 40 of this number suffer greatly from a heavily reduced credit rating or a substantial loss in income.—Colliers' Weekly.

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The "Torch" Song

Webster's International dictionary recognizes the word by defining a torch song as "a popular, sentimental song of unrequitted love; hence, a torch singer." One explanation is that the phrase is based on an old saying that when a jilted lover is pining for the loved one he is "carrying a torch" for her. Songs designated as torch songs are "blues."

Earliest Sponge Rubber

Probably the earliest mention of sponge rubber is in British patent No. 13103, issued to William Edward Newton, Middlesex, England, in 1850. The sponge rubber was made by mixing raw sugar, resins, or other materials, with the rubber prior to vulcanization, and was used for shoe soles and for other purposes in connection with footwear.

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