

## EQUINUNK IS SCENE OF BLOODY TRAGEDY

### John Drum Plunges a Basket Maker's Knife Into Albert Billings, Inflicting a Supposedly Fatal Wound--Both Men Were Intoxicated.

### Drum Was Promptly Arrested by the Town's Constable and Began Singing "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand, All Other Ground is Sinking Sand"--The Wounded Man Removed to Port Jervis Hospital and Landed in Jail--Motive for Deed Not Understood at Present.

As the result of a stabbing affray in the bar room of Bleck's Hotel, Equinunk, Wayne county, Pa., Saturday evening at 6 o'clock, Albert Billings, aged 32 years, is lying at the point of death in the Port Jervis hospital as the result of being stabbed by a basketmaker's knife in the hands of John Drum, aged about 50 years.

Billings' condition is critical and when a Citizen representative called up the Port Jervis hospital, Monday, it was stated that peritonitis had set in and that the patient could not recover.

The wound was an ugly three-cornered one. The knife sliced was nine inches long and tapered to a point, but unlike a scalpel. As the knife was thrust into Billings by Drum it was given a turn, the knife cutting the intestines in three different places. The intestines were sewed up on Sunday morning after the patient's arrival at Port Jervis. Mr. Billings rallied shortly afterwards but soon lapsed into a semi-coma condition, peritonitis having developed. His death is expected momentarily.

Billings and Drum were enjoying themselves during the greater part of Saturday. During the afternoon Billings went to "Billy" Bleck's hotel, where he was met about quarter to six by Drum, who came from the hill section. The two men, according to Landlord Bleck, who was interviewed by a Citizen representative at the Allen House Monday noon, started a conversation and Billings exclaimed, "Now, Johnny, I have a notion to wrestle you." Drum, Mr. Bleck stated, kept saying, "Don't do it, don't do it." The two men clinched and it was necessary for Bleck to step from behind the bar to where the men were engaged wrestling. He separated them and then returned to his bar location.

The two men, according to Mr. Bleck, seemed to rush toward each other and then away again. This is when the stabbing occurred, but Mr. Bleck said he was not aware of the fact after the man fell. Dr. Frisbie was called to dress the wound but he stated it was a hospital case and that the man should be sent to Port Jervis at once. It was disclosed by Dr. Frisbie, according to the cut, that the knife was thrust in the back and then given a turn, which made a three-cornered cut. Billings was made as comfortable as possible by Dr. Frisbie before he was sent to Port Jervis on No. 14 of the Erie. He arrived at that city early Sunday morning and was given immediate attention.

Constable J. W. Harford, of Equinunk, was summoned and arrested Drum under arrest ten minutes after the affray. He was taken in hand cuffs. Drum was kept in custody in Bleck's Hotel Monday when Constable Harford, after Drum was given a hearing, started for Honesdale with his prisoner. After the arrest of Drum, who is a fanatic on religion, started to sing, "On Christ the Solid Rock on Which I Stand, All Other Ground is Sinking Sand." He rambled in his conversation and did not know what he had done.

Billings and Drum married wives who were cousins. From a conversation of the people living at Equinunk it is alleged there was some feeling of long standing existing between the two men and that it came to a climax on Saturday.

Drum besides being a basket maker also was a stone mason.

## COURT HOUSE NEWS

### Cases of Interest Transpiring in the Hall of Justice and Recorded in Wayne County's Different Offices--Reported by a Representative of The Citizen.

#### The Gray Case.

In the matter of the appointment of a guardian for the person and estate of Mary M. Gray of Wayne and State of Pennsylvania, Edgar W. Ross having been appointed guardian on the 11th day of December, 1913, this hearing is for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the bond, testimony taken which touched the merits of the case as well. The first witness was called by M. J. Hanlan, Esq. John E. Richmond, being called and sworn, said that he had known Mary Gray for a period of twenty years, and that she had been a person of considerable mental capacity as to her estate, that he had traveled with her in California, and knew her very well, that he had seen her late-

ly and conversed with her, and judging from her conversation and her acts she had considerably weakened in her state of mind, that is, she no longer possesses the power to grasp present situations. Her age is about seventy years. When asked his opinion, Mr. Richmond said he did not think she was able to care for her own property and direct investments, and that she is liable to become the victim of designing persons and to unreasonably dissipate her estate.

Mrs. Haroun was next called. She had been the nurse for more than a year. Had occasion to observe her acts, and to converse with her. I know she is not capable to handle her own property and would be easily influenced by the right person. Not everyone could influence her. Some

designing person might cause her to dissipate and to lose her property. Her age I think is about seventy-six.

Dr. Frederick W. Powell was the next witness sworn. Have been her attending physician for some time. Have noticed her condition and mental attitude, and would say that it is some changed from the time when I was first called on her case. I saw her about a week ago and considered at that time she was mentally deranged. She is not a fit person to handle her estate and is apt to become the victim of designing persons. She is apt to dissipate and to squander her estate.

Mr. Robert H. Gray was the next witness called. He testified that he was a nephew of Mary N. Gray and that he had known her ever since he was small, and that her mental condition is at present very weak. She is not able to look after her estate. At the time of her husband's death her estate amounted to \$55,000 and her monthly income amounted to \$350. Now the amount of her estate is about \$26,000 with an income of only about \$150 per month, the same having been dissipated and squandered to the extent of the difference, and in my opinion her estate is liable to be dissipated, squandered and lost if a guardian had not been appointed.

Mr. Horace Menner was also sworn. He stated that he had known Mrs. Gray for some time and knew that she had become feeble in mind as well as in body and that she might become the victim of designing persons.

Bond was fixed in the amount of \$5,000 with the understanding that the amount should be increased as the amount in the hands of the guardian increased.

The trial list for the January term was made up on Monday.

#### Lebanon Township Supervisor.

Resignation of Raymond C. Dennis from the office of supervisor, presented to court. The resignation shows that by reason of the uncertainty of his election and desiring to obviate any doubt as to the same, his office is vacated and in order to validate the same the appointment of his successor is asked for. A petition is presented by a large number of taxpayers of Lebanon township asking for the appointment by court of the said Raymond C. Dennis. A vacancy in said office is declared by the court and the appointment made as prayed for.

## BIG RUSH AT POST OFFICE

Never in the history of the Honesdale postoffice has there been such a rush of business as was experienced during the four days preceding Christmas and including that day. The holiday mail received and dispatched was a record-breaker, there being about 8,000 packages sent out of Honesdale and fully as many delivered in the town. The remarkable part of it was that all the work was executed by the present efficient corps of clerks in the office. Just before Christmas two teams were obtained to deliver the parcel post packages to the patrons. Virtually, only one outside carrier and team was employed to deliver the congested mail. Every package that was received up to 10 o'clock Christmas morning at the postoffice was out at that time.

On Monday, December 22nd, 3,500 packages were received at the general delivery window and sent to their various destinations. Deputy Postmaster C. J. Kelly informed a Citizen representative that as many packages came from out-of-town upon that day. On Tuesday 2,000 parcels were received and on Wednesday 1,000. Packages sent the 19th and 20th make a grand total of about 8,000 in five days.

The receipts for the five days of rush were as follows: December 19, \$152.00; 20th, \$60.00; 22nd, \$25.75; 23rd, \$151.00; 24th, \$72.00. Other packages mailed for Christmas brought the total receipts up to \$800. The average package sent cost 5 cents to mail.

The parcel post packages was only a small part of the regular business at the post office. In addition to the large influx of Christmas presents sent in care of Uncle Sam, there were thousands of post cards and letters distributed.

Postmaster M. B. Allen is to be congratulated upon having so efficient and competent a corps of employees, who by systematizing their work, accomplished as much as a double office force. Each and every man (and lady too, for we do not intend to overlook the capable money order clerk) stuck to his post from early morning until late at night during the rush. Postmaster Allen thanked his corps in a most gratifying manner for the sagacious performance of their respective duties.

#### MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Edward Lockwood ..... Honesdale  
Edna Moulter ..... Seelyville  
Roland J. Reynolds ..... Honesdale  
Florence Schoell ..... Honesdale  
Harry Buchanan ..... Preston  
Vida Richards ..... Starrucca  
Charles Menner ..... Honesdale  
Minnie Reese ..... Honesdale  
Martin Yepsen ..... Damascus  
Hazel M. Dennis ..... Damascus

#### A. B. BROWN MARRIED.

A. B. Brown, aged 70 years, of Rileyville, and Mrs. Emma Walter, 56, of Honesdale, were married on Saturday by Rev. Dr. Swift at the Presbyterian manse.

## CURRENCY BILL SIGNED

Washington.—President Wilson signed the Glass-Owen currency bill at 6:01 o'clock Tuesday night in the presence of members of his cabinet, the congressional committees on banking and currency and Democratic leaders in congress generally.

With a few strokes of the pen, the president converted into law the measure to be known as the federal reserve act, reorganizing the nation's banking and currency system, and furnishing, in the words of the president, "the machinery for free and elastic and uncontrolled credits, put at the disposal of the merchants and manufacturers of this country for the first time in fifty years."

An enthusiastic applause ran through the ceremony not only as the president affixed his signature but as he delivered an extemporaneous speech characterizing the desire of the administration to take common counsel with the business men of the country and the latter's efforts to meet the government's advances as "the constitution of peace."

The event came at the close of a day of rejoicing in the national capital for congress had recessed for two weeks for the first time since it convened last April. The Democratic leaders were jubilant because they had completed two big pieces of legislation—the tariff and currency reform, in nine months—a performance which they considered unprecedented in the history of the country.

"I need not tell you," said the president to the assembled group as he took up his pen, "that I feel a very deep gratification at being able to sign this bill and I feel that I ought to express very heartily the admiration I have for the men who have made it possible for me to sign this bill. There have been currents and counter-currents, but the stream has moved forward. I think that we owe special admiration to the patience and the leadership and skill and the force of the chairman of the two committees; and behind them have stood the committees themselves exercising a degree of scrutiny and of careful thought in this matter which undoubtedly has redounded to the benefit of the bill itself."

Evidence of Team Work. Then there has grown, as we have advanced with this business and the great piece of business which preceded it, evidences of team work that to my mind have been very notable indeed. Only constructive action, only the action which accomplishes something, fills men with the enthusiasm of co-operation and I think that at this session of congress we have witnessed an accumulating pleasure and enthusiasm on the part of the membership in both houses in seeing substantial and lasting things accomplished.

"It is a matter of real gratification to me that in the case of this bill there should have been so considerable a number of Republican votes cast for it. All great measures under our system of government are of necessity party measures, for the party of the majority is responsible for their origination and their passage; but this cannot be called a partisan measure.

"As for the bill itself, I feel that we can say that it is the first of a series of constructive measures by which the Democratic party will show that it knows how to serve the country. In calling it the first of a series of conservation measures, I need not say that I am not casting any reflections on the great tariff bill which preceded it. The tariff bill was meant to remove those impediments to American industry and prosperity which had so long stood in their way. It was a great piece of preparation for the achievements of American commerce and American industry which are certain to follow. Then there came upon the heel of it this bill which furnished the machinery for free and elastic and uncontrolled credits, put at the disposal of the merchants and manufacturers of this country for the first time in fifty years. I was refreshing my memory on the passage of the national bank act which came in two pieces, as you know in February of 1863 and in June of 1864."

Four Gold Pens Used. Four gold pens were used by the president in writing the bill into law. He wrote the words "23, December 1913, approved," with one and used three pens in writing "Woodrow Wilson," splitting the first name into two syllables. The last three pens he presented to Senator Owen, Representative Glass and Secretary McAdoo, co-authors of the measure. The president answered the curiosity of the crowd as to the disposition of the fourth with the laughing remark: "This is the 40 per cent. gold reserve."

#### QUIET WEDDING.

Miss Edna Moulter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moulter, of Seelyville, and Edward Lockwood, of this place, were quietly married at Grace Episcopal church Christmas night, Rev. A. L. Whitaker performing the ceremony. After the wedding a supper was enjoyed at the bride's home. Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood left Thursday morning for Binghamton, N. Y., where they will spend a short honeymoon. The bride is one of Seelyville's popular young women and her many friends in that place and Honesdale wish her a most happy wedded life. Mr. Lockwood is highly spoken of and is in the employ of the American Knitting Mill, Honesdale.

#### Death of Millard Fuller.

Millard Fuller, fourteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Fuller, died on Wednesday last at the home of his parents at East Honesdale of diabetes. The funeral was held on Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock from the house. Rev. C. C. Miller officiating. Interment was made in Riverdale cemetery.

## DEATH AND BURIAL OF MRS. E. A. PENNIMAN.

When Mrs. E. A. Penniman died on Friday morning last at her home on upper Main street, there passed from the Wayne county scroll the last person bearing the Penniman name.

Mrs. Penniman was Anna, daughter of the late Alanson Blood. She was born in Honesdale on September 27, 1833, in a building now standing and situated nearly opposite the E. A. Penniman residence. Honesdale was her world, and that part of it in the vicinity where she was born was her special corner of the round earth.

Mrs. Penniman suffered from the same disease that caused the death of her husband, angina pectoris, a very painful disorder of the heart. She was stricken with what proved to be the final attack when her husband's condition became such that it was evident he would not recover. She became unable to leave her bed, and was not present when his body was committed to its final resting place. She is survived by a sister, Miss Mary Blood, who made her home with the Pennimans.

Miss Anna Blood became the bride of E. A. Penniman May 18, 1860. The golden wedding anniversary was observed three years ago last May. The wedded life of Mr. and Mrs. Penniman is spoken of as being of a very happy nature. No children were born to them; but the attachment to their nieces and nephews was as close as that of the nearer ties that parents evince towards their own offspring. Only twenty days intervened between the death of Mr. Penniman and that of his wife. They lived for each other, and constantly sought each other's happiness. It seems peculiarly touching that they should be called from earth with such a short interval marking the period of separation.

The funeral was held at the Penniman residence on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Rev. W. H. Swift, of the Presbyterian church, of which both Mrs. Penniman and her husband were members, officiating. The pall-bearers were: E. B. Hardenbergh, J. W. Welch, H. S. Salmon, J. E. Richmond, Norman Farnham and C. E. Dodge.

For a quarter of a century Mr. Penniman and the subject of this sketch sang in the Presbyterian choir. There was a large attendance of those who were desirous of paying respect to the memory of one who had a kind heart and whose genial smile greeted a large circle of friends. The day was bright and beautiful, and as the funeral cortege wound its way to Glen Dyberry cemetery for the last rites pertaining to the committal of the mortal remains to the dust, many thought what the poet Young so beautifully expresses in the lines—

"Men drop so fast, ere life's mid stage we tread,  
Few know so many friends alive as dead."

#### BOY SCOUT BANQUET.

The local troop of Boy Scouts had the time of their lives at their banquet which was served by Mrs. Wm. F. Briggs last Saturday night. The menu was one of her very best and occupied the attention of the boys for two hours.

Mortimer Stocker, as toastmaster, was greatly appreciated. His address at the close of the dinner will be remembered by the Scouts all their lives. He spoke of the time when all would be scattered to the four corners of the earth, of the things that would stay in the memories and be of lasting good, of the wonderful value of scouting in preparing the boy to meet the emergencies that he meets up with when he starts out among strangers. He paid high tribute to the interest and close friendship which has been shown to every member of the Troop by Scoutmaster E. G. Jenkins, remarking that since he has been at Lafayette College he has realized many times the truth of the remarks of Judge Lindsay at the Chautauqua last summer, in appreciation of the work of the Jenkins brothers among the boys of Honesdale.

The toast by Earl Herbert was a masterly eulogy of the local Scouts and the organization, emphasizing the strong brotherly feeling that exists among the boys.

Clarence Bodie had the boys in an uproar of laughter during his speech. Earl Transue, Louis Dryer and John Riefler offered after dinner speeches that were greatly enjoyed.

The songs by Robert Heft in costume and several readings by Miss Marie Freeman of Carbondale, who presided at the piano during the evening, were the top line features of the occasion.

Scout Master E. G. Jenkins then closed the first banquet of Honesdale Troop No. 1 with a few words of appreciation of the loyalty and friendship which has been extended to him by each boy during the nearly three years since the organization of the Troop.

It was a most impressive sight—those twenty young men, over half of them six feet tall, standing about the table bowing reverently while Scout Master E. G. Jenkins gave thanks for all the good things that have come to this troop, and besought Almighty God to look with favor upon each member that they might become worthy to follow the Divine Scout of Galilee.

#### DODGE FAMILY REUNION.

Christmas day members of the Dodge family met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel K. Dodge on Grove street for a reunion. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Nelson E. Bigelow, of Niagara; Mrs. Jacob Leippe, of Binghamton, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Buel Dodge, of Waymart, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Dodge of Honesdale.

Alfred L. Schuller of Upper Montclair, N. J., arrived on Saturday to spend a few days with his mother and sister on Hyberry Place.

## \$25,000,000 FIRST MORTGAGE FILED HERE

Big Issue Represents Five Per Cent. Sinking Fund Gold Bonds of the Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Power Company—Guarantee Trust Company of New York, Trustee for the Bonds.

One of the largest mortgages on record in Wayne county was filed on Monday with Register and Recorder W. B. Leshner, representing a first mortgage, fifty years five per cent. sinking fund gold bonds of \$25,000,000.

The document consisted of 68 pages and will make about 30 pages in the mortgage book. It was signed by E. B. Hamlin, president, and Lawrence H. Walters secretary of the Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey Power company and by William C. Cox, vice-president, and E. Hubbard, secretary of the Guarantee Trust Company of New York.

This is evidence that the Paupack at Hawley will be harnessed. A lake 17 miles long, extending from Wilkesville to Forks bridge, and nearly three miles wide in some places, covering an acreage of 5,860.

#### "EVERY BOY'S LIBRARY."

National headquarters of the Boy Scouts appointed a Library Commission, composed of leading librarians from all over the country, to choose from juvenile publications books to be issued in uniform binding and designated as "Every Boy's Library, Boy Scout Edition."

In selecting the books, the Commission has chosen only such as are of interest to boys, the first twenty-five being either works of fiction or stirring stories of adventurous experiences. In later lists, books of a more serious sort will be included. It is hoped that as many as twenty-five may be added to the Library each year.

A list of the books follows: Baby Elton, Quarter-Back, Leslie W. Quick.

The Blazed Trail, Stewart Edward White. Buccaneers and Pirates of our Coasts, Frank R. Stockton.

The Call of the Wild, Jack London. Cab and Caboose, Kirk Munroe. College Years, Ralph D. Palne. Crooked Trails, Frederick Remington.

The Cruise of the Cachalot, F. T. Bullen. From Cattle Ranch to College, Russell Doubleday.

Jim Hutton, James B. Connolly. The Horseman of the Plains, Joseph A. Altsheler.

The Jester of St. Timothy's, Arthur Stanwood Pier. Jim Davis, John Blasefield.

A Midshipman in the Pacific, Cyrus Townsend Brady. Pitching in a Pinch, Christy Mathewson.

The Rancho on the Oxhide, Henry Inman. Redney McGaw, Arthur E. McFarlane.

Three Years Behind the Guns, L. G. T. Tom Paulding, Brander Mathews. Tommy Remington's Battle, Burton E. Stevenson.

Tecumseh's Young Braves, Everett T. Tomlinson. Tom Strong, Washington's Scout, Alfred Bishop Mason.

Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson. Wells Brothers: The Young Cattle Kings, Andy Adams.

Yankee Ships and Yankee Sailors, James Barnes. Prof. H. A. Oday has purchased the entire list for the Honesdale Library and they may be secured free by any boy holding a card.

This is undoubtedly the best list of books yet compiled and the boys of Honesdale will greatly enjoy the privilege of reading them.

## FISH COMMISSIONER BULLER IN HONESDALE

Nathan R. Buller, State Fish Commissioner of Harrisburg, met the representatives of the glass industry in Honesdale and White Mills and also Birdsall Bros., of Seelyville, at the Allen House last Friday evening. The chief object of Commissioner Buller's visit was to notify the representatives of industries located on the Dyberry and Lackawaxen rivers to stop the pollution of these streams by emptying refuse from their respective factories into the water.

Mr. Buller suggested the building of cisterns on the premises thus allowing the acid of the glass factories to percolate through the ground and not come directly into contact with the fish of the stream. Birdsall Bros. large factories are also extensively used to carry away dyeing and wash waters. This firm will feel the change harder than the others.

Judge Birdsall informed the Citizen by phone on Monday that the meeting referred to above was sought by interested parties who desired to learn what they are expected to do in regard to stream pollution. He said it is merely a matter of time when nothing of an offensive nature will be placed in the streams of the county, as all factories now complained of desire to live strictly within the law, both written and unwritten, as far as they possibly can do so.

#### HONESDALE AFORDS OPPORTUNITIES.

Honesdale spells opportunity for the manufacturer living in crowded city districts.

"Made in Honesdale" is a valuable asset to any industry locating here. In view of the fact that there are nearly 50 industries in Honesdale, it is evident that the "made in Honesdale" asset is invaluable to the manufacturing interests of the town.