

OUR TOWN

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Send all advertising and news items to P. O. Box 966.

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OUR TOWN will gladly print any news item about any subject that is of interest to Narberth folks, but in order to meet the printing schedule, all "copy"—manuscripts—must reach the editor by 6 P. M. Wednesday each week.

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1921

EMERGENCY PHONE CALLS
 Fire, 350
 Police, 1250

Editorial

IN OUR MIDST.

The past few months have witnessed a seemingly endless flood of appeals from the many colleges for money to establish endowments. The greatly increased costs of maintenance required a greater income, and this could not be borne entirely by the students. These endowment funds were for varying amounts. Wilson College asks for only \$500,000, while Penn wants \$10,000,000.

In many of the girls' colleges all sorts of means were employed by the students to assist in raising the desired amounts, even to blacking shoes. Miss Mary Chalfant, of Narberth, a Junior at Wilson next year, has been "doing her bit" by selling woolen yarn to the sweater and scarf knitters.

And now we see, in glancing over the "Fireside," that she is continuing this plan in Narberth, and asks the Narberth knitters to buy of her wares. Unfortunately, the Editor doesn't knit, but we feel sure that there are a great many readers of the gentler sex who will look to 128 Chestnut avenue for their supplies in future.

A WELCOME GUEST.

After a lot of false starts and a great deal of grumbling, the long-expected and much-needed rain finally arrived. We really hated to look out the front window at the lawn and flower beds; they were about ready to give up the ghost.

It will take some time for the scorched patches in the turf to disappear, and we must weep in vain for some of our departed cobs, but the drenching rain of the latter part of the week will give the vegetables a new lease on life and will furnish a much-needed impetus for our Fall Dahlia Show.

IMPROVEMENT.

Our editorial a few weeks ago on the dirty condition of Havorford avenue brought a noticeable response in some quarters.

However, there are still parts of that

thoroughfare which need closer attention, and a greater regard for cleanliness. It is a small matter to the individual to keep his front walk and gutter clean, but it makes a big difference to the community.

THE TRAP, A BALLAD

By Decus

Have you heard the adventures of Timothy Smith,
 A hunter of far reaching fame
 Who went on a trip to the woodlands nearby

To hunt for some small and big game?
 Now Timothy Smith had been hunting for years—

Killed many a beast in his lair;
 But among all the creatures his list did include,
 He never had captured a bear.

So one day in fall when the leaves had turned brown,
 And the birds to the southland had flown,
 He shouldered his gun, threw a kiss to his wife

And left for the forest alone.
 Full many a time his good rifle was aimed
 And fired at squirrel or hare.

He killed one or two, but still, it is true
 He hadn't encountered a bear.

'Twas well after noon, and such hunger he felt
 He knew it was time to partake
 Of the sandwiches neat that his good wife at home

Had taken great trouble to make.
 He sat on a log, and with sandwich in hand
 Was enjoying his meal to the full,

When he jumped to his feet at a blood-curdling sound
 Like the roar of a love-smitten bull.

He stood as though fixed to the ground
 'neath his feet.
 And up went the tips of his hair;

For the bushes had parted, and out of them started
 To walk a big brown grizzly bear.

Tim reached for his gun; the bear started to run.
 As the bullet went far o'er his head,
 And roar upon roar made the whole forest shake

As far down the pathway they sped.
 The bullet had missed, and Timothy Smith
 Was ready to weep with despair,

For the chance he'd awaited for many long years
 Had gone with the flight of the bear.

But look, what is this in the bushes he spies?
 A shovel is there, and a pick!
 He has an idea, and here are the tools
 With which to accomplish the trick.

With pick and with shovel so quickly he worked,
 He soon had a pit like a room.
 Then over the surface some branches he laid

Till the path its old look did resume.
 Then he went to the place where he first saw the bear
 And waited for him to appear.

Said he, "My good friend, you'll be soon in a hole.
 Of that little fact I've no fear."

But even while buried in these pleasant thoughts
 A terrible roar rent the air,
 And turning around, he was stared in the face

By a hungry, big brown grizzly bear.
 The fact that the bear was a few feet away,
 Between Mister Smith and his gun
 Made it useless to linger and argue the case.

So he went down the path on the run.
 The bear was quite hungry, we're sorry to say,
 And Timothy Smith was not thin.

"The rounder the victim, the squarer the meal"
 Is a maxim with bears and their kin.

As Timothy ran he looked back at the bear,

And rapidly lengthened his pace.
 With the grizzly behind and the pitfall in front—
 You can all guess the end of the race.

A splinter of branches, a shower of leaves;
 (The pit had been fashioned with care)

The trapper was trapped and fell into the hole,
 While after him tumbled the bear.

Now Timothy Smith did not get home that night;
 In the morning no Tim did they see;
 So his wife sent a party to search through the woods

To find where her husband might be.
 They soon found the pit in the path through the woods;
 In the center was Timothy's hat.

While wrapped up in slumber, and snoring aloud
 Was a bear most unusually fat.

Now the moral of this you all clearly can see,
 If you hunt for the wily old bear;
 Remember what happened to Timothy Smith,
 And of your own pitfalls beware.

HAS PROHIBITION CAUSED INCREASE IN CRIME?

By Harry M. Chalfant

Recently the Anti-Saloon League made inquiry of the District Attorneys of Pennsylvania as to whether there had been in their respective counties an increase or decrease in crime in recent years. In order to obtain explicit information we took the year 1914 and asked for a comparison with 1920. In comparing these two years it should not be forgotten that we selected the last year before this country began seriously to feel the disturbances of the war and compared it with the year in which the after effects of the war were likely to be most in evidence.

It should not be forgotten that between these two years there was a large increase in population in many of the counties under consideration. This was especially true of Philadelphia and Allegheny counties.

We requested the District Attorneys to furnish us the number of cases returned to Court for trial by committing magistrates in the two years under consideration. We received accurate and definite reports from thirty counties. Two of these were Philadelphia and Allegheny. The other twenty-eight are fairly representative of the entire state. From the reports received we are able to compile the following tables showing the number of cases returned by committing magistrates in 1914 and in 1920; also showing the decrease and the percentage of decrease.

	1914	1920	crease	% De-
Philadelphia	8,621	8,446	175	.02
Allegheny	4,267	4,083	184	.04
Other Counties	8,982	7,594	1,390	.15

In the eleven counties there was an increase and in nineteen counties a decrease. The greatest decrease was found in Schuylkill County where the number of cases fell off from 1,742 to 914. The largest increase was in Beaver County, where there were 361 cases in 1914 as against 476 in 1920.

In addition to the above we secured reports from 24 counties on the number of cases returned for trial for infraction of the liquor laws. The number of such cases in 1914 was 716. In 1920, there were 544 cases, being a decrease of 22 per cent. This marked decrease of prosecutions for violation of the liquor law may mean one of two things. It may mean that there is a greater laxity in prosecuting this particular crime than there was under the old high license system in 1914. On the other hand if the vigilance and efficiency of the officials in 1920 was on a par with that of 1914 it proves that there is less actual violation of the law than there was under the old high license system. Be that as it may these figures give a black eye to the argument that men are more obedient to restrictive laws than they are to prohibitory laws. The comparisons furnished herewith are from counties containing over 60 per cent. of the population and prove conclu-

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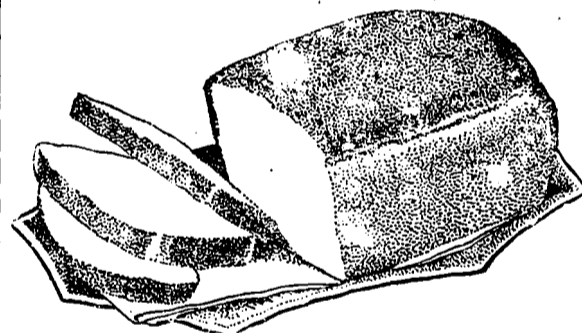
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