

COMMUNICATION

Today it is very difficult to imagine what life was like before the days of modern communication. The transmission of the human voice beyond normal calling was indeed a miracle.

As our living conditions improved, the telephone, and also the television changed our means of communication. A moment of reflection transports one back easily to the days of the "crank model" phone. The original telephone was always black and mounted on a walnut box. This box was generally mounted on the wall, either in the kitchen or what was then called the "parlor", and hung like a family portrait, and was accorded the same respect. Yes, even in styling the phone has changed.

The Pine Grove-Cressona Rural Telephone Company became of age in 1906 for it enabled friends, neighbors, and businessmen to chat and transact business or to secure the service of a doctor quickly. Calls were then made through the exchange at Deturksville or at Cressona.

When in 1947 the Lycoming Telephone Company took over the firm, the local centers were discontinued and by 1952 the dial system was installed. In 1958 direct dialing was a new feature which added to our progressive way of life.

Radio and television have also launched a new era in our way of life. Many of us fascinated by this medium, now find this a focal point of interest, a means of education or entertainment.

NEWS

Newspapers and magazines also found their way into our homes, providing us with news of near and far and an incentive to be better informed. The early newspapers still in existence are the Pine Grove Herald (West Schuylkill Press), a weekly, founded in 1868 and the Pottsville Republican, a daily, founded in 1884, and the Schuylkill Haven Call, a weekly founded in 1890. Daily papers then appeared a day late, while the present Pottsville Republican is brought by carriers to all subscribers shortly after it rolls off the press.

The newspapers have always been a welcome source of information in our households. A contributing factor to our general information and an aid to our overall education well being is the newspaper.

Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter, but I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.

— Thomas Jefferson

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE MAIL SERVICE

An important factor in Southern Wayne Township—was the mail service—this brought our rural folks in closer contact with the outside world.

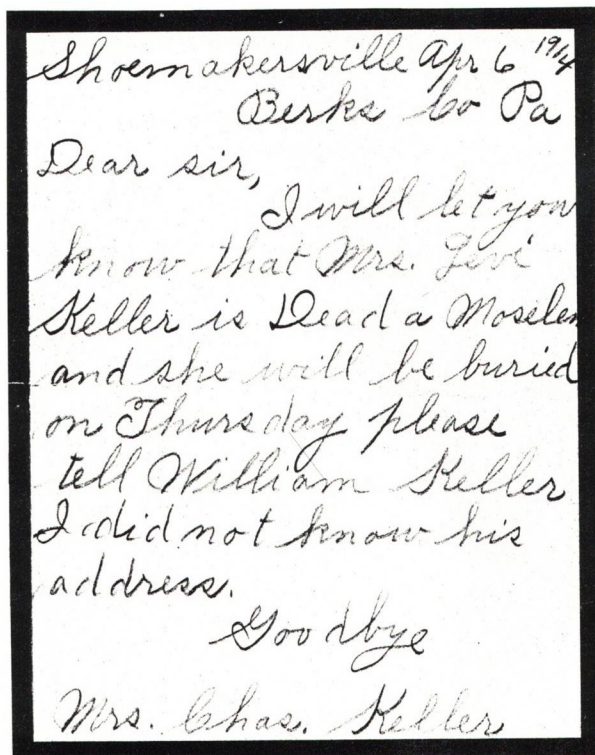
When the railway service was established post offices were founded at Summit Station and Dow. Patrons who were served by these offices were required to appear for their mail. This afforded them an opportunity to socialize with friends and neighbors at the general store where the post office was then located.

Due to distance and inconvenience urgent mail was often delayed. A "letter edged in black" known as a death notice sometimes failed to reach its destination on time. With the introduction of R. F. D. service in the early

1900's, patrons were deprived of their jaunts to the post office.

The post office at Dow was discontinued in the fall of 1933, and its patrons were then served from Summit Station until about 1950 when the Schuylkill Haven Post Office took over. Three carriers have served the route since its existence. The first carrier who came by horse and buggy, then by the early Model T car was Frank Moyer, a descendant of Christian Meyer. He served from 1906 to 1932. He was succeeded by Clinton Wenrich and presently by John Bast, who serves this rural area known now as Schuylkill Haven, R. D. 2.

Early post masters of the Dow Post Office were Joseph Ney, his son Howard D. and Horace Fisher, Sr. Early post masters at Summit Station were Kern and Kern, Leonard, J. B. Kremer, Wm. H. Kremer, Elias Roeder, his son Joseph D. and presently Vera Krammes, who has set a room apart in her home for the post office. Previous to 1932 mail was delivered by the S & S Railroad Service; today the entire area is served from the Schuylkill Haven Post Office.



Shoemakersville Apr 6 1914
Berks Co Pa
Dear sir,
I will let you
know that Mrs. Levi
Keller is Dead a Moseler
and she will be burid
on Thursday please
tell William Keller
I did not know his
address.
Goodbye
Mrs. Lehas. Keller

POSTAGE UP?

Don't be upset by the postage rate raise. It has been worse, and at a time cash money was scarcer than it is today.

In 1822, letter postage went by miles—6 cents for 30 miles; 10 cents for 80 miles; 12½ cents for 150 miles; 18½ cents for 400 miles; and 25 cents for anything over 400 miles . . . This for a single sheet. Wordy correspondents using two to four sheets had to pay double or triple rates; even then the rate quadrupled for letters weighing "more than 1 oz. avoirdupois."

Magazines and pamphlets of educational or cultural nature went at a slightly lower rate, but they were still governed by distance.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Throughout the present century the quality of our lives has been changed by services which have made our homes pleasant and satisfying, and our tasks easier and more convenient.

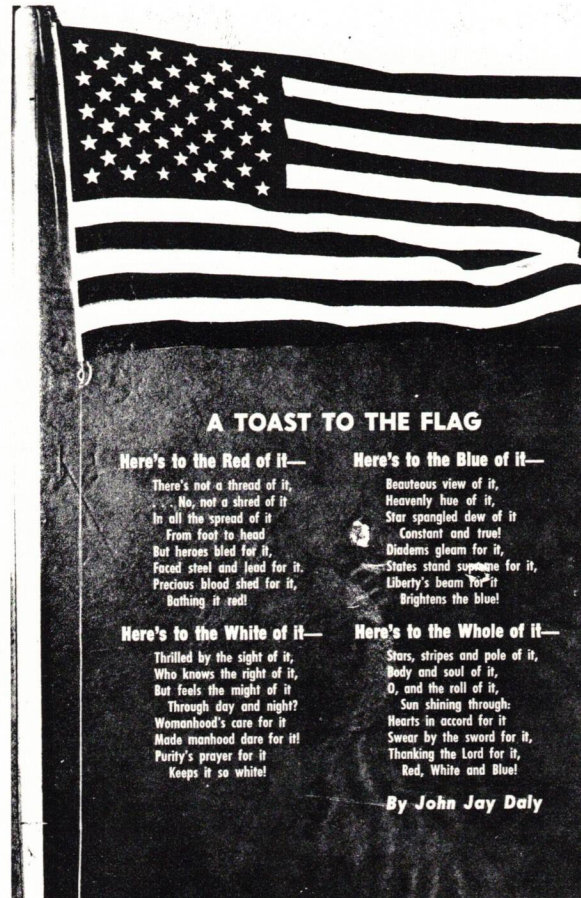
Certainly many of us recall the days when our homes and our churches were dimly lit by the yellow glow of the "coal oil" lamp. Lanterns were used to provide the necessary light at the barn before daybreak, and after dusk, while the chores were done.

Since the early 1930's "wick trimming" and "bringing in the wood" chores have been banished, for power lines carrying high voltage electricity have been extended into Wayne Township. This was done when farm income was at an all time low. The farmer was getting, "Out of the Dark."

The extension of power lines enabled the rural dweller to enjoy many labor saving devices to promote the comforts of his home. With electricity the old water pump, the kerosene lighting, and the wood burning heaters disappeared and with them an era which will remain golden in memory. Schools and churches were also electrified, and with this improvement began the trend to build homes in rural communities, as people began to enjoy the luxuries and modern appliances unknown to us before the extension of electric power. Electric heat, mercury vapor lights, and street lights in our villages of Friedensburg and Summit Station are more recent features.

Thus what was formerly a dark country side is now aglow with lights, making rural living very desirable.

Mrs. Maude Boltz, who then owned Stone Mountain Manor, was instrumental in bringing this phase of improvement to Wayne Township.



OUR NATIONAL FLAG

Previous to the Revolutionary War, the colonies used a variety of flags on which were patriotic mottos. Among these were the Pine Tree Flag, the Rattlesnake Flag, and the Liberty Flag; all of which were used during the first year of the Revolution and earlier. The first flag used by Washington was unfurled at Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Jan. 1, 1776, when he took command of the Continental Army. This flag was similar to the British flag, but had thirteen stripes added to it to represent the thirteen original colonies. It was called the Union Jack.

On June 14, 1777, Congress adopted the first National flag. Gen. George Washington, Robert Morris, and Col. George Ross were the committee appointed by Congress who devised this new flag. They called on Mrs. Betsey Ross of Philadelphia, who was noted for her skill as a needlewoman, and proposed that she should put together a flag after a design furnished in a pencil drawing by Gen. Washington. It is related that Mrs. Ross changed the star to five points, even though Gen. Washington at first suggested six points. It is reported that the flag was made out of a soldier's white shirt, a blue army overcoat, and a red flannel petticoat. This flag contained thirteen red and white stripes and thirteen white stars in a field arranged in a circle. The stars and stripes were to represent the thirteen original colonies.

The idea of placing stars and stripes on our flag was probably obtained from Washington's coat of arms.

This new flag was first raised at Ft. Stanwix (now Rome), N. Y., on Aug. 3, 1777 and was first carried in battle at Brandywine, Sept. 11, 1777. Captain John Paul Jones first raised it on the ocean, and Captain Robert Gray first carried it around the world.