**Old Frackville Tales**

Lorraine Stanton

Do you remember the dances at the high school in the past old days? One of the popular bands was Semmy Rounds and His Society Five, shown here in 1920. Bob Klengerman, left, and Cliff Walters, front, played guitar. Francis McAndrew accordion. Ollie Kreuter sax and Semmy Rounds the washboard, on which he wore out many Thomsons. I can still hear them playing "If I Knew You Were Coming I'd've Baked a Cake." Pictured coming in front of the Jack O'Lantern are a couple still casin today, George and Ruth (Surfside) Thomas.

**Summer in full swing**

**Doings**

**Ambulance drive**

"Now is the time for all people to come in the spirit of accommodation, generosity and brotherhood, putting off that the settled necessity drive to progress. The ambulance corps, which is now in full swing, is an attempt to purchase a 2 bed cot, the present equipment of this hospital has become obsolete. With the increasing demand for this type of service it becomes obvious that the ambulance service is a necessity to the well being of our community."

**Dental grad**

RICHARD MAYER

Altoona College of St. Francis, Johnstown, Pa.

Valley announced the Richard Mayer of Frackville has been accepted in the Junior Dental program. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. and Virginia (Crawford) Mayer.

Car wash

The Frackville fire chief, Bill Mittendorf, will begin a car wash from 10 to 3 Saturday. June 27, to raise funds for the upcoming basketball league. The league will be played at the Memorial Park.

**Rotary Club**

Judges and Frackville Rotary Club officers will take place on the day of the meeting at the Community Park. Juniata, John Dehart, Duane Sprague, William DeWitt, and Robert A. Akkichi who arranged the Hamilton Plays last week for a Frackville Community dinner at the Community Park.

**Centennial doings**

The Centennial Executive Board will meet Monday, 6:00 p.m., at Headquarters. The General Centennial Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., at headquarters, public invited. The Centennial Executive Board will meet Monday, 6:00 p.m., at headquarters, public invited.

**KIDS**

**Parents fete 2 retiring teachers**

Jeanne Morgon and Helen Cermak-Richardson are Frackville kindergarten teachers. They have 10 years in the classroom, were honored at a retirement party in the school library. They will be missed by the students and parents prior to their retirement to school and church activities.

Miss Morgon was born in Frackville, daughter of William and Harriet Morgan. She graduated from Frackville High School in 1922 and later from Kutztown Teachers College.

Miss Morgan taught in the Jefferson Room in the Franklin Building for 60 years. She was a teacher of 10 years, retiring in 1980. She taught in the Franklin Room (New School Building). Building for twenty years, she received her Doctor of Education degree.

Miss Richardson was born in Frackville. She attended the Franklin Building in 1926 with the 8th grade. She went on to 11th grade in 1927 and 12th grade in 1928. She took a leave when her son was born, and returned to teach kindergarten in 1980. She taught in the Franklin Building. She retired in 1980.

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Above is a typical Molly Maguire type coffin notice sent to mine bosses and others during the turbulent Schuylkill County era of the 1860s and 70s.

The great majority of immigrants in those days were Welsh, English, Irish and German, with just a few Poles and other nationalities. Most of the bosses' jobs at the collieries went to the Welsh and English, which stirred old resentments harbored by some of the Irish who had memories of bitterness between religions and nationalities in their native land. There were complaints among the Irish that the Welsh and English bosses refused them jobs in the Schuylkill mines, and other Irishmen who were hired didn't like the way the bosses acted toward them.

There was a time when disputes were settled by "the cast of a die in the magic 24-foot ring," but times changed and the method drifted to violence. Revolvers, billy clubs, blackjacks, steel knuckles and knives were used in a reign of terror, which affected not only individuals, but also business and industry, as capitalists hesitated to invest in industries that would have benefited the county.

Innocent sufferers were the Irish who had no part in any violence, but who were looked upon with suspicion by bosses and co-workers. The name Molly McGuiries was known to Schuylkill County citizens for some years before the Ancient Order of Hibernians was instituted on March 10, 1871, but the two became synonymous in the public mind because both were frequently mentioned in news stories and publications.

This was unfortunate—and unfair—because while the Molly Maguires revealed by the undercover Philadelphia and Reading Detective McParlan were all identified by him as members of a secret band operating within AOH, it was also a fact that the vast majority of AOH members were not affiliated with and refused to associate with the activities attributed to the Molly Maguires.

In fact, the story is told in some Molly Maguires literature about a plot by the Mollies in Shenandoah to burn down the homes in Jacksons Patch, because a group of Irishmen there had a habit of beating up members of the Mollies on Saturday nights in Mahanoy City. The plot was reportedly discouraged by Muff Lawlor, in whose Shenandoah Saloon the Mollies congregated, when he convinced them that such an act would have everybody even the Irish, up in arms against them.