

GOING DOWN IN HISTORY:

LANCASTER 1957

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January

3. After ten years of research, development and testing, Hamilton Watch Company placed on the market the world's first electric wrist watch.
15. A wave of arctic air hit Lancaster, sending the thermometers down to eight degrees above zero.
16. Jack W. W. Loose, our secretary and Lancaster County prothonotary, was elected president of the Young G.O.P. of Lancaster County.
18. At the State Farm Show at Harrisburg, Lancaster Countians won fourteen, grand championships, four reserve champions, twenty-three breed and other championship rosettes and 559 ribbon prizes.
31. Coldest weather in five years was felt this month; snowfall measured 5.4 inches.

February

2. The Eastern Board of Missions and Charities, in a building they constructed at Akron, processed a ton of canned beef for hunger spots in Europe and Asia.
11. On his birthday Assistant Fire Chief Deen retired after spending 58 of his full 80 years as a professional fire fighter.
24. The new WGAL-TV television studios (channel 8) on Columbia Pike near Abbeyville were dedicated "to public service." The dedicatory address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. James E. Wagner.

March

4. Lancaster newspapers increased in price from five cents to seven cents a copy.
19. The plant of the Lancaster Brick Company, northwest of School Lane Hills, was damaged severely by fire, entailing a loss of \$300,000.
29. City water rates were increased; the average household will pay an increase of 60%.

May

4. The Union Fire (Volunteer) Company No. 1 held its 197th Anniversary Banquet Meeting at the Arcadia Ballroom, with the Rev. Nathaniel P. Lauriat as speaker.
11. The Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies held its fiftieth annual meeting at Harrisburg; as usual the Lancaster delegation had the largest number present for a county historical society.
12. Dr. Landis Tanger, former president of Millersville State Teachers College, died, aged eighty-two years.

16. The Lancaster County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution met in the Eichholtz Gallery of the Willson Memorial Building to elect officers. John W. W. Loose was elected regent, Rev. Robert C. Batchelder was named vice regent, and Captain Fitzhugh McMaster was selected as secretary. Other officers elected were Harold F. Diffenderffer, treasurer; Louis J. Vandergrift, registrar; and Rev. George H. Shea and Rev. Robert Batchelder, chaplains. Drs. Jerome G. Hess and Lewis M. Johnson were made honorary regents.
23. A new Act of the Pennsylvania Legislature permits County Commissioners to raise annual appropriations to county historical societies from \$2000 to \$3000. The commissioners of Lancaster County grant our Society \$700.
31. Rossmere Sanatorium, after a service of 32 years to tuberculosis patients of this community, closed its doors. Dr. C. Howard Witmer was president of the Board during its entire history.

July

2. Historic Lititz Moravian Church was destroyed by fire caused by a spark from a painter's blowtorch. The handsome structure, erected in 1787, was as old as the U. S. Constitution. The famous Tannenberger steeple collapsed into the charred ruins of the roof and truss structure after the fire was extinguished, dropping the ruins into the sanctuary.

September

15. John W. W. Loose, secretary general of the General Society of the War of 1812, spoke at Defenders' Day ceremonies in Baltimore, Maryland.
16. Parts of Prince and Queen Streets were made one-way routes. Now all traffic from the south streams through Penn Square and North Queen Street in a steady line of trucks and motor cars.
27. A new high record of Lancaster Countians eligible to vote in the November 5 election was set with the figure of 111,854.

October

4. The Soviet Union launched a "Sputnik," or artificial satellite weighing 184 pounds which circled the earth every 96.2 minutes. The device, which emitted radio signals, created considerable consternation and self-criticism in the United States as well as causing American prestige to dwindle in other anti-communist nations of the world. Discussions concerning a revamping of scientific and engineering education in the United States became the order of the times.
6. Radio Station WGAL picked up the bleats of the Russian "Sputnik" as it passed over Lancaster at 11:30 p.m. The station's engineers broadcast the signals to the astonished Sunday night audience.
8. George Ruthart, perhaps the oldest resident in the county, died, aged 104 years.
19. Major David G. Simons, of Marietta, physician in the Air Force, received an honorary degree from Franklin and Marshall College for his record-breaking flight into outer space by balloon on August 19. Major Simons, who has been engaged in research on the effects of high altitudes on the human being, soared over 103,000 feet from a Minnesota iron ore pit.

31. Asiatic Flu of epidemic proportions closed many of the county schools in October.

November

1. Charles B. Long, president of the Champion Blower and Forge Co. and the National Bearings Company, died.
3. The second Russian satellite, Sputnik II, was sent off into outer space with a dog as its passenger. This man-made satellite assumed an orbit nearly twice the distance of the first device, and it weighed 1,120.29 pounds and travelled at a speed of 17,840 miles an hour. Sputnik II set off another wave of cries of indignation in addition to new protests over the use of a live animal.
5. Thomas J. Monaghan and the Democratic slate for city offices were swept into office in Lancaster city. Monaghan was elected mayor by a majority of 1,236 votes, defeating attorney Harold Budding. G. Howard Ackerman and George Brown II, Republican candidates for recorder of deeds and county controller, respectively, were elected, preserving the traditional solidarity of the G.O.P. in the county.
9. J. Earle Pfoutz, self-taught artist, who gained more than local fame, died. His home was located in a picturesque setting near the confluence of the Conestoga and Little Conestoga streams below Slackwater. His technique was rather unusual inasmuch as he frequently employed a spatula instead of a brush for his work. Artist Pfoutz insisted that paintings should be thoroughly expressive, and few of his were less than heroic in expression.
10. M. Luther Heisey, historian of the Heisey Reunion Association, spoke at the unveiling of a plaque near Cornwall which honors John Heisey, who settled there prior to 1748.

December

6. Vanguard, the U. S. Navy rocket, which was to carry an American test satellite into outer space, exploded and collapsed at its launching site after several days of postponements and extraordinary amounts of publicity. The third wave of public outcries critical of American education in science as well as the Department of Defense missile programs during the past decade was raised. Local educators expressed the feeling that improvement was always recognized but that public education was doing a commendable and effective job.
25. Christmas was observed by scores of adults praying for World Peace amidst a frantic race to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles. The youngsters awoke this day to find toy missiles, junior size rocket launching apparatus and model satellites under the Yule Tree. The weather conditions resembled a mild spring day.

Lancaster County's industrial production reached an all-time high figure of \$674,000,000 for the year 1956, with a record of \$172,300,000 for wages and salaries.