

## GOING DOWN IN HISTORY

LANCASTER 1960

*A chronology of happenings in local history during the year of 1960, fresh from the newspapers, and served up by Luther Heisey in his inimitable manner.*

Jan. 16. The Intelligencer Journal states "Lancastrians came home from the State Farm Show with a total of 629 awards and \$3,878.75, or six per cent. of the prize money. Which should do nicely in helping this county keep its reputation as the Garden Spot."

Jan. 21. Governor David L. Lawrence said that Lancaster County's prosperity is a source of strength for the state as it strives to revitalize the economies of other areas, in his talk at the official opening of the two and a half million dollar plant on the Fruitville Pike by Packaging Corporation of America.

Feb. 23. Mary Jane Hill, of Brickerville, was crowned National Peach Queen in Washington by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson.

Feb. 23. Sales of \$290,620,000 and net earnings of \$19,207,000, the highest figures in its history, were reported for 1959 by the Armstrong Cork Company.

Mar. 2. Daniel B. Strickler was promoted to Lieutenant General on the retired list of the Pennsylvania National Guard, the highest military position ever attained by a Lancaster Countian.

Mar. 3. Lancaster County was covered with a beautiful white blanket of snow to a height of eleven inches. Schools were closed.

Mar. 18. It was reported that January ratings showed Lancaster County's unemployment remained the lowest in the state, or 3.1 per cent of its civilian labor force.

Apr. 6. The Iris Club celebrated its 65th anniversary.

Apr. 12. With an all-time record in number of contributors and in the amount to be disbursed, Lancaster County banks will distribute \$895,100 to 8,779 persons who systematically saved through the vacation funds.

Apr. 14. The State Highways Department spent \$333,811 removing snow from the 1,500 miles of state roads in our county. Perhaps the 213,000 feet of snow fence minimized the cost. Lancaster City alone spent \$10,667 in removing the total snowfall of twenty-eight inches.

The beautifully restored home of Adjutant General Edward Hand (1744-1802) was opened to the public May 2, 1960. All credit to the Rock Ford Foundation and the Junior League.

May 2. The School Board increased the tax by two mills, making the tax now twenty-three mills. Last April 30 (1959) the tax was increased by two and a half mills. The city's population decreased by six per cent.

May 14. Petty Officer 3-C Rudolph P. Neustadter, of R.D. 1, Holtwood, Pa., was aboard the U.S. atomic submarine Triton on its 84-day history-making underwater cruise around the world.

May 18. Reports show that Lancaster's population dropped to 59,674, a loss of six per cent, while the county's population increased to 273,861, an increase of sixteen per cent.

May 20. Lancaster County showed a crop and produce value for 1959 of \$129,509,000, with milk showing a return to \$23,290,000. The figures were \$7,390,900 above the previous year.

May 21. The Bureau of Employment Security reported that 115,100 Lancaster Countians held jobs in April; this was 1,800 higher than the March figure, and 2,500 more than in April of last year.

July 4. Old Glory, with fifty stars, is flown for the first time throughout the nation. Hawaii joins the sisterhood of states.

July 9. Woodmen didn't spare the trees, as seventy-two hit the dust of East Main Street, Lititz. Progress! The street MUST be widened.

July 18. Reports for 1959 showed all-time high records for Lancaster County: Retail sales of \$349,750,000, buying income of \$552,078,000, averaging \$7,198 per household.

August 8. For the first six months of this year Armstrong Cork Company reported sales of \$145,167,000.

September 16. Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy paid a visit to Lancaster and addressed approximately 5,000 persons in Penn Square.

September 19. With heavy new registrations, the number of eligible voters for the presidential election reached a figure of 127,903.

September 21. The Bureau of Employment Security reported total employment for the county in last August of 119,700.

October. The State "Monthly Bulletin" reported that Lancaster led all counties in tobacco production in 1958, with a total of 46,750,000 pounds of cured tobacco leaf. Lebanon County, ranking second, produced but 1,730,000 pounds.

November 1. Vice-President Richard M. Nixon (of Lancaster County ancestors), Pat Nixon, Jinx Falkenberg, and many other visitors, enthused a political rally estimated at upwards of 30,000 persons at the parking lot, Chestnut and Queen Streets. Approximately 20,000 others lined the parade route along the Lititz Pike and North Duke Street.

November 8. In the county a total of 109,149 votes were cast in the presidential election. For Nixon 76,463; for Kennedy 32,686.

November 13. For 1959 it was reported that Lancaster County had 625 manufacturing plants which employed 47,651 persons for a total pay roll of \$214,281,000.

November 30. Official figures give Lancaster County a population of 278,359, ranking eighth in the state, and passing Berks County. For Lancaster City the total was 61,055. Lancaster County will become a third class county on 1 January 1962.

December 5. Mrs. Harold Fischer has the distinction of being the first woman to be elected president of the Lancaster city school board.

December 13. Coldest day of this date on record. At Buck 1 degree below, Lancaster 9 above, City Water Works 5 above, Fahrenheit.

December 20. Armstrong Cork Company and its employees contributed \$221,662.59 to the United Campaign Fund.

December 28. Lancaster was selected as the "liberty" town for the enlisted women stationed at Bainbridge, Maryland, for recruit training. Commander E. B. Kitchen said, "I have never seen a city during my years in the Navy which was so generous and hospitable to service personnel as the city of Lancaster."