

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008

## Pastor Who Helped Get "Under God" In Pledge Dies

ALEXANDRIA, Pa. (AP) - The Rev. George M. Docherty, credited with helping to push Congress to insert the phrase "under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance, has died at 97.

Docherty died on Thanksgiving at his home in central Pennsylvania, according to his wife, Sue Docherty.

She said her husband of 36 years had been in failing health for about three years.

"George said he was going to live to be a hundred and he was determined," she said in a telephone interview Saturday. "It's amazing that he was with us this long."

Docherty, then pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, just blocks from the White House, gave a sermon in 1952 saying the pledge should acknowledge God.

He was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and was unfamiliar with the pledge until he heard it recited by his 7-year-old son, Garth.

"I didn't know that the Pledge of Allegiance was, and he recited it, 'one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,'" he recalled in an interview with The Associated Press in 2004. "I came from Scotland, where we said 'God save our gracious queen,' 'God save our gracious king.' Here was the Pledge of Allegiance, and God wasn't in it at all."

There was little effect from that initial sermon, but he delivered it again on Feb. 7, 1954, after learning that President Dwight Eisenhower would be at the church.

The next day, Rep. Charles G. Oakman, R-Mich., introduced a bill to add the phrase "under God" to the pledge, and a companion bill was introduced in the Senate. Eisenhower signed the law on Flag Day that year.

## State Bans New Patients From W. Pa. Hospital

ALBUQUERQUE, Pa. (AP) - A financially troubled western Pennsylvania hospital must stop accepting new patients because its problems are putting patients' health and safety at risk, the state Health Department said Wednesday.

The 96-bed Commonwealth Medical Center faces a potential gas service shut-off because of unpaid bills, and it is also running out of supplies and equipment, agency spokeswoman Stacy Kriedeman said.

The state will move to close the hospital if it does not comply with a Monday deadline to show that it can continue operating for the next six months to a year, Kriedeman said.

"The most immediate issue concerns their financial viability," Kriedeman said.

A hospital spokeswoman did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

The former Aliquippa Community Hospital was bought by Commonwealth Medical Center a year ago for nearly \$23 million. The sale was completed after the hospital failed to emerge from bankruptcy and changed from nonprofit to for-profit status.

It had been operating on a provisional license at the time of the sale, but its full license was restored earlier this year after the state accepted its plan of correction.

The hospital now has four patients, but they will be allowed to stay at their doctors' discretion, Kriedeman said.

## Pa. Man Gives Diamond Ring To Salvation Army

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) - A volunteer ringing the bell at a Salvation Army kettle in south-central Pennsylvania got an unusual donation: a diamond ring.

The ring was handed to August Memmi, a Dauphin County employee who was volunteering for the Salvation Army in Harrisburg during his lunch hour Tuesday.

The young man told Memmi that he'd bought the ring for his mother using money he'd earned mowing lawns, but she died this year and he wanted to put it to good use.

The ring's value was unclear Tuesday; the Salvation Army planned to have it appraised.

# FROM DAYS GONE BY

## 20 Years Ago

From The Files Of December 8, 1988

**'88** Helen Overly, chairman of the county Chamber of Commerce's Christmas lights committee, flipped the switch to light the downtown area lights at a ceremony held last Friday, at the Fulton House.

Fulton Motor Sales held its annual Christmas party, hosted by owner Andy Washabaugh and family, Friday in the showroom at the premises. Personnel and friends enjoyed a sumptuous banquet, awarding of comic prizes and video and a drawing for door prizes. The Wild West cabaret girls' song and dance by Glenda Shafer and Sue Deshong were well received.

Helen Overly, president of Overly-Raker Inc., has been elected president of the board of directors of Fulton County Medical Center, the first woman to be elected to the presidency of that board. Richard Rotz of Mercersburg was re-elected vice president; William Hine of Harrisonville, treasurer; and Philip Prager of McConnellsburg, secretary.

Carrie Watkins, 17, Knobsville, a McConnellsburg High School junior, has been chosen as one of 200 cheerleaders who will cheer at the Hula Bowl in Hawaii on January 7.

Fulton County Library reaches a new milestone in service with the opening of the Needmore branch on December 11. The First National Bank and the library will hold a joint ribbon-cutting.

Specials at the IGA: Folgers coffee, 39-oz. can, \$4.99; Jif peanut butter, \$2.99; 2-liter Coke products, 99 cents; Viva paper towels, 69 cents a roll.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Leese of Needmore announce the engagement of their daughter, Karen, to Christopher Palmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Palmer of Warfordsburg.

Deaths: Mary Breeden, Hancock; Mabel Williams, Chambersburg; Don Hill, Warfordsburg; Victor Glee, McConnellsburg; Elva Sipes, Valley View Home; Cam Hewett, Warfordsburg; Florence Mentzer, Shade Gap; Freddie Wible, Three Springs; Charles "Ted" Rouzer, Harrisonville; Charles Kauffman, Waterfall; Margaret Wilt, Orbisonia; Verna Wilt, Breezewood; Dora Rouzer, Lemasters.

Births at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Diehl of Warfordsburg on November 26; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Rick Lake of Big Cove Tannery on November 28; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Darren Sheppard of Berkeley Springs on November 29.

Marriage licenses: Peter Kokoszka, Needmore, and Margaret Hensley, Needmore; Christopher Robinette, Waterfall, and Jacqueline Watkins, Waterfall; William Bohrer, Needmore, and Vicki Johnson, Needmore; Brian Pittman, McConnellsburg, and Darlene Black, McConnellsburg; Larry Grissinger, Three Springs, and Joyce Husick, Chambersburg.

## 30 Years Ago

From The Files Of November 30, 1978

**'78** The season's first measurable snowfall fell Sunday night, and it was still snowing when hunters took to the woods for the first day of buck season on Monday morning. Between two and four inches were reported in the county.

Game Warden Mark Crowder reports the county was accident-free during the first day of hunting season and that the deer kill is meeting expectations.

The body of a murdered woman, which was found in a wooded area on Tuscarora Mountain on Thanksgiving, a week ago, remains unidentified and the circumstances of the death, a mystery. The fully clothed, unidentified body was found by two hunters last Thursday, lying in the middle of a mud-soaked dirt path in the woods about 500 yards east of the Fulton County line and about a quarter of a mile behind an abandoned restaurant, known locally as the "teahouse," on Route 30 in Peters Township, Franklin County. She had been shot five to seven times in the head, chest and abdomen and had been dead approximately two hours when her body was found. In an effort to determine her identity, the description has been sent over the nationwide police teletype and the FBI fingerprint files have been checked, so far without success.

Kathy Eileen Baker and Donald Bryan Mellott were united in marriage October 15 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Abbottstown, Pa. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carman Abbott of Abbottstown. The groom is the son of Mrs. Helen Mellott of Harrisonville.

Anthony Schepis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Schepis of Harrisonville, has completed Navy Construction Mechanic School at Oxnard, Calif.

Carol Ann Morton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Morton of Big Cove Tannery, was united in marriage to David Paul Tebo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tebo of Norwood, N.Y., on October 28.

A surprise 50th wedding anniversary celebration was held on October 8 at Center United Methodist building near Waterfall in honor of Norman and Viola Miller Hoffman, who were married October 11, 1928. They reside at McConnellsburg.

Specials at the IGA: Hungry Jack pancake mix, 89 cents; Charmin bathroom tissue, 78 cents, 4 pack; onions, 3 lbs., 49 cents; Campbell's chicken noodle soup, 19 cents

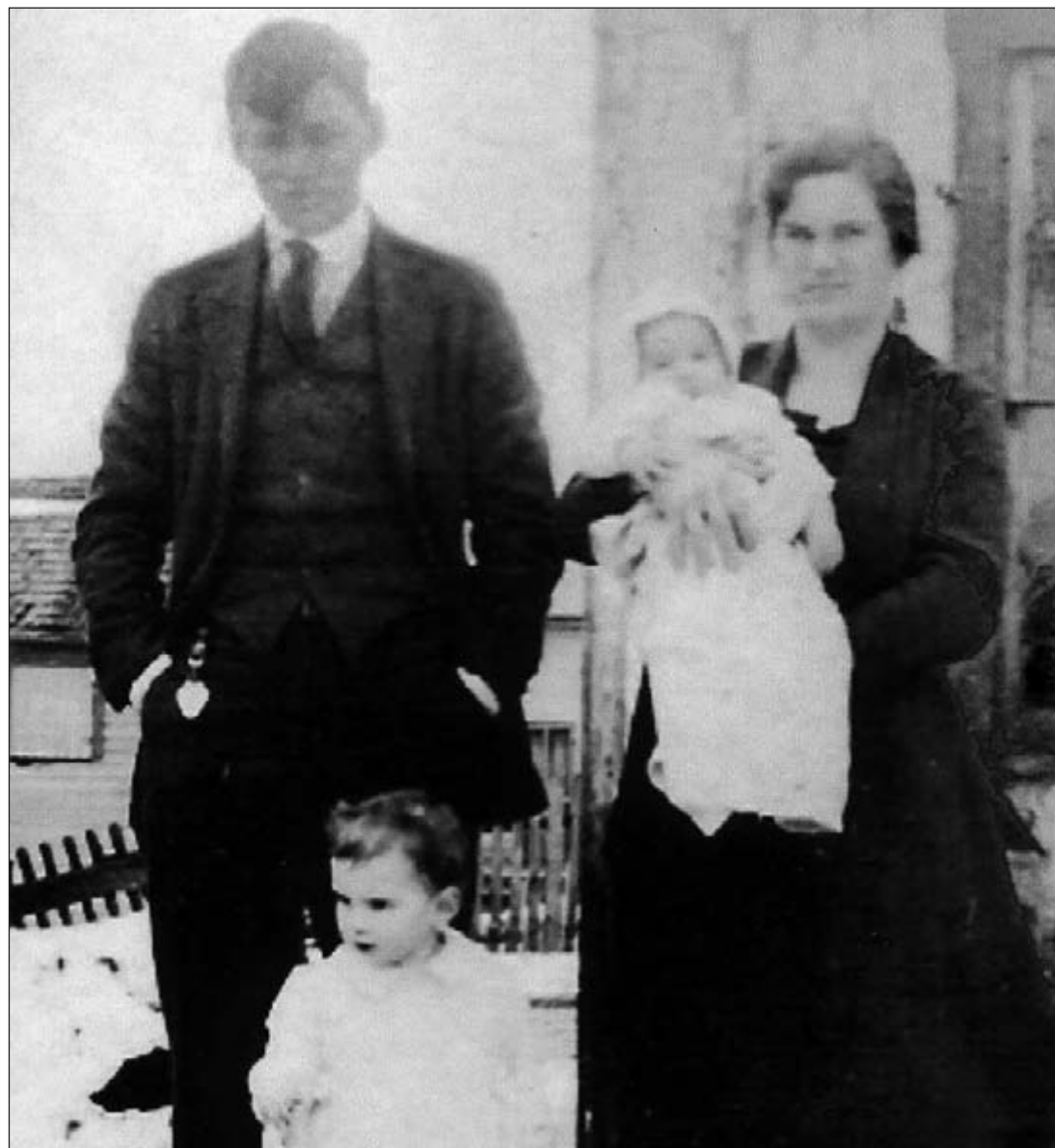
Gary Grissinger Jr., 16-year-old son of Gary Grissinger and Linda (Richards) Grissinger, made his debut into the ranks of amateur boxing a smashing success by scoring a unanimous decision in the welterweight division over Craig Renald, 20-year-old sailor. Gary was born in McConnellsburg and now resides in Virginia Beach where his father, a chief petty officer in the United States Navy, is stationed. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Yaukey and Merrill Richards and is the great-grandson of Lois Seiders, all of McConnellsburg.

Births at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Griffith of McConnellsburg on November 18; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Winter of Orbisonia on November 21.

The United Methodist Church of McConnellsburg was the scene of the wedding of Sharon Lorraine Hann and Michael Linn Glenn on November 5. Partners of the couple are Mrs. Wava J. Hann of McConnellsburg and the late Harold W. Hann and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Glenn of McConnellsburg.

Deaths: Mrs. Margaret H. Summers, Waynesboro; Mrs. Mary B. Carnell, Gambrills, Md.; Mrs. E. Louise Hoffman, Hancock; Max Helman, Shippensburg; Nellie T. Ambrose, Altoona; Willis L. Foor, Breezewood; Paul A. Craig, McConnellsburg; Carl W. McClain, Three Springs; Mrs. Ella Peck, Columbus, Ohio.

## MEMORY JOGGER



This week's Memory Jogger was submitted by Janet E. Mellott Geyer and pictures Lloyd W. Mellott, daughter Madeline "Matt" Mellott, and wife Ruth Ellen Crouse Mellott holding son Wilson "Bud" Mellott.

## 40 Years Ago

From The Files Of December 12, 1968

**'68** The blizzard, which struck Fulton County last Thursday with winds up to hurricane force, caught many hunters in the wood with no protection from falling trees, which were uprooted in all parts of the county.

In the opinion of most borough residents, it would have been better to leave well enough alone in the matter of traffic lights in McConnellsburg. The newly installed overhead lights are real eyesores - but they are state-mandated and state-approved. Someone suggested planting ivy around the base to cover up the stovepipe look of the supports.

Henry Neil Marsh, 76, a pioneer in the development and production of rocket fuel for guided missiles, died of a heart attack last Wednesday at Fulton County Medical Center. The Marshes were returning home from a visit with their children over the Thanksgiving holidays when the noted scientist became ill in a restaurant on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and was taken to the Medical Center.

A capacity crowd of employees and their guests attended the annual Christmas banquet and dance sponsored by the Social Club at the McConnellsburg plant of Sagner, on Friday night. William Waters, factory manager, commended the workers for the past year's high work performance in meeting the increased production quota and said that, following the first of the year, the production quota would again be increased.

Men in Service: Daryl L. Scott, 19, son of Mrs. Reda T. Voss of Harrisonville, was promoted to Army Private Pay Grade E-2 upon completion of basic combat training on November 22 at Fort Benning, Ga. Army Private Wayne D. Ward, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dorothy L. Shank of Warfordsburg, completed a wheeled vehicle mechanic course on November 8 at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Army Specialist Four Roger E. Ward, 20, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Ward and wife Darla live at Warfordsburg, was assigned on November 1 to the 605th Transportation Company in Vietnam as a powerman.

The Fulton Theatre, built by the late W.M. Lodge in 1921, has been given a new look, the first remodeling to any great extent which the building has undergone since it was first built. The theatre opened its doors in June 1921, and has been in continuous operation since that time. In 1958, the business was turned over to Mr. Lodge's son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lodge, the present owners. During the past years, the building has been used for many purposes besides the showing of movies. With a seating capacity of over 400, school graduation exercises were held there for many years, as well as public meetings and civic programs.

Marriage licenses: Fred Buterbaugh of McConnellsburg and Anna Lee Wilt of Hancock; Lewis Brizzell of Union Bridge, Md.; and Sylvia B. Singer of Hancock.

Births at the Medical Center: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Truax of Everett on December 2; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Henry of McConnellsburg on December 3; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hollinshead of Harrisonville on December 5; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Buterbaugh of Big Cove Tannery on December 5; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Randall Cowan, Neelyton, on December 2.

Deaths: Mrs. Alice H. Spangler, McConnellsburg; Lee R. Pittman, Hancock; Cloyd Levi Johnson, Breezewood; Howard S. Hann, Harrisonville; Miss Mary Ellen Mellott, Shirleysburg; Mrs. Eliza M. Simpson, Everett; Mrs. Bessie M. Bitner, Mercersburg; Thornton D. Mellott, Needmore.

## 50 Years Ago

From The Files Of December 11, 1958

**'58** A classified ad in the News last week for the sale of a washing machine brought nine calls the day the paper was published. It pays to advertise.

George Earley, custodian of the local school, is a patient in the Medical Center, suffering from a heart attack.

Lt. J.G. George H. Reisinger has been transferred from Long Beach, Calif., to New London, Conn., where he is attending submarine school.

Mrs. G.C. Fields Sr. is a patient in the Medical Center, having suffered a heart attack on Sunday, and Mrs. Jennie Wible is a patient in Chambersburg Hospital where she underwent surgery on Monday morning.

Arch Keyser is recuperating at the Medical Center from the effects of a heart attack, which he suffered last Friday.

Dr. and Mrs. Arnon Kaplan of McConnellsburg announce the birth of a daughter at Chambersburg on Monday morning.

Three Fulton County men were treated at Chambersburg Hospital last Thursday after being injured in a one-car accident west of Chambersburg. The 1958 Plymouth skidded into a tree when the operator, John E. Mann, 52, of Warfordsburg, attempted to negotiate a curve. He sustained possible rib fractures. Two passengers, Harold Spade, 55, of Amaranth, received a possible fracture of the left forearm and Ray R. Martin, 54, of Needmore, suffered abrasions of the legs. Damage to the car was estimated at \$500.

The new fire truck for the McConnellsburg Volunteer Fire Co. has arrived and has been inspected by a great many townspeople. It is a fine piece of apparatus and has the latest and more efficient equipment needed by the firemen of this area. The pumping unit, advertised as holding a 500-pound-per-minute minimum pumping capacity, pumped 640 pounds in a test on Saturday. There is one disappointing fact about the new truck, however. Only approximately \$5,000 has been collected toward the goal of \$14,000. This means the firemen will have a debt on the new fire truck, and will have to go further into debt to purchase new hose to fully equip the new machine.

At the regular meeting of the local firemen last Tuesday, Merle Stenger was elected president of the company and Max Stenger was named fire chief.

Jean Dolores Mellott and Forrest Richard Mellott were married on Thanksgiving Day.

Bids for the construction for the first phase of radar facilities near Fort Loudon were opened last Tuesday by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The apparent low bid of \$51,905 was submitted by A.R. Warner Inc. of Waynesboro. Features of the work will include a two-story reinforced concrete building, about 14 by 20 feet; a one-story concrete masonry unit building, about 16 by 18 feet; chain-link fencing and paving. The work is to be completed by February 1, 1959.

The State Health Department on Friday warned shoppers to be on the lookout for children's straw slippers decorated with poisonous Haitian doll heads. A shipment of the poisonous slippers was found in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A card to the News this week from Mrs. B.E. Waltz states that her grandson, Larry Waltz, is slowly improving in a Florida hospital, being able to be up in a wheelchair a little each day. Larry, it will be remembered, was seriously burned in an explosion in Florida in October in which his father, John Waltz and his grandfather, B.E. Waltz, were also burned, but less seriously.

Two local women killed nice bucks the first two days of the season. On the first day, Mrs. Walter Fix killed a 5-point stag above her home on Sideling Hill. She was alone at the time and had to remove the entrails and drag it home with no assistance. On the second day, Mrs. Robert Richards shot an 8-pointer while hunting in the Meadow Grounds.

Army Pvt. Carroll J. Wilt, 21, son of Mrs. Linnie M. Wilt of Needmore, has completed eight weeks of basic combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kendall of McConnellsburg will observe their golden wedding anniversary on Dec. 13.

The following applicants passed their driver's exams in McConnellsburg on Monday: Verna M. Shank of Needmore; Keith A.D. Duvall of Warfordsburg; Anna May Zimmerman of Warfordsburg; Helen D. Garland of Needmore; Patricia A. Sheffield of Fort Littleton; Judith K. Earley of Wells Tannery; Frank C. Plessinger of Warfordsburg.

Barbra Jean Layton and Charles Albert Manning were married on November 29.