

One Hundred Years Ago

December 1910 was cold. Thousands of tons of ice were harvested from the Susquehanna River and Buffalo Creek during the last week of December. The ice was eight to twelve inches thick. The unusually cold weather provided the opportunity to cut and store the ice so necessary for ice boxes in homes and shops (refrigerators were not introduced until the 1920's). The cold weather was followed by an early January thaw and rain, which caused the ice to break up and flow downstream and the river to rise several feet.

The trolley from Lewisburg to Milton and Watsonstown - ten years in the planning - started service on January 9, 1911. The train from Milton crossed the Susquehanna River bridge and arrived at the Pennsylvania RR station in Lewisburg at 10 AM. The fare was ten cents from Lewisburg to Milton, fifteen cents from Lewisburg to Watsonstown. The trolley ran from six in the morning until eleven at night.

Railroad engineer Ira C. Neyhart, from Lewisburg, was acknowledged for his thirty-four years of service on the Harrisburg to Williamsport line. Neyhart began work on the Pennsylvania Railroad as a brakeman in 1876, worked as a fireman, and then an engineer. During his eleven years as an engineer, he traveled over 850,000 miles.

At the Lewisburg Business Men's Association monthly meeting, the group discussed fire alarm systems for the fire engine house. Pamphlets, by the Association, would soon be available for local residents to send to friends and relatives across the country, on the "advantages of [the area's] natural location in one of the richest farming valleys in the State, its fine water...splendid railroad communications...superior educational advantages...doctors, fine churches" for those looking for a new home or factory site.

Advertisements included sales of clothing at Rosenblum Bro's, coats and furs at Schreyer Store, and in all departments at Seidel & Spangler's, all in Milton; sales on clothing and accessories at Taggart & Co. in Watsonstown; and sales of hardware at H.C. Hyatt store in Lewisburg prior to their move to York.

The latest fashions were covered in "Return of Plaid - A Favorite for Children's Dresses" with a lovely line drawing of a calf-length, two-piece collared dress; and an article on the appealing clothing combination of black with royal blue.

Farmers could read about "Making Pullets Lay."

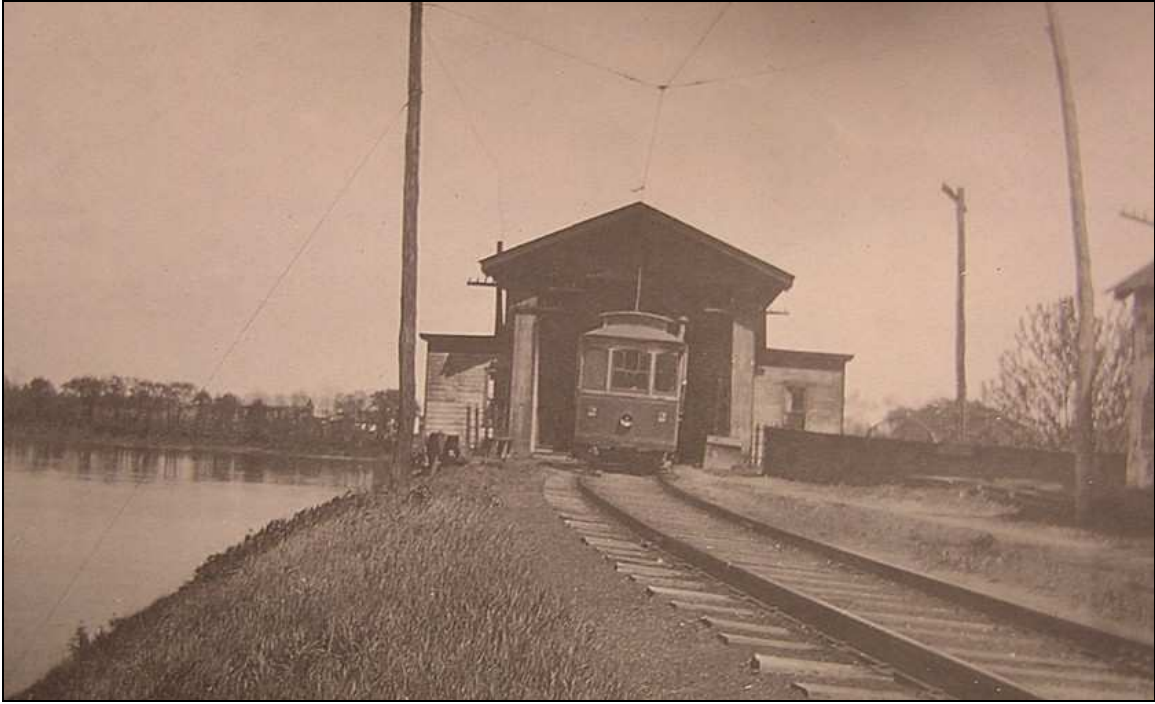
German readers were offered the column "In Ma Hexa Nesht."

In national and state news, the US postal department was reported to be "nearing the point of being self-sustaining," and the state legislature was considering providing pensions for teachers after 30 years of service (although retired teachers would be on-call to fill in as needed).

In other news, the storied marriage of Princess Clementine of Belgium and Prince Bonaparte, Pretender to the French throne, was reported from Turin, Italy. A stock car race driver's misadventures were reported from Riverhead, NY, and the start of a new school to teach farming was reported from Dubuque, Iowa.

In The Lewisburg Journal weekly newspaper, published on Fridays, dozens of small ads, single-line death and marriage announcements, deed and executor's notices filled out the pages. There were no photographs.

This and other newspapers (from 1834-1952) on microfilm at the Union County Historical Society, let us time-travel to prior years to read first-hand about the people and events in history.



Trolley Crossing the Susquehanna River