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10 Notes on Daily Local News articles from April 1931

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Notes on Daily Local News articles from April 1931

compiled by Nuah Gweh

Disclaimer: These notes on articles from the West Chester, Pennsylvania *Daily Local News* were collected for specific research projects related to industrialization and the Depression of the 1930s. They do not include all of the articles in any issue, nor do they contain all of the information in any particular article. While every reasonable effort was made to insure its accuracy, information on this website is presented AS IS without warranty, either expressed or implied, as to its accuracy, timeliness, or completeness. It is intended as a resource for historians, and nothing more.

1931/04/01 wages

"Hoover Opposes Lowering Wages" in *Daily Local News* (April 1, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Hoover continues to make every effort to induce employer to maintain the agreement not to reduce working forces or payrolls. 238 establishments.

1931/04/01 church

"Union Services of Holy Week" in *Daily Local News* (April 1, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

The second service of the Union Holy Week in the First Presbyterian Church was addressed by Rev. Hinson V. Howleth.

1931/04/02 moving

"Noondad Glances" in *Daily Local News* (April 2, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Rev. N. Barton Masters, the former pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church of West Chester, moved to Philadelphia.

1931/04/04 coal

"Spencer Heaters Save Coal Money" in *Daily Local News* (April 4, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

West Chester and Chester County homeowners are installing Spencer heaters by Charles King a plumber at 141 West Gay Street.

1931/04/04 management

"Lawrence Haley at Haines's Shoe Store" in *Daily Local News* (April 4, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Lawrence Haley is taking over the management of the Haines shoe store on North Church St.

1931/04/06 visitors

"People Visit City" in *Daily Local News* (April 6, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

The business depression was forgotten. All merchants did business during the day and evening. Not since Christmas holiday have there been so many people visiting.

1931/04/06 crime, race

"Two Hold-Up Suspects Nabbed by Police Through Tip Given by Victim; Third Man Escapes" in *Daily Local News* (April 6, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Three Negroes held up and robbed Edward Barry's grocery store at the intersection of Matlack and Magnolia.

1931/04/07 library

"Library Board Reports For Month" in *Daily Local News* (April 7, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

The monthly meeting of the West Chester Library Board was held at the Public Library. The librarian reported that more than 5,000 volumes are circulated at the public desk to more than 1,600 patrons.

1931/04/08 bar association

"Bar Association Will Hold Special Meeting Next Week" in *Daily Local News* (April 8, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

The committee recently appointed to make investigation into alleged irregularities in jury drawing.

1931/04/08 property, suing

"Ask Injunction Against Razing of Building Here" in *Daily Local News* (April 8, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Mrs. Frances Broomall charges the president of the Green Tree Company with shutting off water supply of her soda fountain and lunch room business in the building because her lease is up.

1931/04/08 lions report

"Lions Report on Welfare Work in County at Conference Here; High officials are Welcome" in *Daily Local News* (April 8, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Reports given showed a large amount of welfare work accomplished. Much work had been done in interest of the unemployed, contributions to community nurse fund and to needy boys.

1931/04/08 money

"Dollar Bill Now Worth \$1.25" in *Daily Local News* (April 8, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Since 1926, the value of the dollar has appreciated about 25 cents.

1931/04/09 teacher

"College Teacher is Granted Leave" in *Daily Local News* (April 9, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Ms. Muriel Leach of the Health Education department at West Chester State Teachers College was granted two month leave for her illness.

1931/04/09 men roles

"Father Preside at School Meeting" in *Daily Local News* (April 9, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

A father of one of the students at the Demonstration School of the State Teacher College acted as host during a program to prove that they are interested in school matters.

1931/04/09 sewage plants

"\$178,000 Bid on Sewage Plants Stumps Council" in *Daily Local News* (April 9, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Bids for the proposed improvements to West Chester's two sewage disposal plants were opened. There were seven bids which ranged as high as \$233,000.

1931/04/09 crime, race

"Hold New Suspects in Barry Hold-Up" in *Daily Local News* (April 9, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Two Negro suspects are being held for the robbery at Edward Barry's grocery store on South Matlack Street.

1931/04/09 reserve fund

"Home Builders Talk of Reserve Fund Plan" in *Daily Local News* (April 9, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Stockholders of West Chester Financial Institution will vote on the recommendation of committee concerning a reserve fund.

1931/04/09 students

"Students take part in Mission Programs" in *Daily Local News* (April 9, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

West Chester State Teacher College girls contribute features to meeting of Westminster Women.

1931/04/10 college improvement

"College Trustees Plan Improvement" in *Daily Local News* (April 10, 1931).
[Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

The board of trustees of the State Teacher College is planning to make repairs to the building of school.

1931/04/10 race issues

"Cheyney Sponsors Sabbath Forum" in *Daily Local News* (April 10, 1931).
[Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

White and Negro representatives from churches, fraternities, lodges and societies, clubs, etc. will gather at the West Chester High School auditorium in an inspiration and education fellowship.

1931/04/10 telephone

"Few Accidents on Telephone Lines" in *Daily Local News* (April 10, 1931).
[Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

John R. Townsend of 142 West Market Street is in charge of safety at Bell Telephone Company and aids in protecting 7000 from harm.

1931/04/11 visitors

"Australian Pay a Visit to Hospital" in *Daily Local News* (April 11, 1931).
[Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Ms. Katharine Ogilleie, secretary of the board of the Rachel Forbes Hospital in Sydney inspects Chester county plant in order to gain pointers.

1931/04/11 bank, police

"Special Detail of Police Patrol Business District; Bank Requests Protection" in *Daily Local News* (April 11, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Suspicious actions on the part of two strangers arouses officials of financial institution. Officers will be on guard until danger is past.

1931/04/11

Interview with Philip M. Sharples, *Daily Local News* (April 11, 1931), in CCHS clippings file "Sharples, Philip M." [Notes by Jim Jones]

This is from an interview with Philip M. Sharples after he returned one spring from Florida to West Chester. Philip M. Sharples went to primary school with Aunt Hannah Embree on W. Barnard Street across from the Denney Tag Company. He learned commercial bookkeeping at the Stratton School in Philadelphia, then worked for the Buckeye Engine Works in Salem OH for a year. [farm equipment manufacturing] When he returned to West Chester, he leased his first shop from Thomas Baird. There, he built engines for Dutt's Mill, Milltown and Milton Darlington at Pomeroy. In Pomeroy, Philip M. Sharples saw his first cream separator, a Danish Westen model. He became interested in the technology, and approached J. & J. Darlington, grocers in West Chester. The Darlingtons saw an advertisement for De Laval separators and wrote away for information from Joseph R. Peale. Peale was in debt, and while he claimed that he had no money, Philip M. Sharples "got it somehow" and bought the De Laval franchise plus ten separators that were en route from Europe. He sold three to J & J Darlington, three to J. E. Gillingham (Swarthmore), one to Darlington Strode and three to Blooming Glen near Quakertown.

Over time, separator technology improved. The De Laval machines was a 2hp device that could process 500 pounds of milk an hour. In 1931, a 1hp device could process 10,000 pounds of milk an hour. Philip M. Sharples received encouragement from the man who replaced Peale as the De Laval agent, Mr. Lamb, described as a light-skinned Hebrew who had been a marine engineer in Scandinavia. Philip M. Sharples manufactured everything but the bowl in the De Laval separator.

After the De Laval managment "changed," the company filed "17 or 18" patent lawsuits against Philip M. Sharples, but he won them all. Philip M. Sharples then opened a branch in Elgin, IL, run by his brother, David T. Sharples. The other main factory is in Harburg, twenty miles from Hamburg. There are also shops in San Francisco, Toronto and Chicago. For years, the company produced 60,000 separators each year. Their small separators were affordable by farmers, who used them to break the monopolies held by local creameries.

Philip M. Sharples thought of moving his German operations to Belgium after the war, because Germany's war debt meant that taxes were high. German skilled wages were 15-16 cents/hour, compared to 50-60 cents in the USA. Philip M. Sharples also owned the Planebrook Lime Works, the Greentree Hotel, the Greystone, and the land that was set aside to become Warwick State Park.

Philip M. Sharples' brother David T. Sharples was eight years younger, and Robert died in 1929. Philip M. Sharples was a close friend of Tom Butler, Larry Eyre and former governor Sproul.

1931/04/13 race issues

"Cheyney League Puts on Program at School Here" in *Daily Local News* (April 13, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Educational and recreational features of community life for colored citizens are stressed in West Chester High School auditorium.

1931/04/13 crime, race

"Local Police Raid Disorderly House" in *Daily Local News* (April 13, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

West Chester police raided an alleged disorderly house at 303 East Market Street, arresting and fined 16 Negroes.

1931/04/13 crime

"Colored Man Held in Stabbing Affair" in *Daily Local News* (April 13, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Butler who attempted suicide after attacking his wife because he was angry that his wife didn't want to go to Virginia with him. [JJ: It is not clear if this man's name was Burler or if he worked as a butler.]

1931/04/14 bar association

"Criminal Prosecutions Looms as Result of Bar Association Findings" in *Daily Local News* (April 14, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Special committee will make report before county attorneys on alleged irregularities of jury drawing methods.

1931/04/15 bar association

"Investigation into the Alleged Jury "Padding" is Put Up to Court" in *Daily Local News* (April 15, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

The court has to decide to either to carry on or drop the investigation of alleged jury "padding," probed by a committee of attorneys.

1931/04/15 red cross

"West Chester Responds to Red Cross Appeal" in *Daily Local News* (April 15, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

West Chester and Vicinity contributed \$1989.42 to the Starvation Relief Fund gathered by American Red Cross for the suffering in the mid west caused by drought.

1931/04/17 crime, race

"Jailed on Highway Robbery Charges" in *Daily Local News* (April 17, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Amos Scott was arrested and held for court on robbery assault and battery charges.

1931/04/18 visitors

"Unemployed Marches Visit Chester County" in *Daily Local News* (April 18, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

150 marchers are schedule to pass through Northern Chester County. They will be presenting a bill for unemployment insurance.

1931/04/18 store owner

"A Drug Store Independently Owned" in *Daily Local News* (April 18, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Thatcher's drug store owned by Walter E. Scott at 33 East Market Street take personal interest in Patrons and their needs.

1931/04/20 liquor

"Five Defendant Enter Pleas Of Guilty and are Sentence" in *Daily Local News* (April 20, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Wesley Stamp pleaded guilty to charges of possession and transportation of liquor.

1931/04/21 college improvement

"Repairs Authorized by College Board" in *Daily Local News* (April 21, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Announcement was made that may 16 as the date of dedication for the new gymnasium.

1931/04/21 liquor

"Coatesville Tip Leads to Raid Finding Liquor" in *Daily Local News* (April 21, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

O. D. Holmes, a well-known politician and city assessor for the fifth ward in Coatesville, with his son Ted Holmes was caught in home with 7 gallons of whisky, 10 gallons of wine and beer and other ingredients on making illegal booze.

1931/04/21 liquor

"Clergy Endorse Battle Against County Rum Ring" in *Daily Local News* (April 21, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Chester Valley group support efforts against liquor trade.

1931/04/22 property

"Razing of Green Tree Inn Will be Started This Week; Home Labor to be Employed" in *Daily Local News* (April 22, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Fred S. Wood, president of Green Tree Inn says sub-contract work will be placed in the hands of local contractors.

1931/04/22 police

"Local Police Force Will Be Equipped With Tear Gas Guns" in *Daily Local News* (April 22, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

West Chester police force is to be equipped with tear gas guns and shells in readiness for the dispersion of mobs.

1931/04/13 coal, crime, race

"Must Serve Time for Taking Load of Coal" in *Daily Local News* (April 13, 1931). [Notes by Nuah Gweh, 2006]

Clarence Smith, colored man was charged with larceny of a truckloads of coal from the Hipple Yards of C. C. Hipple & Son.
