

Around-About Bridgeport

By WILLIAM LAMALE

From October, 1893, to June, 1922, many Bridgeporters would not go on a picnic, trip or plan a day's outing without first consulting Jennings, the weatherman.

William Jennings, proprietor of a stationery and tobacco shop at the foot of Gold street, had a 50-foot pole mounted atop his store, which fluttered colorful weather flags. The message they contained was considered of greater value than the time of the day furnished by the clock in the courthouse steeple.

Later, Mr. Jennings moved his weather station to 613 Noble avenue and set up some scientific apparatus in the back yard. He no longer maintained the big pole with its weather signals but his reports were printed on little cards placed in store fronts or published in the newspapers.

He died shortly after he was recognized by the city as an authority on weather and was awarded an annual salary of \$1,200.

But "Jennings, the weatherman," as he was known then, is not forgotten now, either officially or unofficially.

His name is still carried on the climatological bulletin issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce which credits him with being the city's first weather observer and publishes his precipitation reports from 1896 and his temperature data from 1895.

And neighbors still remember him as a genial man with a big moustache, who kept a bronze weather vane and some mysterious looking equipment in his backyard, together with a chicken house and beehives.

MR. JENNINGS was the son of Capt. "Bill" Jennings, master of the schooner "Sea Flower" and the sloop, "Henry," and shipped as mate aboard these vessels. At 17 he was an accomplished seaman.

A sailor's natural interest in the weather continued when he opened the shop on Gold street. He proposed to be an observer and successfully petitioned Washington to furnish him with telegraphed forecasts, together with a system for displaying the flag signals. Gen. William Noble and Postmaster Julius Knowlton endorsed his plan.

Each morning the government wired him its report, and Mr. Jennings' weather flags fluttering above the rooftops downtown became a familiar sight.

When his store was condemned to make way for a footbridge across the Pequonnock, Mr. Jennings moved to Noble avenue. There he set up his rain and snow gauge, a self-recording thermometer, a mercurial barometer and thermograph.

The weather vane in the shape of a rooster, and Mr. Jennings at work on his instruments, making readings, are remembered by Kenneth Arnold, of Salem street, who as a youngster peered through the fence of his parents' yard on Jane street into the premises of the weatherman. Chester Osborne, of 800 Noble avenue, recalls that Mr. Jennings used to place one of the weather maps on display in the window of his father's market at Noble avenue and Jane street.

Residents came for blocks to have a look at the 9x14-inch chart which was snapped into a bead frame.

ALTHOUGH Mr. Jennings was known mostly as "the weather man," keeping a climatological data was actually a diversion. He worked 19 years for the Bridgeport Hydraulic company as a water inspector, checking plumbing for leakage. In that capacity he visited nearly every house in the city.

He was a volunteer member of the Fire department, eventually rising to the rank of assistant chief.

ON TELEVISION TODAY

Television Features

Table listing TV features with times and station call letters (e.g., 7:00-7:30 AM GOOD MORNING: WNA WNH).

Table listing TV features with times and station call letters (e.g., 7:30-8:00 AM OFF THE AIR).

Table listing TV features with times and station call letters (e.g., 8:00-8:30 AM OFF THE AIR).

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Table listing TV features with times and station call letters (e.g., 9:30-10:00 AM OFF THE AIR).

Table listing TV features with times and station call letters (e.g., 10:00-10:30 AM OFF THE AIR).

Table listing TV features with times and station call letters (e.g., 10:30-11:00 AM OFF THE AIR).

Table listing TV features with times and station call letters (e.g., 11:00-11:30 AM OFF THE AIR).

TODAY'S RADIO PROGRAMS

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ROTO-ROOTER SEWER SERVICE advertisement with logo and contact information.

Happy solution to seasonal expenses advertisement featuring a cartoon character.

WOMEN VOTERS PLAN MEETING AND PARTY advertisement with a table of monthly payment schedules.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE Corporation advertisement with contact details.

WIN A GARAGE advertisement with details on prizes and rules.

TV AERIALS INSTALLED & REPAIRED advertisement.

PROMPT Radio-TV Service advertisement.

NOW! GET THE TV ENJOYMENT advertisement.

Mutual Loan System advertisement with a table of loan terms.

INDIAN PRINCESS WEDS PALEFACE

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 2—(AP) Far from her Oklahoma reservation, Creek Indian Princess White Rose today took a paleface husband and dubbed him Chief Mockingbird.

The 53-year-old bride, more generally known as Gertrude Moses of Los Angeles, said she is the daughter of Chief Greyhawk.

Entering the tribe and matrimony in what was described as an authentic Creek ceremony was 45-year-old Roy Potter, Los Angeles house painter.

Hillbilly entertainer William McGuire, who said he really is Creek Chief Wah-Nee-Ota, conducted the tribal rites beneath two Blackfoot scalps in his frame wigwam on East 77th Place.

"The scalps of our enemies who thought they had stronger medicine," explained feather-bonneted Wah-Nee-Ota.

The bride wore a fringed buckskin gown and a three-feather tiara. A potter, or Mockingbird, wore a brown business suit and was crowned with a porcupine quill roach.

Nicking the couple's wrists with a jackknife, Wah-Nee-Ota bound their hands together so that the blood mingled, and intoned: "As blood flows in your veins, you are man and wife in Indian ceremony."

After Wah-Nee-Ota got through making matrimonial medicine, the Rev. Marie Pearl Williams united Mrs. Moses and Potter in a more legal type of ceremony.

WOUNDED HUNTER GAINS IN HOSPITAL

KEENE, N. H., Dec. 2—(AP) William Bolton, 33, of Manchester, Conn., was reported improved at Elliot Community hospital today after emergency surgery for a bullet wound in the stomach.

Police said Bolton was shot yesterday in the accidental discharge of a .22 caliber pistol he tossed into the rear of his parked car on Route 9.

His hunting companion, Elmer Ostrout, also of Manchester, Conn., drove Bolton to the hospital and reported the incident to authorities.

SOCIALISTS ASSAIL ZHUKOV HONORED

MOSCOW, Dec. 2—(AP) The Soviet Union gave Defense Minister Georgi K. Zhukov an unprecedented honor on his 60th birthday today. It awarded him the Order of Lenin and a fourth Star Medal, one more Gold Star than any other Russian has received.

Each of the stars carries the title Hero of the Soviet Union, which is considered equivalent here to the Medal of Honor in the United States.

The awards to Zhukov, a marshal who won acclaim in both strategic planning and field command in World War II, were accompanied by congratulations from the central committee of the Communist party and the Council of Ministers.

Zhukov was hailed as a "great soldier, distinguished worker of the Communist party, Soviet statesman... our friend and comrade."

The Sphinx in Egypt was carved, according to best calculations about 3500 B. C.

HOLIDAY CASH advertisement with a table of cash amounts.

50 MORE STYLES advertisement for garages.