

# THE LONDON FISH WRAPPER

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Festival Today! Information on p. 10

DECEMBER 3, 1842

## BRIDGE TROLL CRIES FOWL FOLLOWING NEW ELECTIONS COULD A SOUTH-SIDE MAYOR BE NEXT?

Local elections and appointments to Public Office by Her Majesty have meant big changes are in-store for the city.

The House of Councilors (locally known as the "Burro Council") has undergone significant personnel changes in the last 2 years, with the new Council headed by local putty tycoon the Honorable Aaron Muddycrick. "Crazy Aaron" as he is affectionately called by the locals, perhaps for his invention of "chewing putty" (or perhaps because he is running for a second term?) immediately called for an emergency meeting of the Council and urged all to members quickly be seated. Unbeknownst to the Council members, prior to their arrival he had placed a generous amount of the aforementioned chewing putty on their seats, and although the new "Burro Chairman" could be heard howling with laughter, few Council members shared in the mirth. "It's going to be a long year" muttered veteran Councilman Robert Begriet as he attempted to remove the sticky substance from his council robe.

The BIG story out of City Hall however is the election of the city's first female Mayor, Barrister Andrea Deutsch, who readers may recall ran unsuccessfully against the Narberth Avenue Bridge Troll for the local Dog Catcher office. In that race, it had been Barrister Deutsch's position that stray dogs should be fed and adopted, while the Troll ran on the platform that stray dogs should be eaten... by him. Although the troll's policy has begun to reduce the numbers of strays in the area, it has also reduced the number of pets in the area, leading some citizens to suggest that the Troll may not have been the best choice for this position. "We'll be looking very carefully at the Troll's record-keeping and hopefully get to the bottom of the recent drop in Pet Licensing renewals."

As early as just last week the Burro Council had adopted a "form-based zoning code" which establishes guidelines for what buildings should look like, and it seems

no coincidence that Mayor-elect Deutsch had an "axe to grind". She immediately suggested that the trolls dwelling under the Narberth Avenue Bridge be scrutinized very carefully for code violations and Burro Manager Sean Metric and Assistant Manager Matt Northbynorthwest could be seen with measuring sticks in-hand approaching the trolls "dwelling" under the bridge.

Not typically one to grant interviews, this reporter was able to spend a few moments with the troll after he had finished his morning meal of some unfortunate stray and was picking his teeth with something that looked suspiciously like a dog license.



Artist's rendering of the Bridge Troll (not to scale)

"I miss the good 'ol days" lamented the Troll, "when Bill Martin would come and visit and bring a couple of cats and we'd down a few pints!"

"Now they've gone and elected some guy... Crazy Aaron I think they calls 'im, to lead the Burro Council! And if THAT ain't bad enough, they elect a WOMAN as Mayor! And she has a pet food business! I mean, I likes a plump pup and a nice fat cat as much as the next troll, but now she's makin' life difficult with all these rules and questions about disappearing pets... what about them Rugby football players not standin' when they play God Save the Queen!", referring to the new popular sport



Footballers ignore a disapproving Queen

sweeping the nation that has evolved from a brutal village vs. village brawl across open farm fields to the more contained brawls of village vs. village in the stadium seating areas.

Trying to stay on-topic, I asked the troll about the state of the movement to evict him and tear-down his bridge, replacing it with a smooth-bottom "troll-proof" bridge.

"Ahh! That old chestnut!" scoffed the Troll. "They been sayin' that fer what... ten years now? That ain't happenin'— mark my words! They've been busy diggin'-up streets here for the past 2 years lookin' for buried treasure or somethin... look at this town! It's a mess! McShea's is selling Mexican food, The Greeks have salads on their menu, and the American Pub hasn't had a roasted cat dish in years! And now a woman Mayor?!? What's next? A SOUTH-SIDER as Mayor?!? I miss the good ol' days when people didn't watch their kids so close and you could snatch one for a late night snack!"

In other city news, a mysterious "plague of parklets" has been ravaging the city for the past year and confounded some citizens who have been caught by surprise. "I stopped me horse and carriage here by the side of the road, and just popped my head into the local pub here for a pint... and I comes out and there's me horse and carriage surrounded by green grass, chirpin birds, a fence, and two blokes sittin' in easy chairs sippin' tea and reading their books like they was in a city Park or somethin'" exclaimed Matthew Gutt. "So I goes back in for another pint 'cause me horse is likin' the grass under his feet, and I comes out in 30 minutes... It's all gone! I don't get it!"

Police have no leads on the Parklet mystery.

### MENDELSSOHN TRIES TO STAY ATOP THE CHARTS WITH HIS "SYMPHONY #3"

Felix Mendelssohn, the German composer and conductor with the funny accent introduced his latest musical offering "Symphony No. 3 in A Minor" in last week to mixed reviews. The "Scottish Symphony" as it is becoming known attempts to put the mystique of the Scottish countryside to music, but in Edinburgh one patron wasn't all that impressed: "I listened for nearly an hour" complained William Watson, "but I never 'erd no PIPES! A Sco'ish tune 'as got t'have Pipes, don't it now?!" exclaimed a befuddled Watson. "Mey-be the kids like it, but noot me an' the missus!" (sic) A London performance is not yet scheduled.

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## AMERICAN CUISINE COMES TO TOWNE

An entrepreneur who recently arrived here intends to teach Britain a thing or two about fine dining. Mr. Thomas Darlington, proprietor of the newly opened "Great American Public House & Restaurant" claims that Britons need only expand their tastes beyond the traditional slab of meat and two vegetables to discover spices and seasonings that he claims can augment both of Britain's seasonings (salt and pepper).

Darlington has taken the bold step of hiring a "chef", that is, one who only cooks for a living! "He only cooks" claims Darlington, "I'll run the tavern." Seems a rather lavish expense for a Public House and an easy a recipe for financial disaster to this writer. Still, that's not the only unique thing at this Pub. "We're going to serve our beer cold" says Darlington.

...Really. What a bizarre idea, but who knows how these Yanks think?

Better get to THIS Public House soon, as tasty food and cold beer are sure to empty their coffers and put Darlington in the Poor House lickety split!

## LONDON TOWER FIRE RULED SUSPICIOUS

The fire that raged in the Tower of London earlier this year has been ruled "suspicious" by Fire Captain, Jed Riddell. "Wot, with all them struck matches lying around on the floor and them empty oil containers lyin' about, it's makin' me rethink my earlier guess of a lighting strike. It could be that someone either did this deliberately... or on purpose!"

The outbreak of disease in the garrison in 1841 caused by poor water supply resulted in several deaths and led to the decision to drain the moat of the festering water. This left fireman little choice but to form a bucket brigade of local volunteers. With the opening of trout season underway at the nearby Thames River however, Captain Riddell thought it better to use a lake in Hyde Park some 4 miles distant so as not to disturb the fishing. "It did take quite a bit o' time to get enough water on the thing" surmised Riddell. "It was a good thing we had so many buckets in stock at my hardware store." The day has already become known as "Black Friday" at Ricklin's Ironmonger Shop, perhaps from the soot from the fire? Police have a local teenager in custody, one William Henderson.

## ADOLPHE SAX TOOTS HIS OWN HORN THIS WEEK

Belgian musician and inventor Adolphe Sax comes to town this week from his shop in Paris in an effort to popularize his controversial new creation, the Sax-a-phone. Mr. Sax has applied to patent what he calls a "new musical voice," however many here in Britain have merely termed it "that annoying honking thing". "My— but that's a god-awful noise maker isn't it?!" exclaimed musician and Music shoppe owner Dan Gold. "All that squeakin' and honkin'... it all gets to be a little much, I'd say!"

Sax claims that his objective in fashioning his ungainly brass creation was to develop an instrument with "the projection of a brass horn but the agility of a woodwind". The actual development work began when he apprenticed in his father's music shop in Brussels, but his father's irritation with the sound brought the suggestion that he move out of earshot of the shop. "I asked him how far away, and he said "Paris" remembers Sax. Interestingly, the instrument appears to have taken hold in Africa, where local musicians sporting dark sun spectacles they received from missionaries have taken to playing the Sax-a-phone late into the evening while smoking a relaxing herbal concoction.

## IRISH POTATOES COULD BE BETTER

The new crop of Irish potatoes is just coming to market, and this writer is a bit disappointed.

Traditionally potatoes have been a staple of Irish "cuisine" (a term used generously) for the past century. England's taste for beef has required the British government to set aside the most fertile Irish land for cattle grazing by English cattlemen who confiscated vast stretches of Irish land following Lord Cromwell's reduction of the Irish landowning population in the 1640's. Since that time the Irish have had to make due on small plots of marginal land, and they found potatoes a suitable crop to avert alleged "starvation". They became quite adept at potato farming too— and delicious spuds could be had for just a few pence from most any gaunt-looking Irishman.

This year's crop, however, leaves a bit to be desired. I found more than a few cases of potatoes rotting just days after they

were harvested, and rumors speak of Irish potatoes rotting in the fields in just a matter of weeks! Obviously Irish farmers are either over-watering or under nourishing their crops, probably in an attempt to save a shilling or two... but at the expense of English consumers! One dim-witted farmer I spoke with, Patrick Dailey, claims it's a mystery to him what the problem might be. "Could be the Fairy Folk up to their tricks again" lamented Dailey. "I was sharing a Guinness or three with John Duffy just the other night, and one of 'em kicked the barstool out from under me! Before I knew it, I was on the floor lookin' up at a spinnin' room!" When this writer suggested that perhaps it was the Guinness *itself* that "kicked the barstool out" Dailey dismissed the idea as blarney. "'Tis the Leprechauns doin' this!" he disparaged. "They're unhappy that the English are buildin' houses on their fairy paths! That's wot 'tis!" (sic) Obviously his is yet

another weak Irish mind amply fertilized with Guinness.

Dailey does have a plan, however. "Me wife's cousin, McDonald— he says he'll buy my rotten potatoes and his French wife will fry them up! He's goin' to America to start his own business sellin' these "France Fries".

Leave it to the French to have no taste at all. I wish the McDonald's much luck in finding buyers for these potatoes! Not much to make my meal happy, I'd say.

What Ireland really needs is a potato blight to rid us of these tasteless tubers!

BY NICK RICHOLS

## DESIGN CHANGES SLOW WESTMINSTER PALACE CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS— NEW LEADERSHIP

The reconstruction of Westminster Palace, which was heavily damaged in the fire of 1834 continues to be plagued by design changes delays. The Architect chosen for the job, Philip Ivory, has stopped all work on the reconstruction of the former clock tower and submitted a design for a much more grandiose tower that will "house the largest clock in the world" according to City Manager William Martin. "It'll have four faces and chime every fifteen minutes" Martin explained. "A thing of beauty... I wouldn't want to have to wind the damned thing though!" exclaimed Martin. "It weighs five tons!"

The idea for a large clock came from Ivory's maternal grandfather, Benjamin Rolex, who dabbled in clock-making in the family's basement. "My grandfather has very poor sight", explained Ivory, "He builds things a bit oversized so that he can see what he's doing. It's led to a nickname we have for him—

"Big Ben". Unfortunately the clock he's just finished is 23-feet in diameter— a bit large for a vest pocket. Grandmom wants it out of the basement, so I told him we could use it in the big tower at Westminster. I do hope the Queen likes it."

With a projected completion date of August, 1859 further changes may still be likely according to Project Manager Pierce Keating. "We just had a proposal from a Japanese clockmaker by the name of Seiko" says Keating. "She claims her clock would be much more attractive and accurate, and I believe her... But she wants her name on the face of it and an image of someone she calls 'Hello Kitty'. I don't think the Queen will go for that!"

Final selections are being made next month on exterior finishes, with natural stone favored by the architect over Her Majesty's choice of aluminum siding and stucco. "I'm TRYING to build a PALACE here, for cryin' out loud!" explained Ivory.

## MANHUNT FOR MUTINEER!

FLETCHER CHRISTIAN,  
RING-LEADER FROM THE HMS  
BOUNTY BELIEVED SEEN LOCALLY

Narberth— Local constables are searching for a man many believe to be the leader from the April 1789 ill-fated mutiny aboard the HMS *Bounty* in the south seas. The suspect has been seen in various local taverns consuming tropical cocktails and requesting meals with "extra coconut sauce". One heated exchange in a local Tahitian restaurant nearly led to fisticuffs. "He kept asking for breadfruit" recounted chef Ho Lee Kow— "we don't have bread OR fruit!" Though reported to have died on Pitcairn Island where the mutineers lived undiscovered for many years, Fletcher's grave was never located and he is rumored to have hopped a passing American whaler and made his way back to



Christian in 1789



Artist sketch with age progression

England. Despite his fame, a reward of only one shilling has been offered for information leading to his arrest. Police suspect that locals' silence is probably being bought with Christian's ample supply of gold thought to be from his reported connection to the "Bounty Tiki Lantern Co." and a vast North American paper towel empire. "This may take some time" reported Lt. Pavoni of the police. "He's not what I'd call a quicker picker-upper!"

NEWS FROM THE WILDS OF THE CANADA COLONIES AND AMERICA

**Desertions Continue to Plague Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment—Americans Complain of “Illegals”**

The Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment (RCRR) is a regular unit of the British Army raised in 1840 and tasked with manning the forts along the U.S.-Canadian border. Recently however the rate of desertion by these troops in favor of higher wage jobs in America has been epidemic. “It’s hard to keep lads here when they just look across the road to America and those blokes are livin’ it up and have money just hangin’ out of their pockets!” according to the regimental Adjutant, Major Peter Roeser. In response, the Ministry of War authorized the raising of a veterans’ regiment, to be recruited from soldiers of at least fifteen years service in other regiments. The apparent theory is that these soldiers are unlikely to desert, having had years of opportunity to do so but not taken it. They are also more likely to be married and thus less susceptible to rumors of fast money at “casinos” run by American Indians, although the lure of higher paying jobs in America is still a draw.

Americans, on the other hand, see a problem in the making. “These fellers come down here and take jobs that we Americans would do... ‘cept we don’t want to” voiced New York resident David Stehman. “They pick apples faster ‘n better than we can— at half the price!” With their military bed-making skills the deserting troops have also gained a favorable reputation in the Lodging industry as house-keepers and as “undocumented domestics” for wealthy Americans. Further, in the more industrialized areas along the U.S.-Canadian border where small factories known as “sweat shops” are abundant, the Canadians rather enjoy the warmth. “I don’t see what there’s to complain about, eh?” said former Corporal Sam Quinn. “I like the warmer working conditions... and we can still play hockey 5 months a year! The beer’s terrible though.” Sealing the border with the installation of a handsome 900-mile white picket fence is being considered by the Tyler administration in an effort to stem the tide of the “Ice-backs”.

**“Giselle” A Sensation!  
Local Ballerina In Title Role**

*Giselle*, first presented by the Ballet du Théâtre de l’Académie Royale de Musique in Paris in June 1841, and this year at Her Majesty’s Theatre in London, continues to win acclaim at its Philadelphia premier for lead performer, Ms. Marla Kaine, owner of *Swan Dancewear* in Narberth. Working as an understudy to the renowned Carlota Grissi who performed for Her Majesty, Ms. Kaine was awarded the part after it was found that Ms. Grissi could no longer fit in her costume, a result of consuming too many croissants tossed onto the stage by a local man known only as “Johnny Croissant”. “They’re simply delicious!” declared Ms. Grissi after each performance. “I cannot stop! And Johnnie—he is SO adorable!” Rumors that “Mr. Croissant” is, in fact, the cousin of Ms. Kaine are unsubstantiated.



Marla Kaine as Giselle

**BANK FAILURES CONTINUE IN AMERICA - WORLD ECONOMIES IN DECLINE**

*Philadelphia-* The Pennsylvania chartered Bank of the United States failed amid allegations of mismanagement and bribery. The Bank of the United States owes the Bank of England \$23,000,000 and this debt is unlikely to be recovered. This latest failure is the most sensational of the past two years with 343 of 850 American banks having failed, severely damaging America’s credit reputation in Europe. Europe too has not been immune from the widespread recession, with the Bank of Belgium’s recent failure and the Bank of England’s borrowing of £2,500,000 from the Bank of France. Former American President Van Buren had refused to renew the Bank of the United States’ charter and rumors of bribery surround Pennsylvania’s decision to charter the Bank. The American federal government began withdrawing

public funds from the Bank in 1840 and as American banks began failing despite extensive borrowing from other banks, and ordered a suspension of business until investigators could arrange for several deposits to keep the Bank solvent. Despite these efforts, runs on the Bank of the United States commenced as soon as it reopened and within weeks its capital was again depleted, forcing a second suspension and finally closure. Bank of England’s Executive Committee met in extraordinary session to consider its response to the \$23,000,000 default. “It’s not like they borrowed a few quid for a Guinness” said Bank of England Treasurer Leslie Marshall. “It’s 23 million dollars, by God! We’re talking real money here!” Bank of the United States spokesman Fred Hansell in Philadelphia stated that

bank and government officials would strive to settle with the Bank of England in non-monetary terms, offering local assets in lieu of cash, much to Leslie Marshall’s chagrin. “Their idea of collateralized debt is certainly not based on what most economists would deem as high-value assets!” quipped Marshall. “It’s like they’re cleaning out the attic; offering us an old cracked bell, a hand-sewn flag by a local celebrity seamstress, and something called a cheese-steak franchise? Who do they think we are— tourists?!” Her Majesty Queen Victoria is considering a hard-line approach to any settlement, including repossession options on two American States which she fancies. “They make a most delicious chowder in Maine” her Majesty recounted... “and that Fried Chicken in Kentucky... finger licking good!”

**HAWAII**

Faced with the problem of foreign encroachment of Hawaiian territory, His Majesty King Kamehameha III deemed it prudent and necessary to dispatch one Hawaiian delegation to the United States and another to Europe with the power to settle alleged difficulties with nations, negotiate treaties, and to ultimately secure the recognition of Hawaiian independence by the major powers of the world. In accordance with this view, the King dispatched his sons, Prince Imah Macadamia Nutt, first heir to the throne in the Royal Macadamia Nutt family, his brother, Heesa Macadamia Nutt, Mr. Edward Ridgway, Esq. and Sir Jeffrey Asay, commissioned jointly as Ministers Plenipotentiary on April 8, 1842. Shortly after drawing the “shorter coconut straw,” Sir Jeffrey Asay thereafter left for England via Alaska and Siberia on July 8th. A giggling Prince Imah Macadamia Nutt, Prince Heesa Macadamia Nutt and Mr. Ridgway departed for the United States, via Mexico. The trio were last seen in Acapulco where they were met by the Foreign

Minister of Mexico, Mr. Iguzzel Tequila. Following the usual exchanges of iconic gifts, a Hawaiian coconut mask from the Macadamia Nutts and a Mexican straw hat from Mr. Tequila, the Foreign Minister thought the crowned princes and Mr. Ridgway might like to sample the local cuisine and nightlife in Acapulco. Later at about 3:30 AM in a small dark alley outside an establishment that could only be described as raucous, an inebriated and nearly incoherent Mr. Ridgway was overheard to moan “Those Royal Macadamia Nutts and Tequila are making me sick.” While in the United States the Hawaiian delegation will seek to secure the assurance of U.S. President Tyler on December 19th of its recognition of Hawaiian independence and sovereignty. Costumed Hawaiian dancers intend on performing on the White House lawn despite the Tyler Administrations warnings that “Our Decembers ain’t like your Decembers!” With the snowy forecast, a light turnout is expected.

**TEXAS**

Despite occasional attacks by Mexican forces that “are probably just sore losers” according to Texas President Sam Houston, the Texas fight for independence has essentially been won and the newly recognized Republic of Texas has opened a consular office in Britain, opposite St. James Palace. Light trade in basic commodities has begun between the new republic and England, and although not yet officially recognized by Her Majesty because of Britain’s strong and friendly relationship with Mexico, “It’s only a matter of time before those Texicans can make better tequila than the Mexicans” according to a source close to Her Majesty. Mr. Houston’s domestic troubles continue however. Despite his claims that he defeated “Santa Anna” his children continue to believe he attacked Santa Claus, making them deeply unpopular at school. Mr. Houston suspects that the unexplained “egging” of his residence may also be tied to this inaccuracy.

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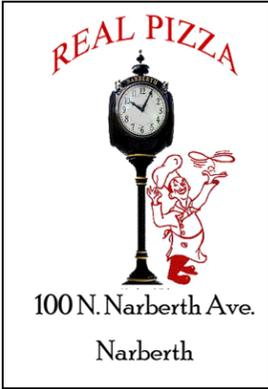
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SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

**First Suspension Bridge Built in America**

*Philadelphia*—Taking inspiration from similar bridges in Switzerland and France, American engineer Charles Ellet designed the recently-opened "Suspension Bridge at Fairmount", the first of its kind in North America and at 358 feet, one of the longest in the world. Mr. Ellet's suspension bridge replaced "The Colossus", the longest single-span wooden bridge in the United States that had been destroyed by fire in 1838 and was in integral part of the "Lancaster Turnpike" toll road from Lancaster to Philadelphia. With the final link to Lancaster effectively severed by the loss of the wooden bridge, the Amish of Lancaster County had no choice but to leave their goods at the banks of the Schuylkill river where the bridge once stood. Incensed by the sight of hundreds of "Shoo-fly" pies piling-up just across the river, Mr. Ellet, long a connoisseur of the dessert sprang into action. "It was just drivin' me bonkers watchin'



those delectable pastries pile up over there!" said an exasperated Mr. Ellet. "I had to stand here and just watch as that Tom Grady from Narberth stood over there stuffin' his pie-hole and grinning!" I suspect he burnt the old bridge down just to horde them pies for himself! Well, he won't burn THIS bridge down!" Mr. Grady was not available for comment.

**Tallest American Politician Weds**

The man many claim to be the tallest politician in America, Illinois Representative Abraham Lincoln, married Miss Mary Todd last month in a private ceremony. The couple was married in the home of Miss Todd's sister, Mrs. Mary Edwards, because of it's high ceilings.

MEDICINE AND THE SCIENCES

**NEW SURGERY BREAKTHROUGH: "ANESTHESIA"**

*Narberth*- Local Oral Surgeon, Dr. Glenn Gray became the first medical practitioner to use the new practice of "anesthesia" on a patient on March 30, 1842 for the removal of a tooth.

Dr. Gray received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1839. After a brief period of studying surgery in New York hospitals, Gray returned to his hometown to "try some ideas on the locals". While in college, Gray had some experience with "ether frolics" and thought there was some possibility the development of an anesthetic to lessen the extreme pain surgery patients had to endure. "Me and a few of the lads back in medical school, we quite enjoyed soaking our kerchiefs in ether and pranking each other!" recounted Gray. "It made for a few rather sore knots on the head when the floor came rushing up, but all in good fun!" He did not have access to the nitrous oxide that he had been so fond of and familiar with in his college years, so he began experimenting with sulfuric ether.

Careful observation showed him that patients suffered no pain when under the influence of this gas, even when severely cut or drilled. Gray took the inevitable next step on March 30, 1842. After having three teeth gold-capped, his patient, Sam Quinn indicated that he was a bit short on cash and unable to pay for the doctor's services. In the ensuing heated discussion Dr. Gray grabbed what he thought was a cloth soaked in water in an attempt to induce payment through a technique he calls "waterboarding". Unknown to Dr. Gray, the cloth was in fact, soaked with sulfuric ether. "I thought I'd killed 'im!" said a surprised Dr. Gray, but when he found Mr. Quinn to be still breathing, he took the opportunity to "recover" the yet unused gold teeth. When Mr. Quinn finally regained consciousness some 3 days later he was three teeth lighter but felt no pain at all! "Next time I'll probably use a bit less ether though" said a relieved Dr. Gray. "...and get payment in advance!"

NORTH AMERICAN VOLCANO

One of the most active volcanoes on the North American continent, Mt. St. Helens erupted recently on November 22nd throwing stone and cinder up to three miles away and ash as far away as Dallas, Texas. While not unknown to seismic activity, it is thought that this latest eruption may have been inadvertently triggered by a local amateur climber Mike O'Donnell, spotted near the summit with friends. Following tremors felt throughout the region, while exploring the top of the mountain O'Donnell jokingly picked up a large, pointed stick, and just before stabbing it into a steam vent shouted "Hey lads—watch THIS!"

The remnants of one of Mr. O'Donnell's shoes was later found some two miles distant from the summit, and his pinky finger just outside Denver.

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Making Narberth bloody brilliant again.

SPORT

It seems that Cricket has taken a good hold in the America's, and Philadelphia is its "Mecca". Now played in numerous cities along the Eastern U.S., Philadelphia has the advantage of stimulus provided by the influx of a number of Lancashire and Yorkshire hosiery and mill-workers, and these working class English communities are still hard at work promoting Cricket. Last year a group of hosiery weavers scheduled matches on holidays and Saturday afternoons attracting local boys and young men to the game. Philadelphia Cricket has now been judged good enough to play full strength Australia and the first-class English clubs. An American player even headed the first-class averages!

Still, some differences have begun to annoy British players. "These Yanks, they're always talking about "running Home" says Wicketkeeper Dan Kazanicka. "Why are they always wanting to go home? I never know if they're gonna finish the game!?"

Cricket appears to have some competition as of late too; a game called "Baseball" has been introduced with favorable results. "I prefer Baseball says a local fan, Paul Turner. "It's got beer and bratwurst... I ain't much of a tea and finger sandwich guy."

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN VISITS LONDON

Famed Danish author Hans Christian Andersen visited London last month and was delighted to see his books of children's stories prominently displayed in booksellers shop windows and public libraries. Mr. Andersen now has three books translated into English and is reportedly working on a fourth.

His most popular short story for children to-date regards a young swan accidentally separated from it's mother, but adopted by a family of ducks. Often teased by his new siblings for his ugliness, he eventually grows to become a graceful swan. This story is beloved by children but lacks a memorable plot and, unfortunately for Andersen probably destined for the discount rack.

A second story that is popular in Denmark but not yet capturing the imagination of children here is that of the young mermaid daughter of King Neptune who falls in love with a human. The story features a singing crab and talking flounder.

Interesting imaginations, Danes.

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The Narberth 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee

The Narberth Dickens Festival is an irresponsible production of the Narberth Business Association and intended for the enjoyment of all.

If you're not having fun, you're just not trying!

The Festival is free to all, but kindly consider supporting those merchants who have braved the elements, dressed foolishly and cooperated with our outrageous demands to be in the spirit of the Day.

Please watch your children—the horses are real!



# Events of the Day



- 11:00 "Muppet Christmas Carol" Narberth Theater, N. Narberth Ave  
Free showing of *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. Limited to theater capacity of first 212 persons.  
Duration: 85 minutes! Let the kids watch, and go have brunch!
- 12:00 - 4:00 Dickens Festival Event Programming — Downtown Narberth District
- 12:00 - 4:00 Crafts and activities—Swan Dancewear, and The Handwork Studio,
- 12:00 - 4:00 Hot Chocolate Forrest Avenue  
Buy a festival mug and get your first cup free, from Lankenau Hospital (Look for mug deals in town for soup & drinks)
- 12:00 - 4:00 Hot Toddy Tasting Forrest Avenue (toddy glasses available)  
Buy a Festival toddy glass for 2 shillings - enjoy three complimentary toddies at local establishments! (21+)
- 12:45 - 3:45 Carriage rides Essex Avenue Carriage Station  
One shilling per rider; no American dollars!
- 12:00-4:00 Trials before the Magistrate. Forrest Ave and Haverford Ave Corner
- 1:00 - 3:00 Scavenger Hunt Narberth Avenue Booth  
Free scavenger hunt for kids of all ages! Start by getting a tin "beggars cup" at the booth on Narberth Ave, then follow the clues on the back page of this paper to collect wooden nickels and win a Dickens Festival prize!
- 12:00 Horn's Punch & Judy Show Narberth Avenue Stage
- 12:00 Ari Paul the Entertainer Haverford Avenue Stage
- 12:30 Ice Sculpting Demonstration Narberth Avenue Stage
- 1:00 Nutcracker Ballet and Reading PA Academy of Ballet, Narberth Ave Hill  
Excerpts from the holiday classic "The Nutcracker Suite" performed by the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet. Opened with a theatrical reading of "A Christmas Carol" performed by the kids from the Narberth Creativity Camp (Dickens Session) - a collaboration between The PA Academy of Ballet, The Handwork Studio, and Sweet Mabel Studio
- 12:30 St Margarets Carolers Haverford Avenue Stage
- 12:45 Men of Harmony Haverford Avenue Stage
- 1:00 Waldron Treblemakers Narberth Avenue Stage
- 1:30 Horn's Punch & Judy Show Narberth Avenue Stage
- 1:30 Flying Flea Circus & Medicine Show Haverford Avenue Stage
- 1:30 Ari Paul the Entertainer Forrest Avenue (by Spots)
- 2:00 Kingsessing Morris Men Haverford Avenue Stage
- 2:00 Waldron Treblemakers Narberth Avenue Stage
- 2:00 Nutcracker Ballet and Reading PA Academy of Ballet, Narberth Ave ("on the hill")
- 2:00 St Margarets Carolers Forrest Avenue (by Spots)
- 2:15 Flying Flea Circus & Medicine Show Forrest Avenue (by Spots)
- 2:30 Men of Harmony Haverford Avenue Stage
- 2:30 Horn's Punch & Judy Show Narberth Avenue Stage
- 3:00 Nutcracker Ballet and Reading PA Academy of Ballet, Narberth Ave ("on the hill")
- 3:00 Kingsessing Morris Men Narberth Avenue Stage
- 3:15 Horn's Punch & Judy Show Narberth Avenue Stage
- 3:15 Flying Flea Circus & Medicine Show Haverford Avenue Stage



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## HONG KONG ISLAND JOINS HER MAJESTY'S EMPIRE

TREATY OF NANKING GUARANTEES BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY "IN PERPETUITY"

*Aboard HMS Narberth*— After much negotiation, often under threat of attack by Her Majesty's Navy, and under the able leadership of Admiral John Nardi, Chinese regents signed the Treaty of Nanking earlier this year. The Treaty has now recently been ratified by her Majesty, Queen Victoria, having earlier been accepted by Emperor Daoguang, the region's Sovereign.

The treaty guarantees perpetual British Sovereignty over Hong Kong island, strategically located along China's south coast and offering excellent harbor for merchant ships as well as war ships of the Royal Navy.

The treaty is a result of the so-called "Opium War" that was a protective action for British merchants who traded with Chinese mainland merchants, accumulating great wealth for all involved, especially certain Chinese regents. The growing tea trade with China and the Chinese desire to be paid in silver bullion however had resulted in a growing trade imbalance that British merchants had come to find unsustainable. Less expensive Opium manufactured in India by British merchant Andrew (*Drew*) Johnson, a Greek immigrant, has quickly erased this imbalance, however Chinese government interference and seizure of significant quantities of the medicine and even the merchants themselves had caused her Majesty's Admiralty to act decisively and win both the release of all prisoners, the payment for all seized opium, and the forfeiture of Hong Kong island.

The island, situated at the mouth of the Pearl River in southern China appears nearly bare of any natural resources or usable lumber for ship-building. "What we want with this godforsaken, mosquito-infested rock

is a mystery to me" complained Admiral Nardi. "Surely nothing will ever come of this place!"

After the signings and as a gesture of goodwill, the Chinese delegation was invited aboard the *HMS Lions* as guests of Captain J. T. Binstead and treated to his newest victual delicacy, The Hot Dog.



Captain Binstead

The Chinese delegation were suitably impressed and heard to exclaim that they had never thought of such a clever use for dog but would immediately investigate including it in the Chinese diet. "Up until now we've kept them as pets and fed THEM!" explained local chef Sum Ting Wong.

The festivities lasted long into the evening hours, with grog consumed in considerable quantities, resulting in more than a few soiled uniforms of Her Majesty's sailors. All was not lost however when the Chinese delegation quickly pointed out that the uniforms could be cleaned and pressed and ready for pickup the following day by 5 o'clock, provided one had the proper ticket for his garment. "It's a process we call *Dry Cleaning*" said Wa Shing Shiatsu, a local dry cleaner himself.

"All in all, I'd say it's been a productive and somewhat glorious day for England" observed Admiral Nardi.

The day was not without incident however, marred by a short but heated exchange between First Officer Robin Mazzanoble of the *HMS Narberth* and the local Chinese constable No Pah King. The argument stemmed from the allegation that the ship was tied-up for more than 2 hours to a Hong Kong dock, and a fine was leveled by the Chinese constable. The fine was quietly paid from the *HMS Narberth's* strongbox within the required 48 hours to avoid further incident and penalties.

## "RIPPER" TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY POLICE

SCOTLAND YARD DOUBTFUL OF THE DANGER AND RELEASE HIM

*Scotland Yard*— Police have questioned and then released a man they say identifies himself as "The Ripper".

Recent reports of a suspicious individual lurking in the shadows of the Southside of town have led to the apprehension and questioning of a man who was cloaked in black and seemed intent on nefarious deeds.

Acting on a tip and responding to multiple complaints of torn bed sheets, sliced women's undergarments, and damaged petticoats from local housewives and washerwomen who left their laundry drying outside, Police apprehended a man armed with a dull butter-knife... but a vivid imagination.

Police say that the man who identified himself only as "Sheldon the Ripper!" had been prowling in the backyards of local residents in search of newly washed, damp laundry. With a pronounced lisp, Sheldon explained, "Wet thingsh are much eashier to shlash!" (*sic*) noting that dry cotton is much more difficult for him to wrestle into submission and often requires him to use "my little friend Shlash!" (the aforementioned butter-knife). "But I prefer to rip!" exclaimed Sheldon, excitedly. "Itsh sho much more shenshual and shtimulating!"

When questioned as to a motive for the bizarre attacks on laundry, Sheldon seemed more concerned with ensuring that the Police publicize his actions rather than consider them a minor nuisance. "I'm a dangeroush man!" exclaimed Sheldon. "The public needs to know that I'm ruthlessh and not to be ignored!" "I intend to shtrike fear into the heartsh of the public— I'm tired of being known at the Pubs as "Sheldon the Actuary!"

"I've considered many names" Sheldon continued, "The Shlasher!, The Shlicer!, The Laundry Ashshashin!"... but Ripper

was just eashier to shay."

The officer assigned to the case, Constable Pavoni, reluctantly noted that there had been a number of complaints filed in "The Ripper" case by local washerwomen for ruined laundry, and so Scotland Yard had asked a number of the washerwomen to come in and see if they could identify the confessed suspect in a "line-up".

Noting that the assaults on the laundry had occurred in the late afternoon and early evening hours when the light was waning, most women had trouble positively identifying Sheldon, however Mrs. Rickards of Iona Street did a sketch of the suspect running through her yard after being startled by the family dog. "He was entangled in some of our bed sheets that were hangin' out there drying" explained Mrs. Rickards, "and our little toy Poodle, Muffy startled 'im". "He screamed a bit and seemed to get tangled in the sheet as he tried to hop our fence— thankfully the sheet got stuck on the fence, but the stupid Sot tried to cut his way out of it, but only had a butter-knife." She was able to quickly identify him in the Police line-up however. "That's the Twit right there!" she exclaimed. "I'll box his ears!" Though not a formidable woman by any measure, during the short scuffle that ensued Police had to rescue the demure Sheldon from the clutches of an angry Mrs. Rickards as she attempted "restitution" for her damaged laundry.

Fined a sum of 12 shillings for the damages caused, and advised to take up darts at the local Pubs as an outlet for his aggression, the case was closed and "Sheldon The Ripper" was released into the custody of his young son, Jack.



## BALDWIN LOCOMOTIVE GOING FULL-STEAM AHEAD

*Philadelphia, USA*— Mr. Mathias Baldwin of the Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia has filed a patent for what has since been considered the greatest of his improvements in engine building; the six-wheel connected locomotive, with the four front drivers combined in a flexible truck.

The first engine of this class weighed twelve tons, and its performance was so successful that orders for similar ones have begun to come in rapidly. Unfortunately, as with many enterprises that grow quickly, Baldwin has recently been struggling with some quality issues. A recent visit to Baldwin's sprawling locomotive works on Broad Street in Philadelphia shed light on a few of the problems, but they are not necessarily unique to this manufacturing juggernaut. Baldwin has also been quick to recognize most of the chal-

lenges it faces and has found creative solutions. For example, on the noisy foundry floor, large sledge hammers are used in tandem by muscular men, each taking a turn to strike a rivet into a steel plate. Two men working opposite each other can quickly complete the task, but it takes a good Supervisor to keep their work in rhythm. Unable to hear the Supervisor, Baldwin uses a series of hand-signals to indicate who is to strike and when. Early attempts resulted in injuries when a Supervisor had not used hand signals. "I was lookin' at the both of these big galoots holding these sledgehammers" remembered Mr. Pepe Roni, Shop Foreman. "It was important that they strike the rivet only when I was ready, so I said 'When I nod my head, you hit it.' The next thing I know, I'm seein' stars! That's when we moved to hand signals!"

Other quality issues are more challenging. Steam engines require considerable energy to even start them, and if the fire is

not tended to properly, a cold engine can be difficult to start. Mr. Baldwin had to round up about 300 strong volunteers just last week when a newly-completed 12-ton locomotive had a dead battery. With the aid of the 300 men pushing in unison Mr. Baldwin was able to direct his new locomotive out on to the Broad Street trolley tracks, but again communication issues are proving a challenge. With the 12-ton engine accelerating from both the strength of the 300 men running and pushing it from behind, and the slight down-hill slope of busy Broad Street, the engineer at the controls seemed confused as to what his actions should be. A winded but enthusiastic Baldwin could be heard shouting as he chased the locomotive, "Pop the clutch! Pop the clutch!"

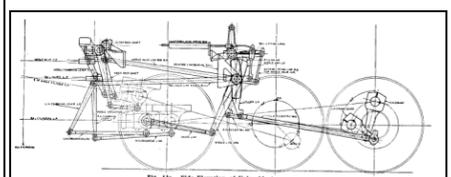
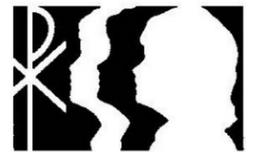


FIG. 110. Side Elevation of Valve Motion

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*The Editors express their sincerest condolences to Mrs. Seike Dailey and Mrs. Cindy Ridgway, annually widowed for 6 weeks by the Narberth Dickens Festival.*

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527 E. Lancaster Ave., St. Davids

## FESTIVAL INFORMATION

### Start at the Immigration Booth

If you have just entered the festival, you must first have your passport stamped at the immigration booth. (corner of Forrest and Haverford) No worries if you forgot yours—we have one for you!



### Narberth Shillings & Currency Exchange

Once your passport is stamped, please proceed to the nearest currency booth to exchange your American dollars for Narberth Shillings.

**This gold coin is worth five American dollars on the day of the Narberth Dickens Festival.** You can exchange cash for shillings and gold shillings for cash all day at the Currency Exchange Booths on Essex Ave and Forrest Ave. **All Festival booths and many shops and vendors around town accept shillings as cash today.** Turn gold shillings back in at any time. Bronze scavenger hunt prize shillings cannot be turned in for cash.

**Use shillings to Eat, drink, and shop, and come to our festival booths to buy souvenirs:**

#### One Shilling

- Top Hat
- Carriage Ride
- Festival Hot Chocolate Mug

#### Two Shillings

- Festival Hot Toddy Glass - with 3 free hot toddies, compliments of the local pubs (21+ only)

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10:00 pm - Candlelight Service

Christmas Day: 10:00 am - Worship

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# Classified Advertising

Carriage Repair Service—Free pickup & delivery. Try us once, you'll never go anywhere again. 721 Essex Avenue

Experienced mother will care for your child. Fenced yard, meals and smacks included. 625 Haverford Avenue

Dog for sale. Eats anything and is fond of small children. 856 Windsor

Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel. 36 N. Narberth (ask for "Stubby")

3-Year old teacher needed for pre-school. Experience preferred. 1125 Essex (bring cookies!)

Mixing bowl set designed to please a cook with round bottom for efficient beating. 698 Maple Avenue

Widower with school-age children seeks a person to assume general housekeeping duties. Must be capable of contributing to growth of family. 6695 Chestnut Avenue

Dinner Special! Turkey \$2.35; Chicken or Beef \$2.25; Children \$2.00  
361 Forrest Avenue

For Sale: Antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers. 1196 Iona Avenue

Introductory Offer: Have your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home too! 49 N. Narberth (ask for "Pokey")

Tailoring Service: We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand. Jones Tailoring 459 E. Windsor

We have several very old dresses from grandmother in beautiful condition. 995 Rockland Avenue

Man for hire; Honest. Will take anything. 5697 Dudley Avenue

USED CARRIAGES FOR SALE. Why go elsewhere to be cheated. Come here first. 8894 E. Narberth Avenue

Christmas Tag Sale! Handmade gifts for the hard-to-find person. 21 W. Iona

WANTED: Man to take care of cow that does not drink or smoke. 1129 Woodbine Avenue

## PUBLIC HOUSE AND TAVERN SPECIALS FOR TODAY

### McShea's

Steamed Mussels, Lager, Bacon, Tomato.....\$14

### Traditional Shepherd's Pie

Lamb, Pork, Tomatoes, Onions, Carrots, Corn, Mashed Potato.....\$16

### Dublin Bay Coddle

Shrimp, Scallops, Mussels, Clams, & Salmon in a savory cream sauce.....\$20

### Classic Fish & Chips

Malt vinegar potatoes and house-made coleslaw.....\$16

### The Sirloin

Sautéed Mushrooms, Truffle fries, Brandy Cream.....\$22

A selection of nearly 50 cold beers.

### The Greeks

#### Salads

Three Ghost Salad  
Crispy duck & pear salad

#### Soups

Turkey Chili  
Tomato, Basil, Parmesan  
Butternut Squash Roasted Apple  
French Onion

#### Today's Fare

Loaded Meatloaf  
Chicken Pot Pie  
Roast Pork Sandwich  
Cheesesteak  
Chicken cheesesteak  
Chicken, Sausage, Shrimp Gumbo

#### Tiny Tim menu for tots...\$7

Chicken tenders  
Grilled cheese  
Buttered pasta  
Hot dog  
Served with a beverage

Plus, visit *The Greeks Next Door!*

### Great American Pub

#### Sidewalk offerings:

American "Hot Dog" .....\$2

Exotic "Soft" Pretzels...\$1

New world water bottle...\$1

Olde English style chili...\$6

Full menu available inside the establishment including:

#### Cheese-covered sandwich of steak

Considered a delicacy in the far-flung reaches of the town of Philadelphia, in the former Pennsylvania colony, this sandwich has thin-sliced beef, with a layer of cheese, and is often served with sauté of onions, peppers, or mushrooms as an accompaniment

Beers, wine, and spirits.

### ✧ Obituaries ✧

#### Marley, Jacob (1775-1842)

Long-time business partner of Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge (Scrooge & Marley) and former member of the Board of Regents of The Eton School where he advanced the tradition of "Flogging Day".

No surviving family members.

#### Kramden, Ralph (1780-1842)

Carriage driver and former Town Crier, he was a dreamer who pursued numerous business opportunities that promised quick riches but sadly rarely succeeded. Life-long friend of Mr. Edward Norton. He is survived by his wife Alice, to whom he often promised a trip to the moon with his unrealized riches.

Editor's Note: Most of the articles printed in this tabloid are, in fact, based on actual historical events that occurred between 1841 and 1842, however significant fictitious license of the facts and names has been taken at the expense of a few good-natured citizens of Narberth (with their permission). You should not use this document as a credible source for term papers, a Ph.D. thesis, ...or Wikipedia updates.

"NO ONE IS USELESS IN THIS WORLD WHO LIGHTENS THE BURDEN OF IT TO ANYONE ELSE." -CHARLES DICKENS

# Narberth Dickens Festival Scavenger Hunt: 1 - 3pm

Start by getting a beggars cup from the Narberth Ave booth. Collect wooden nickels from 1-3pm.

**Mr. Fezziwig:** A kind man whose happiness is infectious. He is best judged by the company he keeps - everyone is welcome at his Ball. Scrooge remembers how "Fezziwig has the power to make people happy or unhappy." Follow the fiddle music and you'll find him wherever the laughter is!



**Fred:** Ebenezer Scrooge's nephew and a happy gentleman who feels sorry for his uncle. He is not rich, but takes pride in how he looks and always has a kind word for strangers. He enjoys finding ways to re-use old things to make artistic creations. You may find him with one of his faithful 4-legged friends!



**Ebenezer Scrooge:** He's a penny-pinching miser in the first degree. He cares nothing for the people around him; his only joy is making money through exploitation and intimidation. He hates Christmas, "a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer". You'll probably find him walking the street muttering his favorite word: "Humbug!"



**Mrs. Dilber:** A washerwoman who works for Ebenezer Scrooge as a housekeeper, she likes gossip and is very afraid of Mr. Scrooge. He's often angry and always complains when he pays her! She's a hard-working woman who has a knack for hand-made crafts. But don't tell Mr. Scrooge— he wouldn't approve!



**Bob Cratchit:** The only employee of Scrooge & Marley, the miserly lending house, he still finds a way to see the good in people— even his boss, Mr. Scrooge! You can often find him walking about town carrying his son, Tiny Tim and greeting perfect strangers with wishes of a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Jacob Marley:** The only partner of Ebenezer Scrooge, he died 7 years ago on Christmas Eve. Because of his contempt for the poor, he is condemned to walk the earth dragging the heavy chains his selfishness has forged. He hopes to convince Scrooge to change his ways... But can he?



**Caroline Cratchit:** Wife of Bob Cratchit and the mother of all the Cratchit children. Despite being so busy with her children, she still enjoys Christmas and always has a kind word for everyone. Mrs. Cratchit may not be wealthy, but she loves the ballet and enjoys spending time with the dancers there!



**Old Joe:** A man not to be trusted! He sells questionable goods and often at high prices! He's always one step ahead of the law—and wheels his cart about town to do "business" selling pies, trinkets, and used cigars! Where does he get the things he sells? Better not tell him where you live if you have valuables at home!



Start by getting a beggars cup at the booth on Narberth Ave. Find Dickens characters between 1-3 pm, and look around town for other ways to earn nickels, too! Collect just 7 wooden nickels in your Beggar's cup and take them back to the booth for your prize—a bronze Narberth Shilling to spend anywhere in the festival. The shilling is worth \$5 American dollars, so buy whatever you want at the festival. Buy a top hat or a hot chocolate mug! Take a carriage ride! Spend it in a shop or restaurant or at one of the street vendors!

Bronze shillings are not redeemable for American dollars—so go spend it!

Be on the lookout for other ways around town to earn a wooden nickel, too. Some are as easy as:

- Find Dickens characters (see above)
- Dance with Fezziwig
- Show your face in the ice sculpture
- Sing Jingle Bells at Fuzion
- Make a choice at Village Treats
- Take your picture in Nannygoat Alley
- Donate at the Toys for Tots table, on Forrest
- Make a craft at Swan Dancewear and The Handwork Studio

Make a purchase from Old Joe, or from any of these fine shops who helped sponsor this festival:

American Family Market

Fuzion

Sweet Mabel

Le Petit Mitron

Twice as Nice

Narberth Bookshop

Character Development

Nannygoat Antiques

Swan Dancewear

Pottery Corner

Ricklins

E Z Phone Repair