

# Archives



## REPRESENTING THE PAST

FALL 2013



## Faces from 1933

This photograph was donated to the House Archives in September of 2012 by William Amon of Mechanicsburg, PA, whose grandmother was married to Charles Wagner, Representative from 1933-1934. Having been rolled for storage, it was seriously curled and required treatment prior to processing. House Archivist Heidi Mays used Mylar sheets to create an air-tight envelope for the photograph, and flattened it for 7 months. It is now in excellent condition.

The text at the bottom reads, "Democratic Members, Penna. House of Representatives, 1933 Session." The Members stand in front of what is now the Ryan Building. The 1933 session was the first to include a female Democratic member, Anna M. Brancato of Philadelphia (front row center).

*To date, Archives staff have been able to identify the following Representatives, from left to right, beginning in the front row (\*uncertain): Harry P. O'Neill, Matthew J. Welsh, Walter Carson, \*, Wilson G. Sarig, Anna M. Brancato, George E. Walker, Edward B. Labar, Chester H. Rhodes, \*, John E. Brown, Blake B. Shugarts, W.J. Eroe, Jr., Albert L. O'Connor, Andrew A. Cannon, \*, \*, Roy E. Furman, William D. Kinney, John L. Powers, \*, \*, \*, John J. Marcks, J.M. Flinchbaugh, \*, William J. Munley, James E. Lovett, \*, George E. Downey, John Schwab, Edward Flanagan, Norbert J. Fitzgerald, Henry A. Male, \*, John F. Stone, \*, \*, John J. O'Keefe, \*.*

Since our last newsletter, the House Archives has had the opportunity to complete an oral history interview with the Honorable Joseph R. Zeller, and have scheduled five other interviews over the next few months. Please call or email us today to schedule your oral history at 717-783-3866 or [records@pabmc.net](mailto:records@pabmc.net)!

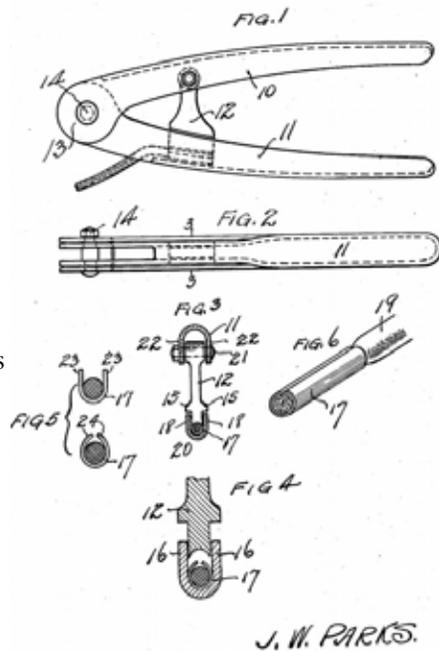
## OCTOBER IS American Archives Month

Each October, the Society of American Archivists, along with archival repositories across the country, recognize Archives Month. This is an opportunity to celebrate the cultural and historical value of archives and the materials they hold by showcasing documents and the services provided by archivists in the US. The PA House of Representatives acknowledged October 9, 2013, as Archives Day, with a showcase in the East Wing Rotunda. For the entire month of October, there will also be items from our collections on display in the Main Rotunda.

# INVENTIVE REPRESENTATIVES

In the process of conducting research for the House Biographical Directory, Archives staff stumbled upon an interesting trend among some former Representatives. The names of many Members from the early 20th century were being repeatedly found in one particular, surprising place: the databases of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The patents cover a wide range of inventions, from can openers to shoelace tipping tools to motor temperature regulation devices. Here is a look at the careers and inventions of some of these entrepreneurial Representatives:

**Joseph W. Parks** (1881-1957), by turns a banker, township clerk, poultry farmer, road supervisor, and writer, represented Blair County from 1935-1936. He also studied business and later served as a county Republican committeeman. Parks has numerous trademarks and patents to his name for



home, farm, and automobile devices. One patent he received in 1922 was for a “tipping hand tool,” a device to provide “shoe lace ends with stiffening tips.” That same year, he also received a patent for an automobile radiator cover, which would encase the radiator of an engine. One of his other contributions to automobile accessories was a hat carrier, a barred rack that would be installed on the interior roof of a car for holding hats, the patent for which was granted in 1924. Parks’ prowess in poultry farming was well known, and in 1927 he received a patent for a shipping crate designed to be ideal for the housing of baby chicks. He was also the author of Parks’ Practical Profitable Poultry Pointers: Annual Catalog of America’s Oldest and Greatest Strain of Bred-to-lay Barred Plymouth Rocks, an illustrated catalogue guide for poultry farmers published in 1919. Representative Parks was responsible for introducing a piece of legislation central to agricultural production in

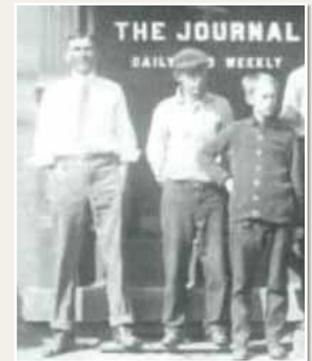
## Former member curious character spotlight

SPANISH WAR	
5	1 Cav. U.S. Vols.
Name <i>Harry B. Fox</i>	
Rank <i>Capt., Co. 2, 1 Reg't U.S. Vol. Cavalry.</i>	
Appears on	
Company Muster Roll	
for	<i>July 4, Aug. 1898.</i>
Enlisted:	
When	<i>April 29, 1898.</i>
Where	<i>Whipple Bks.</i>
Present or absent	<i>Absent</i>
Last paid by	<i>Major [unclear]</i>
Last paid on	<i>July 31, 1898.</i>
Des U.S.:	
For clothing	..... \$ ..... , etc.
	..... 00
Remarks:	<i>Made Acting Major July 4 at Rebel's Aug. 22. Promoted 2nd day afterwards. From Aug. 22 to 25. Engaged in Santiago campaign.</i>

Compiled Military Service Record of Cpl. Harry B. Fox (War Department: Adjutant General's Office)

**THE ROUGH RIDERS** are known as one of the most ruggedly romantic groups in American military history. Led by Theodore Roosevelt in the Spanish-American War in 1898, they were comprised of the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, one of three such units called up to invade Cuba. The unit consisted of just over a thousand men. One soldier who mustered out as a ranking corporal was a man named Harry B. Fox. Born and raised in Dauphin County, PA, Fox was involved in the newspaper business before he left home and moved to Arizona, where he worked as an enrolling and engrossing clerk for the Arizona State Legislature in 1897. The next year, it was there that he mustered into Troop A of the 1st Cavalry. He fought as a Rough Rider through famed battles in Cuba, and was engaged in the famous campaign at Santiago de Cuba. Soon after, he returned to Pennsylvania, and was elected to serve as a Representative for Dauphin County from 1929-1932. He spent the final years of his life as owner, operator, and printer of the Middletown Journal in Middletown, and died just a few years after his tenure in the legislature, on November 4, 1935.

DID YOU KNOW?



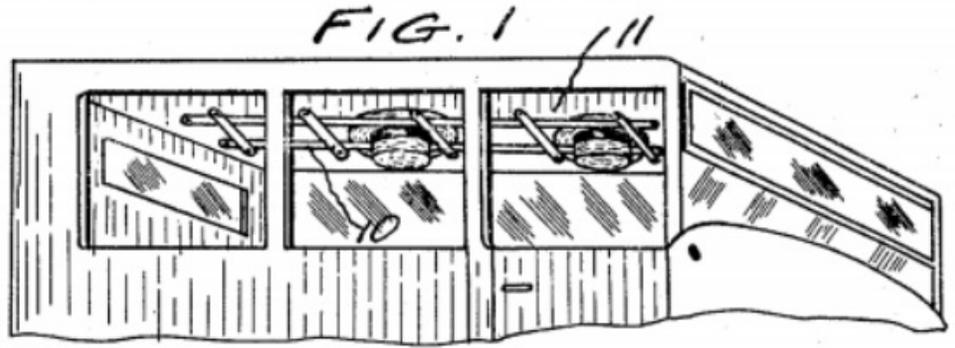
Harry B. Fox and staff at the offices of the Middletown Daily and Weekly Journals circa 1924-27.

The dedication ceremony of the current Pennsylvania Capitol Building was conducted by Rough Rider President Theodore Roosevelt. The ceremony was held on October 4, 1906, and Roosevelt deemed the building, which was designed by Henry Ives Cobb and Joseph M. Huston, “the handsomest state capitol I have ever seen.”

# INVENTIVE REPRESENTATIVES

the Commonwealth, Act 38 of 1935, which "provid[ed] standards for fresh eggs and prohibit[ed] illegal sales and misbranding" of eggs.

**Clyde H. Turbett** (1902-1985), an owner and operator of sewing factories, a barber shop, and an antique shop, represented Juniata County from 1943-1946. He was also involved in the rug manufacturing business, as well as with the Republican State Committee. Turbett

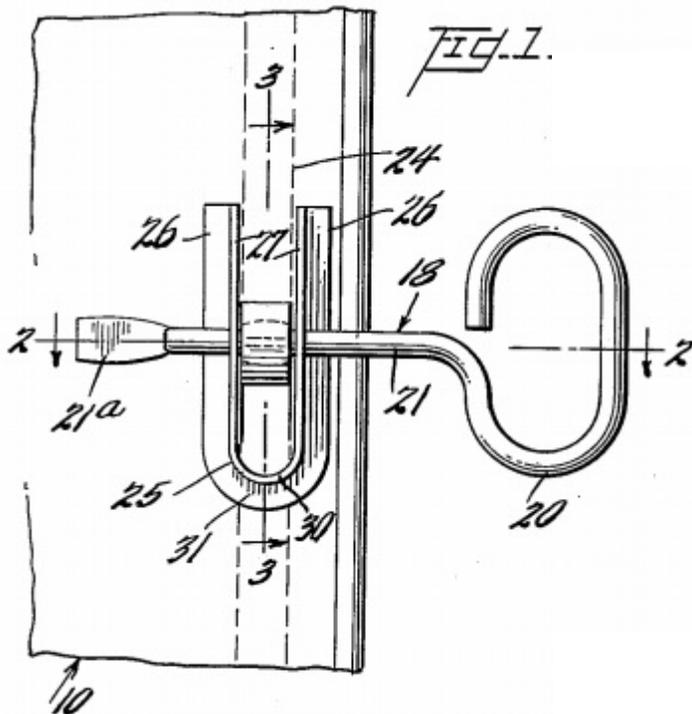


*Automobile Hat Carrier, Figure 1*

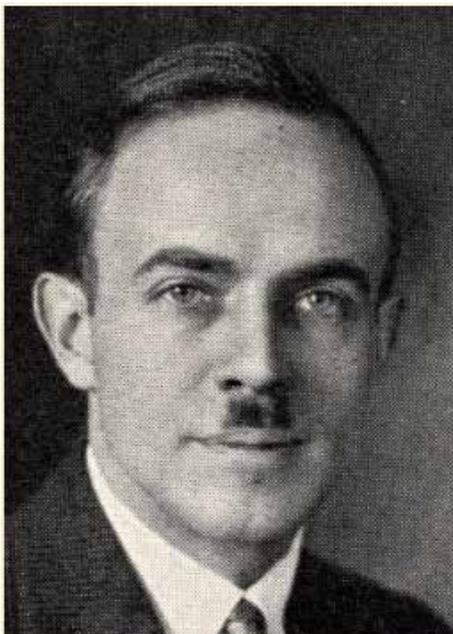
received his first patent in 1955 for an adjustable barber shear which would be "adjustable as the clipper is used." He was also granted a patent a year later for a can opener key and strip guide which was to "improve the construction and operation of devices of this type."

**Clarence L. Ederer** (1895-1969), a former linen mill employee and textile specialist, represented Montgomery County from 1927-1935. He also served in the building program of the Emergency Fleet Corporation in World War I, and became secretary and treasurer of R.J. Ederer Thread Company. Ederer received a patent in 1955 for "twine treating mixtures and twine treated therewith," in connection with the Ederer Corporation of Philadelphia. The invention consisted of a fluid composition for twine that would improve functionality when used on a loom.

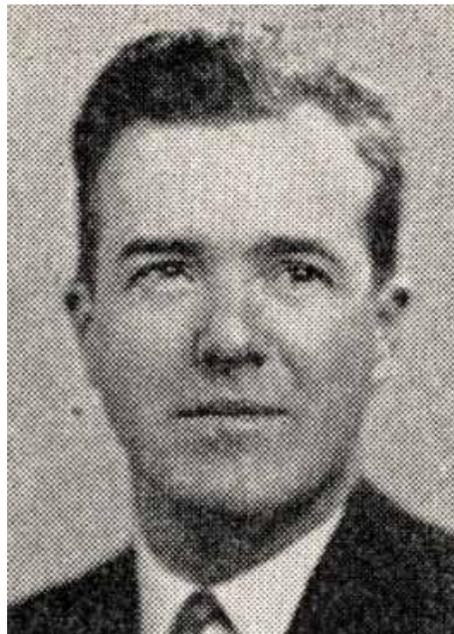
The achievements of these three legislators on and off the House floor, as well as their peers and other inventive Representatives who followed in their footsteps, serve as a reminder of the wealth of experiences and varied expertise each Representative brings with them to their seats. ■



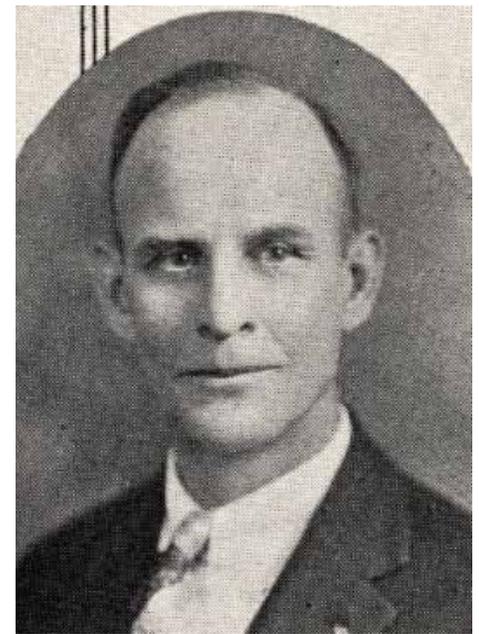
*Can Opener Key and Strip Guide, Figure 1.*



**C.L. Ederer**  
*Pennsylvania Manual*



**C.H. Turbett**  
*Pennsylvania Manual*



**J.W. Parks**  
*Pennsylvania Manual*

## Representative Norman Wood, longest-serving Member



Norman Wood  
*Pennsylvania Manual*

The longest-serving Representative in the Pennsylvania House, Norman Wood, never actually meant to get involved in politics. Local lore has it that political powerhouse and US Congressman William Griest was in search of a “hard worker” to pull into the fold. He summoned “that ‘Wood’ fellow,” but it was the wrong Wood who ended up in his office, mistaken for a different Lancaster man with

whom he shared a surname. Nevertheless, with Griest’s clout and Wood’s reputation as a Lancaster County dairy farmer, Norman Wood was elected in 1922 and reelected for each session afterward until 1964, serving a total of 42 years.

During his 21 terms as Representative, Wood served as Republican Caucus Chair and on numerous committees, including Local Government, Highways, Traffic, and Finance. He also played an instrumental role on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and farm labor commissions. Wood was dubbed “Mr. Bridge” for his efforts to establish a bridge connecting Route 372 between Lancaster and York counties across the Susquehanna River, which was named the Norman Wood Bridge in his honor. When his colleagues addressed his resignation in 1964, they attributed his accomplishments to “being a man of deep convictions and few words.”

Wood remains the longest-serving “marathon” legislator in the Pennsylvania House with his 42-year service, followed by former Speaker Matthew J. Ryan, who served for 41 years (1963-2003), and William W. Rieger, who served for 40 years (1967-2006).

## Recently catalogued items in the House Archives collections

Some of these items have been recently donated, while others have been catalogued in the past few months, and the collections are now available online at: <http://pabousearchives.org/>

- *Lawrence Curry, D, 1993-2012 (3 boxes)*
- *Sharon Engdabl, staff, 1989-2012 (5 boxes)*
- *Babette Josephs, D, 1985-2012 (13 boxes)*
- *Franklin Kury, D, 1967-1972 (2 boxes)*
- *Mitchell W. Melton, D, 1969-1972 (1 box)*
- *Martin Mullen, D, 1961-1971 (9 boxes)*
- *Jeffrey Piccola, R, 1977-1995 (Sen. 1995-2012, 54 boxes)*
- *Samuel E. Robrer, R, 1993-2010 (23 boxes)*
- *Jane Salay, staff, 1965-2005 (5 boxes)*
- *A Story of the Sinamahone (1936) by George W. Huntley (R, 1937-1946)*
- *My Life and Town (1979) by Robert E. Woodside (R, 1933-1942)*
- *Places and Faces of My Boyhood Days in Chester, Penna. (1936) by Edward Nothnagle (R, 1933-1936)*