



**BEDFORD FAITH HEALER**—Eighty-year-old Ed Ferguson, who learned to walk a tight rope in Altoona, which led to circus fame in his youth, returned to Blair county and nationwide attention in the past few days when Rosella Dively Rock of near Claysburg informed the press that through the ministrations of a Bedford county Faith Healer, she had again found health after the restless spirit of her late husband, Reuben Rock, had been quieted through a graveside ritual in Upper Clear cemetery, Feb. 22, under the aged man's direction. (Photo by Tom Lynam.)

## Aged Prophet Of Bedford Hills Tells How Faith Heals

By MARY GRACE KIRSCH

From his retreat in the hills of Bedford county, aged Ed Ferguson in an interview Tuesday told how "the Voice of the Lord" directed him in stilling the restless spirit of Reuben Rock that health might come to his widow, Rosella.

"The Lord is the only healer," the old man of the mountain said. "He is the only One and I don't mean maybe." His black eyes blazed their faith in his belief of his ministrations as he explained that he anointed with olive oil and prayer from the Bible.

### 'SPIRIT NOT AT REST'

"The spirit of Reuben Rock was not at rest," the 80-year-old man declared. "That is why Rosella sat in this room and saw his face in the pictures on the wall . . . coming forth from the figures of

the calendar. I went straight to the Lord and the Lord told me that his spirit was not at rest and because he was not at rest he was following his widow about.

"The Lord's voice told me that it was Reuben's clothing that kept his spirit restless. At the time I didn't know he wore a uniform. The voice just said that Reuben would not rest until the clothing was burned.

### HIS FORMULA

Edward Ferguson, who celebrated his 80th birthday Jan. 24, said there are only four steps to perfect health. First, one must promise to keep holy the Sabbath day from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday; refuse to eat pork or use either bacon fryings or lard in cooking; to bless the Lord for all gifts and to read the Bible.

Born of a full-blooded Indian

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

## Aged Prophet Tells Of His Faith

(Continued from Page 1)

mother of the Rose Bud tribe of South America, Ferguson declared that he heals by the Lord alone, and not by teas and brews as did his mother who combed the Bedford hills in search for curing herbs.

### END OF WORLD NEAR

"Prepare," the white-haired faith-healer warned, "for the end of the world is closer than you might think. We have today, but not one has tomorrow. Prepare in the name of the Lord. Read His Word."

Declaring that he could heal all kinds of sickness whether it be cancerous tumor, tuberculosis or mental depression, Ferguson said there was "no need for anyone to go under the torture of the surgeon's knife."

He promises to "cure anyone within three days if he is willing to keep the Ten Commandments and do the Lord's will."

### REPLIES TO SKEPTICS

Challenging the skepticism of the press, the old man offered to prove his gift of healing. "Bring me a person who is ill," he said, "and I will show you what my ministrations accomplish. The greater the patient's complaint, the worse his aches, the better shall be my proof."

Then taking from his Bible a set of pictures, Edward Culp Ferguson exhibited photos of persons he had cured, one series showing the gradual decreased swelling of a leg that was deformed beyond imagination.

When asked if others heard the voice which he claimed to hear, Ferguson said readily that none but him received the message. When pressed as to why he felt the gift of healing had been bestowed on him, the old man shook his head and said only "When the Lord bestows a gift, you don't ask, 'Why?', you use it, giving thanks."

Ferguson defies all the rules of the usual mental image of the octogenarian. There is nothing of the patriarch in the mein of the aged man. Rather the claim of years arouses wonderment for he looks no older than a man of 60 years.

This cousin of Billy High Shield and Red Tommy Hawk of Indian fame, tells how he was reared in Altoona, living on Green avenue, between Eighth and Ninth streets as a boy.

### WITH CIRCUS

"Japanese tight rope workers taught me how to walk the wires, balancing myself with a parasol at the old Harry Davis museum."

On rope stretched from the old Magee hotel to the Opera house, young Ferguson gave a free show, and it was from down on lower Eleventh avenue at Eleventh street that P. T. Barnum saw him.

From Altoona Ferguson travel-

led with the Big Tops for 18 years, and was billed as the boy "who could do 'The Great Japanese Life Slide on a Rope—the only American who has ever performed it with a Japanese Parasol."

From the show business Ferguson went into the construction game and was known as "a steel erector and bridge builder, a chief engineer over hoist-engine and derricks from foundation to finish."

Told that he had the reputation in Blair county of being able to climb a tree like a squirrel, Ferguson replied: "The man that told you that knows Ed Ferguson."

It was then that a member of his household told how at the age of 75, Ferguson had climbed the 60-foot flag pole in front of the Bedford post office to replace a flag. A rope had broken and a call was sent out after none could be found to dare the ascent. A clipping from the Bedford paper confirmed the mid-air feat of five years ago, which dwindled into insignificance as the aged man told of walking over 7 miles to Bedford while employed recently on the coaxial cable installation, of picking up a living during the fair months, painting flag poles. "I did the flag poles at the bus terminal in Bedford last summer in an hour and fifty minutes," Ferguson reported proudly.

In healing, Ferguson charges no fee. "The rich and the poor come to me. They come from as far as Baltimore and Philadelphia, the Cumberland valley and Pittsburgh. The Lord cured and charged no fee, I accept no money from the hand of anyone. However, if one should place an offering on the table, I shall accept it. But whether offering is given or not, I go straight to the Lord for those that come to me for help."

## Brother Seeks Long Missing Sisters

(Continued from Page 1)

and only brother, Clarence," the letter pleads. "Mother is still living and has tried so hard to find you both. She is up in years and may not live long. Call me at McDonald, Pa., 6639."

The mother's home is in Akron, Ohio.

"Hazel, your dad, David Brink, is still living and is in good health at Moser, Pa., living with Sis Emmie. Weazel Ears, dad is dead. (Harrison Blaine Firestone.)"

Clarence Firestone's address is R. D. 2, Dr. Baczowski's farm at McDonald, Pa., on Sturgeon Road, 1½ miles from the Cecil Lumber company.

Clarence keeps hoping and praying that some day he'll answer the phone and hear, "Hello Clarence, this is your sister."

"If I don't find you both this way, I won't give up; I'll look further," the letter said.



—Associated Press Wirephoto

**FREED OF 'HEX':**—Mrs. Reuben Rock, 22, widow, reads Bible at her Altoona home. Her father, Arthur Dively, says a ceremony performed at the grave of her soldier husband, in which his Army uniform was taken from his body and burned, freed her of a "spell." (Story and another picture on Page 8).

## 'Hex' Gone, Widow Better, But 'Can't Hardly Smile'

CLAYSBURG—(INS)—Mrs. Rosella Rock, unable to sleep or eat until her husband's body was exhumed and his Army uniform burned, was feeling "much better today."

But she "can't hardly smile," she said.

The 22-year-old Blair County widow said she would continue working and praying with mountaineer Ed Ferguson to complete her "mental healing." According to folk in the Bulls Creek section near Claysburg, Ferguson can dispel "hexes" and cure "bewitched persons."

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He supervised the eerie graveyard ritual in which the body of Reuben Rock was removed from its grave, sprinkled with salt and replaced wrapped in a white sheet.

### Improvement Is Rapid

Mrs. Rock has been improving rapidly since then. After her husband's burial last January 13, she had been unable to sleep or eat and became an invalid.

Ferguson, called "the old man of the mountain," doesn't take any credit for her recovery.

"I don't cure them," he said. "God does it. I only show them the way."

### Cures in Three Days

He explained that he is a Seventh Day Adventist and a pacifist.

"Rock's trouble," he continued, "was that he committed sins in the uniform by going to war. That's why his spirit couldn't rest."

Ferguson, a former circus acrobat, claims all kinds of sickness can be cured within three days if the individual is willing to keep the Ten Commandments and do the Lord's will.

"Cancer and ulcers may be cured in three days," he promised.



REUBEN ROCK

## Judge Medina, Tired Out, Shortens Red Trial Hours

NEW YORK—(AP) — Federal Judge Harold R. Medina, announcing he was "grievously fatigued," today temporarily shortened hours at the conspiracy trial of 11 high United States Communists.

Medina said he expected selection of a jury, which began yesterday,



**PARENTS MOURN GRAVE-SIDE RITUAL**—Howard E. Dively, step-father and Daisy Dively, mother, of the late Reuben Rock, who died Jan. 13, look at their son's photograph and declare that the son who was an honor to his parents, his country and his uniform, should not have had to be removed from his grave that his uniform should be burned. Not having seen their daughter-in-law since the funeral, Reuben's parents were unable to say if there had been any change wrought in her. (Photo by Tom Lynam.)

## "Reuben Was Good Boy," Mother Says

By MARY GRACE KIRSCH

"Reuben was a good boy . . ." Racked with sobs the dead veteran's mother cried-out: "Praise the Lord, Reuben was a good boy. I know he never had nothing to do with the black arts."

Minutes before it had been Reuben Rock's mother-in-law who had declared to reporters: "We can't use the word 'spell' for one has to be careful of words like that in case there should be something in a court of law."

Her voice dropped to a whisper and the creak running past the home could be heard gurgling as it ran swiftly over rocks.

Again Mrs. Arthur Dively, mother of Mrs. Rosella Rock, 22-year-old widow of the veteran whose body was removed from his grave and stripped of his uniform, began to speak.

**"THE PHOTO CRAWLED"**

"When taken out of the locket, the photograph of Rosella did crawl up and run along her brother's hand like a mouse. What could we do but burn it!" the mother of the widow, who looked as young as her daughter, asked. "Tell them about the paper that was printed like a church tract and which was around the picture, Rosella," she commanded.

Rosella didn't want to talk about it, but when her mother began to tell that it was titled: "Damnation Railway," Rosella explained that it read on about the fare being the price of one's soul.

"Maybe Reuben didn't put it in the box with my picture," Rosella said. "Askance," Mrs. Dively questioned. "Who else could have put it there? It was Reuben before he was saved, Rosella."

"He had the two-day fast, Reuben," Rosella asked. "He was saved."

"It was before he was saved that he must have done that thing," Mrs. Dively whispered. She then explained how the Divelys and Rosella had been good to Reuben.

Reuben had wasted away with tuberculosis. His arms could be circled with one's fingers and he had been a big man, his mother-in-law said.

And it was after he was buried that she couldn't eat or sleep and the family who saw the girl's clothes become baggy on her began to fret.

"I wore a 46 and now it is a size 42," Rosella explained. In the one room cabin in the hills overshadowed by tall spruce trees, Daisy Dively was soon to say:

"Why should he not have been



**ROSELLA'S HEALTH RESTORED**—The 22-year-old widow of Reuben Rock, Bull's Creek, is pictured helping with the family wash Monday at her parents' home, since her health has been restored following an eerie graveside ritual when the uniform was taken from her husband's body and burned because she "knew his spirit was not at rest" when she began to waste away. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dively was unable to eat or sleep following the death of her husband Jan. 13 and received no peace of mind until Feb. 22 when Faith Healer Ed Ferguson of Point, Bedford county, advised the procedure.

## Drive Planned To Raise Funds For Centennial

An estimated budget of \$31,210 was drawn up Monday by the Centennial executive committee at a luncheon meeting in the Penn-Alto hotel. A financial campaign to raise the funds will start Monday, March 14, through April 11.

No general wage or salaried persons will be solicited, the committee announced. A list of 800 prospective donors, all business men, has been drawn up.

"A preliminary canvass has been made," said Roy Thompson, general chairman of the Centennial committee, "and so far, response has been wonderful."

A total of 75 canvassers has been selected to solicit funds.

**BUDGET**

The budget is broken down into many expenses. A total of \$7,900 is earmarked for cash prizes in the various contests planned for Centennial week.

The sum of \$14,600 is allocated for general expenses to include such items as publicity, outdoor advertising, entertainment of dignitaries, fireworks, costumes, decorating of streets and athletic events.

Wages will claim \$3,000 with \$710 remaining at present for miscellaneous items.

The committee also decided to raise a fund of \$3,121 as a "cushion fund" to insure success of the program.

Phil Short, publicity manager, gave a report on the publicity

## Lewis Aide Hurls Coal Strike Hint

**WASHINGTON—AP**—A hint of a new coal strike "soon" over safety in mines was hurled at a senate committee Monday by one of John L. Lewis' chief lieutenants.

John Owens, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, was testifying against President Truman's appointment of James Boyd as director of the bureau of mines. Owens said:

"We ask that you do not confirm Mr. Boyd, who will be in charge of a federal agency which is responsible in part for the safety of the coal mine."

"The miners are becoming impatient and angry over the delay in action on safety, and there may soon come a day when they will refuse to go down in the mines until these things so long complained of are corrected."

That was the extent of Owens' remark, before the senate interior affairs committee. But he frequently referred to the Centralia, Ill., mine explosion of March 25, 1947, in which 111 miners were killed.

Lewis promptly called a six-day "memorial" shutdown of all coal mines then as a mourning period for the disaster victims. The second anniversary of that accident is drawing near.

**RESERVES HIGH**

But coal reserves above ground are abnormally high—a disad-



**REUBEN ROCK**  
From Whose Body Uniform Was Taken

## Reuben Rock a Good Boy, Says His Mother

(Continued from Page 1)

permitted to rest in his grave . . . in the uniform in which he brought honor to a mother's heart. The Bible says the soul shall have trials . . . trials that will make the soul carry its own burden to the Lord. Yes, each soul carries its own load.

"Mother means," Howard E. Dively, step-father of the veteran whose body was taken from the grave and his uniform burned to release his widow from a dead man's hex, "that had we known about it, the boy's grave would never have been disturbed."

"I don't believe in spells, praise the Lord," Mrs. Dively said.

"It was two years back before her mind was changed," her husband said. "There was foolish talk about here then of spells and when she wasn't well, she got me to look up a pow-wow man. This fellow lived up back of Roaring Spring."

" . . . remember, Pop, we made 72 trips before I got wise, I was twisting my thumbs as I had done since a child and he said it was a sign. I got off that chair and came home and went to my own doctor. He gave me pills for my heart and I have had no trouble since."

There are the Dively relatives who remind those with whom they talk that Rosella is happy now.

Rosella agrees, "It was the faith-healer that opened the way," she says. "Reuben's spirit is at rest and perhaps the house that they built together will not be sold. 'Maybe I'll finish it and rent it,'" Rosella said.

"I told Rosella not to worry," her mother said. "Just live in the Lord and prepare to give tithes and the Lord will see that one gets what is his own."

Daisy Dively and Reuben Rock's step-father, Howard E. Dively knew nothing of Ed Ferguson, the faith-healer, except what they heard from neighbors.

Mrs. Arthur Dively and her widowed daughter, Rosella, wouldn't talk about the faith-healer. "We couldn't tell anyone how to get there, for we aren't good at giving directions."

However, Harry W. Rock of the Bedford detail of the state police, said of the old man,

"We asked him what his practice was and he apparently believes in his ministrations," the officer said. "Healing by faith as he explained it, isn't an infraction of the law."

When the officer was asked if it were true that the octogenarian had been a trapeze artist and juggler in his younger days, he replied that so Ferguson had informed him, explaining that he had been with several of the top circuses for years.

It was ten years ago that Mr. Ferguson took to healing by faith. A member of the Seven Day Adventist faith, Ferguson told police that he wasn't affiliated with a special church but attended services frequently in Altoona and Johnstown.

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# Claysburg Veteran's Body Taken From Grave, Stripped Of Uniform To End "Hex"

Why was the body of Reuben C. Rock exhumed recently by the family of the ex-soldier's widow? The 22-year-old widow, Rosella, said that it was done to destroy the uniform or hidden papers, for her husband wasn't at rest.

The Claysburg American Legion took steps to learn if the uniform had been desecrated.

## 'NOBODY'S BUSINESS'

The undertaker says that it is nobody's business but the family's and that he "had no comment for it was done according to law."

The residents murmur witchcraft and the state police say that the investigation has not been closed.

A neighbor living up Bull's creek, several miles north of Claysburg wrote the Tribune: "If you want the greatest story since the Oaks Grave robbery, you can get it here in Greenfield township.

"Reuben Rock of near Claysburg, a machine gunner, in the late war (the first one to be drafted from this community) in Africa came home sick with T. B. He served more than three years. He died on or about Jan. 10 and was buried with a military funeral in Upper Clear church cemetery in his army uniform.

## WENT TO GRAVE

"On Washington's birthday about six persons went to the cemetery, took him out of the grave and with a knife, cut off the uniform. They rolled him in a sheet and blanket and buried him again and put salt and gasoline on the uniform and burned it."

Because of the letter, the Tribune went into the area to talk with the principals.

Members of the Dively clan are of one mind that the correct story should be published in order that the public will understand that the uniform wasn't desecrated.

## TELLS STORY

Willard, brother of Rosella, was spokesman for the family Friday afternoon. He said: "After Reub died, my sister acted like a person whose mind had snapped. I was in the navy. I had seen it happen. Someone told me about Ed Ferguson, a faith-healer . . . Willard went to Bedford county and after searching found the 80-year-old man. He agreed to "help pray with Rosella," Willard said.

Rosella was taken to Bedford county and Ferguson asked her "if she wanted to live by the Lord and if she held with the Ten Commandments. His only other instruction was to read certain passages from the New Testament each day and to bless every bit of food that was eaten."

## THE FAITH HEALER

Rosella, who had suffered from complete loss of memory following her husband's death in January, according to herself and family, began to remember things under the prayers of Mr. Ferguson. Before Reuben had died he told her he was saved. Once he had told her to bury him in his uniform and later he said not to.

"It was when she couldn't sleep or rest after his death and felt as though he were calling her to "tend to him" that she thought of the uniform. When she explained this to Ferguson, it was

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 2)

# How Blair Legislators Voted

HARRISBURG—(AP)— This is how Blair county lawmakers voted in the general assembly this week:

In the house: To liberalize pension payments to firemen in Altoona and other third class cities. (Passed house and sent to senate). **YES**—Harold G. Miller, Daniel E. Erb, D. Raymond Sollenberger.

To increase the salary of members of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. (Passed senate and house and sent to governor). **YES**—Miller, Erb, Sollenberger.

To increase the penalty for unlawful killing of bear from \$100 to \$200. (Passed senate and house and sent to governor). **YES**—Miller, Erb, Sollenberger.

To establish a general state authority and a highway and bridge authority to finance \$187,000,000 in long-range construction improvements. (Passed house and sent to senate). **YES**—Miller, Erb, Sollenberger.

To return to committee for further study a measure increasing the daily pay of visiting judges from \$20 to \$30. (Re-

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 1)

# Jan. Business Sets Record In This Area

General business in the Altoona industrial area for January was at a new high for the month, according to the Bureau of Business Research at the Pennsylvania State College.

Based on bank debits, factory payrolls and industrial power sales, and using 1935-39 as 100, the index of business stood at 290, an increase of 6 per cent over 1948.

Factory employment and employe hours were also better than in 1948. Losses from a year ago included bank debits, new car and truck sales and street railway revenue passengers.

Changes in general business over a year ago ranged from a gain of 12 per cent in Chester to a loss of 4 per cent in Allentown and Scranton. Percentages of gain reported were: Altoona, 6; Bethlehem, 7; Easton, 1; Erie, 4; Harrisburg, 8; Johnstown, 6; Lancaster, 3; New Castle, 4; Chester, 12; Pittsburg, 8; Wilkes-Barre, 4; and Williamsport, 1.

Losses reported were: Allentown, 4; Oil City, 2; Reading, 2; Scranton, 4; and York, 3. Philadelphia showed no change.

Living costs in Pennsylvania dropped for the fourth consecutive month, the report indicated, and were up only 1 per cent from January, 1948. Retail food costs showed a 3 per cent decline from a year ago.

On the unfavorable side of the picture, both factory employment and employe hours were the lowest for the month since 1946.

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# Claysburg Veteran's Body Taken From Grave

(Continued from Page 1)

he who advised that the uniform be removed.

Willard said that, when he learned this, he talked it over with his sister. It was then that he went in to the undertaker and asked him to remove the body.

Willard said that at 9 a. m. on the 22nd, Ferguson, Rosella's father, and two brothers, Crawford and Dorsey, in addition to himself and the undertaker went to the cemetery.

"Everything was over at 11:30 a. m.," Willard said, and when pressed for an explanation said, "that he missed the re-burial."

"We went to the cemetery and dug and then helped to raise the coffin," Willard said. "At no time did any of us other than the undertaker touch the body or the uniform. It was he who cut it off and built a fire on the grave with wood he had brought to burn the uniform. A New Testament was taken from the uniform and placed under the head of Reuben and his body was wrapped in a sheet and blanket. There was no other ritual, no words said, . . . no time elapsing . . . no ashes from the burned uniform gathered up or scattered. Neither soil or gasoline were used on the body," Willard said.

At this point Rosella said that Mr. Ferguson had said that it was either because of the uniform or a paper in the uniform that Reuben was apparently not at rest. And it was then that he had advised the burning of the uniform and any paper it might contain.

Immediately, Rosella said she found a score of pieces of paper and pointed out that the faith healer warned her not to thank him for a cure "but to give the praise to the Lord." At no time, she said, did she experience noises or sounds in the home.

When asked if he charged a fee, Willard said that Ferguson said, "There is no charge for the Lord's work" but when pressed to accept an offering took only what was given.

Willard Dively said that his sister had had five or six treatments from Ferguson but didn't state what he had given him in offering other than to say: "We dragged mud and confusion to the man's home. It was my right that our offering should be an amount equal to what we would pay a doctor."

Willard explained at the time of his brother-in-law's funeral a medical man had been called to administer to his sister and his advice had been for her to go. "This doctor's advice was no different than that given by Ferguson," Willard said, "so what could be the harm in it." He continued to explain that his sister is going to pay a visit to the same physician for a check up in order that the change in her might be noted. All present agreed that the change in Rosella was notable.

All members of the Dively family were firm in their report that the Bedford man to whom they went was a faith-healer and not a witch doctor. "No member of the immediate family would be quoted on saying that either Rosella or Reuben had been under a spell but only that the husband's 'spirit' had not been at rest and had been calling to Rosella."

A cousin, Fred, who declared he was not too familiar with the case, said he only knew what had been "before and since." As the time of the funeral, he said that both he and his wife felt a "spirit" had been on Rosella and that it was lifted after the body had been taken from the grave and the uniform burned.

Members of the Dively family would not mention the undertaker's name, John Carna of Claysburg, who when interrogated, merely reported: "I have nothing to say on it. Everything was done according to the law."

Before Mr. Carna arrived at his establishment, it had been explained that a certificate had been gotten from the registrar of graves and when asked about this Mr. Carna said: "Any grave can be opened when a certificate from the registrar is presented. This is presented upon the request of a member of the family if a mound request is made."

State police said that Carna told them during their investigation that he had given the certificate in Bedford county and that he had gotten such a certificate once before following World War No. 1, Upper Clear church cemetery, in Bedford county. All principals other than Ferguson reside in Blair county.

Members of the Dively family were asked about the rumors that Mrs. Rock would lose all her money if she continued to see this priest.

Immediately, they stated that Mrs. Rock had none to lose. Rock's grandmother, had willed half the old homestead in his and as his mother, Mrs. Daisy Dively wanted it, Rosella said she carried out her husband's wishes and saw that he signed it over to his mother, who had already said it.

He had left his insurance lapse but the family explained that the veteran's administration said when a person suffered a 100 per cent disability the policy remained in effect with no need to keep up payments. However, there has been no word from the VA since the time of the policy and Mrs. Rock is not sure she will get it.

The home that was being built is still mortgaged and Rosella said her brothers had planned to fix it up for sale. However, she said with the jury of agents and witnesses going around, she said she would probably have to put the

# Support Order Refused For Young Wife

Judge George G. Patterson refused a support order for a young wife who admitted that she went to taverns with her husband before their separation.

Mrs. Ethel Malone was asking through counsel, Attorney Charles Anker, for \$20 a month support and that hospital and medical bills be paid by her husband, James W. who made a voluntary appearance.

Judge Patterson ruled that the husband should pay the bills through the parole office at the rate of \$50 a month, and then turning to the wife explained that it had been her duty to show a good example which hadn't been done when she accompanied him in taverns.

"The court can't direct one's habits, but it can control the money which one has to be allotted," Judge Patterson said. "Drinking in a tavern is no way for a young couple to live, for that matter, to live," Judge Patterson said. "When that manner of life is followed, how can anyone expect to have a home life, free of strife?" The court asked the wife.

Attorney Richard S. Oyster asked the court that the bills be presented to the parole office for the usual check prior to making payments.

Judge Patterson continued a \$25 per month order against Fred Albright, Altoona, who appeared voluntarily with his estranged wife, Mary. The husband is to arrange for payment of delinquent taxes on their jointly owned property which he occupies. Through his counsel, Attorney Paul Beaver, Mrs. Albright asked for \$40 in order that the taxes would be paid, but Albright's counsel, Attorney Robert Haberstick, informed the court that plans were underway to pay the taxes within the next several months. The court extended the time until July for this plan to be carried out.

Mrs. Rita Beck was directed to increase her support order for her mother from \$10 to \$12 a month for a son, Andrew, who had his order reduced from \$12 to \$10.

# Norway Defies Russia, Joins Atlantic Pact

WASHINGTON—(AP)— Little Norway boldly but firmly defied Soviet pressure Friday, rejecting Moscow's proposal for a non-aggression treaty. Norway formally joined the ranks of the non-Communist powers negotiating a North Atlantic security pact here.

Ambassador Wilhelm Muntze de Morgenstjerne, the solemn-faced Norse avoy, went into Secretary of State Dean Acheson's office at the state department shortly after noon Friday and took his seat as a full-fledged partner in the security talks.

He thus became the only representative of the North Atlantic pact which has a common border with Russia.

The mounting clamor of protest and denunciation pouring out of Russian and Communist centers indicates that the lot of country and the rest of Scandinavia may be a disturbed one for the next few weeks.

Morgenstjerne was welcomed by Acheson and the ranking diplomats of Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Canada as the eighth negotiator—but not the last.

# Duff Favors Limit On Local Tax Laws

(Continued from Page 1)

tax on people outside a community where they have no opportunity to vote for or against officials who impose the tax."

He said of taxes on natural resources that there has been "gross abuses" by local communities in taxes on coal and therefore he favors elimination of such taxes. Some 100 communities, many of them school districts, now have so-called "severance taxes" on local and other resources.

Sens. George E. Stevenson (R-Clinton), Charles J. Malley (R-Blair) and Rowland E. Mahany (R-Crawford) put in a bill this week to eliminate these taxes and also make other substantial changes in the 1947 law.

# No Agreement Yet In Railroad Negotiations

CHICAGO—(AP)— Sources close to the railroad negotiations rapped "booths" Friday reports that a five-day work war has been agreed upon.

The rumors circulating in call centers had it that effective date of the new week weeks would range from March 15 to June 1 in various places.

Home up for public sale and get out of it what she could.

Mrs. Rock said she wanted "only to live by the Bible and for those that read the Bible it is known that one is to give a tithe of what they have to the church." She said that the aged Ferguson when told of this said "I guess it would be right to give the church or an orphanage or the like under church supervision."

## Hexed Widow Better After "Spell's Off"

ALTOONA, Pa., Mar. 7—(P)—A re-opened grave—a burned U. S. Army uniform—a pinch of salt cast on a corpse.

Those were some of the details of a story unfolded here yesterday—a story centering around a "hexed" widow is reported recovering from a "spell" cast on her by her dead soldier husband.

The story came to light with the disclosure by Bedford County authorities that they had granted permission for the re-opening of the grave of Pvt. Reuban Rock, 20, who died last Jan. 13 of tuberculosis.

Arthur Dively, father of Rock's widow, attractive Mrs. Rosella Rock, 22, said that a ceremony performed at the grave Feb. 22 freed his daughter of the "spell" that had brought her close to a nervous breakdown.

The U. S. Army uniform in which Rock had been buried was stripped from his body and burned, Dively said. Salt was sprinkled on the body to ward off evil spirits. The corpse was then wrapped in a clean white sheet and returned to its resting place.

After Rock was buried Jan. 16 in the Bulls Creek District near the Blair-Bedford County line, Dively said, his daughter was tormented by her husband's restless spirit. Rosella, who had been devoted to Rock, was unable to eat or sleep, Dively said.

Her parents became convinced Rock had practiced witchcraft by charming Rosella's picture, Dively said. The picture was found and destroyed but apparently to no avail.

Dively said members of the family could sense Rock's spirit "right in the room with us. It knocked at the windows and screamed over the top of the house."

The family decided it had been a mistake to bury Reuben in the Army uniform he had left to Rosella. Since the uniform was destroyed, Dively said, the noises have stopped and Rosella is returning to health.

2 THE MORNING CALL, Allentown, Pa., Monday, Mar. 7, 1949

## Hex on Veteran's Widow Removed by Weird Rites

Altoona, Pa., (AP)— The "hexed" widow of an army veteran yesterday was reported recovering from the "spell" cast on her by her dead husband.

The strange story of twentieth century witchcraft came to light with the disclosure by Bedford county authorities that they had given permission to exhume the body of Pvt. Reuben Rock, 29.

Arthur Dively, father of the comely widow, Mrs. Rosella Rock, 22, readily told of weird ceremonies at the re-opened grave Feb. 22.

The U. S. Army uniform in which Reuben had been buried was stripped from the body, splashed with gasoline and burned. Salt was sprinkled on the body to ward off evil spirits. The corpse then was wrapped in a clean white sheet and returned to its resting place.

Thus, declared Dively, was Rosella freed of the "spell" that had gripped her and brought her close to a nervous breakdown.

Reuben Rock died Jan. 13 of tuberculosis. He was buried Jan. 16 in Upper Claar cemetery near his home in the mountainous

Bulls Creek district that divides the Blair-Bedford county lines.

But, according to Dively, the "restless spirit" of Reuben returned from the grave to torment the young wife who had been so deeply devoted to him.

Rosella could not eat or sleep. She began to waste away. Her parents became convinced Reuben had practiced witchcraft by charming Rosella's picture.

"Reuben was saved at the end," Mrs. Dively said. "But he still had strange books and things in his house. Rosella was just crazy to be with him. She would go to him at any time."

The picture was found and destroyed. Reuben's ghost still hovered in the house, Dively said.

"We could even feel it right in the room with us. It knocked at the windows and screamed over the top of the house."

Then the family decided it had been a mistake to bury Reuben in his army uniform. He had given the uniform to Rosella. It had been her dearest possession.

Since the uniform was burned, Dively said, the noises have ceased and Rosella is returning to health.

## Ed Ferguson - Allentown

Clipped By:



twsavage

Mon, Jan 21, 2019

## Strip Uniform from Buried GI To Break "Hex"

Altoona, Pa., Mar. 7. (UP) -The superstitious among the mountain folk in nearby Greenfield Township were convinced today that a weird graveside ritual in which the body of a soldier was stripped of its uniform had broken the "hex" the dead man had cast on his widow.

Mrs. Arthur Dively said her daughter, Rosella Rock, began to get her health back immediately after Feb. 22 when the body of her husband, Reuben Rock, 29, a war veteran, was disinterred and stripped of its uniform which was burned.

Rock died of tuberculosis Jan. 13. During his illness, Rosella, 19, cared for him night and day, denying herself rest and nourishment.

After his death the young widow became a virtual invalid, refusing

to eat or sleep.

"She just began to waste away," Mrs. Dively said.

Mrs. Dively said she became convinced her son-in-law practiced witchcraft when she found a pamphlet among his possessions.

"I read the first word 'damnation' and I wouldn't read any more," she said, "because I knew it was cursed."

"He was saved at the end," Mrs. Dively said, "but he had books and things in his house. Rosella was just crazy to be with him. She would go to him at any time. That's probably how he did it, by charming her picture that he always carried with him. After he died, Rosella just started wasting away."

The Divelys called upon Ed Ferguson, an aged mountaineer, to

break the spell. He anointed Rosella with oil and "prayed hard" over her, Mrs. Dively said. She showed some improvement but when she returned home she suffered a relapse.

It was then that the Divelys decided it was a mistake to have buried Rock in his army uniform. They received permission from Bedford County authorities to disinter the body. The uniform was stripped off and cast into a fire. The body then was wrapped in a white sheet and a blanket and reburied.

Legend has it that the "black arts" have been practiced in southern Blair and Bedford counties for years. But even oldtimers couldn't recall when it was necessary to disinter a body to release the charmed victim from a hex.

## Rites at Grave Free 'Hexed' Widow Of 'Spell' Cast by Dead Husband

ALTOONA, March 7 (AP)—A re-opened grave—a burned U. S. Army uniform—a pinch of salt cast on a corpse.

Those were some of the details of a story unfolded here yesterday—a story centering around a "hexed" widow who is reported recovering from a "spell" cast on her by her dead soldier husband.

The story came to light with the disclosure by Bedford County authorities that they had granted permission for the re-opening of the grave of Pvt. Reuben Rock, 29, who died last January 13 of tuberculosis.

Arthur Dively, father of Rock's widow, attractive Mrs. Rosella Rock, 22, said that a ceremony performed at the grave February 22 freed his daughter of the "spell" that had brought her close to a nervous breakdown.

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## 'Hex' Chaser Promises 3-Day Cancer Cures

Claysburg, Pa. (INS)—Mrs. Rossella Rock, who had been unable to sleep or eat until her husband's body was exhumed and his army uniform burned, was feeling "much better today."

But she said that she "can hardly smile."

The 22-year-old widow said she would continue working and praying with the mountaineer Ed Ferguson to complete her "mental healing." According to folk in the Bulls Creek section near Claysburg, Ferguson can dispell "hexes" and cure "bewitched persons."

He supervised the eerie graveyard ritual in which the body of Reuben Rock was removed from its grave, sprinkled with salt and replaced wrapped in a white sheet last Feb. 22.

Mrs. Rock has been improving rapidly since then. After her husband's burial last Jan. 13, she had been unable to sleep or eat and became an invalid.

Ferguson, called "The Old Man of the Mountain," doesn't take any credit for her recovery.

"I don't cure them," he said. "God does it. I only show them the way."

He explained that he is a Seventh Day Adventist and a pacifist.

"Rock's trouble," he continued, "was that he committed sins in the uniform by going to war. That's why his spirit couldn't rest."

Ferguson, a former circus acrobat, claims he can heal all kinds of sickness within three days if the individual is willing to keep the Ten Commandments and do the Lord's will.

"Cancer and ulcers cured in three days," he promised.

## It's Witchcraft— *Vets Body Exhumed, Reinterred*

Witchcraft has reared its head in this section, but, due to the ministrations of Ed Ferguson, who lives between New Paris and Bedford, the evil spirits that tormented a widow of a World War II veteran have been banished and all is well.

Reuben Rock, who had served in the recent World War, died in January following a long illness and he was buried in the Upper Claar Cemetery near Claysburg on January 16. However his restless spirit had hovered over the household of his widow, the former Rosella Dively, and had brought the young woman to a verge of a nervous breakdown.

The family sought the advise of Ferguson, who is reputed to be wise in such matters. Finally, on Feb. 22, the body of the veteran was exhumed, after the granting of a proper permit. The army uniform in which he had been buried was removed from the body and burned. The body was wrapped in a sheet and a blanket and was reinterred.

The family now believes that Reuben's spirit is at peace, and no longer will disturb the young widow.

PAGE TEN

## GRAVE REOPENED TO SHATTER HEX

### Vet's Widow Is Recovering From "Spell."

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"GREENVILLE'S FINEST MEN'S STORE"

Conway and Wasser

24—THE EVENING NEWS, Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, March 7, 1949

# Take Uniform From Coffin To Release Blair Widow From Dead Man's 'Hex'

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February 22 when the body of her husband, Reuben Rock, 29, a war veteran, was disinterred and stripped of its uniform which was burned.

Rock died of tuberculosis January 13. During his illness, Rosella, 19, cared for him night and day,

denying herself rest and nourishment.

After his death the young widow became a virtual invalid, refusing to eat or sleep.

### Health Fails

"She just began to waste away," Mrs. Dively said.

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convinced her son-in-law practiced witchcraft when she found a pamphlet among his possessions.

"I read the first word 'damnation' and I wouldn't read anymore," she said, "because I knew it was evil."

### Photograph "Charmed"

"He was saved at the end," Mrs. Dively said, "but he had books and things in his house. Rosella was just crazy to be with him. She would go to him at any time. That's probably how he did it, by charming her picture that he always carried with him. After he died, Rosella just started wasting away."

The Divelys called upon Ed. Ferguson, an aged mountaineer, to break the spell. He anointed Rosella with oil and "prayed hard" over her, Mrs. Dively said. She showed some improvement but

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### Sheet Replaces Uniform

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Legend has it that the "black arts" have been practiced in southern Blair and Bedford Counties for years. But even oldtimers couldn't recall when it was necessary to dis-

inter a body to release the charmed victim from a hex.

## Carlisle Man Arrested In Check Forgeries

Carl H. Irvin, 36, Carlisle, is being held today in Perry County jail in default of \$1000 for court on a forgery charge. He was arrested in a city hotel yesterday.

State Police Cpl. J. D. Jenkins said Irvin allegedly forged a \$20 check and cashed it at the store of Harvey B. Snyder in Shermansdale. Jenkins said Irvin allegedly cashed four "bad" checks in Dauphin County.

Charges were being pressed by Percy Hoffman's store at Fourth and Chestnut streets and a city bank. Detainers have been lodged against Irvin, police said.

STORE HOURS: 9:30 to 5:30 . . . Nights 7:00

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STATE HOUSE - 9:00 A. M. - 5:00 P. M. - 7:00 P. M.

## REPORT 'HEXED' WIDOW RECOVERING

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# Body of Veteran Taken From Grave and Stripped of Uniform to Break Up "Hex"

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"I read the first word 'damnation' and I wouldn't read anymore," she said, "because I knew it was cursed."

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The Dively called upon Ed. Ferguson, an aged mountaineer, to break the spell. He anointed Rosella with oil and "prayed hard" over her, Mrs. Dively said. She showed some improvement but when she returned home she suffered a relapse.

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# Re-Open Grave To End 'Hex'

## Dead Soldier Cast 'Spell' Over Wife

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## WITCHCRAFT:

### "Spell" Broken

In the remote fastnesses of the Pennsylvania mountains strange fears and legends abound. Among the mountain people such things as "hexes" and "spells" and witchcraft are real and fearsome things.

And out of these regions has drifted a strange tale of eerie graveside rituals in which a uniform was stripped from the exhumed body of a soldier to "break a spell" cast over his widow.

PVT. REUBEN ROCK was a woodsman in Greenfield township. A veteran of the north African campaign, he returned in 1946 to his home in the Allegheny mountains and married Rosella Dively, then 19. The rigors of army life had created in Pvt. Rock a tubercular condition that steadily sapped the veteran's strength. Rosella cared for her husband night and day in their unfinished home. She denied herself proper rest and nourishment while carrying on her nursing duties.

But the veteran died. Before he died he gave his wife his army uniform. But Rosella requested that her husband be buried in it. That was done, then strange things began to happen. The young widow became a virtual invalid, refusing to eat or sleep, and began to waste away.

Mrs. ARTHUR DIVELY, Rosella's mother, was convinced Pvt. Rock had practiced witchcraft. Conceding he was "saved in the end," she told of weird "books and things" he kept in the house. "Rosella was crazy to be with him," she said. "She would go to him at any time. That's probably how he did it—by charming her picture that he always carried with him."

The Dively family finally concluded the uniform was the answer. They obtained permission to exhume the body. The grave was opened, the uniform stripped from Pvt. Rock's body and cast into a fire.

And there are myriad folks in the section who are convinced that this action "broke the spell," enabled Rosella to regain her health.

# Ex-Soldier's Body Dug Up, Uniform Burned to End Spell

## Mystic Graveside Ritual Urged By Mountaineer for Pining Widow

ALTOONA, Pa., March 7 (Special)—State Police investigation today disclosed a weird graveside ritual in which a soldier's body was raised from the earth and his uniform burned by his widow's family.

The steps were taken in an effort to break the widow's grief, which the family felt was threatening her health.

The rite occurred Feb. 22 at the grave of Reuben Rock, 29, of nearby Greenfield Twp. He had been buried in Upper Claar cemetery, Bedford Co., after dying of tuberculosis Jan. 13.

### Began to Waste Away

Mrs. Arthur Dively told State Police her daughter, Mrs. Rosella Rock, 19, began to waste away after the funeral.

State Police said Ed Ferguson, a mountaineer, approached the family, warning them the girl's health would fail unless the soldier's body was dug up.

The family went through legal steps to have the grave opened and an undertaker exhume the body.

Then, police said, they stripped off the uniform, burned it, and reburied the body in blanket and white sheet.

### Began to Recover Health

Immediately, the Dively fam-

ily said, Rosella began to get her health back.

Since Ferguson took no money, there was no law against his giving advice, state police said.

The only statute coming close to the matter appeared to be one which forbids "practicing witchcraft" for money.

Legends of "Black Arts" and hex beliefs have persisted for years in the mountain area. A few barns bear "hex" decorations.

But even oldtimers can't recall any similar graveside ritual, and there were observers who say that Mrs. Rock seemed in good health before the ceremony as well as afterwards.

## Girls Escape College Fire

FARMVILLE, Va., March 7 (UP)—Girl students at the State Teachers College here today shared clothes and beds with 70

# Vet's Uniform Burned, Widow's Health 'Improves'

## Strange Blair County Graveside Ritual Stirs Stories of Mountain Witchcraft

From the Post-Gazette Correspondent

ALTOONA, March 6—Blame and praise were heaped in almost equal portions Sunday on a strange graveside ritual in which the Army uniform of a World War II veteran was stripped from his exhumed body and burned.

On one hand the eerie ritual was credited with restoring the attractive young widow of Private Reuben C. Rock to near-normal health.

On the other it was blamed for raising a flood of rumors of witchcraft in the Bulls Creek section of Blair county, a mountainous section of north Claysburg.

But to psychiatrists, the whole

event loomed largely as a psychiatric problem, to be attacked by the trained personnel and modern methods of science rather than the "spell" dispersing agencies of witchcraft.

On the actual facts in the case there was little disagreement—the difference of opinion arose in a discussion of the causes that brought about the strange sequence of events and the odd "treatment" at the graveside.

Rock, a 29-year-old veteran of the North African campaigns, returned home in 1946 and began to re-establish his civilian life in Greenfield township.

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 1)

## Vet's Uniform Burned, Widow Gets Better

### Unusual Incident In Blair County Stirs Discussions

(Continued from Page 1)

He married Rosella Dively, now only 22, and the young couple began to build a home. Rock resumed his work as a woodman. But he developed tuberculosis and last January 13 succumbed.

#### Buried With Honors

He was buried with full military honors and in his uniform, which he had presented to Rosella on his return, and which she prized highly.

Following his death, Rosella's relatives said, the young widow became virtually an invalid. She refused to sleep or eat and required all of the attention of her mother, Mrs. Arthur Dively.

Mrs. Dively said her daughter worried particularly about a photograph of her that her husband had always carried—a picture which Mrs. Dively claimed was the basis of Rock's so-called "spell" over his young wife.

"She would go to him any time," Mrs. Dively said. "That's probably how he did it—by charming her picture that he always carried with him. After he died Rose just started wasting away."

#### Tried to Break Spell

To break the so-called "spell" the Divelys took their daughter to an aged mountaineer, Ed Ferguson, who lived in a nearby area of Bedford county. They claimed that after he had anointed her head with oil and "prayed hard over her" Rosella showed some improvement. But each time she returned home she relapsed.

Mrs. Dively said the family located the picture among Private Rock's possessions and burned it but even that failed to break the "spell" they claimed he held over Rosella.

Finally, the family decided it had been a mistake to bury Reuben in his uniform. From Bedford county authorities they obtained official permission to exhume the body from Upper Clear Cemetery which is just over the line in Bedford county from Bulls Creek.

On February 22, the ceremony was completed. The grave was opened, the uniform stripped from the body and burned and the remains of Rock re-interred, wrapped in a white sheet; sprinkled with salt.

#### Had Obtained Permission

The only official investigation of the ritual was made by State Police and they reported there were no irregularities since permission to open the grave had been obtained.

But the incident has raised the age-old stories of witchcraft in the mountains. Many residents remain firmly convinced witchcraft is being practiced in the Bedford-Blair area.

To them, that seems the only logical explanation for the sudden change in Rosella's condition. For she is now described as almost her "normal self" again—although less than two weeks have passed.

But in the opinion of Dr. Edward Mayer, chief of Allegheny County's Behavior Clinic, the whole series of events—Rosella's illness, the belief it might be due to a spell, and the so-called cures—may be only symptoms of disturbed personalities.

It was, he said, definitely a case for a psychiatrist—not for a worker of voodoo hexes. Although, Dr. Mayer pointed out, the study of "poltergeist phenomena," now commonly known as "hexes," was among the earliest research problems in psychiatry.

## *Vet's Body Exhumed to Chase 'Hex'*

ALTOONA, March 6 (AP) — The "hexed" widow of an Army veteran today was reported recovering from the "spell" cast on her by her dead husband.

The strange story of twentieth century witchcraft came to light with the disclosure by Bedford county authorities that they had given permission to exhume the body of Pvt. Reuben Rock, 29.

Arthur Dively, father of the comely widow, Mrs. Rosella Rock, 22, readily told of weird ceremonies at the re-opened grave Feb. 22.

The U. S. Army uniform in which Reuben had been buried was stripped from the body, splashed with gasoline and burned. Salt was sprinkled on the body to ward off evil spirits. The corpse then was wrapped in a clean white sheet and returned to its resting place.

THUS, DECLARED Dively, was Rosella freed of the "spell" that had gripped her and brought her close to a nervous breakdown.

Reuben Rock died Jan. 13 of tuberculosis. He was buried Jan. 16.

But, according to Dively, the "restless spirit" of Reuben returned from the grave to torment the young wife.

**Rosella could not eat or sleep. She began to waste away. Her parents became convinced Reuben had practiced witchcraft by charming Rosella's picture.**

The picture was found and destroyed. Reuben's ghost still hovered in the house, Dively said. Then they decided to destroy the uniform.

Since the uniform was burned, Dively said, the noises have ceased and Rosella is returning to health.

## Burning of Dead Man's Attire Ends 'Hex,' Kin Contend

ALTOONA, March 7 (U.P.) — The superstitious among the mountain folk in nearby Greenfield Township were convinced today that an eerie, graveside ritual in which the body of a soldier was stripped of its uniform had broken the "hex" the dead man had cast on his widow.

Mrs. Arthur Dively said her daughter, Rosella Rock, began to get her health back immediately after February 22 when the body of the latter's husband, Reuben Rock, 29, a war veteran, was disinterred and stripped of its uniform which was burned.

Rock died of tuberculosis January 13. During his illness, Rosella, 19, cared for him night and day, denying herself rest and nourishment.

After his death the young widow became a virtual invalid, refusing to eat or sleep.

"She just began to waste away," Mrs. Dively said. Mrs. Dively said she became convinced her son-in-law practiced witchcraft when she found a pamphlet among his possessions. "I read the first word 'damnation' and I wouldn't read anymore," she said, "because I knew it was cursed."

"He was saved at the end," Mrs. Dively said, "but he had books and things in his house. Rosella was just crazy to be with him. She would go to him at any time. That's probably how he did it, by charming her picture that he always carried with him. After he died, Rosella just started wasting away."

The Divelys called upon Ed Ferguson, an aged mountaineer, to break the spell. He anointed Rosella with oil and "prayed hard" over her, Mrs. Dively said. She showed some improvement but when she returned home she suffered a relapse.

It was then that the Divelys decided it was a mistake to have buried Rock in his Army uniform. They received permission from Bedford County authorities to disinter the body. The uniform was stripped off and cast into a fire. The body then was drapped in a white sheet and a blanket and re-buried.

Legend has it that the "black arts" have been practiced in southern Blair and Bedford Counties for years. But even oldtimers couldn't recall when it was necessary to disinter a body to release the charmed victim from a hex.

# Break Spell Over Hexed Vet's Widow

ALTOONA, March 6 —(AP)— The "hexed" widow of an army veteran today was reported recovering from the "spell" cast on her by her dead husband.

The strange story of Twentieth Century witchcraft came to light with the disclosure by Bedford county authorities that they had given permission to exhume the body of Pvt. Reuben Rock, 29.

Arthur Dively, father of the comely widow, Mrs. Rosella Rock, 22, readily told of weird ceremonies at the re-opened grave Feb. 23.

The U. S. army uniform in which Reuben had been buried was stripped from the body, splashed with gasoline and burned. Salt was sprinkled on the body to ward off evil spirits. The corpse then was wrapped in a clean white sheet and returned to its resting place.

Thus, declared Dively, was Rosella freed of the "spell" that had gripped her and brought her close to a nervous breakdown.

Reuben Rock died Jan. 13 of tuberculosis. He was buried Jan. 16 in Upper Claar cemetery near his home in the mountainous Bulls Creek district that divides the Blair-Bedford county lines.

## Spirit Tormented Wife

But, according to Dively, the "restless spirit" of Reuben returned from the grave to torment the young wife who had been so deeply devoted to him.

Rosella could not eat or sleep. She began to waste away. Her parents became convinced Reuben had practiced witchcraft by charming Rosella's picture.

"Reuben was saved at the end," Mrs. Dively said. "But he still had strange books and things in his house. Rosella was just crazy to be with him. She would go to him at any time.

The picture was found and destroyed. Reuben's ghost still hovered in the house, Dively said.

"We could even feel it right in the room with us. It knocked at the windows and screamed over the top of the house."

Then the family decided it had been a mistake to bury Reuben in his army uniform. He had given the uniform to Rosella. It had been her dearest possession.

Since the uniform was burned, Dively said, the noises have ceased and Rosella is returning to health.

# Strange Story Unfolded In Bedford County "Hex" Case

Altoona, March 7—(AP)—A re-opened grave—a burned U. S. army uniform—a pinch of salt cast on a corpse.

Those were some of the details of a story unfolded here yesterday—a story centering around a "hexed" widow who is reported recovering from a "spell" cast on her by her dead soldier husband.

The story came to light with the disclosure by Bedford county authorities that they had granted permission for the re-opening of the grave of Pvt. Reuben Rock, 29, who died last Jan. 13 of tuberculosis.

Arthur Dively, father of Rock's widow, attractive Mrs. Rosella Rock, 22, said that a ceremony performed at the grave Feb. 22 freed his daughter of the "spell" that had brought her close to a nervous breakdown.

The U. S. army uniform in which Rock had been buried was stripped from his body and burned, Dively said. Salt was sprinkled on the body to ward off evil spirits. The corpse was then wrapped in a clean white sheet and returned to its resting place.

After Rock was buried Jan. 16 in the Bulls Creek district near the Blair-Bedford county line, Dively said, his daughter was tormented by her husband's restless spirit. Rosella, who had been devoted to Rock, was unable to eat or sleep, Dively said.

The family decided it had been a mistake to bury Reuben in the army uniform he had left to Rosella. Since the uniform was destroyed, Dively said, the noises have stopped and Rosella is returning to health.

# 'HEXED' WIDOW IS RECOVERING FROM SPELL

## Improvement Comes After Burning Uniform Of Her Dead GI Husband

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Her parents became convinced Rock had practiced witchcraft by charming Rosella's picture, Dively said. The picture was found and destroyed but apparently to no avail.

Dively said members of the family could sense Rock's spirit "right in the room with us. It knocked at the windows and screamed over the top of the house."

The family decided it had been a mistake to bury Reuben in the army uniform he had left to Rosella. Since the uniform was destroyed, Dively said, the noises have stopped and Rosella is returning to health.

# 'Hexed' Widow Exhumes Mate's Body To End 'Spell'

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## Conference Due On Western Reich

U. S., Britain, France expected to hold important parley soon on joint policies for