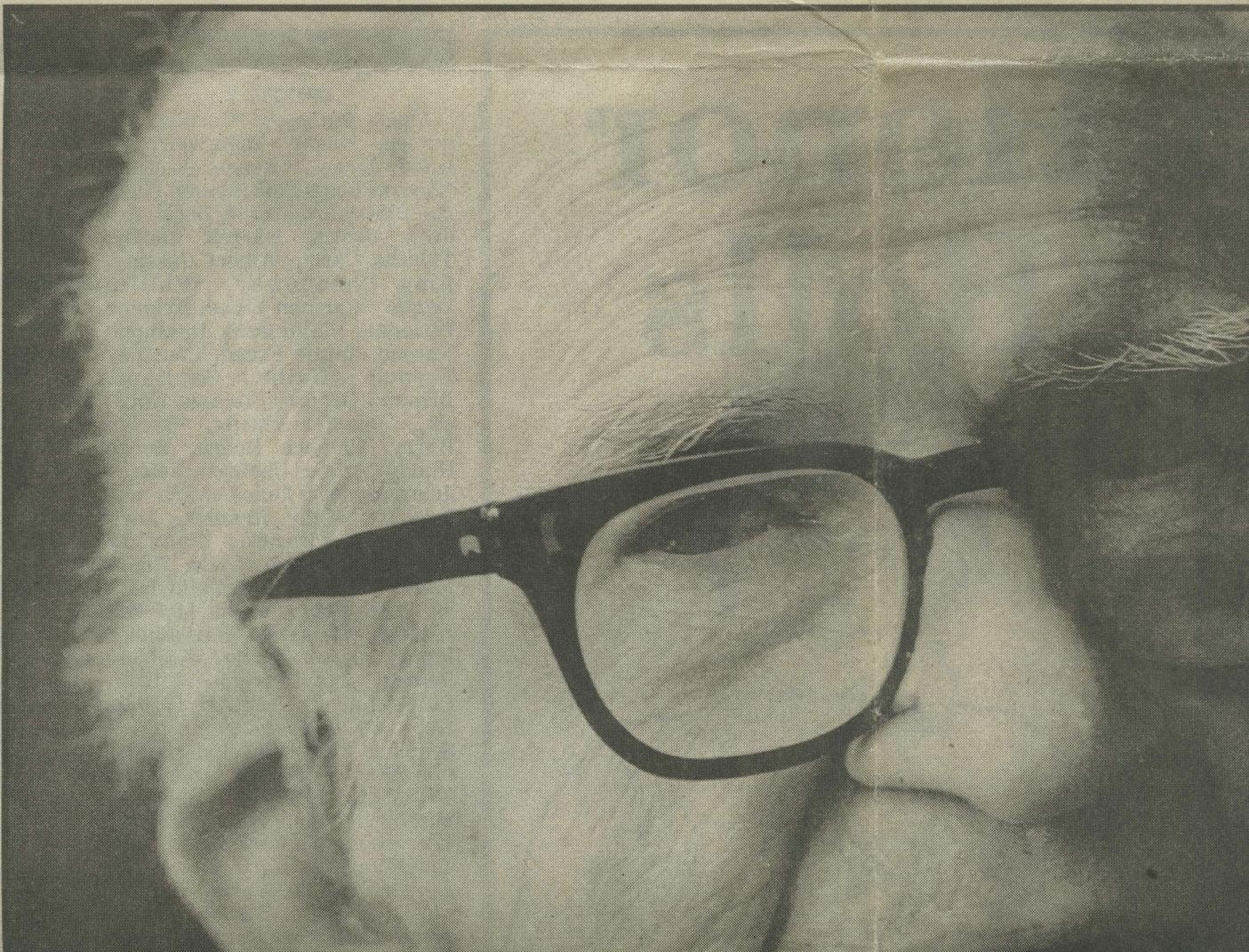


NEW CASTLE NEWS

SPOTLIGHT

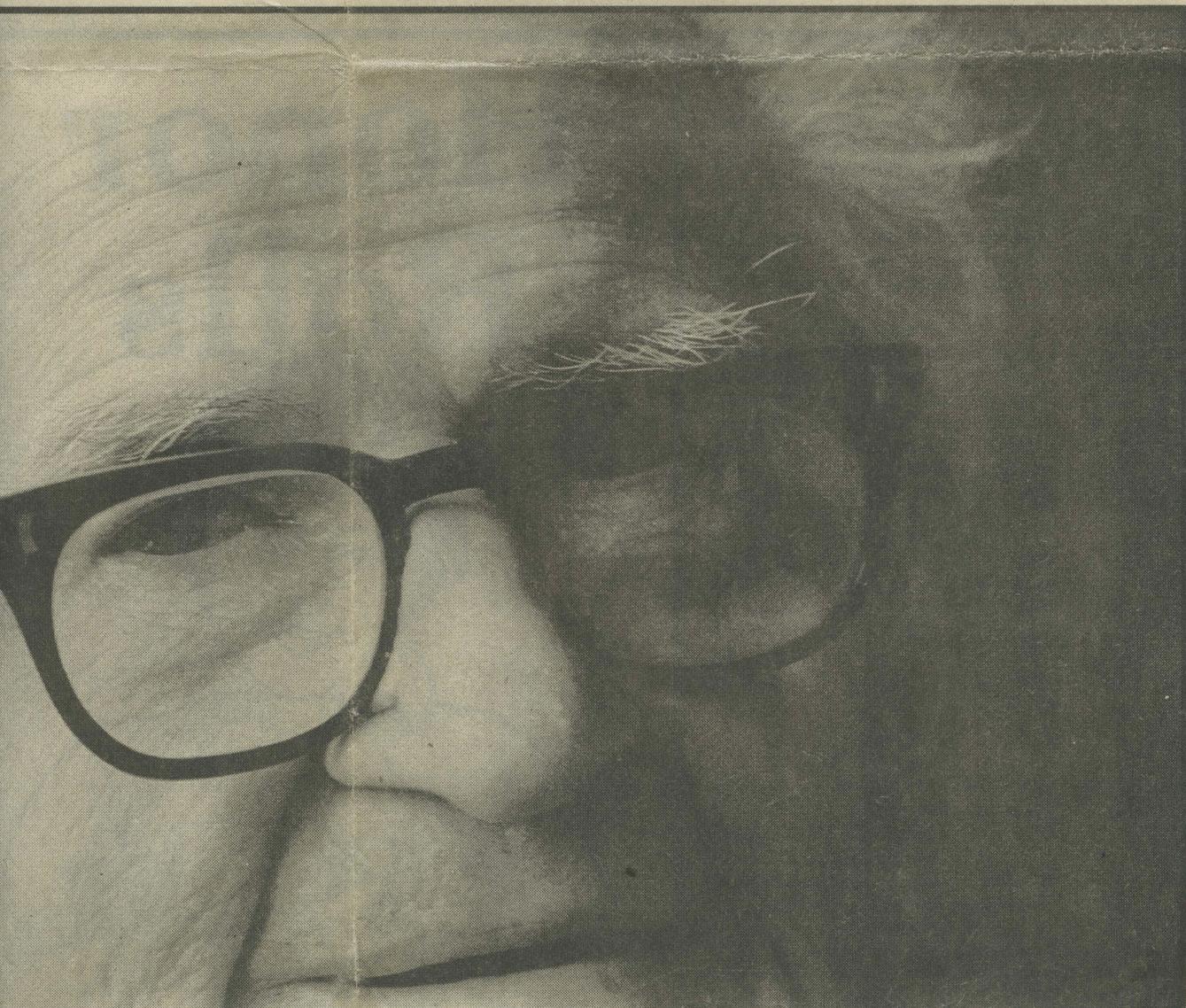
On Lawrence County



NEW CASTLE NEWS

WRIGHT

On Lawrence County



The New

CENTENAR

By Judy Hruska
News Correspondent

Although Jack Lebby hits the century mark when he turns 100 today, he's most proud of another mark he's made on the community.

It's his trademark hard and honest work that's created a business legacy for his family.

In 1955, Lebby and his son, Marvin, took over the Williams-Cleaveland Insurance Co., an independent insurance agency and brokerage firm. Today, the company remains with the family, in the hands of Marvin and his son Glen.

"I enjoyed the years I worked with him," Marvin said. "Dad was coming into the office up until two years ago, when his legs gave out. He'd still be coming in if he were able."

His father, who resides in Indian Creek Nursing Center, is still concerned about changes going on in the city, the younger Lebby added.

Jack Lebby was born in McKeesport in 1895 to Cecilia and Leopold Lebby. He was the third youngest in a family of six.

"My father passed away when I was very young," Lebby said. "I remember that so much."

In 1910, Lebby came to New Castle with his sister and brother-in-law, Dr. Benjamin and Belle Berger.

"I lived about half a block off Jefferson Street, across from the post office," Lebby recalled. "I had to sleep on the floor because they had no room for

Honesty and hard work have always been the best policy for Jack Lebby, who 50 years ago took over the reins of the Williams-Cleaveland Insurance Co. Today, he celebrates his 100th birthday.

me."

Eventually, Lebby's mother also came to New Castle. The two lived in an apartment that stood at the former location of the New Castle Water Co. downtown.

In 1920, Lebby married the former Bea Edelstein. The couple's only child, Marvin, was born in 1931.

"I remember we were sitting on the porch one time when we lived upstairs in my mother's home," Lebby said. "We went into the house and we heard an awful bang. We just escaped a big truck that let go and went through that porch. It would have killed both of us."

When World War II broke out, Lebby went to work at a steel mill in Ellwood City, using a street car to travel there and back.

At the end of the century and took over the business, which was owned by Sam Edelstein.

In 1924, Lebby and his brother, Ed, took over the Williams and Cleaveland Insurance Co. from Lebby's firm.

to join them.

After Cleaveland's death, Lebby took sole ownership.

"One day (W)hen I decided to sell my business in this business, I had my first opportunity.

When Marvin was born, he was put out into the insurance business.

Lebby's first wife, Edna, died in 1918. He wed the former Edna still married.

Lebby said he was a member of the Elks Club and one of the founders of the Elks Club. "I remember the segregation."

"He used to work with Nate Rosenthal at Packing Co.," Lebby said.

A family dinner was arranged by the family to celebrate Lebby's 100th birthday. The family gathered for the occasion.

ACHIEVERS

County honor rolls

See page 16



The New

TENARIAN

Honesty and hard work have always been the best policy for Jack Lebby, who 50 years ago took over the reins of the Williams-Cleaveland Insurance Co. Today, he celebrates his 100th birthday.

At the end of the war, he was laid off from the factory and took a sales position with S.M. Tire, which was owned by his brothers-in-law, Moris Broida and Sam Edelstein.

In 1924, Lebby bought an insurance agency from his brother, Bill. The following year, Joseph Williams and Chester Cleaveland, whose company Lebby's firm had brokered through, invited Lebby to join them.

After Cleaveland retired, Williams offered Lebby sole ownership.

"One day (Williams) says to me, 'Jack, I'm going to sell my business,' " Lebby recalled. "You've been in this business for some time so I'll give you the first opportunity to buy it." "

When Marvin graduated from college, the two set out into the insurance business together.

Lebby's first wife died in 1960. The following year, he wed the former Rosalyn Schwartz, to whom he is still married.

Lebby said he is the oldest living member of the Elks Club and the New Castle Consistory. He is also one of the founding members of Temple Israel Congregation.

"He used to love to play cards (at the Elks Club) with Nate Rosen, one of owners of the New Castle Packing Co.," Marvin said.

A family dinner will be held tomorrow to celebrate Lebby's milestone. Papal blessings have been arranged by Herman Zaccarelli, a life-long friend of the family.

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ge 16



- Ben Franklin
- Laurel
- Mohawk
- Neshannock
- Union
- Wilmington