

**December 29, 1996**

**25 Years Ago** Store Ransacked—Unknown burglars broke into the J. C. Penny department store over the weekend, ransacked the offices and stole a \$1.59 flashlight from the basement work table, the Westminster city police reported. The city police reported that sometime Sunday evening or early Monday morning the burglar or burglars climbed onto the roof of the store, pried open a trap door and entered the second floor. Once inside, the burglars ransacked the manager's and cashier's offices and attempted, unsuccessfully, to open the safe, the police said. The flashlight was the only item the police reported missing. *Democratic Advocate*, December 30, 1971.

**50 Years Ago** DOORWAY CONTEST PRIZES AWARDED—The annual beautiful doorway contest at Westminster, omitted during the war years since 1941, was resumed this season. Following a viewing by the judges Saturday afternoon and evening, announcement of the winners was made. The event is sponsored by the Westminster Chamber of Commerce. The judges, Mrs. A. Earl Shipley, Mrs. E. Miller Richardson and Hazard Clarke, reported the decorations added much to the effect of the holiday season in the community. While many were more elaborate and included porch and home in the scheme of lighting and decorations, the judges made the decisions on the doorway proposition. In the future the contest may be broadened to include residential decorations of all kinds. *Democratic Advocate*, December 27, 1946.

**75 Years Ago** PINE KNOB SCHOOL CLEANED—Last week Pine Knob school near Eldersburg was robbed of its Victrola and a number of other valuable articles and the thieves covered up their identity. This week the school house was entered again and the Near East Contribution stolen, consisting of clothes, fruits, etc. The contribution was ready for shipment. State's Attorney Brown and Truant Officer Taylor have made an investigation. Thieves that will take articles belonging to starving and poorly clad people should be caught and sent to Russia in chains to live the fate of those human beings. *Democratic Advocate*, December 23, 1921.

**100 Years Ago** Westminster—Boys and youths should remember that the pavements in front of the churches and the vestibules of the same should not be used as loafing places on Sundays or Sunday nights. Either go in or go away. Interruption to the exercises will make offenders liable to arrest and punishment. Last Sunday evening there were crowds in front of both the Methodist Churches, and their conduct was disturbing to the worshippers. *Democratic Advocate*, December 26, 1896.