

AVIATOR BONNEY IN MEXICO.

Centre county residents will recall with a shudder the thrilling experience of aviator W. Leonard Bonney during his appearance here at the Centre county fair in the first week of September, 1914, and his fall of one thousand feet when his machine caught fire, landing in a ploughed field and escaping with but a few bruises.



W. LEONARD BONNEY.

It is rare to find an American who is honored and respected in Mexico. It is still rarer perhaps to find an American woman who has spent several months in Mexico and met with courteous treatment everywhere.

True, they have had adventures, they have had to look upon revolting things, they have seen bloodshed, plenty, they have faced death many times in many different forms; but they are back in New York now telling the story, glad of their experiences and not longing for more of the same sort.

A year ago Gen. Carranza commissioned his agent in New York to find his aviator, Bonney, to be had, one willing to take risks in the air and on the ground, one willing to drop dynamite bombs with intent to kill.

"I reported directly to Lieut. Col. Alberto Salinas, who is the aviator of Carranza's aviation corps," Bonney said the other day in telling some of his experiences to a party of friends gathered in his Riverside Drive apartment.

"The bombs weighed twenty-three pounds each and consisted of cast iron shells filled with dynamite 90 per cent pure. Each bomb had a ring in the top through which a wire was passed, extending up through the bottom of the aeroplane underneath the aviator's seat.

"Then I set out to drop my first bomb. I flew from Tampico forty-two miles inland over a camp of Villistas near Ebanero, about 2,000 feet up and the ground below was dotted with little black specks, some of them moving, others standing still, evidently watching me.

"Now they had begun to get my range. They had only blunders if they had had anti-aircraft guns I could not have come down so low. I was up now about 1,800 feet. I could not see them clearly at the first, but I noticed was a little tear in the cloth of one of the wings.

"I dropped a third bomb and a fourth. Then I noticed that one of the cylinders was not working. Quick as a flash I released the other two bombs. Then I turned back. The machine was settling slowly. She would fly all right with one cylinder silenced, but I could not maintain the altitude. I had forty-two miles to make, so I held as high as she would stay and got safely inside our lines.

"I found forty-seven bullet holes in the aeroplane after I landed, including the one that had stopped the seventh cylinder. I think I was more scared when I saw those bullet holes than I was when they were trying to pick me out of the air up there above Ebanero.

"That was my first bomb dropping flight. I made many others after that, but none that has left such a vivid impression."

"Mr. Bonney is a dapper, smiling young man. He tips the scales at little more than 100 pounds plus hat, cane and overcoat. His dress is correct, almost elegant. He is the sort of person you might well expect to meet in Wall Street or your club. But never would one associate him with the inglorious warfare in Mexico.

"It was hard at first," Bonney explained, "but one can become used to almost anything, even to killing people. I went armed all the time I was in Mexico, but I never actually shot at a human being. That would be harder to do than dropping bombs. One is so far away that the horrible effects of a bomb cannot be seen, even though fifty persons have been torn to pieces. It is so easy to pull out the little pin."

"What degree of accuracy was possible in bomb dropping?" Bonney was asked. "That of course, would depend on conditions," he said, "but if I could get down to within 1,800 feet on a clear day with little or no wind I could make four hits out of six on a target the size of a locomotive. To be sure I could not do as well as that at first. It took a little practicing. And these bombs have a killing

Meeting of the Fire Wardens.

A meeting of the forest fire wardens of southern Centre county was held on Friday, March 17th, at the Garman house, in Bellefonte. This meeting was held in accordance with the new fire warden's law passed by the last Legislature under the direction of George H. Wirt, Chief Warden of the Department of Forestry.

This was before Mrs. Bonney went to Mexico. She had been listening to her husband's story with evident interest, although doubtless she had heard the details often before. "Now tell them about the time you dropped inside the lines of the Villa men," she prompted.

"I was now headed toward the railroad which I had followed up from Tampico; but that was several miles away. The machine was settling rapidly and I saw that I would have no chance of reaching it. Then I spied just one little clear place a mile or so away, probably the only one in all that country."

"By the time I had climbed out of the seat it was dark. I had neither food nor water. I was about forty miles from the railroad and in the enemy's country."

"I saw one tree a little taller than the others, and I climbed that one. It wasn't much taller at that. All the jungle is about the same height, just a little over a man's head. I could see nothing but jungle by the moonlight, but I listened and soon I heard the whistle of a locomotive."

"It seemed a long way off, but a second whistle was nearer and soon I could hear the train running. I decided that the railroad must be a little over a mile from me. I noted the direction that the clouds were blowing and decided that if I walked so that the clouds travelled directly across my path I would strike the railroad."

"So I started in that direction and soon I hit a trail. It wasn't much of a trail, but it led in the right direction, so I followed it."

"I had walked about six miles when I saw the outline of a little depot at the side of the track. Then came a sharp 'Quien vive?' That is the Mexican country challenge. Literally it means 'Who lives?' I had no pass words because I had never thought I would need them."

"'Amigo!' I shouted. Then came a click, click, click, as three guns were cocked, and again the abrupt challenge 'Quien vive?' I had a happy thought and it probably saved my life."

"'Muy grande pajaro,' I replied. They didn't fire but kept me covered and allowed me to come closer. I had remembered that the arcos were commonly referred to by the Mexicans as the 'muy grande pajaro,' meaning the great bird."

"I knew very little Spanish, and it was impossible to make them believe that I had dropped from the sky. I finally induced them to send word back to Gen. Carranza, and the answer soon came from Tampico that I was to be shown every attention. Later a special train came up after me, and I went back in the best style the country affords."

"Later I took the machines and went up to Mexico city and joined in the operations against Zapata. I did very little bomb dropping there. It was mostly scouting work, for the reason that the Zapatistas fight a guerrilla warfare and they are so scattered that bombs are of little use except to frighten them."

"It was while Bonney was operating in Mexico City that Mrs. Bonney joined him. That was last September. She traveled alone. 'It was a terrible journey from Vera Cruz to Mexico City,' Mrs. Bonney said. 'The train was stalled and we had to sit all one night in a day coach without food. No one knew what minute the train would be attacked or blown up. Along the line of the road the country was strewn with human bones, with here and there a patch of tangled, blood stained black hair. At one station I saw two Villistas hanging from trees. It was horrible.'"

Centre county will have their first get-together meeting in the court house at Bellefonte at 10 a. m. J. Linn Harris, president of the Central Penna. Forest Fire Protective Association, will occupy the chair. Hon. Henry C. Quigley is to welcome the wardens. The chief, Mr. George H. Wirt, of the State forest protection service, will discuss methods of fighting forest fires and preventing them. A luncheon will follow.

CENTRE COUNTY SUPERVISORS HELD INTERESTING CONVENTION.—A good sized delegation of the road supervisors of Centre county met in their annual convention in the court house last Friday. The meeting was called to order promptly at ten o'clock by the president of the association, ex-Judge Ellis L. Orvis, who made a brief address in which he outlined to the supervisors the increasing sentiment all over the country for better highways, and told them that the object of bringing them together in annual conventions was to foster a unification of purpose. He pointed out the fact that a road was no better than its poorest section. That is, a mile of good road and a half mile of poor would enable the farmer to haul only the load that his team could pull over the poor stretch.

Following the president's address the secretary, H. C. Chaney, read the minutes of the last meeting which were approved. A roll call showed twenty-six supervisors present. Judge Orvis then appointed as a committee on the nomination of officers for the ensuing year William Clevestine, of Walker township; Edward Hess, of Rush; B. W. Royer, of Miles; J. Linn Fletcher, of Howard, and D. H. Way, of Halfmoon. While they were out Judge Henry C. Quigley was introduced.

The Judge started out by saying that he had a grudge against the supervisors, not personally, nor as boards of supervisors, but generally speaking, because many of them do not use the same business methods in building roads that they do in conducting their farms. As an instance he cited Walker township. No sooner had the State taken over the main highway than the supervisors lowered the road tax, instead of keeping it at the old figure and then improving the other thoroughfares in that township. The Judge stated that at five mills about \$100,000 in road tax was collected in Centre county and this should be so applied that so many miles of permanent roadway would be built every year. In this way in ten or fifteen years most of the important feeders of the state highways would be put in good condition.

Dr. Robert S. Sackett, dean of the School of Engineering at State College, was booked for a talk on the good roads school at the College, but as it is yet in its infancy he made his talk general and recounted some interesting experiences in his own life which showed the advantage of good roads, not only in the marketing of the farmer's crops but in the increased value of farm land where the roads were uniformly good; not merely a stretch of two or three miles and then a dump into mud and obscurity, but where they were good throughout the entire valley.

The last speaker of the morning was J. V. McNary, a graduate of State College class of '05, and who is now engineer of bridges in the Bureau of Township Highways. He started out by calling the attention of the supervisors to the several amendments in the road law. One is that supervisors can select a Trust company or bank as their treasurer, but if an individual is elected he must give bond. Another is the repeal of the wide tire rebate, and another is that auditors must allow supervisors pay for making a semi-annual inspection of the roads in their district, and he advised supervisors to see that such inspection is made. He also stated that the way most supervisors do is to lay a certain mileage then work as long as the money lasts. The proper way is to make an inspection and decide on just what amount of work to do that year. Figure out the cost then lay the mileage to cover it. In this way far better and more lasting results will be obtained.

He also called attention to the fact that ten of the boards of supervisors in Centre county are still short in whole or part of their reports to the State which should have been in by January first. Until these are all in it is impossible for the State to figure out any money due to the townships. Mr. McNary stated that the money apportioned the various townships of Centre county as a bonus on the amount of cash road tax paid, and which is available for permanent improvements during 1916, and checks for which will be sent in the near future, is as follows;

Table listing supervisors and their respective amounts: Benner \$602.06, Boggs \$509.78, Burnside \$15.15, College \$31.32, Curtin \$25.31, Ferguson \$576.12, Gregg \$42.56, Haines \$31.47, Halfmoon \$278.16, Harris \$28.18, Howard \$296.62, Huston \$275.52, Liberty \$41.56, Marion \$273.46, Miles \$426.79, Patton \$34.63, Penn \$228.27, Potter \$33.50, Rush \$12.15, Snow Shoe \$341.43, Spring \$251.90, Taylor \$28.95, Walker \$278.16, Worth \$28.18.

Before adjournment of the morning session the committee on the nomination of officers reported in favor of Judge Henry C. Quigley, for president; H. C. Chaney, secretary, and Ben-

jamin Vonada, treasurer. Both Judge Quigley and Mr. Chaney advised the supervisors to select some one from their own ranks to fill the offices but they preferred otherwise and the above were elected unanimously.

When the meeting adjourned at noon Mr. Orvis retired finally as president and Judge Quigley presided in the afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION. At the afternoon session Col. John A. Woodward made an address on "Benefits Derived from Co-operation in Road Work." The Colonel stated that co-operation was absolutely essential if there was to be a continuous stretch of good roadways. That is supervisors in one township should co-operate with the supervisors in adjoining townships and build the road uniform so that it would not be a checker board of good road here and bad road there.

Edward J. Ducey, instructor in highway engineering at State College, gave a talk on the "Construction and Maintenance of Dirt Roads." He illustrated his talk with a half dozen free hand drawings, showing proper drainage and surfacing and advocated the free use of the road drags.

S. Ward Gramley, of Spring Mills, made a brief talk on "Good Roads Day" and advocated that another be held in Centre county during the coming spring.

During his talk Dr. Sackett invited the supervisors to hold their next convention at State College, if possible during the Farmers' week exercises, and before adjournment a committee of five was appointed to prepare a program for next year and to select the place of meeting.

The supervisors present at the convention included the following: Benner—John Benner. Boggs—G. P. Beverly, H. K. Walker, J. Confer, Curtin—D. R. Confer. Halfmoon—D. H. Way, Newton Wilson. Harris—Davis Bohn, O. W. Stover, J. A. Gingsch.

Howard—William Aikey, J. Linn Fletcher. Marion—John F. Grove. Miles—B. W. Royer, W. J. Blair. Patton—J. W. Hartsack, J. W. Blair. Rush—Daniel Moore, Ed. Hess, H. H. Moore. Spring—Frank Wian, John Garbrick. Union—David Custer. Walker—E. J. Evers, William Clevestine. Worth—Dennis Reese.

When Bill Has Been Paid Living Will Be Cheaper, is the Opinion of Experts.

The high cost of living and the continued dissatisfaction of workmen with the wages paid by large industrial establishments, two problems that have perplexed manufacturers, educators and public officials in all parts of the country, can be remedied by a realization on the part of the city people of the obligations they are under to those who spend their lives in the country, "working" the soil for the essentials of life.

This is the advice brought to this city by the four-state conference on country life, at its first important session here, the Philadelphia Bulletin believes. Those taking part in the conference maintain that the cities have become self-centered and selfish, and have allowed themselves to forget that they are dependent upon the rural communities for food.

The result of this attitude, they claim, is that by far the largest amount of public money and the greatest part of the intelligence of the country have been devoted to the development of the thickly populated sections and the country places and farms have been neglected and practically forgotten. Now, through the conference, the farmers are demanding what they consider their rights.

What they want immediately are: A thoroughly reorganized rural school system, good roads, improved facilities for marketing their products, better transportation facilities and higher salaries teachers, who are qualified to be community leaders. If these advantages are granted, the farmers say, rural people will be made healthier and happier, and the cost of food products will be so materially reduced that much of the discontent and dissatisfaction among the working classes will be eliminated.

Up North, of Course. An Indianapolis salesman, while in a crowd of "drummers" who were waiting on a train in a little Texas town on the Fort Wayne & Denver line, tells the following story:

"As in most small Texas towns, the station, as far as the waiting room is concerned, consists of an abbreviated platform and that is all. A genuine 'norther' was on that day and all of us had our coats buttoned in a vain endeavor to keep out the chill. While huddled together, we saw a small darky come up on the platform. For clothes he had on a pair of pants and a shirt, but a very dark line between the two suggested that the boy had outgrown his clothes. He braved splinters while dancing a jig to keep warm, and, much to our surprise, after he had quit dancing, he rushed up to us, held out his arms and said, in a most dramatic tone: 'Oh, cold wind, where were you last July?'"

Mrs. Wilson's Lack of Jewelry. One of the things that Washington is noticing about Mrs. Wilson is the fact that she, the owner of a jewelry business that has been established for a century, wears almost no jewelry herself. One really handsome ornament seems to be about all she cares for even on state occasions, and most frequently she wears none. People observed, with a grin of rather malicious delight, that the president went to St. Margaret's with Mrs. Wilson one Sunday. It was the first time, and 'downed the rumor that he was too good a Presbyterian to go inside an Episcopal church.—Washington Letter to Chicago Tribune.

OFFICER WASTED FEW WORDS

Conveyed Injunction Briefly, but Left Hearers With a Small Matter to Ponder Over.

Though the czar packed him away to the Caucasus and put others in his place at the head of the Russian levies sent to stem the tide of German invasion, Paris still cherishes its admiration of the tall, grim Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaievitch, sometime generalissimo of the armies of Muscovy. And it is in Paris that they still tell this story: One evening, when his forces lay near the Polish frontier, the grand duke gave orders that all the persons engaged in purveying supplies to the soldiers should be assembled at nine o'clock alongside the track where the grand ducal train was stabled for the night. "I have a highly important communication to make to the individuals in question," Nicholas explained.

Promptly at the hour named the invited guests were on hand and stood in line respectfully waiting. They did not wait long. In not above a minute the grand duke stepped out of his car, facing the trades persons, and looked them over for several minutes in silence. Then he spoke:

"Gentlemen, what I have to say to you is very serious for you, and is comprised in exactly three words. Do not steal—or I'll hang every mother's son of you."

With that he turned on his heel and re-entered his car. The audience was at an end.

ELEPHANT GIVES FIRE ALARM

Baby Pachyderm's Grunts Save Large Menagerie From Flames Only Just in Time.

Credit should be forthcoming to Little Nemo. She, "the world's smallest elephant," at last has gained a legitimate story.

The J. H. Eschman World United Shows winters in a couple of vacant lots at Guinotte avenue and Salisbury street, Kansas City, in the East bottoms. There are ten cars. A spreading barn protects the animals.

The barnkeeper and assistants were playing rummy in the private car of Mr. Eschman. They heard big grunts from Little Nemo. They rushed out. The interior of the barn was blazing. The elephant had kicked over a gasoline stove in the straw. "Cap" Watkins rushed in. Little Nemo was fast losing her senses in the smoke. It was dark and the "Cap" groped about, untied Nemo's halter and shouted, "Come, Nemo!" Nemo came.

In the meantime someone had called the fire department. Before it arrived other assistants had removed the South American llama and the wagon of screaming monkeys from the barn.

Activities of Women.

The maximum wages paid female stenographers in Ireland is three dollars per week.

Women munition workers in England are forbidden from wearing metal buttons on their blouses or metal hairpins in their hair.

The county courthouse in Kansas City, Kan., has a room equipped with mirrors, powder puffs, etc., for the use of women jurors.

The young widows of the most exclusive set in Los Angeles have organized a Merry Widows' club which has as its object the "pursuit of happiness."

Since King George was incapacitated by his accident from his duties of state, Queen Mary has proved a wonderful assistant and a woman of exceptional discrimination.

Mrs. Mary Moore is Philadelphia's first woman rural mail carrier. As the government does not appoint women mail carriers, Mrs. Moore got a man appointed to the route, which she drives as a substitute carrier, the government not objecting to permitting women to carry mails as substitutes.

New Safety Device.

A clever device to insure that not more than ten men at once shall ride on the mine cages is in use at the colliery of Jermyn & Company at Rendham. It consists of a turnstile with four spaces, which will revolve exactly two and a half times in one direction, thus admitting ten men. The turnstile revolves on a screw thread, of which there is just enough to permit the two and a half revolutions. Then the gate to that shaft is closed, and that to the adjoining shaft opened and ten men are admitted by the turnstile revolving in the opposite direction to the cage in that shaft. The device stands between the two shafts. It is the invention of Supt. John Corcoran, and has been in use long enough for a thorough test. The only way to load more than ten men on either cage is for the extra man to climb over the turnstile or gate, and, of course, the headman will not permit that.

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FOREST FIRE WARDEN MEETING. On March 30th, 1916, twenty-five forest fire wardens of the northern half of