

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 aplenty, 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, whom he had been told was 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 Ebanos, 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. Then another appeared and another. They were getting uncomfortably near the fuselage.

"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 Ebanos.

"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.

radius of 1,000 yards. We tested that by throwing up a trench and shooting at a bomb with a Mauser until it exploded. I was able to silence two of the enemy's batteries out of four near Ebanos after Carranza had tried in every way to capture them or silence them with land forces."

"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 ordered to fly about fifty miles inland from Tampico and drop some bombs in Villa's camp beyond Ebanos," Bonney began. "This was late one afternoon. It was after 5 o'clock when I arrived over the Villa lines and let the bombs go. I had just started back when suddenly my motor went dead."

"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."

"I steered for it and held the machine as high as possible. For a time it seemed as though I would fall short of the clearing and drop into the hopeless jungle, but the machine just barely skimmed the top of the brush and glided in, landing with her nose up against the underbrush on the further side of the clearing."

"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 word 'pajaro' is commonly referred to by the Mexicans as the 'muy grande pajaro,' meaning the great bird."

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.

The chairman of the meeting, Clem H. Gramley, of Rebersburg, read the paper setting forth the purpose of the meeting, "that they (the wardens) may know each other better and that there may be a general improvement in the efficiency of the forest fire organization of the Commonwealth. W. E. Montgomery, forester, of Potter's Mills, was chosen secretary. J. Linn Harris made a few remarks to the men relative to the provision of food for men fighting fire."

Mr. Geo. H. Wirt, chief Forest Fire Warden, gave a very interesting address to the men. He told of the inefficiency of the old law of 1907 and explained the law. He gave an instance of a fact that where the new law came into effect he found that the State was depending upon wardens in some places who had been dead several years, and of several cases where the wardens had moved away without the authorities knowing it. Mr. Wirt says that the State does not want "dead ones" for wardens but "live" ones. Under the new law 700 appointments as fire wardens have been made in the State and it is hoped to have 2500 before a year. There are fifteen million acres of forest land in the State and there were 1100 fires in 1915. Seventy-eight of these fires burned over 1000 acres each, and these 78 fires burned over 60 per cent of the total area burned. The loss in fires in this State is about fifty million dollars annually and often buildings and lives are sacrificed. Mr. Wirt pointed out that most fires resulted from ignorance and that the cure for this was systematic education and that it was up to each warden to do his share. Mr. Wirt pointed out that the railroads are fast awakening to the fire loss and the part that they play in this destruction and that they are willing in nearly every case to co-operate with the State or private individuals in order to reduce this loss. He said that most of the timber used in this State is shipped in from other States and this was entirely due to the fact that there are only four million acres of really productive forest land in the State out of the fifteen million acreage. Mr. Wirt impressed very forcibly upon the men that the people and especially the wardens must wake up and that nothing must be left undone in order to reduce the loss from fire. The key notes of the address were prevention instead of allowing fires to start—education instead of ignorance—efficiency instead of indolence.

Mr. Leonard G. Barnes, Forester, of Centre Hall, then read a paper on the extinction of forest fires. This paper was especially interesting to the wardens as it dealt with the serious side of the very practical business of putting out a fire. In particular he asked the wardens to let everybody know that they are fire wardens and that it is every one's especial duty to notify the nearest warden in case of fire on any forest land, private or State. He spoke of organization, preparedness and efficiency in the fire fighting crew and impressed each man's duty upon him.

The meeting was then thrown open to discussion by the wardens and many things were brought out in these discussions that were of intense interest to those present. The men all took a good hold and the meeting was of untold benefit to all. Mr. Geo. B. Thompson, lumberman and Fire Warden of State College, told of the problems that he had to deal with along the railroads and how he met and is overcoming these difficulties. His illustrations were very apt and his problems were unique as to outcome but common to all the wardens. He told of some timberland burned over by the railroad and that the railroad company refused the owner damages as the timber was valueless. Mr. Thompson then told how he went on this same land and cut hundreds of dollars worth of pit poles for the mines. Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Eves and Mr. Bartley spoke of how they overcame some of their difficulties.

The meeting was well attended and much interest shown and untold good derived. Out of twenty-two wardens only five were prevented from being present, owing to their business; there were in addition to the wardens a few visitors present. The following is a list of the fire wardens in southern Centre county:

- Centre Hall—J. C. Rossman.
Centre Hall—L. G. Barnes, Forester.
Pine Grove Mills—J. I. Reed.
Warriorsburg, R. F. D. 2—W. T. Wrye.
Spring Mills, R. F. D. 1—P. Smith.
Spring Mills, R. F. D. 1—Wm. H. Weaver.
Madisonburg—Homer C. Rachau.
Woodward—Carl D. Mote, Ranger.
Aaronsburg—A. S. Stover.
Storstown—J. P. Eves.
Boalsburg—Kob. Ketz, Ranger.
State College—W. A. Leach.
Boalsburg—J. H. Jacobs.
Linden Hall—J. W. Swabb.
Nittany, R. F. D. 1—J. W. Holmes.
Zion—C. W. Bartley.
Rebersburg—Clem H. Gramley.
Livonia—L. M. Stover, Ranger.
Storstown—W. J. Stine.
State College, R. F. D.—Geo. B. Thompson.
Coburn—Chas. R. Meek, Forester.
Millheim—E. I. Musser.
Spring Mills, R. F. D.—W. E. Montgomery, Forester.
Tusseyville—H. A. McClellan.
Spring Mills, R. F. D.—Wm. F. McKinney, Ranger.
Bellefonte, R. F. D. 2—W. R. Hoover.
Bellefonte—J. H. Olieger.
Mingoville—Wm. R. Harnish.
Nittany—W. E. Kessinger.

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 Centre 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 Cleveland, 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;

- Benner.....\$602 06
Boggs.....529 78
Burnside.....157 15
College.....361 32
Curtin.....250 31
Ferguson.....576 12
Gregg.....642 56
Haines.....351 47
Halfmoon.....278 16
Harris.....281 18
Howard.....296 62
Huston.....275 52
Liberty.....417 57
Marion.....273 46
Miles.....426 79
Patterson.....354 63
Penn.....228 27
Potter.....833 50
Rush.....512 15
Snow Shoe.....341 43
Spring.....351 53
Taylor.....251 90
Union.....278 16
Walker.....278 16
Worth.....278 16
Total.....\$3,383 84

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.

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 the 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.

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 'towned the rumor that he was too good a Presbyterian to go inside an Episcopal church.—Washington Letter to Chicago Tribune.

Carbonic Acid for Wounds. Military surgeons it is stated are taking advantage of the pain-stilling and disinfecting properties of carbonic acid in the treatment of wounds by utilizing an effervescent powder which is now being prepared. This is composed of 10 parts sodium bicarbonate, 9 parts tartaric acid, and 19 parts sugar. The ingredients are thoroughly mixed and then crushed to about the fineness of granulated sugar. The substance is applied freely to the surface of a wound, the moisture of which causes it to effervesce and liberate carbonic acid.