

WHEN WILD PIGEONS DARKENED THE SUN.

A pigeon net that "often caught two to three barrels of pigeons at a single cast," the pigeon stool to use with it and two mounted passenger pigeons are among the collection of natural history specimens now in possession of State College.

This net and stool, according to the donor, Charles E. Eldon, of Williamsport were the last to be used in Pennsylvania, where the passenger pigeons, now extinct, once passed in such flocks as to "darken the sun."

Eldon not only presented the pigeon snaring apparatus to the Department of Nature Education of the college but was influential in obtaining the Frederick L. Kreamer collection, which contained the passenger pigeons. In this collection, which was started before the Civil War, are more than 1000 specimens, an almost complete collection of the birds and smaller animals of the district.

Kreamer lives at Montoursville and made collecting and mounting his hobby for nearly seventy years.

Some of the details about the pigeon net and stool were given by the donor, George R. Green, head of nature education. Eldon said the apparatus had been used for more than sixty years in Central Pennsylvania at the time he obtained it in the late nineties, from an old couple living near Williamsport.

Eldon was an active figure in the early fight for conservation. The net was used to catch passenger pigeons, which were killed by the thousands for market—and in one year they were gone. The last known passenger pigeon died in the Zoological Gardens at Cincinnati in 1914.

The net itself is light in weight, has about a five-inch mesh and measures 38 by 18 feet. The stool looks like the figure 4 turned on its face, the crossbar being a stake which was driven into the ground and which served as a guide for the leg. By pulling a cord the leg could be made to throw a light object into the air.

The hunter caught a pigeon, sewed its eyelids with silk and placed it on the leg of the pigeon stool. The net was fastened to the ground on one side and the free side held up by two long poles that could be released with a great jerk. In falling the net covered the pigeon stool.

With the net in position and the sightless pigeon mounted on the stool the hunter waited until a flock was passing. The cord was pulled and the blinded bird thrown into the air. Screaming the pigeon fluttered back to the stool and decoyed the others.

Again and again the blind decoy was tossed into the air until the ground was thick with excited pigeons. Then the net was dropped, and another shipment of pigeons was caught for the market.

SYMBOLISM IN SWEDISH HAILING OF EASTERTIDE

A land of the North, where winters are severe and summers with twilight nights and cool breezes, supremely refreshing, Sweden, each year most eagerly welcomes the spring. Compared with more southerly climes the change comes late, with the transformation, therefore, all the more rapid and the awe it inspires correspondingly deep. Naturally, long ago, spring was a time of special sacrifices to the gods of Valhalla, with fervent supplication for propitious weather and a good harvest. With the introduction of Christianity these rituals became identified with Easter, and the old worship of nature was transformed into the adoration of the risen Savior and the quickening of faith in a life to come.

In the soft spring air, at twilight on Easter eve, columns of smoke rise on the horizon in every direction. All winter long the children have saved odd scraps of wood, twigs, branches and other combustibles in order to have as big a bonfire as possible, and as the flames begin to crackle and sparks fly skyward, they compete in athletic contests.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Charles A. Krape, et ux, to Coleman A. Wingard, tract in Gregg Twp.: \$500.

Clara M. Meyer, et bar, to Nellie E. Ripka, tract in Ferguson Twp.: \$400.

H. J. Markle, et ux, to Andy DeBraskey, tract in Spring Twp.: \$1.

William S. Scholl, et ux, to Leo D. Scholl, et ux, tract in Bellefonte: \$2,400.

Mary I. C. MacMillin, et bar, to Centre County Farmers Co-op Assn., tract in College Twp.: \$750.

Charles R. Beatty, et ux, to Beat-Motor Co. Inc., tract in Bellefonte: \$30,000.

Charles A. Jones, et ux, to Franklin G. Houtz, et ux, tract in College Twp.: \$150.

Anna Dunkleberger, et bar, to Henry B. Hogy, tract in Bellefonte: \$1.

H. D. Meek, et al, to R. H. Meek, tract in Patton Twp.: \$10,000.

P. Benner Meek, et ux, to R. H. Meek, tract in Patton Twp.: \$1.

James W. Swabb to William F. Taylor, tract in Harris Twp.: \$1,500.

John I. Clark to J. W. Clark, et ux, tract in Benner Twp.: \$1.

Samuel Mulbarger, et ux, to Robert E. Davidson, tract in Boggs Twp.: \$1,500.

He—"Pardon me, darling, but can't you get the wrinkles out of your stockings?"

She—"You brute! I have no stockings on."

THE RABBIT'S NEST

It was little Wells' mamma who found it. She was pulling weeds from her rose beds, and just as a big bunch of chickweed came up something soft jumped against her hand. Mamma thought it was a snake and screamed to Uncle Jim, the old colored man, who came running to see what was the matter; but when he pulled aside some more weeds there was a patch of gray fur, and when that was lifted there was the cutest little nest—just a hole in the ground all lined with gray fur from the mamma rabbit's breast. And in this warm blanket were four little things that looked like mice except their ears were long and their tails very short. Each one had a little white spot on its head and on the tip of its tail, and they could not open their eyes.

The next day was Easter, and as little Wells had been wishing and wishing he could find a rabbit's nest with some eggs in it, mamma was so glad that she had found this just in time and with some thing in it better than eggs.

When she took him out to see it Easter morning he was the most delighted little boy you ever saw. They lifted the top blanket of warm fur, and there lay the little rabbits curled up on top of one another; they raised their heads and wrinkled their noses in the funniest way, and little Wells loved them at once. Uncle Jim said the mamma rabbit would come that night and take them away, because she would know some one had found her nest, but little Wells covered it with weeds, thinking he could fool her, and he could hardly wait until morning to see if they had gone. They were still there, however, and then Uncle Jim aroared another fear, he said maybe some bad boy had shot the mamma rabbit while she was out in the fields, or a dog had killed her, and in that case the poor little rabbits had not had any supper and would soon starve to death!

"We will feed them," said little Wells' older brother, so he got some warm milk and dipped a piece of cotton cloth in it for the rabbits to suck. Then he carefully lifted one of the little fellows out of the nest and put the cloth to his nose, but the little fellow would not open his mouth, and even when it was forced open he wouldn't swallow a drop of the milk, but uttered a pitiful little squeak. So the children had to put him back, and they grieved all day for fear the rabbits were hungry.

The next day the children had an Easter party, and mamma said it would be just the thing to wind up with a look at the rabbit's nest, so after the egg hunt and the ice cream she took them to the nest, all marching in a line.

Every day for a week the nest was anxiously inspected, and as the rabbits grew fast and thrived, the fact that their mother was dead disappeared. Finally one day mamma was taking some ladies through her garden and stopped to show the rabbits, for grown people were as interested as children. Just as the gray blanket was lifted up jumped a little rabbit and hid under a bush; another followed him and ran, by funny little leaps, to the far end of the garden, where they could not be found; only one stayed in the nest. Next morning the nest was empty except for the gray blanket, and Uncle Jim said the rabbit had let the little ones follow her so she could teach them to hunt their own food and live in the woods. And that was the last seen of them.

MANY EASTER LEGENDS AND WHAT THEY MEAN.

There are legends for every holiday on the calendar, but none so lovely as those woven around Easter. Legends are always fascinating don't you think? Somehow, we never outgrow them, never lose completely that joy and eagerness with which we awaited the reply to our "Won't You Tell Me a Story?"

This, then, is an Easter story, and I love writing it. Just think of the different Easter symbols, and how their stories have come down through the ages, until we have almost forgotten the original meanings in the association with the present! Many of the legends first started with the ancient rituals, and were carried over for countless generations.

The downy, fluffy yellow chicks; the multi-colored and chocolate eggs; the pink and white sugar bunnies—all have their traditional meanings. Neither time nor tide can spoil a really good legend!

The egg comes first among the Easter symbols, and it stands for life and re-birth of Springtime. In this way it has become associated with the Resurrection when new hope was given to the world.

But why the colored eggs? Ah, that's a most interesting story! Coloring the eggs represents the earth's throwing off the white mantle of snow, which is winter's regalia, and taking on the new bright colored hues of spring. The children always love that one.

It's a long, winding-story that connects the bunny with Easter. In the olden, olden days, the hare was associated with the moon, and because Easter is set for the first Sunday after the full moon, following March 21st, the bunny and Easter developed a mutual relationship. You know, the hare, like the moon, is supposed never to close its eyes, and that's how the legend began and grew.

In Germany, the children tell a myth about the bunny who lays all these brightly colored eggs. The story is as popular as the Santa Claus tales which we have. The Hly, too, has become the special symbol of Easter, and like the egg and the chick, it represents the new birth of springtime, and adds another thought, that of purity and light.

The Watchman is without a peer in the newspaper field.

More Than Million in Twenty States Fed by Red Cross Volunteers

Hot School Lunches and Balanced Rations Given to Drought Victim—Seed Programs Instituted on Wide Scale

More than 1,000,000 persons in 22 drought-stricken counties of 20 States came under the care of the American Red Cross in what developed into the most extensive relief operations in half a century of ministering to stricken humanity.

Measures to lessen the severity of the blow inflicted by drought were taken as early as last September, when seed was distributed to more than 58,000 families for the planting of rye and other pastures, and to more than 27,000 families for the planting of kitchen gardens. The expenditure for this purpose amounted to \$326,800. Green vegetables were made available up to the first of January.

Early in February another Red Cross, garden program got under way and 507,000 packages of seed were distributed in 15 states. Quarter-acre plots were planted to beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, collard, sweet corn, kale, lettuce, mustard, okra, onions, peas, spinach, squash, tomatoes and turnips. Once again were farm families given the opportunity to participate in their own salvation.

A comparatively mild winter contributed to the success of the Spring and Fall seed campaigns. Many habitual single-croppers were introduced to the advantages of kitchen gardens, balanced cropping and balanced diet. Numerous land-owners have expressed the opinion that this constitutes the one apparent blessing to come out of the drought catastrophe. The United States Department of Agriculture and the local county agricultural agents co-operated in making this part of the relief operations outstandingly successful.

Balanced Meals Served

Red Cross feeding was aimed at adequacy and scientific correctness, as well as simple economy. In large numbers of schools, where children were found to be attending with little or nothing in their lunch boxes, hot meals were served at noon. A typical menu consisted of vegetable soup and bread one day; thick beef soup or stew with vegetables another day; cocoa or milk and cheese, peanut butter, or jam sandwiches, a third day.

In some places where lunches were not served in the schools, but were provided for in the regular food orders, each family having school children received extra staples for school lunches including peanut butter, raisins, prunes and tomatoes. Red Cross nutritionists instructed mothers in the preparation of lunches.

County health officers and private physicians commended the adequacy of rations procured on orders issued by Red Cross chapters, which were filled at local stores. Besides the usual staples, such as corn meal, flour, lard, meat, beans and potatoes, such items as canned salmon, cabbage, tomatoes, vegetables and milk were provided, each order being adapted to the special needs of the family for whom it was issued. Where pellagra threatened, eggs, yeast and other preventives were given.

Thousands of Volunteer Workers

Many thousands of volunteers, through their local Red Cross chapters, gave freely of their time, experience and efforts, as in other Red Cross disaster operations. They searched out needy cases in their communities, many persons being restrained from asking assistance because of pride. Chapter committees investigated circumstances, distributed food and clothing.

More than 500 carloads of foodstuffs were contributed. These were given free haulage by railroads. Farmers of more fortunate sections embraced the opportunity to help their pastoral cousins of the affected area. Shipments ranged from live poultry to fish, from grain to grapefruit. Carloads of flour, eggs, beans, vegetables, onions, rice, corn and mixed vegetables were included.

As the result of co-ordinated Red Cross chapter efficiency, not one authenticated case of starvation as a result of drought has been uncovered. Large quantities of new and used clothing were distributed. In direct consequence many school children resumed their studies who had been kept at home for lack of sufficient protection from the elements. In some instances, rural schools that had been closed were enabled to reopen as a result of Red Cross relief work.

States involved were: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.

Many of these States had been harried by a succession of floods, crop failures, low prices and economic depression, and drought constituted a climax to the cycle of distress.

"Wherever I went," wrote one observer, "I made a point of asking what would have happened if the Red Cross had not been able to respond. In wide ly scattered points, from leading citizens, came the answer that undoubtedly there would have been many deaths directly from starvation, with epidemics preying upon the undernourished."

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A small fish in a wet hand, returned to the water, is worth dozens of little fellows, unfit to eat, on the string; every adult female spawns thousands of eggs and, if given a

chance, will repopulate her waters. Put the little ones back.

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