



FOREST FIRES.

Their Destructive Effects, and Why Everyone Should Assist Toward Their Prevention.

For the past ten years the average annual loss in this state from forest fires has been \$500,000, while in exceptionally dry periods it has reached \$1,000,000. With the approach of the fall fire season and the additional danger because of the exceedingly dry weather over the state, it is vitally necessary for everyone to cooperate in protecting our forests. It cannot be too firmly impressed upon the people that at least 75 per cent. of our forest fires arise from preventable causes. The most frequent causes of fires are: burning of brush, escaping camp fires, lightning, sparks from sawmills and engines, carelessness, and pure maliciousness. Of all these lightning is the only one which cannot be avoided.

The State Department of Forestry has issued and distributed widely a forest fire poster calling attention to the destructive effects of forest fires and has also sent out small forest fire stickers for pasting on the backs of envelopes, on boxes of cartridges and ammunition and other places where they will be seen and read. Foresters, fire wardens, merchants, and private individuals have been asked to aid in this work.

With all this, however, forest fires still occur. One thing is certain: Forest fires begin with the fishing season in spring and continue until the end of the hunting season in fall. During the hunting season the woods are full of people in search of game. Many hunters use tobacco in some form. Burning tobacco holds fire for a long time. A match or cigar or cigarette or ashes from a pipe thrown away before thoroughly extinguished may cause thousands of dollars worth of damage. Such loss can be prevented easily if every person in the woods during the dry season would think to extinguish completely his burning matches and tobacco.

As a result of forest fires much of the land burned over remains unproductive. The owners lose the value of the growing timber and the county loses the taxes which would be derived therefrom. This loss approximates \$300,000 yearly. On the average \$20 is paid in wages for the harvesting and manufacturing of each thousand feet of lumber. Were the 5,000,000 acres of land in Pennsylvania which are now unproductive growing timber, they would produce at least 1,000,000 thousand board feet. This loss to labor amounts to at least \$20,000,000 each year.

But in addition to all this direct loss, there is a great indirect loss which cannot be estimated in money alone, and is felt by the whole commonwealth. Because of the denuded condition of the mountains stream flow is irregular which in turn affects the water supply. Actual experiments have proved that a good forest cover will conserve the stream flow. The humus and leaves act as a sponge and hold the water, allowing it to seep away slowly and regularly. When this soil cover is destroyed by fire, there is nothing to hold the water; it runs off rapidly and little or none is stored up for dry periods. In wet weather, too, the streams are filled to overflowing and millions of dollars worth of property is destroyed.

The mountains must be kept in a forested condition and forest fires must be stopped. To insure this, much of the preventive work can be done by each individual who goes into the woods and everyone must have a greater interest in the preservation of industries, health, and continued prosperity.

The Centre Democrat is trying or rather has proven that the Keystone Gazette has cast aside its temperance sentiment because the Republican candidate for the state legislature, Mr. Scott, of Philadelphia, happens to belong to the booze element, and the Gazette wants to support him. The Gazette evidently launched its temperance campaign without counting the cost. There is something sacred about the booze business. An ordinary man may be guilty of almost any crime and hold the respect of hotel men and booze hinders, but if he takes a firm stand against rum, he has the agents of His Satanic Majesty on his heels twenty-four hours each day. Have the imps retaken the Gazette?

Fromm's Economy Store.

The new clothing store at State College, conducted by Messrs. Harry and Morris Fromm, and known as the Economy store, is doing a nice business since its opening a short time ago. These young men are well known throughout Penns Valley and have a reputation for fair and honorable dealing with the public. Their stock of merchandise is complete in all lines and they offer bargains that mean real economy to the purchaser of clothing.

CENTRE COUNTY HOMES.

There are a Total of 9559 Homes in the County—2534 are Rural and 7025 Urban.

The United States Census Department at Washington has just issued a bulletin dealing with the ownership of Centre county homes. The important facts contained in the bulletin relative to this county are as follows:

There are 9559 homes in Centre county. Of this number 2534 are farm homes. 1180 of the farm homes are owned by their occupants and are free of mortgaged incumbrance. The mortgaged farm homes number 396. Renters occupy 952 farm homes in this county.

Out of a total of 9559 homes in the county, 7025 are urban homes. There are 3326 urban home owners in the county. Of this number 560 are mortgaged. 2633 of the urban owned homes are free of incumbrance.

There are 3599 rented urban homes in the county.

The census enumerators were unable to secure data pertaining to the ownership of a small percentage of both the rural and urban homes in this county.

Fire in Decker Valley.

A fire of unknown origin broke out in Decker Valley, several miles east of Potter Mills, on Wednesday of last week, and for a day or two Penns Valley for miles was enveloped in a dense smoke. The fire originated near the Kuhn Lingle place and burned over a large area of State land, as well as over that of private parties. It burned fiercely for several days and required the service of thirty to forty men to extinguish the flames. A later report is to the effect that a fire is now raging in Green Brier.

Scott Not a Local Optionist.

Those who favor local option cannot afford to vote for Mr. Scott, the Republican candidate for legislature; he is not a local optionist. It may be conceded that he is telling the truth when he says that he is a temperate man, but it must be conceded, too, that he favors the granting of liquor licenses, for when an effort was made in Philadelphia to reduce the number of licenses in that town, Mr. Scott was the right hand man for the liquor forces. Residents in and about Centre Hall will fully understand Mr. Scott's position on this question, for here we had a number of "eminently respectable" who, like Mr. Scott, never touched the glass, but did all in their power to help get rum for those who wanted it. It is the class of people to which Mr. Scott belongs that are largely responsible for the rum traffic as it is today. The influence of the "habitual" is not sought when the liquor question is up, but the influence of men who have good reputations and are sober is sought. Mr. Scott expressed himself very strongly in favor of hotel licenses, and no doubt his aid went a great way in securing licenses for Philadelphia. But the man who lends his influence to securing licenses is not the kind of man who should represent Centre county in the state legislature. Such a man is not in keeping with the spirit of the day.

If you are in favor of local option, no matter what your political beliefs may be, it is your duty to vote for Mr. Miller. He has given his word of honor that he will vote for any and all local option measures.

Transfers of Real Estate.

Tamsin Lucretia Keller to Harry H. Houser et ux, tract in Potter twp. \$240.

Florence L. Hancock et bar to Mike J. Beroshak et ux, tract of land in Rush twp. \$700.

David James Ginnick et ux to William Nedrich, tract of land in Rush twp. \$150.

Paul Mesarros et ux to David James Ginnick, tract of land in Rush twp. \$100.

Benson A. Weston et al to Victor S. Weston, 2 tracts of land in Worth twp. \$1200.

Ned Irish et al to O. P. Bechdel, 13 tracts in Centre & Ularfield. \$1.

Anna Elliot Thompson et al to A. F. Markie, tract of land in Patton twp. \$2,000.

Margaretta D. Thomas et bar to Edward Bubb et al, 2 tracts of land in Potter twp. \$2,600.

Clarence N. Eisenbauer to Minnie Adams, 2 tracts of land in Haines twp. \$365.

W. W. Price to John P. McMongie, tract of land in Taylor twp. \$175.

Harry O. Crain et ux to Thomas Armstrong, 2 tracts of land in Philadelphia boro. \$100.

George W. McGaffey Trustee to John A. Erb, tract of land in Philadelphia boro. \$3,500.

D. F. Bowersox et ux to D. K. Muser, 2 tracts of land in Haines twp. \$6,725.

FIRST MONTH OF SCHOOL.

Showing the Average Attendance in Each Grade and Those Who Were Present Every Day.

A report of the first month of school in the borough schools is appended. It shows the number of pupils enrolled, the average attendance of each sex, and a list of those whose names belong on the honor roll for not having missed a day of school during the month. Similar reports from township schools will be published if sent in by teachers.

Primary school: Number pupils on roll, males 12; females, 18; percentage of attendance during month, boys, 97; girls, 97. Number present every day, 9 boys, 12 girls, as follows: Lottie Keller, Grace McClenahan, Dorothy Packer, Vivian Packer, Helen Runkle, Ruth Runkle, May Smith, Kathryn Wagner, Mary Weaver, Mary Weber, Florence Zettie, Vianna Zettie, Ralph Emerick, Frank Gross, George Lutz, Ralph Martz, John Meyer, Paul Miller, Joseph Ruble, Franklin Runkle, and William Zettie.

Intermediate school: Number of pupils enrolled, male, 18; female, 18; average attendance during month, male, 17; female, 17; total, 34; per cent. of attendance during month, male, 95; female, 98. Pupils present every day during the month: Isiah Emery, Harold Keller, Wm. Sweetwood, Fred Lucas, Howard Emery, Harold Breen, Albert Smith, Ralph Owens, Clyde Smith, Paul Fetterolf, Franklin Ruble, John Lutz, Miles Snyder, Albert Emery, Hazel Ripka, Louella Ruble, Beatrice Kreamer, Helen Lucas, Grace Miller, Anna Garis, Sarah Snyder, Miriam Foss, Florence Krape.

Grammar school: Whole number in attendance during month, males, 10; females, 17; per cent. of attendance during month, males, 98; females, 97. Names of pupils not missing any time during the month: Lynn Bitner, Sumner Packer, Shannon Boozar, Ralph Henney, Reuben Zettie, Frederick Moore, Elizabeth Sweetwood, Miriam Huyett, Gladys Jones, Carrie Mitterling, Pearl Ruble, Ruth Parson, Ruth Bariges, Catharine Bradford, Catharine Ruble, Annabel Smith, Adaline McClenahan, Agnes Bible.

High school: Number of pupils on roll, males, 8; females, 10; per cent. of attendance during month, males, 89; females, 96. Number present every day, males 0, females 7, as follows: Mary Dinges, Grace Ishler, May Royer, Lillian Emery, Marian Royer, Esther Parson, Mary Whiteman.

The Hunting Season.

In the course of a week the hunting season in Pennsylvania will have commenced. Before starting out on their excursion, let all intending sportsmen ponder carefully over what they plan to shoot and how much they mean to shoot.

No more healthful or enjoyable pastime can be found than a few days spent in the forests in the autumn, tramping about on the dry leaves and breathing the pure mountain ozone. To those who do not admire nature in detail and have little concern for the beauties of the autumn flowers or the crimson foliage, the company of a dog and gun is considered essential.

The desire to kill is almost as old as man himself; it crops up most unexpectedly in all sorts of personalities and conditions. If it was not for the hunter there would be few wild birds and animals left in the United States. It is the gunners who have caused the enactment of game laws which have kept alive the remnant of wild life. But the time has now come when the few remaining creatures are so scarce that caution should be exercised in their destruction.

Men of science have shown us that the majority of the wild animals and birds are in this world for a wise and useful purpose. Many of them are here to keep in check the ravages of insect pests and other vermin and without them the work of the farmer and the fruit-grower is greatly increased. Every time the hunter kills an animal or bird for sport he is making more work for the agriculturalist and the fruit-raiser. He is upsetting nature's balance, that wonderful order of things which only came to pass after ages of adjustment on the part of all living things.

If the hunter feels that his own pleasure and benefit are greater than what he is taking away from the farmer or that the species which he seeks to stay is too plentiful, then let him shoot by all means. But the question is worthy of careful consideration. We have all heard of "the greatest good to the greatest number"—a system which works for the upward development of mankind. Therefore let us be temperate and considerate while we are in the woods. Do not let the old savage instincts obtain a mastery. Do not kill a bluejay or a chipmunk if you cannot find a grouse or a deer.

DROPS DEAD IN CORN FIELD.

James Alexander Found By His Son, Abner W. Alexander, at the Noon Hour, Friday. Funeral was held Tuesday.

Although he had lived beyond the allotted time of man, the news of the death on Friday noon, of James Alexander shocked the entire community. Mr. Alexander was found dead in the corn field by his son, Abner W. Alexander, who had left him less than an hour before in the best of spirits. On Friday morning Mr. Alexander went to the home of his son and together the two went to the corn field to cut corn that had been husked. When the noon hour came, the elder Alexander expressed himself that he preferred to have his dinner brought to the field, a practice in vogue on that farm since he was a boy of ten, rather than walk the considerable distance to the house. At a little after twelve o'clock the son was back in the field with a well filled dinner pail. Not



JAMES ALEXANDER

seeing his father where he expected to find him, the son called, but there was no response. He moved on a little farther and there saw his father lying prostrate on the ground—dead. From every indication the man had fallen dead while at work, for one hand held the corn knife and a few stalks of corn lay nearby. He had been working the greater part of the time he was alone, and this makes it certain that he did not suffer from sickness.

As soon as the son recovered from the shock he went back to the house, and after summoning a physician he and his brother-in-law, J. Elmer Royer, went to the field in a carriage and brought the dead body to the Alexander farm home.

Mrs. Alexander and her only daughter, Mrs. Royer, were in Bellefonte on Friday, and knew nothing of the death until they reached Centre Hall station. They were taken from the station to the Alexander place by Mrs. Alexander's brother, George H. Emerick.

Mr. Alexander was born March 14, 1837, on the farm east of Old Fort, now occupied by C. T. Crust. When a mere boy his father moved to west of the Old Fort, occupying the buildings on the farm immediately west of what is now known as the Alexander homestead, and there they lived until 1850 when the present Alexander home was built. After Francis Alexander gave up active life as a farmer, he was succeeded on the homestead by the subject of this sketch. The family resided there until 1895, when they moved to Centre Hall.

Mr. Alexander was an active, consistent member of the Lutheran church, and supported it in a most liberal manner. He was of a retiring disposition, amiable, kind, gentle, generous to all—a stranger to envy and jealousy. In politics he was a Democrat, and believed in its principles. He was not connected with any social organizations—his church was first and all with him.

The deceased is survived by a widow, whose maiden name was Miss Eliza Emerick, and two children: Abner W., and Mrs. J. Elmer Royer. He was a son of Francis Alexander, and these sisters survive: Mrs. Mary [Continued on inside page.]

Husband Clove's Follows Wife in Death.

The cold hand of death was laid upon husband and wife almost simultaneously the latter part of last week. Mr. and Mrs. George Markel, residing at Oak Hall, were taken sick about two weeks previous to their death, the former suffering with Bright's disease and the latter with diabetes. Thursday afternoon at two o'clock Mrs. Markel died from the effects of her ailment and her husband lay in an unconscious condition beside her, in which condition he remained until the following morning at four o'clock when his soul took flight to join that of his companion in eternal life.

Mr. and Mrs. Markel moved to Oak Hall several years ago from Buffalo Run where Mr. Markel had been en-

NEWS OF 1880.

Notes Taken From Files of The Centre Reporter of Thirty-four Years Ago.

October 7th—Samuel Wingard and John Road of the Loop have been employed by A. S. Kerlin to erect a large amount of stone wall at the new axe factory of Kerlin & Co., at Tyrone.

On September 19th the Review Exercises at Sprucestown Sunday school were conducted by the pastor, Rev. J. B. Akers. The singing on the occasion was excellent. The following persons recited the titles, topics, golden texts and doctrines of the lessons for the third quarter, viz: Maggie McCormick, Jennie McCormick, Edith Sankey, Barnett E. Spangler, Carrie McClosky, Emory E. McClosky, Lizzie Lytle, Linnie Evans, Tammie Evans, Susan Smith, Maggie Evans, Lucy Evans. The occasion was every way quite enjoyable.

Last Sunday morning the team of Thomas Gates, of Ferguson, while returning from the soldiers' reunion, took flight and ran away. Being turned by the driver, into a fence corner, the spring wagon was upset and Mr. Solt thrown out, and had three ribs and an arm broken. No others were injured. The wagon was a new one and entirely demolished.

Married—On the 5th inst., by Rev. W. E. Fischer, James Worrel of Millroy and Miss Emma B. Geiswhite of near Centre Hall.

October 14th—The family of William Houser, living a short distance south of the For, has been sorely afflicted with typhoid fever. Mr. Houser himself had a severe attack and when convalescent his wife was taken down with the disease and died, on the 4th, followed by the death of a daughter aged about eight years, a week after, with two other children yet down with the same disease.

Prof. Bitner, who so successfully taught a select school in this place for two years, has left to take charge of the Penn Hall free school, where he will receive better compensation than allowed in Potter.

An ore shaft was begun on Tuesday on the ground of John Hoffer, back of the Reformed church in this place, with every indication of finding iron ore.

Lumber operations are very brisk on the Treasler tract in Georges Valley, recently purchased by Grove and Mingle. A steam mill has been put on the ground, and quite a number of hands employed in the manufacture of lumber, which is shipped to contractors in the east.

Isaac Brass, one of our oldest residents, died on Tuesday.

E. S. Garver, formerly of Centre Hall, was nominated for Assembly, by acclamation, by the democrats of Worth county, Mo.

Married—At Penn Hall, on Oct. 7th by Rev. J. Benson Akers, Michael Burkholder to Miss Susan B. Emerick, both of Centre Hall. At the residence of George Flora near Centre Hall, on October 7, by John Shannon, J. P. David Meese of Potter township, to Miss Rebecca Houtz of Ferguson township.

Rosy Report From Michigan.

From East Tawas, Michigan, Fred A. Stuffer makes this very favorable report:

We have very hot and dry weather at present. The first killing frost came on the 28th inst. Crops are good everywhere throughout this section.

At our annual fair held at East Tawas fine specimens of vegetables, grains, cattle, hogs, and sheep were exhibited which indicates that Iocsa county stands in the front ranks in the production of those things.

Dates for Installing I. O. O. F. Officers.

T. M. Gramley, District Deputy Grand Master, is installing officers in the various I. O. O. F. lodges in his district. Saturday he acted in this capacity at Lemont, Monday at State College. Friday, October 9, he will be at Pine Grove Mills; Saturday at Boalsburg; Monday, October 12, Centre Hall; Friday, October 16, Spring Mills; Tuesday, October 20, Millheim.

(Continued from previous column.)

gaged in blacksmithing for a long number of years. They were both about sixty-six years of age and were living practically a retired life. During their illness they were cared for by a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Harry Markel, who lives in Oak Hall.

Funeral services were held at their late home Monday morning at nine o'clock, and interment took place in Myer's cemetery at Buffalo Run, Rev. W. K. Harnish of the Presbyterian church of Boalsburg, officiating. Both husband and wife were life-long members of this denomination. Three children survive them, namely, Harry Markel, Oak Hall; Mrs. Nathaniel Krape, and Mrs. Cramer, Buffalo Run. One brother, Amos Koch, of Boalsburg, also survives Mrs. Markel.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Locally, chestnuts are said to be plentiful but the majority are found to be wormy.

Nittany Inn, at State College, is being enlarged. A two story frame addition is being built.

The stork visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al. Burrell of near Millheim and left a wee baby girl.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Meyer on Tuesday left for a ten-day trip to Niagara Falls and New York City.

Mrs. Ralph E. Dinges has been confined to bed during the past week suffering from a severe cold which settled in the bowels.

The local lodge I. O. O. F. will install officers Monday evening, T. M. Gramley of Spring Mills being the installing officer.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Wagner Geiss of Bellefonte spent Friday at the home of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Goodhart.

Corn husking is crowding wheat seeding pretty hard. October sowing will be amply tested, provided rain comes in time to prepare the seed bed.

Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Spangler and three children of Baraboro are spending a short time at the home of the former's mother, Mrs. Susanna Spangler.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Lutz attending the double funeral of Mr. and Mrs. George Markel, at Oak Hall, Monday. Mrs. Markel was a second cousin of Mrs. Lutz.

Prof. E. W. Crawford is conducting a singing school at Rock Mills, above Bellefonte. He gives instructions every Friday evening and his class numbers more than fifty.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Strohmeier and daughter, Miss Bertha, accompanied by Mrs. W. F. Floray, made a trip in their car Thursday to Williamsport and Milton, taking in the fair at the latter place.

The property of the late Mary E. Burkholder, located at Centre Hill, and advertised to be sold at public sale by the administrator, W. E. Burkholder, last Saturday, was not sold owing to no bids being offered.

L. R. Lingle, a farmer in the Earlytown district, was a caller at this office on Saturday evening. He, like all others engaged in tilling the soil, was lamenting over the excessive dry season we are passing through.

Dr. John A. Hardenberg was appointed by the state health department to examine the pupils in the thirty-two schools in Millheim borough, Haines, Penn and Miles townships, and make his report within the next six weeks.

Mrs. Ed. J. Lucas and Mrs. Marguerite Buhre of Atlantic City, N. J., are spending a short time at the home of the former's brother-in-law, John D. Lucas, in Centre Hall. Mr. Lucas is expected to arrive in Centre Hall the beginning of next week.

Aaron Thomas, who has been under the doctor's care for the past few weeks, is slowly improving. A severe cold which settled on his lungs pulled him down in weight and strength and his condition for a time was much more serious than he would admit.

Theatre goers at Bellefonte appreciate the improvements Manager Garmann has made in the appearance on the interior of his building. Paneled mirrors have been placed on either side of the hall, and heavy glass-paneled doors have replaced the old ones.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Simpkins of Altoona, Mr. and Mrs. George Wike of Wilkes Barre, and Mrs. Minnie Hall of Boston, Mass., formed an auto party that were entertained for a short time at the home of Prof. and Mrs. W. A. Krise, on Monday. The trip was made in the former's 1915 Overland car.

Tomorrow (Friday) the first game in the world's baseball championship series between Philadelphia and Boston will be played at the former place. Windom Gramley of Spring Mills, accompanied by his mother, Mrs. T. M. Gramley and his brother Eugene, left for the city in their car and while Mrs. Gramley will visit friends, her sons will take in the two games, Friday and Saturday.

One of the busiest places in Centre Hall is the evaporating plant conducted by the Centre Hall Evaporating Company. The plant was remodeled before the season opened, and is now so equipped with elevators, slides, etc., that after the grower unloads the apples the fruit need be handled only by the parers until it is sliced and ready for the drying house. The parings and cores are also carried to barrels by elevators. The product of the plant is first-class, although a grade of apples are used that could find no market except at a cider mill.