

# The Centre Reporter.

VOL. XXVIII

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1924.

NO. 37

## THE FOREST FIRE ORGANIZATION AND ITS PURPOSE.

Obligations and Duties of a Forest Fire Warden.

[By J. R. Mingle, Penn. State Forest District.]

### ARTICLE II.

#### The Oath.

When the oath of office is administered making a man a forest fire warden, he casts himself within easy reach of the law. He has sworn himself to a duty. He has seen the duty and pledged himself to perform it to the best of his ability. He is just as important in the great scheme of preventing forest fires as in the highest official in the land in comparative relation to duty. We might well term him a standard bearer, a man with an ideal.

In his community he is admired and respected because of the stand he has taken. His ability is above the ordinary, as his followers, men with a like respect for the great need in preventing forest fires, depend upon him for guidance and direction.

Countless times personal matters are neglected to attend to duties of State. The men who follow him, likewise, sacrifice many precious hours and sometimes days that the forests may be kept free from devastation. Men that sacrifice that an ideal might be realized, especially in the case where the ideal concerns and benefits all and many populated communities, deserves no little encouragement, and should receive from every man, woman and child a sincere appreciation.

It behooves all of us, then, who live within the bounds of the Penn Forest District to look upon the untiring efforts of the forest fire warden as heroic; to help the man who sees in the ravaging, plundering forest fire a fierce enemy. His obligation points the way to a plain, unavoidable duty, and he should receive the hearty support and cooperation of all.

#### Duties

The forest fire warden is not only subject to the call from townsmen and other forest officers, but from everybody who might discover a fire and notify him. The fire tools he has collected together and kept in perfect shape are quickly loaded upon a truck. While he is doing this his good wife in many cases has notified the regular members of his crew by telephone of the fire. They are ready when he appears and a quick getaway is accomplished. This means a quick attack upon the flames. He notes almost at once upon arriving at the fire which way it is traveling, and quickly divides his men, attacking the head or "header."

If there is a wind and the fire has had a good start the warden may find he cannot handle it. A man is then dispatched for help, or possibly a townsmen is watching the smoke, and after a reasonable length of time sees no jet up; he quickly calls another warden and sends him with men to help.

Always on the fire line you will find the warden commanding and courteous. Men are directed here and there where the best work can be done. Like a fireless machine he doggedly sticks until the fire is out. Then cautiously he selects a few men to patrol the line to avoid an outbreak.

The time of the men is carefully kept and submitted to the District Headquarters, along with report of the fire. The fire report contains time and location of the fire; estimated area and damage; cause of fire and party responsible; number of men employed, parties suffering damage as owners of the land. Along with this report a bill is submitted showing hours and rate; the name of each man employed; transportation; meals, if any, and total cost of extinction.

#### Compensation.

The greater per cent of the forest fire wardens in the Penn Forest District are farmers living near the forest. To realize a profit he must give attention to his crops. Generally when the spring forest fire season is at its worst, the warden is confronted with a mountain of work on the farm. Likewise, in the fall of the year he is burdened with work when forest fires are most likely to occur.

The compensation of his office is insufficient to pay him in a financial way for the time spent away from the farm. Except in extreme cases, where a warden has at his command a picked and regular trained crew, he is paid but 40 cents per hour for actual time expended. We will assume he is a carpenter making 60 cents an hour. If a forest fire is discovered he is duty bound to go. His loss in a financial way is evident, besides the hardships and dangers attended in the extinction of the fire.

This brings to us, clear and distinct, the real object of the forest fire warden. Not the emoluments of his office, for this is but a dim base in the

(Continued on foot of next column)

## FIRST DUTY OF HONEST REPUBLICANS.

Honesty in Government to Be Chief Issue of This Campaign—Issue Created by Dishonest Acts and Practices of Corrupt Republican Officials.

John W. Davis, in his own elegant and forceful way, has declared honesty in government to be the chief issue of this campaign. Mr. Davis did not create this issue; the people did not create this issue. It was created by the dishonest acts and corrupt practices of dishonest and corrupt Republican officials. The reactionary and Tory leaders of that party have emphasized the issue, first by attempts to defend and shelter the accused officials; secondly, by attempting to obstruct investigation, and now when challenged by the Democratic nominee for President they further emphasize the issue by a conspiracy of silence.

With honesty in government as the inevitable chief issue in the campaign, despite the refusal of Republican reactionary leaders to discuss it in their speeches, and the refusal of the Republican organization to refer to it in their printed propaganda, what is the duty of honest Republicans in this campaign? The same reactionary and Tory leadership which was responsible for placing in office dishonest, corrupt and incompetent officials, is responsible for the nomination of the Republican presidential and vice-presidential candidates. These leaders who nominated Mr. Coolidge would either dominate his administration, if by any remote accident he should be elected, or would repudiate it utterly, rendering it impotent, if Mr. Coolidge should develop the inclination and the courage to assert any independence, of which he has as yet shown no signs.

The Republican party can never hope to regain the confidence of the people until dishonest, corrupt, reactionary and Tory leadership is repudiated. Honest Republicans can render the most effective aid in restoring confidence in their party and in their government as well, thus performing a double duty, by voting for John W. Davis, who declared in his speech of acceptance that "It is the supreme need of the hour to bring back to the people confidence in their government."

### LECTURE COURSE THIS WINTER.

Local High School to Sponsor Season of Entertainment for Centre Hall—The Dates and Attractions.

The Centre Hall High school has assumed the responsibility of putting on a lecture course for Centre Hall during the coming winter months. The course has been purchased from the Antrim Bureau, the same bureau which sold to Centre Hall last year.

A canvass will be made for the sale of season tickets, at \$2.00, in the near future, and it is hoped that the public will respond liberally with their patronage. Whatever margin of profit there may be after paying for the course will be used toward the purchase of a piano for the High school. Following is a list of the attractions and dates:

J. Coates Lockhart—Saturday, October 19th, 1924.

Former Governor Brough—Tuesday, November 18th, 1924.

Dietric & Company—Friday, December 5th, 1924.

New Era Dramatic Co.—Tuesday, January 20th, 1925.

Robert O. Bowman—Wednesday, February 11th, 1925.

### Speed Trap, Maybe.

The Reporter is informed that on Sunday the numbers of seven or more automobile licenses were taken, the drivers of the cars having, in the eyes of the watchers, violated some rule or law. It would be regrettable if a speed trap has been established here. Such a move would be detrimental to the business interests of the town.

The following paragraph is taken from a circular letter issued by the State Highway Department:

"The Department believes in and encourages all moves for observance of motor vehicle laws. It vigorously disapproves, however, unjustified prosecution of road users by local police authorities in the altogether too frequent instances where their actions are dictated more by a policy of fines and costs for revenue rather than safety on the highways."

It is the Jordan car and not the Chrysler J. Shannon Booser is selling in connection with the Overland, Willys-Knight and Flint cars.

(Continued from previous column) background of his thought; not a snap-on-the-back from the fickle public, but a deep devotion to an ideal. Uppermost in his mind is the thought that he can rise in the morning and see the forests green and hear the happy song from its depths, rather than look upon, with sore eyes and remorseful heart, a thing of nakedness, a black, gutted mass where nothing lives.

In 1910 he organized and incorporated

## THE HIGHWAYS TO BE PLACES OF BEAUTY.

Banks and Slopes of Pennsylvania Roadways Will Glow With Color Next Year.

Banks and slopes along the Pennsylvania highways next year will glow with color. Flowering grasses, vines and shrubs will hide the yellow scars where fills or cuts have been made. The Highway Department, which some months ago announced the inauguration of a planting program, has revised that program to include the setting out of blossom-bearing vines and small trees.

Highway department officials during the last few weeks have been in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Forests and Waters, and Game Commission, the Bureau of Municipalities, and the State Botanist, relative to planting along Pennsylvania highways. The Highway Department authorities are anxious to hasten planting so that passage over Pennsylvania roads will not be continuously through landscapes scarred by the activities of road builders.

The highway engineers have been notified that they may make requisition for vines and other growths they deem necessary. The state will require approximately 300,000 vines. These will include wild roses, rambler and creeper roses; the matrimony vine, which in spring has a yellow blossom; the kutzu vine, which bears a colorful berry; bush honeysuckle, the blossoms of which range from white to red; the yellow foythea, the blossoms of which range from white to red; the yellow forsythia; shrub dogwood, which has white and pink blossoms; spiraea, with its white blossoms; the snow berry, the Japanese barberry and the liberty iris, which has a lavender blossom.

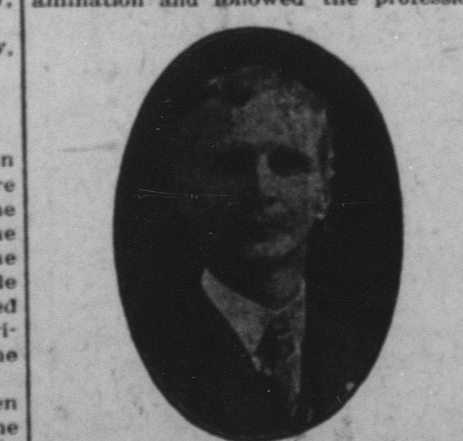
But the colors will not be confined to the vines the department will plant. The engineers are making selections from ten grasses—including white clover, the pink alsike clover, the blue hairy vetch, the purple alfalfa and yellow vicia. These grasses will be used for slope planting in conjunction with orchard grass, meadow fescue, tall meadow oat grass, Canada blue grass and perennial rye grass. In planting on the beams or shoulders of the roads the department will use Kentucky blue grass, red top, red fescue, alsike clover, perennial rye grass and white clover.

At a comparatively small cost, it is claimed, Pennsylvania highways can be given a parkway resemblance. There is no reason why the state's many marvelous miles of scenic splendors should be marred by unsightly cuts or fills and naked borders.

### WILLIAM H. NOLL

Democratic Nominee for the Office of Representative in the General Assembly for Centre County—A Thorough Business Man—Brief Sketch of His Life.

William H. Noll, the subject of this sketch, has been a resident of Pleasant Gap, Spring township, all his life. His ancestors being among the early settlers of Centre county. His early life was spent on the farm and at public and normal schools, and at the age of 18 years he passed the examination and followed the profession



of teacher in our public schools for four years, after which he took a full business course at a Commercial college in Painesville, Ohio, fitting himself for bookkeeper, etc. On his return from school he and his brother Abner entered into the mercantile business at Pleasant Gap, where he still continues in business. Later he added to this business that of lumbering, buying a saw mill and tracts of timber which he operated successfully for eight years, during which time he also personally managed a large farm at Pleasant Gap, owned by himself and brother.

Discovering an excellent vein of limestone on their farm and through untiring efforts he succeeded in interesting capitalists and in 1905 organized what is now known as "White-rock Quarries," one of the most progressive and up-to-date lime and stone companies in Centre county, who have continuously employed from 150 to 250 men, and Mr. Noll has continued to be one of its directors ever since.

In 1910 he organized and incorporated

(Continued on inside page.)

## K. K. K. DEMONSTRATION.

Order Holds Out-Door Meeting On Grange Park, Attended by 3,000—Big Display of Fireworks.

The following note was handed W. O. Heckman by the editor, and the printed account of Saturday's gathering is the result:

"If you will give us an account of the Klan affair on Saturday, omitting all 'bull,' over your signature, we will be pleased to use it. While I am not at all in sympathy with the Klan principles, your article will be accepted as one of strictly news."

On Saturday, at one o'clock, members and friends of the Ku Klux Klan began to gather at Grange Park, Centre Hall. The program of athletic events had to be dispensed with on account of the rain. But when the Klan Band from Altoona arrived conducted by the band attracted the crowd to the Klan headquarters where they listened to selections played. The organizer for the Central Pennsylvania counties had charge of the demonstration, which opened officially with the raising of the U. S. flag and the National salute with the band playing The Star Spangled Banner.

At seven o'clock, following the opening prayer, A. O. Boring, of Altoona, spoke on the principles of the Klan. Following this address several hundred Klansmen and Klanswomen, led by the band, paraded from the entrance of the park to the West end of the grounds where they formed a hollow square within which the Altoona Klansmen put on their drill while red fire decorated the grounds.

Following the drill a display of fireworks was put off. Uncle Sam, George Washington, The Little Red School House, the American Flag and other stationary pieces were appreciated by the crowd. The closing event was the naturalization of a class of forty candidates under the light of a fiery cross.

The attendance at the demonstration was about three thousand.

(Signed)

W. O. HECKMAN.

### Court Opens Monday.

A regular quarter sessions court opens Monday morning. The lists of both civil and criminal cases are unusually large, which will result in either postponing a number of cases or continuing the session for a longer period than usual. The one case attracting the most interest is the Musser murder case, which will come up for trial.

### Great Union County Fair.

Great Union County Fair at Lewisburg, Pa., September 30, October 1, 2 and 3, 1924.

The 72nd annual consecutive Fair all ready with a big race program raved on 3-heat plan, which means every heat a race.

Plenty of music with Beaver Springs band Wednesday, Millinburg Thursday, Lewisburg Friday. The big attraction will be a troop of acrobats, as well as the Lock Haven, Sunbury and Lewisburg Cavalry Troop, giving exhibition riding and a running race which was contested at Lewisburg last year and at camp this summer. This will be the final race for the championship of the three troops for this year.

All seats on the grand stand have been numbered and sold accordingly which will be on sale at the general ticket office prior to the race.

The ladies of the Reformed church have charge of the dining hall this year.

Any one wishing any further information will communicate with Lester W. Brown, who is secretary. Friday, October 3, is School Children's Day. All teachers and enrolled scholars will receive free tickets.

### OPPOSED TO SPEED TRAP.

State Highway Department Lists Millinburg As a Community Where Unjustifiable Prosecutions Are Being Made.

Local opposition to a speed trap operated by the borough police on the part of business men and others in Millinburg was given added strength recently when a statement was sent out from the state highway department at Harrisburg listing Millinburg among the communities where "unjustified prosecutions" had been brought against motorists. In this article Paul D. Wright, secretary of highways, and Major Lynn Adams, head of the state police force, were listed as being opposed to operation of such speed traps.

Millinburg, like other communities where speed traps have been maintained, has found that any benefits derived in the way of financial return through fines and costs, and the strict adherence to the letter of traffic regulations and ordinances, are more than offset by the loss of trade, decrease in number of visitors to the community and the poor advertising which a speed trap constitutes. Millinburg business men and other citizens have made every effort to attract travelers to the town, and they resent the speed trap which drives them away.

Rats in the ladies' hair once more, but under the name of "transformers." How styles do change.

## \$50,000 FOR NEW BRIDGES.

CONFRONTS CENTRE COUNTY A Costly Year.

The following article of general interest to the Reporter readers is reprinted from the Bellefonte Republican:

Bridge building, maintenance of detours, and damages to private lands, resulting from relocating sections of state highways, will unquestionably place upon Centre county the biggest single item of expense during the term of Commissioners Speary, Swabb and Austin. Bridges alone will cost the county upwards of \$50,000. Land damages and maintenance of detours may amount to half as much more.

There is just a bare possibility that the cost of rebuilding three bridges on the scheduled concrete highway in Bald Eagle Valley may be placed upon the State, but this is so remote that the County Commissioners have little hope for an even break in their favor. The higher courts have ruled that bridges of greater span than 8 feet on turnpikes revert to the counties, which in turn must bear the cost of reconstruction. Originally, it is claimed, the route in question, was an old plank road, and not a turnpike. This hair line distinction is all that stands between Centre county and an item of about \$18,000 for three bridges. The County Commissioners hope that a legal ruling that the road cannot be classed as a turnpike will place this cost upon the State. If not it will be up to Centre county to pay the bill when the Bald Eagle highway is built next year. It will be the rebuilding of this highway that will also place upon Centre county a heavy item of expense for land damages and maintenance of detours. In eliminating several dangerous curves in the present route, the new highway will pass through farm lands which will have to be appraised and paid for by Centre county. The bridge over Wallace Run will have to be rebuilt by Centre county, regardless of any legal ruling relative to the three other bridges farther up the valley. The State Highway Department has decided to build the highway, and Centre county will have no alternative but to pay such costs as legally fall upon it.

It was stated at the office of the County Commissioners that the cost of rebuilding the five or six bridges on the present toll road from Millheim to Coburn cannot be shifted upon Penn township, but that Centre county will have to foot the bill. This will run into something like \$20,000 or \$25,000. It was pointed out that the only hope for relief for Centre county lies in the possibility that government assistance may be secured. This is based on the fact that the road constitutes a direct mail route from Coburn to Millheim. As was explained in "The Republican" last week, the County Board of Road Viewers have appraised this road at \$2,000. It will have to be taken over by Centre county, for \$2,000 or possibly more, and the first thing confronting the County Commissioners will be the rebuilding of the bridges, most of which are in very bad shape.

Centre county is also liable for the cost of reconstructing the Spring Mills bridge. This will add something like \$2,000 to the bridge account. Originally the State Highway Department classed this as an item to be paid by the State, and went so far as to secure large tile for the work. After matters had reached this stage, the State Highway Department ruled that the cost of the bridge properly belonged to Centre county, and the county has to stand for it. There has been considerable negotiation between the State Highway Department and the County Commissioners, with the result that an amicable adjustment has been effected. By this arrangement, the State Highway Department will contribute the tile on hand, and Centre county will pay for putting them in place, also paying for building wing-walls and approaches.

All told, it looks like costly times in 1925 for Centre county. The people want improvements, and improvements cost money—usually, a lot of money.

### Water for Nittany Top.

At a depth of 120 feet an abundance of water was found on top of Nittany Mountain. The well filled to a depth of fifty feet, and the tests made by the drillers failed to show any indications of lessening the supply. J. H. Detweiler, who owns Nittany Mountain top, is feeling elated over securing a supply of water, for it was the one thing needed to make Nittany Mountain one of the greatest resorts in Central Pennsylvania. Water was the serious handicap. Nature had performed its work in all other respects. There is no view within the state that compares with that looking over Penns Valley.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Progress Grange will meet Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. A good attendance is desired.

A truck chassis to be used to haul a snow plow was driven from Harrisburg to Bellefonte by J. Shannon Booser the latter part of last week.

The executive committee of the Grange Encampment and Fair association will meet in Grange Arcadia, Thursday, 25th inst., at 2:00 o'clock.

Forest, Clarion and Venango counties are the only counties in the state that will produce a crop of chestnuts. Blight has destroyed the chestnut producing trees in all other parts of the state.

County Commissioners James W. Swabb, John Speary, Harry Austin, and clerk, Claude Herr, in company with borough solicitor S. D. Gettig, attended the convention of county commissioners at Reading last week.

The buildings on the lots purchased by C. N. Hockman, near the railroad station, are being taken down. The work of building a home, with accommodations for a business place, will begin as soon as possible.

Millheim has produced a radio artist in the person of Miss Mary Kessler, daughter of Merchant and Mrs. A. Kessler. Miss Kessler has a studio in Cleveland, and recently gave a lengthy program of classical music.

The stadium at Bucknell University, seating 18,000, and one of the finest structures in the state, will be opened October 15, with Lafayette opposing the Bison. The stadium has been in building during the last eight months.

Among the Reporter's callers last week was R. W. Rodgers, one of the Penn. State Agricultural Extension staff. It was he who had in charge the playlets rendered in the auditorium on Grange Park during the Encampment and Fair, and made such a success of them.

All persons who desire to take advantage of the Old Age Pension Act are requested to present their applications to Mrs. Rebecca C. Tuten, at the court house in Bellefonte, or to Mrs. F. M. Fisher, Centre Hall, on or before September 30th.

James Catherman, of Millheim, and Alfred Catherman, of Hartleton, are on a trip west, and will stop at various places in Ohio, Missouri, and North Dakota. At Minot, in the latter state, they will be guests of a son of Alfred Catherman, whose name is also Alfred. The cousins will be gone for a period of about six weeks.

The marriage of Charles S. Krumrine, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Krumrine, of Philadelphia, but former residents of Bellefonte, and Miss Jane Brown Gillilan will be solemnized at 6 o'clock p. m., on Monday, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gillilan, at Overbrook.

I making mention of the purchase of a home by D. M. Bradford, in the issue of last week, the name of H. E. Shreckengast was given as the owner when it should have been Frederick K. Carter. Mr. Shreckengast is the present tenant in the home, but not the owner.

Corporal G. Harry Keller, of the State Highway Patrol, who has been in charge of the Lewisstown sub-station since it was established early last spring, has been ordered back to the training school at Hershey for special duty. His courtesy both in civilian life and on the highways has won many friends for him in this district where he has been enforcing the highway motor laws. Corporal Keller, it will be remembered, is a native of Linden Hall, and has long been known by many readers of this paper.

Camp No. 176 of the United Sportsmen of Pennsylvania, at Pleasant Gap, an active organization in the protection and propagation of wild game, is inducing land owners to post "no hunting" signs on their premises in order that protection might be afforded ring-neck pheasants, which have only recently been planted in Centre county and which are having a struggle to exist against the ruthless onslaughts of hunters. The Pleasant Gap sportsmen are to be commended for their action.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Cunningham, of Los Angeles, California, have been in the east for several weeks, and are now with friends in this section. It is six years since they were east but find few notable changes among their people. Mrs. Cunningham's maiden name was Miss Anna Moyer, a daughter of the late J. M. Moyer. Mr. Cunningham is a native of Scottdale, Westmoreland county, where he and Mrs. Cunningham spent several weeks before coming on to Penns Valley. He is engaged in the real estate business, and is also, connected with the Standard Oil company in California. While here they are dividing their time between their daughter, Mrs. Ruth Bilger, at Pleasant Gap, and their many more distant relatives and friends.