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## PETER RIDER MAKES A CONFESSION

Admits That He Shot Little Clyde Auman on a Chestnut Tree.

## THOUGHT HE SAW A SQUIRREL

Became Scared and Ran Across the Mountain—An Ignorant Mountaineer—Hardly Accountable—His Confession—A Peculiar Character.

Our readers have hardly forgotten the details of the mysterious death of Clyde Wesley Auman, who was shot while on a chestnut tree near Coburn, Wednesday, October 3rd, and was found shortly

bly affected him, and he became restless and unnerved. This, along with contradictory admissions and other evidence, brought the case to a climax. A. L. Millard, the principal detective, came on to finish the job. On Monday he went there and met "Pete" and told him he had to come to Bellefonte as he was implicated. Here the "sweating" process began, continually the matter was discussed and Pete became more restless. At the station he was informed that he had to accompany them to Bellefonte. He became obstreperous and flatly refused.

When the afternoon train pulled in the officers politely boosted him on the platform and he realized he was under arrest. He continued to protest and declare his innocence. Finally Millard told him that the jig was up, that they knew he shot Clyde Auman, because John Rider (his brother) saw him shoot the boy and had told them all about it. The ruse worked. In despair Pete replied "Why John didn't see it?" This admission came without a thought, and



"PETE" RIDER.

after by John Rider. He never regained consciousness, and died a few hours after. His death produced a sensation in that part of the valley, as it indicated either the work of some fiendish murderer, or the mistake of a careless hunter who through fear fled from the place, instead of rendering the dying boy needed assistance.

### PETE RIDER ARRESTED.

The whole matter is now cleared up. On Monday Pete Rider, of Coburn, was arrested and, while on the train accompanied by the detectives enroute for the county jail, he made a confession of the whole affair, admitting that he shot Clyde Auman by mistaking the boy in the tree for a gray squirrel, and when he discovered his fatal deed, he quickly fled into the mountains. Thus the mystery is completely solved, due to the constant efforts of District Attorney Runkle and the aid of the county commissioners, who supplied a competent detective to aid him.

### STORY OF THE SHOOTING.

Immediately after the shooting the district attorney carefully took up the case and from the start got on to the right case. He learned that John, Pete and Joe Rider, brothers, of Coburn, were assisting in thrashing at Wm. Vonada's, that day, on what is known as the Dan, Gentzel farm, about two miles west of Coburn. After completing the work in the afternoon the Riders started for home by different routes. Not far from the home of Jacob Sanders, a little to the side of the road, John Rider found the wounded boy in an unconscious condition under the chestnut tree. It afterwards was learned that Pete had a gun with him that day, which he always denied, until his wife made the admission to Mr. Runkle. Pete was frequently questioned about the affair but always denied having had a gun or of knowing anything about the shooting. The community also thought he was the offender for his peculiar actions and worried look aroused their suspicions. The district attorney was satisfied of the man's guilt, but wanted the direct evidence, and the Standard Secret Service Bureau, of Philadelphia, was employed. About three weeks ago they sent Harry Bauer and Frank Nugent to that section, who attempted to pass themselves off as hunters, and after considerable difficulty they secured lodging at Michael Evert's.

These men upon their arrival were suspected as detectives; for the reason that they displayed no ability as hunters, and never succeeded in bringing home any game. They soon got in touch with "Pete" Rider whom they wanted to employ as their guide, but invariably he failed to keep his engagements. When they went to Pete's home his wife always made it a point to remain with her husband, extremely cautious to hear every word that passed. Pete seemed to suspect them as detectives and informed different persons that if they would not keep away he would prosecute them, and finally complained to commissioner Weaver, seeking Weaver's advice as to how he should proceed. Mr. Weaver advised him to consult District Attorney Runkle, for whom Pete displayed a dislike. Pete declared he would have them arrested, always protesting his innocence. This constant annoyance from these two strangers vis-

realizing that he made a serious admission he broke down and made a full confession, stating that he thought Clyde Auman was a squirrel. Shortly after their arrival here the writer had an opportunity of interviewing the man.

The above portrait is an excellent likeness. He is a man of small stature; in his rather shabby outfit, the dress of a mountaineer or woodsman, the bushy unkempt whiskers, pale features and tiny, dark piercing, restless eyes, all combined to make a peculiar impression. In shaking hands there was noticeable a nervous tingle, and from his eyes came an inquiring, sympathetic appeal, to know whether he had met a friend or foe. In his countenance there was a pitiful expression of utter helplessness.

He was in great distress, and as he told his story, he trembled with fear and anguish, frequently leaning forward, trying his face in his hands in great emotion, muttering regrets for having concealed the deed so long. It was a pitiful sight, truly pathetic. In reply to questions, his story of the shooting was as follows:

### THE CONFESSION.

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd, he went to Wm. Vonada's to help thrash. Took his gun along and left it under the bridge near Vonada's. On his way home got his gun and took to the south of the railroad up in the woods to gather some wild cucumbers. On the way up he heard some chestnuts fall under a tree. He looked up, saw something dark move from the trunk of the tree along the limb and he took it for a gray squirrel working, pulling in twigs. The object he saw was not large and must have been the boy's arms. He took aim with his shotgun and fired. Soon after he heard loud moans and as the body began to drop he realized he made an awful mistake. This scared him so badly that he started to run as fast as possible, never stopping to inquire or render assistance; nor did he know who was the unfortunate being that came toppling from a height of fifty feet down through the branches. He kept on going directly over the mountain to the home of his sister, Mrs. Susan Auman, where he remained overnight. Never told her, or anyone else, about the shooting of the boy, because he was so "awfully scared" about it.

From that day on to this, he had worried over the shooting and at night could not sleep. He had been spending much time in prayer with his God, for guidance; and often wanted to tell everything, but always became scared and did not have the courage. In Penna. Dutch he frequently lamented that he made such a mistake in concealing the deed, repeatedly saying: "Got wased dos ich des net do hab wella." Now he wanted to tell the entire truth and apparently was endeavoring to do so.

### PETE RIDER'S BIOGRAPHY.

In regard to himself he gave the following: Was born in vicinity of Coburn, and lived thereabouts all his life; could not say what was his age, nor the date of his birth, but mentioned a good lady who was in attendance at that event; thought he was over forty years. Could neither read or write, and never went to school; claimed to have attended, years ago, the Lutheran church at Coburn, but very irregularly. Is a son of

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## AN AVALANCHE IN THE STONE QUARRIES

Overtakes Three Hungarians and Causes Their Death on Friday

## TWO BODIES NOT RECOVERED

Impossible to Locate Them—Fall of an Enormous Mass of Rock and Earth Fills up the Bottom of a Large Quarry—Came Without a Warning.

Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock a disastrous landslide occurred at what is known as the No. 2 stone quarry of the American Lime & Stone Co., located in the hill north of the site of the glass works. The result of this tremendous down-pour of rocks and dirt was that two men were buried alive and the third one injured so badly that he died in the Bellefonte hospital at 6 o'clock the same evening. The three men who lost their lives were: Steve Bonovono, his brother, George Bonovono, and Steve Sinico, all of whom were born in Hungary.

This quarry extended along the side of the hill a distance of over 500 feet. The limestone rock dips at an angle of about 25 degrees toward the mountain and the north side was apparently a solid seam of rock, overhanging possibly 25 feet the entire length; was at least 80 feet high and the bottom of the quarry was level and 50 feet wide, with a tramroad extending through it.

This was an old quarry that had been idle and these men had just commenced to quarry stone again for the limekilns, working at the south side of the quarry, throwing stone on a small car, when suddenly, and without warning, the entire top of the north hill came down like an avalanche, burying alive George Bonovono and Steve Sinico. Steve Sinico saw the stone coming and ran towards the steep ledge on the opposite side, where he was found wedged in between rocks, his head only could be seen. Fall Stover, the stonemason for the glass company, and Samuel Mulberger, who were working in the vicinity, when they heard the noise, went to the scene of the disaster, and on going up over the pile of rocks and dirt they heard a noise, and looking around saw the head of Steve Bonovono. It was not long until his wife, Rosie Bonovono, made her appearance, and, as by some supernatural power, she began picking up rock that would have taken two ordinary men to lift. Stover and Mulberger, after laboring with great difficulty for some time, were able to pull the man out of a hole. He said that they should never mind him, but look after the other two fellows in the quarry. The injured man was taken to his home, which is only a short distance away, where it was found that he was badly injured and was then removed to the hospital. On making an examination there it was discovered that his left leg was crushed to the knee, and his left hand was broken and crushed. Everything possible was done to save his life, but he passed away soon after, conscious almost to the last.

Immediately an effort was made to recover the bodies of the other two unfortunate men. A large force of men were secured and they have been working day and night, but the progress is slow due to the fact that the quarry is about five hundred feet long, fifty feet wide and the stone and earth that fell has covered the bottom of the quarry to the depth of from fifteen to twenty feet, so that it will take at least three months to remove the material that fell and there is no telling how long they will have to work before the bodies can be located or recovered. Sunday, it is estimated, that two thousand people visited the scene and while the work was in progress, pieces of boards, belonging to one of the cars, were dug up, leading the workmen to think that they would soon come to the bodies, but they were disappointed.

Steve Bonovono, who died in the hospital, was 41 years of age and had been in this country for a number of years, and it is said he had accumulated \$10,000 and had made arrangements to go back home after Christmas to live the balance of his life in ease and comfort. He had no children. While in Bellefonte he had his wife kept a boarding house near the quarry. His funeral took place Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

George Bonovono, Steve's brother, was about fifty years of age and leaves a wife in the old country.

Steve Sinico was about 37 years of age and leaves a wife and four small children. They reside near the old glass works site and kept a boarding house. The youngest child is only nine months old and was christened last Easter. They have not been in this country many years and his wife is left in destitute circumstances.

Manager David Kelley and James McNichol had just left the quarry not five minutes before the avalanche came, from which there could have been no possible escape. Sunday afternoon while the men were working in the quarry another foreigner was hit on the head with a stone from a premature blast. At first it was thought that he was fatally injured, but has about recovered.

### Hard on "Clubs."

Robert Cresswell, steward of the Angewell Rod and Gun club of Tyrone, pleaded nolo contendere in the quarter sessions court at Hollidaysburg, on Monday, to illicit liquor selling. A. A. Stevens, Esq., stated to the court that Cresswell was the whole club. His honor remarked: "This club business must be broken up." The minimum sentence was imposed—\$500 fine and costs, in default of which he will go to jail for three months. There is much complaint among hotel men that they must pay high license and are under severe restrictions while clubs seem to be under none, while practically engaged in the same business.

The most painful part of a surgical operation is giving up the money.

## LOOK FOR IT.

With this issue we are sending a statement to every subscriber on our mailing list, where subscriptions are not paid in advance, so that each may know exactly how the account stands. All get them.

This is our custom, observed at the end of each year. If you receive a statement, and the amount is small, remember we depend on several thousand such small amounts for conducting the business; if it is large, it is the more urgent that you give attention, now.

It will be considered a favor to hear from you before the end of the month. In case of an error, please notify us at once.

Kindly give this the attention it deserves and you will greatly oblige. The Publisher.

## Varied Human Natures.

No one learns better than the newspaper man the diversities there are in human nature, and he has some peculiar experiences. The diversity of human nature is brought out particularly when subscription duns are sent out. Bills to those indebted for subscriptions are sent out from this office about twice a year when necessity arises. There is no particular pleasure in sending them out; the result is interesting. The noblest response to our last reminders was from a lady in another county who sent five dollars which was more than her indebtedness stating that she was short of money, but secured this by husking corn. Others of blessed memory apologized for their indebtedness and paid a year in advance. Other heart warmers paid all or part without protest. Some took offense, equared their account and ordered their names from the list. They were over-sensitive and unreasonable, but honest. A few paid not the slightest attention to the reminder and gave reasons to doubt their integrity. And still less number were mean enough to ignore the bill and return the paper thereon marked "refused." This class command no respect whatever in printing offices. The corn husking woman will be playing a harp when the last named customers will be begging for a thimbleful of ice water.—From Lewistown Sentinel.

## A Peculiar Act.

William Ardell, of Phillipsburg, last Friday hired a horse and buggy from Hurley Brothers, livermen of that place. In company with a woman he drove to Tyrone, arriving here Friday afternoon. The pair put up at the Garman House, Ardell registering himself and companion as "Tay Harris and wife, of Bellefonte." On Saturday morning abstracting their belongings from their suit case and leaving the suit-case behind, they left the hotel without settling their bill, and also abandoned the horse and buggy there. A telephone message from Phillipsburg explained the situation here later. Mr. Hurley came to Tyrone this morning and identified his horse and buggy, with which he returned to Phillipsburg. Ardell and companion have not been located.—Tyrone Herald.

## A Generous Gift.

William P. Humes, as stated by the Centre Democrat several weeks ago, has retired as teller of the First National Bank of Bellefonte, and on doing so authorized Col. J. P. Coburn, president of the institution, to present to each one of the employees, with his compliments, a check for ten dollars. It came as a complete surprise and a present that was greatly appreciated, not alone for its intrinsic value but for the kindly spirit in which it was given showing the deep interest he has always manifested in their welfare. Then to just think how many nice Christmas gifts that "X" will purchase, which will gladden the hearts of both families and sweethearts. So that Mr. Humes' generosity will probably extend further than he thought it would.

## A Surprise Party.

On Friday evening, December 7th, quite a number of friends of Mr. A. A. Fletcher met at his home and gave him a genuine surprise. Mr. William Wilson presented him with a very nice rocking chair, given to him by the party, after which Mr. Fletcher made a very nice speech, thanking them all for their kindness. All enjoyed themselves very much by playing games of various kinds; and at 10:30 o'clock all were invited to the dining room to partake of the fine supper that was served, after which all departed for their homes wishing Mr. Fletcher many more such happy evenings.

## Farmer Has Mishap.

D. Z. Frain, who resides in the vicinity of Jacksonville, met with an accident in Lock Haven which might have been more serious says the Express. Mr. Frain had gone to town to dispose of his produce, his team of horses became frightened by the escaping steam from a hole dug in the street by workmen repairing the steam pipes. They became unmanageable and threw Mr. Frain out of the wagon and onto the ground, he alighting on his head. The tongue of the wagon was broken and it required an hour or more to make repairs before the farmer was able to proceed on his journey homeward.

## Poison for 200 In Church Feast.

Two hundred men who attended the banquet of the Brotherhood of St. Paul of the Methodist church were poisoned by something they ate, and all are sick. The physicians of the city have been kept busy. None of the cases will result fatally.

Tyrone's Diphtheria Epidemic Abating. The diphtheria situation has improved so materially in Tyrone that the board of health decided to permit the opening of the churches last Sunday and the opening of places of amusement on Monday to adults.

—Ladies for trimmed slippers and Julietts at Yeager & Davis.

## CAMPAIGN BOODLE ACCOUNTS FILED

How the Candidate's Spent Their Money, on Record

## SOME INTERESTING ACCOUNTS

Unsuccessful Candidates not required to Make a Statement—Amounts Handled by the Finance Committee of Each Party Given.

Thursday was the last day for candidates, who were voted for at the November election, to file an account of their campaign expenses with the prothonotary. In looking over the list the following candidates have complied with the law:

Senator elect George M. Dimeling, of Clearfield, the democratic candidate, spent a total of \$2,633.68. Of the above amount \$700 was given to the Centre county finance committee; \$500 to the Clearfield county finance committee; \$100 for traveling expenses, advertising and postage; \$45 for political meetings and transportation; \$25 clerk hire; \$5 for watchers at the polls; \$155.68 for transportation of voters.

H. S. Taylor, the democratic candidate for congress, made no return. Hon. John Noll, democratic candidate for the legislature, contributed \$200 to the finance committee and spent \$26 for traveling expenses. Adam Hazel, democrat, candidate for jury commissioner, made no report because his expenses were under \$50.

W. D. Zieby, treasurer of the democratic county committee, filed his statement, showing that he had received \$1,400 and paid out \$1,413.05. Henry C. Quigley, the republican candidate for Senator, in his account, says that he spent \$463.48, with less than \$50 worth of bills unpaid, which includes automobile hire. Of this he paid \$200 to the Clearfield county committee and the balance of the \$263.48 he paid for printing, traveling expenses, etc. He received \$45 toward his campaign expenses.

C. T. Fryberger, the republican candidate for legislature, made no report. Neither did Clement Gramley, the republican candidate for jury commissioner, because his expenses were less than \$50.

Congressman elect W. F. Barclay, filed his account in Tyrone, his home. J. Thomas Mitnell, treasurer for the republican county committee, reports as receiving \$1,253 and expended \$1,289.61; unpaid obligations, \$6.61.

## REESE'S CAMP DESTROYED

It Was Located on Snow Shoe Mountain and the Loss is \$1200.

Wednesday afternoon, of last week, about 3 o'clock fire broke out in the lumber camp of C. P. Reese, located on Snow Shoe mountain, about one and a half miles from Rhoads' station, along the Snow Shoe branch of the Pennsylvania railroad. In the morning his son, McClellan Reese, was hauling lumber from the woods to the railroad when one of the horses got a stick in its foot and became lame. After feeding at dinner time he took the team out again, but found that the horse was too lame to work and so he put him back into the stable. He left the stable shortly after 1 o'clock and went and joined the cutting crew in the woods. Joe Reese, another son, was the cook for the camp, and when he had gotten through with his work took some tools out to where the men were working, and remained about one hour and a half. On his return to the camp he found the stable on fire, and as there was a stiff breeze blowing it was only a few minutes until every building in the camp was ablaze and they quickly burned to the ground. The loss was a valuable team of horses, harness, six thousand feet of good white pine lumber which is now worth almost as much as its weight in gold, together with the various shanties. The loss is between \$1100 and \$1200 with no insurance. The origin of the fire is a mystery, although Mr. Reese has some evidence that it was the work of an incendiary. There was no fire around the stable at any time, and before Joe left for the woods he extinguished the fire in the stove on which he was cooking. Last May some one set fire to a lot of cord wood and bark, the loss of which was about \$1500. Everything points to some one who seems to have it in for Mr. Reese and are trying to do him all the harm they can. If such is the case he should be brought before the court and severely punished.

Wharton Weller Injured. Friday morning, Wharton Weller, of Bellefonte, a young man 19 years of age, who resides with his parents in the brick row, on north Spring street, met with an accident that came near ending his life. He and some companions were shooting mark with a Stephens 32 calibre rifle. After putting in a cartridge he recklessly took some powder and poured in the barrel so as to make the load heavier, and when he shot the gun almost exploded. As it was the gun was badly shattered and a piece of iron, near the hammer, flew back striking him on the forehead. He dropped as if he had been shot and was carried into the house in a dazed condition. The iron happened to strike him on an angle which saved him from meeting an instant death. He is still confined to the house but no serious results are anticipated.

## Dead Duck on her Conscience.

George H. Shoemaker has received a letter from a young man, who says that several years ago she drove over a duck belonging to Mr. Shoemaker and killed it. She declares that the matter has worried her ever since, and she feels that she is not ready to die and go to heaven without making restitution. She, therefore, asks Mr. Shoemaker to let her know the price of the duck, so that she may pay for it.

## FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs—Selected and Original.

### PLUG ALONG.

When the world looks sad and dreary,  
Plug along!  
When the brain and heart are weary,  
Plug along!  
And when you think you're down and out,  
And all is over save just the shout,  
Don't lie still and groan and pout,  
But plug along!

When friends of better days will pass you by,  
Plug along!  
When all your laughter has its sigh,  
Still plug along!  
Don't think the others all to blame,  
They may think 'bout the same,  
Grab hold, show your true game,  
And plug along!

Now, take life as you find it, lad,  
And plug along!  
And make the others glad, old pal,  
To plug along.

Subject to fits—the tailor,  
Cutting expenses—surgeons' fees,  
If marriage is a lottery, alimony must be a gambling debt.

A good digestion is not so much a matter of choice as of chews.  
Any woman can keep house if her husband puts it in her name.

Many a man has gone to the front by going back on his friends,  
An operation is always necessary when the doctor needs the money.

Some fellows propose to a girl on their knees, and some on their uppers.

### The State Grange.

This week the State Grange is in session at DuBois and is attended by over 1,000 delegates. Tuesday afternoon Louis E. Boyer, mayor of DuBois, made the address of welcome. W. T. Hall, master of State Grange, presided over the deliberations of each session and in his annual address suggested many reforms that would benefit the farmer. Among the important matters taken up will be the shameful neglect of Pennsylvania State College by the State Legislature. There are nearly 1,000 students there at present, the majority of them coming from the homes of farmers.

An investigation shows disgraceful conditions. Students in the agricultural courses are housed in a temporary frame shack, utterly unsuited and inadequate for the purpose to which it has been put. While Governor Pennypacker was chipping off \$75,000 of the appropriation of \$150,000 for an agricultural building, New York State was appropriating \$250,000 for a new architectural building at Cornell, the landgrant college of that State. New York last year gave \$1,500,000 to Cornell. Illinois University, the landgrant college of that State, received \$1,250,000 last year. Pennsylvania gave to its State College last year about one-twentieth of the sum given to Illinois University by the Legislature of that State. The income from the Federal landgrant fund was applied only to the cost of actual teaching.

### Rev. Boston Was Accepted.

The Presbyterian of Huntingdon at its meeting in Clearfield appointed a committee to canvass the question of a Presbyterian Evangelist, and adjourned to hear the report of this committee. The committee reported that the larger part of the money necessary has been pledged, and recommended that the Rev. S. L. Boston be called to begin work Jan. 1, 1907. Since that time Rev. Boston has accepted the position and will enter upon his duties at the time specified. He has decided to make Bellefonte his future home and will move here early in the spring. Rev. Boston is a learned and talented gentleman and comes to Bellefonte from Pittsburgh with the highest recommendations, both as a scholar, and a man, who will be a creditable acquisition to the community.

### A SUITABLE GIFT.

Do you have a son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister, living at a distance, in whom you are interested and who likewise is interested in you and your community? Of course you have, everybody has; and at this season of the year you are thinking of selecting some little gift to be sent to them at Christmas tide, as a token of kindness and personal esteem. What to send them?—there's the rub—let us suggest: Would not a year's subscription to "The Centre Democrat" just be the proper thing? It would be a welcome messenger during the year, having all the news of home and friends. Costs but \$1 per year, if paid in advance.

Where can you select a more desirable gift for the money?

### Filling Jury Wheel.

On Monday, Jury Commissioners, Frederick Robb and John D. Decker, met for the purpose of filling the Jury Wheel with new names for all those that had been drawn out during the past year, or have become unable for future service. If they complete the work before January 1st, the new jury for the next term of court will be drawn by them. After that the newly elected jury commissioners, Adam Hazel and Clement Gramley will perform this duty. With the beginning of the new year, 1907, the times for holding court will be changed. The next session will open just one month later than heretofore, on the fourth Monday of February, instead of January.

### Expensive Rooster.

All the way from California Lewis Lukash is hurrying to give evidence to a 50 cent rooster case that will be tried before Judge Scott at Easton court next week. There are bigger rooster cases on this side of California, that run high in the millions—the capitol game cocks, the New York life insurance robbers, the Allegheny bank plunderers, the Philadelphia, the Stanbar oil and other robber trusts.

George Wister, of Howard, who for 20 years had been a government employe, at Washington, D. C., has returned home. For some time he has been in ill health and came back to recuperate.