

Claims Barrens Reveal Evidence of Vast Underground Streams

The Barrens in Centre County, a large tract of wasteland northwest of State College, long of much interest to geologists and others because of its unusual rock formations and its rare plant life, is the subject of an interesting communication submitted to this office by a J. Hawes, of Palmyra, Pa.

We publish the article because it proposes interesting possibilities as to the underground streams generally supposed to underlie this area, and because it offers a suggestion as to the source of Bellefonte's famous Big Spring—a matter which has long been a subject of speculation.

Whether Mr. Hawes' information is based solely on personal opinion or whether it is qualified by a study of the subject was not revealed in his communication.

Mr. Hawes' letter follows:

Editor, Centre Democrat:

The Barrens in Centre County is the most interesting place from a geologist's point of view, containing within its boundaries many marine fossils, stink holes, and a blow-hole—a small place covered with loose stones. There is quite a large amount of air coming from within the earth. Through faults in this great mountain range deep in the earth, reaching from Canada to Alabama, more than seven hundred miles long, flow rivers of water. Some of the air carried by these streams reaches the surface. That is why there is a blowhole in the Barrens.

Near the state line between Kentucky and Tennessee is exactly the opposite a wind cave. The suction of air in this cave would be caused only by a large and swift-flowing stream. Echo River in Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, is a part of these underground rivers.

The Big Spring at Bellefonte comes from the same source. Deep in the earth a narrow place forces probably a small part of the stream to the surface. This is why the flow is always the same, never affected by surface conditions.

By far the greater part of this underground water flows to the southwest. The source of water that supplies the swamps, the lakes and big springs of Florida, Silver and Rainbow Springs being the largest. If all this water was contained in one single stream it would equal the flow of our largest rivers. The coral reefs around Florida and the southwest coast have choked off the natural

outlet for this water, forcing it to the surface in the lowlands of Georgia and Florida.

But returning to the Barrens—centuries ago in this region was a near-volcano spewing mud, silica ore and red fire. In my opinion there was no central opening but the surface may have been like a pot of mush cooking, puffing at many places. This upheaval must have been two or three miles high at one time for the wash from erosion can be seen many miles to the south and east. This upheaval occurred millions of years before the mountains started to rise. Near the Reed service station between State College and Waddle a real index fossil is found, a small shell with a big name—Hypothyridina. It lived in the Early Devonian times and is found around the entire earth north of the Equator. Sometime in the future I will write about Carpentaria where two or three million made their home on a single acre of land in the Barrens.

Signed,
J. HAWES.

Aged Hyner Man Reported Missing

Willard Pluff, 80, native and lifelong resident of Hyner, Clinton county, who had been residing in Tamarack recently, has been missing for more than two weeks. He was reported last seen at the edge of the Susquehanna River in Renovo. His disappearance was not noted with alarm until several days ago, when the matron of the home at which he is residing, came to Renovo with his mail, including his pension check, and reported his absence to the proper authorities.

Mr. Pluff, well known over the western end of the county, has always been of a roving disposition, hence it is not odd that he could be missing for that length of time without his relatives being alarmed, as he was in the habit of roving over a large area, and could have stopped with any one of half a dozen relatives. A search and general check of his haunts, however, has yielded no clue as to his whereabouts. He is of medium height and build and has thick white hair.

Nobody knows what the law is until somebody says the last word.

LETTERS to the Editor

Palm Beach, Fla., Dec. 10 To the Centre Democrat and Good Old Centre County:

I thought I would write you a few lines and let you know we are enjoying the sunshine in southern Florida. Also the Centre Democrat which the boys send us each week. The weather is fine here. The birds were singing beautifully this morning. While the temperature seldom gets above 80 degrees, the sun is hot. But there is a cool breeze off the ocean. Everything is growing nicely. The citrus crop is the largest in years. I have been picking some. Help, however, is scarce. You can make from \$6 to \$10 a day picking or packing.

We are located at the head of the Everglades, which is considered the richest in the world. It comprises 3,000,000 acres or 4,500 square miles. The older are 350 miles farther south than the southern boundary of California. It has a year round growing season. It is considered the most even temperature in the world, on account of the Gulf Stream passing three miles off shore.

The U. S. Sugar Co. has 35,000 acres in sugar cane. This is one of the largest sugar houses in the United States. It is located at Clewiston, in the heart of the Everglades. The State Department of Agriculture is located here too.

Florida also ranks second in the U. S. in raising and grazing of cattle, and a big rancher told me that it will soon be first. I was in the ranch district recently and attended an auction. They are real punchers. I saw them round up 500 cattle in a 10,000 acre ranch. There were 12 cowboys, and they are real crackers. It is a real job to round up a herd and keep them together. They have to ride at breakneck speed, as some of the cattle are always wanting to break. Many have large horns and at times charge the horses. They sometimes kill the horse, for their horns are 18 inches long and very sharp. They have the native cattle crossed with Brown bulls, which produces larger cattle. They have the tick menace, which used to cause heavy loss, now under control.

I have traveled 15,000 miles on Florida highways, east and west, north and south. It is almost 1000 miles from the southern tip to the western part, and ranges from 100 to 140 miles wide, and is very easy to cover. Very good roads, well marked as to all points of interest, which are many. The people are very friendly. I have talked with rich men that are just as common as you or me. I talked last week with Mr. Trailer from Allenstown, who owns all that mine equipment, is worth \$25,000,000, and has a \$200,000 home close by here. He is as common a man as I ever met.

Time is up. Good-bye.
I. G. HARPSTER

FARM CALENDAR

Timely reminders from The Pennsylvania State College School of Agriculture.

Prune Large Trees—Where the fruit grower has a large number of trees to prune and the work will take considerable time, the large apple trees are the most suitable for early pruning, say fruit specialists of the Pennsylvania State College. The order of pruning is apple, pear, sour cherry, sweet cherry, and peach. Grape pruning should be delayed until after the first few cold spells.

Order Fertilizer Early—There will be a better chance of getting the fertilizer needed for 1944 crops if it is ordered early, remind agronomists of the Pennsylvania State College. When the fertilizer arrives it should be stored in a dry place and it is best not to pile the bags in too high a stack.

Select Christmas Tree—Even the outside lighting of the Christmas tree is not permitted this year, for festive decorating of the tree will provide much cheer for outsiders as well as the family, say ornamental horticulturists of the Pennsylvania State College. Selection of the tree also is an interesting activity.

Weight Affects Laying—Heavier hens generally lay more and larger eggs than the lighter birds do, according to Penn State poultry specialists. Leghorns over 3 1/2 pounds lay best and Barred Rocks of 5 1/2 to 7 1/2 pounds do better than their lighter sisters.

Protect Bees in Winter—Some kind of protection from the wind is necessary for bees all year around, but it is especially needed during the winter, remind Penn State apiculturists. Many beekeepers use packing cases.

Take Care of Colt—The first winter in a colt's life is a critical period. Livestock specialists of the Pennsylvania State College say he should be started right by giving him special care.

Whiter Clothes—The clothes will be whiter when laundering them, if when boiling them, a small quantity—about one tablespoonful—of turpentine is used in the boiler.

Stewart Named Head of Scouts

Beaver and W. W. Sieg, members at large.

Announcement was made that the annual Council meeting will be held in Bellefonte January 12. The dinner will be given in the high school cafeteria. O. F. Sollenberger and Mr. Cartwright were named to make plans for the affair.

Last night's dinner was planned by E. Keith Anderson, Mr. Tucker and the Scoutmasters in the district. Music was presented by the Kiwanis-singers, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. E. K. Stock. Cecil A. Walker led group singing.

Scouters and their wives introduced were: Mr. and Mrs. James Biddle, Pleasant Gap; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rhoads, Centre Hall; Ward Hile, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Justice, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Fornwalt, Jacob Corman, Carl Gettig, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Smeltzer, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Zimmerman, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. John Hooley, all of Pleasant Gap.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Willis McClain, Mr. and Mrs. George Gentzell, Rev. Hewes Phillips, all of Milesburg; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ammerman, Bellefonte; Mrs. Sawyer Clark, James Clark, Bellefonte, R. D.; Mrs. Morris Levine, Leonard Levine, Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Thompson, Earl Corman, all of Bellefonte; Mrs. Theodore Gates, State College; M. Kathryn Burket, of Bellefonte, representative of Girl Scouts.

Appreciation was expressed to Miss Verna Ardery and members of the home economics department for serving the dinner.

Wife's Morale Lifted Then Fatal Telegram

Hopefully, Mrs. Lee Lifschitz, 29, a garment worker of New York, wrote Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.—could he arrange a furlough for her husband, Harry, whom she hadn't seen for more than a year.

That was Sept. 8. She waited patiently, not telling Harry of the letter. Finally there came a reply.

Patton wrote on Oct. 4 that he was sorry but her 23-year-old husband, who had soldiered with the Seventh Army in Sicily, couldn't be given leave. "The shipping situation is so difficult," he explained.

Although disappointed, Mrs. Lifschitz's morale was boosted. She proudly disclosed the general's letter and said she bet Harry would be "awfully excited" when he learned of it.

A few hours later, she received a telegram. It was from the War Department. Silently, Mrs. Lifschitz read: "Private Harry Lifschitz was killed in action on Nov. 9 in Italy."

Hungary's Hope Gone With Its Holy Crown

Stolen by Nazis, destroyed in Berlin by Allied bombs, Magyars believe the loss of their prophetic old relic means the end of their kingdom.

Read about this legend in the December 26th issue of The American Weekly, the magazine distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. Order from your newsdealer.

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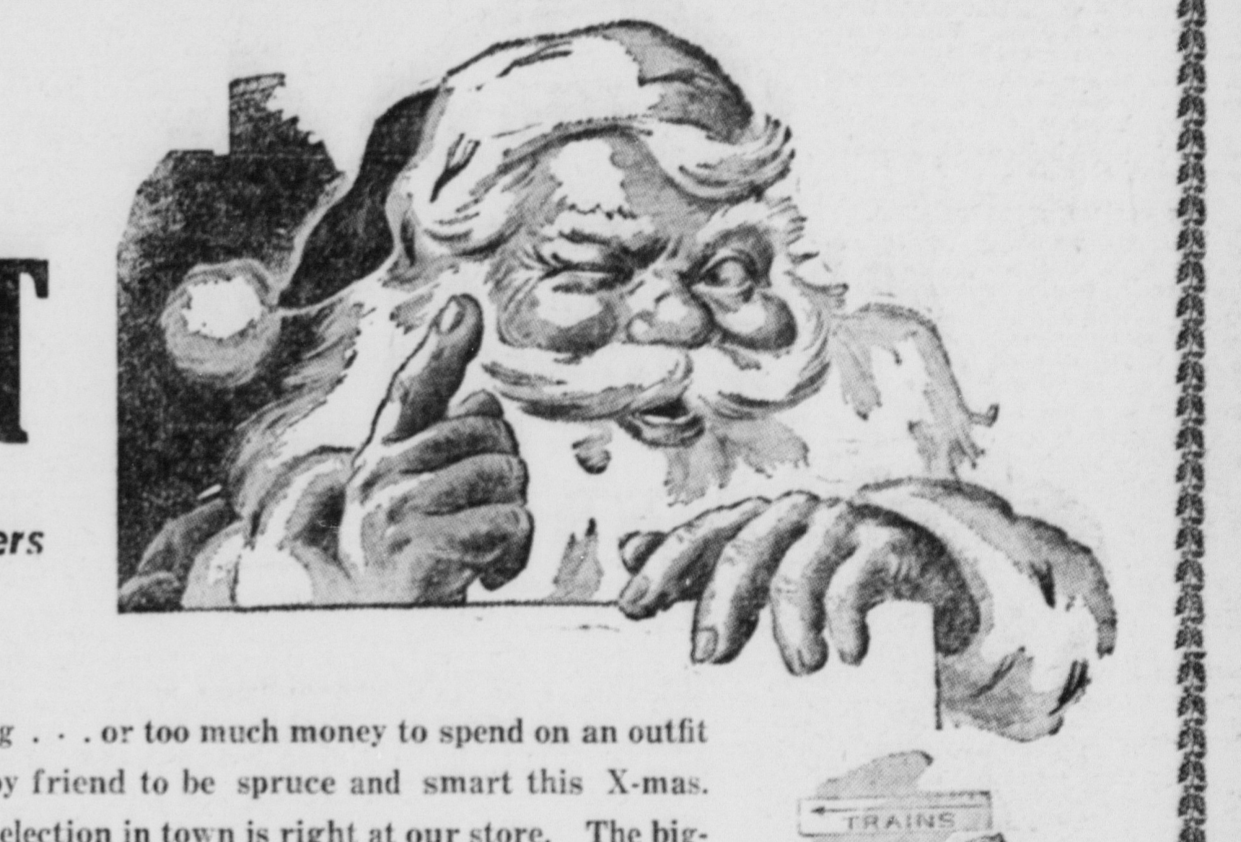
Read about this legend in the December 26th issue of The American Weekly, the magazine distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. Order from your newsdealer.

This year, more than ever, give something practical!

For His GIFT

Hundreds of Centre County shoppers depend upon us.

Maybe you haven't much time to go clothes hunting . . . or too much money to spend on an outfit . . . but, like everybody else, you want your best boy friend to be spruce and smart this X-mas. We make it an easy X-mas for you! The biggest selection in town is right at our store. The biggest values in town are plainly marked on our tags. Easy selection—easy prices—easy X-mas shopping for both men and boys.



'The Ghost's Soliloquy

A man had died, but his soul stayed on
For it could not pass to the great beyond
So many things were left undone
That it stayed to review them one by one
That friendly word he left unsaid
To his neighbor who was an invalid
The flowers he had intended to send
And money, too, to a needy friend
Then in his musings, so solitary
He followed his wife to the cemetery,
And watched her select the family lot—
Another thing he had forgot.
He saw her dear head bowed in grief,
And it didn't bring him much relief
When she picked a very expensive plot,
And he said, as he gazed on that beauty spot—
"She can't afford this on the sum she's got."
Why, with Mary's lessons and school and all,
And Johnny leaving, he's got his call;
And the house needs painting again this fall,
She's liable to spend just every speck.
It's that salesman's fault, I'll break his neck."
But he stopped, as his wife in a tone so sad
Said, "The children and I so loved that dad,
That he wanted the very best you had."
The man's soul looked on the salesman's face
And he saw only pity, and he said "A disgrace!
That my wife must select my burial place!"
He then looked again and said "That's the guy
Who tried only last year to make me buy
A family plot, and I laughed and said,
"Why, there's plenty of time for that when I'm dead."
Of course, I was right, I have plenty of time,
But I can't seem to move these stiff arms of mine.
While my wife, poor soul, in her grief and sorrow
Has these things to do she can't leave for tomorrow.
She must pick out the casket, and pick out the shroud—
Flowers, telegrams, minister, and food for the crowd.
Answer the telephone, yes, it's my boss,
Says, sorry my dear, to hear of your loss.
Aunt Hatlie comes in saying "Dear, don't do that,"
And Mrs. Jones says "You must have a black hat."
With this thing and that thing and everything hazy
It's a wonder to me the poor dear don't go crazy.
And then in addition, and all in one day
She must come to buy a place for my carcass to lay.
I must admit I'm beginning to realize
Those cemetery men are regular guys,
And I'm sorry now that I was such a pup
When I promised to go, but never showed up.
That salesman only wanted a chance to serve,
Now my wife has to pay for things I don't deserve.
If, only one of those times, course it's now just a wish,
Like the times I went fishing and didn't catch a fish;
Or sometimes when my golf game was not up to par,
Or when I just read the paper and smoked my cigar;
Or those evenings we spent eating big seven courses,
Or one of those times I bet on the horses.
If only I'd taken just two hours and thought
Of my family's future and gave out and bought
A burial plot, I could now swell with pride
"Stead of feeling that I'd like to run off and hide;
But the chance has passed, and now it's too late,
I've found old man death won't sit around and wait—
For you to get your affairs up to date.
However, in leaving, perhaps I can show
The right way to others before I must go.
Take care of your family obligations in life,
And don't just leave them up to your wife."
For with other things too numerous to mention,
She can't buy a lot with your good intentions,
And many a widow is weeping today
Her husband's funeral expenses to pay.
You might as well get this now in your head—
You can't buy a lot when you're laying there dead.
And take it from me, for I know full well,
You've got more time up here than you'll have down in HELL.

YOUR HEALTH

"Oh, dear," moaned Mrs. Issia, mother of several wee ones, "in summer they're riding bicycles in traffic, in winter they're coasting on sleds and banging into automobiles—it's a wonder I have any children left."

This distraught mother forgot to mention skating on thin ice.

Children don't know much about danger and have little innate fear. Play and fun are chief in their minds—and summer or winter, boys and girls will find how to play happily, even though dangerously.

Sleds skimming over hard-packed snow on city hills are hard to stop. Automobiles are liable to cross the street near the bottom of the hill. In this way many children are killed and many more injured every winter.

In some communities, authorities block off certain streets as hills reserved for coasting.

Sometimes the youngsters have their own guards and patrols along the hill to warn of approaching automobiles or street cars.

Skating is an exhilarating sport. Parents should not permit their children to venture on lake, pond, or creek unless they know the ice is strong enough to hold them.

A plunge into icy water is a frightful experience.

Usually the victim of such an accident, especially a youngster, will become excited and thus make rescue more difficult.

Self-rescue is not impossible, but it requires calmness and a knowledge of what to do.

Children need outdoor exercise in winter.

It should be made safe for them.

DO YOU KNOW?
At one aircraft factory there are 75,000 cases of injuries of all types each month and 48,750 of these involve the hand. Thus hand injuries account for 65 per cent of all man hours lost.

Women are absent from work in industrial plants twice as much as men.

See The Old Year Out at Home
Recipes for delicious end-of-the-year dishes and suggestions for entertainment when 1943 comes to an end. Don't miss this helpful feature in the December 26th issue of The American Weekly, the magazine distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. Order from your newsdealer.

Men's Shirts

These shirts "give your neck a break" because of the careful designs of the collars. They are carefully tailored. Plain colors and white as well as patterns. All sizes.

Arrow - \$2.25 to \$2.75
Ritz - \$1.95 to \$2.95

Men's Sturdy SPORT COATS

\$12.95 to \$16.95

SPORT TROUSERS

\$3.95 to \$12.50

QUALITY NECKWEAR

IN SMART NEW STYLES!

Dad will want several for his X-mas outfit. Newest patterns to choose from. Ties that make neat knots without wrinkling.

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SWEATERS

Make the most of cold winter weather in one of our checks, plaids or plain shades. All sizes.

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Michael-Stern . . . College Park Clothes

This X-mas you get greater values. Every suit is top quality at a rock bottom price. An exceptionally fine selection of fabrics to choose from. Single and double-breasted models . . .

Boys' Suits for Xmas!

Our boys' suits are more than average suits, because they are made to best suit the tastes of the Young America in fabric and color . . . Just the prices parents like to pay. Selections are complete. All sizes.

\$9.95 to \$16.95

Men's Famous Make Dress Shoes

In all the newest styles—wing tips; medallion tips; plain tips; moccasin toes; in black or brown. All sizes.

\$2.45 to \$7.85

Men's Fine Hats

Get Dad a new Hat for X-mas. Smart new styles.

\$2.45 to \$5.00
STETSON HATS - \$7.50

Now! More Than Ever, Buy War Bonds and Stamps!

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