

The Fulton County News.

VOLUME 8.

McCONNELLSBURG, PA., NOVEMBER 29, 1906.

NUMBER 9

MYTHS ABOUT SNAKES.

Dr. Surface State Zoologist Says They are Maligned, Abused, and Misunderstood.

INTERESTING BULLETIN JUST ISSUED.

There is no other group of animals in Pennsylvania concerning which there is so much fear and ignorance and toward which there is so much cruelty almost uniformly shown in a relentless and unjust warfare as snakes, according to State Zoologist Surface.

"Ignorance, mythology and superstition have combined to surround them with an atmosphere of dread," says Dr. Surface, who has made a careful study of the snakes of Pennsylvania. "It is not only superstition, but also ignorance and unnecessary fear which have rendered it impossible for any person to study them carefully."

For the purpose of exploding many popular notions about snakes Dr. Surface has issued a bulletin upon the reptiles of Pennsylvania with a special reference to their food and economic features. The bulletin states that among the myths, fallacies or folklore concerning serpents current in some parts of Pennsylvania are the following:

Snakes sting with their tongues; snakes charm birds and people; green serpents are venomous; there is such a creature as a hoop snake, which rolls like a hoop; there is a horn snake, with a venomous horn at the end of its tail; snakes are blind once per month and regularly during "dog days;" snakes moult or shed their skin each month; serpents can blow out or spit poison; snakes chase and attack people without provocation; snakes and other reptiles are slimy; certain kinds of snakes milk or suck cows; when snakes are killed the tails do not die till the sun goes down or until it thunders; kill a snake and turn it over to bring rain; snakes spring or jump from the ground at their victims; snakes strike from a truly coiled position; when a firearm is pointed at the snake the reptile draws its own bead, and it is impossible to miss it or shoot it anywhere but in the head; the yellow rattlers are female and the black are males; a snake can be made to put out its legs by dropping it into fire, snakes lose their venom by being deprived of water for six days or more.

Snakes are erroneously supposed to have medicinal properties, as follows: Galls of snakes recommended for their bite; their oil for rheumatism, baldness and deafness; their skin worn for rheumatism and stiffness; a snake's heart, oil or blood for consumption or other ills, its flesh to be eaten for blood disorders or other troubles; a second bite of the same snake in the same place, to cure or counteract its first bite; the rattles of snakes as charms; other parts of snakes for various cures, preventives or charms.

Dr. Surface notes the following as some actual though queer facts about the Pennsylvania snakes. Some serpents swallow their young for temporary protection; some snakes play "passum" or act dead as a means of defense; some snakes lay eggs, others bear young; fangs of serpents are renewed or grow in again after being extracted; the young black snake is gray and spotted, and often mistaken for the spotted adder, water snake or copperhead; snakes can live a year or more without food; serpents often eat one another; some species of snakes are beneficial as insect eaters and others as destroyers of mice and other obnoxious rodents, as mice and rats; two-headed snakes are not uncommon; snakes and other reptiles are not "coldblooded," but are the temperature of their surroundings.

Dr. Surface announces in his bulletin, which was issued to day,

FARMERS AND FENCES.

Superior Court to Pass On Constitutionality of Act of 1784.

A case that is of much interest to the farmers of this county and the final disposition of which will be awaited with interest, is that in which Judge Woods handed down a decision in Huntingdon a few days ago. Henry Parks sued three of his neighbors, all farmers, for damages for the trespassing of their cattle on his fields. The defendants claimed that the general fence law of 1784 did not repeal the special fence law of 1784, relating to the counties of Franklin, Cumberland, Bedford, Huntingdon and other central counties, and therefore Parks was bound to maintain a lawful fence.

Park's counsel denied this contention and alleged that the act of 1784 repealed all special fence laws. On the case stated the court decided in favor of the defendants. The case will be appealed to the Superior Court, and if Judge Woods' decision is sustained, the farmers of Franklin and Huntingdon counties, as well as in the neighboring counties, will be compelled to rebuild the fences which they have abandoned since 1898, or run the risk of their crops being damaged by stray cattle.

Mary Jane Johnson.

Mary Jane, wife of James Johnson, owner of the Brewer Mill property in Thompson township, died at their home Saturday evening, November 24, 1906, aged 54 years, 7 months and 2 days. Funeral on the Tuesday following, conducted by Elder C. L. Funk, and she was followed to her last resting place in the old Union Graveyard at Danascus church by one of the largest funeral processions, seen for a long time.

Mrs. Johnson had been in declining health for many months, and since last May it has been evident that her days in this world would soon be over. She bore her sufferings with that patience that is begotten of faith in the promises that there is a home not built with hands—a home in heaven, where suffering is not known.

Mrs. Johnson was the third daughter of the late Jonathan B. Snyder, of Thompson township, and besides her husband, she is survived by three sons, namely, Cal, Cyrus, and George.

TO BE A HARD WINTER.

Elias Hartz's Successor Hands Out a Cold Forecast.

Isaac F. Hemmig, aged 78, who next to Elias Hartz, the goosebone disciple, is Reading's oldest weather prophet, having been in the business since 1858, issued his annual prognostication. Hemmig makes his forecasts from minute weather observations on every November 23 and 24. He declared that December, January and February will be very severe, and that it will be the hardest winter for years, followed by a mild and early spring.

Miss Bertha Golden resigned her position as teacher of the Franklin Mills school, Monday, and the vacancy is being filled by Miss Olive Slusher, of the same township.

That a second bulletin will be issued as soon as he completes his investigation of the stomachs of a large number of snakes, which have been sent to his office the last six months. The second bulletin will contain as much as can be obtained from various observers and correspondents upon the habits and habits of reptiles of Pennsylvania.

The second bulletin will also contain tables and charts concerning their food and breeding habits. More material is needed to advance these studies, and Dr. Surface asks for notes or written reports of observations, as well as specimens.

FOREST HILL, MD.

Letter from Isaac F. Varnes, a Former Resident of Belfast Township.

Reading a copy of your paper recently sent me by my son in law, I am reminded of dear old Fulton county, in which I spent twenty-nine years of my life. I hold the dear people of that county in fond remembrance. I loved them, and must say in the language of Dr. Swartzwelder, that it brought tears to my eyes to leave them. I was sorry to learn of the Doctor leaving Needmore. He was well liked there. He was our family physician while we lived in the county, and we always found him to be a perfect gentleman.

I left Fulton county fourteen years ago last June. Great changes from the time I went there until I left. Many that were living when I went there, have gone to their long homes. Among others that I could mention were Daniel, Conrad and David Peck, relatives of yours, I suppose, and Elder Correll—many times have I sat under the sound of his preaching. I lived neighbor to him all the years that he lived after we moved there. When I think of the many dear ones living in that community when I went there, that are not there now, it makes me feel sad. I, myself, was not without my share of trial, for I was called to lay away in their last resting place, two as good companions as man was ever blessed with. None but those who have been called to pass through such trials can truly sympathize with those who have.

Now, if you think this fit to go into print, you can publish it; if not, all right. I desire my dear friends there, one and all, to know that I have not forgotten them, and I want to thank them again for their many acts of kindness to me while among them.

The Insulted Subscriber.

That fateful time is now at hand when the country editor once more reminds his delinquent friend how badly, how sadly and how madly he needs that dollar, says the Lamar Democrat. He fixes up his most urbane, polite and apologetic note that he can think of, puts it in an office envelope, and after rising 2 cents for one of Uncle Sam's stamps, he sends the humble missive upon its fateful errand. Pretty soon the editor begins to notice results. A subscriber comes in at the door with a don't you open your mouth to me expression on his face, and in a voice that is aimed to be built upon the style of that Jack o' the Beanstalk's giant, when he says "I smell blood," he wants to know how much he owes on this paper. Tremblingly as an autumn leaf, and as gently as a spring lamb, the meek and lowly prince of the sanctum looks through the lists and haltingly informs the lordly delinquent that the book shows that he owes \$5. With the air of an eastern potentate the aggrieved reader of the "county's favorite family paper" hands over the three plunks. Then he squares his shoulders, sticks out his chest, and halts at the door. "You can stop it," he says, and then he walks out with the air of a man who has just received such grievous wrong that he fears to speak for fear he'll lose control of himself. The editor sits meekly down at his desk and writes for the personal column, next week: "Mr. John Hanes, one of the leading citizens of Roaring Prairie township, made this office a pleasant call last week."

Last Saturday the Forestry Academy basket ball team met the Cumberland Valley State Normal team on the latter's ground and defeated them to the tune of 31 to 14. The captain of the victorious team is Roy Morton, and his victory is all the more signal from the fact that the Normal team is considered the crack team of the Cumberland Valley.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

Fortieth Annual Session Next Week. Everything Cut and Dry For Great Time.

A STRONG ENTERTAINMENT COURSE.

The fortieth Annual Session of the Fulton County Teachers' Institute will be held in the Court House next week beginning Monday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock.

The day instructors have been selected with much care and are a more than ordinarily strong corps.

The evening Lecturers and Entertainers are the best that the money at the disposal of the County Superintendent could buy. They are just the same people that you would find in the institutes of larger and wealthier counties.

The following shows the general make up of the week's work:

ORGANIZATION.

President, Charles E. Barton; vice presidents, Emory Thomas, H. H. Bergstresser, Harry E. Seville; secretary, R. C. Lamberson; enrolling clerk, Lewis Harris; door keepers, E. B. Chue, H. B. Hill; ushers, L. P. Morton, Russell Nelson, Grover C. Kirk, Frank Daniels, Gilbert C. Mellott.

COMMITTEES.

RESOLUTIONS. Emory Thomas, Gilbert B. Mellott, C. C. Rotz, Jessie Geiger, Myrtle Stevens, Ada Barton, S. L. Wink, Ethel Hays.

PROFESSIONAL READING.

B. C. Lamberson, Hattie B. Kendall, Estella Logue, Grace Hixson, Bertha Golden, Queen Lake, Lewis Harris.

AUDITING.

E. C. Hendershot, Orpha Snyder, Amos D. Paightel.

PERMANENT CERTIFICATE.

Emory Thomas, Horace M. Griffith, Minnie Mock.

INSTRUCTORS.

Dr. J. C. Willis, Kentucky University, Lexington, Ky. Prof. Chas. H. Albert, Department of Science, Bloomsburg State Normal School, Bloomsburg, Pa. Prof. C. H. Gordinier, Dean of Kee Mar College, Hagerstown; Prof. J. K. Stewart, Department of Language, Shippensburg State Normal School, Shippensburg, Pa.

MUSIC.

Director, Rev. J. V. Adams, Newport, Pa.; organist, Miss Gertrude Sipes, McConnellsburg. Every teacher should have a music book. Excell's School Songs will be used this year.

PROGRAM.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1906. FORENOON.

The enrolling clerk, Lewis Harris, will be in the Superintendent's office from 9 till 12. Teachers should enroll as soon as possible after their arrival.

AFTERNOON, 1:30 to 3:30. Singing. Devotional exercises, Dr. Wm. A. West. Opening address, Prof. B. C. Lamberson. "The Ideal Teacher," Prof. J. K. Stewart. Address, Dr. J. C. Willis.

EVENING SESSION, 7:30. "Representative Men," Dr. J. C. Willis, Lexington, Ky.

"Dear Supt. Barton: You have acted wisely in securing Dr. Willis. He was the 'Star' of our course last year. So well were our people pleased that at their request I have again secured him for this year's Institute."

J. J. DELL, Supt. Huntingdon County. Oct. 6, 1906.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4. FORENOON, 9:15 to 12.

Devotional exercises, Rev. J. L. Groye. Address, Prof. Emory Thomas. "The Powers of the Intellect," Prof. Stewart. "Habit and Mind," Dr. Willis. "The Fundamental Purposes of the School," Dr. Albert.

AFTERNOON, 1:30 to 4. "The Necessities of School Li-

KILLED YOUNG BROTHER.

Sad Accident in Adams County on Saturday Evening.

Several loaded guns and two small boys supplied the essentials for a fatal accident at Table Rock, Adams county, Saturday evening. The parents of the children, Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Thompson, went on an excursion to Harrisburg. Alone in the house, the boys found one of the guns, and the older said he was going to show his brother how to shoot. Standing within ten feet of the little lad, the elder fired one barrel, killing his brother instantly. At first he said the deed was done by a negro, who ran away, but subsequently confessed the above facts. The coroner's jury found a verdict of accidental death, but severely censured the father for having loaded guns within reach of the children.

Dr. Willis. "The Two Appetites: Physical and Mental," Dr. Albert. "The Teacher's Personality," Dr. Willis.

EVENING, 7:30.

"How to Find Yourself," Dr. John Snape, Delaware. "Dr. Snape was one of the drawing cards at Pindley Lake Chautauqua Assembly. He always held his listeners spellbound and moved them from laughter to moods of sentiment and pathos by his magic wit and eloquence."—Ass. Press Correspondent, August, 1905.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5.

FORENOON, 9:15 to 12. Devotional Exercises, Rev. J. C. Grimes. Address, Prof. Harry Sevilla. "A Negative View of Geography," Dr. Albert. "Present Conditions of Success," Prof. Stewart. "Making a Will," Dr. Willis.

AFTERNOON, 1:30 to 4.

"Some Rightful Demands of Parent, Pupil and Teacher," Dr. Albert. "What Makes the Wheels Go Round," Prof. Gordinier. "The School and the Community," Dr. Willis.

EVENING, 7:30.

"The Average American," Congressman Philip P. Campbell, Kansas.

Hon. Philip P. Campbell is one of the youngest members in Congress. The Chicago Evening Post of Feb. 11, 1905, said of him, "He is the first representative in Congress who in his first term, ran for himself in a single day a place where he found the eyes of the entire public focused upon him. He was a favorite before he had been in the House a week. Campbell may yet climb to the presidency of the United States over the corpse of the Standard Oil Company."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6.

FORENOON, 9:15 to 12. Devotional Exercises, Rev. S. B. Houston. Report of Committee on Teachers' Reading Course. "Words," Prof. Gordinier. "Map Drawing—The Why and the How," Dr. Albert. "The Constitution and By-laws of Health," Dr. Willis.

AFTERNOON, 1:30 to 4. "Pa. as a Type Lesson in Geography," Dr. Albert. "The Man in the Moon," Prof. Gordinier. "Popular Education," Dr. Willis.

EVENING, 7:30.

Concert, Boston Musical Five. PRESS COMMENTS.

BOSTON MUSICAL FIVE. Without doubt the best entertainment ever given in this city.—Portsmouth News.

The entertainment was easily the best of the season.—Albany, N. Y.

The concert was pronounced the musical treat of the season.—Fitchburg Sentinel.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7.

FORENOON, 9:15 to 11:30. Devotional Exercises, Rev. J. V. Adams. Reports of Committees. Address, Prof. Gordinier. Address, Dr. Willis. Benediction, Rev. Adams.

THROUGH OHIO.

Second Letter From Dr. Swartzwelder Description of His Trip From Needmore to California.

We left Claysville, Pa., November 1st, via Wheeling, Columbus, and Cincinnati arriving at Dayton about 7 p. m. Having been directed to stop at either the Aldine or the Philip Hotel, we decided to take the former—and fortunately for us that we did; for scarcely had we retired, when the Philips caught fire and was nearly destroyed—the guests having to get out in their night robes to seek other quarters. I believe no lives were lost.

Our first stop after leaving Claysville was Wheeling, W. Va. We had to change cars and wait one hour. During that time my observation of the city led me to believe it a great manufacturing city. It is situated on the Ohio river, and surrounded by rugged hills, and shadowed by a continuous cloud of smoke. Soon after leaving Wheeling, we came into Ohio, the eastern part of which is hilly and resembles Pennsylvania; but as we neared Columbus the country became level, and as the weather was clear and warm, the scenery and trip were delightful. We had to change cars at Columbus and wait two hours for our train.

Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton are large, beautiful, growing cities with a great deal of wealth, and a rich agricultural community surrounding them. We visited my brother Clyde and my sister Mrs. Porter Nevitt in Dayton. My brother is engaged in the dairy business, and keeps a number of fine cows. While visiting my brother and sister, we also visited the principal places of interest in and about the city. The most noted is the Soldiers' Home and the plant of the National Cash Register Manufacturing Company. At the Soldiers' Home, we secured the services of a soldier to guide us over the grounds, and through the buildings. The Home is a beautiful place, and I was much gratified to see the soldiers have such conveniences and comfort during their last days. Everything is done in the home relative to the soldiers living. There is a kitchen with massive furnaces for the preparation and cooking of food; a bakery, a steam laundry, and a dining-room with seating capacity for 1200. We were permitted to see them march to dinner and take their seats—but not to dine with them. There are nearly 2,000 soldiers at the Home. They have a fine library and reading room; a theatre for amusement seating 2,000; a hospital where the sick and wounded are cared for, with nurses and physicians in attendance, and last, but not least, a cemetery for the burial of the dead. We had the privilege of seeing two old soldiers buried under military rule, the corpses were taken from the hospital to the dead house, and placed in caskets, after which they were placed on a four wheel wagon—used in military service as a patrol wagon in which were hitched four white horses, mounted with two soldiers. The caskets were draped with the national emblem, and was followed to their last resting place by the minister—friends if any—a number of detailed soldiers—and the military band—the latter playing the dead march. After the caskets were placed in the graves and the usual religious services were held, a military salute of six guns of three volleys each, was fired, followed by the bugle call in the distance, which caused a solemnity in the hearts of those even not related to the deceased. The burial of the dead is a daily occurrence—one to two deaths daily.

The National Cash Register Company is one of the largest of its kind in the world. They make a machine which nearly every business man uses in keeping an account of the sales and cash received in the transaction of business, and may be seen in most any store. They make 285 regis-

ABOUT PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Snapshots at Their Comings and Goings Here for a Vacation, or Away for a Restful Outing.

NAMES OF VISITORS AND VISITED

Howard Martin and wife, of Covalt, were in town Monday.

Our townsman, A. U. Nace has been laid up for a couple of weeks suffering from an attack of rheumatism.

Wm. Seiling, teacher of Oak Grove school in Whips Cove, resigned last week. He is succeeded by George Lodge, of Emmaville.

W. M. Cunningham, Pitcairn's big policeman, with his wife, is spending a few days visiting among their Fort Littleton friends.

A union Thanksgiving service will be held in the reformed church, Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. Sermon by Rev. Wm. A. West, D. D.

Jacob Yeakle and Miss Ann Powell, both of Thompson township, were married at Hancock last Friday, by Rev. Charles E. Shaw, of the Episcopal church.

Rev. J. C. Grimes, M. R. Shaffner, Esq., Bank Cashier M. W. Nace, Supt. Chas. E. Barton, and Dr. J. W. Mosser left Wednesday morning for a little trip to the State Capital.

Mac Litton, one of Thompson's leading farmers, called at the News office Monday to entwine digits with the editor. Mr. Litton has divided his farm, and is getting ready to erect a set of new buildings on the portion stricken off for the use of his son

ters daily. To make these machines and to conduct their business—domestic and foreign—they employ about 9,000 persons. They employ nearly 6,000 persons in one building—with its annexes. Each person has a certain piece to make, or work to do. They do all the work from the crude material to the finished product. It is simply immense—a mass of living machinery and humanity, (this is not good English, but expresses my idea

From Dayton we visited Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hixson at Pleasant Hill, twenty miles north of Dayton. They are both from Fulton county. Mrs. Hixson being a daughter of the late Israel Hill. They lately purchased a farm of 71 acres for something over \$8000 and have since been offered twice that. It is as fine a farm as I have seen, and I want to tell you they live at home too. Our next stop is Republic—on the B. & O. R. R. and surrounded by a happy colony of Fulton county people. I will name those with whom we have been most intimately associated on our visit, viz. William Weaver, whose wife was Elizabeth Mason; Freeman Neikirk—wife, Della Mason; Calvin Keefe—wife, Alice Peck; William Funk—wife, Martha Powell; Charles Funk—wife, Susan Varnes; Newton Peck—wife, Elizabeth Funk; Oliver Garland—wife, Ella Peck, and Dwight Mason—wife, Nelkerk.

I see my letter has grown lengthy and if I should speak of each personally I might give you an attack of indigestion, so I will say to their many friends in Fulton county that it would do their hearts good to go out and see this beautiful country and see how well their friends are getting along. I knew these people personally before they came here, they were poor people; but without compliment or injustice to them, one half of those I have visited would be considered rich in Fulton county; and the other half not poor, by any means. They have shown us a royal good time, and if you don't believe it, just take "Greeley's advice" and go and see. We will leave here tomorrow morning for Hartford City, Indiana.

J. S. SWARTZWELDER, Republic, O. Nov. 16, 1906.