

Cameron  
10/19/38



October 25th, 1938.

Cameron County Commissioners,  
Emporium,  
Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:

You are well aware of the fact that an exceedingly unfortunate circumstance happened in connection with a forest fire which occurred last week near Sinnemahoning.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania has made it possible for this Department to offer a reward for evidence which leads to a conviction in the case of an incendiary forest fire. This Department is ready to offer a reward of \$250.00 for such evidence in connection with the fire which took the lives of seven CCC men. It has occurred to me that your Board might be willing to match that amount so that a rather enticing sum might possibly loosen the tongues of some people who, very probably, know how the fire started.

I am making this suggestion to you through District Forester, Charles E. Baer and I shall appreciate your giving him your decision at the earliest possible moment.

In the meantime, of course, we shall do everything we can in an official way to discover such evidence and I trust that if any of the police officers of the county obtain any satisfactory information they will immediately acquaint not only the District Attorney but our District Forester with whatever facts they discover.

Sincerely yours,

J. F. BOGARDUS.

October 25th, 1938

Pennsylvania State Motor Police,  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

ATTENTION: Colonel Wilhelm

Dear Colonel Wilhelm:

We are asking for experienced operators from your force to assist District Forester, Charles E. Baer of Emporium to follow through on a very possible line of investigation which may lead to evidence with respect to the origin of the forest fire in which seven CCC men lost their lives.

Mr. Baer asks specifically for the assistance of any one or more of the following officers who are familiar not only with the county but with most of the people in Elk County: Knudsen, Brooks, Bolsinger and Price. All of these men apparently were at one time from the Butler Troop. Your prompt consideration of this request will be appreciated because of the seriousness of the situation in Cameron County.

Sincerely yours,

George H. Wirt,  
Chief Forest Fire Warden.

ghw:es