

Cameron
Oct 19-1938
Reed
Wirt

August 1st, 1944

Lieutenant Colonel Jacob C. Mauk,
Pennsylvania State Police,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Colonel Mauk:-

Thank you for report of Detective Paradise with respect to the Pepper Hill fire in Cameron County - 1938. It may be possible that some day the fact in regard to this fire and the death of the boys burned in it will come to light. In the meantime it is simply one more of the unsolved cases of record.

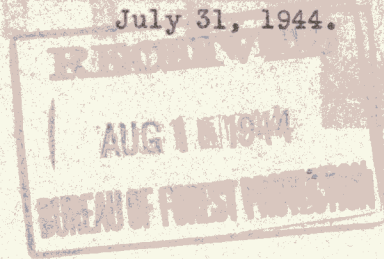
Sincerely yours,

George H. Wirt,
Chief Forest Fire Warden.

HEADQUARTERS
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE
HARRISBURG PA

July 31, 1944.

FROM: Deputy Commissioner.



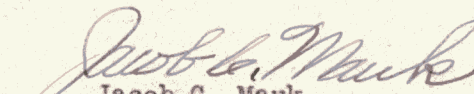
TO Mr. George H. Wirt, Chief,
Division of Protection,
Department of Forests and Waters.

SUBJECT: "Pepper Hill" Fire, Grove Township, Cameron County, Penna. - (Victims, -
Basil Bogush, et. al.), October 19, 1938.

References: (a) - Letter of L. G. Barnes, Forester's Service, Dept. of Forests and Waters
Emporium, Penna., dated July 17, 1944, directed to Mr. George H. Wirt,
Dept. of Forests and Waters, Harrisburg, Penna.
(b) - Report of July 27, 1944, submitted by Det. A. C. Paradiso,
Penna. State Police, (File No. 1-D-4).
(c) - Report of July 28, 1944, submitted by Det. A. C. Paradiso,
Penna. State Police, (File No. 1-D-4).

Enclosures: (3) - References (a), (b), and (c).

1. The attached copies of reports are self-explanatory and
furnished you for your information.


Jacob C. Mauk
Lt. Col., PSP.

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS
FORESTER'S SERVICE

Emporium, Pa.,

July 17, 1944.

PERSONAL

Mr. George H. Wirt: 3088

See In reference to the Pepper Hill, ^{FIRE} Oct. 19, 1938, in which 8 boys of the CCC camp lost their lives.

I have heard that a Charles Clontz, who lived on the First Fork and who died about two years ago in the Williamsport Hospital, confessed to a nurse in the hospital that he started the fire and that he was not alone when he started the fire. I understand that Lynn Wykoff made this statement. However Wykoff had been drinking when he made the statement so there might not be any truth in it.

I thought that perhaps you might want to pass this information along to the State Police who made the investigation of the fire.

L. G. Barnes

L. G. Barnes.

District Forester - Emporium