

HEADQUARTERS
PENNSYLVANIA MOTOR POLICE
HARRISBURG PA

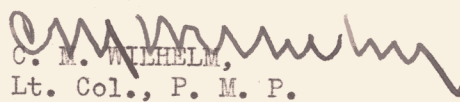
FROM: Deputy Commissioner

December 16, 1938

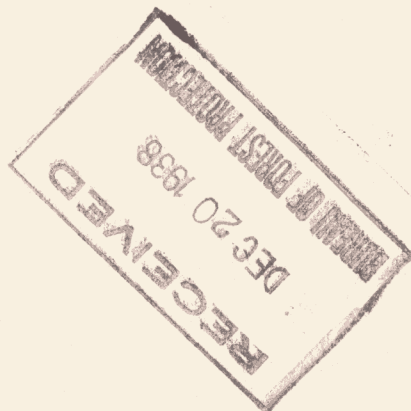
TO: Secretary of Forests and Waters
Attn: Mr. Wirt

SUBJECT: Forest Fire in Cameron County.

Additional reports are forwarded herewith,
for your information. You will find them self-explanatory.


C. M. WILHELM,
Lt. Col., P. M. P.

I h



OF: Pvt. Albin L. Knudson
CASE: Accidental Death
VICTIMS: Basil Bogush, John Boring, Andrew Stephanic, Howard May,
Gilbert Mohny, Stephen Jaconske & Ross Hollobaugh
ACCUSED:
SUSPECTS:
PLACE: Grove Twp., Cameron County, Pa.
DATE: October 19th, 1938

PREAMBLE : Having been ordered by the Commanding Officer, Troop "D" S-1, Pennsylvania Motor Police, Lieut. Andrew J. Hudock to proceed to Emporium, Cameron County, Pa. for the purpose of assisting in the investigation of the above named case. I left station at 9:00 A.M. October 28th, 1938 by way of Troop automobile #024-3-56 and arrived at destination at 2:30 P.M. the same date.

Upon arrival at Emporium, Pa. reported to District Attorney Edwin W. Tompkins and the details of the investigation was gone over. Also contacted Pmts William M. King and Frank H. Bender Troop "D" S-2 from the Coudersport - substation.

Pvt. Albin L. Knudson and Pvt. Frank H. Bender proceeded to Cameron, Pa. to C. C. C. Camp S-132 and interviewed Capt. Alton Miller Assistant Inspector of the Northern District of the C.C. and the following information was received.

A report of a forest fire was received at Camp S-132 at 11:00 A.M. October 19th, 1938 and there is no record of who made the report, or who received the call at the camp but the call was referred to Engineer William Schooley of the Forrester Department. William Schooley after getting the report of the fire Dispatched a truck driver one George Polosky to make a check of the report. George Polosky after getting to the scene of the fire reported back to the camp on the condition and at 12:10 P.M. it was announced in the Mess hall that a detail would go out to fight the fire. The crew was organized by Gilbert Mohny of the Forrester Department and it left camp at 1:30 P.M. The number of men in the crew was 42 exclusive of the truck drivers. The crews arrived at the fire at about 2:20 P.M. and the men were divided into two crews. One was under the supervision of Engineer William Schooley and the other under the supervision of Gilbert Mohny. The men who perished in the fire were all in Crew #two. The men of the crews were equipped with axes, brush hooks, fire rakes and water spraying tanks. The men of crew one had been out on forest fire duty on October 18th, 1938 from about 7:00 P.M. untill 6:00 A.M. October 19th, 1938 and the members of crew number two had been out on forest fire duty from 7:00 P.M. October 18th, 1938 untill 5:00 A.M. October 19th, 1938 During the above duty the members of the crew fought fire untill about 1:30 A.M. when they eased up and from that time untill they returned to camp they just watched fire lines. Dr. Levine of the C. C. C. Camp was at the scene of the fire after the men had been trapped and burned and he supervised the rescue work and the care of the victims. A copy of the Safety Regulations of the C. C. C. Camps in which Chapter #12 deals with Forest Fires and which shows as date of issue April 20th, 1938 was not received at C. C. C. Camp S-132 untill after the fatal fire.

From 7:30 P.M. untill 9:00 P.M. Officers reported to the Office of District Attorney Edwin W. Tompkins and work on the investigation was planned for the following day.