

--- SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ---

OP :

Pvt. Albin L. Knudson

CASE :

Accidental death

VICTIMS :

Basil Bogush, John Borling, Andrew Stephanie, Howard May
Gilbert Mohnoy, Stephen Jaconski and Ross Hollibaugh

ACCUSED :

SUSPECTS :

None

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 Grove Twp., Cameron County, Pa. for the purpose of continuing the investigation of the above case. I left station at 9:00 A.M. November 3rd, 1938 in company with Fire Inspector John Schwendener of the Forester Department by way of Troop auto #924-3-56 and arrived at destination at 10:00 A.M. the same date.

Officers again interviewed Forest Fire Warden Norris Smith and he stated that if he named Bennie Kuppelweiser as being a member of his crew when they first went to the Lick Island Fire he had made a mistake because Bennie Kuppelweiser had not joined the crew untill 2:00 P.M. when he had returned from Sinnemahoning where he had got some food for his crew. Norris Smith stated that when he got back as far as Zosch's house he met Bennie Kuppelweiser and that Bennie carried the food to the crew and then remained and helped fight fire untill it rained about 8:30 P.M.

Officers interviewed Bennie Kuppelweiser age 20 years, single, laborer who lives on First Fork and receives mail through the Sinnemahoning, Pa. Postoffice and he stated that on the day of the fire he got up at about 8:00 A.M. and then went down to the home of Peter Zosch. Just before I went down to Zosch house my brother Mathew came along and he had Norris Smith the Forest Fire Warden in his car and they were going to fight a forest fire near Lick Island Run. I did not go with them but went to the house of Peter Zosch. About a half hour after I got to Zosch's place George Kamats who is married to one of the Zosch girls asked me to go with him to Sinnemahoning, Pa. I went with him and he used the Chevrolet coupe of Frank Zosch. George Kamats had his two kids with him. George Kamats went to the crew store in Sinnemahoning, Pa. and while he was in the store I saw in the car with the kids. George Kamats then went to Bushor's Garage and got some gas in the car. George Kamats then started home and when we went by the beer garden run by John Wykoff he stopped there. He took the kids and went in but I stayed in the car as I dont drink. George Kamats was only in the beer garden about long enough to drink one bottle of beer. After he came out we went right to the home of Peter Zosch. We were around and at about one hour then we had dinner. I stayed with them for dinner and at about 12:15 P.M. Mrs. George Kamats saw the fire down on Pepper Hill. A little while after this Mathew Zosch and Norris Smith came down of the Mountain and went to Sinnemahoning, Pa. for some eats. My brother Simon also came down from the fire as he had been burned some, had the hair singed of the back of his head. Peter Zosch took his school bus and went down to see the fire on Pepper Hill, George Kamats, my brother Simon and myself and George Kamats kids went along. We saw a car parked by the fire on Pepper Hill and I think they were survivors as they had a tripod in the car. We did not stop but went as far as Gore's farm near Sinnemahoning, Pa. where we turned around. There was a fire on Elliott run near Gore's also. After we got back to Zosch place I stayed there untill Norris Smith came back and I carried the food up the mountain to the crew and worked from that time untill it rained. I think it was about 9:00 P.M.

Interviewed John Wykoff who runs the Willows Beer Garden at Sinnemahoning, Pa. and he stated that he remembered George Kamats being in his place the date of the fire and that he had the children with him. He stated that it was some time between 11:00 and 12:00 noon as he recalled he waited on him and that would show that his bartender had not reported for work which he does about 12:30 P.M.

Interviewed P.H. Johnson who lives on First Fork, address Simmemahoning, Pa. and he stated, My brother was visiting me and after we had our dinner we went to visit with my daughter Mrs. Walter Miller. This was about 1:00 P.M. When we got to Miller's place we saw the fire on Pepper Hill. It was a good size fire at that time and the wind was blowing hard up the valley or along the side of the hill. After we had been watching the fire a while we saw a crew of men go up the side of the fire to the south. We went home about this time and I did not see any other crew.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBIN L. KNUDSON
Pvt. Troop "D" S-1, P.M.P.

Mileage:
Dismounted.....2
Troop auto #024-3-56.....66
Total.....68

Time of leaving.....9:00 A.M.
Time of return.....5:00 P.M.