

-: SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT :-

OF: Pvt. Albin L. Knudson

CASE: Accidental Death

VICTIMS: Basil Bogush, John Boring, Andrew Stephanie, Howard May
Gilbert Mohny, Stephen Jacanski & Ross Hollobaugh.

ACCUSED: None

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. Hudeck to proceed to Grove Twp., Cameron County, Pa. for the purpose of continuing the investigation of the above case. I left station at 8:00 A.M. October 31st, 1938 by way of Troop Automobile #024-3-56 and arrived at destination at 9:00 A.M. the same date.

Proceeded to the home of Claude Miller, First Fork, address Sinnemahoning, Pa. and served him with a subpoena to appear before the Coroner at an inquest to be held into the death of the above named victims to be held at the Cameron County courthouse at Emporium, Pa. this date.

Interviewed the following named persons and secured unsigned positive statements which are appended hereto;

Effie Zuback, age about 30 years, height 5'6, weight 135 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, American, married, housewife address Sinnemahoning, Pa.

Norris Smith, age 42 years, height 5'10, weight 190 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, American, single, Fire Warden address, Sinnemahoning, Pa.

WITNESSES

Norris Smith, Sinnemahoning, Pa.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mileage;
Dismounted.....2
Troop auto #56.....120
Total.....122

Time of leaving.....8:00 A.M.
Time of return.....10.00 P.M.

POSITIVE STATEMENT OF EFFIE ZUBACK

October 31st, 1938

States that:

I live on the flat along the First Fork Creek a short ways north of Pepper hill run. On October 19th, 1938 I put my baby to sleep some time shortly after noon and I layes down on the bed and fell asleep. I think it must of been about 2:00 P.M. when I woke up and when I did I noticed a lot of smoke outside our house. I went out and saw the fire on Pepper Hill. I could not see how big the fire was as there was to much smoke. I could hear some men up at the fire and it sounded as if they were digging. Later or about 3:30 P.M. I heard a lot of hollowering and I thought at the time that the men must of become seperated in the smoke and were trying to locate one another. I did not know that anyone had been burned untill that evening when we went down to Sinnemahoning, Pa. I have no idea how the fire got started. There is no one in this vicinity that I would suspect of setting the fire.

POSITIVE STATEMENT OF NORRIS SMITH

October 31st, 1938.

States that:

I am a Fire Warden for the Forrestrery Department and I have a crew that I call out in case of a forest fire. On October 19th, 1938 I was over at William Johnson's place painting his house. At about 9:15 A.M. Frank Zoschg and Mathew Kuppelweiser came to where I was working and reported that there was a fire on the ridge south of Lick Island Run. I got in the car with them a Model "A" Ford seadn and on the way back to my house I picked up members of my crew. Fred Pens brought his car and he hauled the tools from my house to the fire. The other members of the crew was Simon Kuppelweiser Jr., Bennie Kuppelweiser, Cecil Kephart and Frank Zoschg. When we got to the fire we split into two crews and started to build a fire line and back fire and we had the fire almost under controll when the wind came up and the leaves had got drier and the fire broke over our lines. At 1:00 P.M. I had Mathew Zoschg take me to Sinnemahoning, Pa. to get some food and also to call the District Office for more men. When I got in touch with the Office at Emporium, Pa. they told me that there would be some crews of C. C. C. men out to help on the fire that they had already received a call on the fire. While we were on our way to Sinnemahoning we saw a fire on the point of Pepper Hill. This fire was not more than one hald acre big at that time. When we got back to Pepper Hill on our way back there was a C. C. C. Truck there and some of the boys were out of the truck. I dont think any of them had gone into the woods at that time. We did not stop but went back to the Lick Island Run fire which was about one mile north of the Pepper Hill fire. We did not get any help on our fire, no C. C. C men came as they had told me they would from Emporium, Pa. We worked on the fire untill about 8:30 P.M. and then it started to rain and we went home. I dont know how the fire started on the ridge back of Lick Island Run but I feel that it must of been set as it was up almost to the top of the mountain away from any roads. There was a fire in the same valley last May but this fire started near the stream and we got it out very quickly. I did not know that any one had been burned in the fire on Pepper Hill untill one of the crew who had gone to get some supplies about dark returned and told us.