

Trumpeter Swan.

Last Thursday afternoon Byron Campbell, residing north of town, noticed a large flock of what looked like wild geese flying over Round Lake and after they had circled about for an hour or more they finally settled upon the water and began feeding. He took his rifle and started for the lake and got close enough to the flock, which numbered nearly a hundred, so that he got a couple of shots at the birds. He killed one and badly wounded another one but the flock rose at once and started on their flight again.

On securing the bird he had killed he found that instead of its being a wild goose it was a trumpeter swan of large size. The bird was pure white with a black bill and black feet and weighed a trifle over seventeen pounds. He brought it to town to get a picture of it and when its wings were outstretched it spanned seven feet and one inch while from the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail it measured four feet and two inches.

The trumpeter swan is a native of the Arctic regions, flying to the far north every summer for nesting and gradually working back south as the weather grows colder. This is one of the finest specimens of this bird ever seen in these parts, in fact it is seldom that they stop in this vicinity at all.

Mrs. Lura Niles of Saugatuck is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Downing.

NOV. 27, 1912.

F. F. Ambrose goes to Belding today to visit over Thanksgiving with his new grandson. Mrs. Ambrose will return home with him Friday.

Mrs. Neil Wilde of New York is visiting at V. F. Barber's. Mr. Wilde is playing in Chicago with the grand opera orchestra for this season.

Married at County Seat.

The friends of Dennis Hickey and Miss Rilla Helm were surprised to learn that they had quietly slipped over to Charlotte last Saturday and there procured the necessary papers from the county clerk after which they repaired to the Methodist parsonage where Rev. Slee, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Charlotte, pronounced the words which made them husband and wife. After the ceremony they took the train for Battle Creek where they will make their future home, Mr. Hickey having a position with one of the large firms of the "pure food" town.

Their many friends in Vermontville extend congratulations to the happy couple. The bride has been prominent in musical circles here and will be greatly missed by her many friends.

Miss Scott of Ypsilanti is the guest of Mrs. N. W. Hill for a few days.

Peddling Mail By Automobile.

Those who are wont to cover the country in the good old way, driving a horse and buggy, can not fully appreciate the beauties of covering the ground with an automobile. Last Thursday Al Faust thought that he

would cover his on that day with an auto, and by so doing he could get back to town somewhat earlier and be enabled to attend the auction sale his brother Charles was holding over southwest of town. With this end in view he secured the services of George Lamb with his new machine so as to be sure and have a car that would not break down or have any tire trouble.

Al left the post office in high spirits and filled with the intention of breaking all speed records in delivering the mail that day. Alas, how little does one know what is ahead of him when he starts out joy riding. The auto ran like a top going out of town but about the time it struck some of the hills, which abound so plentifully on Al's route, the trouble began. The blamed thing didn't want to run up hill so out climbs both men and coax it along, pushing it up several of the steep hills. After getting weary of doing this a consultation was held and it was decided that the carburetor was out of order. Sure enough, after opening it up much after the style of a surgeon looking for a lame appendix, it was discovered that the main screw had worked out and had let the main part of the apparatus get crossed and peevish. After a couple hours spent in adjusting these digestive organs, another start was made and things appeared to look brighter. Matters ran along all right till they reached Isaac Johnson's farm. Here George started to turn around and not being sure as to whether his machine would float, backed it off the banks into a pond where the water was over three feet

deep. There they were with both hind wheels out of sight in the water and not a farmer anywhere around within two miles for every one had gone to the auction. The machine rested in its watery bed till about 10 o'clock when Mr. Johnson reached home and soon had them pulled out of their difficulty. Away they went and were fast making up time till the engine refused to run further without gasoline. All the neighborhood was scoured and a few cups of the precious fluid was secured. Things were working smoothly till a mile and a half west of Flathau's corners the engine bucked again and no gasoline could be then located nearer than town and the nearest telephone was a mile and a half away. After this cheerful walk, help was summoned and after going all day with nothing to eat, missing the auction sale, the post office was safely reached at 25 minutes after eight in the evening. Next time Al gets in a hurry he says he will drive his old horse and be sure of making good time.

DEC. 11, 1912.

Mrs. H. H. Curtis is at Littlejohn Hospital, Chicago, where she is taking treatment and had an operation on her throat last Saturday. The doctors report that she is doing very nicely but will be kept there for ten days.

Lawrence Hill arrived from Yakama, Washington, Friday for a ten days' visit here with his mother.

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