

## **Niles Fairbairn**

**MARGARETVILLE** — Niles Fairbairn, 78, of Margaretville, died March 5 in Liberty-Loomis Hospital, where he had spent two weeks fighting pneumonia.

Funeral services were held March 9 in the Margaretville Methodist Church, the Rev. Horace Bohca, pastor of the Dry Brook Methodist Church, officiating. Masonic services were held Monday night at the Herrick Funeral Home. Burial will be later in the Margaretville Cemetery.

Mr. Fairbairn, a prominent area outdoorsman, was born Sept. 15, 1886 in Seager, the son of James E. and Mary (Alton) Fairbairn. He married Lola Murray in the early 1900's. Mrs. Fairbairn was also a patient in the Liberty - Loomis Hospital at the time of her husband's death. She was recovering from a broken hip.

Mr. Fairbairn worked as a painter, paperhanger, farmer, logger, sawmill operator, cook and caretaker, but spent most of his later years as a trapper, outdoorsman and trainer of wild animals.

He was employed in the late 1950's by Walt Disney, who hired him to train otters for a television film, "Flash, the Odyssey of an Otter." He also trained numerous other wild animals and served for many years as state trapper.

Mr. Fairbairn was a caretaker and unofficial counsellor at the Nassau Count Boy Scout camp at Alder Lake, and also served as caretaker at the Conservation Department's DeBruce Camp.

Beside his wife, he is survived by one sister, Mrs. George Mc Murray of Margaretville.

**Oneonta Star**

**March 13, 1965**