## The Spirit of Success from page three

pressing a button inside the warmth of one's home, a sidewalk and driveway could be cleared of snow and ice in as little as 15 minutes.

A brand name company that made billions selling snow blowers purchased Riley's patent, which they regarded as a mortal threat to their bottom line. Sending some joker in Florence, Wisconsin \$17.29 million was a small price to pay for golden protecting the goose.

As darkness descended on the valley, Riley lingered a moment longer atop the ledge before deciding to head for home. He took one last deep, satisfying breath of crisp autumn air before turning to go. In the diminished light, he took two steps and stumbled over an uneven rock. Fortunately, he prevented plummeting into the chasm below by grabbing an overhanging branch. Unfortunately, the branch was dead, and moments later so was he.

Two days later, a pair of hikers found his body impaled on a splintered tree trunk.

He met his end still married to Claudia.

During probate pro-ceedings, she was flabbergasted to learn of a bank account opened recently by her late husband – an account brimming with over \$17 million! She immediately booked a trip to Paris, where she spent long hours at the streetside cafes, eying dapper Parisian men in skinny

jeans and dreaming up ways to spend Riley's fortune.

They say the valley where Gene Riley met his demise is a haunted place – a place where an apparition walks at night, moaning and wailing about his unrecognized final achievement. They call the ghost the Spirit of Success.



## Ancient artifact

Ancient artifact Back in the 1950s, Florence County resident Jim Brolin, his brother and several friends of the "Commonwealth clan" were camping at a lake in the county. While walking just off shore to try to catch frogs, Brolin realized he had stepped on this Native American arrowhead. After determining that his foot was not bleeding, he was able to celebrate his find. "Words cannot express how excited I was!" said Brolin. "I was about 13 years old at the time and what was our favorite game? Cowboys & Indians. And I found a real Indian arrowhead!" Brolin says that his research indicates the arrowhead is from somewhere between 1750-1800 Jong before Elorence was somewhere between 1750-1800, long before Florence was founded.

