

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter - Saturday, February 2, 1924

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

BUS WANTS FRANCHISE

Star Club Holds Banquet—Broke Leg Drawing Logs—Boy Coasted Into Brook—Fell From Box Car.

Harlan J. Wood has bought of Harold Smith of Dunraven the house on Marvin avenue which Mr. Smith built this year.

William Finnegan of Rock Rift cut a bad gash in his right foot Wednesday while chopping four foot wood for the Keery company. Dr. Smith attended him.

Saturday of this week, Feb. 2, is candlemas day. This is the day when tradition says the bear comes out and if he sees his shadow he will retire again and slumber another six weeks.

Fred Osterwald of Norwich, an O. & W. brakeman, fell from a box car in the Walton yard Monday and sustained a painful injury to his right foot, although no bones were broken. Dr. Morrow, railroad surgeon, attended the man.

The Walton local of the Dairy-men's League Co-operative association elected the following officers at the annual meeting Saturday: President, Lewis C. More; vice president, Archie Constable; secretary, Arthur Holley; treasurer, Henry Hoyt.

Walton friends have received announcements of the marriage of John R. Eichenberg to Miss Marjorie Hemstreet in New York city on Jan. 26. Mr. Eichenberg, who is a graduate of the Walton high school and Pennsylvania State' college, is a civil engineer by profession.

Ira Wood of Mundale sustained a Pott's fracture of his right leg near the ankle Tuesday afternoon while drawing logs on a stoneboat down a steep hill. In some way his foot was struck by the stoneboat and twisted around, dislocating the ankle and breaking the leg. Dr. W. R. Gladstone reduced the fracture.

Ralph, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Constable, of Third brook, while, coasting down hill on the macadam road near the red school house on Tuesday failed to make the turn where the bridge crosses the brook and his sled struck one of the concrete posts of the bridge. The lad was thrown into the brook and was badly cut and bruised about the face from contact with the bridge.

The Susquehanna Valley home in Binghamton was damaged one day this week by a fire which broke out in the roof and attic of the east section of the old main building. The seventy-six boys in the institution were sent down the spiral fire escape chute to the ground back of the main building. Not a child was injured. The fire was extinguished within a short time with a loss of about \$5,000. Three of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gilbert of Walton are inmates of the home.

The Star club of the United Presbyterian Sabbath school held its seventeenth annual banquet in the church parlors Friday evening. About one hundred fifty sat down at the tables to enjoy the excellent meal prepared under the direction of the banquet committee. After the meal William Sines, the club president, acted as toastmaster and responses were given by William Hodge, Mrs. C. W. Murray, Agnes Campbell, Amos Kent, Rev. F. C. Davidson and A. G. Patterson. The officers for the ensuing year are as follows: President, William Laidlaw; vice president, John Doig; secretary and treasurer Miss Margaret Kilpatrick. Membership in the club is based on perfect attendance at Sabbath school for one year. Nineteen new members were added this

year. Three persons, William Sines, Marjorie Elwood and Evelyn Griffin have had perfect attendance for seventeen consecutive years.

The village board on Monday evening held a hearing upon the application of Glenn Green of Delhi to operate a motor bus line between Walton and Delhi and within the corporation limits of Walton village. Attorney Claud Smith of Onconta presented the case for the applicant while Samuel H. Fancher appeared for the Ontario & Western railroad. Mr. Fancher while not entering a formal objection to the granting of the franchise made -it clear that the railroad company expects to curtail its passenger service on the Delhi branch and declared that any franchise granted to the motor bus should call for as good service as the railroad has given. It is probable that the Utica Flyer will make its terminal in Walton instead of at Delhi and the other passenger service may be changed. Mr. Fancher pointed out that the railroad company's property in the town of Walton is assessed at over one million dollars and that the company is paying about \$16,000 annually- in town, village and school taxes. About 75 employees live in Walton and the pay roll here is over \$16,000 a month. To allow a competing concern to escape tax free would be unfair. The necessity of having certain places for the bus to stop for receiving and discharging passengers and of arranging a convenient schedule was also pointed out. The board will act on the application at its next meeting. The franchise will be granted but certain restrictions will doubtless be made. The Green motor bus is the most up-to-date in this section and is already receiving a liberal patronage.

COURTNEY RETIRES AS CHAMBER PRESIDENT

Served as Organization Head for Nine Years.

MORE IS HIS SUCCESSOR

Memorial Boulder Will be Erected Where First Settlers Reached Walton.

Walter J. More, druggist, was elected president of the Walton Chamber of Commerce at the annual meeting held in Walton hall Friday evening. He succeeds Arthur J. Courtney, who has served continuously as president since the chamber was organized in January, 1915, with the exception of a brief period in 1918 when he was county food administrator.

To Mr. Courtney belongs in large measure the credit for building the organization up to its present strong position. He was urged to again serve as president and the members present Friday gave him a rising vote to this effect, but Mr. Courtney stated that he felt that it was time that someone else should shoulder the burden. He consented, however, to act as first vice president to give aid to the new president, and was chosen for this office while Mr. More was elected president. Other officers are F. C. Darling for second vice president, Otto J. Hoos for treasurer and S. T. H. Knight secretary.

When the Chamber of Commerce was organized the membership was about forty. Now there are 130 business firms who have membership. Mr. Courtney leaves office with a substantial balance in the treasury and with the organization in every way upon a firm footing. During the nine years the chamber has been organized no assessment has ever been levied upon the members although the dues are only four' dollars a year. To Mr. Courtney is due the credit for the location of the Kayser mill in Walton and the construction of the company's fine plant here. The matter of support of the rest room was taken up at Friday's meeting and it was voted to appropriate \$15 a month for this purpose.

Hon. A. W. North explained the reunion of Californian collegians to

1923 WAS GOOD YEAR FOR TREASURER SHAW

Transfer Tax Fees Amounted to \$3,334 Besides Other Compensation Received

County Treasurer A. B. Shaw of Hamden received \$2,697.37 in transfer tax fees in the months of October, November and December, according to his report to the state tax department. In the first nine months of the year he received \$6 87.62 fees, making a total of, \$3,384.99 for the year.

Mr. Shaw's total compensation in 1923 was about \$5,500, the other items beside the transfer tax fees being \$1,400 salary, and fees on the state tax and on the court fund amounting to about \$800.

In the fall of 1922 the Reporter pointed out that -the attorney general's office had ruled that the treasurer could not legally retain any fees while receiving a salary from the county. The Republican majority on the board of supervisors caused the matter to be laid over until the November, 1923, session at the time the question was brought up in-February. At the November session the treasurer's salary was fixed at \$2,750, the resolution on the matter stating that the board had been advised that it had no authority to legislate as to the disposition of the transfer tax fees although another recent opinion of the attorney general holds that these must be paid over to the county. Had the "board complied with the attorney general's ruling on the law when the question first came up, the fees on transfer taxes, better known as inheritance taxes, retained by Mr. Shaw in 1923 would have been paid over

to the county. In the neighboring county of Schoharie the treasurer has also been retaining the fees while paid a fixed salary. Assemblyman Fake of that county has bills before the legislature to legalize salary payments to the treasurer in the past while he was retaining fees and to protect the present treasurer who has been in office a year, in the payment of a salary while retaining fees. The Cobleskill Times of recent date has this to say regarding the introduction of the bills:

"To legalize, ratify and confirm the action of the board of supervisors of Schoharie county heretofore taken, in granting and allowing to the county treasurer a stated salary for his services in addition to the -fees, Mr. Fake has introduced .two bills, one seeking to adjust the matter of former treasurers and the other in relation to compensation of the present official.

"The opinion of the attorney general given to Mr. Fake, is to the effect that the supervisors must fix the salary of the county treasurer at a definite 'sum and that supervisors cannot legislate to allow fees in addition.

"To protect the acts of past treasurers, who have innocently and in good faith received a salary and fees, Mr. Fake has introduced a bill, and to protect the present treasurer he has introduced a twin bill.

"After 1925 the office will have to be on a straight salary basis. The present salary is \$500 and the fees run from \$5 to \$900."

ease. The family are staying in the Benedict house nearby.

WAR INJURIES CAUSE DEATH

Marvin Cook, Former Sidney Center Boy, Dies in Hospital.

(From Sidney Center correspondent.)

Sidney Center friends of Marvin Cook were very much grieved to hear of his death in a Brooklyn hospital on Sunday, January 26th. The funeral was held in Unadilla on Tuesday, Rev. G. M. Case officiating. The body was brought to Sidney Center and placed in the vault and later will, be buried in the Cook family plot. Mr. Cook was born in Sidney Center over 30 years ago. He' was the son of Gideon and Margaret Cook. He enlisted in the World War and while over seas was gassed and never recovered from its effects. He has been a great sufferer in the hospital for many months. He is survived by his widow and one son, of Unadilla a sister, Miss Elizabeth Cook, who teaches on Long Island; a brother, Eugene Cook, of Greenfield, Mass.

SECRETARY HOOVER MAY VISIT WALTON

One of California Collegians Invited to Reunion in Walton Next June

In June, 1894, Arthur W. North, then a nineteen year old lad about to enter his senior year at the University of California, rode into the Yosemite valley' with three friends, recent graduates. Henshaw of Harvard, Mastick of Oberlin and Richardson of Michigan. North was track captain of his varsity team and in the valley met two of his Stanford university rivals, Archie Rice, yell leader, and Herbert Hoover, treasurer of the athletic association. Presently Rice and North evolved the idea of a college campfire to be held by the latter's camp. The call for the gathering was signed by the two young men and five older collegians, the eminent geologist, Prof. Le Conte, heading the names. The affair was a great success with seventy-five from various colleges in attendance.

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ated North. The two then decided to call a thirty year reunion to be held June 21, next, at Walton, under North's hemlocks, inviting thereto the survivors of the seventy-five, together with old time California and Stanford alumni from classes up to 1904, residing in the east. Of Rice's personal party Hoover, of world-wide fame, is in Washington, and Gilliam, a well known citizen of Atlanta. Mastick, of North's party, is senator from Westchester county, and Richardson, a noted professor in California.

For the occasion Rice plans to connect Walton by wireless relays with California and to put on Yosemite and university pictures in the town hall, making the reunion spectacular.

The Walton Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis club at meetings Friday evening adopted resolutions extending an invitation of welcome to the collegians.

The Chamber of Commerce resolution, to which the Kiwanis resolution is similar, reads as follows:

"Whereas the Walton Chamber of Commerce has learned through the New York press and our townsman, Hon. A. W. North, that he, a graduate of the University of California, and Archie B. Rice of New York, Stanford '9 5, as the surviving signers to a call for an intercollegiate campfire staged in the Yosemite valley June 21, 1894, have selected Walton as the place for the thirty year reunion of the survivors of that early assemblage and the gathering of the eastern alumni of the Universities of California and of Stanford, many of them now men and women of international note;

"And whereas Walton with its comfortable homes, fine schools and splendid library has ever sought to maintain its high standards of home living, hospitality, of culture and of education;

"Therefore, be it resolved by the Walton Chamber of Commerce that we extend a hearty welcome to the old time collegians and that we place our fine new town hall at their disposal and that we do authorize our committee this day appointed to formulate these resolutions and co-operate in every way with our prospective visitors, making their coming enjoyable and memorable."

TEAM BROKE THROUGH ICE

East Branch Horses Rescued From the River

(From East Branch correspondent.)

Winter arrived at last, the thermometer registering- eleven below zero both Sunday and Monday mornings. The river froze entirely across Sunday night, that being the first time this year. When the ice went out a few weeks ago it was only about four inches thick and did not extend clear across. Ice harvesting began Tuesday morning, C. W. Peak's truck and men from Peakville being the first to start operations. Others followed and soon there was a lot of nice looking nine-inch cakes to be seen. J. S. Hubbell had cut a large number and had driven on for his second load after dinner and had it practically 'loaded when suddenly the ice began to Crack and bulge, opening up and swallowing both team and sleighs. By quick action the horses were loosed by Wallace Ellsworth and gotten out, only to break through a second time when they endeavored to draw the sleighs out. It was quite a battle, but the men succeeded a second time in getting them out uninjured. They were taken at once and exercised, rubbed down, blanketed and given a hot stimulant, exercised again and then made comfortable for the night. Wednesday morning they were as well as ever and on the job again, but nobody attempts to drive on the river since then. One reason for their breaking through was that in trying to a'void another team he drove too near to where a spring empties into the river and the ice was only about four inches thick it was afterward discovered. However, it has all been condemned as unsafe and loading is being done from the shore.