

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter - Saturday, February 23, 1924

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

COURTNEY IS NOMINATED

Other Village Nominations—Alcohol in Radiator Caught Afire—Boy Burglars on Parole.

The appeal of the executors of the will of Daniel Munn from the verdict granted Miss Kathryn Robinson in her action against the estate for services was argued before the court of appeals this week. The Walton water case will also be argued in a few days.

Rufus Dumond, executor of the estate of his wife, Maria Dumond, has sold the Chronicle building, Delaware street, to John H. Roof, who conducts the poolroom on Gardiner Place. Possession will be given March first. The sale was made through the agency of C. G. Robinson.

H. V. Wood, auditor of the state tax department, will be at Walton Hall, March 20, 21 and 22, to assist taxpayers in making out their state income tax returns. R. Morrow, deputy collector of internal revenue, will be at the Walton postoffice today, Friday, to help with the federal forms.

A certificate of incorporation of Clinton E. Wood, Inc., was filed in the Broome county clerk's office in Binghamton, Friday. This firm is to do an undertaking and furniture business in Windsor village. The capitalization is placed at \$25,000, consisting of 250 shares of \$100 par value. The incorporators and directors are Clinton E. Wood of Windsor, Julius E. and Georgie M. Wood of Walton.

Three highwaymen held up one of Breakstone Brothers' motor trucks loaded with 300 tubs of cheese valued at \$9,000 at Eighth avenue and 12th street, New York city Tuesday. An automobile drew alongside the truck and three men with revolvers forced the driver to enter the touring car. He was driven about the city for an hour and then turned loose. The truck was later found abandoned on East 44th street but the cheese was gone. Breakstone Brothers operate creameries in Walton and Downsville.

Judge McNaught admitted to probate the will of William H. Bushnell, late of Walton, at the term of surrogate's court held in Walton Tuesday. Objections which had previously been made to the will were withdrawn. The will gives the wife, Mrs. Hannah Bushnell, a life use of the property. At her death \$50 is bequeathed to Mrs. May Rockwell, \$50 to Mrs. Agnes Depuy, \$100 to Vernon France and the house and furniture together with the residue of the estate to Harry France. The estimate is \$1,200 personal and \$2,000 real.

The latter part of the week Officer Stidd and O. & W. Detective Wagner took into custody Claud Lewis, aged 20 years, and Burr Jackson, 19 years old, in connection with the robbery of Martin Smith's restaurant in the O. & W. depot a few days previous. The boys were taken before Justice J. M. Peake and Lewis admitted the crime, stating that the theft was planned by Jackson. Both entered pleas of guilty and were released on parole for a year. They must report to Chief Stidd once a month and make restitution to Mr. Smith.

A commission in lunacy composed of Dr. E. Ray Gladstone and Dr. C. S. Gould examined W. H. Merritt one day last week. The matter was returnable before Justice Kellogg in Oneonta Saturday at which time an order of commitment was granted. Mr. Merritt, who has conducted the White House cafe, Delaware street, between Parsons' market and the

Hoos bakery, sold the business to Herbert Gransbury and left town on Sunday. An attendant from the Binghamton hospital arrived Monday only to find his man gone.

At the union caucus held in the court room of Walton hall Wednesday evening the present village officials whose terms expire were renominated with one exception. H. M. Barnhart declined to be a candidate for trustee and Otto J. Hoos was nominated in his place. Other nominations are as follows: President A. J. Courtney; trustee. J. J. Farrell; treasurer, J. C. McClelland; collector, Mrs. Letha Palmatier. Joseph Gannon and Edmund More were named the caucus committee for next year. About forty were present, including nine women. W. G. Moore acted as chairman and Harry McCabe as secretary of the meeting.

Henry Flynn was painfully burned about the face Saturday evening by alcohol flames coming from the radiator of a Ford sedan. He had gone to the garage in the rear of the home of his parents. Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Flynn, to draw the water out of the radiator of the car as the alcohol mixture was getting low. He found that the water was apparently frozen at the bottom of the radiator and started up the engine to thaw this out. After starting the engine he unscrewed the radiator cap and as he did so the cap was blown against his head and alcohol flames shot up into his face. The radiator was all in flames but Flynn managed to smother the fire with a blanket. He was able to make his way to the house where he fainted. Dr. Gould was called and dressed the burns. The sight will not be affected. It is thought a spark from the engine ignited the alcohol vapor as Mr. Flynn was not smoking and did not strike a match.

\$95,000 ERROR IN TAXES

Act of Legislature Necessary to Legalize Levy

MAKE A REBATE LATER

Amount of State Tax Twice Included in Levy—Collectors' Warrants Held Valid.

Taxes are high. The ten thousand or more persons on the assessment rolls in Delaware county have been kicking at the increase over last year's rates. They have asked why this increase?

Now the secret is out. A duplication of \$95,156.05 in the tax rolls through an error of the clerk of the board of supervisors, which the county treasurer did not discover until a few weeks ago, has been the cause not only of the high tax rates in the town but has occasioned numerous conferences of Republican county officials and party leaders in an effort to find a way out of the mixup.

Legal advice given by County Attorney S. H. Fancher, District Attorney A. L. O'Connor, and others consulted before and after the matter was made public has differed and for a time the officials were at sea as to how to legalize the levy.

The error was made by including in the county tax the Sum of \$95,156.05, the total of the state, armory, court and stenographers' taxes, which were also levied against the several towns as separate items. In Walton alone the error increased by some \$10,000 the amount of the tax levy.

The error first became generally known last week when the board of supervisors met in Delhi Monday for the regular quarterly session. County Treasurer Shaw wished to be protected in the handling of the excess money coming to his office and the supervisors adopted a resolution presented by Mr. Stephens of Masonville authorizing the treasurer to place the excess \$95,000 in a special interest bearing account to await the straightening out of the muddle.

As Mr. O'Connor and others

CHANCE TO MAKE GOOD GIVEN AVIATOR ROWE

Former Sidney Man Pleads Guilty to Setting Fire for Insurance

Basil Rowe, Binghamton aviator, pleaded guilty before Supreme Court Justice Leon C. Rhodes in Binghamton the latter part of the week to an indictment charging arson, second degree.

Justice Rhodes pointed out the seriousness of the crime, the extreme penalty of which is 25 years in prison. He finally said that he would suspend the passing sentence pending the good behavior of the defendant.

"Any time during the next 25 years you can be brought back to Binghamton and sentenced to prison for your crime," said Justice Rhodes.

Rowe pleaded guilty to having set fire to an airplane shed on upper Front street, north of DeForest street on the morning of Nov. 27.

held the position that the error invalidated the entire tax levy it was planned after the supervisors' meeting to call in the town clerk's copy of the assessment roll in each town, correct it, collect the remaining taxes at the new rate and get an act of the legislature legalizing the excess levy and providing for a rebate.

Acting on this course Mr. Marvin and Mr. Fancher, assisted by employees of the First National bank of Walton and others worked on the rolls from Friday until Monday. A call for a special meeting of the supervisors for Monday afternoon was issued. The correction was figured on the same rate for each town, about 26 cents on a \$100 assessed valuation. Consideration was not given the fact that each town assesses on a different percentage to real valuation and that the correction should be different for each town. By Monday noon the rolls for all but two of the towns had been figured. Then it was the light dawned that a second error had been made in figuring the correction at the same rate for each town.

The supervisors were summoned for 4 o'clock Monday afternoon. It was nearly 9 o'clock before the meeting was called to order by Chairman Evans and the following resolution, introduced by Supervisor Carpenter of Walton, was adopted:

"Whereas, in the computation of the amount of taxes levied on the tax rolls of the various towns of Delaware county for the year 1923 an error appears to have been made, and

"Whereas, it is desirable that such error should be corrected on such rolls, be it

"Resolved, that the chairman and clerk be and they are hereby directed and authorized to cause such rolls to be corrected and annex warrants thereto properly showing the correct amounts levied and to be raised from the taxable property of the various towns of said county, and be it

"Further resolved, that the county treasurer be and he is hereby directed to make such refunds as may be proper when duly authorized by law, and be it

"Further resolved, that the senator from this district and the member of assembly from this county, be and they are hereby requested to immediately secure the enactment of such legislation as will carry into effect the purposes of this resolution and in all respects legalize and validate such tax rolls and the acts thereunder in general conformity to chapter 259 of the laws of 1916, correcting the similar error in the county of Rensselaer in so far as the same shall apply, and be it

"Further resolved, that the clerk of the board is hereby directed to forthwith transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Hon. Arthur F. Bouton, senator for this district, and Hon. Ralph H. Loomis, member of assembly."

Correcting the error involves considerable expense. An extra meeting of the supervisors was

made necessary for which the members receive mileage. The assessment rolls were forwarded by the town clerks by first class mail, the total postage amounting to a considerable sum. Then there will be the postage and other expenses involved in making the refund.

The only persons to profit by the error are the tax collectors. It is understood that they will be permitted usual fees on the excess collected, which at one per cent would be \$950, while some taxes will be collected at five per cent.

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STRUCK BY FREIGHT TRAIN

Unkown Man Imbided Too Freely From Bottle.

(Cooks Falls correspondent.)

An unidentified man narrowly escaped being killed at Cooks Falls by an O. & W. northbound freight train about 2:30 o'clock Monday afternoon.

Residents in the houses across the river noticed a man evidently intoxicated stagger up the railroad track nearly as far as the Treyz railroad bridge. Then he stopped as if to take his bearings then turned and retraced his steps, halting at intervals to imbibe from a bottle. He continued reeling forward and falling until just about the place where the wreck occurred Nov. 29, 1922, the freight train struck him and knocked him over on the other track. The train stopped and a trainman assisted him to the Cooks Falls station, apparently uninjured by the accident. There he slept sitting up, until the station was closed for the night. The man was about 40 years of age and had sandy hair and a florid complexion. He wore a black, judge shaped cap, and a long, black overcoat.

SEIZE BOOTLEG AUTO LEFT AT COOKS FALLS

Forty 5-Gallon Cans of Alcohol Are Found Stored in Packard Twin-Six

(Cooks Falls correspondent.)

Federal prohibition agents were at Cooks Falls Tuesday at the request of Justice of the Peace A. P. Cook and Rev. E. G. Wahl, to investigate a suspected bootlegger's car that broke down Sunday near Mr. Thomas Lindsay's residence at Horton. The Federal officers found in the Packard twin-six about 40 five-gallon cans of alcohol.

The young chauffeur of the car, a swarthy fellow, about 22 years old, abruptly left the Lindsay home where he had been staying at 5:30 p. m., under pretext of going to Horton to telegraph his employer after Mr. Cook and Mr. Wahl had seen the car and Mr. Cook had ordered nothing removed from the premises, as the car had been placed in the Lindsay yard.

That evening at 9:30 the minister and Mr. Cook hurried to Lindsay's upon hearing two men in a strange car were inquiring for the car with a broken front axle. Deputy Sheriff William Steenrod had been notified and had gone to guard the car and its contents.

An hour later Mrs. Wahl at the parsonage received an anonymous telephone call to watch the night-line at Roscoe if interested in the broken down car, but she had no means to communicate with her husband and as he did not reach home until nearly midnight the driver of the car got away.

Garage men repaired the car temporarily, as the axle the men brought from Elmira, the destination of the car, did not fit that model Packard. The federal men plan to drive the car under its own power with its contents to Albany.

The chauffeur made regular runs between New York city and Elmira, he told Mr. Wahl, who had noticed the car in town after the church service before it broke down and suspected it as a bootlegger's car from the peculiar covered boxes in the back. When Mr. Wahl heard it had broken down he notified the justice of the peace and they got busy at once.

JEALOUSY AND DRINK CAUSE OF SHOOTING

Man Injured by Charge of Shot Fired From Gun of His Guest

An attempt upon the life of Herbert Miller of the town of Summit, Schoharie county, was made Saturday evening by Harvey Demming, who fired a shotgun at Miller while standing outside a window of the farm house.

Demming is now a prisoner in the county jail-at Schoharie to await the outcome of Miller's injuries. Most of his life has been spent in the vicinity of Milford Center, Otsego county, and he has also worked at West Oneonta and at Meridale, Delaware county, it is stated.

Miller said Demming came to his home Thursday to visit the housekeeper, Minerva Wellman, and remained over night as Miller's guest. Saturday Demming picked up a shotgun and left the house, saying he was going to get a fox that had been stealing chickens. Miller bent over the stove to fix the fire and was struck by the shot fired through the window. He went to the door and called to Demming but could not see him. He then telephoned for a doctor, but said the wire suddenly broke, as if some one had cut.

Police said they found Demming walking along the road near the Miller farm and arrested him. He was taken to the Westover House at Richmondville and while there he went to the toilet and cut his throat from ear to ear but fortunately did not sever the jugular vein. Demming is a man about 50 years old, and apparently mentally deficient.

Roy Miller of Summit has been placed under arrest on a charge of possessing liquor and selling it to Demming, who spent most of the day Saturday at Miller's home. Drunkenness and jealousy caused Demming's act.

Demming worked some as a farm hand, but preferred idleness and worked only when a supply of liquor could be secured in no other way. The woman, Minerva Wellman, who was the housekeeper for Miller and the woman Demming went to the house to see, is the widow of the late Jacob Wellman. It is quite well established that Demming at one time lived on Crumhorn mountain near Oneonta and Mrs. Wellman was his housekeeper at that time.

NINE PRISONERS IN JAIL.

(From Delhi correspondent.)

There are now nine prisoners in the Delhi jail, three awaiting the action of the grand jury, the others serving 30 and 60 day sentences.