

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1922

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

\$1 CONSCIENCE MONEY

Body Taken to New York— Fire Department Officers— Street Wages, \$2.50— Move Express Office.

Saturday, April 15, is the last day for filing state income tax blanks.

White's orchestra of Scranton, Pa., has been engaged for the Easter ball of Company I, 10th Infantry, N. Y. N. G., on Thursday evening, Apr. 20.

Bids are being advertised for the sale of the \$100,000 town highway bond issue. The town board at a recent meeting fixed the interest rate at not to exceed five per cent.

Andrew E. Engert has bought of Augustus Graby the Mack Hill property at Beerston. Mr. Engert will erect a building 20 by 30 feet in dimensions and two stories high, and will conduct a store at Beerston.

L. D. McClenon has bought the George W. Patterson farm, Marvin Hollow, adjoining his own place on the east side of the highway. The Patterson farm is 150 acres, which will give Mr. McClenon a total of 300 acres. He will work both farms.

Clarence L. Snyder had his right knee badly sprained the forepart of the week in a peculiar accident. His horse had gotten down in a stall in the barn at the rear of Cetta Bros. Store and in trying to help the animal up Snyder was thrown down and caught under the horse.

Dan Beardsley, who is employed by the Beerston Acetate company at Close hollow near Colchester Station, had his left arm broken between the wrist and elbow one day this week when kicked by a horse which he was hitching up. Dr. Smith reduced the fracture

The office of the American Railway Express company will be moved May 1 from the Launt block, Delaware street, to the O. & W. depot at West End. R. S. Blything, who formerly conducted a second-hand store in the Lyon block, corner of Delaware & North street, will open a similar business in the Launt block about May 1.

The village board at its meeting Monday fixed the wage to be paid for labor on the village streets at \$2.50, for an eight hour day. The board also authorized the printing and distribution in public places of cards giving the various fire districts as trouble has been experienced through failure to give the district number in sending fire alarms to the central office.

James M. Knapp, secretary of the Walton fair association, on Tuesday received a letter from a Binghamton man enclosing a \$1 bill. The letter stated that 35 years ago the writer went into the fair grounds without paying. "Twenty-two years ago," the letter continues, "God forgave me my sins and I have thought of that different times, but neglected to attend to it, but now I am sending you \$1 to pay the price of admission; also ask your forgiveness for same."

A. E. Woollett was elected chief of the Walton fire department at the annual meeting Wednesday evening. The other officers chosen are as follows:

First assistant chief, George Winsor; second assistant, J. C. Burrhus; secretary, G. M. Carpenter; treasurer, Joseph Gannon. A donation of \$50 was voted to the Walton band for uniforms. Earlier in the evening the members of Alert Hose company, No. 2, enjoyed a roast pork supper at the Royal cafe with the members of the village board and the firemen's board as guests of the company.

The fishermen who took a look out of the window at the snow on the hills Saturday morning and then went back to bed for a catnap proved the wise ones. The weather prospect discouraged most anglers but a few ventured out with indifferent success, the catches running small. Ray Braze got eleven, while others reported catches running from six or eight down, mostly down. The cold weather and high streams caused by snow water running into the brooks continued several days but several good catches were reported Wednesday. Sears Brown got a basket nearly full that day and A. E. Woollett landed fourteen.

Woo Kan Lang, or William Woo, the man who was burned by a gasoline explosion in the Gardiner Place laundry last Thursday afternoon, March 30, died about 9 o'clock that night. First aid was rendered by Drs. Holley and W. R. Gladstone and a bed was made up in the rear of C. W. Murray's store from the Red Cross loan chest. Everything possible to alleviate the man's suffering was done under the direction of Miss Mildred Mathewson, public health nurse, who took charge of the case, but the burns were so serious that death came a few hours after the accident. The body was taken to New York city Saturday accompanied by Harry Sing who sold the laundry business to Woo, a cousin. It is understood that Woo, who was 28 years of age, has a wife and child living in China. The laundry business has been bought by Lee Hong. There seems little doubt that Woo was filling the tank of the ironing machine from a gallon can of gasoline and that the flame in the iron exploded the gas fumes.

IN DELAWARE COUNTY

Minor Happenings in the Nineteen Towns

ENDS LIFE WITH BULLET

Hancock Legion Plans Building—Paid Outside Workmen More—Sidney's Oldest Resident Dead.

Wages on the highways in the town of Colchester, this season, will be \$2.50 per day, it is reported.

W. A. Ostrander has been appointed trustee of Andes village to fill the vacancy caused by no election.

John L. Ferguson, aged 93 years, Sidney's oldest resident, died Saturday, Mar. 25. He was a Civil war veteran.

Ground was broken this week for the foundation for Fred Arnold's cement and brick garage on Last Front street, Hancock.

Tweedie Brothers of Walton have commenced the construction of the concrete garage of G. S. Hotchkin & Son on Main street, Andes.

The village board of Delhi has appointed Clayton Carpenter street commissioner. Heretofore this has been an elective office and it has been held by W. I. Decker for a number of years.

Rev. George N. Makely, moderator of Otsego Presbytery, presided at the installation of Rev. William Tatlock as pastor of the Colchester Presbyterian church at Downsville last Tuesday evening.

To start a fund for the purpose of building a suitable structure in which to hold meetings and social gatherings is a plan arrived at during a recent meeting of Hancock post, No. 284, American Legion.

There was a strike at the big Takanassee at Fleischmanns on Tuesday last. Local carpenters struck when some New York city workmen were imported at a higher rate of wages than the local men received.

The United States civil service commission has announced an examination to be held at Deposit on Saturday, May 13, to fill the position of rural carrier at Deposit and vacancies that may later occur on rural routes from the post office.

In the prize speaking contest at the Hobart high school Tuesday evening, Mar. 25, the prizes were awarded as follows: First for boys, James Van Buren; boys' second, Herbert Raeder; girls' first, Ethelyn Wilkins; girls' second, Dorothy Martin.

Roy Tompkins, who was instantly killed in an automobile accident at Middletown, Sunday, Mar. 19, as mentioned in the Reporter recently, was a resident of Kelsey for a short time last summer, having lived with his brother, W. W. Tompkins, on the Hathaway farm.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Genaway of Manlone, N. Y., have announced the marriage of Miss Marian M. Whyman, teacher of English at Delaware academy, Delhi, to Sherman S. Shields of Downsville. Mr. and Mrs. Shields will begin house-keeping in Downsville about July 1. Their marriage took place last December.

Robert, the four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Sherwood of Sidney, was thrown under the automobile of Dr. Loomis Tuesday and one wheel ran over his leg. The lad had been sitting on the running board of the machine and when the doctor started the car the boy was thrown off. His leg was bruised but he was otherwise uninjured.

Ralph W. Harrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Harrison of Maplewood, N. J., and well known in Stamford, where he has passed several summer seasons as a guest at Ivanhurst and the Westholm, committed suicide Sunday night about 10:30 at his home in that suburban town by shooting himself with a revolver. Mr. Harrison was 31 years of age and besides his parents is survived by several brothers and sisters.

W. T. Scutt and a force of carpenters are at work on a new building at Oquaga Lake for R. J. Scott, on the site of one recently burned. The building will contain a large kitchen, dining room, lobby and sixteen sleeping rooms. Mr. Scott intends to have this building completed and ready for use this season. During the summer he will erect a large new summer hotel with all modern improvements and conveniences.

U. & D. ENGINE DERAILED

One Locomotive Over Bank in Wreck on Kortright Mountain.

(Special to Reporter.)

On Monday freight and milk traffic on the Ulster and Delaware railroad was considerably disrupted and passenger movement but slightly delayed by a wreck about 9 o'clock a.m., on Kortright Mountain, two miles east of East Meredith, when two light engines coupled together, backing down the mountain, left the track and one of the locomotives went down the bank.

This engine suffered considerable damage especially to its tank, which lay down the bank, turned over and completely around, with the engine resting on one end of it. This they say prevented the engine from turning over and possibly killing or

seriously injuring the crew. No one was injured in this unfortunate but lucky spill. The rear engine left the rails but did not get off the ties nor did the couplings part between them which is another element that helped prevent the leading engine from going farther.

The engines were taking a coal train east and were returning for the other half of their train when the wreck occurred.

They were not running fast at the time and the tank left the rails when the brake was being released. Just what was the cause has not been determined but investigation of the track behind the wreck showed a mark on a rail which appeared as if the wheel had mounted it and rode on its flange for some distance before leaving the rail. The wrecking crane was soon there from Rondout but it was late at night when the track was clear.

Passengers and light express and mail were transferred.

Memories of Sixty Years Ago.

Topeka, Kansas, Mar. 23, 1922. Editor Reporter:

My wife and I do love to receive the Reporter on Monday morning. It gets here at that time quite regularly. We attended a 4th of July celebration in Walton in 1862 and that doesn't look so far back, but when one looks ahead it is some time to think about. We think that the Reporter gets us lots of news from old Delaware, and expect to continue receiving it as long as we live.

STEWART M. YOUNG.

UNVEIL BURROUGHS TABLET ON BOYHOOD ROCK NEAR GRAVE

(Stamford-Roxbury cor.)

Monday was the anniversary of the birth and burial of John Burroughs, and several hundred people gathered in the afternoon at Boyhood Rock in memorial field on the Burroughs homestead farm near Roxbury to pay tribute to the memory of "John O' Birds." Schools at Roxbury were dismissed and the pupils attended in a body, while friends and relatives from far and near also congregated to participate in the exercises. The soft, slushy "sap snow" made the roads a mass of mud and water and the walking was difficult, but many hiked up from the village for the occasion.

The boyhood rock faces the east and is a few feet from the head of the grave of the dean of American nature writers, and the bronze memorial tablet is affixed to this, following the counter of the rock. The design, by C. S. Paolo, is very fitting and is a bas-relief copy of "The Summit of the Years," depicting the naturalist on boyhood rock, with a background of trees, the dates of birth and death, 1837-1921, the autographed signature, "John Burroughs" and under this appears a two line quotation from his poem, "Waiting":

"I stand amid the eternal ways And what is mine shall know my face."

Snow and ice lay underfoot, a north wind blew over the shoulder of the mountain, but the sky was blue and every head was bared as John and Ursula, grandchildren of John Burroughs, drew aside the curtain of violets and pussy willows which hid the beautiful bronze tablet.

In the silence which followed Poultney Bigelow read a few dedicatory words. He in turn was followed by a number of other interesting speakers. Dr. Clyde Fisher of the U. S. Biological survey department; W. Ormiston Roy of Toronto, Canada, who is the landscape architect in charge of the grounds and who read a little tribute from Scotland; Miss Hinman, a near neighbor and

friend of Mr. Burroughs from West Park; Mr. and Mrs. W. Shay, who spent many summers at Woodchuck Lodge, and finally Dr. Clara Barrus, physician and secretary to Mr. Burroughs for a number of years, who read a short and touching poem, "April Comes."

Roxbury residents were represented by Counsellor Ralph S. Ives who read a few words of his own composing and by Mrs. Elizabeth S. Patterson, who will soon celebrate her 80th birthday and who knew Mr. Burroughs well in his early youth. Mrs. Patterson's short poem, composed by herself, summed up the inspiration and life of the naturalist in a most appealing way.

At the conclusion of the services, flowers from throughout the United States and many sections of the British Empire were scattered over the grave. Many school children sent offerings of flowers, some from the old haunts of the naturalist about Washington and West Park. Flowers from the grave of Walt Whitman added an impressive touch to the scene.

As had been desired, only wild flowers were sent. Hepaticas, trailing arbutus, ground pine, California poppies, grapes from LaJolla, where he spent last winter, violets and many other flowers covered the soft snow on the grave. A few yards away the spring had melted the snow and its course stood out distinctly in a fresh green of grass and moss. The ironwood tree beside the rock was putting out new signs of life, and there was little to remind one of death throughout the exercises.

Among the prominent people in attendance were Dr. W. G. Crump of New York, first vice president of the association which plans to perpetuate the memory and haunts of John Burroughs; Julian Burroughs and family, he being the only child of John Burroughs. Many relatives were present and were photographed in a group by Dr. Fisher of the American Museum of Natural History at the conclusion of the services.

While much speculation has been rife as to the motives of the association and especially of Henry Ford, who recently purchased the Burroughs homestead farm, the Reporter representative was informed by W. Ormiston Roy of Montreal, who will have complete charge of the memorial park work, that nothing definite is as yet decided upon. Henry Ford was unable to get to Roxbury for the unveiling and the planned dedication of the Burroughs homestead farm was accordingly postponed.

Had the roads been in better condition there would, undoubtedly, have been a much larger number present, as so interesting an event seldom takes place in this vicinity. Many thanks are due to Supt. John Lutz, who saw to it that trucks were provided to carry people across the meadows and muddy road at the top of the hill.

START ON ANDES HIGHWAY

Contractor Rosoff Expects to Complete Road This Season.

(From Margaretville cor.)

Work on the Andes-Margaretville state road began Monday, April 2, and will be finished during the season. The Italians have arrived and are housed in their shack near Dunraven. Owing to weather conditions the work will be delayed for a time.

Fined for Killing Doe.

Agents of the conservation commission have collected \$200 from a party of sportsmen for illegally killing a doe on the lands of one of Sullivan county's private clubs during the deer season last fall.