

# LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,  
SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1922

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

**What We Are Talking  
About at the County Hub**

## BUSINESS MEN BANQUET

**An Enterprising  
Greenhouse—Prize Speaking  
Winners—Kneeled on Pin—  
Woods Afire.**

The killing of frogs between Mar. 13 and July 1 is prohibited by the state conservation law.

Seventeen cans of trout fry from the federal hatchery at Cape Vincent, N. Y., were received in Walton last Thursday evening and were distributed in upper Third Brook.

While Mrs. Clarence Payne was fitting a dress for Miss Katherine Patterson Monday she kneeled on a rug and in so doing ran a pin into her knee joint. The pin penetrated the joint nearly its entire length and caused a painful injury. Dr. W. G. Smith attended Mrs. Payne.

C. G. DuMond has received a shipment of 20,000 Scotch pine and 30,000 Norway spruce trees from the state conservation commission for planting on his farm at Northfield. This shipment will make a total of 165,000 trees which Mr. DuMond has used for reforestation on his farm.

R. W. Smith will open his electrical shop on Delaware street, adjoining Courtney's store, on Saturday of this week. Mr. Smith recently bought the building from Mrs. Elizabeth Flynn and has fitted up the interior. He will carry a complete line of electrical supplies and radio apparatus.

The seventh annual banquet of the Walton Chamber of Commerce will be held Wednesday evening, Apr. 26, at 6:30 o'clock. A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held at Walton hall this, Friday, evening to perfect plans. Mayor George R. Lunn of Schenectady and J. J. Byard of Cooperstown will give addresses and a third speaker will also be secured for the evening. One of the features of the entertainment will be a radiophone concert in charge of R. W. Smith. The event promises to be the most successful of any yet held.

The Ontario & Western railroad will run a Masonic special to Utica on Saturday, Apr. 22, for the dedication of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial hospital, erected in that city by the Masonic fraternity at a cost of one million dollars. The special train runs from Middletown and leaves Walton at 8:50 a. m. The return special leaves Utica at 6 p. m. The round trip fare from Walton is \$3.50. Hoffman lodge Masonic band of Middletown will furnish music on both the going and return trip. A number of Walton Masons are planning to attend the dedication ceremonies.

A forest fire believed to have been caused by a spark from the locomotive on the noon train on the Delhi branch burned over about fifty acres of woodland on the farm of W. T. Ward, Colchester station, Monday afternoon. The fire started back of the George Jennings place and burned over the top of the hill. A force of O. & W. section men and farmers in the vicinity fought the flames until 3:30 o'clock. The damage is difficult to estimate. Most of the growth on the hillside was small and Mr. Ward believes that most of this has been killed and that the larger trees are injured.

The prize speaking contest in Walton hall Tuesday eve-

ning drew a large attendance. The contest was one of the best held by the Walton high school in recent years and the judges found a difficult task in deciding upon the winners. First prize for the boys was awarded to Joseph Knox, whose selection was "The Spirit of the South" by Henry W. Grady. Miss Irma Frazier won the first prize for the girls with "Pickwick in the Wrong Bedroom" from Dickens. The second prizes went to Robert Ells and Beulah Young. The prizes were \$10 and \$5 respectively for first and second places and were donated by members of the board of education. The other contestants were Harold Miller, John Rutz, Lena Abbott and Katherine Patterson. Prof. H. B. Townsend had charge of the training of the boys and the Misses Gertrude Nichols and Janie Launt of the girls.

The flower shop of the Neal Floral company was opened this week. The shop is approached by a driveway from East Street and occupies the first floor of the concrete building recently erected. Large plate glass windows give opportunity for an excellent display and the interior is a veritable bower of flowers. Handsome wicker furniture provides a resting place for customers while their orders are being filled. In one corner of the shop an office has been screened off. Cold storage rooms are provided at the rear and underneath the shop while on the second floor a work room is provided. Some idea of the business done by the company may be secured from the fact that for the Easter season 4,000 lilies, 8,000 daffodils and 6,000 tulips have been grown with smaller quantities of other flowers. From 400 to 700 carnations are picked daily and a large wholesale business has been developed by the company. Everything in the floral line is grown except roses. Mr. Neal is planning additional improvements to his property but his present equipment is equal to that in any village the size of Walton in New York state and much better than that in many of the cities.

## FIREMAN 48 YEARS IS MR. GANNON'S RECORD

**Walton Man's Service  
May Be Longest in the State**

## FORMER FIRE FIGHTING

**Water Pumped by  
Engine From River or  
Wells to Fight Flames—  
First Organization in 1849.**

Considerable publicity has been given in the county papers recently as to who is the oldest volunteer fireman in point of actual years of service. S. D. Oliver of Andes has been an active fireman for forty-five years and Patrick Meehan, who joined the Delhi fire department in 1875, has forty-seven years continuous service to his credit. Both of these records are broken by Joseph Gannon of Walton, who in June will round out forty-eight years of service as a volunteer fireman in Walton.

Mr. Gannon's family moved to Walton in 1872 and two years later in June, 1874, he became a member of the Indiana Hose company. Walton's first fire fighting organization, the Eagle Fire company, was organized in February, 1849, with George Smith as foreman. The first fire apparatus was a hand engine of diminutive size. The machine had to have the water poured into it from pails. When used at a fire a line of villagers was formed to the river or brooks and pails passed along and emptied into the box. This engine cost about \$300 and although a modest looking arrangement was effective. It was Walton's only fire apparatus until 1865, but after the purchase of the pump engine

sufficient storage room for the Eagle engine was not available in the barn at the rear of Prof. Strong Comstock's residence on Townsend street, now the home of Dr. W. R. Gladstone, which was used for storing the fire apparatus, and the machine was left outdoors where it gradually rotted away.

In 1865 the Eagle engine was replaced with a more modern pump engine, which was in use on various occasions until destroyed in the burning of the village hall in 1912. This engine was originally used in Indianapolis, Indiana, which had exchanged it for a steam engine. The manufacturer in whose possession it came failed and the machine was seized on an execution and sold to Walton for \$700. When this engine was purchased the old Eagle Fire company passed out of existence and was succeeded by the Indiana Engine Co., No. 1. Several large wells were dug in various parts of the village not easily accessible to the river or brooks and from these water could be pumped in case of fire. Wells for this purpose were located on the present site of Burns' store on the location of the Smith livery barn, lower Liberty street, at the Methodist church on North street, as well as at other points. The Indiana engine was operated by long side levers. The company numbered sixty members and each was assigned his place on the apparatus. The engine could throw water over the M. E. church steeple. It was in use on occasions of big fires when water was accessible from the river or brooks until destroyed in the burning of the village hall a few years ago.

In the early days it was customary to have a company drill every two weeks or oftener and these drills were the occasion for much enthusiasm. Just below the present East brook bridge on Delaware street there was a forway across the brook near the Walton House barn. On one occasion the Indiana company had been at drill on upper North street and brought the engine down town on a run. In making the turn into Delaware street a wide sweep was taken and in executing this movement Mr. Gannon in some way lost his hold on the engine and an instant later landed in the brook. Incidents of this kind were of frequent occurrence and the wet drills of the fire department after the water works was in operation were the scenes of many a lively fight between the various hose companies. Leather hose was used exclusively for many years.

With the building of the water works in the seventies the Indiana Engine company was reorganized as the Defiance Hose company with a membership of thirty, and still later the name was changed to Morrow Hose Company, No. 1, the present designation.

Mr. Gannon has served as chief of the Walton fire department for fourteen terms and at various times has been elected secretary and treasurer of the department. It is doubtful whether his record of service can be excelled either in the county or state. Certainly there are few men who have given more of time and effort to the upbuilding of their home volunteer fire department organization than Mr. Gannon.

## STORM CAUSES FIRE IN HOBART STATION

**Electricity Follows  
Telegraph Wires and Ignites  
Woodwork in Agent's Office**

Electricity which followed the telegraph wires into the Ulster & Delaware station at Hobart during the thunder storm early Saturday morning caused damage estimated at \$800 in the west end of the building which was occupied as an office by Agent Fred More.

The fire originated in a corner between the ticket window and

the bay window on the track side of the buildings, where the telegraph wires enter, and spread rapidly. The blaze was discovered by Clyde Hurley, an employee of the Sheffield By-Products company, who was passing the station on his way to work at about 4:30 o'clock. He ran to the fire department building and turned in an alarm, the department responding quickly. When Hurley returned to the station the entire interior of the office was ablaze, a kerosene lamp hanging on the wall across the office having been exploded by the heat, spread oil over office furniture and express packages and added to the fury of the blaze.

All of the office furniture, railroad tickets and records were destroyed. Included in the express matter burned was a box of linen, two crates of eggs, automobile tires, a vacuum cleaner and a movie film. The contents of the office safe came through the flames in good condition.

Western Union linemen arrived later in the morning and re-established telegraph facilities. Officials of the U. & D. also inspected the damage.

The east end of the building in which is located the waiting room, was damaged only slightly. The two rooms are divided by a partition, ceiled on both sides, and this acted as an effective barrier to the flames, which were quickly extinguished on the arrival of the Hobart fire depart. The damage to the building is estimated at about \$800 and is covered by insurance. Considerable express matter in the office was destroyed, or badly damaged.

## NEW LAW PROVIDES CHILDREN'S COURTS

**Original Jurisdiction Taken  
from Justices and Placed  
with the County Judge**

A bill signed Monday by Governor Miller will provide an increase of salary of \$500 for the county judges in practically all counties with a population of 50,000 or less with larger sums in counties with a greater population. The bill is one creating a children's court in each county and the county judge is made the judge of this court in each county in which the county judge and the board of supervisors certify that he is able to discharge the duties of the office.

Supporters of the measure state that it establishes children's courts in accordance with a constitutional amendment approved by the people at the election last November. The proposed courts begin to function November 1. All cases in which children are involved, including nonsupport matters, will come before the children's court without bringing them first before justices of the peace.

Appeals from the final decision or judgment of the county judge go direct to the appellate division, except in cases where an order has been made for non-support, when an appeal can be made to the supreme court within 30 days.

The salary of the county judge was \$3,000 while Judge Raymond was in office. It is understood that this has been increased to \$3,500 and the additional salary will bring this to \$4,000.

## RECOVERS MISSING JEWELS

**Madame Galli-Curci's  
Valuables Found Beneath Tree.**

Jewels valued at \$45,000, reported stolen from Madame Galli-Curci, noted opera singer, at San Juan Capistrano, California, last Thursday were returned to the singer the following day.

Mme. Galli-Curci, who owns a summer home at Fleischmanns, Delaware county, was traveling by motor from Los Angeles to San Diego, accompanied by her husband, Homer Samuels and her maid and stopped at San

Juan Capistrano for lunch. Mme. Galli-Curci reported to the police that two girls left with a jewel case which had been left by the singer's maid in a cafe rest room. Friday Mr. Samuels announced that the jewels were found by automobile expressman beneath a tree by the side of the highway and had been returned to the owner.

## 33 HOUSES TAX EXEMPT

**Exemption Ordinance  
Stimulated Construction**

## SHOULD FILE AFFIDAVITS

**Village and School District  
Adopted Resolutions but Town  
did not Act on Matter.**

The board of education of school district No. 1, Walton, on July 2, 1921, adopted a resolution to exempt from taxation to the extent of \$3,500 for one-family houses and \$4,500 for two-family houses for a period of ten years or until Jan. 1, 1932, all new dwellings provided construction was completed since April 1, 1920, or if not so completed that construction commenced before April 1, 1922, and completion for occupancy was effected within two years after such commencement.

Up to April 5th affidavits for the exemption of twenty-five houses have been filed with the board. It is known that there are several other houses on which construction has begun upon which the affidavits have not been filed, and this should be attended to at once. The houses exempted to the amount of \$3,500 are as follows: Olney Smith, 142 High street and 79 Marvin avenue; A. E. Conner, North street; Mrs. Henry Conner, two houses on Terrace avenue; Cyrus W. Conner, Stockton avenue; Mrs. A. W. Pine, west side of Griswold street; H. M. Robinson, Stockton avenue; H. M. Barnhart, North street; Ray Brazee, Griswold street; Mrs. Mary Cable, North street; Ralph G. Clark, east side of Fancher avenue; Mrs. Vera Darling, two houses east side of Griswold street; W. S. Holley, two houses on Union and North streets; Robert L. Lindsay, Griswold street, Fred B. Lyon, 21 Union street; Mrs. I. D. Smith, lower Townsend; Mrs. Emma Mason, Stockton avenue; Mrs. Horace North, Stockton avenue; Gottlieb Moser, Quarry street; Harry Ryder, Fancher avenue; Mrs. Katie Wakeman, Fancher avenue; Frank L. Wright, Howell street.

Others who have started construction but have not filed the affidavits are: C. B. Scott, Liberty street; Ernest Vail (Smith house), Benton avenue; F. C. Darling, Griswold street; Dr. J. A. Holley, two houses, North street; W. R. Hall, Griswold street; Harrison Edwards, Stockton avenue! H. J. DeNio, Marvin avenue, and possibly others.

The village of Walton adopted a similar resolution and although the village boundaries take in a few houses outside the school district there are no new dwellings within the requirements in addition to those in the smaller unit.

## Corporal Schermerhorn Cited.

At a ceremony held in the state armory in Binghamton Friday evening at which Major Charles G. Blakeslee decorated twelve members of Battery C, 104th Field Artillery, for bravery in action, Major Blakeslee announced that Corporal Fred R. Schermerhorn of Hancock, a member of the battery, will receive a citation and a conspicuous service cross from the state of New York for exceptional bravery on Sept. 9, 1918, when in charge of four men he went out under a heavy artillery fire and personally repaired telephone lines. Corporal Schermerhorn is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Schermerhorn of Walton.