

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1922

THE WEEK IN WALTON

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

THIS YEAR'S TAX IS \$9.64

**Sneak Thieves Busy—
Enjoy Band Concerts—
Heavy Rainfall—Fell and
Broke Ribs.**

Rev. John Rutherford has accepted a call to become pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian church at Almonte, Ontario, Canada. Rev. and Mrs. Rutherford left for that place Tuesday.

A. G. Babcock has traded his house at 87 Liberty street, Walton, with E. L. Lathan for the Ely Jester farm of 258 acres located between Mundale, and Treadwell. Twenty cows and three horses go with the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Thomson, Townsend street, have issued invitations to the marriage of their daughter, Miss Hildred Thomson, to Dr. Grant Palmer Pennoyer, on Tuesday morning, June 20, at 9:30 o'clock.

The Walton fire department at a special meeting Wednesday evening voted not to accept the invitation to attend the dedication of the Sidney state police barracks on July 4th as Walton is planning a celebration at home on that day.

Rev. Milward W. Riker of Henderson, Kentucky, conducted services in Christ Episcopal church Sunday and has accepted a call to become rector. He will move to Walton some time in July. Mr. Riker was at one time rector of the Chapel of the Intercession in Trinity parish, New York.

Joseph Beckwith met with a serious injury late Tuesday afternoon when leaving one of the new houses Dr. J. A. Holley is building on lower North street. Mr. Beckwith had been doing some lathing and on crossing the porch to leave for home stepped on a board which had not been nailed down. As the board tipped Mr. Beckwith was thrown violently against a two-by-four timber, striking across his stomach. One of the lower ribs was fractured on each side and Mr. Beckwith suffered severely from the shock of the accident.

Sneak thieves have been busy in Walton and on Saturday night the refrigerators in a number of homes were rifled of food. Among the places visited were the homes of P. E. Spring, Joseph Schaufler, E. D. Baker, John S. Lakin, J. J. Flynn, Fred Haverly, F. C. Darling and H. D. Henderson. At the Schaufler house the meat bought for Sunday dinner was stolen. President Courtney has offered a reward of \$25 for evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of sneak thieves. Householders noticing prowlers about are asked to call the telephone central who will notify the police.

The village tax rate this year will be \$9.64 on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This rate compares with \$8.56 in 1921, and \$9.44 in 1920. This year an additional \$2,500 is raised for the principal of the highway bond issue and \$2,803 for interest on the same. The total assessed valuation of property in Walton village is \$2,992,000. Notices of the amounts due on frontage tax were sent out this week. On Delaware street abutting property owners pay 40 per cent of the cost of constructing one-half of the highway in front of their premises and on the other streets affected 20 per cent of the cost of one half the highway.

Woodburn Brothers are building an addition 20 by 32 feet in dimensions on the rear of the building at the corner of Liberty and Delaware streets. When completed the addition will be used by them for their marble works. The partition will be removed between their present work room and the store room on the west side of the building now occupied by Sherwood's shoe store and the Sherwood store will make use of the additional room by vacating the part of the building next to Liberty street. The store vacated will be enlarged by the addition of the Woodburn Brothers' present show room and will be rented to some business firm.

Nearly one thousand persons gathered on Delaware street Wednesday evening to listen to the concert by the Walton band. The bleachers used by Company F for basketball games were carried over through courtesy of the guardsmen and a number of chairs were rented from the two furniture stores. A section of Delaware street was roped off and block dancing enjoyed by those who wished. A collection of \$22.40 was taken to pay the cost of securing the chairs and other incidental expenses. Concerts will be given each Wednesday, weather permitting, but hereafter will be held somewhat later in order not to conflict with the prayer meetings.

During the storms Sunday 1.52 inches of rain fell according to the records of J. Q. Barlow, local observer. The precipitation during the first twelve days of June was 5.05 inches compared to 3.05 inches for the entire month of May. The high wind accompanying the storms Sunday caused some damage to trees and crops in the vicinity of Walton. A falling limb broke two windows in the house of Mrs. J. Rothensies, Gardiner Place. Cold weather followed the storm and Tuesday morning the thermometer registered 37 degrees or 4 degrees above the freezing point. On some of the uplands a slight frost was reported, but no damage was done.

TWO AUTOS BURNED WITH GALLEY BARN

**Fire Destroys Liberty Street
Building Saturday Night**

FARM TOOLS DESTROYED

**Flames Believed to Have
Originated From Short
Circuit in Car Driven Into
Barn Few Minutes Before.**

Two automobiles were burned Saturday night at 11 o'clock when fire practically destroyed the barn in the rear of Thomas M. Galley's house on Liberty street. The total loss is estimated at more than \$1,500.

Mr. Galley had driven his Ford touring car into the barn about 10:30 o'clock and had closed the building for the night. About fifteen minutes later he went out to shut up some chicks kept in a brooder house and in so doing passed within a few feet of the barn. At that time he noticed no signs of fire.

Fifteen minutes later flames were breaking out from all parts of the barn and the bright light called the attention of several families in the neighborhood to the fire. Mr. Galley was the first one to send in the alarm.

Nothing was saved from the burning building. Mr. Galley rushed out and opened the barn door but instantly the flames shot out and he was driven back. Just as he opened the door he heard an explosion, doubtless caused by the gasoline tank of his car blowing up. The firemen were quickly on the scene and while the flames were checked and the shell of the building saved the loss is almost complete.

The night was unusually still with hardly a breeze stirring and this fact kept the nearby houses from being endangered. The barn was close to the line and within three feet of the burning building was a hen house owned by James Loos. The hen house had a tin roof and did not catch fire. The roof of a wood shed on the Loos property was ignited but this structure was saved. On the north of the barn are several fine fruit trees and the pear tree nearest the building is so badly scorched that it will probably die.

Mr. Galley's Ford car was purchased six months ago. In the barn also was a 1915 model Maxwell car owned by Edwin Hotchkiss. Mr. Galley carried \$500 insurance on the barn and \$450 on the car through the agency of S. H. Pond. He had stored in the barn a large quantity of farm implements the value of which he estimates at \$300. These were not covered by insurance and it would cost \$800 at least to replace the barn.

The origin of the fire is unknown but is believed to have started from a short circuit in the automobile.

JURY FAILED TO AGREE

**No Verdict in McArthur
Action Against Davenport**

ROAD WAS UNFENDERED

**Town Alleged Accident
Was Due to Inexperience
of Driver—June Court
Closed Tuesday.**

(From Delhi cor.)

During the session of the June term of supreme court last week matters moved very slowly, as no cases seemed ready for trial until near the close of the week when things began to move and from Thursday afternoon of last week until court adjourned Tuesday afternoon of this week a lot of work was accomplished.

The negligence case of Hotchkiss vs. Kelly, which was on trial last Thursday, resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff of \$300. The controversy arose over a collision of automobiles near Arkville.

Promptly, when court convened on Monday forenoon, the case of Alexander McArthur vs. Town of Davenport was called. This was the most important case coming before the court this term and attracted the most attention of the public. This controversy came from the fact that on June 24th, 1920, when Mr. McArthur was on his way to church at East Davenport, driving a Chalmers car, he went off the road and over an embankment that had a fall from the highway of 58 feet in 100. The car turned over and over in its descent down this bank for a distance of 66 feet. Mrs. McArthur and three small children were occupants of the car besides Mr. McArthur. The children escaped without injury, Mrs. McArthur received more or less severe injuries and for some days Mr. McArthur's life was despaired of. During the trial medical testimony was introduced which would seem to indicate that some of the injuries McArthur sustained would be permanent.

The accident happened on what is locally known as high point road, connecting the back road from East Davenport to Davenport Center with the state road which runs down the Charlotte valley through the Davenports. The main contention of the plaintiff was that the town was negligent in that it had not constructed a barrier along that portion of the highway where his car left the road as he was trying to pass a car coming down the grade at which point and time the accident took place. The beaten track of the highway at this point was 10 feet and 4 inches wide with a shoulder of 6 or 8 inches on the embankment side.

One of the points dwelt upon by the defense was the fact that this was a 45 horsepower car and that as McArthur had had it but three weeks and had had no experience in driving other cars he was a green driver. Before the trial commenced

an agreement was reached, as to the amount of money McArthur had expended as a result of the accident, which amount was nearly \$900, and it was agreed that in case a verdict was obtained by the plaintiff this sum should be added to whatever other amount was recovered.

Quite a number of witnesses were sworn on both sides, the defense having a few the most. Dr. Craig of Davenport, McArthur's family physician, and Dr. J. C. Smith of Oneonta were called by the plaintiff to testify as to the injuries he had suffered. Dr. George L. Hubbell of Stamford and Dr. Ormiston of Delhi, who had recently examined Mr. McArthur, were called by the town. There was no great disagreement as to the injuries plaintiff had suffered in the testimony of the physicians. Supervisor Ralph Taber, Town Clerk W. H. Roberts, Justice of the Peace Dayton, all of the town of Davenport, were called as witnesses by the town as defendant. It was a snappy, rapid-fire trial from beginning to end as conducted by Charles C. Flaesch of Unadilla for the prosecution and Charles R. O'Connor of New York city for the town. Not so with the jury as after they had been out for six hours they reported to the judge that they were unable to agree. Justice McCann asked any members of the jury who thought there was a possibility of an agreement if sent back to their room to hold up their right hand; not a hand was raised and the jury was then discharged. The evidence was all presented and both sides rested Monday evening at six o'clock, when court adjourned until nine o'clock Tuesday morning, at which time the summing up took place. Although at an early hour the court room was well filled by persons anxious to hear the two seasoned trial lawyers discuss the case. Each spoke for about 45 minutes and both sides had good reason to congratulate their attorneys on their efforts.

It was reported that the jury stood 7 to 5 for no cause of action on the first ballot and the same on the last ballot.

During the summing up of the Davenport case another jury was drawn to try the case of Cortland Cart and Carriage company vs. Eugene A. Hopkins of Cortland. This case was founded on a contract between the carriage company and Hopkins, who had acted as a sales agent for the Hatfield automobile manufactured by the company. The plaintiff claimed \$1,178.66 due them under the contract and the defendant presented counterclaims of discounts and rebates which he had allowed customers to offset the claim. Considerable interest was manifested in this case by the public, not so much on account of the parties to the action or the amount involved, but on account of the eminent counsel appearing, ex-senator, Harvey D. Hinman, of Binghamton for the carriage company and Senator Clayton R. Lusk, of Cortland for the defense. This case like the Davenport one move a rapidly to a finish and the case was given to the jury about the middle of the afternoon. The judge instructed the jury to return a sealed verdict, adjourned court and judge and lawyers were soon on their way to their respective homes. Early in the evening the jury returned the sealed verdict which was opened by the county clerk and was found to be a verdict of \$178.66 for the Cortland Cart and Carriage company instead of the \$1,178.66 claimed.

PROMISE ROADS SOON

**Commissioner Sisson
Declares They Will Be
Included in July Letting.**

No highways in Delaware or any of the adjoining counties are included in the advertisements of the state department for lettings on Friday, June 30th. Bids on nine highways are asked.

Assurance has been given by Commissioner Sisson, however, that both parts of the Deposit-Rock Rift highway and the

Hobart-Bloomville road will be included in the next letting, bids for which will be opened in July. Through the efforts of Congressman Clarke the federal government has abandoned its contention as to the Bloomville crossing on the Hobart-Bloomville road.

CAR GOES OVER BANK NEARLY INTO RIVER

**Plunges Through Guard Rail
at Approach to Susquehanna
Bridge at Sidney**

A Dodge touring car occupied by Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Wilcox and Mr. and Mrs. Percy Niles of East Masonville broke through the guard rail on the northerly side of the Susquehanna river bridge at Sidney Saturday morning and went down the 25-foot embankment, overturning twice in its descent and landing bottom side up close to the river bank with the four passengers beneath it.

Eyewitnesses to the accident rushed to the assistance of the four people fearing to find that some of them were killed or badly injured. It was found that one of the doors had opened while the car was overturning and that Mrs. Nelson was pinned down by it, the door resting upon her neck.

The car was quickly lifted and the occupants freed and it was found that none of them were injured seriously. Mrs. Wilcox sustained a gash on the forehead which, with some slight bruises and abrasions of the skin, were the only injuries any of them sustained.

Mr. Niles was driving the car and when he attempted to turn from the bridge to the left and take the road to Bainbridge the steering gear caught and held fast so that the car turned into the guard rail. Although the machine was moving at a slow rate of speed it broke down the guard rail and went over the bank.

Mrs. Niles is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox and the four were starting on a trip down the valley. With the aid of a truck the Dodge was hauled back to the highway. The damage to the car will not amount to over \$100.

STOLE GIRL'S BICYCLE

**Binghamton Lad Sent
to Industrial School by
Tompkins Justice.**

(From Cannonsville cor.)

Last Tuesday Edna Peaslee left her bicycle on the school grounds at Cannonsville. When the session was closed the wheel was missing. Suspicion pointed to Russell Kettle whose home is in Binghamton, as he had been seen around the school building. Officer Wheaton of Deposit was telephoned to and when the boy reached the covered bridge at that village he was stopped by Mr. Wheaton, who turned the lad and wheel over to Officer Cuyle of Cannonsville. The latter constable brought the culprit before Justice W. G. Pomeroy. The lad, who is about 12 or 13 years old, was placed in charge of Humane Officer Koerbel of Binghamton, who took him to the Rochester industrial school. The boy seems to have a mania for a wheel. This is the second one he has taken without consulting the owner.

SENTENCED AS WIFE DIES

**Clarence Bennett Sent to
Reformatory on Bigamy Charge.**

(From Delhi correspondent.)

Clarence C. Bennett, indicted by a Delaware grand jury some two or three years ago, but who was only recently apprehended, went before Judge McNaught in Delhi on Monday last and pleaded guilty to bigamy and was sentenced to Elmira reformatory under the rules of that institution. His age, which was under 30, saved him from a state prison sentence. On the same day he received his sentence he received word that his first wife had just died in a Pennsylvania hospital. The couple have four small children. His second wife is a resident of Walton.