

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1922

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About
at the County Hub

TO OPEN NEW REST ROOM

Officers Elected—
War Pensions Increased—
Thaw and Rain Bring
Relief—Other Notes.

Fred R. Lyon has purchased the interest of his brothers, John T. and George Lyon, in the furniture and undertaking business of Frank G. Lyon & Son and will conduct the business under his own name.

The rain and thaw of the past few days have served to relieve in part the lowness of streams and springs. Hill farms in many instances have been handicapped during the past month by the failure of springs as the rainfall has been far below normal.

Between four and five hundred children under the age of fourteen years enjoyed the free motion picture show given to them in the Majestic theatre on the afternoon of Christmas day by the twenty-two Walton men who belong to the Elks. Each of the children was also given a bag of candy and either a squaker or a balloon.

Willowemoc Chapter No. 304, Order of the Eastern Star, elected the following officers Tuesday evening: Matron, Mrs. Alice DuMond; patron, C. B. Lincoln; associate matron, Mrs. Anna Darling; conductress, Mrs. Winifred Mace; associate conductress, Mrs. Rosella Kingsbury; treasurer, Mrs. Gussie More; secretary, Mrs. Bessie Benedict; trustee, Mrs. Emma Kinch.

The collection at the "white gift" service in the Congregational church Sunday evening amounted to \$426.82. Of this sum \$216.97 was from the young people's club, representing the amount earned during the fall months, which is to be distributed among the various church mission boards. The balance goes to the Near East Relief, African Famine fund the Board of Ministerial relief, and for local needs.

Delegates from six American Legion posts in Delaware county met in Walton Wednesday to elect a county commander in place of Linn Bruce, Jr., of Andes, who recently resigned the position. Dr. R. H. Loomis of Sidney, who was first vice commander, was elected commander. J. C. Burrhus of Walton and Raymond Forester of Hancock, former second and third vice commanders, were promoted to first and second vice commanders, respectively. The vacancy of third vice commander was not filled.

Acting upon numerous requests made to him President A. J. Courtney recently wrote to the Eastern Theatre Managers' Association and Klaw & Erlanger in New York to see if there was any possibility of securing a concert by Harry Lauder in Walton Hall. In replying to Mr. Courtney's letter C. O. Tennis of the Theatre Managers' Association writes that there is not a chance in the world of securing the famous singer even if every seat in the house was sold at \$3 as he has refused to visit Johnson City under a \$2,500 guarantee.

Congress recently passed the Bursum pension bill increasing the pensions of Civil war veterans, regardless of the extent of disability, from \$50 to \$72 the month, and of widows from \$30 to \$50 the month. Veterans or widows now receiving pensions will be given the increase with their next pay checks without application,

The act also makes eligible for pensions certain Civil war widows who previously have not been eligible. Any woman who was married to a Civil war veteran before June 27, 1915, or was married to him after that date and lived with him continuously for at least two years prior to his death, is also entitled to a pension.

The success and popularity of the Montague Light Opera company, which will be heard in Walton hall on the Lyceum course Friday evening, Jan. 12, is said to be largely due to two reasons. One reason is that the program is unhackneyed, the numbers being especially arranged or written for the company. The other is that it is not an organization with a star and a supporting company, but in this company each of the four members is equally good. Their programs feature light opera in costume but, as the city newspaper critics have pointed out each member of the company is capable of giving a strictly recital program. The Montague company is touring from coast to coast under the management of the well-known Redpath bureau.

The formal opening of the new rest rooms over Fundas' candy store will be held Friday, Jan. 5. A special program of entertainment, consisting of music and readings, has been prepared for both afternoon and evening, between the hours of 2:30 p. m. and 6 p. m., and 7:30 p. m. and 10 p. m. Refreshments will be served both afternoon and evening. The public is urged to visit the new rooms at the formal opening. The rest room committee offer three prizes of \$3, \$2 and \$1, respectively, for the best posters illustrating the use of the rest room. The competition is open to 7th and 8th grade pupils of the community schools and students of Walton high school. The contest closes Wednesday, Jan. 3. Further information regarding the contest may be obtained from Miss Janie Launt or Kaveda Holmes.

MORE LIGHT NEEDED ON TREASURER'S PAY

Supervisors Table
McGranaghan Request
for Report

WHY SEEK TO CONCEAL?

Office Should be Placed
at Once on Salary Basis in
View of Attorney General's
Recent Opinions.

The Republican majority of the board of supervisors in the closing hours of the December session last Thursday tabled a resolution introduced by Supervisor McGranaghan of Hancock to the effect that County Treasurer A. B. Shaw be requested to file with the clerk of the board on or before the 15th day of January, 1923, a statement of the fees collected by him and retained as part of his compensation for the years 1921 and 1922.

This action followed the adoption of a motion by Supervisor Marvin of Delhi that the matter of the treasurer's salary be referred to the committee on county salaries which should report at the next meeting of the board. The McGranaghan resolution was tabled on motion of Mr. Marvin. No roll call was taken, Chairman W. G. Moore of Walton calling for the ayes and noes and ruling that the ayes had carried. The six Democratic supervisors and a number of Republican members, it is stated, voted for the McGranaghan resolution, which would make public at once the fees collected by the treasurer during the past two years. The Marvin motion may serve to keep the real facts in the matter hidden for a time.

Editor Wyer of the Delhi Express attempts without success to uphold the salary and fee basis for the county treasurer. He does not

deny that a report of the treasurer's fees during the past five years will show that the treasurer has received an average in fees and salary of over \$4,000, and that in the last two years Treasurer Shaw has received considerably over \$3,000 annually. During the twelve years that the late Henry S. Graham was county treasurer he also had active charge of his large hardware business and attended to his duties of treasurer without a clerk. The Express states that "the treasurer spends more time at his desk than any other county officer." This would be fine if it were only so but if true Sheriff Arbuckle or County Clerk Turnbull are not giving their official duties the proper attention. Practically the only new duty placed upon Treasurer Shaw which Mr. Graham did not have has been the handling of the funds under the court aid highway system. The board supervisors in December, 1921, after Mr. Shaw had been in office a year, voted for the first time to give the county treasurer \$500 for clerk hire when the treasurer called the committee's attention to this extra work. Apparently the board did not take the trouble to ascertain if the treasurer was not receiving in fees an amount which made it proper for him to pay for any extra help.

Perhaps Wyer believes that Miss Louise Gleason, who is Mr. Shaw's assistant, does not care for more than the little extra work added by the county aid system, but if so he is alone in his belief.

In Broome county Treasurer Walker F. Sherwood receives a salary of \$2,500 and has one assistant. The work of the Broome county office is practically double that of the Delaware county treasurer, but on the average the Broome office more than pays for its administration in the fees turned over to the county.

The arrangement by which the county treasurer is paid \$1,400 salary and "fees allowed by law" has been held illegal by the attorney general's office in opinions rendered in 1912 and 1918. In the latter opinion, written by the late George A. Fisher of Delhi, then a deputy attorney general, it was held in a similar case in Yates county that the treasurer could only receive the straight salary of \$700 fixed by the supervisors and that all fees must be turned over to the county. It was further held that the treasurer must serve out his term of office with no further compensation than the \$700 annually.

If the supervisors wish further light on the legality of the salary and fees arrangement an opinion may be secured from the attorney general's office. In view of previous opinions and the fact there has been no change in the law Mr. Shaw would be apt to find himself serving the last year of his term of office on a salary of \$1,400 and no fees if the terms of such an opinion were carried out.

The supervisors should end the present arrangement whereby the treasurer may receive in one year from a single inheritance tax fee an amount equal to the salaries of the county clerk, sheriff and district attorney, as happened three years ago. The present arrangement whereby the treasurer is paid both a salary and fees should be terminated at once and the office placed on a salaried basis. In view of the opinions as to the illegality of a county treasurer retaining any fees while paid a salary, the change should be made without delay.

RECOVER STOLEN BONDS

Eleven Men Are Held by
the Chicago Police

TAKEN FROM ANDES BANK

Prisoners Held Ten Days to
Permit Preparation of Papers
for Their Prosecution.

(From Delhi cor.)
Last Saturday evening Sheriff

M. E. Arbuckle received a telegram and since then two others from Michael Hughes, chief detective of the Chicago police force. These telegrams state in substance that the Chicago police have in custody eleven men who had in their possession Liberty bonds evidently stolen from the First National bank of Andes, Delaware county.

The bonds are registered and are as follows: One bond of \$1,000 issued to Andrew Gibbs; one \$1,000 bond issued to G. Gibbs; two \$500 issued to James Taylor; one \$1,000 issued to Walter A. Ostrander. The telegram stated that the prisoners would not talk or disclose disposition of other bonds and certificates stolen from Andes bank. All are charged with receiving stolen property and as prisoners will be held for ten days so necessary papers can be prepared to prosecute them. The men had \$100,000 in securities when arrested.

Sheriff Arbuckle has forwarded to the Chicago authorities a full list of items stolen from the Andes bank.

The Andes bank was robbed on the 16th day of May, 1921, and the robbers secured nothing except the valuables in safe deposit boxes which they rifled. There were about fifty of these boxes and in the aggregate it is stated that they contained more than \$50,000 of securities, mostly Liberty bonds. We have no information as to what legal steps will be taken by the Delaware county authorities in the matter. Presumably this matter will be settled as to the proceedings by the county and district attorney. It would seem more than likely that the matter would be prosecuted in the United States court at Chicago as the robbery was that of a national bank and the prosecution should be made in the federal courts.

John Barry, Albert Wallace, Harold Youngs, Charles Sheehan, Claude Koontz, are the names given by the five men who actually had possession of the bonds.

In June \$6,000 of registered Liberty bonds belonging to the late Mrs. Frances Knapp of Andes were recovered.

BURNED BY BLAZING OIL

Delhi Woman Who
Had Fit While Carrying
Lamp May Die.

(From Delhi cor.)

Mrs. Joseph Hammond of Delhi, who is subject to frequent and sudden epileptic fits, had a distressing and serious accident Christmas night. She was carrying a lighted lamp when without warning a fit of epilepsy came on and she fell, overturning the lamp and spilling the blazing oil over her person. She was terribly burned about the arms and legs. On Tuesday she was taken on a cot to Fox hospital, Oneonta. Mrs. Hammond, with her husband and two little children, a boy and a girl, occupy a small cottage in the rear of the former Salzberg place on upper Main street. Mr. Hammond is employed in the lumber yard of E. W. Youmans. It is stated that the unfortunate woman's chance of recovery is slight.

CHAMBERS CAR TAKES PLUNGE DOWN BANK

Damage to Steering Gear
in Slight Collision Leads to
More Serious Accident

The automobile of Peter Chambers, West brook, went over the bank near the home of W. G. Hanum, upper East brook road, late Tuesday evening. Mrs. Chambers was the only occupant of the car seriously injured.

Mr. and Mrs. Chambers and their children, Francis and Katherine, were returning from Mundale where they had visited

at Joseph Hoyt's. Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Sines, who had also been guests of the Hoyts, were following close behind in another car. Just beyond the culvert over the stream which comes down St. John hollow Wilmot Houck passed the Chambers car in his automobile. Mr. Chambers had been unable to get out of the rut and the Houck machine, which turned out, skidded about in turning back into the road; the rear wheel of the Houck car struck the hub cap on one of the front wheels of the other machine.

The blow must have bent the radius rod of the car. Mr. Chambers started on in low gear, crossed the culvert, and had just thrown the machine into high when it suddenly turned, shot down the bank and over the stone wall and overturned, finally landing upside down. The top was up and the occupants of the car were thrown out.

Young Francis Chambers was the first one to crawl out and his first action was to shut off the motor. The other three were soon freed. Mrs. Chambers was painfully injured about the neck and head and at first it was difficult to tell the extent of her injuries. Dr. W. R. Gladstone was called in attendance. The damage to the car was not extensive, although the top and windshield were broken.

PUNCH BOARDS ILLEGAL

Use of Gambling Devices
Forbidden By 'Penal Code.

The widespread use of punch boards has attracted the attention of the authorities with the result that they have been declared clearly illegal and must go the way of all other lottery devices.

Section 1370 of the Penal Code defines a lottery as follows: "A lottery is a scheme for the distribution of property by chance among persons who have paid or agreed to pay a valuable consideration for the chance, whether called a lottery, raffle, or gift enterprise or by some other name." It can be seen that a punch board comes within the meaning of that section.

TREE FELL ON WOODSMAN

Downsville Farmer Has
Arm Broken Near Wrist.

(From Downsville cor.)

While P. L. Purdy of Downsville was working in the woods near his home a small tree which had been lodged in another fell and struck him on the shoulder. Mr. Purdy was thrown to the ground and the bone between the elbow and wrist was fractured.

DEER FOND OF APPLES.

(From Cooks Falls cor.)

A herd of seven fine deer were seen every day during the past week in Aaron Eckert's orchard on the south side of the Beaverkill looking for apples, many bushels of which were left on the ground last fall. Among them is a large buck which seems to be always on the alert and watching with head erect to guard them against the approach of enemies whom he probably knows may do them harm. Most of the herd are young deer and seem only intent on getting all the apples possible by digging in the snow under the trees. Many people watch them from the Liberty highway.

Their Golden Wedding Day.

(From Margaretville cor.)

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Leyden of Margaretville celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in this village last Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. Leyden came to America from Scotland in 1907.