

# LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,  
SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1923

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About  
at the County Hub

### ARRESTED FOR FORGERY

Telephone Hearing  
Postponed—Truck Hit  
Bicycle—To Open Skating  
Rink—Fined \$5 for Speeding.

Miss Hannah Bray, former instructor of domestic science in the Walton high school, has accepted a similar position in the Central high school, Syracuse, at a salary of \$1,950.

Theris, daughter of President and Mrs. A. J. Courtney, celebrated her eighth birthday Friday by entertaining fifteen of her young friends in the afternoon and at dinner.

Seymour Shackleton of Loomis was operated upon Tuesday by Dr. E. Ray Gladstone, assisted by Dr. C. S. Gould and Dr. W. R. Gladstone, for the relief of an acute case of appendicitis.

The village streets which were not oiled in May were treated this week. It is expected that the tarvia for use on some of the macadam streets will be received and applied next week.

Tuesday morning the Nestle milk truck collided with Henry Puffer's car on the turn by Peter Constable's. Puffer's machine was smashed badly but no one was hurt.—Loomis correspondent.

Samuel DeKay of Corbett was kicked by a horse Sunday and had two ribs fractured. He has been visiting his daughter, Miss Lulu DeKay, in Walton while receiving medical attention from Dr. Smith.

Walton will be furnished with a new form of amusement next week when Henry J. Wilson opens his new skating rink in the Munn building, Delaware street, Tuesday evening, July 17. Special attractions have been arranged for the opening night.

While Mrs. Nelson Storrer of Cleaver was returning from a visit at the home of her father, W. W. Speed, Sunday evening, she slipped on a loose stone and fell, cracking the small bone in her right ankle. Dr. W. G. Smith was called in attendance.

Jack Lambert of Harby street, employed in the Kayser mill, became too boisterous Sunday and was placed in the village lock-up to quiet down. When arraigned before Justice Peake he was fined \$10 on one charge and given a suspended sentence on a second.

Two ball games on the home diamond are scheduled for next week, Oneonta on Tuesday and Edmeston on Thursday. The team plays Oneonta today, Friday, in Edmeston Saturday and Stamford Monday. Wednesday they take on the Philadelphia Black Sox at Unadilla.

The village police have ceased warning speeding motorists and are now making arrests. The first victim was Howard Eaton of Beerston, who contributed five dollars to the village treasury at the direction of Police Justice J. M. Peake, after his arrest on a charge of speeding on Townsend street.

The automobile of James A. Crawford figured in an accident near the James Chambers farm, river road, Sunday afternoon, when the Crawford car and another machine side-wiped in passing. Mrs. B. G. North, one of the occupants of the Walton car, was thrown against the

door of the machine and it is thought one or more of her ribs was cracked.

Chatauqua guarantors are asked to report to the treasurer, A. G. Patterson, Saturday, July 14th. Any person not having their tickets should apply to some one of the guarantors before that date. Several of the guarantors have disposed of all their tickets, but there are a few who still have tickets. It is hoped that all the tickets will be disposed of this week.

Under a stipulation signed by A. E. Conner, representing the village of Walton, John G. More the Walton Chamber of Commerce, and A. G. Patterson the Walton People's Telephone company, Public Service Commissioner Parsons on Wednesday postponed until Oct. 11, at 2 p. m., at Albany, further proceedings in the complaint by Walton and its Chamber of Commerce against proposed increased rates for telephone service in Walton.

The truck driven by Bert Sherwood caught the rear wheel of Basil Stedman's bicycle at the corner of Delaware and Townsend street shortly before 7 o'clock Tuesday morning. Stedman went one way, his wheel another and his lunch pail in a third direction. Stedman was riding westward to the Breakstone creamery, where he works, while the Sherwood truck was turning from Delaware street to go up Townsend. Stedman was not injured.

Charles Lee, who in December passed a forged check of \$75 at Burns' store and on the same day gave Kent Brothers a worthless check for \$25, was arrested Tuesday when he returned to Walton. In the absence of Police Justice J. M. Peake he was brought before Acting Justice E. S. White, and after waiving examination was held for the grand jury. In default of bail Lee was taken to the Delhi jail. Lee signed the name of his brother, John Lee, of Hamden on the check passed at Burns' store. He has been in Pennsylvania since the forgery was committed.

## WALTON MAN KILLED BY ELECTRIC WIRE

Meets Death Clearing Path  
for Steam Shovel

### WIRE SLIPS FROM BROOM

Struck Iron Boom of  
Shovel and Electric Current  
Caused Death of Operator  
Who Was Sitting There.

Clinton Blackman, aged 29 years, who operated the steam shovel on the Walton highway construction work, was killed Friday morning when he came in contact with a live electric light wire while the shovel was being moved from East brook to Kerr's creek.

The shovel work on the East brook road was finished last week and the machine was being taken to its new location. The route followed was the same as that by which the shovel was brought last fall from West brook to East brook. In the course of the morning Blackman had driven the shovel from the Wilson place about a mile up East brook to the corner of North and East streets, where the fatality occurred.

With him at the time were William Gray, who was firing, Philo Dickson, and Nathan Hubbard, who was on the ground. Gray was on top of the cab and Dickson had been standing on the side of the iron boom in front of the machine in order to use a broom to raise up the wires which hung too low for the shovel to pass under.

There were two electric light wires at this point. One, a secondary wire to carry current into the houses, was insulated, while the primary wire carrying the current of 2,200 volts was bare. Dickson found that he could not raise the secondary or larger wire with the broom without letting loose of the other wire. The men suspected that the bare wire might be a live wire, according to the survivors, and had some discussion among themselves on the question. Gray at the inquest Saturday testified that he told the others he would go up on the boom to help Dickson clear the wires, but Blackman started to climb up first. After getting upon the end of the boom Blackman asked Gray for a stick but when the fireman showed him the one he had Blackman laughed and remarked it was too short. Dickson then handed Blackman the broom and the shovel operator pushed the live wire away with the broom so that he could get hold of the covered wire. As he was bringing the covered wire up over the end of the boom the live wire slipped from the broom and came back on the boom, sending the current through Blackman's body. He was probably instantly killed.

Dickson jumped from the boom and by this time Blackman had settled down so that both forearms were on the live wire, which burned through and dropped to the ground. Both Dickson and Gray were somewhat shocked by the electric current. Blackman's body was badly burned about the forearms and lower legs. The accident occurred about 10:30 o'clock, and it was some twenty or thirty minutes later before the body of the unfortunate man was gotten down and removed to the Holmes chapel.

The family have been occupying the tenant house on the Frank Gould farm, West brook road. Friday morning Mrs. Blackman and one of the three children went to Utica to spend the day with relatives. The other two children were staying with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John McGregor, above Mundale. Efforts to locate Mrs. Blackman proved futile and in the evening her parents, Mr. and Mrs. McGregor, went to Sidney on the Mountain Express and met their daughter, who was returning home on the Utica Flyer.

An inquest was held Saturday morning by Dr. E. Ray Gladstone, coroner, who entered a verdict of accidental death. Measurements showed that the live wire was between 18 and 19 feet from the ground.

Clinton Blackman was a man well spoken of by all who knew him. He was a good worker, a pleasant companion, and a man devoted to his family.

The funeral service was held Monday morning at eleven o'clock, Rev. Forrest Edwards, pastor of the M. E. church at Treadwell, officiating, assisted by Rev. A. A. Walker, pastor of the Walton M. E. church. Burial was made in Ouleout Valley cemetery at Franklin.

## FALLING CHANDELIER NEARLY CAUSES PANIC

Cool Headed Sidney  
Center Folks Put Out  
Flames With Their Wraps

(From Sidney Center corr.)

The falling from the ceiling of a lighted hanging kerosene Rochester lamp in Smith's hall, Sidney Center, during the play Tuesday night, came near burning the building and causing loss of life.

The hall is on the second floor of the Smith building and has only one exit. There were about two hundred people at the play, "Brown Eyed Betty," which was given by the Glean-

ers' Sunday school class of the Union church at Masonville. At the beginning of the second act the lighted lamp came down falling into Miss Carrie Roof's lap. Immediately as the flames leaped to the ceiling there was a rush for the stairway. The men who were near the fire, assisted by some of the actors, fought the flames with ladies' coats and wraps. In a short time they succeeded in throwing the burning lamp out of a window. Several people were cut with glass, clothes were soaked with kerosene, wraps were ruined and everyone was badly frightened. Many of the people did not return to the hall. As soon as order was restored the actors took up the interrupted play and finished it with great credit to themselves. The parts were well chosen and the play was clever and very well rendered.

## REMODEL AYER SUMMER HOME TO REPLACE OLD MEREDITH INN

Wilfred W. Fry of Camden, N. J., son-in-law of the late F. W. Ayer, at a recent community gathering at Meredith announced that plans were under consideration for the remodeling of Ayrmont, the large Ayer summer home at Meredith, to transform the building into a new Meredith Inn. This announcement and the building of the Ayer & McKinney creamery at Franklin, now under way, indicate that Mr. Fry plans to continue the interests which Mr. Ayer had in Delaware county.

Meredith Inn was destroyed by fire in March, 1922. While its patronage was largely drawn from Philadelphia and New York, the hospitality of the inn was often enjoyed by Delaware county people. Although accommodations were found last summer for many former guests in the cottages conducted in conjunction with the inn, it was hoped that in time the inn itself would be rebuilt.

Ayrmont is located across the highway from the site of the former inn and when the changes planned by Mr. Fry are carried out the new Meredith Inn will doubtless fully maintain the reputation won by its predecessor.

Work is being pushed on the rebuilding of the creamery of the Franklin Dairy company at Franklin, an Ayer & McKinney property recently destroyed by fire. It will be welcome news to all that under Mr. Fry the Ayer estate will continue the interest shown in Meredith and Delaware county by the late F. W. Ayer.

## BRAKES DIDN'T HOLD ON STEEP HILL ROAD

East Branch Men Are Injured  
When Car Leaves Highway  
and Hits Tree

(East Branch cor.)

Millard Vandemark of East Branch, accompanied by Harris Crane, met with quite a serious automobile accident last Sunday afternoon.

While descending Lakewood hill with his Ford touring car the brakes gave out and the car came dashing down at its own speed, striking a tree at a sharp curve. Both occupants were thrown out and the young son of Vandemark, who was along, jumped just before the crash came. The boy was not injured. Harris had a very bad scalp wound and Vandemark was thought to have suffered internal injuries. The men were hurried to Dr. Bourke's office at Livingston Manor, where some 30 or 40 stitches had to be taken in Crane's scalp. Later both men were brought to their homes and Mr. Vandemark is improving nicely. Harris' condition seems quite serious at present. Dr. Bourke is attending him.

## WORTHY OF THE DEPOT CLUB

Hancock Man Eligible to  
Famous Walton Organization.

Harley A. Williams of Hancock and cousin, Harvey E. Miller of Binghamton, had a thrilling experience.

Saturday last Mr. Williams was crossing one of the islands in the Delaware river, a short distance above Equinunk, carrying his bait-casting rod with a Heddon plug attached. In the partially beaten path he saw a rattlesnake, in fact, was about to plant his foot where it lay, when the reptile coiled and commenced to rattle. As he stepped back, the snake started for the tall grass. Bringing his casting rod into action, on the second attempt he hooked the snake about eight inches from the tail. And then trouble started.

Four feet of rattlesnake, in tall grass on the end of a four-foot rod has more real thrills than a gamey bass that would tip the scales to four or five pounds. Fearing his tackle would give way, and unable to reach a stick or stone, Williams called to his cousin. Mr. Miller always "picks" a gun, and among those who frequent the North Woods, is considered no mean shot with revolver or rifle. Parting the tall grass with a stick, he drew a bead on the reptile, his first shot severing the head from the body. In it's final struggle the snake pulled the three hooks, with which it was fastened, from the plug.

It measured four feet and sported ten rattles. Just as a "memento of the occasion," they later removed the skin, which Mr. Miller is proudly displaying in Binghamton.—Hancock Herald.

## HIGH PRICED CHICKENS

Cannonsville Boys Pay  
Dearly For Stolen Fowls.

(From Cannonsville corr.)

Sometime ago Joseph Peaslee of Cannonsville missed a number of fowls from his henery. Mr. Peaslee said but little about his loss but kept a watch out and facts developed that a chicken roast was held the night the fowls were stolen. The owner procured sufficient evidence to have a number of boys arrested and brought before Justice L. E. Kipp. They were fined and had to pay Mr. Peaslee \$3 apiece for the chickens. The justice informed the boys that if they came before him again they would be punished to the full extent of the law.

## An Ill-Fated Family.

The death of Clinton Blackman in Walton Friday is the third violent death in the Blackman family during the past six years. At Roscoe six years ago the father was killed by a gasoline explosion. Five years ago another brother, a trainman on the O. & W. Railway, was killed in a wreck in the Middletown yard.

## BURGLARS WERE HUNGRY

Ate Lunch While  
Robbing Roscoe Store.

(From Rockland corr.)

Burglars entered the Bennett-Davis store Monday night. A hole was drilled in the safe but they were evidently frightened away before it was opened. The thieves took some change from the cash register. A can of tomatoes and other edibles had furnished lunch. George E. Davis, formerly of Walton, is a member of the firm of Bennett-Davis.

## Careless Hunter Kills Cow.

(From Delancey corr.)

A valuable cow owned by O. J. Truesdale of Delhi was shot by some careless hunter recently and was so badly wounded that she had to be killed.