

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1923

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About
at the County Hub

FIREMEN ARE KEPT BUSY

Gas, 21 Cents—Munn Estate Appeals—Refuse Milk of Six Dairymen—Ring Nearly Cut Off Finger.

The East brook highway improvement is now open to travel from the corporation line to the junction with the Mountain road.

The annual catalogue of Walton high school has been issued the past week. Copies may be obtained from Principal H. B. Townsend. The school year begins Monday, Sept. 10.

George Jaynes has sold his house, 81 Mead street, to Harland Holley, who occupies the same. Mr. Jaynes plans to go to Chicago later to live with his daughter, Mrs. Arthur Mayham.

The looked for reduction in gasoline price, which has swept the middle west, was reflected locally Thursday when one of the largest garages reduced the selling price from 23 to 21 cents a gallon.

Sheldon Budine driving a Ford touring car turned out too far to pass another machine while driving up Pines brook Saturday night and the Buick car went over a small bank and turned over on its side. Budine and a companion escaped with a bad shaking up.

W. C. Munn of Delhi, executor of the estate of Daniel Munn of Walton, has taken an appeal from the verdict of \$2,200 awarded Miss Katherine Robinson for services as nurse to Mr. Munn. A. F. Curtis of Delhi represents the executor and A. G. Patterson of Walton is attorney for Miss Robinson.

The fire department was called out at 6 o'clock Wednesday morning by the third alarm in two days. Logan Gould, who owns the Dann farm, river road, noticed smoke coming from the cupola of Crawford Brothers' mill and gave the alarm to R. P. Littlejohn. The blaze was caused by the elevator clogging and was extinguished with chemicals.

Almon Beardsley of Marvin hollow was badly banged up as a result of a drunken row at his home Saturday night. Just what happened no one seems to know but Beardsley required the services of a physician and was unable to work for several days. He was hit over the head with some weapon and a small artery cut, causing him to bleed profusely.

An unoccupied tenant house on the farm of Henry Finch, Pines brook, was destroyed by fire Monday afternoon. The Walton fire department responded to an alarm but nothing could be done to save the building which was practically in ruins when the firemen arrived. Mr. Finch was in the village at the time and the cause of the fire is unknown. An insurance of \$200 was carried with the Pond agency.

The Walton People's Telephone company have made arrangements to broadcast the government weather report to their patrons living in the rural districts. At twelve o'clock, noon, as near as possible, one long ring will be given and the operator will first announce the correct time and then give the weather report as received direct by telegraph. The telephone company is giving out this information as

a desire to be of as much service as possible to their patrons.

A number of farmers living on Third brook were recently visited by milk inspectors who came late at night, usually between 9 and 10 o'clock, to look over the premises. Since then some five or six who deliver milk at the Breakstone plant were told when the milk was brought to the creamery that the inspectors had ordered their milk shut out. The dairymen have been unable as yet to learn the cause of the trouble although it is reported that the temperature of the milk may be involved.

When the fire alarm sounded Monday afternoon Herman Cable, who is employed at the O. & W. freight house, hurried to respond to the alarm. In rushing through the doorway a ring on the ring finger of his left hand caught on the catch. Cable kept on going but came near leaving his finger behind. He hung suspended in the air a moment before his weight bent the metal of the catch so that his hand was released. The finger was badly lacerated and the ring had to be cut off. Dr. Morrow dressed the injury.

The Overland car of F. E. Howes of Trout Creek struck and smashed the bicycle of Howard Archer at the corner of Delaware and Bridge streets about one o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Howes was driving east along Delaware street when Archer turned from Bridge into Delaware. Harold Combs was going west on Delaware street on his motorcycle and to avoid a collision with the motorcycle Archer kept toward the center of the street. Howes misjudged Archer's intentions and swung toward the center of the road and the Overland and the bicycle came together. Archer was thrown upon the mudguard of the automobile but escaped injury. The bicycle was wrecked. Archer was on his way to his work as substitute carrier in the Walton post office when the accident occurred.

WALTON GUARDSMEN LEAVE SUNDAY FOR TRAINING CAMP

Company F, Tenth Infantry, will leave Walton on train 5 Saturday night for a two weeks' period of field duty at Peekskill. Three officers and ninety-one enlisted men comprise the Walton unit.

At Sidney the Walton guardsmen will meet the special train from Binghamton with Companies E and H and the headquarters company of that city. In Oneonta Company G will entrain. Major C. T. O'Neill of Walton will take command of the special train in Sidney. The trip will be made by way of Albany and it is expected to reach camp at Peekskill Sunday afternoon.

Company F leaves Walton with a personnel of officers greatly changed from last year. C. T. O'Neill, formerly the commanding officer, has been promoted from captain to major and Howard Archer has been advanced from first lieutenant to captain. Frank W. McCook has been commissioned as first lieutenant and Sylvester W. Flynn as second lieutenant. All the officers are men with considerable military experience. Major O'Neill entered Company F in 1914 as an enlisted man and has worked up through the ranks, serving as first lieutenant in the 106th Infantry during the World War. Captain Archer enlisted in the national guard in 1913 and served in the war as a first lieutenant. Lieutenant McCook has also been in the guard since 1913 and besides service in the World war was on the Mexican border with the New York guard in 1916. Lieutenant Flynn has worked up from the ranks.

The non-commissioned officers of the company are as follows: First sergeant, M. T. Guild;

mess sergeant, J. J. Connelly; supply sergeant, R. L. Wilbur; sergeants, Earl S. St. John, C. T. Smith, G. C. Robinson, H. S. Miller, W. E. Roe, F. A. Combs; corporals, A. E. Oothoudt, company clerk; Leslie Marks, A. D. Bartlett, H. E. Bristol, H. D. Owens, H. B. Eells, C. B. Laidlaw, H. J. McCall.

GHOSTS WERE ONLY SQUIRRELS

But Superstitious City
People Gave up Cottage.

(From Long Eddy corr.)

Some city people who come here are full of superstition. Recently a family came to occupy one of the Waldron cottages. They appeared to be intelligent, but departed on the morning train after sitting up all night listening and trembling with fear to "sounds on the roof." The cottage is near the woods where hickory trees hang over and squirrels are after the nuts, also a heavy dew dropped that night. They stopped at Sloatsburg on their way home and Mrs. Waldron refunded the rent they had paid, though she really was not called upon to do so.

Last week a party came to occupy the Ryan cottage, but they, too, have departed. They heard noises, and some good spirited citizen here told them the house was haunted. There are rats and mice, but there is nothing the matter with the house. Strangers are always afraid they are being cheated and ready to have the people discourage them. It is next to impossible to do business where there is knocking instead of the brotherhood the world so much needs.

HAMDEN FEED STORE DESTROYED BY FIRE

Loss of Building and
Stock Placed at \$20,000

CAUGHT FROM ENGINE

Flames Which Broke
out in Basement Quickly
Envelope Entire Structure—
Rebuild in Concrete.

The feed store at Hamden owned by Crawford Brothers of Walton and operated by Delameter & Company, was burned to the ground late Tuesday afternoon, involving a loss estimated in excess of \$20,000.

Delameter & Company carried an insurance of \$10,000, which it is thought will practically cover the loss of the stock of goods carried. Crawford Brothers place the value of the burned building at \$12,000, while the insurance was only \$6,000.

A. J. Delameter conducts the feed store business. When the fire broke out his son, Charles, and daughter, Florence, were alone in the building. The fire was first discovered by Miss Delameter soon after 4:30 o'clock. She rushed to the door of the office and gave the alarm just as Harold Miller and Victor James of Walton were passing in a motorcycle. The two men had seen the flame shooting out of a cellar window, and when Miss Delameter called to them they rushed inside and helped remove the books from the office. The account books were saved. A cash register in the office and a few other articles were carried to safety. While the door of the safe was closed the men had no time to lock it. Fortunately, there was nothing of much value in the safe. Within a minute or two it was impossible to stay in the office, and the entire structure was soon all in flames.

The fire started in the basement, and is believed to have been caused by the gasoline engine there. The fire spread rapidly, and within a few minutes the entire two-story structure was a mass of flames. The walls fell less than half an hour after the fire was discovered.

Villagers quickly gathered and directed their attention to saving the houses and other buildings nearby, which were menaced by the blazing embers carried long distances by the high wind prevailing. Hamden has an efficient fire company, but their work was handicapped by the almost total lack of water. The village reservoir was nearly dry, and water for the bucket brigades was largely secured from the residence of M. S. Crawford, which is supplied by a spring.

The house nearest the feed store was owned by Crawford Brothers and occupied by Alboro Wood, station agent at Hamden. This house had been reshingled and this fact probably saved the structure. Embers from the fire carried by the wind set fire in places to this house, the residence of M. S. Crawford, the small office building between the two houses, the large barn of M. S. Crawford and the haystack in the rear of the latter structure. Only the work of bucket brigades saved these buildings. Had the flames gained a foothold on any of them the entire village of Hamden would have been endangered.

Calls for help were sent to both Walton and Delhi fire departments, and both responded, although there was little to do after the men arrived. By that time the feed store walls had fallen in. A small shed to the west of the store used for storage and containing about fifty tons of coal caught fire and was burned. A set of scales across the highway from the store was also destroyed.

The Hamden store was built sixteen years ago after Crawford Brothers mill at that place had burned. Crawford Brothers have never conducted the business themselves, but the building has been leased by R. L. Crawford and A. B. Shaw, who had the business for about ten years, and more recently by Delameter & Company.

Crawford Brothers plan to erect a concrete building to replace the burned structure.

Hundreds of spectators motored to Hamden to view the blaze, and automobiles were parked along the highway for long distances on each side of the store.

VAN TASSLE'S CAR WRECKED

County Superintendent's
Auto Takes Ride When
Brake are Left Unset.

(From Treadwell corr.)

A. L. Van Tassle of Treadwell, superintendent of highways, suffered a considerable loss Wednesday forenoon of last week, when the large Studebaker touring car, purchased this summer, was badly wrecked.

Mr. Van Tassle had been superintending the spreading of the tarvia on the road under construction below Treadwell. He was returning home to dinner accompanied by O. R. Bourne, when the accident happened.

At the junction of the three roads below the village the detour sign across the main highway had been set aside to allow the tarvia trucks to pass through. Mr. Bourne got out of the car to replace this, and seeing it was too heavy, Mr. Van Tassle went to his assistance. The road where the car was stopped was nearly level, but the emergency brake was not firmly set, and when upon hearing a noise the men turned, they saw to their consternation, the car leave the highway and plunge through the wire fence into F. H. Niven's pasture. Here on the hillside the car gathered momentum and continued its course to the edge of the steep bank above the head of the pond. Here it struck a tree with such force as to completely overturn it, crushing in the top and lodging it against another tree further down the bank.

The wrecking crew from Delhi was summoned, arriving at Treadwell in the afternoon. Af-

ter considerable effort, the car was in position to be drawn up the bank, and it was discovered that the engine was not so badly injured but that it would run, though the steering gear was broken. With the aid of a force of men with ropes and puleys, backed up the bank into the road. From here, with the aid of the large truck brought by the wrecking crew, the remains of the car were conveyed to Delhi.

Although a very unfortunate accident, Mr. Van Tassle is congratulating himself that it was no worse. He has always been very generous in the use of his car, and on his trips often carried extra passengers, many times children. Mrs. Van Tassle expected to accompany him that morning, but fortunately changed her mind. Had there been anyone in the car, there would have been very little chance for escape from death.

Mr. Van Tassle returned home with a new car Friday.

CHURCH 100 YEARS OLD

Centennial of Harpersfield
Congregation Celebrated.

The centennial of the Harpersfield church was celebrated this week. On Sunday the church was well filled both morning and evening. Former members and friends came from Stamford, Hobart, Grand Gorge, Jefferson, Davenport, North Harpersfield and many other places. Splendid music was rendered assisted by the choir of North Harpersfield and Mrs. F. P. Venable sang, "Open the Gates of the Temple" in the morning and "My Task" in the evening to the great enjoyment of all present. Dr. G. W. Grinton, the district superintendent, preached the anniversary sermon in the morning. He took his text from Matt. 14:23 and preached a very fine and pleasing sermon to the great interest of all present. In the evening Hon. J. D. Clarke addressed a large audience, taking for his theme, "Harding, the Ambassador of Peace."

Monday evening was old home night and the church was again well filled to hear Rev. Arthur Thompson of New York city. He was pastor at Harpersfield in 1895-96 and remodeled the church while he was there. Rev. Muir offered prayer and Rev. Bronson, a former pastor, read the scriptures. J. D. Seeley sang a solo which was enjoyed by all and Mrs. F. P. Venable by request sang the "Ninety and Nine." All present greeted the former pastors present after the service.

Wednesday was devoted to a church fair, while on Thursday evening a clambake was served. This Friday night the Elks will give a concert.

Start Bloomville School.

The excavating for the new school house at Bloomville is proceeding very slowly as the ground is a mass of small boulders which will not permit using a scraper. Some of the boulders are so large that it is necessary to use dynamite to remove them. Eugene Every is in charge of the work.

Thomson Colchester Supervisor.

The town board of Colchester at a meeting Monday appointed John E. Thomson supervisor to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Archie Campbell. Mr. Thomson is well qualified for the position, having formerly served as supervisor of the town.

Poisoned by Bee Sting.

Ephraim Beagle of Frear hollow was stung on the temple by a bee one day recently. Poisoning developed which affected Mr. Beagle's heart and for a time his condition was serious.