

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1923

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About
at the County Hub

A SERIES OF ACCIDENTS

Girl Fell from Horse- "Speeder" Crushed Man's Heel-Girl Tumbled Downstairs-Auto Smash Up.

Word was received in Walton Wednesday, September 5, of the death of Dr. J. Lincoln Mowbray in New Haven, Conn., where the family moved a few years ago. No particulars have been received except that the funeral will be held today, Friday. Dr. Mowbray is survived by his wife.

The Democratic town caucus will be held next Tuesday evening, Sept. 11, at 8 o'clock in Walton hall. A town ticket to be voted upon at the November election will be nominated at this time. The Republican caucus will be held on the following Tuesday, Sept. 18, which is also the fall primary day.

A new time table on the Ontario & Western will go into effect Sunday, September 9, when the summer trains will be discontinued. The company has arranged for an excursion to New York on Sunday, September 16, for which the round trip fare from Walton will be \$4.65. The train leaves Walton at 5:20 a. m.

Ellis B. Gurney, who has been night foreman at the Kayser mill the past three years, has resigned that position and has bought the restaurant at Unadilla which has been conducted by Wade Baxter, a former Walton man. Possession will be given September first. Mr. Baxter has not decided upon his future plans.

Walter DuMond of Merrickville had his right heel injured when a railroad motor speeder jumped the track in the Walton yard one day this week and the machine went over his right foot. The Merrickville section gang had come to Walton to help with some work when the accident occurred. Dr. W. B. Morrow attended Mr. DuMond.

Ruth Davidson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Seth Davidson, fell down the outside stairs leading to Wilson's skating rink Friday and sustained a greenstick fracture of her left arm between the elbow and the wrist. The girl had been at the skating rink and had started for home when the accident occurred. Dr. W. R. Gladstone reduced the fracture.

Wanda, the young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Thompkins of Cannonsville, fell from a horse and fractured her arm at Neish's island Sunday. A family gathering was held at the island that day and at the time of the accident Wanda and her brother were riding a horse hired by their uncle, Bert Neish. Both fell off but the boy was not injured. Dr. E. Ray Gladstone reduced the fracture.

Edward Quirk, aged about 50 years, who held one of the concessions at the Walton fair, died suddenly Wednesday night at the Riverview hotel, where he was staying. He was taken ill with heart trouble about 10:30 o'clock. Dr. Morrow was called but nothing could be done and the man died as stated. His only relatives are two sisters who were notified and arrived Thursday to take the body to Brooklyn for burial.

Luton Hitt of Rock Rift was arrested Saturday by Officer C. R. Wakeman on a warrant charging assault in the first degree issued by Police Justice J.

M. Peake. It developed at the hearing held Monday before Justice E. S. White that Hitt and other employees of the Keery company's camp on Wakeman brook had indulged in a drunken brawl Friday night in which Hitt was alleged to have fired a shotgun after Walter Hammond, one of his fellow employees, and his brother had left the place following the quarrel. The evidence being insufficient to show that Hitt had fired at Hammond the warrant was dismissed and Hitt then pleaded guilty to a charge of disorderly conduct. He was fined ten dollars which was paid. John G. More appeared for the complainant, Hammond, and S. H. Fancher for the defendant.

Mrs. Fred A. St. John was badly bruised about the side as a result of an automobile accident between Margaretville and Arkville Tuesday morning. Mr. and Mrs. St. John left Walton in their Paige touring car about 7:30 o'clock that morning on a motor trip to Atlantic City, N. J., going by way of the Hudson valley. At the point where the accident occurred a side road joins the main highway from the right-hand side as one drives toward Arkville. This road is steep and there is also a down grade on the state highway. Mrs. St. John was driving at the time and as the Walton car approached the junction another machine came down the side road into the highway ahead of the St. John automobile. To avoid a collision Mrs. St. John swung her car to the right and in so doing got too far off the road and the machine was sidwiped by one of the concrete posts which are used to fender the highway. Mrs. St. John was thrown against the side of the car and suffered a bad bump on the forehead and one rib is thought to have been cracked. She was taken to the Bowl hotel in Margaretville where her injuries were dressed and later in the day Mr. and Mrs. St. John returned home. The car which Mrs. St. John sought to avoid was driven by H. E. Hilty, a New York advertising man. The Paige was left at a Margaretville garage as the steering gear was broken.

O. & W. FIREMAN KILLED IN WRECK OF CABOOSE

Floyd Hewitt's Life Crushed
Out in Smash

CARS SWITCHED WILD

Two Caboose Crash Into
Coal Car After Half Mile
Run in Middletown Yards.

Floyd Hewitt of Cadonia, formerly of Walton, was killed early Tuesday morning in a wreck in the Middletown yards when two cabooses which were being switched ran wild for half a mile and crashed into a car of coal.

Mr. Hewitt was fireman on the way freight which was tied up in the Middletown yards for the night. Mr. Hewitt was caught by broken timbers at the end of caboose 8012 when another caboose left the rails and turned on one side after colliding with the coal car.

Four other railroad men in the caboose with Hewitt were injured. They were R. H. Simpson of Hancock, trainman, fracture of the thyroid gland of the neck; J. A. Fountain, porter, New York city, bruises on left shoulder; Edward Osterhoudt of Hancock, trainman, contusion of left elbow; C. A. Hunter of Cadonia, contusions of the left foot.

The five men had been sleeping in the caboose. They apparently made no effort to leave the cabooses, which gained momentum as they moved through the south yard and turned into the siding. Hewitt was the only man in the smashed end of caboose 8012, as the other four were at the opposite end endeavoring to open the door.

The accident occurred at 5:45 o'clock in the morning. Offices of Division Superintendent W. D. McQueen were immediately notified and the wrecking crew called out. When it arrived the caboose in which Hewitt was killed was still on the rails. One end was crushed in and its wooden frame shattered.

The other caboose, of newer construction, also had one end crushed in by the impact. It lay upon one side. Its steel frame is believed responsible for the lesser damage and at the same time for the greater damage to the other. The heavy steel gondola, loaded with coal, was driven against the concrete bumping block and one end reared up upon the trucks of the caboose. The speed at which the two cabooses were moving is thought to have forced the one from the rails after the collision.

Hewitt was dead when physicians reached the scene of the wreck. Examination after his body was removed revealed his abdomen had been crushed when he was caught by the end timbers.

One thing upon which railroad officials were unable to shed any light was the manner in which the cabooses reached the siding from Wisner avenue, where the switching was being done. It has not been determined whether the cabooses were to be moved some distance and switches were set to allow their movement unhampered or the towerman at Railroad avenue, noting their rapid approach and unaware of the men's presence inside, directed their flight into the siding in an effort to stop their career.

Superintendent McQueen said an investigation would be ordered immediately in an effort to fix responsibility for the crash.

The switch crew was in charge of Conductor Horace B. Young and Engineer Michael Moran, according to Burton E. Jones, O. & W. yardmaster.

Floyd Hewitt was 39 years of age. He had been employed by the O. & W. since 1909, and moved from Walton to Cadonia eight or nine years ago. He is survived by his father, Stephen Hewitt, of Jamaica. L. I.; by one brother, William Hewitt, of Albany, and a sister, Mrs. Myrtle Stothard, of New York. His brother-in-law, Ray Stothard, was killed in a railroad accident a few years ago.

The funeral was held Thursday at one o'clock, at the home of an aunt, Mrs. David Hewitt, in Hancock.

READBURN MAN BURNED AS GAS IGNITES CLOTHING

Stephen Caffery of Readburn was terribly burned at McClure, near Deposit. Tuesday evening, when his clothes got on fire while he was filling the gasoline tank of a car.

Caffery, a brother of James Caffery of Walton, has been working with a gang of telephone men at McClure for some time past. Tuesday morning the men had left McClure and gone to Windsor to make their headquarters. That evening Caffery and a companion drove up to the gas tank at Fortner's store at McClure to buy some gasoline. Mrs. Fortner went out to wait on them, and while Caffery was unscrewing the cap on the tank of his car, the other man offered to do the pumping for Mrs. Fortner. She stepped aside, while he took down the hose to put in the car and immediately afterward there was a puff and Caffery was enveloped in flames.

He began to run around like a wild man, which made his clothing burn all the faster, and at first efforts to smother the flames were futile. Mr. Fortner, however, induced the man to lie down, and tried to smother the flames with his coat. Not being successful he ran into the house after a blanket. While he was gone Caffery got up and began running around again. Fortner grabbed large couch cover and again induced the man to lie

down while he smothered the fire. He then took him in his car and drove to the office of Dr. Latimer in Deposit. Caffery was terribly burned from his knees to his chin and after first aid treatment he was taken to the Susquehanna hospital. Caffery has about an even chance of recovery.

Caffery and his companion claim they had a short circuit in their tail light and think this caused the gasoline to ignite. There was gasoline spilled on the ground and this caught fire and burned rapidly. People who had run to the scene of the accident helped push Caffery's car away from the flames, or it would have been burned also. Mr. Fortner feared that the gasoline tank would explode and burn up his store, and rugs were snatched up from the floor of his living apartments and the fire beaten out.

CHILDREN ARE SAVED FROM BURNING HOUSE

Cannonsville Home Destroyed
by Fire of Unknown Origin
Saturday

(From Cannonsville correspondent.) Saturday afternoon Mrs. Sarah Watson's house at Cannonsville known as the Alfred Beers place, occupied by Wako Kittle and family, was discovered to be on fire by Ivan Kipp, a neighbor, who saw smoke issuing from the upstairs windows.

An alarm was given and a crowd quickly gathered. Mrs. Kittle was in the garden and some of the children in the house. The little ones were rushed out and every effort given to removing the furniture on the first floor. Nearly everything downstairs was carried out but nothing upstairs was saved.

In a few minutes after the fire was discovered the whole roof was a mass of flames. Cannonsville is without fire protection other than fire extinguishers which were useless as the flames were beyond control when first seen. Mrs. Watson's loss is partially covered by insurance. There was no insurance on Mr. Kittle's furniture or clothing. The origin of the fire is a mystery as no one was in the house at the time.

COME IN SPITE OF WEATHER

Large Crowd Thronged Fair
Ground Thursday.

In spite of lowering skies the attendance at the Walton fair Thursday, the big day, was estimated nearly up to the average. The parking space back of the grandstand was almost a solid mass of cars and apparently hundreds of visitors who formerly came on the excursion train now motor in as the train this year carried only a small proportion of the number who a few years ago traveled in this way. The exhibition flights and passenger carrying flights of Lieutenant Stead, the aviator, have been a feature of the fair.

The midway has the usual attractions in the form of shows and riding devices, while the platform attractions have been excellent. The track has been in good condition and should the weather be clear today, Friday, the last day of the fair promises some interesting racing.

MUST PAY HOSPITAL FEES

Meridale Man Awarded
Compensation Claim.

A decision in favor of the claimant, Floyd Warren, of Meridale, against the Local Milk & Cream company of New York and the Continental Casualty company, the insurance carrier, was given by Referee Cooper at a workmen's compensation hearing in Oneonta Wednesday. The decision involves about \$2,000.

Warren slipped and fell in the company's plant in Delhi in Jan-

uary 1922, and after working six days after the accident, stopped work because he was not feeling well. Later he was a patient in Fox hospital, Oneonta, where he was operated upon seven times. The fees for hospital and medical treatment amounted to about \$2,000 and these the insurance company contested.

DOG KILLED BY RUNAWAY

Canine Fatality Only One
When Delhi Team Takes Run.

(From Delhi correspondent.)

A spectacular runaway occurred just at noon Friday when the big team of Albert Shultis the lumberman, broke away from the mill, ran down to Bridge street and up that street to Main, just missing colliding with automobile as they turned into the main thoroughfare.

They dashed across Main street and made for the driveway between the residences of J. E. Harper and E. W. Paul, but ran astride a large tree on Mr. Paul's premises, the wagon tongue striking the tree squarely and being broken off near the middle. This checked the frightened animals and they were easily caught, without further damage. They had soon after starting thrown their driver off and he was painfully, but not seriously cut on the head. They also ran over the Shultis dog, killing it.

On the same day the team of Mr. Shultis indulged in a short runaway, starting from the mill in the afternoon. The noise of a falling tank started them, and they started out down Delaware Avenue, but were stopped before they had gone far by the painters who were working on W. H. Brisbane's residence.

SMASHED AUTO FOR SPITE

Enemy Wrecks Franklin
Man's Car in Garage.

(From Franklin correspondent.)

Last Sunday night someone entered the barn at Franklin where Stanley Woodard keeps his Chevrolet car and completely demolished the machine. State troopers were in Franklin Monday but have as yet no clue to the guilty parties.

CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING.

(From Bovina Center correspondent.)

On Saturday about 65 relatives and neighbors met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lancelot Thomson and made them a pleasant surprise, the occasion being their 50th wedding anniversary.

NEW MEREDITH INN TO RISE.

(From Meredith correspondent.)

On Monday morning work was begun on the foundation of the addition to Ayermond which will transform it into the new Meredith Inn which will be ready for occupancy next June.

CAR HITS TELEPHONE POLE.

The Ford car driven by Olin Taylor of Pines brook failed to make the turn from Delaware into Bridge streets late Wednesday afternoon and the machine mounted the curb and collided with the telephone pole there. One of the front lights was smashed but the other damage was small.

REBEKAH DISTRICT OFFICERS.

At a special meeting of Delaware Rebekah District No. 2, held at Walton, Aug. 31. The following officers were elected for the remainder of the year: For D. D. president, Miss Maud Cook was recommended; district secretary, Mrs. Jessie Lakin; district grand treasurer, Mrs. Mary Faigle, all of Hancock.