

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1923

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About
at the County Hub

FIREMEN TAKE PRIZES

**Fell and Struck on Head—
Three Appendicitis Cases—
Druggist Guild in an
Auto Crash**

Twenty persons took the examinations for chauffeurs held in Walton Wednesday.

Cyrus B. Lincoln of Walton has been appointed assistant grand lecturer of the Delaware-Sullivan district of the order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Myrtle Parker of Fleischmanns is the new district deputy grand matron.

The annual conference of the teachers in this section of Delaware county will be held in Walton on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week, Oct. 24 to 26. An interesting program has been prepared for these sessions.

The Walton firemen received \$80 in prizes at the tournament in Norwich last Thursday. Of this sum \$25 was for the company coming the greatest distance, \$25 for bringing a band, and \$30 for having the largest number of men in line.

A. H. Bunnell, for eighteen years publisher of the Fort Edward Advertiser, died at Guilford recently. Mr. Bunnell was employed for a time on the Walton True Press some fifty years ago and will be remembered by older Waltonians. He was 70 years of age.

Edwin L. Guild, the Walton druggist, had a painful gash cut in his forehead in an automobile accident near Schenevus last week. In turning his steering wheel sharply to avoid a stone in the highway the steering gear locked. The car shot across the road into a post. The machine had to be left at Schenevus for repairs.

Clark Hoffman, the 8 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hoffman, and George Lyon were operated upon Tuesday for the relief of appendicitis. The operations were performed by Dr. Douglas of Utica, assisted by Dr. W. R. Gladstone and Dr. E. Ray Gladstone. Young Hoffman was taken ill Monday while with George Lyon it was a recurrence of the trouble.

The court of appeals on Oct. 16 handed down a decision that the regents alone could give the literacy test the law requires, sustaining section 166, election law. Boards should register all new voters but opposite the name write the word "examine," as the test will be given up until 4 p.m. on election day by rules and regulations of the regents. The tests will be given in the Walton school three days during the week preceding election day.

Ira Gregory of Stockton avenue suffered a concussion of the brain when thrown from a Ford truck at the corner of Mead and Townsend streets one morning this week. Mr. Gregory and son, Floyd, were returning from Tripp avenue with a dresser and bedstead in the truck. The elder Gregory was standing in the body of the truck to steady the furniture and when the turn from Mead into Townsend street was made he was thrown from the truck, together with the furniture. He was badly stunned and dazed by the fall and was taken to the office of Dr. W. G. Smith nearby. Mr. Gregory was again on duty Monday driving Hoos' bakery wagon.

Last school year a junior project in sewing was successfully carried on in the Walton schools for the girls of the seventh and eighth grades under the direction of several ladies in town and members of the training class outside of the faculty. It is very desirable to have this work continue during the present year and we wish to organize classes next week, but to do so it will be necessary to have some volunteers for the guidance of this work. Miss Dorothy Green, the teacher of homemaking in the high school, will superintend the outlines and plans for the guidance of those who may be willing to assist. Will those who are willing to help kindly hand their names to Principal H. B. Townsend?

A petition with the signatures of thirty-two taxpayers, mostly from Beerston was filed Monday, Oct. 15, in the town clerk's office asking that at the election on November 6th, the following proposition be submitted to the voters: "Shall the method of selecting highway superintendents of the town of Walton be changed from the appointive system to that of being elected as provided by Section 40 of the town law?" Six years ago the voters of the town approved a proposition to have the superintendent of highways appointed by the town board instead of elected by the voters. The filing of the petition for a return to the old system comes as a surprise and it is not thought the proposition will be carried. The legal requirements having been met, however, the proposition must be acted upon by the voters on November 6th. Where the office of highway superintendent is appointive the law provides that the town board shall make the appointment before November first in the years in which biennial elections are held and in accordance with this provision the town board will meet the latter part of October to make an appointment. T. P. Howland is the present superintendent. Even should the proposition carry the change would not be effective for two years, the superintendent appointed this month holding until 1925.

FIVE AUTOS BURNED IN STAMFORD BARN

**M. S. Wood's Livery
Building Razed by Flames**

TENEMENT HOUSE LOST

**Entire Village Threatened for
Time by Spread of Flames—
Pump Engine's Good Work.**

(From Stamford corr.)

At 11:30 Tuesday night M. S. Wood's large livery barn, situated in the rear of a vacant lot on Main street, Stamford, was discovered on fire and was totally destroyed with contents. A two story and basement tenement house adjoining was also totally destroyed with contents.

Howard Coons occupied the second story and his family escaped with but a little wearing apparel. All his household goods, including a piano, were destroyed. The first floor was vacant but contained a cook stove and tools belonging to B. W. Morrison, who was preparing to move into the building and he estimates the loss of his goods at \$300. Mr. Morrison recently purchased the property of Milo S. Wood and intended to move his lunch room and confectionery business to a small building on the premises and to reside in the house that burned. Mr. Morrison had \$4,000 insurance on the barn and house and Mr. Wood also had \$1,000 insurance on the same in the McAlpine agency. Mr. Coons had \$800 insurance on his household goods.

Five automobiles burned with the barn: A Ford coupe owned by Charles O'Brien; Studebaker

owned by Howard Crosby; five passenger Ford of William Ames'; a Chevrolet of Myron Whittbeck's and a Dodge car owned by Imer Wyckoff. The buildings were in the business section, adjacent to D. W. Benjamin's store and residence, the former Mirror office and the large garage of John Shew. All these buildings were at times on fire and the absence of a wind is all that saved the village from a disastrous conflagration. Four streams of water from the pump engine did effective work. Water has been low in the village reservoir but there was plenty for fire use. The water company is operating an electric pump pumping water from well to the reservoir. All streams hereabout are very low.

Shew's garage was stored full of cars which were all run into the street as at one time it was feared the garage would burn. It was an anxious time for all until the fire was got under control about 12:30. M. S. Wood had an office safe in the livery stable which contained his books and many valuable papers. The safe was opened Wednesday afternoon and all papers found in good condition.

FELL OFF END OF BRIDGE

**Town Clerk St. John
Suffers Fracture of Arm.**

Earl S. St. John, town clerk of Walton, had his left arm broken at the wrist Wednesday evening when he fell off the end of the high bridge across the west branch of the Delaware river at Arbor Hill farm, Frasers, the home of Congressman John D. Clarke.

Mr. St. John and a party of Walton men had spent the evening with Congressman Clarke. The end of the bridge on the northern bank of the river is reached by climbing stone steps which curve about and the railing for these stairs has never been erected. In the darkness Mr. St. John walked off the end of the bridge where the steps descend. He struck on his hand, fracturing the wrist. Dr. W. B. Morrow dressed the injury.

ASSAULT COST HIM \$50

**Jury Awards Bogart Verdict
Against Latourette**

TEED CASES TAKE TIME

**Much of Jury's Deliberation
Required to Decide Trout
Creek Man's Actions.**

(From Delhi corr.)

The October trial term of supreme court for Delaware county opened on Monday morning, Justice A. L. Kellogg presiding. While not as many members of the bar were present at the opening of court as is usual at the October term nevertheless there are many indications that the term may be quite a long one.

After the grand jury had received their charge and Ralph J. Andrews of Hamden appointed as foreman and after Justice Kellogg had been the recipient of some fine roses the business of the Court was proceeded with. The remainder of the afternoon on Monday was devoted to ex parte matters.

At the opening of court on Tuesday the first case called was No. 20 on the calendar, that of Chester B. Teed vs. William C. Sherman and Helen M. Sherman; this was an action to foreclose a land contract for purchase of a farm in the town of Masonville; the purchase price of the farm and stock had been agreed upon as \$14,000. It was claimed by Teed, the plaintiff, that a matter of \$1,900 was due and that he was entitled to foreclose. The defense claimed that nothing was due as payments had been waived by oral agreement. The defendants also claimed they were entitled to damages alleging that when the plaintiff foreclosed

a chattel mortgage it was not done fairly and proper opportunities to bid were not allowed. The case occupied all of Tuesday and was not given to the jury until nearly noon on Wednesday. A verdict in favor of the defendant for \$500 was returned quite promptly. Sewell & France, with Hon. L. F. Raymond as counsel, represented the plaintiff. Vincent N. Elwood and Arthur F. Curtis the defendants.

The next case taken up on Wednesday afternoon was No. 17 which was an assault case of George Bogart vs. Grant Latourette. This case did not seem to be a matter of very serious consequences and was given to the jury late in the afternoon. A verdict of \$50 for the plaintiff was returned by the jury immediately after partaking of their evening meal. H. C. Kibbe of Sidney appeared for the plaintiff and Hon. L. F. Raymond for the defendant.

So many jurors having been excused from the original panel sixteen others were ordered summoned to appear forthwith by the court. It is understood that only six of the last drawn were held.

The case on trial Thursday was No. 48 on the calendar, Chester B. Teed of Trout Creek vs. The Archibald Co., Inc. Mr. Teed seems to be quite an asset in the business of Delaware county courts. A labor charge on putting accessories on a Star car bought by Teed from Archibald is behind the dispute. Teed claimed livery hire during the period the car was held in the garage when he refused to pay this charge and Archibald claimed storage for the machine during this period. The original amount involved was only a small sum.

The labors of the grand jury were finished late Wednesday afternoon but their report was not made until Thursday morning. Fourteen cases were considered and nine indictments found.

Arraignments were made Thursday as follows: Fred Gales, Hancock, indicted for violation of Sec. 290 of the highway law, pleaded not guilty and bail was fixed at \$1,000. It was Gales' car which struck another machine in Hancock recently and then ran over a boy, killing the child. Ralph Van Pelt, Harvard, indicted for burglary third degree, plead guilty. Disposition of his case was held over.

Joseph Ramassini of upper Bagley brook, indicted for violation of the highway law in leaving scene of motor accident without stopping, plead not guilty and bail was fixed at \$500. Ramassini's car collided with the machine of John Bastian of Walton on the river road east of Walton.

Charles Anderson of Franklin, indicted for burglary third degree and grand larceny second degree for the theft of an auto plead guilty and was paroled.

Orrie Coons, Stamford, indicted for forgery, second degree, plead guilty through Attorney Donald Grant. He was placed on probation and is to deposit \$5 a week in the Stamford bank to the credit of his mother. Patsy Rose, Masonville, indicted for abduction, pleaded not guilty and was remanded to jail.

At this writing it seems quite certain that this term of supreme court will occupy at least all of next week.

BACKED CAR OVER BANK

**Twin Bridges at East Branch
Cause of Another Wreck.**

(From East Branch corr.)

Two men returning from New York, where they had been attending a ball game, to their home in the western part of the state went over the bank in their Ford coupe, Saturday, about midnight. The accident happened at the approach to the bridge spanning the Delaware at East Branch, resulting in a broken collar bone to the driver and a few bruises to his companion.

At the peculiar junction of the

two bridges and state road they turned first onto the Beaverkill bridge, but noting their mistake, backed up across the state road to make the other turn. As there was no fender to the approach to the Delaware bridge they went backwards over the steep bank into the edge of the river, the car turning a somersault in its descent and landing right side up, but resting on one side which was quite badly wrecked as well as the windshield and wheel.

After extricating themselves from the car they made their way to the village and waked some of the residents, including Dr. Johnston. After examining the injured man he sent him to Dr. Woolsey at Hancock, Dewey Tompkins taking him down in his car. Sunday morning the wrecker from the Hancock Ford garage came, and with the assistance of many who had gathered to view the wreck, turned it over, jacked it up and towed it to Hancock.

This is a very dangerous spot, three sections having been broken out for a long time and the fourth two weeks ago when Melvin Brazie struck it in making the turn toward Roscoe. A number of men are now putting in posts and new fender, but a concrete wall is the only thing that will withstand the wear.

DROPS DEAD IN HIS YARD

**Aged Hobart Man Stricken
Saturday Evening.**

John C. McMurdy of Hobart dropped dead in the door yard of his home at Hobart on Saturday evening, Oct. 3, at about 5:30.

Mr. McMurdy was 79 years of age.

Mr. McMurdy had lived practically all of his life in Hobart village. Surviving him are his wife, a sister, Mrs. T. D. Gould of Hobart, and a brother, George K. McMurdy of Springtown, besides several nieces and nephews. Dr. C. K. McMurdy, his only son, died while practicing medicine in Stamford on Apr. 15, 1918.

Mr. McMurdy was engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Hobart for nearly thirty years until he recently sold his business to Lewis White.

BUYS HALF INTEREST IN WALTON THEATRE

**W. C. Smalley Enters Picture
Business in Walton With
Frank S. Medrick**

Frank S. Medrick has sold a one-half interest in the Majestic theatre to W. C. Smalley of Cooperstown. Messrs. Medrick and Smalley have taken a lease of Walton hall for a two year term with privilege of one year's renewal.

These business deals mark an important change in Walton theatre interests. W. C. Smalley, who becomes associated with Mr. Medrick in the local theatre field, owns a chain of moving picture theatres, including in the chain Sidney, Stamford, Cooperstown, Hartwick, Worcester, Fort Plain and St. Johnsville. His connection with this chain of theatres insures the Walton public a high grade of motion pictures.

The rental paid the village for the auditorium of Walton hall is \$2,400. The village retains the use of the court room, firemen's quarters and trustees' room.

Frank S. Medrick will manage both the Majestic theatre and Walton hall. It is planned to bring some of the best shows to the hall.

Sidney Woman Discharged.

Mrs. Belle Fulmore of Sidney recently arrested for illegal possession of liquor, has been discharged by U. S. Commissioner Wickham of Binghamton. She has already served five weeks in jail on a charge of public intoxication.