

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter - Saturday, December 15, 1923

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

IMPROVE PHONE SERVICE

Counselor Neish Left No Will—New Kiwanis Officers—\$17,000 in Christmas Club Checks.

Jerl Helm, a Rock Rift boy, fell Wednesday evening while after a pail of water and broke his arm. He fractured the same member only a few months ago. Dr. Morrow reduced the fracture.

The latter part of the week the First National Bank of Walton sent out checks amounting to \$17,000 to members of the 1923 Christmas club. The club was the largest in the history of the bank. Each year more and more persons are coming to realize the convenience of this plan of systematic saving whereby early in December the club member receives a check covering his year's savings in ample time for early Christmas shopping.

Before Justice D. B. Wright at Hancock Tuesday the evidence was heard in the action brought by Fred Knickerbocker against John S. Lakin of Walton to recover \$24 damages to Knickerbocker's automobile in a collision at Cadosia on September 23. Decision in the case was reserved by Justice Wright. Mr. Lakin through his attorney, A. E. Conner, set up a counterclaim of \$74. V. N. Elwood of Hancock represented Knickerbocker.

The Delaware Telephone company, successor to the Walton People's Telephone company, has been making extensive improvements to its cable lines in the village. New cables have been added where required and the old cables carefully gone over to repair any trouble which has existed. The providing of additional openings into the cable will permit the removal of the cross arms on the Townsend street line and will greatly improve the appearance of that street.

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Harry V. Baxter, formerly of Walton, has purchased the Madison News, a weekly newspaper published at Madison, Kansas, a village of about 1,000 population. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter have been employed in the government printing office in Washington, D. C., and the change will bring them near Neodesha, Kansas, where her father, Paul Wiley, is editor of the Neodesha Register. Mrs. Baxter will assist her husband in the management of the Madison News.

District Governor Lewis Mitchell of Buffalo will visit the Walton Kiwanis club this, Friday, evening. The meeting hour has been changed from 12:15, noon, to 6 p. m., at the Walton restaurant. Mr. Mitchell will speak and has a real Kiwanis message to deliver. At the annual election of officers last Friday Earl S. St. John was chosen president of the club for the ensuing year. Other officers elected are as follows: Vice president, Samuel H. Fancher; treasurer, E. B. Guild; district trustee, H. E. Lane; directors, Jesse Howes and W. E. Webster.

The skeleton organization of the old Dairymen's League, Inc., is still maintained, although the

pooling plan functions through the Dairymen's League Co-operative association. At a meeting of the Dairymen's League, Inc., in Jersey City, N.J., Tuesday the present directors were re-elected, in each case being the same as those of the Dairymen's League Co-operative association. It was also announced that the November pool price would probably be one cent more than the October price, that is \$2.43 per hundred pounds gross, with a cash payment of \$2.23 after deductions for expenses and certificates of indebtedness.

The first day of the Christmas month brought much needed equipment to the Home Bureau office in Walton. E.B. Guild and the directors of the First National bank of Walton have presented the Home Bureau organization with a large oak roll top desk with ample filing spaces, an oak typewriter desk with ample drawers for paper and equipment and also office chairs for each. For years the executive committee and agent have hoped to buy some satisfactory equipment for the Home Bureau office but funds have always been exhausted on field work. Since office equipment and files have been needed for so long, appreciation is comparatively great for this gift which will simplify work and give greater efficiency in filing and care of materials.

Attorney Alexander Nelsh, whose death occurred Wednesday, November 28, left no will disposing of his estate, although he had drawn scores of wills for clients during the more than fifty years he had been engaged in the practice of law. County Judge McNaught on Tuesday issued letters of administration to Alexander J. Nelsh, the son. The papers in the matter place an estimate on the estate of \$3,500 real and \$4,500 personal property. Under the laws governing the division of estates where no will exists the four children will share equally in the division. Citations returnable January 14th have been issued in the estates of Newell B. Cable and William Bushnell, both of Walton. At that time the wills of the two men will be offered for probate and objections to the documents may be made at that time. Mr. Cable left the bulk of his estate to six Walton churches and a contest is promised by some of the nephews and nieces who were the next of kin.

SAWDUST KILLS MAN WHEN PILE CAVES-IN

Worker Smothered to Death at Downsville Tuesday

WAS ALONE AT THE TIME

Stunned by Fall of Dust and Suffocated Hours Before Body Was Discovered.

Ernest F. Haynes of Downsville was smothered to death Tuesday afternoon when a pile of sawdust on the George Redmond farm, Wilson hollow, caved in upon him while he was getting a load of the sawdust.

The lifeless body of Haynes was dug out of the sawdust several hours later when he was missed after his failure to return to the farm of J. Chandler Cable. Haynes, who was 46 years of age, leaves a wife and three young children.

Haynes had been employed on the town roads by Mr. Cable, who is town superintendent of highways. On Tuesday he had been sent by the latter with a team of Mr. Cable's to draw sawdust from the George Redmond farm at the junction of the Wilson and Lindsley hollow roads where W. W. Golden's sawmill was recently located. He was seen to drive in toward the bank of sawdust about the middle of the afternoon by Mrs. Arthur Brown, who lives nearby. The bank itself is out of sight from the highway.

When the man did not return after dark Mr. Cable started an in-

FREE OFFICERS OF MURDER WHEN RAILROAD PAYS WIDOW

The four Ontario & Western detectives held for the shooting of Philip Storzasa at Childs, Pa., on Mar. 13, 1923, will not be tried for murder. The railroad company has effected a settlement with the widow of the slain man, coupled with an agreement between her attorney and the prosecuting officers of Lackawanna county which resulted Monday in the dismissal of the indictments against Chief Grant R. Wilson and Sergeant Howard P. Mulford of Middletown, Patrolman John Addler of Carbondale, Pa., and the giving of a suspended sentence upon the fourth officer, Ernest H. Wagner of Hancock, who plead guilty to a manslaughter charge.

The agreement was reached in the Wayne county court in Honesdale at 1:30 Monday afternoon, before Judge Alonzo T. Searle, who was to fix a date for trial. Assistant District Attorney John Memola of Lackawanna county

investigation, and went to the place accompanied by Mrs. Haynes. They saw that the huge pile of sawdust, wet and heavy from recent rains, had fallen. The team was found standing there with the wagon box nearly filled with sawdust. Help was secured and upon digging into the sawdust the body of Haynes was uncovered. There was about 20 inches of the sawdust over the man's face. Dr. E. A. Holmes of Downsville, who was called in the case, stated that the man had probably been smothered to death.

Apparently he had been digging back into the bank of sawdust to get into the dry dust and while so doing the sawdust above caved in upon him. The weight of the four tons of wet sawdust which fell upon him may have killed the man instantly. The accident probably happened about 4 o'clock and the body was dug out about 10 o'clock.

ONE WIFE TOO MANY

Frank Hoag Charged with Bigamy and Abandonment.

Frank Hoag, aged 54, was arrested in Syracuse Saturday night and on Monday was arraigned before a justice of the peace at Baldwinsville on a charge of bigamy. He also faces a charge of abandoning his first wife, Mrs. Ella Swart Hoag, now living in Bainbridge. When arrested in Syracuse he was living with Mrs. Dora Cottet Hoag, 26, of Camillus, whom he married illegally, according to the woman who claims to be his first and only wife, at Warner on June 12, 1923.

Arrest of Hoag ended a search conducted since May, when the man was said to have abandoned his wife and children at Bainbridge. He traveled throughout the southern tier, always keeping "just one jump ahead of state troopers. He came to Syracuse and secured work as a painter and late in May met Miss Cottet. He was attentive to her and won her affection and they were married in June, a little more than a month after he had left his wife. Miss Cottet at that time was unaware Hoag was married.

ROSCOE SCHOOL GIRLS WANTED TO SEE WORLD

Located in Albany Saturday After Two Days' Absence From Their Home

(From East Branch correspondent.)

On Thursday of last week Mildred Baker of East Branch and Juanita Wormuth of Peakville, both 16-year-old students in the Roscoe high school, disappeared from Roscoe without leaving any word as to their destination.

A Friday's Binghamton newspaper stated a truck driver had given them a lift, hut- felt suspi-

and Joseph O'Brien, attorney for Mrs. Storzasa requested the action taken.

According to the attorneys the evidence showed Storzasa was under the influence of intoxicants the day he was killed and fired toward the roundhouse, near where the guards were quartered. Wagner and Mulford started to investigate and as they reached his porch he fired again. They returned the fire, killing Storzasa instantly. Under the settlement with the railroad, Mrs. Storzasa is to receive \$15,000. She is said to have eight children, ranging in age from one to seventeen years.

The list of character witnesses called by Wagner included Jerome Farrell, Walton; Hon. Clayton Wheeler, Benjamin Bussman, George Reese, Hancock; Post Office Inspector Moses C. Duryea, Monticello; Charles H. Bell, Hancock; Chief of Police John D. McCoach, Middletown, and William Penny, Cadosia.

cious and, after letting them out on his arrival in Binghamton and noting they had gone into a restaurant, he reported the fact to the police, but on their arrival at the restaurant the girls had gone. Later they were seen hiking it in the vicinity of Sidney, and it was not until Saturday afternoon that they were apprehended by the police in Albany and their distracted parents notified.

What their object was in causing their parents so much worry and laying themselves open to criticism is a mystery, and we are very sure the girls cannot enlighten us on that point. They had quite a sum of money with them, having drawn from their bank accounts. The Baker girl was boarding in Roscoe and the Wormuth girl went there on the morning train as usual, ostensibly to attend school. Both of these girls have good homes, and we trust they will not repeat this rash act, giving worry to their parents in return for the great sacrifices they have made for them. They returned home Sunday.

LIBRARY CLOSED MONDAY EVENING.

At Ogden free library on Monday, Dec. 17, no books will be received or given out after five o'clock on account of entertaining the Walton Civic club. Arthur W. North, President.

BUYS INTEREST IN DELHI FIRM.

(From Delhi correspondent.) William N. Mable of Oneonta has bought a one-half interest in the Russell Archibald company of Delhi, distributors of the Durant, Star and Flint cars. The firm name will be changed to the Archibald-Mable company. Mr. Mable has conducted the Durant-Star agency in Oneonta.

DIDN'T LIKE HER RELATIVES

So Stamford Woman Failed to Remember Them in Will.

(From Delhi correspondent.)

The three weeks' term of county court for Delaware county came to a close last Saturday night at 11:45. At this hour the jury which had been out about twelve hours rendered their verdict which sustained the will of Margaretta Culbert, late of the town of Stamford, both as to her testamentary capacity and as to no undue influence.

The jury was drawn in this case on Tuesday afternoon and the trial occupied three and a half days before reaching the jury. There were not such a large number of witnesses in the case but many of them were on the stand for a long time. Much time was taken up by the attorneys in discussing the evidence to be submitted and many fine points on such questions were raised. The case was summed up

for the proponent by Robert B. Craft of Roxbury and by A. Lindsay O'Connor for the contestant.

At the time of her illness and death Miss Margaretta-Hulbert was boarding at Kendall Place in Stamford, the boarding house run by Mrs. Esther Kendall. It was at this place that the will was executed. Upon the petition filed for the probate of the will it showed personal property worth \$15,000 and real estate \$500. Under the terms of the will Miss Culbert bequeathed the sum of \$5,500 divided between societies, Greenwood cemetery and cousins. and the residuary estate to Mrs. Kendall.

The contest was brought by a nephew, Fred Culbert, of Cold Spring, N. Y. The evidence tended to show that Miss Culbert did not care much for her own relatives and this was the reason, instead of undue influence, why she drew her will as she did.

PLAYED WITH MATCHES IN BARN

Children Set Fire to Building at North Franklin.

(From Coe Hill correspondent.)

Children playing with matches in the hay loft set fire to the horse barn of Leslie Barnes of North Franklin Saturday afternoon. The building was burned to the ground.

While Mr. Barnes was absent from home his children were playing in the barn and accidentally started the fire. Neighbors were soon on the scene but were unable to save anything in the barn. Several pigs were burned to death and a quantity of hay and some farm implements were destroyed. -

NORTH FRANKLIN BOYS BAD FALL.

(From Coe Hill correspondent.)

Lloyd Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Johnson of Coe Hill, near North Franklin, is a patient in an Oneonta hospital suffering from an Injury received when he fell over a fork in the barn. His condition is said to be serious.

AUTO LIGHTS DIDN'T WORK

Andes Man's Car Collides with Little Delaware Bridge.

(From Delhi correspondent.)

Carl Damo, a young man from the town of Andes, ran into the bridge known as the toll gate bridge up the Little Delaware Saturday evening. He was returning home from Delhi over the state road and the lights on his Buick car went out. He struck the iron girder of the bridge, badly wrecking his car. He escaped more fortunately than might have been expected, having only a badly bumped nose and an injured ankle. He was taken home in a car and is recovering.

VILLAGES VOTE FIRE ENGINES

Andes and Margaretville Taxpayers Approve \$8,000 Propositions.

Following special elections called by the village officials soon after the recent disastrous fire in Andes the villages of Andes and Margaretville this week voted to spend \$8,000 each for additional fire equipment in the form of pump engines.

The taxpayers of Andes by a vote of 72 to 12 on Saturday approved the proposition to bond the village in a sum not exceeding \$8,000 for the purchase of a fire engine. It is proposed to buy a combination pump engine and chemical truck.

On Wednesday of this week, December 12, Margaretville taxpayers approved a proposition to raise the same amount, \$8,000, for the purchase of a fire engine by that village. The vote was 53 in favor to 15 against.

Walton, Stamford and Fleischmann are among other Delaware county villages now equipped with pump engines.