

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter - Saturday, March 29, 1924

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

SPRING PRIMARY APRIL 1

Hand in Buzz Saw—Hurt in Binghamton Runaway—Trout Season Opens April Fifth—Other Notes.

John D. Smith of Walton announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for sheriff this week. Mr. Smith is county director of the Dairyman's League and has a wide acquaintance throughout the county.

The Camp company of Walton have rented the feed mill back of the Miner-Edgar store at Rock Rift. This building was built for a feed mill but was never used as such. It stands close to the siding and is well suited for a feed mill. The mill will be opened April 1.

Delaware county maple sugar and syrup have a reputation as high as that of the Vermont product of which one hears so often. A. J. Courtney this week shipped to Charles E. Hughes, secretary of state, and Henry C. Wallace, secretary of agriculture, five pounds each of maple sugar made by J. A. Robinson of Walton. The shipments were made on orders from Congressman John D. Clarke, who also secured some of the Walton sweets for his personal use.

When the immediate need of a residence for a pastor at Rock Rift was foreseen the property belonging to Woodrow Wagner was much talked of but it was thought it could not be bought. When the building committee realized on investigation the high cost of a new building they decided to make an effort to buy this valuable property. It was successful. With some alterations the house will make a very pleasant manse. It is planned to go on with these immediately. Its proximity to the church makes it a desirable location for a manse. The lot, which contains about one-third of an acre, has a barn which has been used as a garage, also some fruit. It is a good substantial house with six rooms and a hall.—Rock Rift correspondent—

Michael Murphy, about 60 years old, a stone cutter of Walton, suffered a possible fracture of the skull and severe lacerations about his head and body when a horse attached to a light sulky he was driving on Front street, Binghamton, ran away and threw him to the pavement shortly before 3 o'clock last Thursday afternoon. The horse became frightened on Front street a short distance north of Main street and ran wildly along the street. The right-hand wheel of the sulky crashed into the rear mudguard of a parked automobile and Murphy was thrown with considerable force to the pavement, striking on his head. The horse broke loose from the sulky and continued north on Front street.—Binghamton Press.

Paul Finch, who lives on the Beerston road, had his left hand badly cut and mutilated on a buzz saw shortly before noon Monday. Mr. Finch with his hired man, W. Leigh, and Charles Neff, a neighbor, had been buzzing wood on the hill. A pole had been shoved through too far and in trying to pull it back Mr. Finch's hand slipped and came in contact with the saw. The index and middle fingers were badly mutilated, two bones being severed, and the cord to the thumb was also cut. Dr. C. S. Gould, the physician, found it necessary to place Mr. Finch under an anesthetic, which was done with the aid of Dr. W. R. Gladstone, and the injured hand was then dressed. It is hoped to save the two fingers most seriously in-

jured, although they may be crippled as a result of the accident.

Local fishermen are looking forward to the opening of the trout season on Saturday, April 5. The streams are unusually low for this season and should the ensuing week be warm most of the snow water will have passed off before the opening day, leaving the streams clear and in excellent condition. Owing to the dry weather of last summer many fishermen believe that the larger brooks will afford the best fishing this season. The Delaware Valley Fish and Game club stocked all the streams in this vicinity last summer. The approach of the fishing season has revived interest in the club and a meeting has been called for Monday evening, Mar. 31, at 8 o'clock in the court room of Walton hall. At this time officers will be elected and plans discussed for the ensuing year. All sportsmen are asked to attend.

The only contest in Delaware county for membership on the Republican county committee at the spring primary next Tuesday, April 1st, is in the first election district of Walton where there are four candidates for committee members to be voted on. The persons whose names have been placed on the ballot by petition, two of whom will be elected, are H. M. Robinson, Miss Marjorie L. Shaw, Paul F. Taylor and Mrs. Helen Biedekapp. Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Biedekapp are the present committee members. The polls at the primary will be open from noon until 9 o'clock in the evening. In both the Democratic and Republican parties there will be chosen delegates and alternates to the national conventions and to the state conventions to be held in April to select delegates at large to the national convention. The Republicans will also elect members of the county committee. The Democratic committee members chosen last fall hold office for two years.

HELD FOR GRAND JURY

Delaware County Men Accused of Bootlegging.

Lewis Steinhardt of Fleischmanns and Fred Sliter of Andes, charged with, illegal possession and transportation of liquor, were held under bail of \$1,000 each by Deputy United States Commissioner Arthur Seybolt of Oneonta last Thursday. They will be arraigned at the April term of federal court at Albany.

Bail of \$1,000 in each case was furnished by Steven Lokes of Fleischmanns. The case of Harold Sandell, the driver of the garage car which brought the men and the alleged liquor into Oneonta, was dismissed by Commissioner Seybolt, it appearing that the young man was innocent of any complicity in the alleged crime.

WALTON PEOPLE KEPT FROM DELHI SPECIAL

County Seaters Didn't Want Neighbors to See Ball Team's Defeat

The Delaware academy basketball team of Delhi went down to defeat at the hands of the Elmira free academy five on the Norwich court Friday evening by a score of 36 to 12.

"Beat Elmira" read a large streamer displayed last week across Delhi's Main street. But evidently the county seat team wanted an exclusive delegation to see Elmira's expected humiliation as Walton residents were given distinctly to understand that their presence or support was not desired.

Delhi rooters engaged a special train to take them to Norwich. This train stopped at Frasers, Delancey and Hamden, but telegraphic orders were sent from Delhi to the O. & W. officials that no tickets were to be sold at Walton and no one from Walton was to be permitted to take the train. A number of Delhi people had already invited friends or rela-

TO LICENSE AUTO OPERATORS UNDER PROPOSED STATE-LAW

The assembly committee on motor vehicles introduced in the Legislature last Thursday its measure designed to provide for the state-wide licensing of automobile operators and the creation in the state tax commission of a bureau of motor vehicles.

It is understood that Gov. Smith and the Democratic leaders of the Legislature are in agreement with the assembly Republicans for the passage of the bill, as this is one of the measures recommended by the governor.

The principal provisions of the measure are: State-wide licensing of all automobile operators; creation in the State Tax Commission of a Bureau of Motor Vehicles under a commissioner of motor vehicles, who is to appoint three deputies and as many inspectors as may be required; penalties for violations of the motor vehicle law may range from revocation of license to fine and imprisonment; elimination of village speed traps by providing that all fines in villages in excess of \$1 shall be paid to the state treasury; a uniform speed limit of twenty miles an hour in all villages, and designation of official headlight testing stations.

The operator's license fee is to be \$1, with annual renewal of 50 cents. License fees, on all passenger cars, are fixed at 50 cents per one hundred pounds up to 3,500 pounds, and 25 cents extra for every 100 pounds in excess of 3,500. Electric passenger cars are to pay

tives in Walton to accompany them and other Walton people had expected to go to Norwich on the special and cheer for their county seat neighbors. All from Walton were obliged to stay at home.

The incident has occasioned considerable unfavorable comment locally but most people take the view that the occurrence was an unfortunate one for which only a small group in Delhi was responsible.

The order barring Walton people from the special was not learned until mid-afternoon Friday. The Kiwanis club of Walton at its weekly luncheon Friday noon adopted the following resolution relative to the refusal of the Delhi high school basketball team to play the Walton high school five:

"In view of the fact that the Kiwanis club of Walton has taken any and every method to promote and maintain a friendly feeling, a spirit of co-operation between the towns of Delhi and Walton, and feeling that all past animosities, social and sportsmanlike difficulties could and should be settled in a friendly and equitable manner and spirit and that it is the spirit of Kiwanis to promote mutual co-operation and good will in the communities and between the communities where clubs are located, and it being apparent that misunderstandings have arisen between the athletic organizations of Delaware academy of Delhi and Walton high school of Walton, which will tend to undo the spirit and work of co-operation manifested between the two Kiwanis clubs and which they have endeavored to foster.

"Now be it resolved, that it is the belief of the Walton Kiwanis club, laying aside all technicalities, that the spirit of true sportsmanship should be fostered and encouraged among the younger generation and we believe that the present misunderstanding tends to destroy the true spirit of sportsmanlike conduct, and we urge that the basketball teams representing the Delaware academy and Walton high school be permitted to meet in sportsmanlike competition without prejudice, bitterness and unsportsmanlike conduct either on the part of players or outsiders to the end that the best team may win, "Resolved further that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Kiwanis club of Delhi and Daniel Chase, director of athletics of the state education department of the state of New York."

A defense of the action of Delaware academy in refusing to meet the Walton "hi" five, published in the Delhi Express last week, was a mass of misstatements and inconsistencies. Only one need be mentioned to show the trend of the

a flat rate of \$10, and all light delivery trucks weighing under 1,800 pounds, \$12,

Accidents must be reported to the commissioner of motor vehicles, who is to be the central authority. The commissioner shall keep records of all accidents where persons are killed or injured, and it shall be compulsory for these reports to be made by judges, police officials and parties to the accident. Failure to report an accident will constitute a misdemeanor.

Operators' and chauffeurs' licenses may be revoked or suspended by justices of the peace, city judges, supreme court judges, county judges or the commissioner of motor vehicles. Operators' license is not to be granted to any person less than eighteen years of age. License plates and operators' and chauffeurs' licenses are to be issued by county clerks in all counties where there is not a branch office of the motor vehicle bureau. A fee of 25 cents is allowed for each set of plates or transfer and ten cents for operator's or chauffeur's license. Examination of operators and chauffeurs shall be conducted by the inspectors of the bureau.

The operators' licensing provision is to become effective Oct. 1 next, and the adjusted fees will be operative Jan. 1, next. Application for operator's license received before Oct. 1, 1924, shall not be compelled to take an examination; after that examination shall be at the discretion of the commissioner.

whole article. This statement was as follows: "It might be noted that in two or three of the games played the Walton coach, Mr. Mace, refereed the game. This procedure alone might have made it possible to exclude Walton from the sectional contests of last year." As a matter of fact Dr. Mace refereed only one game, that between Walton and Stamford at Stamford, when the Grand Gorge man secured to referee failed to appear and at the request of Stamford and over the protest of Dr. Mace he was urged to act as referee rather than hold up the game. This he finally consented to do.

ESCAPES THROUGH WINDOW

Beech Hill Farmer Loses House and Barn in Flames.

(From Shavertown correspondent.)

The house and barn on the place on the Beech Hill road, about two miles from Shavertown, owned by Benson Eighmey were burned last Wednesday about midnight.

Mr. Eighmey, who lived alone, was awakened by a choking sensation and found the house on fire. He was unable to reach his clothes and had to get out through his bedroom window dressed only in his under clothes in which he had slept. He turned the stock out of the barn, which was separated from the house only by the width of the highway, but was unable to save the contents of either building. People at Shavertown saw the light and Roy Knapp and J. S. Gavett motored to locate the fire and found Mr. Eighmey sitting in an old cutter nearly frozen. There was an insurance of \$1,000 on buildings and contents.

MEREDITH PASTOR RESIGNS

III Health Leads to Action of Rev. Otis A. Dike.

At the morning and evening service at the Meredith Baptist church on Sunday, March 23rd, Wilfred W. Fry, a member of the board of trustees, read the resignation of the pastor, Rev. Otis A. Dike. Mr. Dike's resignation was accepted with deep regret by the church and congregation to take effect on April first. During the nearly three years of their residence at Meredith Mr. and Mrs. Dike have endeared themselves to many hearts and homes in the community, and the influence of their life and work there will long remain.

During Mr. Dike's pastorate this century-old church has shown a remarkable revival of interest and is a very active center of the, religious and social life of the community. Since Mr. Dike was taken ill in February, the pulpit and pastoral work have been cared for by the Rev. Charles A. Weed, who is taking post graduate work at Colgate university. Mr. Weed will continue to supply the pulpit.

GEORGE M. PALMER DIES

Prominent Cobleskill Man Passed Away at His Home Sunday.

Hon. George M. Palmer of Cobleskill, former assemblyman from Schoharie county, died at his home in that village Sunday following an apoplectic stroke. He was 66 years of age.

For many years Mr. Palmer was an influential figure in Democratic politics. He represented the Schoharie district in the assembly from 1897 to 1907, and from 1903 to the end of his service he was the minority leader. He was chairman of the state committee in 1915-16. In 1910 he was the Democratic candidate for congressman in the twenty-fourth congressional district comprising the counties of Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware and Ulster. Although the district was heavily Republican he was defeated by Hon. George W. Fairchild of Oneonta by only 1,200 plurality.

Mr. Palmer was the attorney for the Reporter company in the trial of the libel action brought by J. Duncan Lawrence, then Republican boss of Delaware county, which was held in Delhi in February, 1910, resulting in a verdict of no cause of action. Mr. Palmer was long considered the leading attorney of this section.

FORTUNE OF MILLION TO UNADILLA WOMAN

Mrs. So Mary McCracken Will Share in Division of Cousin's Estate

Mrs. Mary McCracken of Unadilla is first cousin of the late William P. Cowan, late of Chicago, who left an estate estimated at \$22,000,000 and who left no near relatives and whose fortune is to be divided among those who can establish relationship to him. It has been estimated that Mrs. McCracken's share will be about one million dollars.

Relative to the estate a recent dispatch from Corning says:

Mr. Cowan, head of a big oil company in Illinois, died in 1918 without a will and left this large estate which never has been disposed of. He is said to have been a resident of this section in the early 30s and left for the west in 1849. There are several relatives at Cortland who have letters they claim will prove their relationship and which tell the story of how William Cowan went to California with only \$5,000, started in the mining business and finally accumulated millions. It is expected all of these will lay claim to the estate. The trustees are B. O. Theim & Company, of Chicago.

Mrs. Ella Schonleber, Mrs. George B. Walsh and Benjamin Tupper of Corning, it is believed, are related distantly to Mr. Cowan, being third or fourth cousins, and whether they will share in the estate is yet to be determined. There are two first cousins, Bert Cowan, at Locke, and Mrs. Mary McCracken of Unadilla, who have been located.

The late William C. Cowan, who died at Corning about nine years ago, was an adopted son of Nelson Cowan, who was a relative of W. P. Cowan, and Mrs. G. T. Wolcott, might be entitled to a part of the estate.

The estate is the largest left by any one person in many years and because there is no will, matters of settlement have been complicated. As quickly as lineage of those claiming to be heirs can be ascertained records of kinship will be sent to the trustees at Chicago and settlement fixed.