

# LOOKING BACK

*100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter*

100 YEARS AGO,  
SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1923

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

**What We Are Talking About  
at the County Hub**

## STILL A COAL SHORTAGE

**Lightning Strikes House-  
Dinner for Aged Church  
Members Auto Burned.**

Frances Benedict is valedictorian of the class of 1923, Walton high school, and Thena Olmstead the salutatorian. The class will number about forty, it is expected.

Word has been received by Walton relatives of the death of Mrs. Sturges Bulkley at her home at Beaverkill, Sullivan county, on Monday. The funeral service was held Wednesday.

Second Lieutenant James C. Burrhus of Company F has resigned his commission in the national guard. It is expected that Frank McCook will be commissioned second lieutenant in his place.

Bert Houck has sold his farm on Baxter brook to Augustus Graby of Beerston, through the agency of H. M. Robinson. Mr. Houck has bought the Marvin place, Beerston road, from Mr. Robinson.

The summer timetable on the Ontario & Western railroad will be put into effect on June 24th. The usual summer trains will be put on and it is probable that changes in running time may be made.

Andrew Gray, who was arrested last Wednesday for public intoxication and disorderly conduct, was sentenced to thirty days in the county jail in Delhi by Justice J. M. Peake. His son, William Gray, was released on suspended sentence.

The Chevrolet car of Adelbert Groat, Plymouth church, used by his son, Fenton Groat, in going to and from school in Walton, caught fire Friday evening near the quarry on the macadam road at West brook. The machine was totally wrecked.

An exhibit of the drawing work done in the Walton union schools has been on display this week in the show windows of Walton stores. The exhibit has attracted much favorable comment. Miss Janie Launt is supervisor of drawing in the Walton schools.

At the annual meeting of Alert Hose company, No. 2, Charles Proskine was elected foreman for the ensuing year. The other officers are as follows: Assistant foreman, Robert Nichols; secretary, George M. Carpenter; treasurer, Charles Smith; steward, James Smith.

Carleton B. Laidlaw has bought the interest of Orson Wolf in the Walton Coal company with immediate possession. Mr. Laidlaw has formed a partnership with George A. Drake, real estate and insurance agent. The business will hereafter be conducted under the name of Drake & Laidlaw.

Walton coal dealers predict that the fuel situation next winter will be little better than the last season. Shipments received are far below the average and the coal companies are apparently seeking to create an artificial shortage of coal. The situation is one the local dealers are powerless to relieve.

Thirty-one church fathers and mothers, members who have reached the age of seventy years, were entertained Tuesday at the annual dinner at the Congregational church given in their honor. Following the meal a program of short speeches and of music was carried out. Mrs Emily Smith, who is 87 years of age, was the oldest member present.

While the highway gang was returning from Bobs brook in the town truck Saturday evening the men saw a fawn crossing the railroad track on the Salton farm at Pines. As the animal approached the tracks the milk train came along and the deer took to its heels across the flat. When the train had passed the deer remained grazing on the flat until the truck was out of sight.

Among the appointments of the officers of the Grand Lodge of the Masonic fraternity are Andrew Fenton of Margaretville, who has been appointed district deputy grand master, and Rev. A. A. Walker of Walton Methodist church, who has been appointed one of the grand chaplains. Both of these men are worthy of the honors. Frank M. Smith of Springfield Center, Otsego county, is district deputy for that district.

While William Kinch of Colchester station, Downsville road, was returning from Walton Tuesday evening the lights on his Ford car went out near the ice house on the state road near Haverly's dam. Kinch applied his brakes suddenly, causing the machine to skid into the ditch. The windshield was broken and one of Mr. Kinch's hands was painfully cut on the glass. He was taken to Dr. W. R. Gladstone's office, where the injury was dressed.

During the thunderstorm which broke over Walton at noon Wednesday the house of John Williams at 63 St. John street was struck by lightning. The bolt followed the ridge boards of the roof ripping off a large number of shingles. In one part of the roof a place three feet square was stripped of the shingles and the room below was drenched with rain water. The damage was slight although it required a bundle of shingles to replace those torn off.

## GIVE MERWIN \$900 FOR BEES BLIGHTED BY TUNNEL BLASTS

Messrs. Kelly, Mayham and Shea, the commissioners appointed by Judge Howard to hear the claims connected with the Schoharie reservoir and Shandaken tunnel, have filed their report in a number of cases, the most important of them being that of John B. Merwin of Prattsville for the loss of a large number of colonies of bees belonging to his apiary at Prattsville, as a result of the blasting by dynamite conducted by the employees of the board of water supply in making rock excavations for the shaft of the Shandaken tunnel. This case has attracted a great deal of attention not only in Delaware, Greene, Ulster and Schoharie counties, but among bee keepers throughout the United States.

The most expert bee keepers in the state of New York testified as witnesses in support of Mr. Merwin's contention that the blasting with dynamite within sixty feet of the colonies of his bees after they had clustered in the fall, caused them to gorge themselves with honey because of the instinct of the honey bee when disturbed by animals like bears, opossums, raccoons and squirrels in the woods to gorge with honey and take it as a supply to another hollow tree. When this is done in the fall after the bees have ceased gathering honey, and they are preparing to hibernate for the winter, they die. Mr. Merwin claimed to have lost over two hundred colonies. The case was bitterly contested by the city of New York, not so much because of the amount of money involved as because of the novelty of questions presented.

The commission by their report award Merwin \$900. Judge Grant and Judge Clearwater were his counsel; William Grogan, assistant to the corporation counsel, represented the city. Mr. Merwin is secretary-treasurer of the Delaware County Bee Keepers association.

## COW BRINGS \$6,000 AT MERIDALE FARMS SALE

**Eighty-seven Blooded  
Jerseys Bring \$60,890 at  
Last Friday's Auction**

Six thousand dollars was the top price paid for a cow at the fourth annual sale of Meridale Jereys at Meridale Farms on Friday, June 1, O. W. Means of Brookfield, Mass., paying this sum for Perennial Lobelia, daughter of the famous Jersey bull Kingsway.

Dr. Mean's Elm Hill farm herd will be augmented by more Meridale Jerseys than any other buyer, as he bid and secured eleven cows for a total of \$21,500. Twenty-six buyers from nine states paid a total of \$60,890 for eighty-seven head of Meridale Jerseys.

The average sale price for the day was \$699.90, an exceedingly good figure when it is remembered that there were no aged, outstanding herd bulls for sale. In fact of the eighty-seven head, but two were bulls.

The sale had its one sad element - the absence of F. Wayland Ayer, the founder of Meridale Farms and breeder of its noted Jerseys, whose death at the farms on Mar. 5 took from the ranks of American Jersey breeders one of its leaders. It was Mr. Ayer who did so much to stabilize the Jersey breeding industry in this country, and it was he who established for Meridale farms the reputation for honesty and fair dealing which has brought unending commendation to the manner of its sales. The mantle of the founder has fallen upon his son-in-law, Wilfred W. Fry, who demonstrated Friday that the integrity of Meridale Farms has descended into safe hands.

After Dr. Means, the largest buyer in the pavilion Friday, was Colonel Jacob Ruppert, ex-owner of the New York Yankees, who acquired five head for \$3,550, the largest single price he paid being \$1,000 for Blonde's Abbey May, a daughter of the famous sire, Blonde's Golden Oxford.

About 125 breeders came on a special train from New York, which arrived at Delhi early in the morning, and was there met by automobiles from the farms, and others came in by machine from New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and other states.

As guests of the farms during the day of the sale, those attending breakfasted and dined at Meridale cottages, were given a morning to view the herd, attended the sale at the pavilion in the afternoon, and, after supper at the cottages, returned by automobile to the special train. From noon until shortly after four o'clock the cattle marched through the ring, under the hammer of the well known auctioneer, George Bain. Interest centered, of course, in the famous prize winner, Perennial Lobelia, which did not go to Dr. Means without spirited bidding. Two other animals which brought high figures were also captured by Dr. Means. Each went for \$4,100. They were Rosebay's Golden Wanted, and Symbie's Rosebay.

## TWO MEN MEET DEATH WHEN CAR HITS TREE

**Machine Left Road on  
Turn Near Colliers**

## CONDON WAS DELHI MAN

**Victims of Accident Had  
Been on Fishing Trip and  
Were on Way Home When  
Fatality Occurred.**

Howard B. Condon, formerly of Delhi, and his companion, Fred Hecox, both of Oneonta, met death Monday afternoon when Condon's Ford car sidwiped a tree near Colliers.

The two men, who were employed by the Borst-Robertson company, Oneonta contractors, had taken the afternoon off for a fishing trip and were returning to Oneonta when the accident occurred. The Ford car driven at a

high rate of speed failed to make a turn on the state road a quarter of a mile from Colliers and leaving the highway crashed into a tree. Condon lived but a few minutes while Hecox died later in Fox memorial hospital.

Condon's skull was fractured in several places, his chest was crushed and his left arm and leg broken. He was breathing when witnesses of the accident reached the spot but died shortly after. His companion was rushed to the Fox Memorial hospital, where he died at about 9 o'clock, without having gained consciousness. His skull was fractured over the left eye and his face and head were badly bruised and cut.

William Lamont, who runs a store at Cooperstown Junction, and Charles Bloom, who was working on the state road, noticed that the car was being driven at a high rate of speed and in a reckless manner. The latter stated that the machine plowed through several bad holes in the road which could easily have been avoided.

When the machine reached the sharp curve just above the Russell farm it swung wide to pass a car driven by Robert Barnes of Schenevus. Condon, who was at the wheel, evidently could not get his machine back into the road and it ploughed along with one wheel on the road and the other in the grass for about 25 yards, finally sidwiping a large tree by the side of the road. The force of the blow swung the car around the obstacle and it stopped about 15 feet from the tree and at right angles to its former course. Condon, who was on the side toward the tree, was hit by the tree, thrown out of the seat and dragged headdown along the ground. Hecox was evidently thrown against the windshield.

Witnesses of the accident were Mr. Barnes, whose machine the death car passed on the curve, and L. G. Russell and S. C. Beams, who were at work on the Russell farm. They hurried to the spot and lifted the men from the car, the left side of which was smashed beyond repair. Condon died in a very few moments. Hecox was taken to the hospital where he died about 9 o'clock the same evening. Dr. Getman, the coroner, found a broken bottle which had evidently contained an alcoholic beverage in the car.

Howard B. Condon, who was nearly 26 years of age, was born at Delhi on June 12, 1897, the son of Richard Condon and Alice Odell. His life was spent in that vicinity until 1917 when he was united in marriage to Sabra Sheldon of Meridale. They came to Oneonta following the marriage and had since resided there. Surviving are the wife, a son, Raymond, the father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Condon of Delhi; five sisters, Mrs. Myron Hotaling of Delancey, Hazel Condon of Delhi and Mrs. Frank Need, Miss Dorothy Condon and Miss Isabelle Condon of Oneonta; and five brothers, Donald and Earl Condon of Delhi, Arnold Condon of Oneonta, Russell Condon of Millertown and Frank Condon of Walton. Fred Hecox, the second victim of the tragedy was 25 years of age. He came to Oneonta three months ago from Clayville, where he had been employed as a fireman in a woolen mill.

## GAME LAW PROTECTS BEAR.

Under a law enacted by the last legislature bear will be protected by the state game laws. An open season of only one month is fixed, the dates being October 15 to November 15th both inclusive. The use of dogs in hunting bear is prohibited. The new law was sponsored by nature lovers who feared the extinction of bruin who heretofore has been given no protection by the state.

## TEAM WENT DOWN BANK

**Tompkins Highway Workers  
Meet With Mishap.**

(From Cannonsville cor.)  
While a force of men were at

work on the highway with three pairs of horses hitched to the road machines they were scraping along the edge of the road when the harness broke letting the leaders belonging to Wesley Brundage, down the steep bank above the Grant farm, a distance of about twenty feet. The other teams and the scraper were prevented from going clear down the bank by landing against some trees. The harness was stripped from Mr. Brundage's team with the exception of a collar and headstall. None of the horses were injured other than slight scratches. The other teams belonged to Arthur Backus and Merton Sawdy.

## MARRIED FIFTY-FIVE YEARS.

Thursday, May 31, was the fifty-fifth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Holley. In honor of the occasion Mr. and Mrs. Holley and their children were entertained at dinner at the home of their son, Arthur Holley, Pines brook.

## FIRE BURNS OVER 100 ACRES

**Probably Started by  
Carelessness with Match.**

A forest fire on the L. T. Robinson farm, about five miles west of Hancock on the Liberty highway, burned over an area of about 100 acres before being extinguished. Forest Ranger George Realy and thirty men worked seven hours Sunday before getting it under control. The fire originated on the side hill about four rods from the highway, east of Mr. Robinson's residence and is presumed to have been started by some one gathering pinksters who carelessly dropped a match in the dry leaves after lighting a cigarette or cigar.

## FELL DOWN BANK STEPS

**Aged Hancock Man Suffers  
Bad Fall Saturday.**

(From Hancock cor.)

Andrew Bush of Hancock had a bad fall Saturday. Mr. Bush went into the First National bank to do some business and in coming out he caught his foot on the top step and fell down the entire length of the stone steps. He was painfully cut about the head and badly jarred. Owing to his advanced age the accident was quite a shock to him.

## MUST FACE BURGLARY CHARGE

**Man Suspected of Hancock  
Robbery Now in Jail.**

(From Hancock correspondent.) Chief of Police Austin McGranaghan of Hancock went to Scranton Pa., last Friday and brought back with him James Jones, who is wanted as a suspect in connection with the breaking into of Floyd Doolittle's barber shop last summer and carrying away nearly everything Mr. Doolittle had besides quite a sum of money. He was placed in the Delhi jail where he will have to await future developments.

Sunday morning Mr. McGranaghan received a call from Lordville that a stranger was in the vicinity and was acting very strangely. McGranaghan at once in company with Frank Bowen went to the scene and found the man. They induced the fellow to come to Hancock with them. Upon arrival the stranger was placed in the village lockup and after questioning the man the officer learned that his name was Daniel Lynn of Corning, N. Y., and he had a sister there. With this information Mr. McGranaghan got in communication with the sister and she instructed the officer to bring Lyon to Corning and Sunday evening he was placed on Erie Train No. 3 with Officer Bowen in charge of them.