

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter - Saturday, November 1, 1924

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

MARRIED FIFTY YEARS

Milk Price, \$3.07—Fell in Church—Chamber Commerce Smoker—Crushed Fingers in Cogs.

All bills against the town of Walton should be in the hands of the town clerk, E. S. St. John, on or before next Thursday, Nov. 6.

Mrs. Gordon Olmstead was operated upon Saturday night for the relief of an acute attack of appendicitis. Dr. E. Ray Gladstone performed the operation, assisted by Dr. W. R. Gladstone.

Oscar Rotzler had the misfortune to have two of his fingers crushed in a cog in the stone derrick in his quarry at Long Eddy last Wednesday. He is at present at his home in Beerston while his son, Donald, looks after business.

William, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor of West brook, had his right arm fractured above the wrist Sunday in a collision with another bicyclist. The accident occurred near Shaw's store, Townsend street. Dr. W. R. Gladstone reduced the fracture.

Margaret Carey, the 15 year old daughter of Mrs. Lena Carey of Loomis, is ill with infantile paralysis. Elmo Boice, a Loomis boy, also has the disease, and Howard Speed, a 15 year old Cleaver boy, is recovering from an attack of infantile paralysis. Dr. W. G. Smith is the attending physician in all three cases.

The officers of the Walton People's Telephone company have voted to give additional service to the subscribers in the rural districts on election night. Complete election returns of county, state and nation as far as available will be given each half hour from the Walton central office and will be free to all. The service will begin at 8 o'clock and will be announced by one long ring.

Dry bridge over the O. & W. railroad tracks on St., John street was replanked this week. Under an agreement between the village board and the railroad the company furnished the material and the work was done by the village. The railroad has always maintained the bridge since its erection but when repairs were needed this time raised the question as to its liability. The settlement given above resulted.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold a smoker and dinner at the sunlight room of the Royal restaurant Friday evening, Nov. 7, at 6:30 o'clock. They will have for a speaker Edward M. Johnston of Syracuse, who is a public entertainer. His subject, "I owe the world a life," is one every member of the chamber should hear. The Kiawahis club of Binghamton says he is one of the best they ever heard. Tickets for sale at Wood's hardware, Courtney's and More's drug store.

Mrs. Frank M. Laidlaw suffered a painful fall at the United Presbyterian church Friday evening. Mrs. Laidlaw was in attendance at the monthly meeting of the Everybody's Bible class and while on her way to the basement she slipped off the side of the stairway, which is without a guardrail, and is in the form of a half circle. Mrs. Laidlaw was unconscious for some time, but suffered no broken bones. Dr. W. R. Gladstone dressed her injuries in the absence of the family physician, Dr. W. G. Smith, who was at the Kiwanis banquet.

JURY FAILS TO AGREE IN HEART BALM CASE

Unable to Reconcile Testimony as to Budine's Age

GOODRICH GETS \$2,000

Walton Man Was Injured in Wreck of Utica Flyer at Maywood in 1923.

(From Delhi correspondent.)

Since the opening of the supreme court on last Monday only four cases have been placed on trial.

The case of Helen M. Cummings, an infant, by Joseph C. Cummings, guardian ad litem vs. The Village of Sidney, an action for damages for personal injuries, consumed the greater part of Thursday and until 3:30 on Friday.

This case was where a mother slipped on the icy sidewalks in Sidney village and fell upon her infant child. Judge Rhodes before the jury went out Friday directed that they bring in a sealed verdict, which was done date Friday evening. Upon the opening of court Monday at 2 o'clock the verdict was read and gave the plaintiff \$250. The attorney for the plaintiff was Charles C. Flaesch and for the defendant William Thorp, assisted by Lewis F. Raymond.

The next case to go on trial was that of George H. Goodrich vs. The New York, Ontario & Western Railway company, a negligence action in which \$25,000 damage was claimed. George H. Goodrich, the plaintiff in this case, is a resident of Walton who was injured in an accident on the railroad at Maywood last year. This case went to the jury late Tuesday afternoon and a verdict of \$2,000 in favor of the plaintiff was returned. The lawyer for the plaintiff was Charles C. Flaesch and for the railroad Samuel H. Fancher of Walton, who was assisted by C. L. Andrus, general counsel of the O. & W., on the first day of the trial.

Mr. Goodrich was injured on March 24, 1923, when the Utica Flyer, upon which he was a passenger, collided head-on with a freight train at Maywood. The railroad company conceded liability and that the plaintiff was somewhat injured, but contended that the injuries were not serious or permanent.

Dr. Archambault of Albany, a nerve specialist, and Dr. E. Ray Gladstone of Walton gave medical testimony for Mr. Goodrich. The railroad company called Drs. Hartigan and Manley of Norwich, Dr. W. B. Morrow of Walton and Drs. Goodrich and Ormiston of Delhi.

Wednesday morning the case of Irene E. Lent of Cornwall, N. Y. and Lawrence Budine of Walton for breach of promise to marry went on trial. The case took all day and the jury reported at 9 o'clock that evening that they were unable to agree and were discharged.

This case was tried in the supreme court in Delhi in October, 1922, and a verdict rendered for the plaintiff, Miss Lent, for \$1,750 and costs. The main point in the case as developed in these trials seems to be whether or not the defendant, Lawrence Budine, was of age at the time the alleged contract of marriage was made. The defense did not dispute the contract but claimed that the defendant was under age at the time and that any agreement was void.

The evidence as to the age of Lawrence Budine was conflicting, as no birth certificate was filed. Dr. J. A. Holley, who was the family physician, and Dr. W. G. Smith of Walton and Dr. W. H. Montgomery of Rome, who were called in Dr. Holley's absence on another case when Lawrence was born, fixed the time as December, 1900, from their recollection.

This testimony was substantiated by the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Budine, by the grandmother, Mrs. John Gilbert, and by Mr. and Mrs. Bert Budine, an uncle and aunt of the defendant. This would make Lawrence's age

VOTERS USE THREE BALLOTS AT GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY

There are 26,997 voters registered in Delaware county. While this is an increase of some 600 over the registration of 1923, in the presidential election of 1920 there was a registration of 27,185 in the county. There were 16,995 persons who actually voted that year. With the large number who are always absent from home or whose names are on the registration rolls through error, the vote of 1920 is considered representative and it is doubtful whether the number polled next Tuesday will vary much from the total of that year.

This year each voter in Delaware county will be given three ballots. The first and largest of these is the ballot containing the names of presidential electors. Votes are cast for the candidates for president and vice president. To vote for the electors of one's party the voter simply marks a cross in the circle under the party emblem. There are six columns containing party electors and a column for writing in the names of electors if the voter so desires. The parties in the order of their appearance on the ballot are the Democratic, the Republican, Socialist, Social Labor, Progressive, and Workers' Party. It is to be noted that the Progressive and Socialist electors are identical, and while the party vote will be counted separately the total of the two will represent the vote for La-Follette and Wheeler.

On the general ballot the thirteen offices from governor down to coroner are separated and the voter must mark a cross in the square before the candidate's name, making the cross after a candidate's name instead of before voids the vote for that particular office. Each year there are hundreds of blank ballots on some

twenty years in 1920, when he proposed marriage to Miss Lent, as claimed.

The plaintiff submitted in evidence the affidavits of Lawrence Budine on his enlistment in Company F and also the application for a license to marry his present wife, which showed that he claimed to be a year older than the defense maintained and therefore of age when the contract of marriage was made. Miss Lent also testified that Lawrence told her in May, 1920, that he was 21 years old.

The jury was unable to agree as to which side was right and was discharged. Herbert Utter of Cornwall and A. G. Patterson of Walton represented Miss Lent and A. D. Peake of Walton and A. L. O'Connor of Hobart appeared for the defendant, Budine.

It is as yet problematic whether court will be finished this week or whether Justice Rhodes will return for a few days after election.

MAN BURNS TO DEATH

Emmett Geer Loses Life in Fire at Granton

LITTLE LEFT OF BODY

Neighbors Aroused by Light Find Tenant House in Flames—May Have Started from Chimney.

Emmett Geer was burned to death early Monday morning when fire destroyed the tenant house on Grant Brothers farm at Granton, nine miles from Walton, which he was occupying while in the employ of the Hanratty Construction company on the Cannonsville-Granton section of the Deposit-Rock Rift state highway.

Mr. Geer entered the employ of the Hanratty company the forepart of September. He has been maintaining bachelor's quarters in the Grant tenant house. Mrs. Geer has been staying with her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Day, in Hancock. Sunday night Mrs. LeGran-

de Northrup, Sr., of Walton was staying with her daughter, Mrs. Bert Beers. The Beers home adjoins the Grant tenant house. Mrs. Northrup and her daughter were sleeping together in the bedroom facing the house occupied by Mr. Geer. About one o'clock she was awakened by a crackling noise which she at first thought was rain. Reaching out and raising the curtain she saw that the side of the Grant house was on fire and at once gave the alarm.

Mr. Beers, Jasper Brundage and a neighbor, Mr. Simmons, went to the upper side of the burning house and knocked on the window of the room in which they knew Geer slept. Getting no response they broke in the glass, but were driven back by the dense smoke and flames. The house burned to the ground.

The charred torso of the unfortunate man was later recovered from the embers. He doubtless was suffocated by the dense smoke which filled the house. Dr. E. Ray Gladstone of Walton, the coroner, was called and issued a death certificate.

Mr. Geer was in the habit of building a hot fire before going to bed so that the house would be warm in the morning. It is thought that the fire started from an overheated chimney.

Mr. Geer was a man 52 years of age. He was formerly a conductor on the O. & W. railroad and during the war was employed by the D. & H. in Oneonta. Before coming to Granton he had been employed as chauffeur for Mrs. W. T. Hyde, agent for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Otsego county.

His wife was Miss E. Belle Weaver, daughter of C. H. Weaver of Walton, before their marriage. Besides his wife he leaves his father, Charles Geer, of Hancock; one daughter, Mrs. Joseph Day of Hancock, and a son, Charles Geer, of Oneonta. There are also five grandchildren.

The funeral was held in Henderson's funeral parlors at Hancock Wednesday afternoon. Oneonta lodge No. 466, F. & A., M., had

charge of the service at the grave.

HORSE MIREN IN SWAMP

Twelve Men Needed to Pull Animal From Mud.

(From Treadwell correspondent.)

John Winsmore of West Meredith came near losing one of his best horses the first of the week. The animal, which had been turned out to pasture, was missed Sunday but though searched for by Mr. Winsmore and his son, was not discovered until Monday night. When it was found nearly submerged in a swamp and unable to move. Twelve men who came to Mr. Winsmore's assistance were finally able to get a rope under the horse and after considerable effort, to rescue it. The horse was nearly paralyzed after its long stay in the mud but after a while was able to walk to the barn and it is thought will suffer no permanent injury from this experience.

HIREN MAN AND TEAM MISSING

Farm Helper Fails to Return Borrowed Horses.

(Bovina Center correspondent.)

Something out of the ordinary for these days took place in Bovina a couple of weeks ago when a man by the name of York was employed by Fritz Burger, who lives in New York but owns a farm on the Bloomville road. Two days after he began work he took one of Burger's teams, a heavy black team with a set of heavy harness and buggy, purporting to go to Harpersfield. When he failed to return in four days Mr. Burger was notified. He came to Bovina Center at once and after an effort made to locate York the case was put in the hands of state troopers, who have been working on the matter for a week but so far neither man nor team have been located.

EXPLODE DYNAMITE AT A SKIMMELTON

Sequel to Serenade of Claryville Couple Will Be Found in Court

Radford M. Moore of the firm of Everett & Moore, general merchants at Claryville, recently decided that he would take unto himself a wife and on October 11 he was united in marriage to Miss Florence Burton, also of Claryville, by the Rev. Robert Mook, pastor of the Grahamsville Methodist church, at the parsonage at Grahamsville. After a honeymoon trip Mr. and Mrs. Moore returned to Claryville on Tuesday, October 21, and the following Thursday evening some of the residents of Claryville decided to give the happy pair an old fashioned skimmington.

When night had enshrouded the village there were many dark forms seen hurrying toward the Moore domicile armed with all sorts of noisemaking implements, such as horns, tin kettles, etc. At a given signal the skimmington started, but evidently not enough noise was being made for somebody secured a stick of dynamite.

The dynamite was placed alongside the front walk, about twelve feet from the porch, and there discharged. There was a terrific crash and every window in the front of the house was shattered, while all the rear windows in the house were cracked by the explosion.

Fortunately no one was injured when the dynamite went off, and those taking part in the skimmington hurriedly departed for their homes.

The state troopers made an investigation and later arrested Archie Dulaff, a young married man with a family, who resides at Claryville. He was taken to Monticello, where he was admitted to bail in the sum of \$2,000 and the trial set down for next month.