

# LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter - Saturday, January 31, 1925

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

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

## FINE MUSIC FOR DANCE

**Coldest Weather in Years—Will Bear See Shadow?—Fragments of Glass in Eye—Entertained Employees.**

News has been received in Walton of the death of William H. Campbell of Rutland, Mass., on Jan. 22. Mr. Campbell married Nellie S. Ames, daughter of the late John F. and Mary Ames, on Oct. 12, 1891, in Walton. Interment was in the family lot in Rutland.

Homer B. VanValkenburg of Frear hollow thought he was seeing things when he came upon a garter snake while working in the woods Tuesday. He killed the snake and later exhibited it with the intimation that the snake's appearance in the extreme cold weather of the past week is a sign of an early spring.

Sherman Cline of Binghamton must furnish a bond of \$300 for the support of his wife and two children or spend six months in the Broome county jail. Cline could not furnish the bond and went to jail. He is reported to have deserted his family on several occasions. When released he must pay \$15 a week for their support.—Press, Jan. 17.

Frank Mead Eells post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, has engaged one of the famous Vincent Lopez orchestras to furnish the music at the annual Washington ball, which will be held Friday evening, Feb. 20. The post goes to a large expense to secure this orchestra, which will undoubtedly furnish the best dance music ever heard on the armory floor.

Wednesday morning brought the coldest weather in recent years. The state school of agriculture in Delhi, official observer for the federal government, reports a temperature of 26 degrees below zero at the county seat. Thermometers in Walton and vicinity registered as low as 34 below, according to some reports, but the average seemed to be about 22 or 23 degrees below zero.

C. Claude Campbell of Columbia, S. C., has been elected and installed Illustrious Potentate of Omar Teple, Mystic Shrine, of Charleston, S. C. Mr. Campbell at one time resided in Walton, some sixteen or seventeen years ago, while employed by the E. E. Riskey Lumber company. He is now district manager of the M. W. Ritter Lumber company, one of the largest lumber concerns in the country.

Candlemas day, which falls next Monday, February 2, also is the day of the feast of the purification in both the Episcopal and Catholic calendars and is observed with special services in all churches of both faiths. It is secularly known as "Ground Hog Day," and to it attaches an old superstition that if the ground hog ventures forth and sees its shadow cast on the ground it returns to its hibernation, as that fact indicates a continuation of winter weather. A cloudy day means an early spring.

Herman Neale, a student in the Walton high school, suffered a serious injury to his right eye Tuesday noon, when his glasses were broken, while playing basketball, and the eyeball was cut by fragments of the glass. The accident occurred during the physical education period for the non-resident pupils, held during the noon hour. The boy's injuries were treated by Dr. W. R. Gladstone and on the physician's advice Herman, and his father, Alfred G. Neale, of the Oxbow, went to Utica Wednesday, where the boy is receiving treatment from Dr. Gage, an eye specialist. It is believed that the sight will not be impaired permanently.

The Walton Auto Sales company entertained its employees, their wives and guests at the second annual banquet in the sunlight room of the Royal restaurant Tuesday evening. Twenty-one were present and after the dinner the evening was spent in games and dancing. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Vail, J. J. Farrell, Harry Lambert, A. J. Courtney, Robert Brittain, Mr. and Mrs. George Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. John Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mulligan, Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Morrow, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Brundage, Miss Bessie Shackleton, Miss Bertha McCabe and Miss Nellie Burgin. Mr. Vail, who has managed the company since its organization, recently purchased: the entire capital stock from his former associates in the business.

At the regular January meeting of the board of directors of the Dairymen's League Co-operative Association, Inc., held in New York city on Jan. 16 and 17, it was recommended that the present schedule of milk prices be continued through February, unless a change in marketing conditions should make necessary a revision in some of the classes. The executive committee have authority to act in such an emergency. The prices now in effect are: Class 2, \$3.07 per 100 pounds (three per cent butterfat) at the 201-210 mile freight zone; class 2a (milk for cream), \$2.10 plus skim milk value; class 2b (plain condensed and ice cream), \$2.25; class; 2c (soft cheese), \$2.15; class 3a (evaporated, sweetened, condensed), \$1.90; class 3b (milk powder), \$1.85; class 3c (Swiss and other cheeses of similar type), \$1.65; classes 4a and 4b (butter and Amerlean cheese), price determined by average wholesale, price of butter and cheese, respectively, during January.

## BIRDS STOP FEEDING DURING THE ECLIPSE

### Delhi Correspondent Notes Strange Actions of Sparrows During Totality

(From Delhi correspondent.)

Newspapers have been so full of data, articles and editorials about the eclipse and now that the affair is all over it is with some timidity that I venture to mention the great phenomenon.

I can remember to have heard my grandmother tell about an eclipse she observed in the town of Kortright, when she was young—no doubt that of 1806. She related at that time there was a deep snow on the ground and that during the phenomena the snow took on a blue cast, almost as blue as indigo—that cattle in the barn bellowed mournfully—the horses neighed, the dogs howled, the chickens went to roost and the roosters crowed. She also said that a number of nervous people in the neighborhood were prostrated by fear.

When we remember 1806 was 119 years ago, that no weekly papers were published in the county and daily papers not dreamed of—we can imagine that a total eclipse coming on unawares might make some of us shake a bit in our boots. Have heard of no nervousness among the people in this vicinity exhibited on account of the eclipse, except that some of the colored people had looked pretty sober for a day or two and also William Terrell, a well known gentleman of Delhi, seemed a trifle nervous.

I observed the eclipse from my office windows, which face the east and Sheldon mountain which is but a few rods distant. At this time of year the sun seems to come right up out of the top of this mountain and so during this great obscuration it seemed I could almost reach out and touch the moon which really was the chief actor in this show which has been so well advertised in the 275 daily papers of this state as well as in the 900 weeklies. As far as my observation went "it came in fine" as the radio fans say and performed exactly as advertised. I used no smoked glass or field glass or film—did not need

## MAY WIPE OUT VILLAGES FOR NEW YORK'S WATER SUPPLY

The signed treaties between New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania with reference to the Delaware river water resources were filed Tuesday with the three secretaries of state, and in New Jersey Governor Silzer submitted to the New Jersey legislature a special message accompanying the treaty. Similar action is expected at Albany and Harrisburg.

While the plans are in the preliminary stage, it was learned Tuesday that New York city's new Delaware river water supply will cost in the neighborhood of \$300,000,000.

The Catskill Ashokan system's construction cost to date is \$188,300,000, including connections to Brooklyn and Staten Island and new reservoirs in Westchester county. It was begun in 1904, when labor costs were low, and it was ten years and six months in building.

Chief Engineer Thaddeus Merriman and Consulting Engineer J. Waldo Smith said that while other things are in the preliminary stage the one thing certain is that within ten years this city must have an additional water supply and the sooner the plans are under way the better, as it will take a good many years to build a new system.

The villages on the upper Delaware river that may be blotted out by the new storage dams include Cannonsville, above Deposit, on the west branch of the Delaware, and Granton, Rock Rift and Beerston, further up the valley.

Over on the east branch a similar fate probably awaits Shavertown, Union Grove, Arena, Arkville and possibly Margaretville.

Startling changes will take place north of Port Jervis in the Neversink valley. Many engineers favor Cuddebackville and Godeffroy as the best site for a huge dam that will impound the water flowing down the natural channel of the Delaware from the storage reser-

voirs' on the headwaters near Cannonsville, Shavertown and Margaretville, more than one hundred miles distant.

To get the water from the main channel of the Delaware over into the Neversink Valley, near Cuddebackville, it will be necessary to drive a tunnel under the mountain from low water level on the east bank a few miles above Port Jervis to a suitable level in the Neversink valley storage dam.

From the Cuddebackville dam, if it is located there, the water will be taken through a conduit, similar to the Catskill, by tunnel under the Shawangunk mountains, thence across Orange county and under the Hudson not far from Peekskill, connecting with the Catskill system at the Kensico reservoir. Soundings indicate a better crossing under the Hudson near Peekskill than the one at West Point, which was driven deep to avoid fissures and possible leaks. Near Peekskill the under river crossing will be through trap rock on the west side and crystalline granite on the east.

"New York does not appreciate the cheapness of its first class drinking water," said Chief Engineer Merriman recently. "It costs the people here only 13 cents a 1,000 gallons, or five cents a week per capita. Across the river in New Jersey it costs the people all the way up to 50 cents a 1,000 gallons, four times as much as here."

Mr. Merriman said that a maximum ultimate development of the Delaware river resources in accordance with the relative distribution determined by the terms of the tristate compact signed Saturday would give Pennsylvania 3,000,000,000 gallons a day and to New York and New Jersey about 1,500,000,000 gallons each. This city's daily consumption now is about 800,000,000. —New York Tribune.

these accessories as my windows, like many office windows were just filmy enough so I could see through them darkly. Now, as to peculiar manifestations of animals, upon inquiry I have heard of none, but I wish, to tell you that watching ten or a dozen sparrows upon a bag of feed on a farmer's load, which had stopped directly in front of my window, I came near forgetting sun, moon and stars and the width of the umbra and penumbra—the diameter of sun, moon and earth—the corona and the speed of light.

These sparrows were getting their breakfast by picking at the bag of feed as totality approached arid then all at once stopped feeding and with bowed heads were motionless—it seemed from their attitude as if in silent prayer. When light came again they resumed their breakfast. I thought while watching them that here was a comfort for anyone who might be nervous about this wonderful phenomenon.

## NEED OF REST ROOM ASSURES ITS SUPPORT

### Civic Organizations and the Churches Unite to Help Community Project

A community project which has proved a success, is the rest room in the Vail block, Delaware street. After several years of effort in which representative men and women of the town have given without stint of their time and effort the rest room now appears to be firmly established and assured of sufficient financial support to carry on without serious difficulty.

The need is generally recognized for a place where visitors to the village, especially women, may stop to rest while in the village to trade or while waiting to go home. The home bureau office is located in connection with the rooms so that supervision is afforded from 8 in the morning until 5 o'clock in the evening. During the Christmas shopping period the room was kept open evenings also. The number

who use the room shows the need for such a place. The rest room committee is composed of representatives of various organizations contributing to its support and of the churches.

The appointments of members for the ensuing years are as follows: Chamber of Commerce, C. B. Lincoln, H. J. Wood, W. E. Henderson and George S. Fitch; Kiwanis club, Earl S. St. John and H. S. Pond; Civic club, Miss Edith Olmstead, Mrs. H. D. Henderson; Walton grange, Mrs. Fred Gray, Mrs. Fred Brainard; Masons, David More, H. F. Marvin; Parent-Teachers' association, H. B. Townsend, Mrs. S. H. Fancher; Home Bureau, Miss Sarah Launt, Mrs. Arthur Holley, Mrs. W. R. Eason, Mrs. Mamie Gosper, Mrs. R. D. George, Miss Florence Wakeman, Mrs. A. W. North; Baptist church, Mrs. Louis Camp, Mrs. Everett Fitch; Congregational church, R. B. St. John, Mrs. H. C. McKenzie; Episcopal, Mrs. John Terry, John, G. More; Methodist church, H. D. Henderson, C. B. Lincoln; Reformed Presbyterian church, Mrs. W. R. Russell, Mrs. E. F. Thompson; United Presbyterian church, Mrs. Francis Brown, Fred R; Lyon; St. John's Catholic church, Miss Beatrice Hoye, J. J. Farrell.

The success of the rest room is in large part due to the efforts of the chairman of the committee, Mrs. A; W. North, who has been ably assisted by the other members of the committee.

## ALL BUSINESS HALTS TO GO SKY-GAZING

### Eclipse Drowns Daylight as Thousands Watch Beautiful Lights in the Heavens

Daylight melted into what resembled a moonlight night as the moon crossed between, the sun and the earth Saturday morning at 9:09 for a total eclipse. The beautiful pearly corona of the sun lasted less than two minutes and then with a blinding flash the sun appeared

again.

There were few in Walton who did not see the eclipse Saturday. Not again in a hundred years will another total eclipse pass over this section and from the time shortly, after 8 o'clock when the moon began to obscure the edge of the sun until the total eclipse had passed an hour and a quarter later the vantage points were occupied by those eager to see the phenomenon in its entirety.

Some climbed to the hilltops to the west of the village, but the greater number viewed the spectacle from the street on top of business blocks or from their homes.

Those who had read the description of the coming eclipse appearing in the Reporter of January 17 were prepared to watch for the various phenomena connected with it.

The total eclipse at Walton was timed for 9:09 1-2 o'clock and was to last one minute and fifty-five seconds, according to the calculations.

It was indeed a beautiful sight when the last rim of the sun was obscured and the corona flashed out. To the southwest appeared, the three stars, Venus, Mercury and Jupiter. Then less than two minutes later with a blinding flash, which to many was the most spectacular part, of the eclipse, the sun burst forth again with a brightness that seemed far greater than that in the minutes before the time of totality.

The darkness was not intense and one could easily see the hands of a watch if in the open. It was more like a very clear midnight sky with a crescent moon and a few stars in the heavens. Some say their chickens went to roost. Babies cried and dogs howled in fright.

The Delhi state school of agriculture reports that the thermometer dropped two degrees during the eclipse. The day could not have been better to view the eclipse but the bitter cold that morning, the lowest temperature was about 8 below zero, kept many indoors from whence they observed the spectacle.

Of the thousands who viewed the eclipse in this section none were more interested than Dr. and Mrs. Henry B. Hedrick of Washington, D. C., who conducted their observations from Murphy hill west of tile village of Walton.

Dr. Hedrick in collaboration with Prof. E. W. Brown of Yale university compiled the lunar tables upon which the time of the eclipse is based. The work took nine years arid Dr. and Mrs. Hedrick worked upon he tables during their summer visits in Walton, Mrs. Hedrick's birthplace, so that they came to regard the eclipse as a Walton affair and were determined to view it, if at all, from Murphy hill, although they, had invitations to join parties of scientists in several observatories located in the path of the eclipse.

The work of Dr. Hedrick and Prof. Brown gives tables of the moon for all time so that the time of an eclipse may be computed to within a few seconds. Their tables replace the Hansen table compiled about a hundred years ago. Computations from the Hansen table would have varied a minute or more from the actual time of the eclipse. Reports from various observatories show that the variation from Dr. Hedrick's tables was from three to five seconds, this being due to the wavering of the moon in its path, a phenomenon not yet accounted for.

Dr. and Mrs. Hedrick enjoyed to the full their observations of the eclipse and were especially delighted to note the shadow bands dancing on the snow back of them immediately after the eclipse. These shadow bands which are supposed to both precede arid follow the eclipse were not observed by them previous to the time of totality.

Business was halted during the few minutes before and at the time of totality. Then with one accord all returned to their work and but few troubled to again observe through a clouded glass or film the progress of the sun from behind the moon.