LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 Years Ago,

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1926

THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at the County Hub

MAY USE OLD BRIDGE

Kiwanians Take Their Wives-Co. F Inspection-Eightieth Birthday-Two More Chimney Fires

The preliminary report of the New York, Ontario & Western railway for 1925 shows net income of $41,066 after taxes and charges, equal to seven cents a share on more than $58,000,000 common stock, in contrast to $627,500 or $1.08 a share in 1925.

Tuesday, Feb. 2nd, is Candlemas day, when, the tradition runs, the bear or woodchuck come out to see their shadows. If they see the shadows they retire for six more weeks of sleep, but if it is cloudy and there are no shadows to frighten them winter is nearly over and Br'er Bear and Mr. Groundhog remain out.

The annual inspection of Company F will be held at the armory this Friday evening by Captain McGee representing the regular army, and Colonel Waterbury of the national guard. The officers will inspect the armory and the company records during the afternoon. The public is invited to the inspection in the evening.

One night recently three small maple trees on J.J. Elwood's lawn, Griswold street, were broken down. Previously the family had suffered annoyances by boys throwing mud on the steps and veranda of the house. Those guilty of these depredations are known and in case of further annoyance proper steps will be taken for their punishment.

Miss Edith Olmstead leaves today, Friday, for Ithaca, where she takes up a position as assistant to Dr. Nellie Perkins in the child training department of the college of home economics at Cornell university. Miss Olmstead's long experience as office secretary for the Delaware County Home Bureau admirably equips her for her new field of work and the offer of the new position is a recognition of the fine work she has done for the local home bureau.

The Company F basket ball team won from the Deposit five Saturday evening on the armory court by a score of 32 to 15. The guardsmen were at no time in danger and took and kept the lead. The score at the end of the first half was 15 to 6. "Hank" Flynn led the scoring for Walton with six field baskets to his credit. The Walton high school team was defeated at Fleischmanns Friday evening by the high school five of that place by a score of 34 to 30.

Wednesday, Jan. 27, was the eightieth birthday of Mrs. Ellen Barlow, North street. Mrs. Barlow received a unique remembrance from her many friends that day in the form of an eighty page booklet to each page of which was attached a crisp new one dollar bill with the name of the giver written on the page beneath the bill. That morning Mrs. Melvin Smith, in whose house Mrs. Barlow has rooms, presented her with a beautiful birthday cake adorned with eighty candles. This with gifts of flowers and other remembrances made the day a happy one indeed for Mrs. Barlow. The remembrances were but an expression in a small way of the love and esteem in which Mrs. Barlow is held by a host of friends in Walton who unite in hoping that she may celebrate many more birthdays.

Ladies' nights are always a welcome event with members of the Kiwanis club of Walton and that of Friday evening proved no exception to the rule. The banquet held at the Royal restaurant that evening was enjoyed by some ninety Kiwanians, their wives and friends. The speaker of the evening was Rev. T.C. Bookhout of Delhi, who chose as his subject, "Benjamin Franklin." Mr. Bookhout's address was intensely interesting and showed an intimate knowledge of Franklin, printer and statesman. Franklin, the speaker declared, was a builder. He was industrious. He was courageous and unafraid to brave opposition when in the minority. He was a man the keystone of whose success lay in service. Mr. Bookhout in his address brought out the human side of Franklin while stressing the traits of character which were responsible for his success. It was an address well worth while.

The section of road between the Murray Yeoman farm and Wakeman brook, located across the river from Rock Rift, has been the cause of trouble and expense to the town of Walton, owing to the bad slides from the hillside above. These slides have cost the town from $100 to $300 a year to clear up and keep the road in shape. It has been suggested that the old bridge at Rock Rift, which will no longer be needed after the new bridge on the state road is finished, might be moved up the river to span the stream near Wakeman brook, thus giving an outlet to the Wakeman brook territory and doing away with the necessity of keeping open the section of road where the slides occur. The Standard Engineering & Contracting company, which is erecting the new bridge, names a price of $3,564 for taking down and re-erecting the old bridge on foundations furnished by the town not over two miles from the present structure.

SEEK UNION OF DAIRYMEN AT DELHI MASS MEETING

Delhi will be the scene of a great mass meeting of Delaware county dairymen on Saturday, February 6, when facts relative to the present milk situation will be presented by speakers representing the various groups of dairymen and an effort will be made from the discussion to formulate some plan of union upon which an agreement can be reached.

The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 o'clock in the morning and every dairyman who can possibly come is urged to attend. It is believed that out of an open and frank discussion much good may come. At similar meetings in other counties committees have been appointed representative of all groups to work upon this problem of union. It is believed that the appointment of such a committee in Delaware county and its co-operation with similar committees in other counties may be of great help in helping solve the problems the dairymen face.

Pool, non-pool, Sheffield men and others will all be represented at the meeting in Delhi on February 6th. The dairy business in Delaware county is at stake and the dairymen themselves must solve the difficulty by making a firm and determined stand for their rights.

As speakers for this meeting the following men have been invited: W.R. Rhodes, president of the Non-pooling Dairymen's Co-operative Association, Little Falls; Morgan B. Garlock, president of the Eastern State Milk Producers' Association, Utica, N.Y.; C. Fred Boshart, president of the Sheffield Farms Producers' Association, Lowville; J.A. Coulter, Dairymen's League Co-operative Association.

The Farm Bureau has appointed as a general committee to arrange for the meeting two representatives each from the Dairymen's League and the Sheffield Producers' association, one representative of the Farm Bureau, one of the grange and one business man. This committee consists of Robert George of Walton and John Sharpe of South Kortright for the League, Hugh Adair of Delhi and S. L. Simonson of Grand Gorge for the Sheffield patrons, H. W. Harper of Harpersfield for the Farm Bureau, Orville Waters of Sidney, master of the county Pomona grange, for that organization, and A.J. Courtney of Walton as a representative business man.

It is hoped that there will be a large attendance of dairymen at the meeting, not only for their own personal benefit, but for the benefit of Delaware county's greatest business, dairying.

KILLED BY O. & W. TRAIN

Hobart Man Meets Death at Marvin Hollow Crossing

CAR A COMPETE WRECK

Find Driver's Body Pinned Under Front of Wreckage of the Hudson Coach

William Andrew Spence of Hobart met instant death Monday afternoon when his Hudson coach was struck by the Delhi train on the Marvin hollow crossing about half a mile east of the corporate limits of the village of Walton.

The accident occurred shortly before 3:30 o'clock on the last of the day's trips of the Delhi train from the county seat to Walton. Engineer James Gadwood was the only eyewitness of the fatality. He stated that he commenced blowing the whistle at the whistle post about half a mile east of the crossing and as he approached the Marvin hollow crossing he gave the regular crossing signal. The view is somewhat obstructed by the lay of the land and a car was being loaded with four-foot wood on the upper side of the crossing. Mr. Gadwood states that just as the locomotive neared the crossing the Hudson coach drove directly upon the tracks in the path of the train.

The engineer jammed on his brakes and shut his eyes to hide the scene. The impact broke the air cylinder of the engine and the train ran 600 or 800 feet before coming to a stop.

The train crew and members of the section gang who were in the passenger coach hurried back to the crossing. The Hudson had been carried forty or fifty feet and landed against the stone dock of Henry Conner which is raised two or three feet above the tracks. Spence's body was found pinned under the front of the car. Life was apparently extinct when the men reached him.

Engineer Gadwood is positive that the Hudson car was coming down the Marvin hollow road and in this he is corroborated by Trainman George Stilson who was watching from the opposite side of the locomotive and did not see the car. The side of the Hudson opposite the train was practically torn away. Apparently the machine was thrown against the post at the end of the stone dock and the right side of the car was demolished by the impact with the post and dock. Another theory is that Spence jammed on the brakes as he saw the train almost upon him and that the machine skidded around so that the right side was crushed in by the engine.

In the wreckage were found two feed bags in which was a quantity of broken glass jars were strewed about. A satchel in the car contained an unbroken pint bottle of liquor and in the trunk at the rear were found six unbroken bottles of the same goods, said to be applejack. The trunk was also filled with broken glass and the smell of liquor pervaded the air for hours after the accident.

Word was sent to Dr. E. Ray Gladstone, coroner, and after half an hour's delay the train proceeded to the Walton depot with the body. Dr. Gladstone made an investigation and visited the scene of the accident but decided no inquest was necessary.

No clue to the man's identity was found on the body and identification was made possible only through tracing out the ownership of the license plates on the Hudson car. Chief of Police F. W. McCook found that these were issued to William Andrew Spence of Hobart. A son, James A. Spence, came to Walton that evening and identified the body as that of his father and had the remains removed to Hobart.

Dr. Gladstone, who examined the body, found that Spence had suffered a fracture at the base of the skull, and there were lacerations about the head.

Logan Gould and Harry McLaughlin, whose farms are near the crossing, were at work loading a car of four-foot wood across the Marvin hollow road from the Conner stone dock and probably not more than 100 feet from the crossing. They did not see the car approach the crossing nor witness the accident, their attention being first attracted by the crash of the collision.

William A. Spence was a man 60 years of age. He came to Hobart a few years ago from the west and purchased the John O. Hillis farm near that village and lived there until about two years ago when his wife died. He then sold the farm and removed to Hobart. His occupation in the death certificate was stated as "delivery." The son stated that his father had been living at the New Hobart and conducted an auto livery. The Hudson coach carried a passenger car license and the speedometer showed it had been run about 11,000 miles. It is practically a total wreck. The right side is torn completely off and both rear wheels are broken, and the front of the car jammed. The door on the right side was torn off and with the front bumper was found about fifty feet beyond where the wreckage of the car was deposited, while on the left side of the car the glass in the rear was not broken. Apparently the locomotive caught the car on the front bumper and threw it against the stone dock.

Besides the son, James, of Hobart, there is another son, John, living in Oneonta. William A. Spence was a native of Canada.

The Marvin hollow road branches from the Delhi-Walton state road at the Palmer service station, half a mile from Walton village. There are only twelve or fifteen families living up the hollow.

RECOVERS STOLEN AUTO

Youths Who Took Car of Fred Stevens, Jr. are Arrested

An Overland coupe owned by Fred Stevens, Jr., of Afton was stolen in that village Wednesday night of last week but was recovered in Binghamton the next day where it was found on State street. William J. Campbell and Frederick R. Lancier of Oneonta were arrested for the theft. It is claimed that they were beating their way to Binghamton and helped themselves to Stevens' car to complete the journey upon their arrival in Afton. Campbell waived examination and indictment and pleaded guilty to grand larceny in the second degree before Judge H.C. Stratton of Chenango county and was sentenced to three months in jail. Lancier pleaded not guilty and bail was fixed at $250.

Fred Stevens, Jr., is the son of Fred Stevens, former federal prohibition agent, and is well known in Walton and Delhi where the family formerly resided. Fred Stevens, Sr., has given up his position in the federal service and will be connected with the law printing business in Brooklyn conducted by his sister-in-law, Mrs. A.W. Stevens, since the death of her husband.

INDICTMENTS FOUND BY THE GRAND JURY

Only Few of Prisoners Arraigned When Report Was Made

(Delhi correspondent)

The grand jury sitting in connection with the January term of supreme court in Delhi finished its work Thursday and reported that afternoon.

Some twelve or thirteen indictments were returned, but several were not made public. Nine prisoners were brought into court Thursday afternoon. The indictments made public were as follows:

Guiseppi Diaust, alias Joe Ross, was indicted for burglary in the third degree. Bail of $1,000 continued. Diaust is a resident of Green county.

Fred Ray Madden of Bainbridge, indicted for grand larceny in the second degree, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years and six months in Auburn prison.

Daniel Fitzpatrick of Hawley, Pa., indicted for grand larceny in the second degree, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years and six months in Auburn prison.

Willis Brown of Corbett was indicted on two counts for rape in the second degree.

Edward L. Warren of Hancock, indicted for assault in the first degree, entered a plea of not guilty.

Harvey Halcott of Arkville, indicted for driving a car while intoxicated.

George L. Rivenburg of Greene county was indicted for burglary in the third degree and grand larceny in the first degree. He has not yet been arraigned.

Orrin Howard of Rock Rift was indicted for rape in the second degree. He entered a plea of not guilty.

Harris N. Crane, East Branch, indicted for attempted grand larceny in the second degree.

Where arraignments were not made Thursday the indictments were transferred to county court.

CHECKS WERE WORTHLESS

Former Sidney Young Man Arrested in Binghamton

William Warzler, 24, was arrested in Binghamton Friday on a charge of passing worthless checks. He is accused of passing bogus certificates in the following amounts: $28.50, drawn on the Unadilla National bank; 21, passed on C.H. Leonard, 214 Washington Street; $23.50 on Rose & Fisher, 110 Front Street, and also attempting to pass a $23 check on L. Harris of the Army & Navy store, Water street.

The young wife of Warzler, alias Jack Taylor, was indignant when her husband was snatched from her at their Stuart street rooming houses in Binghamton. He was taken to Sidney by Sergeant Joseph Murphy and Trooper McLenna Friday night where he faces the charge of forgery. Binghamton authorities will have second call upon him. The troopers said the Central States Credit association with offices in Utica are also interested in the defendant, for it is claimed that he collected money for them in and around Sidney but failed to turn over the cash.

The troopers sought aid of the Binghamton detectives for Warzler was charged with passing a check on S.A. Lord & Son at Unadilla several days ago. The young man operated a road stand near Sidney the past summer.

FINDS GOLD PIECE IN COAL

(Fleischmanns correspondent)

Last week Thursday Ward Craft of Fleischmanns after delivering a load of coal saw something shining in the bottom of his truck which upon investigation proved to be a two and a half dollar gold coin. Evidently the coin had been lost during some stage of the transportation of the coal, only to reveal itself in this somewhat casual manner.