

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,
SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1922

THE WEEK IN WALTON

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

THIRTY WILL GRADUATE

**College Student Assaulted—
Two Operations for
Appendicitis—House breaker
Slept in Their Bed.**

Complaints have been made that boys have used grappling hooks with which to catch fish from the river bridge. Use of grappling hooks for this purpose is against the law.

C. D. Ostrom has resigned as fire warden for the Beerston section and Edwin F. Goodrich was appointed by the town board at its meeting Tuesday. Expenditures reported to the board on the West Brook highway construction this year amount to about \$6,400.

Tuesday was the village grievance day when the trustees as a board of assessors reviewed their assessments. A number of people inspected the roll and some requests for changes were made, particularly in the matter of exemptions. Few changes were made in the assessment roll.

At the annual meeting of Alert Hose company, No. 2, Wednesday evening, the following officers were re-elected for the ensuing year: Foreman, George F. White; assistant foreman, Lamont Kinch; treasurer, Charles E. Smith; secretary, George M. Carpenter; steward, James Smith.

Commissioner W. A. Abbott of the state industrial commission held a hearing in Walton Wednesday upon workmen's compensation claims. The amounts of compensation involved in the cases were not large. The compensation hearings, which are held nearly every month, bring many visitors to Walton.

The house of T. D. Southworth on Fair street was broken into recently during the family's absence. Nothing was stolen but a bed had been slept in and Mr. and Mrs. Southworth on their return Monday from a visit at Trout Creek found a note pinned to the pillow reading, "One night's lodging. Thank you." Entrance was obtained through the cellar.

The storm of Saturday afternoon which caused such extensive damage in the towns of Hancock and Colchester passed over Walton with little damage and the continued rain of the past week has greatly improved crop prospects. Close Hollow, Colchester station, was apparently on the outskirts of the worst of the storm as the downfall of rain there was much greater than in other parts of the town.

Dr. R. A. Parroch of Colgate university, who has been supplying Christ Episcopal church, will give the anniversary sermon at the commencement exercises this year. The usual union service will be held Sunday evening, June 25, in Walton hall. The graduating class this year will number about thirty students, while it is possible that the total may be increased beyond that number by the regents examinations this month.

John Mullinex of Dryden was operated upon Friday for the relief of an acute attack of appendicitis. The operation was performed by Dr. F. M. Miller of Binghamton assisted by the family physician, Dr. W. R. Gladstone, Dr. C. S. Gould and Miss Mildred Mathewson, public health nurse. The following day Dr. E. Ray Gladstone, assisted by Dr. Gould and Dr. W. R. Gladstone, operated upon Gladys Puffer of Loomis for the relief of appendicitis.

Earl C. Palmatier of Walton, a student in Syracuse university, had his nose broken when assaulted by a man near Foreman park in that city on Monday evening. Louis Molinelli, 24, of 1013 Almond street, was held in \$500 bail for action of the grand jury after pleading guilty to assault in the second degree before Justice Shove in city court Tuesday. Mr. Palmatier identified Molinelli as the man who stopped him and asked for some chewing tobacco. When Palmatier said he had none his assailant struck him in the face, breaking his nose. Palmatier was taken to the Good Shepherd hospital for treatment.

The annual fathers' and mothers' luncheon of the Congregational church, given each year in honor of the members who have reached the age of 70 years, was held Tuesday in the church parlors. Thirty-six church fathers and mothers were in attendance. At noon a luncheon was served under the direction of the Ladies' Aid and a short program of entertainment was carried out later. In the evening a church reception was held at which Rev. and Mrs. Stanley U. North of Park Ridge, N. J., were guests of honor. The guests at the luncheon were as follows: Mrs. Jane Allen, Mrs. C. B. McLaughlin, Mrs. Adelia Hine, Mrs. Sylvia Pond, Mrs. Sarah Bryce, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Twist, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. St. John, Mrs. Hannah Seely, Mrs. Emily Mallory, Mrs. Evelyn Ells, Mr. and Mrs. Obed Hendricks, Mrs. John Holley, Mrs. Alida Bates, Mrs. Alice St. John, Mrs. Maria Giddings, Mr. and Mrs. J. Q. Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Fitch, Mrs. Wallace Sherwood, Mrs. Margaret Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Owens, Mr. and Mrs. George Webster, Miss Maria Hoyt, Mrs. Emily Smith, Mrs. Mary L. Hawley, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Hoyt, John Mallory, T. B. Clark and Rev. G. W. Nims.

CELEBRATE FOURTH IN WALTON

**Plans Made for Big Day with
Ball Games and Races.**

Walton is to have a Fourth of July celebration under the auspices of the ball club. This was decided at a recent meeting of the officers of the association and plans are being made to make this a gala day. Besides ball games both in the morning and afternoon a number of athletic events and races will be held and the Walton band will furnish music. It is probable that fireworks will be shown in the evening.

The celebration will enable those who wish to take the Fourth off to enjoy two good ball games and other amusements. The first ball game in Walton will be on Wednesday, June 28, with Oneonta.

ARRESTED FOR FLIGHT AFTER KILLING MAN

**Motorist Speeded Away When
He Hit Man Near Deposit**

ELUDES HIS PURSUERS

**Philadelphia Driver Escapes
Through Cordon of Autos But
is Arrested Next Day in Elmira.**

George Pollock, aged 21 years, of Philadelphia, Pa., may face an indictment in Broome county for the heartless manner in which he drove away from the scene of an accident at McClure, near Deposit, on Thursday morning of last week when the Buick car driven by him struck and fatally injured George Stanton, a farmer living at Silvernail hill, seven miles from Deposit. Leaving the scene of an automobile accident without reporting to the police authorities is a misdemeanor under the state law and this charge, at least, will be brought against the reckless young driver if he is not called upon to face a more serious charge.

George Stanton was at one time stage driver from Walton to North Hamden and later lived at Lew Beach, before locating at McClure.

Mr. Stanton left his home Thursday morning to visit a neighbor. Returning about 9 o'clock, he stopped in front of his house and sorted the mail in a small box at the side of the highway.

Joseph Moge, a neighbor, whose mail is left in the same box, drove up in his car as Stanton stood by the box and stopped on the other side of the road. Stanton finding a letter addressed to Moge walked across the road and gave it to him.

As he backed away from the Moge machine into the road the Buick car struck him, his body lodging on the front of the car. The driver of the Buick increased his speed and maneuvered his car in a zig-zag manner, throwing the body off after carrying it 200 feet on the radiator. He then opened the throttle wide and speeded along the highway in the direction of Deposit, leaving Stanton unconscious by the roadside.

Frank J. Rose, one of the witnesses of the accident, after notifying the residents of McClure to stop the Buick machine, called Dr. C. V. Latimer of Deposit, who arrived at the scene of the accident a short time after he was summoned. Dr. Latimer directed the removal of the injured man to the Binghamton City hospital where he died at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon. Death was caused directly by a fracture at the base of the skull and internal injuries. Frank J. Rose and his son, Henry, who live near the scene of the accident and Joseph Moge were the only witnesses. Rose ran to his home and notified the authorities at McClure to form a blockade across the road to stop the Buick car which headed in that direction.

Residents of McClure immediately placed cars across the road and within a few minutes the Buick which had struck Stanton was seen approaching the blockade at about 40 miles an hour. It crashed into the blockade, knocking a Ford car out of the way and proceeded on, barely lessening its speed even after striking the Ford a glancing blow.

Constable W. J. Wright, employed at a garage at Deposit, was notified by the persons who had formed the unsuccessful blockade to stop the Buick car. Constable Wright, with Henry Burrows, a resident of Deposit, ran into the street and grasping hands, placed themselves in the middle of the highway.

The speeding machine soon appeared and the driver seeing the men in the road blocking his path increased his speed and drove from one side of the road to the other. Wright and Burrows were forced to jump out of the way and Burrows narrowly escaped being struck as he attempted to grasp one of the bars supporting the top of the machine.

Wright and Burrows jumped into another car belonging to a patron of the garage and with several other men chased the Buick for several miles in the direction of Hancock losing all trace of it about two miles from Hancock. Wright continued on to the village where he learned that the car had not been seen to pass through that place. While Wright was giving chase the authorities at Hancock had been notified to stop the car if it passed through the village.

The number of the Buick car was secured as it passed through Deposit and from the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle department in Harrisburg, Pa., it was learned that the machine was registered in the name of Mrs. Nora Pollock and Miss Evelyn J. Pollock of 2083 East Cambria street, Philadelphia, Pa. Thursday afternoon the matter was first reported to the Broome county authorities in Binghamton and a general alarm sent out to watch for the "murder" car.

One of the Binghamton police noticed a machine answering the description past the corner of State and Court streets in that city during the noon hour Friday and informed police headquarters. Word was then sent on to Elmira and the machine stopped by the police in that city. The three occupants, George Pollock, his mother, Mrs. Nora Pollock, and his sister, May

Pollock, were placed under arrest and brought back to Binghamton.

Questioned as to the circumstances connected with the killing of Stanton and his whereabouts prior and following the fatal accident, Pollock said that he left Philadelphia about ten days before with his mother and sister for a vacation. He and the two other occupants of the car declined to give any statement relative to their failure to stop and determine the extent of Stanton's injuries, simply stating that they became confused after the accident and did not know what they were doing. Pollock eluded his pursuers after the accident by taking one of the dirt roads leading from the Deposit-Hancock state road and probably passed through Walton while working back toward Binghamton. The car was equipped with a camping outfit, bed clothing and carried a bicycle. The party slept Thursday night in the car on the highway near the outskirts of Sidney and the following morning drove to Binghamton where they were detected. The Pollocks claimed that when within a mile of Sidney Mrs. Pollock persuaded her son to turn back but that soon after the machine skidded off a bank and after getting it out the party decided to continue their trip, believing the man they had struck was not seriously injured.

The early investigations of the police brought out that Pollock might also face a charge of stealing a car in Penn Yan, but later it was stated that the machine in question was the property of a cousin of the young man who declared Pollock did not intend to steal the car and refused to make any complaint against him.

The two women in the car were released by the Broome county authorities Monday, the officials deciding that they were in no way to blame for the accident, but on the other hand, attempted to persuade George Pollock to stop. George Pollock was arraigned before County Judge Baker on a charge of driving his car away from the scene of an accident without reporting to the proper authorities. This is a violation of the state highway law and an indictable misdemeanor. Bail was fixed at \$2,000 Tuesday by County Judge Baker for Pollock's appearance before the September grand jury.

The accident aroused much feeling in Deposit on account of Pollock's heartless actions and his running away from the scene of the accident and endangering other lives in his attempt to escape. He would probably have been exonerated from blame for the death of Stanton if he had halted after the accident and given assistance to Stanton instead of speeding away.

Many inquiries have been made as to why Pollock should be charged by the authorities with a misdemeanor instead of a felony, considering the seriousness of the case. In explanation Assistant District Attorney Hackett stated that had Pollock been exceeding the speed limit at the time his car struck Mr. Stanton, then he could be charged with manslaughter, or a felony. But there is no proof that he was committing any crime at the time of the accident, continued Mr. Hackett. Nor was the car which Pollock was driving a stolen car.

In order to bring a manslaughter charge in such a situation, says Mr. Hackett, it is necessary to prove that the defendant was committing a misdemeanor at the time the accident occurred.

FOUR PEOPLE KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

**Masonville Car Crashes Over
Bridge Rail Into Creek**

DRIVER INEXPERIENCED

**Mrs. Lewis Dean and Son and
Two Bowman Children Meet
Death Near Gilbertsville.**

(From Masonville correspondent.)

Four persons, three of them children, were killed and one oth-

er probably fatally injured Sunday afternoon when the Ford touring car occupied by the families of Leon Bowman and Lewis Dean of Masonville plunged over the stone bridge near Morris Manor, the summer home of Dr. Lewis R. Morris of New York located between Gilbertsville and Morris, Otsego county.

The dead are: Mrs. Lewis Dean, aged 30 years; Fuller Dean, 5-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean; Thelma Bowman, aged 2 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bowman; Harold Bowman, 5 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bowman.

Mrs. Leon Bowman, 31, is in the Norwich hospital suffering from internal injuries and her recovery is doubtful. Leon Bowman and Lewis Dean were not seriously injured.

The two families had left Masonville about 9 o'clock Sunday morning and traveling in a car owned by a brother of Mr. Dean had driven to Morris where they picnicked on the fair grounds. They left the place early in the afternoon in order to have ample opportunity to reach home in time for the evening chores.

On the trip to Morris Mr. Dean had driven but when they started back Mr. Bowman, who had had very little experience in driving, expressed a desire to drive and was given the wheel after the party had gone about two miles. All went well until the car approached the Morris Manor bridge a half mile from the point where Mr. Bowman took the wheel. Mr. Dean and Mr. Bowman, the two survivors able to talk, can give no clear account of just what occurred after the machine approached the slight declivity leading down to the bridge across the Morris Manor creek. The bridge is of stone arch masonry and spans a gully some forty feet or more deep. When the car reached the approach to the arched bridge it shot across the roadway and collided with the stone wall on the east side of the bridge at the edge of the creek. It crashed over the low guard wall and landed upside down in the water about 25 feet below and fully 15 feet beyond the north bank. The men were on the front seat and were able to extricate themselves and, though bruised and dazed, pulled Mrs. Bowman from beneath the car. She was evidently badly injured. Mrs. Dean's life was extinct when her body was brought out of the wreckage. The bodies of the two boys were soon after recovered, passing motorists and others from the Morris Manor place coming to the assistance of the men.

It was some little time before the body of the baby, Thelma, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bowman, was located fully 150 feet down the creek in a pool of water. She had been thrown clear of the car and drowned.

The physicians first at the scene, Drs. Hall of Gilbertsville and Allen of Morris, advised taking Mrs. Bowman to the Norwich hospital and Lynn Dietz of Gilbertsville carried her there. The hospital physicians found no evidence of external injuries, but symptoms of severe internal ones. Her recovery is considered very doubtful.

Coroner N. W. Getman of Oneonta was called to the scene of the accident and after viewing the bodies of the four victims, directed they be removed to the undertaking parlors of J. M. Moore at Gilbertsville, where they were cared for and later removed to Masonville.

It has been suggested by some familiar with the scene that it is possible that the attention of the driver was called to the pond and waterfall on the west side of the highway or to the Morris Memorial chapel across the road, and that when he turned to look the car swerved, and that possibly when he discovered where he was headed in his haste he applied more power to the car. Both men declared that the car was not going more than 12 or 15 miles an hour.