

# LOOKING BACK

100 Years Ago From The Pages of The Walton Reporter

100 YEARS AGO,  
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1923

## THE WEEK IN WALTON

What We Are Talking About at  
the County Hub

### SPILLED MILK IN STREET

**Toy Factory on 54 Hours— Men and Women to Debate—Seniors and Juniors Scrap—Clean-up Week.**

At the annual meeting of Townsend hose company, No. 4, Wednesday evening the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Foreman, Lee Camp; assistant, Herman Cable; secretary, Lindley Beers; treasurer, Richard Gould; steward, Dellen Combs.

The School Arts magazine for May contains an article by Miss M. Janie Launt of the Walton high school on "The Monogram," which is illustrated with a page of designs. Miss Launt's work in art design has attracted considerable attention and been favorably commented upon.

The firemen's board at a meeting Tuesday evening voted to recommend the American LaFrance pump engine to the village board for purchase. The vote was not unanimous but the village board will doubtless be guided to a considerable extent in the purchase of an engine by the wishes of the firemen's board.

Marie, the eight year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Entrott, was taken to the Norwich hospital Tuesday, where Dr. Manley reduced a fracture of the right arm near the shoulder. About three weeks ago the girl fell, but it was some time later before she complained of the injury and a physician was called.

Miss Adella Strohmiere of Coopersburg, Pa., and Miss Eleanor S. Pedley of Auburn-dale, Mass., have been engaged as teachers of English in the Walton high school. Miss Strohmiere graduates from Syracuse university in June and Miss Pedley from Mt. Holyoke college. The faculty for the ensuing school year has now been completed.

A new working schedule was put into effect at the Walton Toy company's plant on May first. The men have been working ten hours a day for six days. They now work ten hours for five days and quit at 11 o'clock Saturday morning, making a 54 hour week. The hourly pay has been adjusted so that the weekly wage remains about the same as before.

Walton's annual clean-up week will be observed next week, May 7 to 12. Work will commence across the river and only one trip will be made on a street. Householders are urged to have their rubbish and refuse placed in containers near the streets. Cans and other small rubbish will not be taken away unless placed in containers. The Civic club is co-operating with the village in the work.

The interim commission of the New York Presbytery, of which Rev. Boyd White of Walton is moderator, met in Bovina Center Tuesday and after listening to a trial sermon by David Russell issued him a license to preach. William Doig of Walton, who has completed his first year in Pittsburg Seminary, gave his first trial sermon. Mr. Russell, who is a son of T. D. Russell of Glenburnie, will supply the Reformed Presbyterian church at Bovina Center for a few weeks, later going to Lisbon, N. Y., for the summer.

The annual class scrap between the seniors and juniors of the Walton high school was held last Thursday evening. Bassett park was the scene of the principal struggle, but other clashes took

place and Friday morning the numerals of the two classes were to be found everywhere on sidewalks. Arbor day exercises were held Friday morning, followed by a field day between the two classes. As usual every student not a senior joined forces with the real juniors, but the seniors declare that they were victorious in the class battles. The juniors are just as emphatic in stating they won.

While Roy Todd was driving down lower Townsend street Sunday morning with a truckload of milk the box of the Ford truck dropped down and the nine cans of milk on the load were dumped into the street. The accident occurred near the home of Mrs. A. H. St. John. Practically all the milk, which came from the farms of Frank Gould, C. G. Thomson, and J. L. Thompson, West brook farmers, was spilled. The milk from lower West brook is usually drawn by team by William Taylor, who occupies Frank Gould's hill farm, but on Sunday morning Todd, who has been working there, offered to take the load down in his truck.

The High School and Community course announces that the final number of the season's course will be given May 24th in Walton hall. The original plan has been modified to include a debate. This will be in addition to the several musical numbers that will be given under the direction of Evalyn Payne Burrhus. The debate will be between teams representing the Woman's and Kiwanis clubs on the subject, "Resolved that strikes in essential industries should be prohibited by an act of Congress, constitutionality granted." The debaters will be: for the Woman's club, Mrs. George Johnston, Mrs. Henry Mace, Miss Gertrude Nichols, Miss Lucia Nutt; for the Kiwanis club, S. H. Fancher, Arthur Conner, C. P. Wells, Stanley U. North.

## E. B. SHELDON DIES IN DELHI SATURDAY

**Fortune of Family Founded on  
Chicago Real Estate Rise After  
Fire of 1871**

(From Delhi correspondent.)  
On Saturday morning at 4 o'clock Edwin B. Sheldon passed away at his home in Delhi, "Longwood," after a long illness dating back since last May when he was brought here from California. He had been confined to his bed for the past six months and death was not unexpected.

The deceased was the son of the late Edwin H. Sheldon and Frances Ogden Sheldon and was born on Jan. 4, 1849. He was a grandson of the late Crawford B. Sheldon, who purchased the Sheldon homestead at the corner of Main and Kingston streets in the village of Delhi in 1824 and which has remained in the Sheldon family until a few years ago when it was given for a Y. M. C. A. building provided that the village maintain it as such. The village failed in the undertaking and the property reverted to them. Recently this building was sold to Russell Archibald, who rents the entire property to different families.

Edwin B. Sheldon built a fine summer home, "Longwood," on a hill in this village where it commands a fine view of the Delaware valley, being located near the southerly end of the Kingston street bridge and on the state road leading to Andes. Connected with this home are a number of acres of fine farming land. From this original tract of land Mr. Sheldon and his father gave to the village of Delhi Mt. Crawford, the wooded hill south of the village and which plot contains 130 acres.

Mr. Sheldon and his wife spent most of the summers at this home and during the winters traveled extensively, having visited nearly every country in the world. He was passionately fond of dogs and horses and in past years owned some very fine thoroughbred horses and collie dogs.

Edwin H. Sheldon, father of the deceased, built the rectory of St. John's church and also gave to the church the chapel. The deceased also gave to Woodland cemetery the stone wall and gateway.

Mr. Sheldon married Louisa Bruen Whitehouse, daughter of Bishop Henry J. Whitehouse of the Episcopal diocese of Illinois, but no children were born to them. His only sister, Frances Sheldon, married Fitzhugh Whitehouse, the brother of his wife, and to them were born several children, among them being Sheldon Whitehouse, the United States consul general at Paris, and Baroness Ramsay of Paris.

By the terms of the will of Mr. Sheldon's father a large trust fund was created for the use of his sister and himself. At the death of either the whole estate was to pass to the survivor or the children of the survivor.

The funeral will be held from the chapel of St. John's church on Sunday afternoon at 3 p. m., with burial in Woodland cemetery.

The death of Mr. Sheldon calls to mind the fact that very recently four millionaires and multi-millionaires have passed on to their rewards. James McLean of South Kortright, F. Wayland Ayer of Meridale, Louisa Whitehouse Sheldon and Edwin B. Sheldon.

To some of the older folks of Delaware county the death of Mr. Sheldon at "Longwood," his summer home at Delhi, will bring to mind that his father, William H. Sheldon, the founder of the Sheldon fortune, was a partner of William B. Ogden of Walton. That for many years these gentlemen were the leading real estate operators of Chicago and at the time of the great Chicago fire owned much property in the burned area. It was at first thought that the great loss might ruin their fortunes, but instead the great advance in Chicago real estate after the fire added to their accumulations. The great fire took place in October, 1871, and consumed the most important business section of the city on the south side of the Chicago river and the residence and business section on the north side of the river. Only two buildings were left standing in a burned territory about three miles long by one-half to a mile wide and more than 100,000 people were made homeless. The home of William B. Ogden, a large wooden house, was one of the buildings saved. This home was located just north of Washington park on Dearborn avenue. The park only occupied a city block but was filled with maple trees of some considerable size and was directly in front of the Ogden residence. On the opposite side of Dearborn avenue from the house were two stone churches and opposite on the other side across North Clark street at that time were some vacant lots. The trees in the park seemed to divide the flames as they were sweeping northward and as there was but little for them to feed on either side of the Ogden mansion and with the use of two cisterns of water on the premises the building was saved. Other Delaware county people were interested in property in this same locality, among them John H. Kedzie, formerly of Delhi, the Misses Elizabeth and Barbara Grant, formerly of Hobart, who conducted a ladies' boarding school a few doors from the Ogden residence.

## PLANS HAVE BEEN PERFECTED FOR AUTO SHOW MAY 15-19

Some twenty-five or thirty cars of the various leading models will be displayed on the floor of the Walton armory during the automobile show during the week of May 14.

Contracts have been sent out to the dealers in this section and from responses it is evident that the display of cars will be one of the best ever brought together at a similar affair in this section.

Special attractions are being arranged for each day. The show will

open Tuesday, May 15, and close Saturday night.

Speakers will be secured for each evening. Congressman John D. Clarke of Frasers has accepted an invitation to give an address. It is also expected that Colonel Frederick Stuart Greene, state commissioner of highways, and ex-Congressman Peter Ten Eyck of Albany will give addresses. It is possible that either Governor Smith or Senator Copeland may be secured for one evening.

There will be a day set aside for children and other special features.

## STATE ROADS REPLACE HOTELS OF OLD DAYS

**Travelers Who Formerly  
Remained for Night Now  
Motor Home**

(From Delhi correspondent.)

The doors to what was formerly the office in the basement of the Edgerton hotel at Delhi are now closed to the public. These doors, leading to what until recently was the hotel office and to the celebrated old fireplace which has dispensed warmth and comfort to three or four generations of the traveling public, have not until now been closed to the public since the hotel was opened in 1846.

The population of Delaware county and of Delhi village has not changed to any great extent in the last 50 years, but up until about 15 years since Delhi had four well appointed hotels and generally doing a capacity business now and for some years past it has but one open to the public and that one at present seems to be a sort of football of fate, as recently it has changed hands frequently.

The cynic, no doubt, will attribute the falling off of hotel patronage to the fact that hotels no longer dispense liquor, this branch of business now being entirely in the hands of bootleggers. While no doubt, especially in the rural districts, the want of license to sell Intoxicants has made hotel business less profitable, in our opinion it is not so much a factor in the loss of hotel patronage as the building of state roads, with the attending universal use of the automobile. It is noticeable during terms of court at the county seat—that even many of the jurymen go home for the night and so do the lawyers in many cases. Witnesses are summoned by phone as to when they will be needed and when done with they are off for their homes in time to milk. Commercial travelers so arrange their Itinerary that the larger towns and cities shelter them at night and at the week end. In fact the automobile is not a caterer of reciprocity as between the big towns and the inland hamlets or even good sized villages.

The people of the country village and of the country side about, are drifting more and more frequently down to the big town, leaving more or less of their substance there, but by the way of reciprocity what do the automobiles of the big town bring back to them? "Apropos" to the above, Delhi, before the days of state roads and automobiles had four hotels—now it has four state roads—one from the north, one from the south, one from the east and one from the west and, well—one hotel.

## BOYS STARTED FIRE BY USING SUNGLASS

**Blaze Caused by Rays of Sun  
Thrown on Sheepskin**

## BARN BADLY DAMAGED

**Fire Worked Through Ceiling  
Into Haymow and Whole  
Structure Was Soon in Flames.**

Boys playing with a sunglass are believed to have caused the

fire which on Wednesday afternoon gutted the barn on St. John street, Walton, in the rear of the store of Mrs. E. W. Baxter, formerly Courtney's store. The loss is estimated at about \$700.

An old sheepskin had been nailed along the edge of the sliding door to keep out the cold during the winter. Apparently the fire had started in this sheepskin, burning a hole about a foot square in the ceiling into the room above which was filled with hay. When the flames reached the hay the whole mow was soon a mass of flames from which dense smoke poured.

Boys are said to have been playing near the barn a short time before the fire and were fooling with a sun glass, casting the bright light on various objects. It is thought that the light was thrown against the sheepskin until the heat started a fire. The sparks may have smoldered some minutes before the flames worked upwards and through the ceiling.

Paul Kelley, son of E. C. Kelley, was one of the first to discover the fire and ran to Baxter's store to give the alarm. James Pangaro, owner of the store building and barn, was in Baxter's and hurried back to the barn. The door was unlocked and shoved back a few feet but by this time the hay was on fire and the smoke and heat drove spectators back. The fact that the ceiling was charred above the place where the end of the door stood when the door was pushed back substantiates the theory of the origin of the fire as the two places mentioned were about the only ones downstairs where the flames had burned anything.

The fire department responded promptly to the alarm and in a few minutes several streams of water were playing on the flames. The roof and gable of the store building, which stands close to the barn, caught fire but little damage was done to the store. One hundred dollars will probably cover the damage to the building and furnishings. The two flats upstairs are occupied by Frank Combs and mother, Mrs. Hattle Combs, and by Mrs. Leslie Sines.

The roof and upper story of the barn were burned and while the lower floor remains standing the loss on the building is nearly a total one. In the barn were stored an old Ford truck and a Ford car owned by L. M. Budine. They were not much damaged. Mr. Budine's Chevrolet and the Ford of his son, Lawrence Budine, were out at the time.

James Pangaro, owner of the barn, carried an insurance of \$500 on the building. The total damage is placed at about \$700.

## REFOREST WASTE LANDS

**George I. Treyz Sets Out  
Thousands of Trees.**

(From Cooks Falls correspondent.)

Farm Bureau Director Ralph Smith and Prof. Collingwood came to Cooks Falls on April 25th and gave a very interesting lecture on reforesting cut over lands by planting seedling evergreen trees furnished by the state nurseries. The meeting was held at James Lindsay's hall and moving pictures of the nurseries in which the young seedlings are grown were shown on the screen and it was very interesting.

George I. Treyz has planted this spring 22,000 trees, mostly of spruce and pine on his denuded lands and is using every effort to prevent forest fires and so far none have happened in this immediate vicinity.

There are hundreds of acres of land in this part of the county on which nothing so valuable as timber can be grown and if suitable varieties can be planted the needs of our people can be supplied at home and save the freight and heavy cost of lumber shipped from a distance.