

CHESTER TIMES – April 18, 1914 – HAMMER’S RING SWEET MUSIC – To Large Number of Mechanics and Outside Workmen Who Have Been Idle for Months

The advent of spring has been the signal for many changes in real estate over the county and the starting of much work that was projected during the winter weather. Impetus has been given to the work for outside mechanics and laborers by the large number of houses and other buildings that were started this week in all parts of the county. In this city all that is necessary to keep the builders and workmen busy for the entire summer is good weather. There is plenty of work mapped out sufficient, those in a position to know say, to make things hum for several months to come. No real new large work was started this week, although some buildings of large and important proportions are under way.

The fact that plumbers and other mechanics have been asked to bid on much work, indicates that considerable building is to be done. The large number of building permits issued recently by Building Inspector T. T. Williams, is another sign that things are to be brisk in the building line.

Considerable interest attaches to the question as to who will be the successful bidder for the new art gallery to be erected in the A. O. Deshong Memorial Park, at Eleventh street, and Edgmont Avenue. The bids for this important structure are scheduled to be in the hands of the trustees, Judge William B. Broomall, Clarence Deshong and Col. James A. G. Campbell, on Monday of next week. Local contractors are trying hard for this work, as but few buildings in the city, if any, will have the same character of architecture and material which enters into it as the new art gallery. It will be built of Italian marble and when completed will not be unlike those stately and strong buildings of ancient times, which were built to stand for generations.

The contracts for the drives and other work which is to turn the old Deshong homestead into an up-to-date public playgrounds, will also be let in a short time and busy times are ahead for that section of the city.

RING OF THE HAMMER – From every section of the city can be heard the click of the hammer. There is no part of the city at present that is not enjoying its season of progress in the way of new buildings or improvements, to those already erected.

The building improvements extend beyond the city limits. On the east up to the Philadelphia city line hundreds of mechanics are employed putting up new structures. Darby Borough, which is growing more rapidly than other boroughs in the county, with the possible exception of Marcus Hook, is enjoying the busiest times in the building trade ever known in the history of the borough. Between three and four hundred houses are either under way or preparations are being made to excavate for the cellars in addition to a large Catholic Church which will run into the thousands of dollars to build. Colwyn and Collingdale, adjoining towns are also having much new work done. No matter which way the eye turns, beginning at Darby and coming down the Darby and Chester Pike to this city, new buildings can be seen going up like mushrooms springing out of the ground.

MEDIA BOROUGH DOINGS – The pretty county seat town is having its share of work, although not many new buildings have been started this spring. There is plenty of work, however, on large structures started before the winter began which will take all summer to complete.

A large house at Wawa, for Mrs. Wood, to cost about \$60,000 is also engaging the attention of many mechanics.

Down in the borough of Marcus Hook, the new Administration building erected by the American Viscose Company for the benefit of its hundreds of employees is about finished. It will be formally opened this evening, when a big entertainment will be given for the benefit of the employees of the silk mill. The owner of this big silk industry deserves all kinds of credit for the handsome structure has been finished to crown the great city which has risen in the vicinity of the large silk mill through the efforts of the Viscose Company. The building which represents one of the foreign municipal buildings cost about \$50,000 and stands close to the turnpike which is being improved by the State and the borough to keep pace with the other improvements that have brought Marcus Hook in the front of industrial centers in this section of the country.

CONTRACTS AWARDED – A. T. Ackerman has been awarded the contract for the erection of dormitory buildings in the borough of Morton to cost \$6,000. These are being constructed by the

Dermady Sanitorium. They will be of frame, two and one half stories high and will be 45 by 62 feet in dimensions. Work will be started at once and the buildings completed as early as possible...

Joel W. Hutton & Co. of Philadelphia have been awarded the contract for the erection of a new house for Robert Meade Smith, Jr. of Philadelphia to be built in the township of Haverford.

Plans have been completed for a new boat house to be erected in Haverford Township for Howard Longstreth. It will be two stories high, 19 by 29 feet.

The architects have about completed the plans for a residence and garage to be built at Wawa for Mrs. Florence W. Wood of Philadelphia to cost \$60,000. It will be of stone, three stories high 50 by 110 feet.

The American Viscose Company of Marcus Hook are asking bids for a new addition to their silk mill at Marcus Hook. The building is to be constructed of brick to be fireproof, and will have dimensions of 123 by 135 feet. The building is to have slag roof, steel sash and frames, rolling steel shutters and electric lights. William Provost, the city well-known contractor of this city, is bidding on the work. The bids are scheduled to be in by April 22.

IN THE CITY – Stone masons are rapidly pushing the work on the cellar walls of the Richard Wetherill house at Thirteenth and Potter Streets. Contractor Provost has a force of men on the grounds attending to all the carpenter work needed to assist the masons with their work.

The Robert Wetherill house on Twenty-First Street, near Chestnut Street, is ready for the stone masons to commence work, and if the weather of the next few weeks permits, it will be in a condition to have the first floor joists laid. Work on the house was forced to a standstill on Wednesday and Thursday owing to the inclement weather. This house will be one of the most beautiful residences in the city and will be presented by Mr. Wetherill to one of his daughters.

The Quintin house at 604 East Eighth Street is nearing completion and is beginning to present an attractive appearance. The house has undergone considerable repairs amounting to over a thousand dollars. A new brick addition with all conveniences has been erected in the rear and a new front porch will grace the front of the building.

The house at Eighth and Upland Streets, which has undergone considerable repairing is about completed and the new porch which has been erected.

THE WEST SIDE – No new building operations have been started in the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Wards during the past week, but a number begun with the arrival of warm weather, are receiving the full attention of the contractors. The Penn Purity Ice Cream plant at Fifth and Penn Streets, and the two large stores and factory, being built on Edgmont Avenue near Third by Samuel Lax, are almost completed.

Foundation walls have been laid in the Marker operation near Third Street Bridge on Third Street, and the walls will be started next week.

Rapid progress is being made upon the row of houses being built at Seventh and Pusey streets. The interior work has been started. These are being built for James Shropshire.

A force of men have been busy on the dwelling being erected at Third and Pusey Streets for John Bradley by Samuel Hewes. The excavations have been completed and the construction work will be rushed to an early completion.

The two houses being built on Howell Street near Third by George Hewes for himself and George Bonner are nearing completion. They will be ready for occupancy in a few weeks.

J. Irvin Taylor is rushing the work on his row of houses on Penn Street above Fifth, between the new ice cream factory and the old Patterson Mills. These houses have changed the entire appearance of that section.

Brick work on the two houses being built by Contractor Frank Moore at Third and Booth Streets is about completed.

The houses near Third and Trainer Streets for Adolph Haser are rapidly going toward completion.

Ground was broken yesterday for six new houses on West Fourth Street, near Highland Avenue for S. B. Pennington of 1909 West Third Street.

The block of six houses built by J. Horace Witsil of 1804 West Third Street on Sixth Street between Flower and Reaney Streets, are nearing completion. But a portion of two houses are unfinished. Foundations are being repainted and strengthened under the houses, 344 and 342 Thompson Street.

General improvements are being added to the Nathan Smith property, Third and Flower Streets. Finishing touches are being placed on the interior of the new Webb store property, 1722 West Third Street.

Roofing and the second story flooring are about completed on the new Burt Lee store property at 1808 West Third Street.

The new store building of Lawrence Blumberg at 2716 West Second Street, will be ready for occupancy in about ten days.

With the tearing down of the old machinery and the entire plant of the old Tidewater Steel Company at the foot of Hayes Street, comes the announcement by the members of the firm of the Delaware River Steel Company who sold the old metal to the Richard Decou Company of Philadelphia, that the ground will be used for yard space and that no new structures will replace the old ones unless later plans are made for such construction. The purpose of selling the old building was explained BY President Charles Hart and Vice President Robert A. McCurdy in a few words. "The machinery is obsolete and it is better sold than on the ground, where it is of no use to us."

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS –

Middletown Township – Theodore L. Warfel of Middletown Township to George N. DePue of same place. House and two acres on Van Leer Avenue, \$600

Upper Darby – George W. Statzell of Upper Darby to Catherine C. Quinn of Lansdowne. Lot on Maple Avenue, Drexel Hill, \$1,400

Darby Township – Elizabeth M. Farren, W. N. Farren, D. W. Farren, and Martha J. Farren, heirs of David W. Farren, deceased of Sharon Hill to Thomas M. Walker of Collingdale. Lot near Academy station, \$2,800

Haverford Township – Oliver Olsen of Philadelphia to Midland Realty Co. Three lots at Brookline, Nominal

Chester – Charlotte Nicholas of Philadelphia to Henry Cook of Nether Providence. Two lots on Sunnyside Avenue, \$250

Radnor Township – Albertus R. Croll of Radnor to James R. Althouse of Philadelphia. House and lot on Glen Mary Avenue, Nominal

Chester – Sallie P. Tibbons of Swarthmore to Mary J. Carr of Chester, Lot at Eleventh and Kerlin Streets, \$1,000

Upper Darby – Anna W. Holders of Drexel Hill to Ruth H. Withington of same place. Four lots on Penn Avenue, Drexel Hill, \$1150

Radnor Township – John Walls, Jr. of Media to Alice Carey of Montgomery County. One-half interest in house and lot at Garrett Hill, Nominal

Radnor Township – John Walls, Jr., of Media to Bryn Mawr Trust Co. One half interest in house and lot at Garrett Hill, Nominal

Haverford Township – John H. Storer of Boston, Mass. to Thomas H. Knowles of Bedford Hills, N. Y. Two lots at South Ardmore, \$580

Upper Darby – Harry D. LeCato of Audobon, N. J. to Reba J. Sitley of same place. Two lots at Highland Park, \$500