

CHESTER TIMES – October 26, 1912

BUILDING AND REALTY NEWS OF THE WEEK – Many Late Season Operations Have Been Commenced – In City and County

The rainy weather of the past week has interfered with the building activities through the entire county. Of course, where the structures were roofed, the inside men were able to work. The heavy rainfall proved to be damaging to the uncompleted foundations of operations recently commenced. In Chester there were several cave-ins at the large excavation for the foundation of the annex to the Chester post office. The banks had to be braced by the contractors to prevent them from continuing to fall.

There has been several new operations reported in the city and county during the past week. None of those, however, are of exceptional size for it is beginning to get rather late in the season for extensive buildings, but some of the operations are of substantial proportions nevertheless.

J. Horace Witell of 1806 West Third Street, a real estate broker, has started six residences on Flower Street above West Sixth. Sixteen new houses are to be erected this fall at Collingdale. Boyd L. Spahr contemplates a 25,000 residence at Haverford for which plans are being drawn. James E. Wheat has let a contract for a residence at Secane. There is also considerable activity in Darby, Rose Tree, Oak Lane, East Lansdowne, Morton, Chester and other places. The biggest sale of the week was made when Samuel Vanclain bought 500 acres of farm lands for \$100,000.

IN THE CITY – The rain of the past week has caused the builders to temporarily abandon their work on the post office annex and the Fox office building, both at Fifth and Welsh Streets. The basement had been completed on the former and the foundation walls laid on the Fox operation.

The old, two story brick dwelling on West Second Street west of Market had almost been razed to the ground to make room for the proposed improvements of the John J. Buckley Company, pork packers. This operation will aggregate an expenditure of about \$25,000. The annex is to be fireproof and to be used in the manufacture of non-edible products.

Window sashes and glass is being put into the many windows in the two-story brick building that the Fayette Manufacturing Company built as an addition to its plant at the foot of Welsh Street. The building is about 40 by 30 feet with a concrete roof. It will be used in the manufacture of magnesite brick.

The brickwork on the large three story brick store and apartment house that Contractor H. Louis Morris is building at 213 Market Street has been completed. The carpenters are now busily engaged on the interior. Two large bay windows will be constructed to the front of the second story.

The work on the new brick and concrete wagon shed of the Philadelphia Suburban Gas and Electric Company has been completed. Work has also been started on a fence to enclose the grounds of this plant, which is located at Second and Welsh Streets. The fence will be set in a concrete base, which has been laid.

The work on the big stone addition to the William Penn motion picture theatre at 602 Edgmont Avenue has been completed as far as the stone work is concerned. The addition is one story high, 80 by 80 feet. It will be used as a vaudeville and motion picture house. The present little theater auditorium will be used as an entrance and a lobby for the main auditorium mentioned above.

The stone residence that is under construction at Twenty-first Street and Providence Avenue for Dr. J.P. VanKuren is nearing completion. The stone work has been completed and the workmen are engaged on the interior.

The brick work has been nearly completed on the three story apartment house that General Henry Clay Cochrane is building on Providence Avenue at Fourteenth Street. Urian and Chase are the contractors.

The stone foundation has been laid for the annex to the Good Will Fire Company's headquarters at Fifteenth Street and Providence Avenue. The addition is to be 60 feet deep with a 26 foot frontage on Providence Avenue. It is to be of two stories high and to cost about \$7,000.

The building activity in the Western section of the city continues, although operations were delayed for several days during the past week on account of the inclement weather. William J. Hewes of the Eleventh Ward, is finishing his four, two story brick houses at Twelfth Street and Highland Avenue. These dwellings are equipped with cozy front porches and all other conveniences. They are especially adapted for small families and Mr. Hewes has already received numerous applications for them.

One of the largest building operations in the city at the present time is the construction of ten houses on Fifth Street near Highland Avenue by James Shropshire. Work is being rapidly pushed, and it is expected that they will be ready for occupancy before the winter weather sets in.

Former Councilman William L. Deveney of the Eleventh Ward, expects to have his block of new houses on Fourth Street, West of Townsend, completed within about ten days or two weeks. These dwellings, which are constructed of brick, are two stories high and each contains ten rooms. Spacious porches grace the front of the houses, which are erected in twin style.

Contractor Samuel A. Hewes' eight houses on Jeffrey Street, above Seventh, are also rapidly nearing completion. These houses are built in twin design and are equipped with front porches and front and rear yards. They will afford fine homes for moderate-sized families.

Operations for the erection of six new houses have been started on Flower Street, above Sixth, by J. Horace Witsil, the real estate operator, of 1806 West of Flower. The work is being let out by subcontracts. Mr. Witsil will personally superintend the building of the dwellings, which will be of modern design and construction.

William B. Northam, a motorman in the employ of the Southern Pennsylvania Traction Company, is having bay windows attached to the first and second-stories of his residence at 140 East Seventh Street. The improvement is being made to the front of the house. Mr. Northam has made quite a number of improvements to his residence within past two years.

J.C. Taylor's store building and apartment house on Edgmont Avenue, near Tenth Street, is completed. The building is three stories high, the second and third floors being laid out in regular apartment house style. The store, which occupies the entire first floor is occupied by Lowell and MacVittie, house decorators. The improvement adds greatly to the architectural appearance of that section.

Extensive additions are being made to the plant of the New Farson Manufacturing Company, makers of refrigerators at Ninth and Broomall Streets. The East wall for the annex on the south side of the plant is completed.

A slight delay has been caused by the heavy rains of the past few days but it is expected that on Monday of next week operations will again be resumed on all of the many buildings being built in the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth wards of this city.

Work is progressing on the new Franklin Street School and after the foundations are all laid it is expected that the work will be pushed more rapidly. The cellar of the place was filled with water this morning and a force of men were at once placed on the scene and began the work of pumping it out.

The First Italian Presbyterian Church is also nearing completion and the Rev. Felix Santilli, its pastor stated today that from all indications everything will be in readiness for the holding of services in the edifice in about two more weeks. The interior is being grained and varnished and when finished will present a fine appearance.

The new store which has been built at Third and Parker Streets, is ready for occupancy and W.C. Phillips, who in former years worked at Horning's meat market, but who has been lately running a wagon for himself, has leased the building and will start a meat market and provision store about the latter part of next week.

The residence adjoining T. Brooks McBride's confectionery plant is also nearing completion and it is expected that he will move his household effects there about the first of next month.

Fifth and Lloyd Streets is also to be graced by the erection of twenty new dwellings. They are to be of seven room type, porches, sheds, cement walks etc. and when finished will add much to those already in the neighborhood.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Ridley Township – Media Title and Trust Co. of Media to Frank P. Klotz of Chester, house and lot 50 by 120 feet, \$2300

East Lansdowne – George S. Getten and wife of Phila. To Dorothy M. Lemle of Yeadon, lot 50 by 120 feet, \$680

Chester – James J. Murphy of Ridley Park to Patrick Strain of Chester, brick house and lot 15 by 125 feet on West side of Walnut Street, \$1400

Haverford – Edgar W. Nicholson of Phila., to Horace Trumbauer of same place, house and lot 120 by 120 feet, Nom

Chester Township – Cambridge Trust Co. of Pa. to Emma M. Kelly of Chester, lot 50 by 140 feet, \$790

Chester – Samuel N. McFadden of Chester to Howard Burley of same place, brick house and lot 28 by 120 feet on Southeasterly corner, Ninety and Pusey Streets, subject to \$20000 mortgage, \$1300

Clover Hill – Samuel Crothers of Philadelphia to Mark H. Goodwin of same place, lot No. 12, \$400

Milbourne – Sarah Lyle of Philadelphia to Henri LaRosee of Milbourne, house and lot 25 by 100 feet, \$100

Newtown – William T. Davis of Newtown to E.N.G. Davis of same place, house and tract of 13575 square feet, \$600

Florida Park – John T. Pedlow of Philadelphia to George Shalies and wife of same place, four lots, each lot 25 by 75 feet, four lots each lot 40 by 75 feet, four lots each lot 45 by 75 feet, \$410

Eddystone – Cambridge Trust Company of Chester to Joseph A. Whaley and wife, of Eddystone, brick house and lot 22 1-4 by 135 feet, nominal

Radnor – Treddypine Townships, Henry D. Hughes of Radnor to Fourth Bluecher Bldg. Assn of Phila. Buildings and tract of 2 536-1000 acres, subject to \$8000 in mortgages, Nom.

Chester – John B. Holcroft of Chester to William H. Holcroft of Chester, lot 40 by 110 feet on northerly side of Third Street, \$1400

Haverford – Edward S. Lorwy of Phila to Daniel M. Fraser of Ardmore buildings and tract of 50-100 of an acre, subject to \$1750 mortgage, \$2000

Chester – Samuel D. Clyde of Chester to the Del. Co. Trust Ele Co. of same place, buildings an lot 42 1-2 by 112 5-12 feet on Fourth Street, \$6000

Eliza A. Oliver, admx of Chester to Del Co. Trust Co. of same place, stone house and lot 28 by 120 feet on 24th Street, house and lot 22 by 163 1-2 on southerly side of Third Street, two brick houses and lot 44 by 100 feet, westerly side of Pennell Street, \$12402

Haverford – Alfred D. Eaton of Chicago to Marion Cricket Club Golf Asso. Of Pa., tract of 352-1000 of an acre, Nom.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION