

CHESTER TIMES – February 26, 1916 – TALK OF BOOM IN BUILDING – Reported That Plans Are Being Prepared For Over a Hundred New Houses in Marcus Hook

Rumors having some substantial basis have been circulating during a week or more to the effect that as soon as the spring opens, work would be started in the neighborhood of the plant of American Viscose Company at Marcus Hook with the erection of one hundred and fifty new dwelling houses for the accommodation of the employees at that plant. Some reports are to the effect that the management of the Viscose Works are behind the movement and that the new structures would be erected along the same plans as those in the Model City; but these reports are absolutely denied at the works. As a matter of fact, the heads of the Viscose are desirous of learning something about the project for themselves.

The reports of the proposed erection of new buildings in that neighborhood has reached such a stage that contractors have been looking around for the purpose of learning where they can see the plans and get to work on the bids. Some people say the plans are in readiness and in the hands of Philadelphia architects, but it has been impossible to get at the base of these reports. At the Viscose Works it is the belief of the heads of that immense corporation that it is time some of the local capital should be expended in the erection of new buildings. When the plant was located at the present site the company laid out and erected the houses at the Model City for the accommodation of their employees, and now feel they have done sufficient along those lines.

DEALS UNDER WAY – Real estate brokers in this city are somewhat reticent about giving out information regarding deals, even when completed. It is known that for several weeks past there have been several large transactions hanging just on the edge of being closed, but the final papers have caused a delay. Other property owners are watching for announcement of sales made and are judging their own prices in accordance with the reputed current values. Other deals are known to be under way along Edgmont Avenue and Market Street, but all are just in such shape that it would be disastrous if they were given out to the public at this time. In the neighborhood of Market Square at the present time appears to be the center of proposed building changes just at present, although when it comes to specifying any particular properties it is a difficult matter. On Edgmont Avenue above Seventh Street there are also several other well-defined rumors afloat, but it is not expected there will be anything definite for several days.

It is in the dwelling house proposition that the general public is most interested at present. There are not sufficient houses for the people who desire to move to Chester, and there are not enough boarding or lodging houses to accommodate the single men who desire to find a place where they can go for rooming purposes. Hundreds of men are living in the neighboring cities and going back and forth every day to their work. Many employees at the Eddystone plants are living in West Chester, Philadelphia and Wilmington because it is impossible for them to get accommodations in this city.

TRUST COMPANY PLANS – Plans are still in the course of preparation for the new building of the Delaware County Trust. Safe Deposit and Title Insurance Company, which will be erected on the site of the present property at Third and Market Streets. This is one of the biggest contracts and will be one of the finest appearing buildings in that section of the city and it is estimated that the cost will be in the neighborhood of about \$150,000. The architects are Mowbray & Ulfinger, 56 Liberty Street, New York, and it is now expected that it will not be a great length of time before it will be possible to give further details of the work and some facts with regards to when the actual construction will have been started.

The structure is to be of marble, terra cotta, brick and steel, six stories in height, with a frontage of 49 feet on Third Street, and extend back for a distance of 112 feet. It will have a composition roof, fitted with steam heating, electric lighting and electric elevator.

Plans are in progress for a new school and chapel to be erected at Collingdale, although the details have not yet been decided upon. The structure will be erected for St. Joseph's R. C. Church. Rev. Otho G. Gromell, rector. The building will be two stories in height and off stone.

Bids are being received for four new dwellings which will be erected in Springfield Township for the Springfield Realty Company. The architects are Frank Seeburger and C. F. Rabenold of Philadelphia. The buildings will be two and one-half stories in height with slate and tile roofs, not water heating, electric lighting, tile work and oak floors.

Out in the county there is a lull in new operations, but there are a number of operations pending, and which are merely awaiting the opening of spring Springfield will see many houses of a type costing \$5000 or more, put up next summer. Pine Ridge, near Media, will be pushed by T. Ellwood Allison and others interested with him; and Upper Darby Township will see several hundred houses erected; the big operations planned being those of Wadas & Jones, and James Wolfenden.

BOUGHT SEVENTH STREET PROPERTY – A valuable property was purchased yesterday from Mrs. Sarah Owens, on the south side of Seventh Street, 109 feet from Morton Avenue by Benjamin H. Evans, who conducts the restaurant at 503 East Seventh Street, a short distance away. The buildings have a frontage of 72 feet and a depth of 63 feet.

It is understood that Mr. Evans will shortly erect a first-class building for his restaurant and the place he now occupies has been sold. The deed was handed over yesterday in the office of Attorney John E. McDonough, who represented Mrs. Owens. Attorney Harwell Be. Dutton represented Mr. Evans.

Collingdale is feeling the boom with the remainder of the county and in addition to operations reported within the last few weeks is one of ten houses which will be erected on Florence Avenue, by M. Atlee Ermold of Haddon Heights, N. J. Mr. Ermold has purchased a tract of ground known as the McGill property and will erect houses to cost about \$2500 each.

William H. Parlaman, a Devon contractor has been awarded a contract by C. Parry Vauclain for the erection of a frame cottage for employees on the Vauclain farm south of Newtown Square. Plans for the buildings were prepared by Duhring. Okie & Ziegler, architects and the buildings will cost \$11,632. They are to be completed by April 1 and a penalty of \$10 is deducted from the price for each day after that date that the buildings are not ready.

Edwin D. Glauser of Chester has purchased two tracts of ground on Leiper Street, Eddystone from the Philadelphia Trust Company, which is handling Simpson estate upon which practically all of Eddystone and the Baldwin and Remington plants are erected. The price paid for the two plots was \$6100 and many houses will be erected upon them.

BUILDING PERMITS – Building permits issued during the course of the past few days have been as follows:

A. Wunderlich, four two-story brick dwellings on west side of Crosby Street between Second and Third Streets, 14 by 50 feet; first story 9 feet second story, 8 feet 6 inches.

J. M. Lutes, one one-story frame building covered with corrugated iron, in rear of property at 1800 Edgmont Avenue, 12 by 18 feet. David Christy contractor

Robert Herr, one one-story frame building covered with corrugated iron in the rear of 115 East Third Street, 26 by 18 feet

Morton, Crosby Company, one-story office building on east side of Market Street
between Delaware River And Front Street, 14 by 22 feet, Nolan Brothers, contractors