

CHESTER TIMES – June 13, 1914 – SIXTH WARD IMPROVEMENTS – General Price is to Transform Preston Lake into a Model Living City with Boulevard

There has been considerable talk this week in regard to the improvements General William G. Price intends to make on the tract of land owned by him and which for years was known to the citizens of Chester as “Preston Lake.” This strip of land which lies adjacent to the west bank of the Chester River between Ninth Street and Upland, for years was the principal ice supply for the citizens of this city. At one time large ice houses stood on the property and the ice was harvested from water which was diverted from Chester River into Preston Lake. With the advent of artificial ice this business went out of existence and for several years past, efforts have been made to improve the property and place it in the real estate market.

General Price was plans out at the present time which calls for a model city to be established on this tract of land. Several hundred up-to-date dwellings will be erected and it is understood that a first class boulevard will be constructed along the river. The improvement will be in line with the model city erected at Marcus Hook by the American Viscose Company and will be one of the most marked improvements to take place in the city in a long time. The plans have been submitted to the city asking for certain things to be done before the proposed improvement is started and there is no doubt but what City Council and members of the Planning Commission will act upon the plans in the near future.

Some years ago there was an effort to turn this land into building sites, but it failed. The parties interested went so far as to make the effort to have the tidal stream running along the property straightened. The building of the new retaining wall at Ninth Street has done much to place the property in a position to be used as building sites.

FEW LARGE CONTRACTS – There is not abatement in the building line in all sections of the county, although no real large contracts were let during the week with the exception of the one for \$60,000 to William Provost, Jr. for an addition to the silk mill at Marcus Hook. Mr. Provost has had a large force of men at this plant for several months putting up new buildings as when his contract is completed the plant will have a double capacity over the original plant.

Bids will be asked the coming week for two schools for the borough of Darby. The plans have been prepared by Architects Folsom & Stanton. The schools will be constructed of stone and brick and will be two stories high with basement. One will have a dimension of 24 by 79 feet and the other 30 by 70 feet. The roofs will be of slate and slag, hot air, vapor vacuum heat and electric lights.

Plans are also out for an addition to be made to the Radnor Presbyterian Church in Wayne. This will be constructed of stone and shingle, one story high, 34 by 56 feet. The heating and lighting will be done under separate bids. Bids are being handed in to the architects.

Isaac H. Clothier, Jr. of Philadelphia has plans out for some alterations and additions to his home in Radnor Township. The new work will be built of frame and plaster, will be two and one-half stories high, slag and shingle roof, electric lighting, canvas roofing.

Mrs. S. J. Braxton contemplates the erection of a new home at St. David’s, in Radnor Township. The architect is Oliver R. Perry of Philadelphia. The building will be constructed of hollow tile and plaster, will be two and one-half stories high and will have a dimension of 25 by 61 feet. The interior will contain oak floors and electric lighting.

PROVIDENCE AVENUE CHURCH – According to the Builders’ Guide, the owner and architect are ready to receive bids for the new \$25,000 edifice to be erected for the Providence Avenue M. E. Church at Eighteenth Street and Providence Avenue, this city. The building will be of stone, one story high, slate roof, steam heat, and electric lights.

Harry Edson of Walnut Street, Philadelphia has plans in course of construction for a new residence to be built in Haverford Township. It will be two and one-half stories high and have dimensions of 25 by 60 feet, shingle roof, hardwood floors and electric lights.

G. W. B. FLETCHER BUYS RESIDENCE – The Colonial stone residence at the corner of Morton and Tonbridge Roads, Haverford, has been sold by Harbert & Claghorn, for the Aland Title Trust Company, trustee to George W. B. Fletcher of Wayne. Edgar W. Nicholson represented the Land Title and Trust company in the transaction. The property consists of an 18-room residence on a tract of three acres which was held for sale at \$45,000.

FRANKFORD AND DARBY ROADS – The construction of the Frankford and Darby elevated roads will undoubtedly bring into the market at an early date large tracts of ground which have only been waiting for the stimulus of better transit to become valuable. There is little vacant ground to be had within easy access of the Darby “L” road till Darby is reached, but the introducing of the free transfer system will undoubtedly add greatly to the value of large tracts of undeveloped ground in the 40th ward, south of Woodland Avenue, which can only be reached by branch lines.

The following permits have been issued by Building Inspector T. T Williams:

Frank Kerr, bathroom in rear of house at 713 Caldwell Street

Mattson & Ricoras, extension on side of house owned by Dr. Bryant at Broad and Potter Streets

J. H. Phipps, two two-story brick dwellings on Tenth Street, between Fulton and Parker

Edmond Oliver, brick addition in rear of house at 710 West Sixth Street

Bert Lee, one-story brick garage in rear of 1808 West Third Street

J. Horace Witsil, two two-story brick dwellings on the north side of Sixth Street, between Flower and Reaney.

Francis J. Moore, four two-story brick dwellings on the west side of Palmer Street between Third and Fourth Streets

J. H. Parvin, seventeen two-story brick dwellings on the east side of Chestnut Street between Tenth and Twelfth; seventeen two-story brick dwellings on the west side of Morton Avenue between Tenth and Twelfth

Edmond Oliver, one-story brick kitchen and bay window in rear of 712 West Sixth Street

H. Balbrurer, open shed in rear of 702 Wilson Street

J. J. Williams, one-story frame building covered with corrugated iron in rear of his residence at Fourth and Reaney Streets

Frank N. Goble, one-story marble building on west side of Edgmont Avenue, between Tenth and Eleventh Streets

James Babe, three two-story brick dwellings in rear of 115 and 117 East Thirteenth Street

J. Horace Witsil, two two-story brick dwellings on the south side of Sixth Street, between Pennell and Howell Streets

WEST END OPERATIONS – Foundation walls for six of the fifteen modern dwellings houses to be erected on the spacious lot at the southeast corner of Second Street, and Central Avenue by Simon Bruner are completed and operations were started yesterday by Andrew Bell, who has charge of the excavation work, of digging the cellars for the remaining houses.

Contractor William Whittaker has started operations on the work of erecting a garage for Captain John J. Williams, the general contractor at Fourth and Reaney Streets. Excavations for the foundation walls were begun yesterday.

Two of the houses being constructed by George J. Hunter, at Third and Booth Streets are now being plastered by George J. Hunter at Third and Booth Streets are now being plastered by Contractor Frank Downing who is also plastering the walls of a house being erected at Third and Trainer Streets by Adolph Haser. Mr. Downing has also finished plastering the walls of three new houses, built at Thirteenth and Crosby Streets by Thomas Birch.

J. Horace Witsil, a real estate operator, of the West End has commenced operations on the work of erecting eight two-story brick dwellings three at Ninth and Howell, three at Eighth and Pennell and two on Ninth Street, between Howell and Pennell Streets. Stakes were recently driven for these

operations and much of the material has been placed on the grounds. The New Chester water Company has already laid lateral mains for the houses in question.

The six two-story houses in course of erection for Samuel B. Pennington at Fourth and Hayes Streets are rapidly nearing completion. Three of the dwellings, which are being built by Contractor W. L. Jacobs are already under roof, and one of the dwellings is practically finished. The work of remodeling the interior of one of Councilman Wesley S. McDowell's houses on Third Street near Engle, is well under way. The walls are now being plastered by a force of artisans in the employ of Francis Downing. One of the main improvements is the attachment of a bay window to the front of the dwelling. W. L. Jacobs has the contract for the entire improvements.

SOME CITY IMPROVEMENTS—A new front is being put in at the house on the northwest corner of Seventh and Pusey Streets. Two large windows and a wider entrance are features of the improvement.

William B. Marker has started the interior work on his block of stores on West Third Street, below the bridge. Tin facing has been put on the second story.

William J. Wiser has almost completed his three dwellings on Mary Street near Ulrich. These houses are small, yet comfortable and are modern in every respect.

George Hewes is rapidly nearing the completion of the two houses at Third and Pusey Streets. The roofs have been set and the interior is now receiving the attention of the contractor.

Work is progressing upon the eight houses being built by James Shropshire at Seventh and Pusey Streets. These houses when completed will completely change the appearance of that section.

J. Irvin Taylor expects to turn over his row of houses at Fifth and Penn Streets to the tenants in a very short time. The finishing touches are being applied, and unless a hitch occurs, they will be ready for occupancy in three weeks.

The three dwellings at Seventh and Lincoln Streets being erected by Samuel Hewes are almost completed and they, too, will be ready for the tenants in a very short while. The dwellings have been erected on a terrace and should prove choice residences.

Samuel R. Bell has made a good start on his new houses at Fifth and Lloyd Streets. The recent warm spell has been ideal for building purposes, and the contractor has taken full advantage of the condition. The foundation work has been completed, and the walls will be set in position in a short time.

BUILDING GOSSIP—The new Nothnagle and Roser building at Sixth and New Market Streets is about completed and will be occupied in a few days.

The work on the Ayres Building at Eighth and Welsh Streets is being rapidly pushed and in a few weeks will be ready for occupancy. Contractor Ward has an extra force of men working on the building in order to have it finished as soon as possible.

The roof has been placed on the building at Sixth Street and Morton Avenue, and lathers will commence work there the early part of the week.

Rapid progress is being made to the excavations of the cellars for the thirty-four houses which will be built along Chestnut Street in the Second and Fifth wards. Contractor Anthony Loeper has an extra force of men working on the excavations.

Contractor Horace Jackson is making progress on the Roder Building at Seventh Street and Edgmont Avenue. The basement will be completed in a few days and the work on the second story will be commenced. The cement pavement is now being laid.

Samuel Lax has finished the greater part of the rough work on the two stores on East Seventh Street, adjoining the Imperial Hotel and will have a force of lathers and plasters on the scene the early part of the week.

Work on the Holden property on Potter Street near East Broad Street is progressing and bricklayers are laying the outer walls and bay windows.

The addition to the Convent building on East Broad Street should be completed by the early part of next month. The addition will allow a greater amount of floor space.

The Wetherill residence at Fourteenth and Potter Streets, is rounding into shape and will be ready for occupancy the latter part of July. The carpenters are working on the interior of the building.

The house being erected at Twenty-Third and Madison Streets by J. Irvin Taylor is beginning to have an attractive appearance and the bricklayers have finished their work. The roof has been sheathed in and work on the interior commenced.

The Ward houses at Twenty-Third Street and Edgmont Avenue will be ready for occupancy in a few weeks.

Contractor Provost is pushing the work on the Wetherill residence at Twentieth and Chestnut Streets. The roof has been sheathed and work commenced on the interior.

The Beaumont bungalow at Eighteenth and Hyatt Streets will be ready for occupancy in a few weeks.

Oliver Brothers will finish the exterior work on the house they are erecting on Twenty-Third Street near Edgmont Avenue, the early part of the week.

A number of improvements are being made to the residence of Dr. F. Otis Bryant, at Broad and Potter Streets. The rear of the building is being made larger.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Chester – The Provident Life and Trust Company of Philadelphia trustees of the estate of Hugh Shaw to Samuel D. Clyde of Chester. Lot situated at the southwesterly corner of Nineteenth and Chestnut Streets, \$6,500

Darby – T. H. Sipler of Darby to Mary H. Johnson of Collingdale, Lot \$800

Collingdale – H. D. Denny to Katherine Kline, lot in Clifton Park, \$150

Upper Darby – Samuel D. Crothers of Philadelphia to E. Kenny Crothers of the same place, six lots, Drexel Hill, \$3150

East Lansdowne – Clifford B. Harmon of Philadelphia to Alfred Groff of the same place, lot, Nominal

East Lansdowne – Mary L. Brown of Philadelphia to John P. Smith of the same place, two lots, Nominal