

CHESTER TIMES – August 28, 1916 – BIG SUMS SPENT FOR SCHOOLS –
Increase in Population Has Made Necessary Many New Institutions of Learning

The rapid growth of Delaware County this year is making trouble for the school districts of the county as the schools are not sufficiently large to hold the children and the number of children is constantly increasing as more families come into the county, and the school boards are anticipating still further trouble with the continued phenomenal growth of all parts of the county. As a result, this has been a year of school building in the county, and it is doubtful if any other county in the State has erected as many schools in the same length of time.

The latest award of a contract of this kind is the contract for a new school in Upper Darby Township, which was let to the Lansdowne Construction Company at their bid of \$42,447. This school will be erected on the plot of ground recently purchased from George T. Wadas. It will be located at Kelly's Lane and the West Chester Pike in Highland Park, and will be of stone. There will be ten rooms, an auditorium, basement, gymnasium, and manual training room in the building, which will be thoroughly equipped with modern apparatus.

Bids are in for the new school house to be erected in Marcus Hook. This will be a brick building to cost, it is estimated, about \$35,000. It will be two stories in height and measure 45 by 104 feet. It will be of fireproof construction. These two schools will run the total of money spent in the county for schools this year to close to \$400,000. Media's new school cost, \$90,000; Lansdowne's new building cost \$50,000; Marple and Newtown Townships spent \$35,000 for a joint high school; Darby has two new buildings which cost \$36,000 and a third which cost \$30,000; Eddystone put up a \$20,000 building; East Lansdowne spent \$15,000 for schools; Haverford township spent \$15,000; and Morton \$12,000. Clifton Heights School Board is contemplating spending \$18,000 for an addition to its schools.

EXPANDING IN ALL SECTIONS – The fact that school buildings are going up in all parts of the county, some in close proximity to Philadelphia and this city, is incident to the rapid growth of these sections, but it also shows that the growth is not confined to any one party. Only a very small part of Delaware County is going along in the event tenor of its way, untouched by the boom which is being felt in other parts of the county, and includes Concord and Birmingham Townships, both of which are strictly agricultural communities. In other sections, from Marcus Hook to the Montgomery County and Philadelphia County lines, real estate is booming, due to a great extent to the boom which has reached the industrial establishments of this city and vicinity.

MANY SALES NEAR BALDWIN'S – Among the real estate transfers of the week have been noticed many from that section of the county traversed by the Chester and Darby Pike. Along this pike are many prosperous boroughs, homes of merchants or professional men of Philadelphia. There have been few sales of real estate in that part of the county until very recently, but the impetus given by the demand for homes for men who will be employed at the Remington Arms Company's plant on the Baldwin property at Eddystone, which can be readily reached from any of the towns along the pike, has been felt in the number of sales made within the last week or so; more transfers having come from the boroughs along the pike in the last week than in any two months of the year prior to this time.

As the summer advances the number of contracts let gradually diminishes. During the last week there have been very few contracts awarded, the most important having been the Upper Darby Township school mentioned above. Thomas J. McGoldrick has let a contract for a pair of twin brick houses at Martin and Railroad Avenues, Haverford Township, plans for which were prepared by Powell Dilworth, architect. The price is \$6,000.

PUTTING UP \$10,000 HOUSE – J. Passmore Elkinton of Moylan has received bids for a hollow tile and stucco house to be erected in Moylan. It is estimated that it will cost about \$10,000. The contract has not yet been let. The Philadelphia Realty Company has been awarded a contract to build two houses on Elm Avenue, Aldan for George A. Hardman. No price has been made public.

GALLAGHER'S BIG IMPROVEMENT – The improvements made to the garage at Seventh Street and Edgmont Avenue for Gallagher Brothers, will be completed in a few days. To reconstruct it to its new form required both architectural and engineering skill, coupled with a large expenditure of money; owing to the building being quadrilateral in shape, with the result that Chester today can boast of having a building second to none in the State for automobile business and its accessories. It has a frontage on Seventh Street of 107 feet and is two stories in height. Roof trusses of a special design span the entire building to give unobstructed space; the second floor is of steel and concrete, construction to carry a super-imposed load of 147 tons, including its own weight, with a factor of safety of four added; this extraordinary weight is supported by cast iron columns situated on the first floor and relieve the walls of the entire weight mentioned. In placing the columns referred to all obstruction is eliminated. The entire floor space in the building is 7,238 square feet. The building will be heated by steam and each floor will have plenty of light from all sides. The first floor contains two large offices, a tourists' retiring room, toilet rooms, show room, and stockroom, together with a large space for parking purposes. The second floor will be used for a mechanical department and storing of automobiles. This floor is reached by two independent stairways and a large two-cycle electric elevator with a safe lifting capacity of 5,000 pounds.

The owner of the building is Hugh J. McCaffery. The plans and specifications for the building were made by James J. Farnan of the First Ward, who also superintended the construction. The general contractors are E. & A. Flounders of Media.

MARCUS HOOK PAVING – The borough of Marcus Hook is asking for bids for doing 7,000 square yards of street paving and 800 square yards of concrete gutters. The bids are to be in the hands of the engineer by September 6 and it is understood that if the bids are low enough contracts will be let and the work started so as to improve more of the borough streets before winter weather sets in. The borough has about \$15,000 in the sinking fund for this purpose, with which considerable work can be done when the amount each property will pay is added to this sum.

The bids for the new \$10,000 residence to be erected at Wallingford for Herbert Fulweiler are to be in the hands of the architect today. This building will be constructed out of brick, two and one-half stories high, and will have a dimension of 60 by 26 feet. Philadelphia and West Chester contractors are bidding for the work.

On Monday next the bids for a new house for C. N. Godfrey to be built in the borough of Lansdowne, are due to be received. This structure will be of hollow tile and plaster, tile and plaster, two and one-half stories high, 37x27 feet, with a wing 16x22 feet,

slate or shingle roof, tile work and electric light. The heating of the building is reserved out of the general contract.

\$20,000 GARAGE – Dr. Archibald G. Thomson of the New York Stock Exchange building, has awarded the contract for the erection of a garage at his home in Haverford Township to George & Brost of Philadelphia, at their bid of \$20,000. This will be constructed of hollow tile and stucco, two stories, 34x90 feet, slate roof, hot water heating, electric lighting, damp proofing.

THE HEWES OPERATION – The Hewes operation at Thirteenth and Crosby Streets is nearing completion. Four houses on Thirteenth Street east of Crosby Street are in the hands of the lathers and the carpenters are placing the weatherboarding on the second-story rear rooms.

Nine houses of the operation are being erected on Crosby Street between the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and Thirteenth Street. The bricklayers are still on the job and the second stories will be completed in about ten days. The corner dwelling and the one adjoining it are now two stories high, and the roofs will be sheathed in the early part of next week if the weather permits.

Nolan Brothers, local contractors, are progressing with the installation of a new front in the store property at Twelfth Street and Edgmont Avenue. The material will arrive at the scene on Monday or the early part of next week so that the carpenters can go ahead with their part of the work.

DARBY SCHOOLS – Work on the two new school houses at Ridge Avenue and Walnut Street, in Darby, is almost completed and will be ready for occupancy with the opening of the fall term of school, the first Monday in September. ON Main Street, the work on the McMeekin building a substantial two-story store and apartment structure, is almost finished. ON Darby Terrace, the site of the famous old Gebbie mansion is now occupied by eight substantial two-story dwellings, built by Julius Nelson, and just finished this summer. Of these, all but two have been sold. On seventh Street below Pine. A. J. Gotshall is erecting four modern houses, and on Mill Street near Pine, Barry Tarbottom, a builder, has erected a number of dwellings, all of which are completed but two, the foundations for these having just been completed.

HOUSES FOR NORWOOD – In Norwood it is expected that within the next two weeks contracts will be awarded for about half a dozen houses on which builders are now figuring. A. E. Head has given the contract for a two and a half story tile and stucco residence on Leon Avenue to Albert McVicker. It is expected that shortly the tract of land at Chester Pike and Winona Avenue will be the scene of an extensive building operation. The prospect of altering the old school house on the pike into a 32-room boarding house will furnish employment for a number of mechanics.

In Prospect Park Evan L. Moore is having finished a handsome dwelling on the south side of Tenth Avenue east of Washington Avenue built by Arthur Fritzinger, Bert Parker, a Glenolden builder, is rushing to completion a house on the north side of Tenth Avenue near Amosland Road. James Buchanan is putting up a dwelling on Fourteenth Avenue, east of Pennsylvania Avenue. A fine residence on Eleventh Avenue for George Weaver is being completed by Charles Harper, a Crum Lynne builder. J. Walter Austin has started work on a house at Fourteenth Avenue and Amosland Road for Joseph Calhoun. Bids are being taken on a house at Tenth Avenue and Amosland Road for Mr. Keppinger.

Crum Lynne is feeling some of the effects of the pike building boom. Jacob Buchanan is erecting two houses near Crum Lynne station. He also has the contract for a store and dwelling on the pike for Culane, a grocer.

In Ridley Park there is considerable building work under way at the present time. William Weir's new house, at the corner of Rosemont Avenue and Hinckley Avenue, is nearing completion, and the same is true of the handsome brick residence which is being erected at Rosemont Avenue and Chester Pike. On Henderson Avenue, the Hinkson property is undergoing a number of improvements, and the dwelling at Myrtle and Henderson Avenues, is being improved.

PERMITS GRANTED – The following building permits issued during the week by building inspector, Terryl T. Williams:

Two-story and attic dwellings, Twentieth Street between Chestnut and Hyatt Streets by Arthur McMackin Company

Lumber shed covered with corrugated iron, West Side of Franklin Street, between Fifth and Patterson Streets, by Glauser and Son

One-story portable steel garage in rear of 617 East Twenty-Fourth Street by Folsom-Portable garage Company for Mrs. Wallaston

One-story frame garage covered with corrugated iron in rear of 1009 Kerlin Street by B. O. Smith

One-story store house at the foot of Fulton Street by E. J. Oliver for the Chester Water company

Two-story brick, north side Nineteenth Street between Hyatt Street and Melrose Avenue by Horace Jackson for E. M. Crenna

One-story brick garage in rear of 615 1/2 Welsh Street for Josiah Sleeper

One-story steel building in rear of 706 East Nineteenth Street for J. H. Deering

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS – The following transfers of real estate were yesterday recorded with Recorder of Deeds Rigby:

Prospect Park – James G. Moore of Madison, Wisconsin, to Philip Gilberti and Thomas Rucci of Philadelphia, lot on Tenth Avenue, \$900

Prospect Park – James G. Moore of Madison, Wisconsin to Olivet Presbyterian Church of Prospect Park, lot at Tenth and Washington Avenues, \$425

Upper Darby – Robert Young of East Lansdowne to Wilhelmine H. C. Young of same place lot at East Lansdowne, \$1

Springfield Township – Springfield Real Estate Company to Mollie C. Thomas of Upper Darby, lot at Springfield, \$2,500

Haverford – Joseph R. Connell of Oakmont to Daniel S. Blackman of Pitman, N. J., lot with buildings at Coopertown and Eagle Roads \$1,000

Chester – John E. Heyburn, Jr., sheriff to George B. Harvey of Chester, house and lot on Cherry Street, \$50

Chester – John E. Heyburn Jr., sheriff to George B. Harvey of Chester, house and lot on Fourteenth Street, \$50

Darby – John E. Heyburn, Jr., sheriff to George Frescoln of Philadelphia, two houses and lot on Sixth Street, \$50

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION