

CHESTER TIMES – January 18, 1913

BUILDING AND REALTY NEWS – Good Weather For Concreting, But Scarcity Exists in Structural Steel – City and County Activities

The weather of the past week has been good for concrete work, but the builders handling the larger operations in this section of the country have been experiencing considerable trouble in getting structural steel. A shortage in this important building material has delayed the work on the recreation pier at the foot of Market Street and on the new building of the John J. Buckley Company, on West Second Street, near Market. The structural steel is just beginning to arrive for the Franklin Street School.

The building inspector issued three permits for small work during the week, the larger of which is to be a work shop to be built on Dock Street in the sixth Ward. Activity continues on the other operations underway in this city and in the county as well. In Marcus Hook, it is reported that there is a shortage of labor, a gesture which served to retard building in that section throughout the entire season. This is especially true of the situation at the new plant of the General Chemical Company.

A number of transfers have been recorded during the past week, several of them being of more than ordinary moment. Perhaps the largest of the sales was that at Manoa, which embraced a tract of 166 acres, and which is said to have brought \$165,000. It was purchased by William C. Smith, of Philadelphia. John Numan also bought 46 acres near Haverford, at a price proportionately as great as that paid for the Manoa land.

IN THE CITY – The base stones have been laid and the brickwork, which is in buff color, commenced on the annex to the Chester post office. Some of the first floor frames have been set. John W. Emery of Philadelphia is the contractor.

The interior is being finished in the Fox Building, opposite the post office, which is being built by Nolan Brothers for Benjamin C. Fox.

The Cantrell Construction Company of Philadelphia is progressing nicely with the concrete work on the new recreation pier at the foot of Market Street.

Workmen in the employ of the Consolidated Engineering Company of Baltimore are daily pouring concrete in the construction of the new \$30,000 beef house that Swift and Company of Chicago are erecting at 17, 19, 21, and 23 East Second Street. The brick work is also progressing rapidly.

The structural steel work is just beginning to arrive for the Franklin Street School which is being built by Contractor H. Louis Morris, for the City of Chester. Mr. Morris is also progressing nicely with the Woodlyn School, which he is erecting.

Francis J. Moore recently sold four of his six new houses on West Fourth Street, below Palmer, and has started operations for the erection of four more dwellings of the same design. The houses at 2400, 2402, 2406, and 2410 were purchased respectively by Harry Hennock, Thomas Ryan, George Whittle and Frank Hill. The dwellings are of modern construction and of ornate appearance.

The Good Will Fire Company has a handsome addition to their present building in course of erection, which will be ready for the accommodation of additional apparatus in the near future. It is expected that the brickwork will be completed in a few days.

Work is progressing on the erection of the Sunday school room of the Bethany Presbyterian Church at Sixth Street and Highland Avenue. The building will be constructed of stone and when completed will be used for the regular church and Sunday school services until the proposed \$20,000 edifice is built.

J. Horace Witsil's eight new houses in course of construction on Fowler Street, above Sixth, are rapidly nearing completion. The dwellings, which are of the twin style, will be graced with front porches. The new houses will add greatly to the architectural beauty of that locality.

The new building being erected at the Federal Steel Foundry Company's plant, at the foot of Reaney Street, for the storage of patterns, is now under roof. The structure is being built by Oliver Brothers, the contractors.

The West End Club is discussing building a new club house at an estimated cost of \$4,000. Plans are to be immediately prepared and bids will be asked for at once.

Samuel R. Bell the contractor and dealer in real estate, who has title to more than 200 properties in Chester and vicinity, has sold to Gilbert W. Arnold of Germantown, the houses and lot on West Second street, for a consideration of \$9,000.

**BUILDING PERMITS** – The following building permits were issued during the week by Building Inspector Terryl T Williams:

William Ward to build three two-story houses on north side of Fourteenth Street between Crosby and Esrey Streets

James Fryer to build a one-story frame building covered with corrugated iron on east side of Dock Street between Second and Third Streets

J.H. Phipps to build bay window in rear of 429 East Ninth Street.

**IN THE COUNTY** – John Bacon Douglas of Swasthmore has decided to build a residence costing \$7,000 at that place. Bids will be taken in about a week for the building, which is to be of frame, two and a half stories in height, 42 by 27 feet, with shingle roof, hot water heating and two bathrooms.

The Lester Piano Company has awarded a contract to P.J. Hurley of Philadelphia for a stable and warehouse to be built at the company's plant at Lester. There are to be two buildings each of brick with slag roofs and electric lighting.

Ballinger and Perot, Philadelphia architect, are preparing plans for a clubhouse and company stores to be built by the American Viscose Company at Marcus Hook. The buildings are to be of brick, one and two stories in height.

The plant of the Union Petroleum Company at Marcus Hook which was almost destroyed last August, is to be rebuilt. Officials of the company have been working on the project of building their plant on larger and more comprehensive lines and have already given the plans and specification into the hands of an architect. As soon as these are completed the bids will be awarded and the work of erection hurried to completion. The huge pier and the bulkheads which were destroyed will also be rebuilt. The plans for these have been made and it is expected that the contract will be awarded within a few days.

The plant of the General Chemical Company which cost \$2,000,000 is about completed. It is expected it will be in operation the first of next month.

Following the action of the American Viscose Company of the same place, the General Chemical Company will erect a large number of workingmen's houses early in the spring. Thus, in addition to the model houses which are now being erected, together with those contemplated, the year will be more than a busy one at this borough. Twelve of these houses are to be built immediately the contract having been let to T.W. Meckert and company of Ridley Park.

Determined not to wait 138 years before building their own house, like the members of the Darby Fire Company No. 1 whose house is now partly completed the

members of the Dar by Fire Patrol No. 2 have taken steps for the erection of a new house of their own. Flounders Brother of Media have been given the contract for the erection of a house and garage for Francis W. Sharpless of Upper Providence, at the intersection of Providence and Lion Roads, Upper Providence Township. The price was \$1600. The contract for the erection of two houses on the southwest corner of Pembroke and Lewis Avenues, East Lansdowne, for J. Maud Lewis of Lansdowne, has been given to Lewis and Company. These houses when completed will cost \$6000. They will be pebble-dashed on the outside and the interior finished in cypress and chestnut. They will have hot water heat, gas, electric lights and other up-to-date improvements.

William C. Smith, president of the Haddington Trust Company of Philadelphia, has made settlement for a tract of 166 acres of ground at Manoa on the West Chester Pike. The ground has been purchased by the Delaware Realty Company, a recently organized Pennsylvania corporation, which will lay the tract out in building lots with the view of developing it with high-class improvements. The ground adjoins the tract occupied by the Philadelphia Athletic Club, and was purchased at a price reported to be \$165,000, or almost \$1000 per acre. The transaction is one of the largest sales of ground ever recorded in Delaware County.

Hirst & McMullin have sold for John Numan a tract of forty-six acres on Ellis Road, south of Haverford. The ground adjoins the new eighteen-hole golf course of the Merion Cricket Club which is now under construction. This course occupies part of the Stuart Wool tract. It is said it will be one of the finest golf courses in America, when completed. The ground is well watered and beautifully wooded. The name of the purchaser is withheld. The consideration is not disclosed, but ground in the neighborhood is held from \$1000 to \$1500 an acre.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION