

CHESTER TIMES – January 30, 1915 – BUILDING MAY BOOM IN DARBY –  
Real Estate Men Are Optimistic As to the Further Development of the Borough

Indications point to busy times in the building line in the borough of Darby just as soon as spring weather makes its appearance. Home of the residents and business people are a little disappointed over the fact that it has been learned that the sale of the recent Baird tract at Fifth and Main Streets, will not mean the erection of a number of buildings by the new owner of the land. This is taken from the fact that this week a large sign has been placed on the property offering it for sale in building lots. It would have made a great improvement for the borough had the new owner gone ahead and improved the land at once with substantial buildings. But there is a demand for land in the borough and it may be that the coming spring will witness the sale of a goodly portion of the land and the erection of up-to-date dwellings.

The site of the old Gebbie property, where Julius Nelson will put up a number of up-to-date dwellings, as well as other real estate dickers under way, all tend to confirm the prediction of the real estate men that considerable building will soon start in Darby.

At present there are a number of building operations under way in the borough, the principal ones being the two school buildings at Ridge Avenue and Walnut Street, work on which is going ahead rapidly. C. D. Drewes is pushing to rapid completion a fine public garage at Fifth and Main Streets.

On Mill Street, opposite Grayson's Mills, two pairs of brick houses are nearing completion, these being the first houses built to directly front on this section of Mill Street. Builder Sipple has begun the erection of another pair of houses in the Boone Hill section.

On Tenth Street, above Summit, the operation of houses which was started many months ago, is not yet entirely completed, the builder, Mr. McPherson, having encountered numerous difficulties.

THE WAYNE OPERA HOUSE – Plans have been about completed for the rebuilding at Wayne, along the Main line of the Pennsylvania railroad, which was destroyed by fire some time ago. Workmen are busy at the present time placing a new roof on the structure. The owners, Wendell & Treat, propose to remodel the ground floor into three parts, giving more room to the post office and leaving two large stores. The auditorium will not be rebuilt but will be converted into two floors, the first of which will be used for offices and store rooms and the other fixed up as a lodge room or assembly hall suitable for dancing.

No plans have yet been made as to the disposition of the lot which will be vacant, formerly occupied by the Counties Gas and Electric Company and the Wayne Plumbing and Heating Company, but it is safe to say that so valuable a plot of ground will not long be unoccupied.

MOVING PICTURE HOUSE – Plans are also being made which will insure for Wayne a fine theatre building, suitable for moving pictures or other entertainments, and which will be under the management of the Messrs. Allen. This theatre will be located on the lot 110 North Wayne Avenue, on which stands a house and store occupied by Louis diFerdinando as a tailor shop. An arcade will be built through the house, with a store on each side, and in the rear an auditorium 100 feet deep, with large stage, will be erected, capable of seating 600 people, and modern and safe in every respect.

NEW FIRE HOUSE – Much interest is being taken by citizens of Wayne and St. David's and Radnor Township generally in the proposed new home for the Radnor Fire

Company. Treasurer Fred H. Treat has received a number of promises from prominent men to give financial aid to the proposed object, and it is felt that when definite plans are formulated the money will be forthcoming to give to the firemen a commodious home.

Goodwin Werlin of Rutledge, a former resident of Prospect, has purchased three lots at the corner of Fletcher and Fourteenth Avenues, from Charles Galloway, of this borough, and will probably start operations on a new dwelling in the near future.

CITY OPERATIONS – The Linski Garage at Ninth Street and Morton Avenue, is under roof, and Contractor Phipps has an extra force of workmen engaged in finishing the interior of the building. It is expected that the carpenter and cement work will be finished in time for the opening of the garage on February 15.

Very little progress was made on the Hughes garage the past week, owing to the weather conditions. It is hoped however, that it will be but a short time before the weather will allow the stone masons to finish their work.

Progress is being made on the two-story brick addition being erected by Isaac Furrell at 510 East Sixteenth Street. The new addition will be under roof some time the latter part of the week, and plumbers will begin their work of installing the necessary pipes for the bathroom fixtures.

FEW BUILDING PERMITS – Building Inspector Terryl Williams issued but three permits in the last two weeks, all of a minor nature. The following took out the permits for work:

George V. Buck – One story frame and corrugated iron building in the rear of the residence at 325 West Eighth Street

Isaac Furrell – Two story brick addition to the residence at 519 East Sixteenth Street

T. Brooks McBride – One story brick garage in rear of residence and store, 1002 West Third Street