

1946 at Canastota Marked By Fires, Tragedies, Village And Business Expansions

CANASTOTA.—The year 1946 was ushered in with four wedding anniversaries totaling 203 years of married life and was climaxed in Canastota by a chorus of 100 voices singing the cantata, "Infant Holy" in Methodist church Christmas Sunday night—the first project of its kind in recent years.

It was on New Year's day that the late Dr. Herman G. Germer and his wife observed their golden wedding anniversary while Mr. and Mrs. H. Clark Bushnell, Stroud st., were observing a similar anniversary. The date also marked the 56th wedding day of Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert Yorton and the 47th of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pankhurst.

In industrial circles, the organization of Oneida Products Corp. at Canastota as a subsidiary of Oneida Ltd., with \$3,000,000 capital stock wholly owned by Oneida Ltd., was the big project of 1946. The organization was effective Feb. 1 with William C. Coburn, president and operating head. It utilizes the large plant in W. Center st.

CREAMERY SOLD

Purchase of the Carl Braun creamery equipment factory by Kenneth Johnson in January was another industrial transaction. John B. King of Johnstown and Anson King of Gloversville had been the owners and operators for 18 years. Also in the first month of the year, Harold B. Phillips of Fayetteville purchased the Severance business and property.

Clarence E. Conley, Canastota, began his administration as Madison county judge Jan 1. Miss Ruth Worden was installed matron of Canastota chapter, OES, and Gerald Relyea, master of Canastota lodge F&AM. The village board adopted parallel parking of cars in the business area following a public hearing Jan. 21 and Canastota Presbyterians took steps looking to rebuilding the church property by naming a building and planning committee with Rev. Calb Hodges as chairman.

WILSEY SHOOTING

The first month of 1946 did not pass without its tragedy. Arthur Louis Wilsey, 17, a Canastota high school pupil, was fatally shot at the family home north of Canastota Jan. 13 during a family argument and tussle, and Ione Wilsey, his sister, was seriously wounded by shots in the face. The father, James Wilsey, was arrested and held on felony charges.

In February, the campaign to provide funds for the purchase of the DeLano property in S. Peterboro st. as a Legion memorial home had reached \$21,192, and a goal of \$1,500 to be contributed by St. Agatha's church to the LeMoyné college fund had been doubled.

February business transactions were highlighted by the First Trust & Deposit Co. of Syracuse beginning operation of the former First National bank at Canastota as a branch office. Feb. 4 parking me-

village in February and Feb. 20 Canastota Civic club launched a project looking to all service clubs in Madison county uniting in the interest of having historic Nichols pond southwest of Canastota developed by the federal government as a national park. New mercantile businesses were opened that month by J. C. Pierce, Angeline Argentine and Mary Picciano. The annual Red Cross campaign, Dr. Richard Cuthbert, chairman, netted \$3,879. The quota was \$3,860.

Canastota was not without disastrous fires. A \$25,000 fire centered in the IGA block, owned by Edward Gallagher, Feb. 25, and Sept. 14 the Eschelman & Son feed mill fire netted a loss estimated at \$75,000 or more.

BEMISS BLOCK SOLD

The Bemiss block was sold to Thomas Tornatore March 7. On March 4, James Wilsey, held in the fatal shooting of his son in January, pleaded guilty to first degree manslaughter and second degree assault and was sentenced to Attica state prison by County Judge Clarence E. Conley.

George Robotham and C. J. Hall were elected village trustees at the annual election March 19. Margaret Fisher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fisher, was named valedictorian of the 1946 class of Canastota high school and Beverly Shuler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Shuler, Pleasant st., salutatorian.

Proposed erection of a slaughterhouse caused the Lenox town board to sponsor a special meeting April 1 to procure sentiment to zoning regulations. On Palm Sunday, April 14, the carillon bells in Methodist church tower were first played. A successful campaign raised \$3,600 to purchase the bells as a memorial to town of Lenox residents in world war 2.

Thomas D. Gleason, Seneca tpk., was instantly killed April 17, when a coupe he was driving was struck by a New York Central train at the Chittenango crossing.

PARKING METERS IN USE

Parking meters were placed in use at Canastota May 1. On May 9,

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