

CHESTER TIMES – July 13, 1912

BUILDING AND REALTY NEWS OF THE WEEK – Real Estate Brokers Report  
Exceptionally Quiet Week – In City and County

Building and realty has been exceptionally dull throughout the entire county during the past week. This, of course, does not include the activity on operations already under way for in this case builders and contractors are busy. Real estate brokers when seen yesterday and this morning reported that it was the dullest week that they had witnessed for months. Few new buildings have been started in the county during the week and no new operations have been reported in Chester. Contractor William J. Hewes, contemplates the erection of four residences on Highland Avenue above West Twelfth Street.

John J. McCoy of Leiperville, has started a new dwelling on the McCoy Terrace in that borough. John Maag, a contractor, is building three residences and a stable along Fairview Road, Leiperville. Builder Thomas F. Manley has commenced work on two dwellings at Oakview. C.H. Haggerty of Oakview is having five houses built in Clifton Heights. Farnworth Griffith of Lansdowne has created a little suburb in that borough, and has expended about \$50,000 on the property, which is said to be projected as an exclusive residential section.

IN THE CITY – Contractor William J. Hewes of 1102 Highland Avenue, who is erecting four residences on Highland Avenue, at Twelfth Street, has two of them about ready for occupancy. The work on the other two is being pushed rapidly. Mr. Hewes also contemplates the erection of four more new dwellings near these new ones, he having recently purchased sufficient land to permit the building of eight houses. He expects to build the four this season and then use the other available ground for building at a later date.

Martin J. Dwyer of 1803 West Third Street, who is building two dwellings on the south side of West Second Street, West of Reaney Street, is progressing nicely with the work. The houses are now being finished on the interior.

The three dwellings that William L. Devinney, a contractor of 2519 West Third Street, has been building on West Third Street at Booth Street, on the site of an ancient blacksmith shop, which was a landmark, are about ready for occupancy. The residences are of brick, two stories high and modern in every detail.

Francis J. Moore of Marcus Hook, who has erected two modern brick dwellings on the north side of West Fourth Street, West of Palmer Street, has them about ready for occupancy. The residences are of brick, two stories high, and modern in every detail.

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Progress is being made on the erection of the brick store and dwelling at 927 Edgmont Avenue. The building is being constructed under the direction of J.C. Taylor, attorney for the owner, whose identity has not been disclosed. H. Louis Morris is the general contractor, while David Worrilow, a contracting brick layer, has charge of the work.

The improvements have been completed at the McNicholas West End Hotel, Second and Howell Streets, and the house has been re-opened with new fixtures and furnishing that class it with the best hotels in the city. A new brick front has been placed in the building, the main entrance changed and the floor and wainscoting laid with

attractive tiles. The contractor, H. Louis Morris, has made a good job of it. During the progress of the improvements the business of the hotel was conducted in a one-story frame structure adjoining the main building on Second Street.

Rees and Maloy are erecting a large frame storage building on their property at Fifth and Unrich Streets. The structure is two stories high and the work is well advanced.

The bricklayers are at work on the last two of the eight houses in course of construction, by Samuel R. Bell on Lloyd Street near Second and the carpenters and plasterers are busy on the other dwellings. They will be cozy little homes and little difficulty will be experienced in securing tenants for them.

Henry Haas' improvements to the Franklin House on West Third Street, near the bridge, are progressing rapidly and will be completed in a week or two. The new brick front with copper trimmings add to the attractive appearance of the building and the interior changes will include new fixtures and tile floor. At the main entrance of the hotel, the cement floor has been studded with silver dollars, the coins being imbedded in the surface of the cement. The apartment formerly used as a café will be converted into a reception room for ladies and there will be a main hallway dividing this from the bar. William Ward is the contractor.

Several properties on the West side of Parker Street, between Third and Fifth, are being repainted and improved in general appearance.

Show windows are being placed in the new store fronts of the three properties of Wesley Gray, at Third and Penn Streets and the plasterers will soon complete their part of the contract.

IN THE COUNTY – Real estate has been moving slow in the Eastern section of this county during the past week and very few transactions were made. There is, however, considerable building going on, and some of the real estate men hold out hopes that there will be plenty of building early in the fall. Builder Thomas F. Manley has just started on two handsome dwellings for Contractor Patrick Mahoney in Oakview. These houses are to cost \$4,000 each. Mr. Manley will also build a \$5,000 bungalow for Mrs. Mairs in Clifton Heights.

C.R. Hagerty of Oakview, who is having five houses built in Clifton Heights by Builder Frank Shee, expects to have the houses completed within six weeks. Builder James Booth of Garrettsford is also pushing the work in two dwellings for Miss Caroline Palmer in Clifton Heights, while Jordan Brothers, builders, are having a large force of men employed on six houses for James Gordan and daughter in Clifton Heights.

Builder W.C. Shuster is making very extensive alterations to the Davis building at the corner of Baltimore and Lansdowne Avenues, Lansdowne. The second floor of the building which was at one time used as an exchange for the Bell Telephone Company while the Eastern end of the second floor was what was known as the Century Hall, are now being made into one large floor and room. When this is completed it will be occupied by the Lansdowne Republican club. On this same building Builder Schuster is changing the front of the structure and building a new office on the first floor.

One of the largest and most extensive improvements any man has undertaken in the Eastern end of this county for a long time is that of Farnworth Griffith, a real estate broker who owns a large tract of land in the Northern section of the beautiful borough of Lansdowne. This tract of land, while it sets high, has in its center a low stream through which for years there has been a stream of running water. The place in itself was rough

and looked like a wilderness. But Mr. Griffith studied out a plan to beautify the place and he has succeeded and today there has arose from the marshy land a beautiful park. It is the most beautiful little park in this county. The park is not yet completed, and when it is finished Mr. Griffith will have spent close to \$50,000 in beautifying the place.

Mr. Griffith has laid the place out in a very artistic manner, through which there are walks, many rustic seats made out of the wood taken from trees in the woods which is a part of the park. The stream has been enlarged and deepened and today it is a large lake, where the young folks of Lansdowne go every day during this hot weather to take a refreshing bath. There are bath houses for women and men right on the banks of the lake. Rows of seats are located around the banks of the lake.

There is a large granite stone and concrete entrance to the park. On the hillside there is a strip of wood, while all around the park there are old shade trees, which for years have been showing signs of decay for want of attention. The old trees have been treated by expert tree doctors from Washington, while the younger trees have also been given treatment. There is a large cold spring on the grounds, and now this stream of water is being taken care of and a suitable concrete structure will be erected at the spring in the form of a granite, where visitors to the park can partake of sparkling spring water.

It is understood that Mr. Griffith at some time will turn this park, which now is known as Griffith Park, over to some organization in Lansdowne for its perpetuation and for the free use of the people of the borough. Surrounding this park are several thousand buildings lots which are now being offered for sale to home seekers in a pretty town and closely situated to the trolleys.

Two new building operations have been begun in Leiperville during the present week. John J. McCoy has started a house on McCoy Terrace, adjoining his present houses, and has also started two other houses on Fairview Road, opposite the rear of his residence at Chester Pike and Fairview Road. Work on the Hoffman houses is being pushed rapidly, and it will be a short time until the mechanics will have completed these houses. John Maag is building three houses and a barn along Fairview Road near the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company's line, while H.D. Morris is also putting up a couple of houses along this thoroughfare.

Workmen are engaged in building an exceptionally fine stone bulkhead along Crum Creek at the Baldwin Locomotive Works, and in addition to retaining the waters in their natural boundary, the wall will allow the Baldwin Company at least fifteen feet more ground. The roofers are rapidly getting the immense new erecting shop at the plant under cover, while the windows are being placed in position. Oliver Brothers of Chester have been awarded the contract to erect a sewer to drain this new shop, the sewage to drain into Crum Creek.

Other building work in Eddystone is progressing, but nothing new has developed within the work.

The Fitzgerald store on Baltimore Avenue, East Lansdowne, is ready for occupancy. It is fifty feet by fifty feet, large, airy and a modern store in every detail.

Improvements are being made to the building belonging to H.C. Snowden, Jr., adjoining his large hardware store at Media. The front will be extended so that it will conform to that of the large building.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS – Highland Park – John H. Storer of Waltham to William K. Roedel of Philadelphia, Lots No. 193, 194 - \$780

Chester Township – Media – Title and Trust Company of Media to Alban N. Peoples of Chester buildings and tract of 10 acres - \$9000

Drexel Hill – Samuel Crothers of Philadelphia to James G. Smyrl of same place, Lots No. 332, 333, 334 - \$870

Swarthmore – Frederick M. Simons of Swarthmore to Philip C. Snow of same place, Lot 137 by 196 feet, also lot 196 by 200 feet with buildings - \$14,250

Colwyn – George A. Drovin of Philadelphia to John Scherff of Darby, two brick houses and lot 37 by 100 feet - \$3325

Darby Borough – Gerald M. Carroll of New York City to Matthias Herrmann of Ashland, brick house and lot 25 by 115 feet - \$2600

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION