

DEAD ENGINEERS BURIAL PLANS RIVAL WEIRDEST FICTION

Henry Close Ordered Disposition of His Body With Mathematical Precision, and Left Money for That Purpose.

A weird tale rivaling the most imaginative productions of a Poe or an Ambrose Bierce came to light today in the making of the extraordinary preparations for his burial made by Henry Close, engineer and mathematician, who died 10 days ago at his home, 27 North 36th st.

BOUGHT TO PRESERVE BODY. The thoroughness which characterized his methods in engineering was evidenced in the detailed directions for the care of his remains, which specified the kind of embalming fluid that was to be used, the manner of containing his metal casket and the kind of cement that was to be used in making the tomb air-tight and waterproof.

Henry Close's practical and mechanical mind could never comprehend the existence of a deity. He was a thoroughgoing agnostic, and he believed in the teachings of theologians which pictured a heaven or hell after death, declaring how, from a mechanical standpoint, they were impossible.

Of equal dread to him was the idea of his remains being buried in a tomb, and he devoted much time to the study and employment of every agency known to science to insure his body against such a fate. He was determined that no worms should eat his remains, and that his ashes should remain intact for ages.

About two years ago he had an expensive vault constructed in St. Michael's cemetery, at Birdboro, the building of which he superintended himself in order to be sure that the plan of the vault would be accurately carried out. The vault was lined with thick walls of brick, through which liquid cement was poured, and a granite slab weighing two tons was placed upon it.

The immense slab, which was prepared in this city, was so unwieldy that upon its arrival in Birdboro it was found that no vehicle in the place strong enough to transport it could be used.

An especially designed casket of bronze also was secured during his lifetime and this, after containing his mortal remains, was to be placed in the vault. For this work Close engaged the services of the best mechanics in the business, caring nothing for the expense.

John B. Rutherford, who has offices in the Stephen Girard Building, was named in the will as the attorney of the estate and the sum of \$500 was bequeathed to him as a special compensation for supervising the burial and seeing that all plans were carried out as directed.

Two other cemetaries in which relatives and ancestors are buried were remembered in the will for substantial amounts, which will insure the beautification and care of their graves forever.

At the cabinet meeting it was recalled that the Connolly ordinance slipped into "Council" with the recommendation of the Organization-controlled Finance Committee of which John P. Connelly, McNeil lieutenant, is the chairman, and never had been submitted to City Solicitor Michael J. Ryan for an opinion as to its legality.

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CABINET STRIKES BLOW FOR TRANSIT

Philadelphia can have adequate transit facilities. The necessary legislation to permit the establishment of these facilities has been passed at Harrisburg.

"We are now hearing all kinds of fake rumors against the plan, chief among them being that it will increase the tax rate. The tax argument is a bugaboo. If the recommended facilities produce no increase in the assessed valuation of property, if they would not save the citizens valuable time if they do not, save more than \$50,000 annually on the elimination of exchange tickets, the loss would still be less than that made up by a 15-cent increase in the tax rate.

"However, the fixed charges will be offset by the net earnings, and the system will save the city \$1,000,000 annually, which, if turned into dollars and cents, would mean more than \$1,000,000 annually. Besides that, the new plan will save the people \$15,000,000 annually in the abolition of exchange tickets.

"We are now already far behind many smaller municipalities, Boston particularly. We do not want to follow the example of New York city in crowding our citizens into tenements. We want to keep Philadelphia a city of individual homes. At the present time the people must look forward to tenement homes or substandard accommodations and inadequate transit accommodations.

"The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company now has to resort to overlapping lines and to running its cars roundabout streets to make the necessary for the present 8-cent exchange tickets.

"The directors of the United Business Men's Association held a special meeting this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock in the Hotel Excelsior to decide upon details of the part the association will play in the transit fight. The Transportation Committee, led by Edward B. Martin, chairman, conferred with the Board of Directors at this time. The membership is nearly 20,000.

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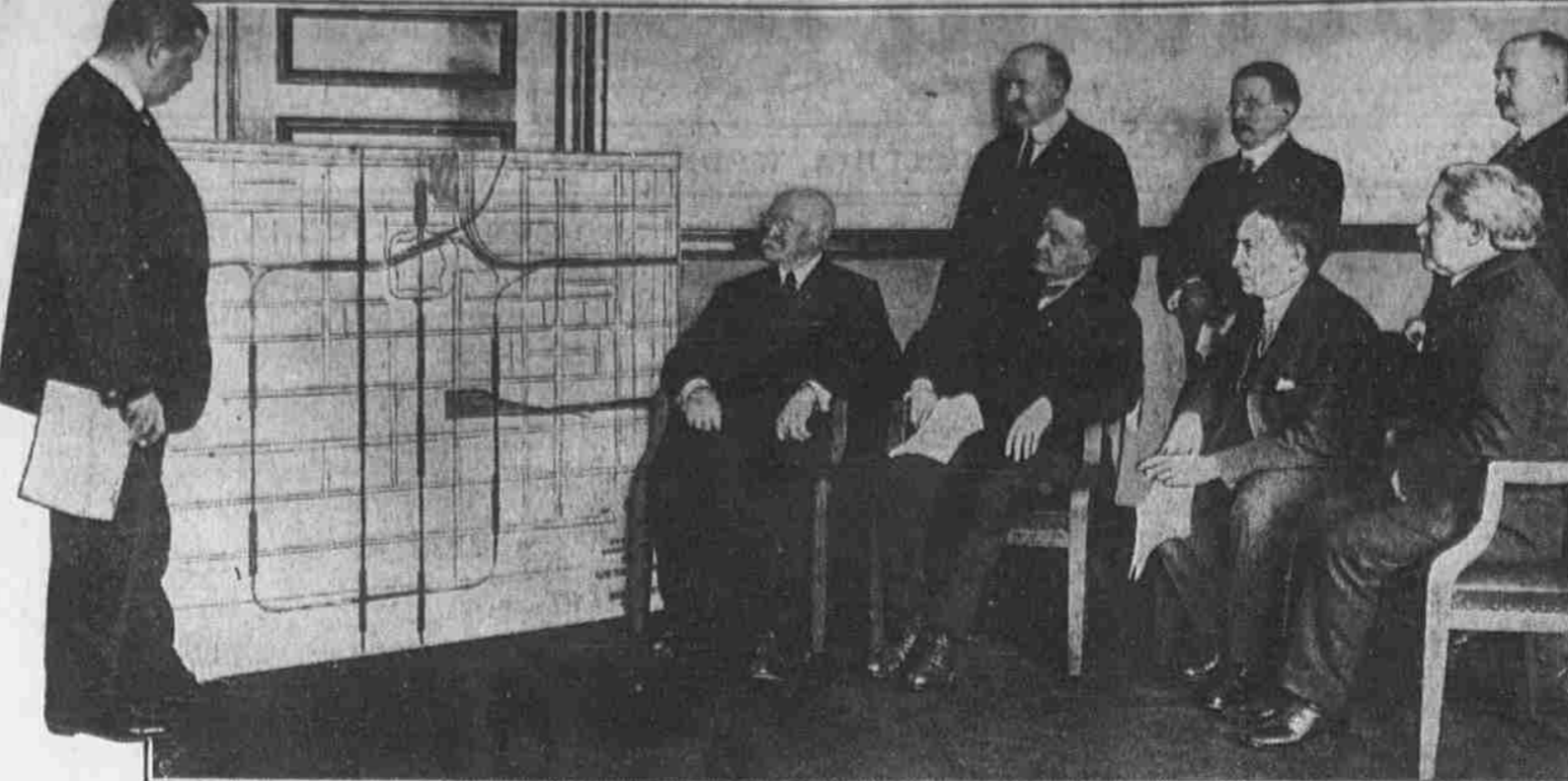
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DIRECTOR TAYLOR OUTLINES HIS TRANSIT PLAN FOR COMMITTEE OF 1000



The picture shows members of the Executive Committee of the Committee of 1000 as they met today in the Transit Director's office. Seated, from left to right, are Ryerson W. Jennings, William Hancock, chairman; Herbert D. Allman, secretary, and George B. Wells. Standing, Stewart A. Jellett, John Walton and N. B. Kelly.

"We have entered into a fair agreement with the P. R. T. subject to the approval of the Union Traction Company. This approval has been withheld and efforts are now being made on several sides to thwart our progress. The ordinance prepared by the Department of City Transit and reported in Council early in January was reported out by the Finance Committee last week in such a form that John G. Johnson has said that they are illegal.

"I now advise you that if this ordinance passes, City Councils the increased income of the city will not be made for any definite purpose.

"We must defeat that ordinance. If Councils pass that ordinance I am going out into every ward in the city and defeat it at the polls, if such power lies in my hands.

"Let us have some workable plan or let us have nothing. The Finance Committee plan is only a humbug. The odds against me are so strong that I now have to appeal to the people of Philadelphia to help fight for themselves and demand that Councils pass a valid ordinance.

"If you are citizens, use your power. You can enforce the passage of such an ordinance as will provide for real rapid transit in Philadelphia.

"There is no need at this time to specify the lines upon which the money appropriated must be expended. Should the Public Service Commission not approve any item of the proposed lines, then the Public Service Commission rule that the three-mile extension from Bridge to Rhawn streets is unnecessary, then the loan is useless as the ordinance stands.

"All I ask of you is that you require your representatives in Councils to produce a valid ordinance. The Finance Committee ordinance has the appearance of a base subterfuge to thwart real rapid transit, through legal complications tying up the loan and making the money useless.

"The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Directors of the Chamber, James Collins Jones, attorney for the Chamber, opened the cross-questioning by asking the Director:

"Where do you propose to spend the \$5,000,000 this year?"

"On the subway delivery loop," answered the Director. "It is essential to the whole system. It is an engineering problem to run four tracks on the Broad street into two tracks in South Broad street, and a physical impossibility to discharge at two stations passengers collected at 25 stations, would it not take \$5,000,000 to run this delivery loop from 8th street down to 6th street."

"It would further the development of 100 acres of realty in this section of the city and would provide a parking place for 10,000 cars, the real estate in the Washington Square," said Mr. Wood.

MAN DRAGS TWO FROM THE PATH OF FLAMES

Brother and Sister, Overcome by Smoke, Carried to Safety at \$20,000 Fire.

Two persons overcome by smoke in their burning home were rescued at 2 o'clock this morning by a waiter who, clad only in his night clothing, climbed over a rear shed and into the building and carried both to the street. Damage estimated at \$20,000 to building, stock and furniture was caused by the fire.

The blaze was in the shoe store of Joseph Elgart, 1617 Frankford avenue. Mr. Elgart has been living with relatives at 5194 Parkside avenue and he was not in the house. Three of his children were away, but one son, Samuel, 15 years old, and a daughter, Sophie, 20 years old, were asleep in the third floor.

The girl was aroused first. She ran into her brother's room and called vainly for five minutes trying to arouse him. Finally she dragged him from bed. The two staggered through the thick smoke into the hallway, where they collapsed just beneath a rear window.

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CAPT. ARTHUR E. HARDING Marine Corps commander, who killed himself with a revolver in his room at the Racquet Club.

CAPTAIN OF MARINES COMMITS SUICIDE

Continued from Page One. A large calibre automatic service revolver lay at his side, within a few inches of his right hand.

The suicide today is the third recent tragedy in exclusive Philadelphia clubs. Some time ago Charles O. Kruger, former president of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, dropped dead of heart disease in the Racquet Club. A few weeks prior to that a business man shot himself to death in a bathroom of the University Club.

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TRANSIT REVOLT'S CLIMAX TONIGHT

Continued from Page One. who began to flock to the Academy were determined to register the strongest protest that a thoroughly aroused body of citizens could make against politicians who obstruct the attainment of the people's rights.

The rain interfered with the plans of thousands who had intended to parade the principal parade way to have been held by the employees of League Island. The 3000 men who ride on the surface cars to their work at the navy yard every day had intended to march from League Island to the Academy, as they did on the night of January 11, when they abandoned this plan, however, and prepared to go to the Academy through the rain, as they could, on the present transit system.

Director Norris will be the first speaker in the Academy after Director Taylor has opened the meeting. Roland St. Morris, Dr. Philip H. Moore and ex-Judge William W. Porter will follow.

In the ranks of the army are hundreds who were leaders in the memorable campaign against the infamous gas steel in 1905, and with them are hundreds more who have taken up arms for the first time to demand their rights as citizens and to serve notice on Councils that a day of reckoning has come.

With more than a half hundred business organizations and thousands of independent citizens behind him, Director Taylor will open the fight to clear the path for a victory over the tricks, subterfuges and obstacles placed in the way by Councils.

The front row of balcony seats in the Academy will be reserved until 8 o'clock for members of Select and Common Councils. It was announced by the Committee of One Thousand today, Councilmen will be admitted to the box by way of the stage door upon display of their official badges.

Members of the Committee of One Thousand at work today in every corner of the city are optimistic of the realization that a real crisis in the history of Philadelphia has come. Every member of this committee is the nucleus of a body of fighters in his own community.

Significant of grave concern in the minds of the leaders of the fight to deny the Taylor plan is the fact that the Connolly ordinance is defective and illegal, the army of transit fighters is confident that victory is assured. Sweeping denunciation of the coterie of political obstructionists in Councils broke forth anew when the trickery of those who framed the ordinance was exposed by Mr. Johnson.

The following citizens have notified Director Taylor in the opinion of 1909 appointment to the Committee of One Thousand have made application for tickets to the Academy meeting and it is expected that the demonstration will surpass that of January 14, when the city raised its voice against the delay and inaction of Councils.

THUGS BEAT AND ROB YOUNG WOMAN IN DARK

Footpads Follow Kensington Girl, Knock Her Unconscious - Captured After Long Chase.

A young woman was followed from a trolley car, knocked unconscious and robbed by two men at Front street and Lehigh avenue last night. The young woman is Miss Janet Cleto, of 845 Kensington avenue.

According to Miss Cleto she was followed from a Lehigh avenue car by John Holwell, 19 years old, 409 Adams avenue, Frankford, and Thomas F. Wynn, 24 years old, of Renovo, Pa. Wynn was poorly lighted section of Front street above Lehigh avenue, she was struck on the head by Wynn, who then struck her purse and a watch. Several blows were fired before the two men were captured.

SON TAKES ACTION TO HALT PROBATE OF MOTHER'S WILL

Cauev Filed by H. A. Ingram to Prevent Distribution of Estate.

Action to prevent the probating of the will of Caroline G. Hunsworth, who died February 3 at 108 South 42d street, leaving a \$28,000 estate, has been taken by her son, Henry A. Ingram. A will made by Mrs. Hunsworth two weeks before her death revoked all her previous wills and directed that her estate be distributed in accordance with the intestate law.

When William H. Ingram, another son, made application for letters of administration in the estate, for which no executor was named, the court granted a caveat against probating the testator's will. Grounds of the contest have not been made public.

FRANK MAURAN DIVORCED

Prominent Society Man Obtains Separation Decree From Outing.

A divorce was granted today by Court of Common Pleas No. 3 to Frank Mauran from his wife, Harriet Ames Mauran, on the ground of desertion. The Maurans have been living apart for about three years. They are prominent in this country and abroad socially. They have two sons. One is living in Europe with his mother, while another, who is married with his father at 1712 Walnut street.

AUTOS DAMAGED IN COLLISION

Machine Hit by Car Strikes Motor Occupied by Director Loeb's Wife.

Slightly responsible for an automobile collision which occurred today at 11th and Chestnut streets with such force as to send it against another motorist belonging to Mrs. Herman Loeb, wife of the Director, today. Both automobiles were badly damaged.

PHILADELPHIAN ACCUSED

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 24.—Suspected of illegal wiretapping, when a Chester man came across an automobile at 11th and Chestnut streets with such force as to send it against another motorist belonging to Mrs. Herman Loeb, wife of the Director, today. Both automobiles were badly damaged.

THE WEATHER

Official Forecast. For eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey: Rain and cooler tonight; increasing clouds and cooler; increasing clouds and cooler; increasing clouds and cooler.