

LIVED IN ONE HOUSE 79 YEARS

Michael Matsinger, W. Phila., Recalls When Rum Was 12 1/2 Cents a Quart

WAGES WERE \$8 A DAY

A story of days when West Philadelphia was farm land is told by Michael Matsinger, who has lived in an old house here at Forty-second street and Woodland avenue seventy-nine years.

Mr. Matsinger was born in the ancestral dwelling, and, although he does not know how old the house actually is, he believes it was built before the birth of his parents.

It has been purchased by William Clarke, and is to be torn down soon to make room for a garage.

Michael Matsinger is still actively engaged in business, being a building contractor.

While growing up with West Philadelphia, his interest in the development of the farm and the city was not at all in the Schuylkill was distracted, apparently, by the development of the movement for prohibition.

"When I was a young man," recounted Mr. Matsinger, you could buy a quart for twelve cents and a half a gallon for twenty cents.

"They call \$8 a day good money now, but a number of us fellows used to go a day for unloading coal barges fifty cents for old man Mahlon, who at that time owned a sawmill, grist mill, coal and lumber yard and ice houses along the creek.

"Did you ever hear why President Buchanan got the name of Ten-Cent Man?"

"Well," he continued, drawing contentedly on his pipe, "Buchanan said that if he was elected the people would be able to buy for ten cents as much as they were then paying \$10 for. And, by Mr. Matsinger said that he built the road trolley tracks here in this city and drove the first horse car on the road. It was then known as the Darby Road Company.

"His father was a manufacturer of willow baskets, and he raised geese, all of the cotton region. They had their own mill and were in some of the thickest fighting.

Scientist Stalks Antigonish 'Ghost'

Continued from Page One

of the horses and purchased another one, which, denoting a new ghost, also received the same treatment at the hands of the 'spooks.' Then the mysterious occurrences ceased, and Mr. Macdonald dismissed the incident from his mind.

It was not until the following spring that the strange happenings were repeated. Chains and spikes were used along the fence, and the cows were kept in their stalls, but were of no avail. Cows would be found loosed from their stanchions, or placed in any stall five minutes after the gates had been vacated, trembling with fear and bathed in perspiration.

Another lull came in the ghostly proceedings. During the interval weird bluish lights are reported to have been seen by fishermen who passed the beach early one evening. Convinced that some one was in the stable he unoccupied, but found it unoccupied. Unwilling to arouse the occupants of the house, which was in darkness, the stranger continued on his way greatly puzzled, and not until a recent startling series of events, which resulted in the Macdonald family leaving their home in the dead of a severe winter, did he make any statement of what he had seen.

Again the curious happenings ceased. The evil spirit had evidently been subdued.

No Sign of Incendiarism

LIVED IN SAME HOUSE 79 YEARS



Michael Matsinger and the house at Fifty-second street and Woodland avenue in which he has lived for seventy-nine years

had thoroughly searched the premises, the family retired in fear and trembling.

Three times Mrs. Macdonald warned her husband that she smelled smoke before the fire broke out.

Spooky Fires Persist

Late on Tuesday afternoon Mr. Macdonald went out to the stable to attend to his stock for the night, and in his absence Mrs. Macdonald discovered a fire in the wallpaper in the dining room.

Fires were discovered in rags in an upstairs room, on various spots on the ceiling, and in the chimney.

Mr. Matsinger said that he built the road trolley tracks here in this city and drove the first horse car on the road. It was then known as the Darby Road Company.

Scientist Stalks Antigonish 'Ghost'

Continued from Page One

of the horses and purchased another one, which, denoting a new ghost, also received the same treatment at the hands of the 'spooks.' Then the mysterious occurrences ceased, and Mr. Macdonald dismissed the incident from his mind.

It was not until the following spring that the strange happenings were repeated. Chains and spikes were used along the fence, and the cows were kept in their stalls, but were of no avail. Cows would be found loosed from their stanchions, or placed in any stall five minutes after the gates had been vacated, trembling with fear and bathed in perspiration.

Another lull came in the ghostly proceedings. During the interval weird bluish lights are reported to have been seen by fishermen who passed the beach early one evening. Convinced that some one was in the stable he unoccupied, but found it unoccupied. Unwilling to arouse the occupants of the house, which was in darkness, the stranger continued on his way greatly puzzled, and not until a recent startling series of events, which resulted in the Macdonald family leaving their home in the dead of a severe winter, did he make any statement of what he had seen.

Again the curious happenings ceased. The evil spirit had evidently been subdued.

No Sign of Incendiarism

Continued from Page One

Continued from Page One

Continued from Page One

PHILA. IS ON VERGE OF BILLING BOOM

Starting of Big Projects Seen as Indicating End of Moribund Period

LABOR WILLING TO HELP

"For the first time in years, we can tell an optimistic story of the building construction outlook," Henry C. Woods, secretary Master Builders' Exchange.

"Building activities in Philadelphia during the present year will greatly exceed those of 1921," says Joseph G. Williams, president Philadelphia Real Estate Board.

"There is a slight tendency toward betterment," Henry A. Stone, Master Builders' Company.

"Uncertainty about the demands of labor is holding back \$50,000,000 worth of work which would otherwise start within the next few weeks," W. W. Pearce, former president Master Builders' Exchange.

"Labor is not impeding the construction of buildings in Philadelphia, except a member of our union is an American citizen. We have done all we could to come to an understanding with the master builders," says Joseph G. Williams, secretary. Masons and Plasterers' Union No. 1.

All builders, contractors and architects are in close touch with the building construction situation in Philadelphia agree that there is a forward movement, but there is some difference of opinion as to the extent and strength of the movement.

Some of the builders and contractors assert that labor unions, because of wage demands, have retarded building plans and are causing a feeling of uncertainty. They say that the labor unions will have much to do in deciding whether the approaching season is one of great building activity or one of cautious and cautious construction.

What is needed, they declare, is a definite, binding agreement, signed by officers of unions, fixing for the season certain reduction of wages, which already has been accepted to a large extent.

Labor leaders, however, deny that the unions have impeded building plans or caused uncertainty to any greater extent than the contractors and builders themselves. They declare that the workmen want to see great building activity, and are ready to do their part in a complete and satisfactory manner.

Prices Going Down

One of the large contractors asserted that some of the building contracts as structural steel, had actually dropped to pre-war prices, and that unbusiness about labor alone was keeping persons from contemplating erecting structures for the coming season.

May Reach Compromise

The offer indicates a disposition to pay the \$1.25 an hour demanded by the Bricklayers' Union, or a compromise scale between this and the \$1 an hour offered by the masons.

Seeks National Recognition

Mr. Rosewater said his work is to get national recognition for the fair.

Naked Arm and Hand

Continued from Page One

going on for nearly a year, yet there has been no violence, no disorder. The ten-story Atlantic Refining Company Building at Broad and Spruce streets.

Some of the old buildings are being, or will be, altered and improved at considerable expense, such as the old Baptist Publishing Building, at Seventeenth and Arch streets, and the Parkway Building, at Broad and Cherry.

In fact, the signs all indicate building activity on a scale not seen here for six years.

There is also indication that prices are returning to normal, but this does not mean pre-war prices. It does mean, however, that there is an end of inflation and that prices are returning to a rational level.

Labor Contracts Let

Mr. Stone said: "Some fairly large contracts have been placed recently, but the large buildings decided upon are not up to expectations. Much other work is under consideration, or discussion, and some work is out for estimates.

"We are not afraid of arbitration or any other open and lawful step toward an understanding."

"And we believe that an understanding should be reached on such a basis that it would be lasting. This would be best for the employers, the workers and the community in general. No agreement can be lasting unless a lasting agreement is reached through a system, such as that adopted by the master builders, in which one side says: 'Here's what we will do. Take it or leave it.'"

Religion for an Age of Confusion

A Series of Sermons at the First Unitarian Church

Rev. Frederick R. Griffin, Minister

Sunday Services at Eleven o'clock

March 5—The Secret of All Truth

March 12—The Great Evil of All the Sons of Man

March 19—The Question of Jesus to a Unitarian

March 26—Beyond This Life

April 2—What is Christ?

April 9—Thoughts Made Larger

April 16—Our Vast Spiritual Responsibility

HEIDELBERG PRESS

remain unsolved and perhaps insoluble in the immediate future. There is no peace of Europe in any real sense of the word. Boundaries of nations were left uncertain by the Paris peace, or so established that no one regards them as permanent.

Indemnities owed by vanquished victors are still the subject of dispute. Upon these questions the Administration has shown a disposition to turn its back.

Our domestic difficulties of an economic nature seem to be admitted to be Europe's troubles, and the Administration has not met them. Perhaps no administration could. Certainly none could with the governmental system as unworkable as it is with the Executive weaker, party authority gone, business as a guiding principle divided and unsure, and Congress perhaps evolving into the means of expression of new forces in the political life of the country.

Mr. Harding retains, after a year—and a trying year at that—of idleness and small profits, all his personal popularity. He is emphatically a good sort, not inspired or inspired by honesty, sensible and well-intentioned.

The public disposition is to say that he has done all that could be expected in the circumstances. The circumstances are unfavorable. The problems are difficult, almost to the point of insolubility. The mechanism does not function. There is too much ferment.

Hopes Parties Won't Break Up

Continued from Page One

domination by the Executive as the farm bloc does, but may even effect a shift of power away from the White House to the Hill.

This, briefly, is the ferment that Mr. Harding sees, though this may not be the way he sees it. He has been responsible for the chief disappointments of the year, the failure of any large legislative program, the adoption of policies upon a hand-to-mouth basis.

Legislatively, there have not been fruitful results, and the public blames Congress, with the chance that a Democratic House will succeed the present Republican House. In other respects Mr. Harding has done well. Still, you have in the results of this year the limits that are set to Cabinet government.

Important policies do not originate in the Cabinet except foreign policies. All other important policies originate in Congress or in the co-operation of Congress and the Executive.

The Cabinet is made up of administrative officers. Mr. Harding has an excellent Cabinet, but it has not contributed much toward the solution of the bigger problems before the country and the world. It is not in a position to do so, except so far as foreign relations go.

In foreign relations Mr. Harding has been remarkably successful. The Arms Conference accomplished more of what it set out to do than any other international gathering in history. It established the peace of the world upon a secure foundation. And it pointed the way to settlement of disputes among Powers by the conference method.

THE GARRICK THEATRE

Tomorrow Afternoon at 3.15

JOHN HERMAN RANDALL, OF NEW YORK

Subject: "THE KIND OF THINKING THAT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD"

Doors open at 2:30

FREE LECTURE

Christian Science

Paul Stark Seeley, C. S. B., of Portland, Oregon

Member of the Board of Lecturers of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., under the auspices of

Second Church of Christ, Scientist, SUNDAY AFTERNOON

MAR. 5 AT 8:00 O'CLOCK

THE ORPHEUM THEATRE

CHILSTEN AVE., GERMANTOWN

The Public is Cordially Invited

Albert D. Lasker, Chairman

Joseph W. Powell, President

Elmer Schlesinger, General Counsel

Representing

United States Shipping Board

Emergency Fleet Corporation

Will help the Housing Situation

at

Chester, Pa.

on

Sat., March 25th, 1922

Watch newspapers for further details

Joseph W. Powell Auctioneer