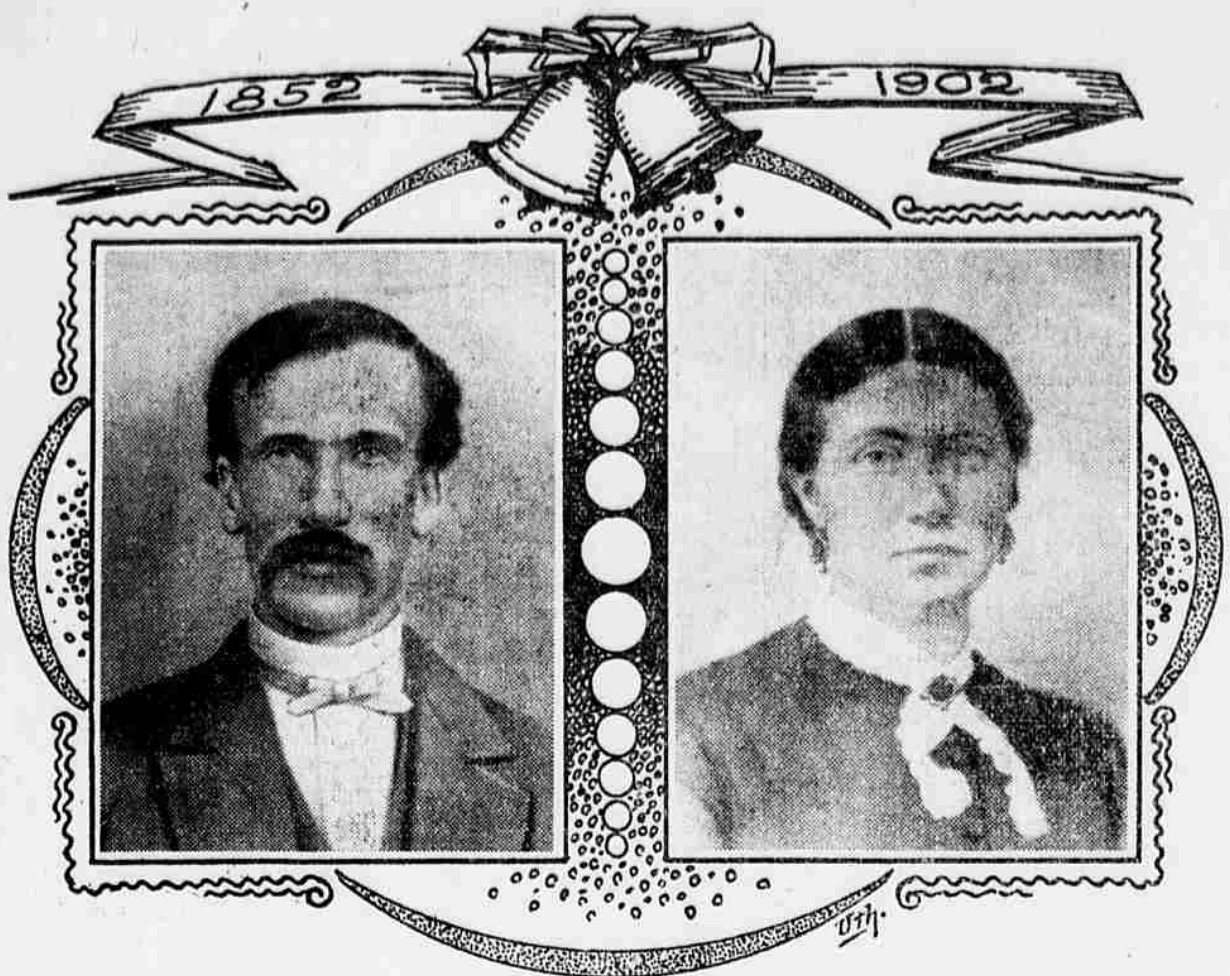


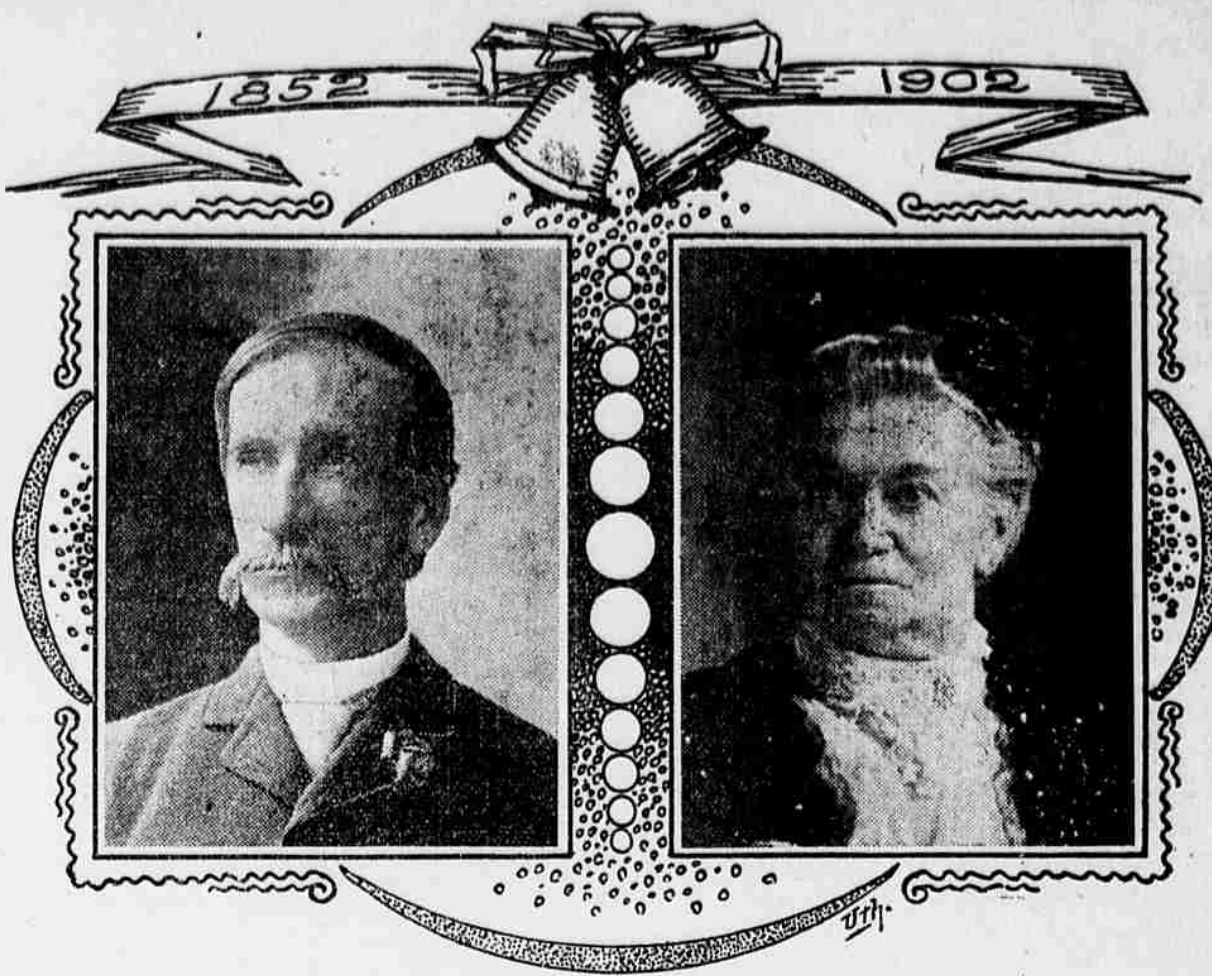
1852

Their Golden Wedding

1902



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM CONNELL, 1852.



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM CONNELL, 1902.

Hon. and Mrs. William Connell Celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Their Marriage.

GOLDEN WEDDING DAYS, notwithstanding the declaration of the statisticians that human life is growing longer, are not so frequent that they fail to be the subject of much interest and many felicitations. The present generation will doubtless celebrate still fewer of these glad anniversaries, owing to the increasing custom of marrying later in life.

Thus to participate in the festivities which mark the end of half a century of union in marriage is to have a memory delightful to cherish. It means something to a community when there are those among its chief citizens who from time to time make such an event a valued part of its history. The vitality and the permanence contributed to a young and unformed city by such residents through much of this long period, are difficult to conceive in adequate proportions.

Today, amid the congratulations which are showered from all sides on two such representatives of Scranton, the thoughtful will pause to gaze down that far vista of the years and marvel at the swift visions they present.

The two central figures, standing in the same simplicity that has ever characterized their attitude all the way, might have stepped out of a fairy tale, so wonderful is the transformation from the environment of the boy and girl who, hand in hand, went forth into the world with hope for their only heritage, to the palace of the present, where they have come into their own because their efforts won it from the oracle of Fate. It is a pretty fairy tale and the fairies have been industry, perseverance, generosity and, most of all, sweetness of heart, defying the withering blight of age and care.

The young man walked out of Evangeline's land of poetry and song to a spot where sordid and unlovely conditions prevailed, but the girl- bride of his youth glorified the scene then as now, when she stood at his side with the snows of time just lightly touching her head, but with the same dewy softness of eye and the same gentle expression that has always illumined her face. They say, the ones who knew her long ago, that she was surpassingly fair as a girl, and surely the years have been kind, and surely it is worth while to be good, and gentle, and great of heart and tender of mercy, so that when the afternoon of life draws on, the beauty of youth will not be missed as it melts into the beauty which kind deeds and unselfish thoughts give to the soul's mirror.

The man who received his friends last night in celebration of his Golden Wedding Day, has been heard to say that to the gentle little lady at his side is due the credit for the beginnings of his fortune. It was she who saved the first dollar from his limited income—a tiny gold dollar—and in that early establishment of capital was formed the resolve to give a tithe away to the church or to charity. Her generosity of spirit has continued through the half century vanished, and no smallest part of her acts of kindness could be numbered.

Congressman and Mrs. Connell must have felt that this was indeed a climax to their fifty years, as they greeted their multitude of friends last night, who came from far and near to offer congratulations. It must have been a satisfaction to reach such a climax with still the decrepitude of age and mentally afar off, and the interest in

life as vivid and sweet as when they began it together. Certainly no two people ever were the recipients of good wishes more sincere and affectionate.

Host of Well Wishers.

THE golden wedding anniversary of Congressman and Mrs. William Connell will live long in the annals of Scranton's social events. Never before was there such a throng assembled at a private house, and never before was a home honored by such a representative gathering.

From 8 till 10 o'clock hundreds of carriages, bearing well-wishing friends, rolled up to the front entrance, and contributed their quota to the throng. It is estimated that fully a thousand persons came and went during the three hours. Despite the temporary addition to the west wing, the spacious home was taxed to its capacity.

As the guests left their carriages, they walked through a crowded way to the main hall and thence to the second floor, where the cloak rooms were located. After being relieved of their coats and wraps, they were shown through the front guest chamber, where the presents were displayed. Then they were at liberty to fall into the line that

for more than two hours passed in and out of the front drawing-room to meet and greet the bride and groom. Mr. Connell stood at the head of the receiving line. At his left was Mrs. Connell. Further on were their daughters, daughters-in-law, sons and sons-in-law, and some of the older of the grandchildren.

After extending congratulations, the guests scattered about the rooms and on the staircases, enjoying the feast of loveliness that the decorators had prepared, while listening to the choice music of twelve of Bauer's men, stationed in the upper corridor.

It was intended that all the guests should be served refreshments in the main and temporary dining rooms, but so large was the attendance that several other rooms had to be utilized for this purpose.

The luncheon was an elaborate exposition of the caterer's art. It was prepared and served by Pursell, of New York. The menu was:

- Crab farce a la Plair.
- Loberste a la Newburg.
- Chicken a la King.
- Mixed sandwiches.
- Gallantine aspic.
- Pate de foie gras.
- Boiled calves.
- Biscuit tartine.
- Fruit glass.
- Cafe.
- Cafe frappe.
- Orangeade.
- Sweetbread omelet.
- Fin de siecle.

The Decorations.

THE elegant residence, at the corner of Clay avenue and Vine street, formed a succession of pictures last night which have never been equalled in this city. The floral decorations were lavish beyond description, and the arrangement of details reached a rare perfection. The reception room in its delicate coloring is always a beautiful and stately apartment, but it was a bower of flowers on this occasion. An umbrella of yellow roses and lilies of the valley was spread above the bride and groom in the bay window. The scheme of color was chiefly yellow. Hundreds of jonquils framed doorways and windows. Thousands of valley lilies fringed the tall pier glasses and mantel. From the chandelier were festooned ropes of smilax, which almost hid the ceiling in a green canopy. Yellow liberty satin ribbon, in rosettes and bows, added to the general effect.

The Turkish room was decorated entirely in red, with ferns for a background. Poinsettias in rich luxuriance starred every available space, and the crimson light from Oriental lamps heightened the richness of tone.

The mahogany panelling of the library was almost concealed by countless ferns. It was a veritable bower in the lovely green that enshined it. No other color was employed.

The dining room, richly paneled in mahogany, was a chef d'oeuvre of taste. The center piece of the table was a floral mass, in which were hundreds of mauve orchids. Delicate asparagus vine, roses and ferns formed the remainder of the decorations. The beauty of the table was still further enhanced by artistically displayed mounds of fruits and confections.

The stables was most picturesque with Annoniation lilies, the balustrade being concealed by ropes of green. The music room glowed with red roses.

But the chief triumph of the florist's art was in the annex, which was erected adjoining and enclosing the Clay avenue porch. Thatched thickly with evergreens from ground to roof, it was a dream of Christmas-tide from without and within. Myriads of electric lights made it brilliant as day, and adequate steam heating made it comfortable. The walls and ceiling were entirely

covered in gold-colored cloth. Over this was woven a web of Florida smilax that charmed the eye from every point of view. Still more profuse were huge golden chrysanthemums, hiding the pillars and filling corners. The floor was crushed, and dainty lace curtains draped the windows. This huge room was reached from the side hall veranda and also by a covered passageway leading to the kitchen.

Invariably when an expression of admiration for the beauty of the scene came to Mrs. Connell's ears, she would take a delight and pride in telling that it was done by a Scranton woman, Mrs. Muir of the firm of Marvin & Muir.

Renewed Their Vows.

PREVIOUS to the general reception a charming little ceremony took place in the drawing room. Mr. and Mrs. Connell, surrounded by their children and grandchildren, stood beneath the flower umbrella, with the two youngest members of the big household, little Eleanor Connell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred E. Connell, and Donald, the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Fulton. Rev. C. M. Gillin, D. D., of Elm Park church,

stepped within the circle formed by the relatives and a very few guests, and made a happy little speech, in which he said:

"I was reading, before I came, a book on the 'Rights of Man,' and was surprised to find one was not named—the right to marry. This privilege William and Annie exercised on Jan. 2, 1852, and joined hands and hearts for life. I was not at the wedding for several reasons: First, I was too far away; second, I was not invited, and third, like some of the children, I was not expected on such occasions.

"The attendants on that occasion, I understand, have passed on to the majority."

The pastor gave a divine blessing on the bonds that have joined the happy company of the skies, and continuing, said:

"It was about this time in the evening when the stars came forth to brighten the sky and the moon as the queen showers her silvery shen to add loveliness to the landscape. In these fifty years past this pair have known vicissitudes and won victories. In everything that William has been or done, the wife by his side has been a valuable aid.

"I think it seems before the throng from without crowd the house that the family should as a household express their thanks to God for sparing father and mother to give their light and love up to this happy hour. I count it a good fortune that I am permitted to voice the gladness of this smiling group. I also am delighted to express the esteem of Elm Park church of which you have been loyal members for so long a time. Why should we not be happy in the smile of that kind Providence which has brought us up to this bright moment?"

"But, dear friends, you are no doubt prepared in the better understanding of the vows than you had when you assumed them first, to declare your devotion during the remainder of your days. I therefore ask William and Annie 'Do you renew the marital covenant assumed by you Jan. 2, 1852?'"

The bride and groom made instantaneous responses and Dr. Gillin offered a brief prayer, and then Mr. Connell leaned over his wife and said softly, "I crown her my queen as well as my wife," and placed on her brow a diamond tiara studded with many gems. It was a complete surprise not only to Mrs. Connell, but the family.

Among the guests was one who had witnessed the real ceremony fifty years ago. She was Mrs. Isaac Smith of Hazleton, whose beauty even in advanced age is marked.

Mrs. Connell wore a black velvet gown cut severely plain, and trimmed with rose point. She wore among her ornaments a diamond heart brooch by her children.

Mrs. J. S. McAnulty was attired in a beautiful gown of black tulle lace over white set in with many hours of point lace, jewelled with pearls and silver. Her jewelry consisted of diamonds and tourmalines.

Mrs. J. L. Connell wore an elaborate gown of white point d'alecon, with roses for a garniture and diamond ornaments.

Mrs. A. E. Connell's gown was an elegant one of white cloth, richly embroidered. She wore ornaments of diamonds and pearls.

Mrs. W. A. Connell wore a mousseline and lace in black and white, with diamond ornaments.

Mrs. C. W. Fulton was attired in black lace elaborately spangled in jet and silver. She wore diamond and pearl ornaments.

Mrs. C. R. Connell's gown was of heavy white moire, with entire deus of real lace and fan pleating of net and garniture of pink roses and diamond ornaments.

Miss Jessie Dimmick, the eldest granddaughter, was charmingly attired in a gown of embroidered red chiffon, with many small ruffles and applique lace bertha.

Miss Anna McAnulty's gown was of white mousseline and valenciennes lace, exquisitely fashioned.

Little Gladys Janet Connell and Lucile Connell wore white face frocks.

Hon. and Mrs. William Connell



Their Children and Grandchildren