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# THE MARCELLUS OBSERVER

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Scene Of The N. Y. C. Five Truck Crossing At Kirkville, Ten miles East Of Syracuse. Photo by Courtesy, Syracuse Journal. The Arrow shows where Harold Wilson was found. This is east. The camera has exactly reversed the situation. As the truck went south it had passed the four tracks, one a switch track and the last the one on which the westbound train was running, and had still to go over the last track, which it did before stopping. Several reports having felt the lunge of the truck as the driver "stepped on the gas" when he saw the train. He also steered Easterly.

## GRADE CROSSING ACCIDENT APPALLS OUR COMMUNITY

"Second Empire" Strikes End Of Truck Carrying 44 Marcellus Youth At Kirkville Crossing. Harold Wilson Killed. Five In C-I Hospital. Score At Home Injured. On Way To Basketball Tie Game at Manlius

Gratitude is the single word with which the Home Paper would begin to tell the sentiment of our populace in feeble attempt to relate the awful accident of the week and of the more terrible result from which our youth were saved by the loving mercy of a gracious God. We are each one indeed grateful, and we bow our heads in solemn expression of thankfulness, humility and reverence.

A truck carrying 44 Marcellus boys and girls was hit by a flyer on the N. Y. C. at Kirkville Monday evening at 7:45. Harold Wilson was killed, five boys lie in C-I hospital, one of them seriously injured, with both legs broken, one near the hip and at the knee; another boy's knee cap injured, and a score are at home cut and bruised and still in bed.

News first reached Marcellus from Kenneth Spaulding to his brother, C. T. Spaulding. Fannie Wilson next phoned her family that Harold was killed. Other word filtered on that but one was killed and several hurt, and of the narrow escape of all. The Home Paper asked The Post Standard to favor with news as quickly as learned, and very soon we were able to inform anxious through the names of six and the injuries of each.

The half dozen seriously injured were taken in ambulances, others came to Syracuse terminal at 9 o'clock by Onondaga line trolley and by trolley home. Some were brought by auto drivers who hurried to inquire or assist.

Joseph LaRose is worst hurt, his left leg broken near the hip, the right two below the knee. James O'Shea has the knee cap broken of his left leg, Eddie LaRose has two bones of his left hand broken, back and internally hurt, Edward Masters badly bruised. James Bessey head injuries, he was unconscious an hour. The last three are in a ward together, the first two in a room adjoining.

Of those at home several are in bed, Tommy Coyne the worst hurt, and Chas. Black not clear mentally as yet.

The trip was made to enjoy a tie game of basketball between girls' teams at Manlius. Marcellus won 21-10. The accident occurred on the way home. The truck was carrying 44 boys and girls, and as they did not arrive, the game had proceeded. It was going on when Prin. Helfer was telephoned of the accident but he refrained from informing the players. A big truck of the County Milk Producers had been hired because it had pneumatic tires for better comfort. The driver is said to have remarked that he drove slowly over bad places not to shake up his load. He seemed cautious. He saw the gates up, red lights on them, freight cars obscured his vision of the oncoming train. But he seemed to have used as much discretion as anyone might. The gates being up was all the assurance any one might require to proceed unless one should go out on the tracks and look as we all ought to do but do not.

Early question arose as to why the load were at Kirkville Crossing. It developed that detour was made that way. The direct route is by Minoa, Fayetteville, but the bridge is down at Manlius Center. Other autos went by Valley, Jamesville and the Pen Hill and Prin. Helfer talked with the truck driver of this route. The latter knew of the hills and sensibly chose the flat route by Kirkville. He had a young man friend on the seat with him.



Harold Wilson, The Only Boy Killed. With His Sister. Photo Taken Two Years Ago

Harold Wilson, the only child killed, could never have known what happened. The smile of joy that was on his face, before the train thundered down upon him is still there, tempered now with the look of perfect peace that comes only to those whose souls rest with their Maker. Wednesday he lay in his white casket surrounded by beautiful tributes from grieving friends and relatives.

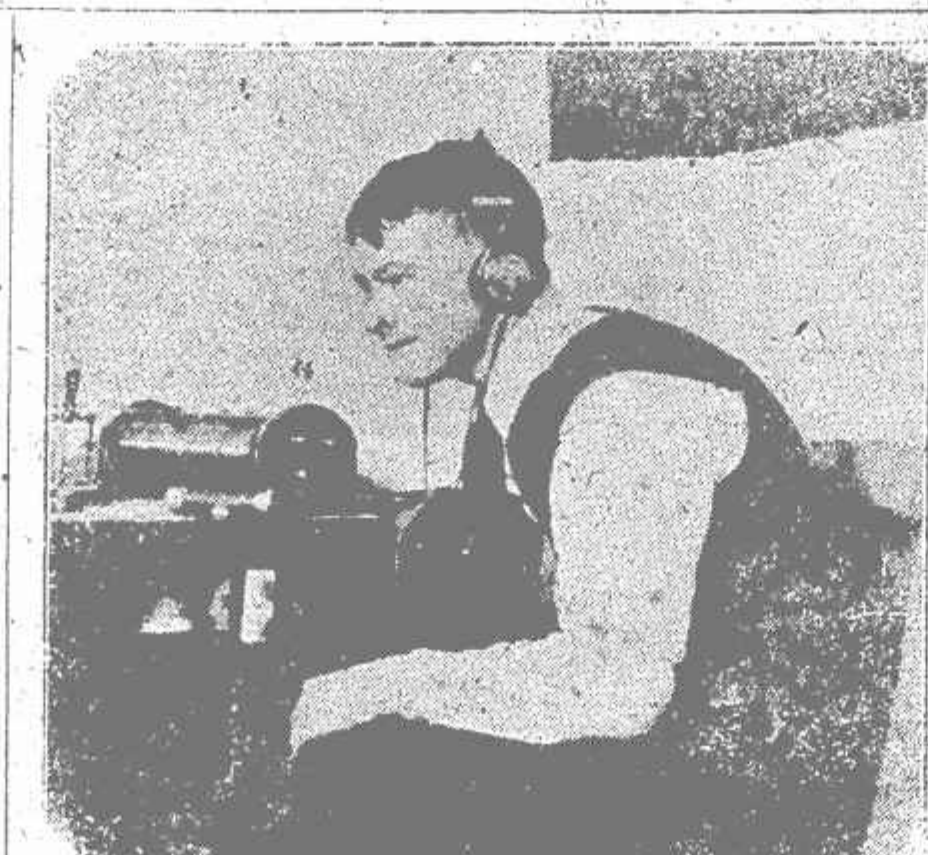
Rival schools who had contended against Marcellus in basketball sent their sympathy in the form of fragrant blossoms. So let him sleep covered with the blossoms as pure as his own little life. The little sacrifice to possible negligence may be the means of saving many lives in the future.

Private funeral services were held at 2 o'clock Thursday in the Wilson home in North street, with a public funeral half an hour later in St. John's church. Six clowns, Roy Scouts, served as bearers, Austin Woodford, Vernon Hyatt and Joseph Thornton, who were passengers on the truck, and Leon and Burton Gustin and Richard Cook. The rest of the troop formed an escort of honor from the house to the church and later to Highland cemetery. Services were conducted by Rev. Walter E. Cook, pastor of St. John's church.

Among those on the truck who escaped serious injury were: Bortha Smith, Adelaide Smith, Betty Helfer, Sadie and Mable Wright, Ethel and Dorothy Hicks, Margaret Anderson, Gertrude Olney, Margaret Malcolm, Alice Waite, Lila Armstrong, Fannie Wilson, Alice Thornton, Marian Masters, Rollo Wicks, Joseph Thornton, William Rhodes, Vernon Hyatt, Aublin Woodford, Paul Clark, Francis Kelley, Venor McClaren, Henry Phillips, Kenneth Spaulding, Harold Powell, John Dunlop, Charles Black, Edward Seely, Paul McAvoy, Clarence Newell, Arthur Wilson.

Inquests are held by Coroner Crane. Young witnesses called Thursday included Alice Waite, Harold C. Powell, Henry Phillips and Seymour Parsons, who agreed in every particular. Not only were the guard gates up in the air, they said, but no warning of any sort was given, either from the tower beside the tracks or by the bell or whistle of the train.

The truck driver made a statement to Coroner Crane as follows: "I have driven a car for 2 years. I had a license last year. I had not renewed my license for 1921. I was driving a Northway truck for John Dombrosky. I was taking about 44 children from Marcellus to Manlius. When I approached the New York Central tracks at Kirkville I slowed up so that I was going about 4 or 5 miles an hour. I noticed the railroad tracks and was driving slowly. The gates were up. I saw red lights on both gates. I saw red lights on both gates. The gates were not lowered until after



James Bessey, Seated At His Wireless Outfit In His Home, Scotch Hill

the accident. When I saw the train approaching, I stepped on the gas and tried to get across. There were 4 or 5 box cars at my left which obstructed my view of the approaching train, so it was within 200 to 250 feet from me when I saw it."

It will evidently be established that the towerman, failed in his duty to lower gates; he is suspended by the road and is in custody of Attorney Wm. Rubin on bail. Also neglect in leaving freight cars near a crossing, a menace which should be prevented by law. The train crew are said not to have known of hitting the truck until told on arriving in Syracuse.

On the way they had "counted losses". 13 girls, 20 boys and Miss O'Reilly. The Wilson boy sat next to her on the end nearest the train but he was jubilant, and had been on his feet and was standing when struck. He was the tiniest passenger, going with his sister and brother and a pet of all. His body was found 40 ft west beside a R. R. post. Dr. Bishop of Kirkville is said to have arrived in ten minutes, he ordered ambulances, and directed the aid of others not hurt to those who were. Prin. Helfer says from all he hears our youth each and all proved a sensible, levelheaded lot. Details of heroic endeavor are heard on all sides. Some of this detail we may relate later on.

Miss Margaret O'Reilly, 23-year-old Marcellus school teacher gave the following interview to a Herald reporter, that paper told Wednesday night, and we copied it in part. We since are told she did not so state nor authorize any part of it, but the story seems so to cover that of many others, the detail seems reasonably to have come from one on the scene, that we publish, it being in type.

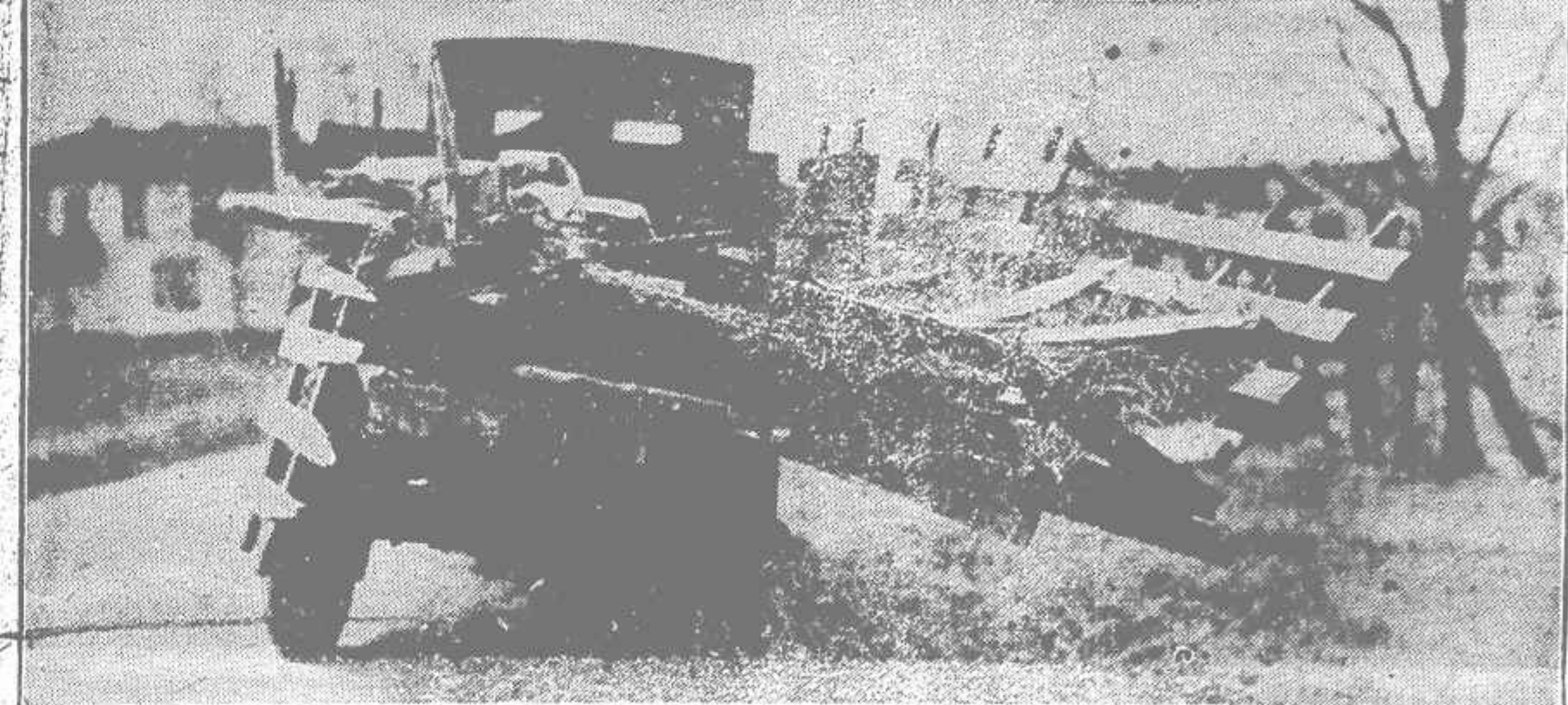
"The gates should have been down when the train was 3 miles away. But they were not put down at any time. I remember the shouts of the boys as they tried to touch the gates. Suddenly the blinding glare of the engine headlights struck me full in the face. I thought my time had come. I couldn't do a thing, not even say a prayer. It seemed as if I was helpless against such a great monster. It was a thing of horror in the dark bearing down on us. I raised my hands. The little Wilson boy was standing beside me. He cringed from the big thing. The white glare from the headlights of the oncoming train hypnotized me. I began to think we weren't on earth any more.

"I will never forget the sight of those forms as they lay around me when I found myself on the plank of the crossing. I seemed to slide off. I know I didn't jump when the body of the truck was torn away. My foot caught, I lost my shoe. I looked around for it and found it. It seemed strange, but I sat deliberately down on the ground and put my shoe on. Then suddenly my mind cleared. We had been in a wreck. My legs were terribly sore, but I managed to get to my feet somehow. First I went to a house alongside the road. They told me there was a phone in the store. The operator, even after I told her there was an accident, insisted upon my putting coins in the slot to pay for each call. I felt I was alone trying to bring aid to those poor youngsters.

Miss Dorothy Hicks

"I called Crouse-Irving hospital and finally Dr. Wallace and an ambulance came. When it came I was about ready to give up; those four trips to the telephone had tested my endurance to the utmost and I was shaky. A few minutes after the wreck, when I got my senses and had run for help, some of the older boys who were Boy Scouts pitched right in and helped. They looked to me to direct them, and they did things wonderfully. They were little heroes.

"The Bessey boy was sitting in the road with a blanket over his



By Courtesy of The Syracuse Journal the truck is shown. The end of one main timber was broken off a few inches. The blow had the effect of pitching the youth the opposite way. Those on the near side were thrown to the ground, breaking the stakes, or over them. Those opposite were tangled with the benches. Companions extricated Tommy Coyne, his legs caught between the big tire and the truck bottom.

## HOME NEWS

Christina Malcolm is home. Earl Baker is at home for Easter. Mrs. Warren Baker returned to her home.

Miss Isabelle Sautelle was guest of Miss Gartrude Hamilton. Michael Manley has leased his farm to John Oschner. Rev. W. S. Tompkins attended the funeral of Jonathan Chrysler.

Harry Stalker is with his parents, convalescing from a serious illness. Miss Ethel Rogers has returned from a visit of several months in Canada.

Marcellus Free Library will be closed Saturday afternoons after April first. Marguerite Kelly has accepted a position with the Metropolitan Insurance Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Jordan occupy the Holcomb house left vacant by the Nicholsons.

George G. Howard of New York city is guest of his cousin, Mrs. Jewett Dunlap.

Mrs. Cora Coleman moves in Auburn from Parker street to 216 Genesee street.

Walter Scott of Fairport is in town attending the funeral of his friend Harold Wilson.

Twins were born recently to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Prindle at Onondaga Hill, a boy and girl.

Mrs. Emily Gray entertained Monday night in honor of her daughter Ruth's 14th birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. El Knowles entertained the Masters family Monday at dinner in honor of the 13th birthday of Ellen Masters.

Retha Head is at her home in Amber, being ill and not able to join with others in the basketball game played at Manlius.

Ida King and Margaret O'Shea have returned to their work in the Crown Mills after spending the winter months in Syracuse.

Mrs. Nelson Gaunt is home from a stay with her son in Syracuse while his wife has been east to attend the funeral of her mother.

John P. Williams went Wednesday morning for a visit of several days with his daughters near Thorne Hill, Mrs. Frank Miles and Mrs. John Harward.

D. M. Scofield, who has had the former Hugh Burleton farm, has moved to Penn Yan, where The Home Paper is sent, on a route. Mr. and Mrs. Scofield have been enjoyed as good neighbors, and their leaving will be regretted.

We told of M. A. Howland receiving some post cards. He had over 50, many of them from the far west, from acquaintances he made there during some 11 years of pioneering. Though he says it was not the "wild west" even in that long ago day.

George Dyé visited his brother William on the J. J. Spinks' place Wednesday, where Mr. and Mrs. Dyé are located since their purchase. George has the lively barn of a hotel at Baldwinsville, taking in autos for transient storage as well as horses.

Howard Ray was given a pleasant surprise at his home on Main street on Friday evening, March 18th, the occasion being his 55th birthday. The guests were Nelson Ray of Auburn, Mr. and Mrs. D. Bryant, Henry Bryant and Mrs. Costly of Skaneateles; Mr. and Mrs. George Steward, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Maury, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Messer and children; Orlando Day, Mrs. Herbert Anderson, Hester Miller, Edith and William Slater of Syracuse; Mrs. Theo Slater and Silas Slater of Marietta, Mary Dayton, Irving Day, Arthur Priscilla and Irene Curtis of Navarino. A great many presents were received.

Marcellus Free Library will be open Saturdays from 3 to 5 from now on.

FOR SALE—High grade vacuum hand cleaner in good condition. T. Schoonmaker, Marcellus 9-16-21

FOR SALE—S. C. R. I. Red eggs for hatching. If you want good stock I have it. Eggs \$1.50 per setting, \$2.00 if shipped. Frank Griffing, Marcellus. 9-16-21

FOR SALE—Cement, lime plaster—Edmund Reed, Marcellus. 3-23-21

## COMING AUCTIONS

Mrs. Smith Saturday, Mar. 26  
Farnham Monday, Mar. 28  
Amidon Tuesday, Mar. 29  
Reynolds Tuesday, Mar. 29  
Patrick King Wednesday, Mar. 30  
Mosher Saturday, April 2  
(See page 3 for full lists)

Mrs. Nellie Smith has sold her home in Marcellus village to E. H. Spinks and will sell her household goods Saturday, Mar. 26. List appears.

Guy E. Farnham has sold his farm at East Hill, Marcellus, to T. J. Griener and will have an auction Monday, Mar. 28. He has a big list of good stuff. At 10 a. m.

Elmer E. Amidon, sr., at Five Points below Navarino has an auction Tuesday, Mar. 29, 50 hogs and a long list including a Pilot lighting and a variety of things. He had the 22nd set but conflicted with Speich so put it off a week.

Patrick King has been on the Lamanchie farm on Howlett Hill Corner. He plans to locate with his sisters in the city and will auction off his goods Wednesday, Mar. 30 at 1 p. m. See full list.

James H. Mosher offers one of the biggest auction sales of the year with Barney Kelley in charge just north of Camillus village top of the hill on the old Cross farm. 22 cattle, 7 horses, 300 hens, and big list of tools, also a 1921 auto. The date is Saturday, April 2.

Thomas Y. Reynolds, who has had the Thomas Smith place near Onondaga Crossing six years, will move back to the city, 1322 West Onondaga street. He holds an auction on the Smith place Tuesday, March 29 at 1 p. m. See full list.

L. E. Parsons will also sell 4-year-old bull calves and a yearling bull at the auction. Mr. Reynolds is a pressman, operating the mammoth presses of The Post Standard, each night.

His work is finished at 4:20 and he has to wait till 6:30 to get a car home. This he has done for the pleasure of country life. But now fares are higher, he has to pay \$12 for the book costing \$5 at first. So he feels forced to again live in the city, on an owl line, to suit his work. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have made friends here who will regret their removal. They have been loyal to the locality and we shall hope not to lose their interest.

THE GUILD SHOW NEXT WEEK  
St. Mary's Guild show Thursday and Friday night of next week. The program follows:

CAST OF CHARACTERS  
The Widow Wood (of course she would—all widows would)

Miss Minna Rogers  
Beth Wood, her step-daughter (a real sweet girl)... Miss Vera Spade  
Mrs. Doremy Scales, director of the choir (who has her work cut out for her)... Miss Rae Rogers  
Helinda Snix, who often be in grand opera (or sumpin).

Miss Clara Armstrongs  
Birdie Cackle, she thrills an' quavers  
Jes grand... Miss Lucy Case  
Sallie Etta Pickle, who takes 'high C' jes like a cough drop.

Mrs. Laura Nightingale  
Grandmaw Howler, who'd been singin' in the choir yet if her voice had a held out

Mrs. Adella Griffin  
Tosette Tunes, who pianos an organ somethin' lovely

Mrs. Florence Harding  
Hezikiah Doolittle, as full of mischief as a dog-is of fleas.

Mrs. Marvel Nightingale  
A Wandering Minstrel, (and worker)—if he has to Mrs. Laura Gillett  
Samanthy Sniggins, aged 12 (little—but oh my), Mrs. Cora Marshfield

DON'T PARK CAR IN STREET  
When in Syracuse, do not take chances leaving your car in the street, to be jammed, stolen, etc. You can park at the Best Garage, West Water Street, where every thing is safe at 10c an hour, all day

50c, night storage \$1. Largest and finest garage in America.

## HELP THE BASEBALL TEAM

Marcellus and Crown Mills' Base ball teams have started to break ground for a new ball diamond at the east end of King's Park. A new back stop will be built. The purpose of the change is to place the players so that the afternoon sun will not be in their eyes. The work will greatly improve the diamond and fit the local grounds for games with all the fast teams. The dance revenue will aid all this and liberal patronage is solicited. This is to be held in Alvord Hall Friday night, April 22. The committee in charge are:

Dance, C. J. Armstrong, Louis Powell, John Head, John McLaren, James Hogan, Jr., Eddie Kelly.

Refreshments: Thos. Kelly, Joe Ronch, Thos. Muldon, Ambrose Monahan, Wm. Thornton, John Behn, Thos. Haney, Gordon Hickman, Bryden Daye, Walter Welch.

Tickets, per couple \$1.10 including war tax; Extra lady 25c. Supper, per couple, 50c.

At Parsons Hall next Saturday night will be given Mary Roberts Rinehart's story "Dangerous Days". The book took the country by storm. The picture will hold you fascinated. The kids, both young and old will enjoy the comedy, "Edward's Jonah Day". Travologue.

ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETINGS  
The 18th Annual County Institute of the W. C. T. U. will be held in Elmwood Presbyterian church, Syracuse next Thursday, March 31st, at 7:30 a. m.

Miss Helen G. H. Estelle, State Gen'l. Sec'y of the Y. Branch, will speak in the M. E. church at a Union meeting next Wednesday evening at 7:30. An invitation is extended to all to attend.

At the Annual society meeting of the Presbyterian church last Friday evening A. V. Smith and J. A. B. Daye were elected trustees for 3 years to succeed themselves and Raymond Wood for 2 years to fill a vacancy.

The Yellow Food Sale held in the O. E. S. Club rooms last Saturday was a decided success. No food was sold until the appointed hour, 3 o'clock; although there were customers waiting. A long table was literally filled with baked stuff, all of which belonged to the yellow color scheme. The committee, who carried out the plans so cleverly were Mrs. V. S. Kenyon, Mrs. Dwight Baker and Mrs. P. H. Helfer.

OBITUARY  
Thomas R. Clements passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Sherman, in Cazenovia Saturday morning, March 19. He was born at Draycot, Summer-shire, England in 1833, and came to America with his parents when 8 years of age. They lived in Oswego the first summer, 24 years in Seneca and the 5 following years in Skaneateles. In the spring of 1850 they removed to Tyler Hollow, Marcellus, where he resided 45 years, removing to Cazenovia in 1895. One daughter, Mrs. Ophelia Kenyon, died in 1917. There are 6 children surviving: Charles A., Syracuse; Mrs. Frank Thurston, Damascus, Va.; George W. and Frank G. of the same place; Mrs. Elizabeth Sherman, Cazenovia and Mrs. Fred Card, Troy, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. George W. Richards and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac People attended the funeral Tuesday. Interment was made in Cazenovia, his wife and daughter buried there.

CARD OF THANKS  
We wish to express through these columns our heartfelt thanks to all those who assisted us in any way during the death and burial of our beloved mother; to Jones & Utly for their services rendered, also for the comforting words of Rev. Mr. Davis.

CHAS. M. BURELL,  
MRS. GEORGE BEAN.