

East Falls Past—July News

The Fallser, July 2006, by Wendy Moody

July 12, 1900 – Owing to the intense heat of last week the carpet and plush departments of J. & J. Dobson’s mills closed down at noon on Thursday and Friday and all day Saturday. During the remainder of the summer season the entire plant will be closed down every Saturday, thereby giving the employees an opportunity of spending a few days at mountain or shore. *Weekly Forecast*

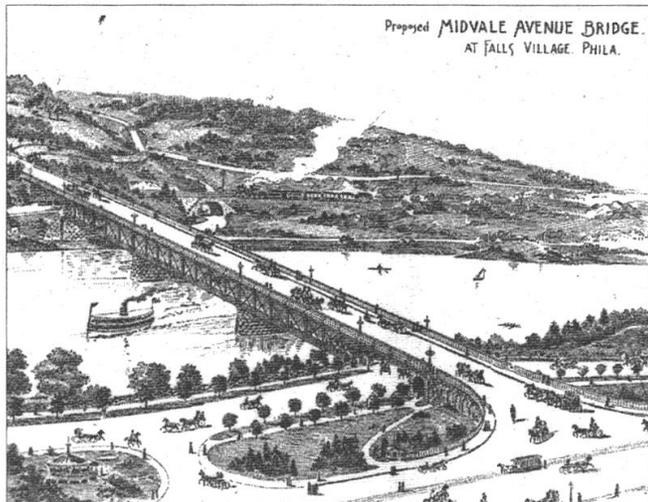


Photo Courtesy of East Falls Historical Society

July 19, 1900 – William Smith, a young lad, and a newspaper boy, who it was feared was seriously injured on the Fourth by being struck on the head by a quoit while attending the St. James the Less picnic in Dobson’s woods, has entirely recovered from the effects of his injuries. *Weekly Forecast*

July 19, 1900 – Among the notables mentioned at the Atlantic City Horse Show last week are the Misses Bessie and Florence Dobson...The two entries of Miss Bessie’s, Performer and Alfonso, each took a third prize. *Weekly Forecast*

July 25, 1901 – Among the improvements which the Bureau of Surveys will ask Councils to authorize next year will be the completion of the double-decked bridge at the Falls of Schuylkill...which promises to become one of the most important in Philadelphia. *[photo: Plan with two decks]* When the lower deck was completed the appropriation became exhausted, and the bridge was never finished. *Weekly Forecast*

July 3, 1930 – In this issue of the *Suburban Press*, the “Great Strike” of 39 years before was recalled: “The great grand and glorious Fourth of July of 1891 fell on a Saturday. The evening before found the Dobson Mills in a riotous strike demonstration. There was a large detail of police on hand when the factory closed. Each evening previous to the riot, at whistle time, a large mob was on hand to boo and hoot the strike breakers who were brought from England to weave velvet, which was then a new industry to America. The local workmen were cast aside by the mill owners. The strikers alleged that the weavers whom the Dobson’s brought here from England were no more qualified to weave the velvet than many of their number. The mill officials claimed that... the fault rested on unskilled labor...and they brought the new weavers over for the purpose of educating the old hands.” *Suburban Press*

