

East Falls Past—East Falls Businessmen's Meeting

The Fallser, October 2010, by Wendy Moody

Perusing the historic Chadwick papers, I discovered an article focusing on what was discussed at a 1915 East Falls Business Men's Association Meeting, held in America Hall (on Conrad St.). Clearly, the world was modernizing at this transitional time – the talk was of new paving methods, street lighting, and modern fire equipment. Some excerpts:



A resolution was passed to have a committee appointed to confer with Director Porter to have the fire apparatus at the local fire station motorized. The Director has never fulfilled his promise to provide a motor tractor for the local company.

Fiske Avenue will be paved in the near future. The paving will be vitrified brick, instead of granite block, because the latter was found to be too expensive by the city officials.

Apparently there had been some concern over the closing of the Calumet Street bridge over the Reading Railroad and the Association had written to the city about this. The Chief of Bureau for the city responded: "In reply thereto, I would say that it is true that the bridge was closed to traffic at 10am by the police on the day you wrote your letter, who informed this Bureau that the floor was in a dangerous condition. We made repairs by 12 noon, but from the report, I am inclined to believe that the action in closing off the bridge to traffic was not altogether necessary. We are taking this matter up with the police district officials in order to have their patrolmen use more discretion in the future.

Regarding your question as to whether or not it would be advisable to lay a concrete floor on this bridge, I would say that the structure is not sufficiently strong to carry a concrete base for permanent paving. What we intend to do this summer, however, is to lay a sub-floor of Creosoted yellow pine on which we will place wood block. This is the type of floor construction which is being used throughout the country on short bridge spans like Calumet Street and is proving successful."

It was proposed that an inquiry be made at the Electrical Bureau to have arm extensions for the electric lights on Ridge Avenue. At present the light is poorly distributed over the avenue. The locations for the new electric lights in this ward will be Ridge Avenue, north of Calumet; 35th St (Conrad), south of Clearfield; Ainslie and Cresson; Queen Lane, east of Ridge; Cresson and Stanton, Ainslie and 34th St. (Vaux St.)

A committee was appointed to complete arrangements for the annual outing of the business men, which will be in Collegeville, PA. The members and their families will make the trip by automobile.

