Happy 125th Birthday

Hoboken!

The Jersey Journal

October 28, 1980



125
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HOBOKEN

Hoboken's fortunes have ebbed and flowed

By Martin Bierbaum

Hoboken's current revitalization is only a small part of the city's history of changing roles. Places perform varied human fuctions over time. For most of us who only live a short time, we fail to fully perceive the nature of those changes which occur over the long run. Hoboken has been transformed from its marshy Indian homeland in the 17th century to a pleasant resort suburb of Manhattan in the early 19th century to a bustling industrial seaport and rail center by the turn of this century. Its latest revitalization is just one more change, a part of Hoboken's search as a community for a new function. Each change in its history brought new groups to the city, making contributions in their own way but who frequently elicited resentment from earlier residents.

When Henry Hudson first viewed the site in 1609, the place was an island promontory surrounded by salty marshes which were backed by an impressive palisade. Indians inhabited the area, drawn by the fishing and trapping as well as the clay from which they fashioned fine artifacts.

The Dutch established a small settlement on the promontory as an outpost of their larger settlement across the river. The Indians battled the Dutch for control over the area for nearly 20 years. But ultimately, it was not the Indians, but the English who displaced the Dutch about 1665.

Under the English, Hoboken's Castle Point acquired the trappings of southern plantations. Cool summer breezes came off the river to fan attractive summer residences. These extravagant homes were adorned by carefully constructed glades and gardens and were serviced by African slaves.

But this opulent splendor was not to the liking of Colonel John Stevens, who purchased much of Hoboken from the State of New Jersey, which had seized the property from its former owners who had misplaced their loyalties with the British.

Colonel Stevens, of scrappy temperament but unusual innovative talent, was determined to enhance the value of his holdings in his lifetime by attracting people from Manhattan to Hoboken. He constructed wharves and initiated a steamboat ferry service. When his ferry service was interrupted by legal battles, he began to make plans for the construction of a tunnel under the bedrock of the Hudson River. Stevens constructed parks and glades, an inn and a number of other buildings close to Hoboken's wharves. In addition to the lovely parks, Stevens sought to entice Manhattanites to the eastern shore of the Hudson by a steam driven railway, a ferris wheel and a boat basin.

Stevens must have been disappointed that even by the time of his death in 1838, Hoboken never did attract the numbers for which he had hoped. Hoboken's dramatic growth from 1840 through 1910 was a consequence of broad social changes brought on by the consequences of the American Industrial Revolution, and not by the efforts of just one person.

Hoboken was attractive to the railroads and the steamship lines and the European immigrants who would staff them. The access to transportation and labor force made it an ideal location for industrial manufacturing as well. The temptation to exploit every inch of ground proved irresistible. Block after block became filled with unbroken rows of tenements, stores and factories. By 1900 the salty marshes

See HOBOKEN'S — Page 12.



The landfall

In 1609 when Henry Hudson arrived in the New World, Hoboken, at high tide, resembled an island. It may have been at this headland that Hudson and his "Half Moon" crew came ashore to greet the Indian natives.

Thanks

The Jersey Journal would like to thank Hoboken Historian John Heaney and the staff of the Hoboken Public Library for their extensive help in supplying information for this section.

Hoboken's political history exciting

By Owen Grundy

Hoboken was an island. The east was the Hudson River and on the other three sides marshes. It was owned by William Bayard, who had a manorial estate at Castle Point. The victim of raids by first one side and then the other during the Revolution, especially after New York fell to the British, Bayard became a Loyalist. When the Americans won, he fled to England and his property was confiscated.

At an auction at Tontine Coffee House, Wall Street, Manhattan, Col. John Stevens bought all of what is now Hoboken for about $90,000. It las then in the Township and County of Bergen. In 1839, the colonel's heirs transferred their shares to Hoboken Land & Improvement Co. (a family holding firm), which filled in the marshes, sold lots, built homes, and donated lands for public buildings, including City Hall and a public library, among others.

Hudson was separated from Bergen County in 1840 and Hoboken was separated from North Bergen Township on March 1, 1849. North Bergen had been separated from Bergen Township Feb. 10, 1843. Hoboken was incorporated as a city March 28, 1855.

A waterfront city, lined with piers, including North German Lloyd and Hamburg American Lines, the city became a "Little Germanym" The town was noted for many small, family-type hotels and attractive bars and dining rooms, serving delicious German dishes, topped off with fine imported brews. Following World War I, the passenger ship business was gone, the German population and influence declined, while the Italians came into ascendency. But, from the turn of the century, the Irish were dominant in politics.

Under the old form, city administration was decentralized. The mayor was elected by the city-at-large, elected for one year, with a council of 10 members, two from each ward, with one chosen each year to serve for two years. Health, police, fire, assessments, water were administered by boards, some appointive, some elective; while the city collector and city treasurer were elected. It was this diffusion of powers and divided responsibility that led to the adoption of commission government.

Commission government was a "reform" that was sweeping the country. Gov. Woodrow Wilson and all the progressives in both parties supported it.

It was designed to simplify and centralize city government and remove it from professional, partisan politics. In brief, to make it 'business-like' and run by 'businessmen.' It provided for city-wide election of five city commissioners, who would pick the mayor from their own number and divide responsibilities into five departments: public affairs, revenue and finance, public safety, public works, and parks and private property. Jersey City adopted it in 1913 and Hoboken two years later.

But, let us go back to the earlier Hoboken. Col. Edwin A. Stevens Jr., son of the founder of Stevens Institute, lived in the castle at Castle Point. Princeton-bred, he was an old-fashioned Democrat, a gentleman of integrity and ideals. In 1899, he shocked the politicians by announcing that he would conduct a "moneyless" campaign for the U.S. Senate. Boss Jim Smith of Essex said it was a "joke." He wanted the prize, even if only to be his party's choice, since the Republicans had a majority in both houses of the state legislature; and the legislature elected U.S. senators in those days.

Of course, Republican John Kean Jr. was returned for another 6 years, but when the Democratic caucus voted for Stevens, it sent shivers up the backs of the old Guard.

Republican Gov. Franklin Fort named Colonel Stevens the state's first road commissioner and he became the father of New Jersey's famous highway system. The colonel's sister and brother, Caroline, who married Mayor Otto H. Wittpenn in 1915, and Richard, a lawyer, were Hudson County's first probation officers, serving without pay. Caroline Alexander Wittpenn's son, Archibald

See HOBOKEN'S — Page 14.

Buildings reflect city's history

By Patricia Florio

In this anniversary year, Hoboken can look back upon its rich history through the many buildings which have survived through the last 125 years. The city's first significant period of development predates this anniversary by one decade, since that was the era during which the terminal area and lower commercial/residential areas were planned.

The earliest residential developments date back to the mid 1840s, and were planned by the Hoboken Land & Improvement Co., the development arm of the Stevens family. These structures were built in the Greek Revival style, with stucco exterior finish to imitate stone construction. A surviving example of such a streetscape is Union Place, located on the west side of Bloomfield Street between 1st and 2nd streets. Such unified blocks of housing are clearly evident in an 1860 birdseye view of Hoboken, in which the city has an orderly appearance and is clearly oriented toward the river.

The increased need for housing created by the advent of transatlantic shipping development along the waterfront in the 1860s was met by residential construction expanding to the north and west in the following decades. In the late 1860s, brownstone and other masonry finishes were employed in residential buildings. It is the diversity in style, richness of texture and detail that give the city its unique character. Indeed, Hoboken residential areas range from the British-inspired 1888 Willow Terrace blocks, the turn of the century, to the eclectic Classical-Revival buildings of Castle Point Terrace.

Interspersed within the residential neighborhoods are several architecturally and historically significant buildings which were originally social clubs. Among these are the approximately 1864 Union Club, built as a German social center, the 1891 Romanesque-Revival Columbia Club, at the cor-

See BUILDINGS — Page 14.

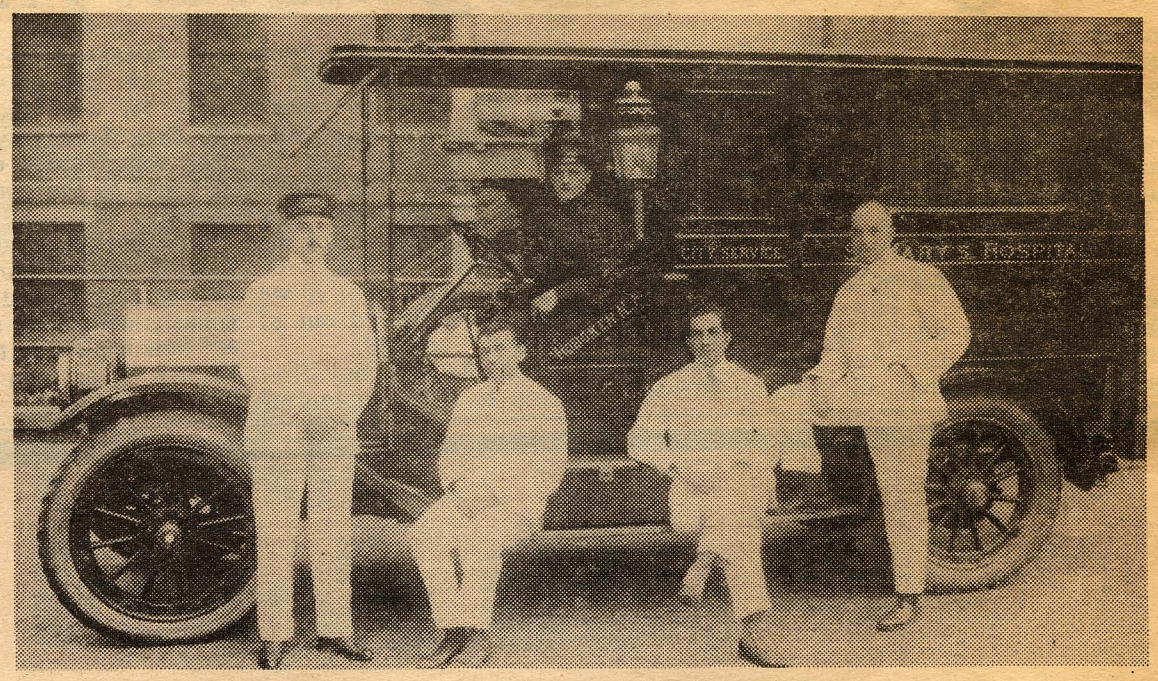
St. Mary Hospital, at 117, the oldest in the state

The city of Hoboken was only eight years old when St. Mary Hospital was formally established in that city. Today it is the oldest general hospital in New Jersey and Hoboken's only hospital.

St. Mary was founded Jan. 11, 1863 by four Franciscan Sisters of the Poor who had come to Hoboken to establish a hospital at the request of the Rev. Anthony Canvin, first Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church. Its continuing mission is to provide for the health care needs of the residents of the City of Hoboken and the communities of Union City, Weehawken, North Bergen, Guttenberg, West New York, Secaucus, as well as neighboring portions of Jersey City.

The mission of St. Mary Hospital is carried out in conformance with the philosophy of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor and the ethical standards observed in Catholic hospitals in the United States in accordance with the "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Facilities," approved by the United States Catholic Conference in November, 1971.

The mission and objective of St. Mary Hospital have changed little in concept over the years, although the mechanism employed to reach its objective has varied through the years as needs have changed. For instance, early records of the hospital indicate that in addition to a facility for nursing the sick and poor back to a measure of health, the hospital in 1866 established a home for abandoned children. In 1888 care of contagious disease cases was started since there were isolation cases from ships docked at Hoboken from around the world. In May of 1929 a tuberculosis clinic was set up. In keeping with the economic conditions brought on by the worldwide depression, a St. Anthony soup kitchen was opened at the hospital in the fall of 1938 and meals for 200 to 300 poor people were provided two times each day. This kitchen for the poor, according to the records of the hospital, remained open until about 1953.



In the beginning patients walked to St. Mary Hospital or came in carriages. Later there was a horse-drawn ambulance with a gong on the driver's side. When America took to motor-driven wheels, St. Mary Hospital obtained its first auto-ambulance. The one in the above photo was used in the 1920s.

An orthopedic clinic was established in January, 1939 with referrals being made to it by the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis and the State

See ST. MARY — Page 7.



Drawing and holding industry major Hoboken goal

The tide of industry moving out of Hoboken and into the suburbs appears to be turning.

The Universal Folding Box Company, one of the city's largest companies, with over 150 employees, decided to stay in Hoboken last spring after local officials helped them obtain a $300,000 federal grant to help them pay for $2 million expansion of their facility.

The Universal Folding Box industry will not be joining the ranks of many of America's industrial giants that once had plants in Hoboken and left. Among them were the American Lead Pencil Company, Keuffel & Esser and the Lipton Tea Company.

The retention of industry in the Mile Square City has been a problem that city administration after city administration has wrestled with for at least the last 60 years without much luck, at least until now that is.

Universal's President Stanley Batkin was very frank on the matter of the grant.

"If we hadn't got it we would have moved out of Hoboken," he said.

When the company first moved to Hoboken in 1937 from Brooklyn, most of the industries Universal made boxes for were located in the New York City metro area which made delivery of boxes to the companies easier.

But Batkin said today most of the box company's clients had moved to the suburbs and many of them are now located in the New Brunswick area in central New Jersey.

Batkins says even the grant is not all found money since the company will have to use some of the money to put pilings under the foundation of its planned 40,000-square-foot expansion, because the extension sits on swamp land.

Hoboken Community Development Director Fred Bado cites the Universal grant as a positive action government can do to help industry in town.

He says his agency wants to assist other companies in town that need similar help.

One way, he says, his agency is now assisting industry is by working with New Jersey Bell in a major study which should help the city identify what problems companies in the city feel they face.

"Once we know what their problems are then we can take action to help them," Bado said.

But Hoboken Councilman - at - large Rob-Robert Ranieri contends what is really needed is an independent Economic Development Agency to help business in town. The concept has worked successfully in a number of other communities.

The federal government had allocated $250,000 to Hoboken for such a corporation four years ago but Bado recently gave up on the idea of creating such a corporation, saying his staff could perform the same functions without a separate corporation being formed.

But Ranieri contends with an EDC the city would have had a concrete economic policy, instead of operating on a day-to-day basis as he says it does now.

There are still at least 200 factories in Hoboken, though many of them are small garment-oriented companies employing no more than 50 people.

The giant Maxwell House coffee plant is still in operation as are the Bethlehem Steel shipyards and they both contribute greatly to the Hoboken economy.

But the total number of factories is nowhere near the peak the city reached in 1899 with 399 companies.

The American Lead Pencil Company was one of Hoboken's first industries in 1864 and more and more companies opened up plants in the city after that.

They were attracted by Hoboken's harbor and railroad facilities, which made it a prime trading center.

But by the 1920s Hoboken had little land available for new industry. Growing industries with new productive processes left Hoboken in order to find more space. With the development of the trucking industry companies no longer had to depend on the railways for shipment of their goods, making it more advantageous for many companies to move to the suburbs where there was land to grow and taxes were low.

The move of Hoboken companies to the suburbs is a trend that had continued throughout the years with many of Hoboken's industrial giants moving out in the 1950s and '60s.

Mayr Steve Cappiello says he believes while no new industrial companies will be moving into Hoboken, the city can be a viable center for service-oriented industries such as insurance companies.

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It was love at first sight



Veteran Hobokenite Marie Visser in her apartment in the Marion Towers Housing Project in Hoboken.

"I love Hoboken and I always have," said 90-year-old Marie Visser.

It was when Mrs. Visser was 12 years old that she first saw the Mile Square City after arriving from Germany with her mother's best friend. She says it was "love at first sight."

"The whole city was really bustling," she said. "It was so exciting."

But Mrs. Visser was in Hoboken a few days before it was off to the farms of Nebraska and Kansas, where she worked 16 hours a day as a laborer for her mother's best friend.

But six years later her mother's brother, who lived in Hoboken, told Mrs. Visser she could live with him.

"I knew I was free when I saw Hoboken again," she said. "I wasn't a servant any more."

"There was so much to do in Hoboken," she said. "We had 10 or 11 Broadway shows in addition to plays and dances. And we weren't afraid to walk the streets to go to any of the activities."

Mrs. Visser started working as a housecleaner and though she remembers her wages were nothing to talk about, she remembers being very happy.

"Everyone helped each other out," she recalled.

"Every in town was so friendly. And every Sunday we would have a big family get-together and everyone had a good time."

Shortly after moving back to Hoboken Mrs. Visser was married to a longshoreman. She continued to work, however, even after having three children.

"When I couldn't go out of the house I made tassles," she said. "I was paid 35 cents for making 1,000 of them."

After her children became old enough to go to school Mrs. Visser was again at work house cleaning and after that she worked as a cook for the old Franklin bakeries and then for Maxwell House.

While Mrs. Visser's husband died years ago and two of her children have moved out of town, one of them, Corra Gilbert, now lives with her mother in their four-room apartment in the Marion Towers Senior Citizens Housing Project.

"It's a beautiful apartment," said Mrs. Visser. "Just like Hoboken is beautiful."

While the faces have changed over the years, Mrs. Visser says everyone treats her as nicely as they always did.

"I go into the local store and they treat me like a queen," she said. "And everyone always says hello on the street."

But she says the streets seem dirtier today than in years past and it's not like the old days where you saw the same cop on the same street every day.

Mrs. Visser recalled the 1960s and early '70s when the city perhaps reached its lowest ebb, and people were afraid to go out on the streets at night.

"It was terrible," she said.

But she says now she sees things are on the upswing and the city is much safer than it was a few years ago.

"They just opened up two movie theaters," she said.

Mrs. Visser says there are more than enough things in the city to keep her occupied.

"I go to the senior citizens center every day for activities and then play bingo at night," she said.

She smiles as she talks more and more about her fond memories of Hoboken.

"I hope I wasn't too negative about everything," she says. "I really do love this city."

Hoboken churches abound

Members of all faiths can today find a place of prayer of their choice in Hoboken.

But it wasn't always that way.

In the early days residents of Hoboken who wanted to attend religious services of their choice had to travel to New York City or Jersey City.

The oldest religious denomination in the City of Hoboken was the Episcopal. St. Paul's Episcopal Church was founded in 1832.

The land given by the Stevens family for the new church was located at the northwest corner of Third and Hudson Streets.

The cornerstone of the church was laid on May 27, 1838 and the church was consecrated on All Saints Day later that year.

In 1870 as the population of Hoboken began moving to the northern section of town, it was decided to sell the old building and accept an advantageous offer of the Hoboken Land and Improvement Company and purchase property on Eighth and Hudson Streets, site of the present church.

Another Hoboken church founded shortly after St. Paul's was the city's Methodist Church which was founded on Sept. 9, 1838 in a schoolhouse.

Other churches that followed in the next 20 years included First Baptist Church, First Dutch Reformed Church, First Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Church, First United Presbyterian Church, German Evangelical Church and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

And in the 40-year period after that a number of additional churches and a few temples for the city's growing Jewish community were founded.

They include Temple Adath Emuno, Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, The Salvation Army, St. Francis Roman Catholic Church, St. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Willow Avenue Baptist Church, Holy Trinity English Lutheran Church, the Norwegian Free Church, St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, Moses Montefiore Synagogue, Star of Israel Synagogue, Christian Science Church, Christian Reformed Church, United Synagogue and St. Matthew's Baptist Church.

Jersey's film capital

Lights, camera, action.

No, it's not Hollywood, but Hoboken.

While it's not a well known fact, Hoboken is the film-making capital of New Jersey. In the last two years alone, four feature films have been shot at least partly in Hoboken in addition to a few minor features and a couple of commercials.

The companies of two films currently in release, Woody Allen's new film, Stardust Memories, and John Cassavete's Gloria, both spent several days filming in Hoboken.

Other films shot in Hoboken include Voices, which was released last year, and Tattoo, starring Bruce Dern, which is scheduled to be released in the next few months.

While the classic On the Waterfront, starring Marlon Brando, was shot in the city in 1952, Hoboken's reputation as a center for film-making has occurred only in the last few years.

The reasons for Hoboken's current reputation are easy to explain, according to Joseph Friedman, the recently retired executive director of the New Jersey Film Commission.

"Hoboken has a lot of flavor, almost like a small European village," said Friedman. "And the city has one of the most beautiful train stations in the country."

The film commission has been working on plans to open a film studio in Northern New Jersey, which Friedman says would make the state an even more attractive place to film pictures in.

"They could do location shooting as well as studio scenes all in New Jersey without having to go to New York or Hollywood," he said.

Friedman says he believes Hoboken would be an ideal site for a film studio — since it is already the film capital of New Jersey.

Getting the money together for such a studio has been a problem, according to Friedman.

But the commission is still trying. And who knows: Maybe soon Hoboken will be the film capital not only of New Jersey, but of the entire Northeast.

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St. Mary Hospital, at 117, the oldest in the state

Continued from Page 3

Crippled Children's Comsion. A Workingmen's House was opened in December 1940. A physical therapy until was established in 1945, and to indicate how the mechanisms continually change although the mission does not, the contagious disease wing was renovated and converted to a 45-bed maternitv building in 1955.

In 1958, an inpatient psychiatric unit was started. Records show that this was one of only eleven such units in the United States at that time. A Child Guidance Clinic was added to the hospital's activities in 1962.

Because of a drastic change in the economic stability of Hoboken and its environs during the late 1960s and early 1970s, St. Mary evaluated the mechanisms in use for meeting its mission and objectives, and in 1973 established a Family Health Center, making physician services available to the citizenry of Hoboken without regard to their ability to pay for that medical attention. In 1974 the hospital stepped out again, in partnership this time with the federal government, to provide increased mental health care for the area under the auspices of a Community Mental Health Center. In that same year an application for a Certificate of Need was filed with the state of New Jersey for the purpose of replacing 1888 and 1914 buildings.

A brand new acute care medical tower, completed and occupied in the summer of 1977, gives St. Mary, an inner city hospital, a totally new and modern physical plant.

In 1975 the hospital was successful in its quest for a Family Practice Residency program and was granted approval by the AMA to establish a graduate medical education program in Family Practice, at that time one of only five in New Jersey, and the only inner city program in New Jersey.

The Board of Trustees, Medical Staff and Administration of St. Mary are constantly identifying and implementing new and imaginative approaches to meet the hospital's continuing goal of providing quality health care. Today the dedicated medical staff and employees further the tradition of excellence in a modern facility using the most modern equipment, as St. Mary continues to focus on the needs of patients and community. People serving people continues to be the St. Mary story in carrying out its unchanging mission in a changing world.



St. Mary Hospital, 117 years old, but as modern as 1980.

Hoboken the WWI embarkation center

Nine days after America's entry into World War I President Wilson had approved the seizure of the piers and ships of the North German Lloyd and the Hamburg-American Lines, both of which were located in Hoboken.

Major General David C. Shanks was put in charge of the troop embarkation. Other problems (besides making sure the large force of men were gotten safely aboard transports) quickly developed.

One of the problems was the saloons that lined the waterfront directly opposite the embarkation piers. The watering holes were a great temptation to the men of the Port Command and to the sailors who manned the transports.

After a few months Shanks declared he had it with the saloons and wrote to Washington requesting that a law which prohibited a saloon within a half mile of any barrack occupied by soldiers be invoked.

The law, however, required a presidential proclamation to make it binding and every time President Wilson was about to issue the proclamation a committee of Hoboken officials would rush to the capital and contended that the city's schools and streets would be put in jeopardy if the city lost the taxes they received from the saloons.

The bars remained open for some time but finally President Wilson signed the proclamation. And overnight 237 Hoboken saloons closed. Almost the entire city of Hoboken from Jefferson Street east to the Hudson River had gone dry and would stay that way until the end of the war.

Another problem that came up for Shanks was the Christmas boxes.

It turns out the war department felt it would be a nice gesture on Dec. 25, 1917 for those troops to receive a Christmas box from home. But the department informed Shanks that all boxes were to be opened for forbidden articles, bombs, or infernal machines.

Shanks gathered six officers and 250 men to open the boxes thinking that would be enough.

A few days later the men were literally swamped under a tidal wave of Christmas packages and Shanks had to quickly increase the box inspection to 70 officers and 1,160 men.

The story is told that Shanks developed a strong sympathy for how postal clerks felt during the Christmas rush.

After the armistice was signed the troops came home again through Hoboken, of course.

Troop trains loaded with soldiers came from the piers along tracks in the city as residents from the city stood by the tracks and cheered.

But there was no cheering when the hospital trains came through town with the wounded and then the trains containing the remains of our country's dead soldiers went by.

It was 1922 before Hoboken resumed its peacetime role and the last traces of the war disappeared. But to those soldiers who participated in World War I the memories of Hoboken lived on and still continue.

Yacht club

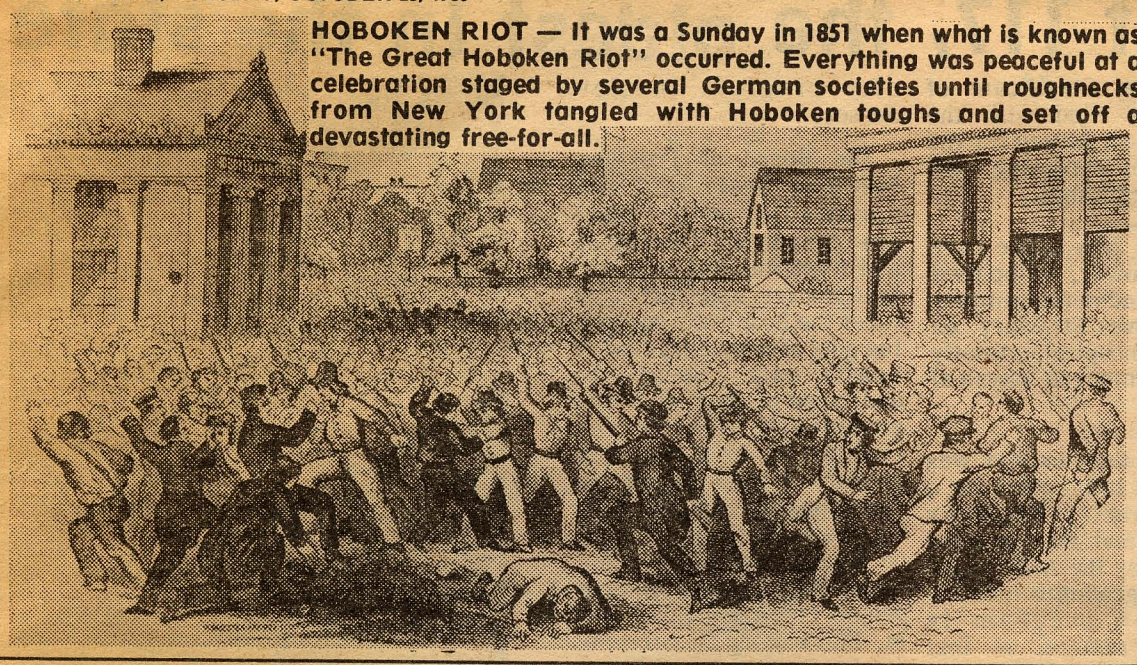
The first yacht club in the New York Metropolitan area, called the New York Yacht Club, was located in Hoboken. It was founded in 1845 at the foot of the north end of Castle Point, approximately at the foot of 10th Street.

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HOBOKEN RIOT — It was a Sunday in 1851 when what is known as "The Great Hoboken Riot" occurred. Everything was peaceful at a celebration staged by several German societies until roughnecks from New York tangled with Hoboken toughs and set off a devastating free-for-all.

Station special

When Hoboken's Erie-Lackawanna train station was completed in 1907, it was considered the finest waterfront passenger station in the world.

And the station will soon relive its days of glory.

The train station, where thousands of commuters each day take commuter trains to suburbia, is currently undergoing a $4 million renovation.

Also planned is a park outside the station and a spruce-up of the area around it.

The days are gone, however, when the Hoboken ferry left the station carrying commuters to New York.

Service was ended in 1967 after 192 years.

Hoboken is also no longer a major freight station as it was in the early 1900s, but there are some shipping companies located near the station's rail yards.

One of the station's most noteworthy features is its waiting room. This is 100 feet square, 55 feet high. It is lighted on all sides by high windows and has a ceiling of art glass. The room is finished in Louis XVI style.

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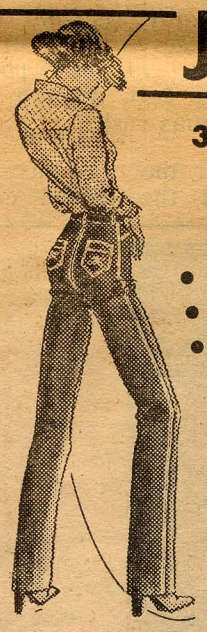
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A cultural comeback recorded for Hoboken

Hoboken is making a cultural comeback and is quickly becoming not only the entertainment center for all of Hudson County but for all of Northern New Jersey as well.

The city now has a permanent theater company, which presents four plays a year, as well as a permanent dance company that has been invited to perform in other parts of the state.

There's a cafe that features weekly poetry readings by local and nationally known poets.

And many of Hoboken's pubs and taverns feature nightly entertainment that ranges from country and western music to jazz and even New Wave music.

Five new gourmet restaurants have opened up in Hoboken in the last year alone and many culture lovers are spending the night in the Mile Square City, from dinner to a show and then perhaps a nightcap in one of the city's many watering holes.

Hoboken's theater company is called the Renaissance Theater Company — and the company will feature three more presentations this season.

They are: Cyrano de Bergerac, Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13; Ibsen's Hedda Gabler, Feb. 13,14,20 and 21, and Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest, May 15, 16, 22 and 23.

Shows are presented at the Stevens theater, Fifth and Hudson Streets in Hoboken.

The dance company is the Everitt Dance Company, named after its founder, Tracy Everitt, a former Broadway dancer, who now heads the dance program in Hoboken.

The scene of the poetry readings is the Beat-N-Path Cafe, featuring occasional art shows as well. It is located at 125 Washington St. in Hoboken.

The music scene: Punk rock and jazz are at Maxwells Tavern, and country and western at The Brass Rail, both of which are located on Washington Street.

For movie lovers, Hoboken has a new twin theater complex at 1st and Hudson Street, the first movie theaters in the city in years.

The entertainment scene in Hoboken is a far cry from the 1930s to the 1960s, when if you wanted entertainment you left the city.

But it wasn't always that way.

In the late 1880s and 1890s there were a number of legitimate theaters in the city and many New Yorkers would take the ferry over to Hoboken for an evening's entertainment.

But Hoboken's finest moment came in October, 1928, when a converted playhouse was turned into the Rialto Theater and melodramas, with the audience participating by calling out advice and warnings to the players on the stage, were presented.

New Yorkers flocked over to see the melodramas.

But by 1930 this attraction faded and the Big Depression was taking hold.

Hoboken was dead culturally.

But now it lives again and the outlook for tomorrow has brightened.

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This display of lights and bunting marked the 46th anniversary of Geismar's at its 222 Washington St. location, where it is still.

Geismar's is 92 years old

Geismar's. It's a name that almost every Hobokenite knows.

And for good reason. The men's store, with over 8,000 square feet of selling space, is Hoboken's oldest and largest retail business.

The store has been at the same location at 222 Washington Street since 1888.

Jim Ungerleider, who now owns Geismar's with his partner Marvin Lubow, believes the reasons for the store's success are simple.

"We have always offered quality merchandise, a large selection and personal service," he said.

New residents of Hoboken are discovering what countless Hoboken residents have always known — when you want quality men's clothes, you go to Geismar's.

Geismar's was founded by Herman Geismar and his cousin Meyer in 1888. The store remained in the Geismar family throughout the years, with Ungerleider and Lubow joining the store as buyer and accountant, respectively, in the mid-1950s.

The two became partners with the Geismar family in 1962 and purchased the whole store in 1969.

Ungerleider says Geismar's used to outfit all the conductors on the old Erie Lackawanna Railroad, which is now operated by Conrail, and still gets some of the conductors coming back to the store to do their shopping.

"Some of the conductors live in places like Pittsburg and Baltimore but they still come back here to do their shopping," he said.

Ungerleider says Geismar's currently does outfitting for students in Hoboken Catholic schools as well as for the glee club at Stevens Institute of Technology.

In line with its personal service Geismar's always has a pot of hot coffee on the warmer for its customers. Maxwell House, of course.

"We wouldn't serve anything else," Ungerleider says. "It's a Hoboken product."

While, of course, Ungerleider admits, customers wouldn't come to his store if they didn't like the quality and selection, he believes the personal touch is a big reason they come back.

"We know who our customers are. Many of them just come in to say hello," he said. "Many of our customers who have moved out of Hoboken still come back here to buy clothes."

Geismar's also offers to customers a charge account policy which Ungerleider cites as another personal service that has helped the store remain a thriving business.

Ungerleider says the city is not doing enough to help him and other Washington Street merchants.

"The city could do a lot more to promote Washington Street," he said.

While city officials are currently involved in putting together a merchants' guide to be distributed throughout the city, Ungerleider says it's not enough.

He says what is needed is a concentrated promotional effort to let people know what merchants on Washington Street have to offer and a one-time merchants' guide will be only a drop in the bucket to that goal."

City is no joke now

By Randolph Diamond

Almost every day Perry Belifiore gets another phone call from one of his friends who used to live in Hoboken — wanting to know if Perry knows of any apartments in the city so they can move back.

But the 29-year-old Belifiore usually doesn't know of any vacancies and his friends hang up the phone disappointed.

Hoboken wasn't always that popular. Belifiore thinks back to his 1969 graduating class at Hoboken High School — when his friends — the same ones who now want to come back to Hoboken — moved away.

But that was before the renaissance of the city — a renaissance that has turned the city's reputation as one of the least desirable places to live into one of the most desirable.

And Belifiore is one Hobokenite who is glad he never left.

"Just about everything I could ever want is in Hoboken," said Belifiore, who works in a management position for the city. "There are good restaurants where I can go out to dinner and taverns where I can have a drink afterwards," he said. "The brownstones (Belifiore lives in one) are beautiful and the people are really friendly. I can't walk a block without running into someone I know. It's like a little friendly village. It's really good now and I know it can't help but get better."

Belifiore's comments are typical of how residents feel about Hoboken — many of the newcomers and the smart oldtimers who never left.

"I always thought this was a great place," said 65-year-old Mary Ann Bowers. "You can walk up to the Stevens Campus and see just about the whole skyline of New York. Not ever in New York can you get that view. And while we have everything in Hoboken, if you do want to visit New York, it's 10 minutes and 30 cents away by the PATH trains."

Mrs. Bowers, a lifelong resident of Hoboken, says one of the things she really likes about Hoboken is the Italian bread that can be purchased at various bakeries in town.

"Where else can you get bread baked in a brick oven?" she asks.

Every day a new building seems to be renovated in Hoboken, a new store seems to open and a new person seems to move into town.

"Hoboken has turned the corner," says Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello. "We've made it."

Almost no one would disagree.

But the renaissance has brought on new problems— problems of displacement — with the city's senior citizen and Hispanic population being especially hit hard.

For as more and more buildings become renovated, more and more Hobokenites are finding they can't afford the skyrocketing rents in the city.

Hoboken has become too fashionable a place for them to live.

The city council, however, is now working on a revision of the city's rent control ordinance which may put something of a clamp on the skyrocketing rents.

The Mile Square City still has one of the highest tax rates in the United States, and no new industries seem willing to move into town, to replace those that have left and take the burden off the taxpayer.

But there are some hopeful signs. One Hoboken company that was to move out decided to stay with the aid of a government grant and there are plans of commercial and residential development for the waterfront.

Of course, there is also some opposition to plans for the commercial development of the waterfront; many citizens would like the Hoboken waterfront to become parkland.

Everyone in Hoboken seems to have his or her own opinion of what is best for Hoboken's future and there should be plenty of political battles in the offing on that subject.

But one thing is clear:

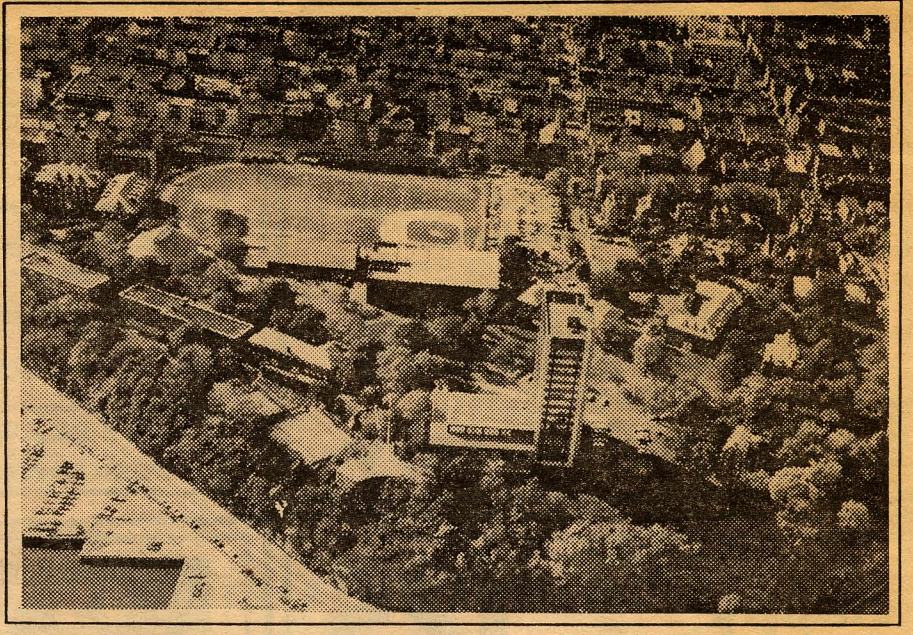
From the Italian and Irish and German immigrants who have lived in the city all their lives to the Puerto Ricans who came 10 years ago to the New Yorkers who moved in two years ago — no one wants to leave Hoboken any more. After 40 years of decline Hoboken has again become a desirable place to live.

Hoboken resident Joseph Cirone put it succintly.

"The comedians are going to have to find another city to make jokes about," he said. "For Hoboken is not a joke anymore. It's a good place to live."

Stevens Institute of Technology

Est. 1870



Proud to figure in Hoboken's past and in its Renaissance of today

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Inquiring photographer

QUESTION: What do you like about Hoboken?

Earnest Brissett, Hoboken policeman: "The people are friendly and the politicians are understandable. It's a real family town."

Miriam Gonzalez: "I just came from California. There is a sense of community in Hoboken that's really nice and that's missing in California."

Jude Fitzgibbons, president, Municipal Employees Association: "I love Hoboken because I live and work here. It has everything I could ever want."



Earnest Brissett



Donna Hugey



Miriam Gonzalez



William Hanrahon



Jude Fitzgibbons



Thomas Vezzetti

Donna Hugey, artist: "The apartments here are more reasonable than they are in New York."

William Hanrahon: "It's my town. I was born and raised here. What else can I say?"

Thomas Vezzetti, security guard: "It's the greatest geographic wonder spot in the world."

Tech stayed

There was a time in the 1940s when the city of Hoboken was declining so rapidly that trustees of Stevens Institute of Technology were seriously considering moving the Hoboken college to the suburbs.

But the trustees decided against that idea and the Institute remains on its 55 acre campus with its spectacular view of the New York skyline and a reputation that is known world-wide.

The institute was founded in 1870 with a bequest from Edwin A. Stevens of the Stevens family (Hoboken's original founders).

Since so many of the Stevens family interests were in mechanical engineering, the original curriculum of the college was built around that discipline.

In fact, Stevens Institute was one of the first institutins of higher education in the country to offer a curriculum in mechanical engineering.

As part of that curriculum, students studied mechanical engineering, mathematics, physics, mechanical drawing, chemistry, metallurgy, French, German and literature as well.

In 1938 the graduate program was formally established with five masters' programs initiated in chemistry and chemical engineering, economics of engineering, electrical engineering, mathematics and physics and mechanical engineering.

There has been continual expansion of all programs at the college throughout the years.

In 1957, Stevens introduced an undergraduate science curriculum in chemistry, mathematics, and physics leading to the Bachelor of Science degree.

It's back to basics in schools

Hoboken educators are striving to upgrade the city's 130-year-old school system by improving basic education and renovating aging buildings.

Educational improvements last year brought the percentage of students achieving above the minimum grade level in reading up nine points from 43 to 52 percent. In math the level rose 16 points from 48 to 64 percent.

The buildings — most of them constructed in the late 19th century — are being renovated, beginning with the Rue School, which was closed two years ago because of falling bricks and is scheduled to reopen in September 1982.

School superintendent George Maier credits a "back-to-basics" educational approach and closer supervision of teachers for the higher test scores.

The opening four years ago of the Calabro School, which uses an open classroom system, was considered the turning point in the movement to reclaim a system, educationally viable buildings.

Hoboken's school system was established officially in 1850 with teaching facilities in a one-story frame building on the south side of Fourth Street, now Park Avenue.

The grammar department was located on the second floor of "Joe Wood's" blacksmith shop on the east side of Washington Street about two doors below Second Street.

The system was expanded gradually as schools were built in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

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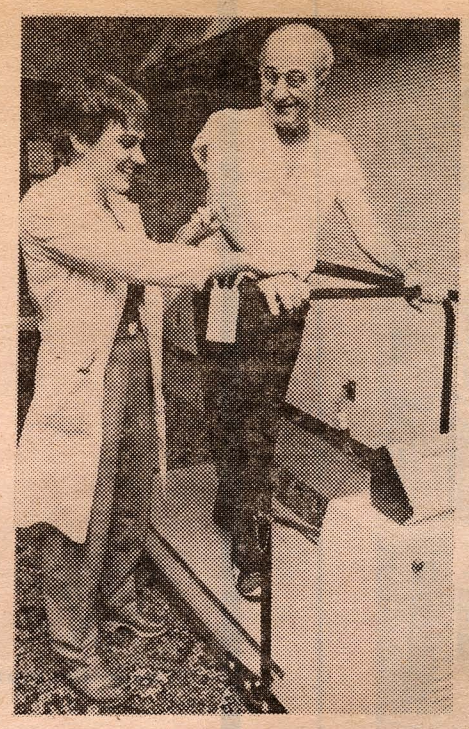
Providing mental health services to residents of Hoboken and other surrounding communities is a responsibility St. Mary Hospital has filled for many years. At the present time the Community Mental Health Center offers twelve elements of service. The Inpatient Unit provides voluntary short-term intensive care. The Partial Hospitalization Program provides day treatment for patients able to return home evenings, but in need of more intensive care than can be provided in the Outpatient component. Outpatient care provides on-going therapy for community residents while enabling them to go about their daily lives in the community. Emergency Service offers immediate crisis telephone or walk in services at any hour 7 days per week. Consultation and Education staff make available information and consultation to schools, churches and other agencies which provide service to the community.

The Center program provides diagnostic and rehabilitative services, as well as aftercare planning for previously hospitalized patients. Specialized services are available for children, families and senior citizens. Other services include outpatient alcoholism counseling and a new program to counsel youth, who are in danger of violating the law, and their families.

The philosophy of the Center is to provide highest quality professional care. Emphasis is placed on keeping the patient not only within the community but, if at all possible, in his family environment. Every attempt is made to encourage members of the family to participate in the treatment plans. This approach utilizes family strengths in assisting the patient toward pre-planned goals. The availability of these services is provided at a time when the patient or family feels most distressed. This means the availability of walk-in services in addition to scheduled appointments. For this purpose, the St. Mary Community Mental Health Center has an active walk-in service open to the community. All services are available in English and in Spanish. Services are available at three locations: St. Mary Hospital, Hoboken, Hoboken Multi-Service Center and Mount Carmel Guild in Union City.

For further information on this or other community health care programs, call **792-3300,** Ext. 2476, St. Mary Hospital, 308 Willow Ave., Hoboken, N.J. 07030.

IT'S TIME TO HELP YOURSELF!



An exercise fitness program which is designed for the individual's need and capacity is in the third year of success at St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken.

Originally established for the rehabilitation of cardiac patients, the program has been expanded to include individuals, not referred by physicians, who are interested in a preventative medicine program to keep themselves well and eliminate the risk of heart disease.

The program includes a comprehensive professional team which renders screening and testing services, monitoring and counseling while maintaining close surveillance of the patient during conditioning and exercise activity. It is expecially popular with those who are heavy smokers and want to quit and those who are overweight and lead a sedentary life.

Each participant receives a comprehensive cardiac evaluation, including a stress test and blood tests prior to joining the program. Patients are also assisted by physical therapists, nutritionists and trained social workers, and psychologists who aid in adjusting or altering the participant's lifestyle as necessary.

For further information on this or other community health care programs, call 792-3300 Ext. 2325 or 2336, St. Mary Hospital, 308 Willow Ave., Hoboken, N.J. 07030.

Hoboken's fortunes have ebbed and flowed

Continued from Page 2.

at Hoboken's back door were completely filled with railway cinders. The city's population soared from about 3,000 in 1840 to more than 70,000 in 1910. Irish laborers often lived in cramped rooming houses managed by proper German matrons. More affluent German residents gradually moved "uptown" and eastward into the more fashionable blocks.

By the turn of the century, Hoboken was thought of as a "transoceanic suburb of Bremen." The German steamship lines crowded its port. German manufacturers such as Keuffel & Esser provided the pulse to its industrial life. However, the First World War provided a traumatic shock to this German-American colony. The German piers were seized by the federal government. Police from outside the city were brought in to close the German shops in the port area. President Wilson, mindful of the economic impact of his actions on the port, sought to improve the situation by designating Hoboken "the port of embarkation" of America's Expeditionary Force. There was some sad irony in naming this most German of all American cities as the leaving point for those setting out to defeat the "fatherland."

As the Germans dispersed in fear, Italians from southern Italy began to enter Hoboken to begin their climb up the social ladder.

They experienced resentment from earlier German and Irish arrivals. Hoboken remained a bustling industrial seaport throughout the 1920's developing a bawdy reputation, particularly among seamen, during the days of prohibition. Its expanding economy allowed for the absorption of new immigrants.

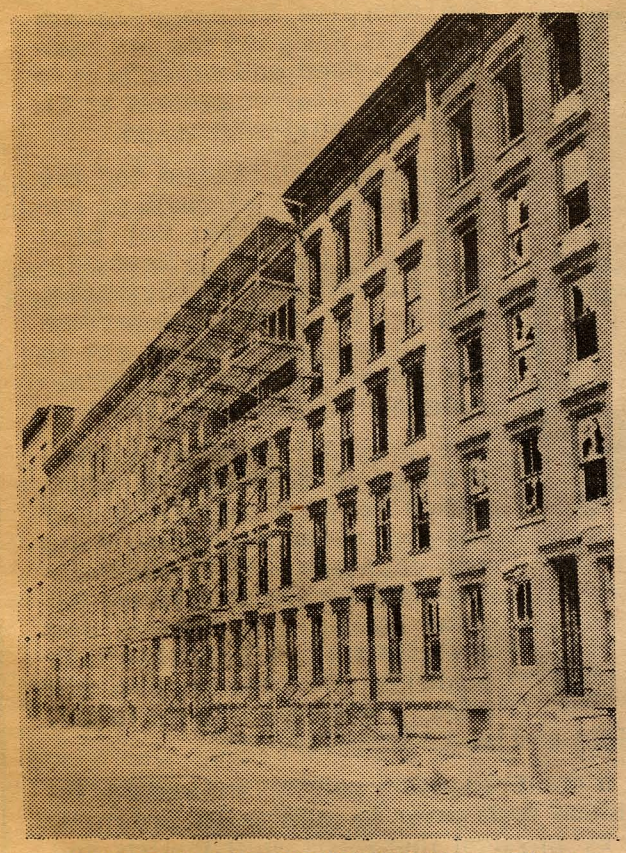
Hoboken seemed to offer something special to its working people. It was a source of jobs, of upward mobility, but also provided a special sense of community. In 1930, Max Hurwitz, a member of Hoboken's Jewish community and chairman of Hoboken's Tercentenary Commission, wrote that Hoboken has "retained a kind of home life, a common spirit, a separate city consciousness that has withstood the encroachment of the metropolitan trends towards integration and communal indifference. We are a city of neighborhoods."

But despite Hoboken's homey touch the seeds of its economic problems were evident as early as the 1920s. Hoboken began to lose both population and jobs. That situation has persisted throughout every decade since the 1920s with the exception of the war years during the 1940s. Moreover, this situation is reflective of broader regional trends which seem beyond the control of any single municipality.

Absorbing large numbers of immigrants has been a continuous process for Hoboken for more than 100 years. As recently as 1950 more than a fifth of its population was foreign born. However, since 1960, the fastest growing segment of Hoboken's population has been its Hispanic minority. This minority has entered Hoboken in the tradition of earlier immigrant groups — both younger and poorer than established Hobokenites, seeking to climb America's ladder of upward social mobility, at best greeted with ambivalence. However, given Hoboken's changing economic nature, this task of climbing the social ladder may prove to be more difficult. In the basic sectors of the local economy, those which have traditionally provided entry level jobs to the low income, there has been marked decline. Hoboken is no longer a bustling, industrial seaport with an expanding economy.

Hispanic arrivals are now being matched by more affluent white collar immigrants. They have been attracted to the city by relatively cheap housing prices and Hoboken's easy accessibility to Manhattan. The housing policies initiated by the city in the early 1970s have in part sparked the private urban renewal which is currently taking place. These newcomers tend to be young, often without children, and relatively affluent. They are not dependent on the local Hoboken economy for employment, but commute to office centers elsewhere. Although more affluent than traditional immigrant groups, these people too come to Hoboken in search of the "good life."

Martin Bierbaum is professor of urban studies at Rutgers University, Newark, and is currently writing a book on the history and current revitalization of Hoboken.



UNDERGOING RENOVATION — These buildings on Bloomfield Street, between Observer Highway and Newark Street, are being completely renovated in the continuing renaissance of Hoboken's housing stock.

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Artists' community grows

Hoboken's artistic community keeps on growing in leaps and bounds as more and more artists discover the Mile Square City.

Conservative estimates put at least 300 artists in the city, which is quite an astonishing number when you figure Hoboken's current population is estimated at around 42,000.

"I keep on running into artists in the street," said Nancy Zola, a Hoboken artist who has lived in the city for 10 years. "It seems as if every other person in this city I meet is an artist."

It wasn't always that way, as Ms. Zola clearly remembers.

"When I moved here 10 years ago from New York City people would look at you strangely if you told them you were an artist," she said. "It was unheard of."

Hugh Kilmer, a Hoboken artist who is employed by the city as its arts coordinator, feels the high rents of New York have pushed artists to Hoboken.

"They've been priced out of New York," he said. "Artists need lots of space at reasonable rents."

And as more and more artists have come to Hoboken, Kilmer says a sort of artists' community has been formed, which attracts even more artists.

"It's great," said Ms. Zola. "I'm shopping in the supermarket and I bump into another person who happens to be an artist and we exchange phone numbers. I can't imagine that happening in New York.

Ms. Zola says she has developed a whole list of artist friends by just being a part of the Hoboken community.

Peter Hornitzky recently moved into a five-story factory loft building on Grand Street that he and a group of fellow artists renovated and turned into living and studio space for themselves.

Hornitzky, a landscape artist, occupies the first two floors of the building with his wife, a freelance photographer, while the other artists occupy the remaining floors.

Hornitzky had lived in Hillside but wanted to be closer to the New York art world.

Hornitzky has many of his works exhibited in galleries in New York and didn't like the often daily commute to New York.

"My wife and I have over 2,500 square feet of living space," he said. "This space would be unaffordable in New York."

Kilmer says he expects the art community to increase and grow larger and larger with more and more galleries opening up in the city.

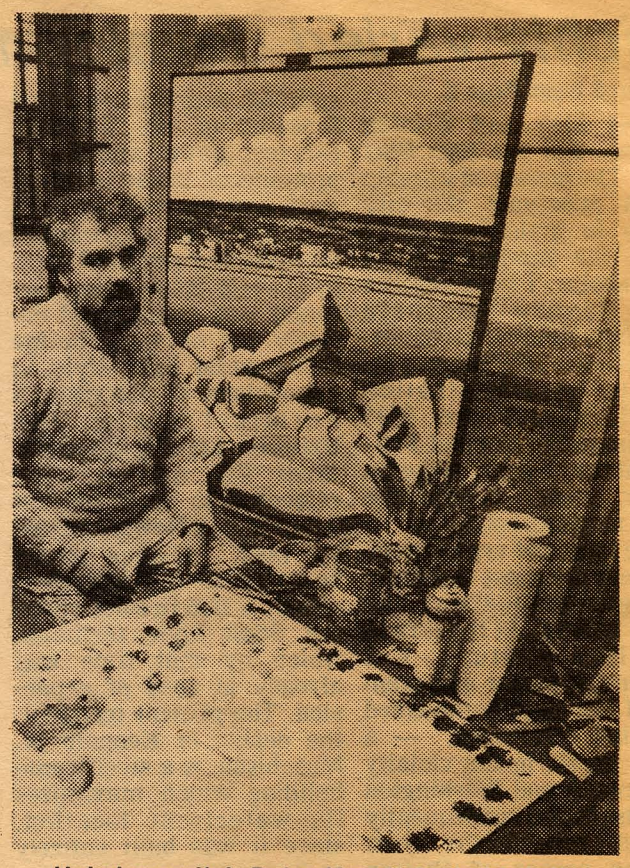
"Artists will be able to exhibit their works here and wouldn't ever have to go to New York to do it," he said.

"Who knows, maybe we'll have an art supply store here so we won't have to go to New York to buy supples," said Ms. Zola jokingly.

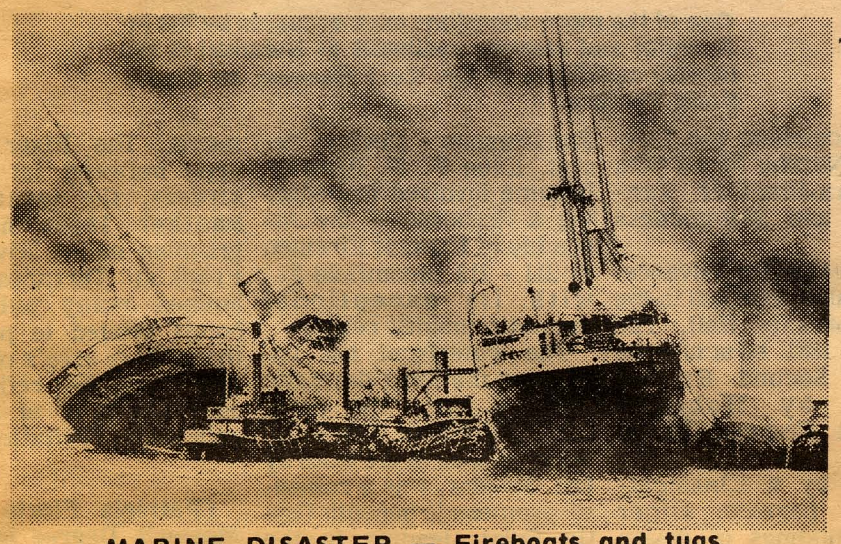
One worry of Kilmer's, however, is that Hoboken will become too popular like SoHo and the artists will be priced out of the city.

"It's a real danger," he said, "and it has happened to some extent already. I know of a few artists who had to leave because they couldn't afford the skyrocketing rents."

Kilmer says he believes the way for artists to stop the tide of displacement is for them to become involved in the Hoboken community.



Hoboken artist, Peter Hornitzky in his loft studio on Grand Street.



MARINE DISASTER — Fireboats and tugs crowded between the burning North German Lloyd liners S.S. Bremen, left, and S.S. Main, vainly try to control the fire which totally destroyed them, a sister ship, the S.S. Saale, and the Hoboken piers during a three-day holocaust that erupted in Hoboken in June, 1900, taking the lives of some 250 men and women.

Bryan spoke

Three-time Democratic presidential candidate, William Jennings Bryan,. gave one of his many silver-tongued orations from a carriage in front of the Lackawanna Terminal in September, 1895.

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Buildings reflect Hoboken's richly varied development

Continued from Page 2.

ner of 11th and Garden streets, and the 1905 Elks Club. The houses of worship which punctuate the city range in style and scale from the modest to the spectacular. Two handsome and highly historic buildings devoted to education are the 1875 Stevens Institute Administration Building and the 1897 Renaissance - Revival Public Library, each opposite parks, which typify the older neighborhoods.

The terminal area has undergone the most dramatic changes throughout the city's history. At the turn of the 18th century, Col Stevens, inventor and planner of Hoboken, established the first "terminal" — a ferry house, in the vicinity of Newark and Washington streets. It was subsequently moved closer to the river, on the corner of Hudson Street and the present Observer Highway, and the entire block with the original ferry house was developed for housing developments called Hudson and Washington Terraces. The first offices of the Hoboken Land & Improvement Co. were conveniently located directly west of the ferry house.

The development of railroad and the continued function of the Hoboken ferries gave additional prominence to the terminal area, and spurred the infill of land further eastward to increase the terminal area. In the mid-1880's a new terminal was constructed entirely out of wood in the then-popular Stick Style, in the vicinity of the present Terminal Plaza. The Hoboken Land & Improvement Co. offices were relocated to their present location at 1 Newark Street by 1889, to once again be close to the ferry terminal. A 1905 fire destroyed the Stick Style terminal, which by that time was already in need of expansion. The present terminal, the design of Kenneth M. Murchison, is a steel-frame building which maximizes its waterfront location, since it was built entirely over water.

The terminal was distinguished by a tall tower, now removed, and the historic first use of the Bush train shed. The current restoration of the terminal's waiting room, a tarnished but spectacular interior space, has revealed a handsome stained glass skylight which for the first time in decades illuminates the room.

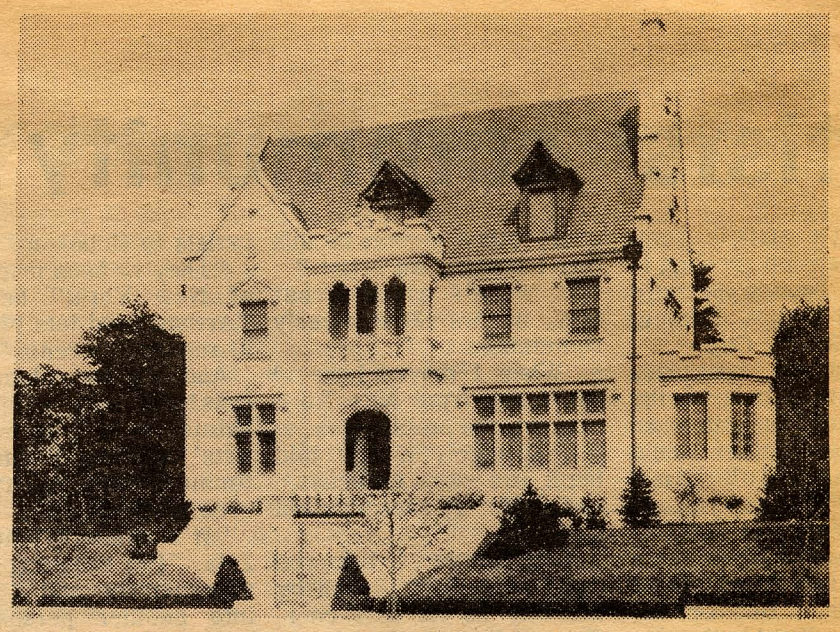
The commerical vitality of Hoboken is reflected in the banks of the Terminal area, such as the Trust Co. of N.J. and the 2nd National Bank buildings, both on Hudson Place, which maximize their proximity to the terminal. The First National Bank Building on the corner of Hudson and Newark streets, was actually rebuilt on the same site in 1910 in a more imposing style. Murchison also designed this building. Since he was building on solid ground, he was able to use marble extensively on the interior and exterior. The Renaissance Revival Hoboken Bank for Savings building, completed in 1891, was the work of the firm of N. LeBrun & Sons. By 1929, the bank moved from Newark and Washington streets further north on Washington St. to its present Classical Revival building (renamed the Washington Savings Bank in 1971). This bank has a beautiful polychromed ceiling above its banking floor.

The terminal area also features a very rare example of the Art Nouveau in the Terminal Office Building, approximately 1910. Outstanding by its height and bulk alone, its upper stories and copper cornice combine the flowing Art Noveau forms with Egyptian-inspired sun-symbol and sky-goddess motifs.

The desire for advancement is also reflected in the design of City Hall. The original 1881 structure, a French Second Empire design by Hoboken architect Francis George Himpler, was embellished in 1910 by a Classical-Revival portico. Other public buildings of design merit are the firehouses — each has its own style. Especially noteworthy is Engine Co. 2, an 1890 Romanesque - Revival design. Even F. G. Himpler became involved in designing a firehouse — the Assembly of Exempt Firemen at 211 - 213 Bloomfield St., with its exceptional thematic molded ceiling.

The waterfront has undergone the most dramatic changes since the early days of Hoboken. The River Walk, opened in the 1830s by Col. Stevens, was a romantic promenade beneath Castle Point, leading to the Elysian Fields park. By the late 1870s, the area was congested with shipping and railroad-related establishments. The River Street area between 1st to 4th streets, the location of another 1850s housing grouping called River and Franklin Terraces, also housed many pubs and hotels related to port activity. This area's obliteration in the 1960s reflects an outmoded way of dealing with urban revitalization.

(Patricia Florio has a Master's Degree in urban design and is historical preservation specialist with the Hoboken Historical District Commission.)



Historic house

One of the many mansions once occupied by the influential and wealthy residents of Hoboken is the former residence of Dr. Carl Hoening on Castle Point Terrace.

Hoboken's politics was a Democratic 'religion'

Continued from Page 2.

Stevens Alexander, one year out of law school, was elected for several terms from Hoboken to the state assembly and died while running for Congress.

But, the old order had come to an end. Robert Davis, of Jersey City, the county's Democratic overlord, died in January, 1911. His death opened a can of worms. New alliances were formed. Wittpen was defeated for governor in 1916. Jersey City had adopted commission government in 1913 and Frank Hague was one of the five new city commissioners. He soon reached out to control the county, and made Patrick R. Griffin, Hoboken's Democrat boss, his firm ally.

There had been a "reform movement" in Hoboken. It was led by W.L.E. Keuffel, head of Keuffel & Esser Co., the instrument makers, whose plant helped make Hoboken famous. He was joined by C.H.C. Jaegels, the wealthy coal dealer, Frank Cordts, the furniture merchant, former Mayor Gonzales, and had the backing of the Stevenses, the Alexanders, the Bessons. It was this group that put commission government over; but the high-principled leaders failed to run themselves. The result proved the old adage that it isn't the form of government, but who is chosen to run it, that makes the difference.

When Hoboken adopted city commission government in 1915, "Paddy" Griffin was chosen mayor, with Gustav Bach, James H. Londrigan, Harry L. Schmulling, and Bernard N. McFeely as his four colleagues. William H. Gilfert was named secretary to the mayor. John F. Fallon became corporation counsel.

Griffin was mayor from 1915 to 1924; he strengthened the Democratic organization, under the "reform" that was designed to usher in non-partisan municipal government. When he became incapacitated, he was succeeded by "Barney" McFeely.

Once entrenched in city hall, as both mayor and Democratic leader, McFeely gave full time to the dual roles and built, on a small scale, a political machine that was considered the equal, if not the superior of Hague's.

Of course, there was always opposition from the militant and indomitable William P. Verdon, the Republican leader. But Hoboken was an immigrant city, where voting Democratic became almost a "religion." Besides, all roads led to city hall, and if you wanted a favor, a job, or just to stay out of trouble, you had to go along with McFeely.

It was like this for a generation. McFeely became drunk with power and his old machine grew fat and tired. He began to push his followers too hard, especially the police. A cop named George Fitzpatrick rebelled. The mayor persecuted him; he fought back. The more McFeely persecuted Fitzpatrick, the more sympathy for him he created. Others began to revolt and soon a revolution was in the making. John Beronio, retired policeman, Tom Barry, son of a popular tavern owner and young lawyer Charles DeFazio Jr., formed United Citizens League and backed Civil Service for Hoboken's hard-pressed city employees. To McFeely's astonishment, the rebels won the referendum at the polls. This was the signal.

At the following municipal election a full Anti-McFeely-Fusion ticket was fielded. It included: manufacturer Fred M. DeSapio; Michael Borelli, a beverage distributor; Stephen Mongello, lawyer; John J. Grogan, CIO union

See Hoboken's—Page 15



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Hoboken's political history exciting

Continued from Page 14.

offical, and Fitzpatrick. Gov. Charles Edison contributed funds and John Longo and Vincent Ferro, still in U.S. Army uniform, two young anti-Hagueites from Jersey City, came to lend a hand. McFeely was delivered a stunning defeat. This 1947 victory was the harbinger of Hague's overthrow by John V. Kenny and his "Freedom" forces in Jersey City two years later.

The McFeely administration had been under heavy attack and when its successors assumed office, they asked the National Municipal League to make an independent survey. In its report, Thomas H. Reed, municipal consultant, paid high tribute to gentlemanly Arthur Malone, veteran city clerk, for his excellent cooperation. While a loyal organization man, Malone was an outstanding example of the career official who had made the Hoboken government "work" for 30 years.

Soon the new Fusion commissioners began to quarrel. DeSapio, Borelli and Mongello removed Fitzpatrick from his public safety "spot" and moved him to public works. Grogan sided with Fitzpatrick. He had received the highest vote in 1947 and was the natural leader of a new opposition.

In the next election, the Grogan five were: Grogan, himself, Edward Borrone, John Sheehy, Arthur Marotta and Stephen Mongello. DeSapio and two of his ticket and Grogan and one on his ticket were the victors. Constant fights at city commission meetings laid the groundwork for another charter change.

In May 1953, at a referendum, Hoboken adopted Plan D under Faulkner Act, providing for a "strong mayor and council" type of government. The ensuing election saw Grogan become mayor, with Louis DePascale (who died Oct. 17, 1980) as one of his councilmen-at-large. Now Grogan was Hoboken Democratic leader, recognized by Kenny, the new Hudson boss. Grogan died in 1968, while serving as county clerk, but retaining the leadership. He had put over DePascale as mayor in 1965, when he defeated Borrone in a runoff. James F. Quinn took Grogan's place in Hoboken's proverbial spot in county government — county clerk.

DePascale, while mayor, also became a freeholder. He served until 1973. With Johnny Kenny toppled, Hoboken was ripe for change and got it, when Police Sergeant Steve Cappiello decisively beat DePascale. He is now in his second term, which will end in May 1981.

1914 figure

According to census figures Hoboken had a population of 70,000 in 1914.

Baseball's real home plate

Monuments or markers are usually erected to commemorate notable occasions, but in the case of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., the location is all wrong.

Almost every historian agrees that the first game of organized baseball was played between the New York Nine and the Knickerbockers at Elysian Fields in Hoboken on June 19, 1846.

While baseball had been played in schoolhouse yards for decades before that, the famous Hoboken game officially made baseball a matter of rules and distances.

The two teams had chosen Elysian Fields because it had become established as one of the finest fields in the entire New York area for cricket and all types of sports games.

The Knickerbockers, who had organized the first game, laid the field out in diamond shape, setting distances between bases at 90 feet and giving each team three outs per inning.

The final score of that historic game was the New Yorkers 23, the Knickerbockers. 1.

A little plaque, on a grass plot on 11th Street near what is now called Elysian Fields, is now the only indication of Hoboken's role in the development of baseball.

Washington Bank is future-oriented

The hub of the Hoboken community. This phrase accurately describes the role of the Washington Savings Bank, Hoboken's oldest savings institution.

Founded in 1857, just two years after the Mile Square City, the bank has served the city's population for over four generations.

And serving the city was what the bank had in mind when it opened two new branches during the 1970s. The latest additions, one located at 609 Washington St. and the other at 1018 Washington St., carry on the tradition of the original landmark at 101 Washington St.

The future of Hoboken has also been paramount on the minds of bank officials.

In fact, the bank was the first in the city to accept local deposits and reinvest these funds as first mortgages for the purchase of property, according to James J. Pinto, the bank's president and chief executive officer.

Continuing this long range view of Hoboken's future Pinto comments that "we are committed to helping people save, plan for the future and reinvest funds for the betterment of our area."

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