

HOBOKEN HISTORY

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100 YEARS AGO THIS SPRING • 1895 FINANCE • FIRST PERSON
IT HAPPENED IN HOBOKEN • AND MORE...



Collection of George Kirchgessner

Hoboken commemorates its centennial with a gala parade in March of 1955. Story on page 3. (The view looking east from City Hall includes Fabian's Cinema—now a CVS.)

Issue No. 12 - 1995

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HOBOKEN HISTORY

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Letter from the President

Dear Hoboken History reader,

We are proud to offer you issue no. 12, which I know you will enjoy. This is the start of the fourth year that the museum has published Hoboken History. The magazine has greatly increased the profile of the museum, and credit goes to the two people who created it, Paul and Barbara Lippman. Both have contributed countless hours to the museum and to this publication. I was saddened to learn that Paul, having been in the hospital for over a month, died on April 3rd. We offer our condolences to Barbara. We will miss Paul greatly and dedicate this issue to his memory.

At the present, we have handed over the reins of the magazine to Caren Lissner and museum trustee McKevin Shaughnessy. We thank the many writers who have contributed to this issue. If you would like to submit material to the magazine, please call Leonard Luizzi, Sr. at (201) 420-1803, the museum at (201) 656-2240, or write to us at:

Hoboken History
c/o the Hoboken Historical Museum
P. O. Box 707
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Enjoy the read,
Robert Foster

Hoboken Historical Museum President

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A Week to Remember

It was cold, but thousands turned out for Hoboken's centennial celebration 40 years ago.

by Stephanie Krikorian

As anyone who has attended Hoboken's St. Patrick's Day parade or the Feast of St. Ann can tell you, Hobokenites know how to celebrate. So it makes sense that when the mile-square city reached its 100th birthday 40 years ago, in March of 1955, people from all around flocked to Washington Street to reflect on Hoboken's past and celebrate its present.

Hoboken's known history dates back much further than 1855. In the 1600's, Native Americans called the town "Hobocan Hackingh," meaning Land of the Tobacco Pipe. In 1711, Samuel Baynard purchased the land for \$2,500. It was later confiscated by the colonists and eventually sold in 1784 to Col. John Stevens for \$90,000.

In 1855, the 6,727 residents of Hoboken decided to incorporate. By 1955, the populace had grown to 50,000. It was those 50,000 who decided to commemorate the city's centennial with a weeklong celebration culminating with a parade through town.

Everybody loves a parade, even one, apparently, that happens during sub-zero temperatures. Chilling winds and a late start didn't stop residents and out-of-towners from enjoying the cold March day 40 years ago.

But it isn't the cold that 76-year-old lifelong Hoboken resident and town historian George Kirchgessner remembers most about the parade—it's the size of the crowd. "There were

wall-to-wall people, three or four deep," Kirchgessner recalls. Estimates on attendance that day range from 60,000 to 70,000.

Onlookers endured the brisk weather for three hours as military bands and dozens of floats marched by. There were 15,000 marchers in all, trailed by the parade's caboose—a six-foot birthday cake.

The parade was led by Mayor John Grogan, dressed in a high silk hat and cutaway coat. Joining the mayor were Gov. Robert B. Meyner and the parade's Grand Marshall, Col. Basil M. Stevens, the great-grandson of town founder Col. John Stevens.

Collection of George Kirchgessner



Governor Robert B. Meyner, Mayor John Grogan, and Grand Marshall, Col. Basil M. Stevens—March 27, 1955

"It meant a celebration," Kirchgessner says. "It meant history and people and looking at things of the past."

Past or present, generations of families still celebrate Hoboken every day. Kirchgessner says, "As old as it is, it still has that tradition. Anywhere you go, everybody has pride in their own hometown. We have it here."





LENAPE LIFE ON THE HUDSON

Native American customs in the 1600's

by Margaret O'Brien

The Lenape Indians of Hudson County, along with the European travelers who visited the area in the 1500's and 1600's, contributed much to present language and customs. Current place names and landmarks date back to the 16th century, but many changes in landscape and wildlife have occurred since that time.

In 1524, Giovanni De Verrazano, of Florence, Italy, in the service of the King of France, docked in New York Harbor, his ship loaded with grape vines for the "New World." De Verrazano taught the natives to cultivate the produce, and when explorer Henry Hudson's Half Moon reached the shore almost 100 years later, the Dutch were amazed to find "all manner of grapes and berries being carefully tended" by the natives.

Fruit was not the only game in town. In the thick woods of the as yet-unnamed Hudson County, bears, panthers, foxes, deer, beavers, rabbits and squirrels prospered. The pure waters accorded fine fish and oysters. The natives dried fruit and strips of meat and molded them together into cakes called Pemmican. Tribes in Wehauken ("The Land of the Maize") traded home-grown corn in pow-wows, where tales of tall ships were exchanged and verbal inventory was taken of objects worthwhile for trading.

The dutch ships of the 1600's introduced new expressions into the native vocabulary. *Reena Moholo*—a great boat or ship, *Keeko Gull Une*—How much will you pay for this? and eventually, *Husko Purso Tospahala*—very sick or near death (usually from smallpox) were several. Kegs of Dutch-brewed beer were offered for trade, and *Minnie Pishbee* (a small beer) became part of the trading ritual.

It is interesting to note that the earliest paths in the area were elk trails. Elk was common, and was trailed by nomadic braves as a food source. The brave could stalk silently on a narrow trail with his squaw following some distance behind, usually overburdened with trappings and utensils. In time, elk trails were widened to form the basis for our present streets and roads, as well as facilitating communication and trade through the area. Today, we follow yet the path of the wandering elk when we stroll along Washington Street!

Trade flourished among natives in different parts of the county. Tribes exchanged homegrown maize from Wehauken or trapped snakes from *Siskake* (Secaucus) to use for decorative, religious or medicinal purposes.

Sacred pipes that were used in burial and social rituals were constructed from red riverbank clay. The place where it was unearthed was called *Hopocken* (a pipe) *Hockung* (sacred, or God land). Conveniently, nearby, the Delaware were cultivating a plant that was very pleasant for smoking, which they called *Glanican*.

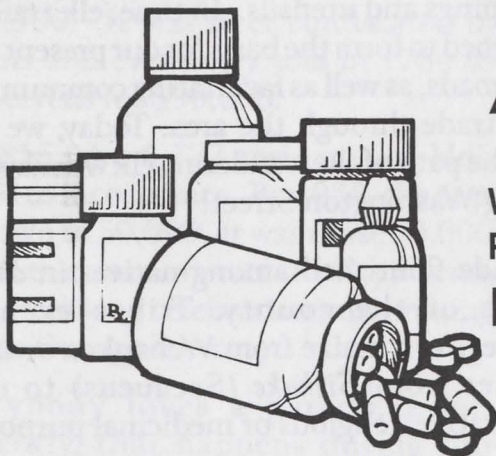
Music was played frequently by the Lenape, and wooden whistles and flutes often accompanied several types of drums. The tribe held dances of celebration and festivals periodically, seasonally and accordingly, mostly at harvest. The October full moon was called the traveling moon. The entire tribe moved to their winter lodge at *Communipaw* (where Communipaw Avenue is now) to wait out the winter away from the winds and city shoreline.

New Year's Eve was celebrated on the first of February. It was a week-long festival, with "singing and dancing and taking of women," according to one reference.

These customs converged, and the Hoboken peace pipe, along with wampum trading and *Minnie Pishbee* (a small beer), became an integral part of native history!

Some Lenape Place Names...

Hackensack	<i>Place of sharp ground</i>
Hoboken	<i>Tobacco pipe</i>
Lackawanna	<i>Sandy creek; sandy river</i>
Manasquan	<i>Place to gather grass</i>
Manhattan	<i>Place that is an island</i>
Passaic	<i>Valley</i>
Watchung	<i>Hilly place</i>
Wickatunk	<i>The finishing place</i>



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100 Years ago THIS SPRING

News from March, April, and May of 1895 as reported in the *Evening Journal* (currently the *Jersey Journal*)



There was a bit of politics, a bit of hard news, a bit of crime, and a whole lot of gossip. The Evening Journal of 1895 concentrated mainly on Jersey City, but allowed Hoboken stories to creep in now and then. The paper weaved its tales in an informal narrative style, making sure that even the most personal details got in. Here is what was going on in the mile-square city 100 years ago. All text (including headlines) is printed verbatim.

POLITICS

Thursday, March 28, 1895

HOBOKEN POLITICS.

Chairman Bewig of the Council to Run as an Independent.

A NON-PARTISAN TICKET.

Candidates for School Trustees Put on Both Tickets—The Democratic City Committee and the Ballot-box Stuffing Case—Good Republican Nominations.

Chairman August Bewig, of the Hoboken common council, is going to run for "city papal" in the first ward, notwithstanding the fact that he could not get the democratic nomination and failed to make the republicans believe that it was their duty to the city of Hoboken to invite him to grace the head of their ward ticket. Mr. Bewig is going to run independently by petition and expects to poll a large German vote. The big, fat councilman who objects exceedingly to retirement from public life, deals in hams and manufactures luscious bologna sausages, and hopes to get also what is known as the

"shinken vote," which means in English, ham support.

President Edw. Russ and Dr. Frank Nicholas of the school board are candidates for renomination in the second ward on both the democratic and republican tickets ...Both are excellent trustees, and the board could not do very well to lose them...

Monday, April 8, 1895

HOBOKEN POLITICS.

Crooked Work at the Democratic Primaries as Usual.

HE HAS THE OFFICERS.

Approaching Election Has Opened the Eyes of the Street Cleaning Contractor—The Republican City Committee Will Meet on Monday Night at Their New Headquarters.

Grave rumors have been floating around concerning certain alleged boodles which it is said was used by a turned down democrat in the first ward, who wanted to get the republican nomination there. It is known that an attempt was made by the democrat to cap-

ture the delegates of that ward, but he didn't succeed, for a straight ticket was put in the field. ...In the past, republicans have sold out in Hoboken, but in the first ward there was no funny business of that kind this year.

Wednesday, April 10, 1895

IN HOBOKEN.

The Democratic Candidates Were Elected by Reduced Majorities.

The entire democratic ticket was elected in Hoboken. Mayor Fagan has a majority of 1250, which is evidence that the people believed in the reforms which he inaugurated and carried out. Recorder McDonough has again secured the endorsement of the people. He is not a very good official, but he evidently suits the people of Hoboken...

OTHER NEWS

Thursday, April 25, 1895

BADLY FRIGHTENED.

Officials and School Children Were Very Anxious.

SMALLPOX NEAR THEM.

The Sufferer Was Four Hours in a Public Building—Mothers Scared— A School Closed and Children Warned Off—Contagion in the Streets

For three hours and a half this morning a man suffering with a very bad attack of smallpox was locked up in the lodgers' room at Hoboken police headquarters in the lower part of the city hall, awaiting transportation to the Snake Hill pesthouse. He was Bernard Gordon, without a home, who has sisters living at 227 Clinton Street in that City.

When it became known that a smallpox patient was being temporarily cared for in such a public place as a station house, the officials in the city hall, the police in general and people...naturally felt a good deal of anxiety and so did the mothers of 500 children who attend No. 1 annex school on the top floor of the city hall. There is no occasion, however, for them to worry inasmuch as the school was closed for an indefinite period...

About 6 o'clock this morning, while patrolling his post on Willow Avenue, Officer Conlin met Gordon and noticed that he was sick. The fellow said that he was suffering greatly and remarked that he had called at St. Mary's Hospital, but got there too early to be admitted...

Thursday, March 28, 1895

A GENEROUS OFFER.

**The Stevens Family Will
Contribute for the Free Library.**

GOOD FOR HOBOKEN.

**There is a Prospect of a Handsome
Building With Accommodations
for the Department of Industrial
Education in the City Beyond the
D., L. and W.**

At last night's meeting of the trustees of the Hoboken Free Public Library, a letter was received from Richard Stevens, containing joyful news to the effect that members of the Stevens family intended to make a fine gift to the city of \$26,000 towards the erection of a free public library... [Also,] the following letter was



Proposed rendering of the Library at Fifth Street & Park Avenue; architect, Albert Beyer (c. 1894-95). Courtesy of the Hoboken Public Library Historical Collection.

received from R. P. Francis, attorney in fact for F. E. Francis: "As to the offer made by me heretofore to sell to the city of Hoboken my plots of ground at the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Park Avenue...for the sum of \$12,000, exclusive of buildings, I desire to urge you to take immediate action..."

CRIME

Friday, March 22, 1895

DEN OF THEIVES.

**Capture of a Youthful Gang of
Burglars in Hoboken.**

THEY LIVED IN A SHANTY.

**Detectives Who Were Detailed
to Work Up the Robbery of a
Grocery Store Got on to the
Track of the Boys and Raided
Them Last Night at a Good
Time.**

The Hoboken police last night raided a gang of youthful burglars, who for a long time have had their headquarters in a den under the brow of the hill, between Second and Third streets, Hoboken. They captured a quintet of boys who are professional law breakers, well on the bright way to felons' cells.

Early yesterday morning Goldman's grocery store, at 313 Madison Street, was burglarized. The work was done in a bungling manner, but the robbers got there

just the same. A large stone was thrown through a show window and some one crawled through the opening and made off with hams, cans of condensed milk, canned salmon, boxes of cigars and cigarettes of the total value of \$25.

Patrolmen Leahy and McKenna were put to work on the case and in a short time got a tip that the guilty ones were hiding in a den at the foot of the hill...Five boys were "at home," smoking cigarettes and having a good sociable time when the police pounced down upon them. There was a high old scamper in an attempt to get out of the way, but the officers each caught a lad...

At police headquarters the young bandits described themselves as follows: Henry Ruggermann, aged 14, of 422 Grand Street; Robert Brady, aged 15, of 502 Grand Street; Frank Schnell, aged 15, of 312 Madison

Street; James Duff, aged 15, of 219 Grand St.; and Thomas Feeney, aged 14, of 405 Grand Street.

Thursday, April 18, 1895

A BURGLAR WITH A DOG.

Something New in the Line of Crib Cracking in Hoboken.

HIS STORY WAS TOO THIN.

The Court Thought This Was the Most Peculiar Burglar It Ever Had to Deal With, but the Peculiarity Would Not Save the Prisoner.

"You are the most peculiar burglar this court has had to deal with yet," said Judge Hudspeth in the court of special sessions this morning. "You had better get a patent on your system of burglary. I never yet heard of a burglar carrying with him a barking dog as an assistant in his business."

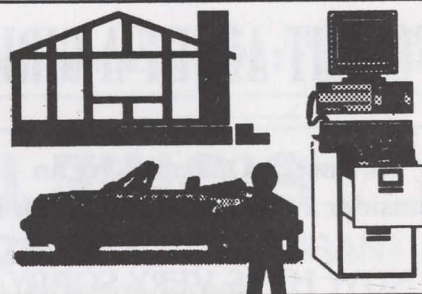
These remarks were addressed to Peter B. Donnelly, a tough looking citizen who had been indicted for attempted burglary, and whom the court found guilty.

The complaining witness in the case was Mrs. Anna May Prince, a pretty Hoboken woman...She testified that she lived at 343 Henderson Street, Hoboken. One night a few days ago she was awakened by hearing footsteps in her room, and looking saw the defendant...leaning over her. She had left the door of her apart-

ment open because her sister was out. When she screamed the defendant rushed through her sister's room and upstairs to the roof of the house. Policeman Dunn heard her screams, and when he came in she explained the case to him. While they were talking, a fox terrier pup came out of her sister's room...

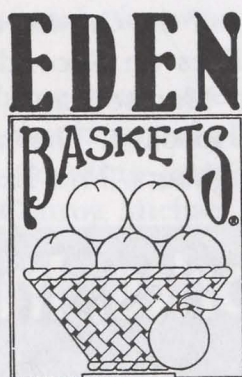
Donnelly was sent to the county jail, but the bow-wow was cared for at the Hoboken police

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headquarters. Donnelly told the court he was a brass moulder, and was on his way from Boston to Chicago. He said he had a friend at 363 Henderson Street, and had called there to see him. He had made a mistake in the room. The dog he got in Cambridge, Mass, and he supposed it had found its way into Mrs. Prince's sister's room. When arrested a number of tools and a razor were found on Donnelly. The story failed to convince the court that Donnelly was not a professional burglar.

PEOPLE

Wednesday, March 20, 1895

FOUGHT ABOUT A GIRL.

A Lover's Quarrel Gave an Outsider a Chance and He Took It.

NOW HE IS VERY SORRY.

The Old, Old Story Was Told Again After the Victor Was Behind the Bars, and the Cause of the War Appeared as a Good Angel With Money to Pay the Fine.
Cornelius Terwig, a Bayonne

man, was thrashed in Hoboken yesterday afternoon by Frank Tuenessen, a fireman, for paying too much attention to the latter's ex-girl. An arrest quickly followed in the course of events, and resulted in a reconciliation between Tuenessen and the young woman, and a general good time all around.

Tuenessen is a Hollander and is only 23 years old. He lives at 43 Third Street, Hoboken. While in the old country he fell in love with a remarkably pretty brunette, with beautiful hair and the loveliest kind of eyes. He came to this country, and according to the police, was so anxious to have his fair sweetheart join him that he paid her passage to America.

She came, and for a time everything was serene and lovely, until Tuenessen "shook" the girl, or she "shook" him. He claims not to have been particularly worried over this condition of affairs, but he is of a jealous disposition, and really didn't know how he felt until he found his girl and the Bayonne man together in a saloon at the corner of Fifth and Garden streets, drinking beer late yesterday afternoon.

Tuenessen invited Terwig out in the back yard, and when he got Terwig there, proceeded to do him up in the most approved style. Terwig's cries for help brought assistance, and both men were taken to police headquarters by Patrolman Foley... The prisoner was fined \$5 for his fun, but as he possessed only \$3 he was unable to secure his liberty just then. An hour and a half later there called on the prisoner the pretty girl...

Thursday, April 25, 1895

CALLED HER "FANNIE"

And Did Other Things That Mrs. Kettler Doesn't Like

Mrs. Fannie Kettler asked Recorder McDonough in Hoboken this morning to issue a warrant for the arrest of a member of the Crawford family, which lives on Second Street, between Madison and Monroe streets, Hoboken. They are next-door neighbors. Mrs. Kettler was

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indignant at the man because he called her "Fannie." The court said that the offense was not sufficiently serious to warrant an arrest.

Mrs. Kettler told a "Journal" reporter that the Crawfords have their yard fenced in with sticks and wires. They keep half a dozen fox terriers. Every time that a cat makes its appearance on the fence, so says the woman, the Crawfords knock it over into the yard, and set the dogs on it. Mrs. Kettler and her neighbors had some fun yesterday over an opening in the woman's fence so that her chickens could go through. As fast as Mrs. Kettler plugged up the aperture, the other reopened it.

Friday, April 12, 1895

A FATAL CARD PARTY.

One of the Players Fell Down Stairs and Was Killed.

Martin Ambrose, a longshoreman, was found dead this morning at the foot of the stairs in a hallway at 107 Fifth Street, Hoboken. Bernard McDevitt, a saloonkeeper at that number from whom Ambrose hired a furnished room, called at police headquarters about 6 o'clock, and reported all the facts he knew pertaining to the man's death.

Ambrose spent several hours in the saloon last night, drinking and playing cards with a party of men, including Joseph Grady, Patrick Rafferty, John Conroy, Michael Burns and Robert Doran.

Ambrose left the crowd and started to go upstairs to retire, about 3 o'clock. Soon afterward, the longshoreman was heard to fall downstairs. ...Believing that the man was simply drunk and not hurt, the card players did not attempt to do anything for him, and went home...

Coroner Volk...told a "Journal" reporter that so far as he could learn, Ambrose either broke his neck or sustained a fractured skull.

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1895 FINANCE

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(as reported in comptroller's report, May, 1894 - May, 1895)

Title	Salary	Individual
Assessor	\$2500	James E. Dollard
Collector of Revenue	\$2500	Richard Bowes
District Court Judge	\$2500	E. T. Paxton
Comptroller	\$2000	Frederick Kaufmann
Corporation Attorney	\$2000	James F. Minturn
Mayor	\$2000	Lawrence Fagan
Treasurer	\$2000	James Smith
City Physician	\$1800	C. Irving Simon
City Clerk	\$1500	M. V. McDermott
Assistants	\$1400	Philip Kirschner
	\$1200	Robert V. Curry
Sluice gate keeper	\$1260	James O'Boyle
		C. J. Kelly
District Court Clerk	\$1250	Henry Rathjen, Jr.
Bath keeper	\$1200	Andrew Bohnert
City prison keeper	\$1200	Charles Germann
Councilmen	\$1200	August Bewig
		Anthony Capelli
		William Fenton
		Edward Offermann
		Harry Snyder
		Albert Sturken
		J. Henry Timken
		Joseph S. Weinthal
Street Commissioner	\$1200	B. Bayer
Overseer of Poor	\$1000	Andrew Miller
Engineer	\$ 900	Charles Georgeott
		Michael Kiely
Police substation janitor	\$ 900	George H. Diersing
		James Kenny
Van driver	\$ 720	Frank Daly
		Thomas Goode, Sr.
		John J. Malley
Park keeper	\$ 700	John Sullivan
		Charles Coyne
Gardener	\$ 650	Joseph Mevius

1895 FINANCE

Selected services or reimbursements paid out of city treasury
May 1894 - May 1895

To:	For:	Sum:
Germann, Charles	<i>Taking care of lost children</i>	\$48.00
Wood, Walter T.	<i>Impounding and destroying dogs</i>	\$38.50
Carmen, R. W.	<i>Insect powder for City Hall</i>	\$25.00
Germann, Charles	<i>105 meals furnished prisoners</i>	\$15.75
Becht, Frank	<i>Winding tower clock</i>	\$10.00
Ritter, J.	<i>Winding clocks at City Hall</i>	\$10.00
Tallon, William	<i>Shoeing ambulance horse</i>	\$10.00
Tallon, William	<i>Shoeing horses</i>	\$10.00
Fiala, Franz	<i>Repairing lawn mower</i>	\$ 5.50
Sinclair, G. M.	<i>Repairing lamp in front of police station</i>	\$ 5.41
Casper, Jacob	<i>Glazing at public bath</i>	\$ 5.35
Kenna, J. E.	<i>Changing combination for recorder's safe</i>	\$ 4.00
Miller, Mrs.	<i>Washing blankets</i>	\$ 2.50
Billington, George	<i>Water cooler for police substation</i>	\$ 1.99
Herrick, George	<i>Conveying drunken man to police station</i>	\$ 1.00

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Stephen Foster

America's troubadour and Hoboken resident

by Leonard A. Luizzi

Stephen Collins Foster (1826-1864), one of America's greatest songwriters, lived in Hoboken from 1853 to 1854. The author of "Camptown Races" and "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair" lived at 233 Bloomfield St., which is now 601 Bloomfield St. (in 1890 all numbers were changed).

When Foster moved to 601 Bloomfield, it was a one-family house, but it was later expanded into a three-family dwelling. According to the New Jersey Historical Society, the building is the only house standing today in which Foster is known to have lived.

In 1954, local businessmen planned a celebration to honor Foster. A local newspaper dated Feb. 13, 1954 advertised: "A committee of the Hoboken Chamber of Commerce will meet Monday at Meyer's Hotel to further plan for the 100th anniversary of Stephen Foster's residence in Hoboken."

The men planned a week-long festival that would end on June 15, the 100th anniversary of publication of the song "I Dream of Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair."

Many events were planned. One of them, a barbershop quartet competition, was held in Church Square Park on June 2. First place went to a quartet from the Franklin Baker Division of General



Organizers gather to discuss last-minute details for the Foster Music Festival held on the back lawn at Stevens Castle, June 5th, 1954. A crowd of 1000 turned out to hear a musical tribute by local groups including the Hoboken Police & Fire Glee Club, pupils of the Brandt Public School, as well as tenor Frank Luther and soprano Rose Bampton. Decorations were provided by United Decorating of Hoboken.

The Castle was removed in 1959. The site is now occupied by the students center.

Foods, which called itself the "Coconotes." The group, comprised of Frank DeCorcia, Thomas Domineck, John Coppinger, and Paul Licota, edged out some tough competition: a quartet including Mayor John J. Grogan, Public Safety Director Arthur Marotta, Deputy Director Jim Bailey, and Business Administrator Daniel Carmody.

The committee wanted to ensure that 601 Bloomfield would always be remembered as Foster's former Hoboken home, so they decided to place a plaque on the building and invite a Foster descendent to the unveiling.

The famous composer's granddaughter, Mrs. Jessie Welsh Rose of Pittsburgh, came to Hoboken with her daughter, Mrs. Ralph Melady, and Foster biographer John Tasker Howard, who also served as secretary of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

A crowd of about 1,000 people watched as Mrs. Rose unveiled the plaque to honor her grandfather.

After the unveiling, the crowd moved to Castle Stevens for a Foster Music Festival. Foster songs were performed by participants including the 40-member Hoboken Police and Fire Glee Club, children from the Brandt Public School, and tenor Frank Luther and soprano Rose Bampton, both of whom were from New York City. Mayor Grogan, Mrs. Rose and Mr. Howard then spoke about Hoboken's famous son, and to the delight of the youngsters, soft drinks were served.

It is believed that Hoboken provided the inspiration for "I Dream of Jeanie" in much the same way that Florida did for Foster's "Swanee River" and Kentucky for his "My Old Kentucky Home." While living at 601 Bloomfield, Foster's wife Jane and daughter Marion came to live with him, and then they all moved from Hoboken to New York City.

Stephen Collins Foster is another proud son of the little mile-square city that we all love and are proud to call home.



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FIRST PERSON

Seniors talk about their childhoods in Hoboken

On a Wednesday in March, two senior citizens who are lifelong Hoboken residents—Catherine Raffo, 81, and Helen Kurrle, 82 —talked about what they did for fun in the city when they were young. They were later joined by fellow seniors Barbara Creange and Ruth Maisch. Here are their replies. (All replies except those in quotes are paraphrased).

Where were you born?

Catherine: 319 Grand Street. I still live there.

Helen: 1217 Willow Street. I later moved to 10th & Willow.

How has your house changed?

Catherine: My father converted a bedroom to a bathroom in the 1920's with a sunken tub and shower. Before that, people bathed in the sink and used a sponge to wash themselves.

What was the earliest phone number you remember?

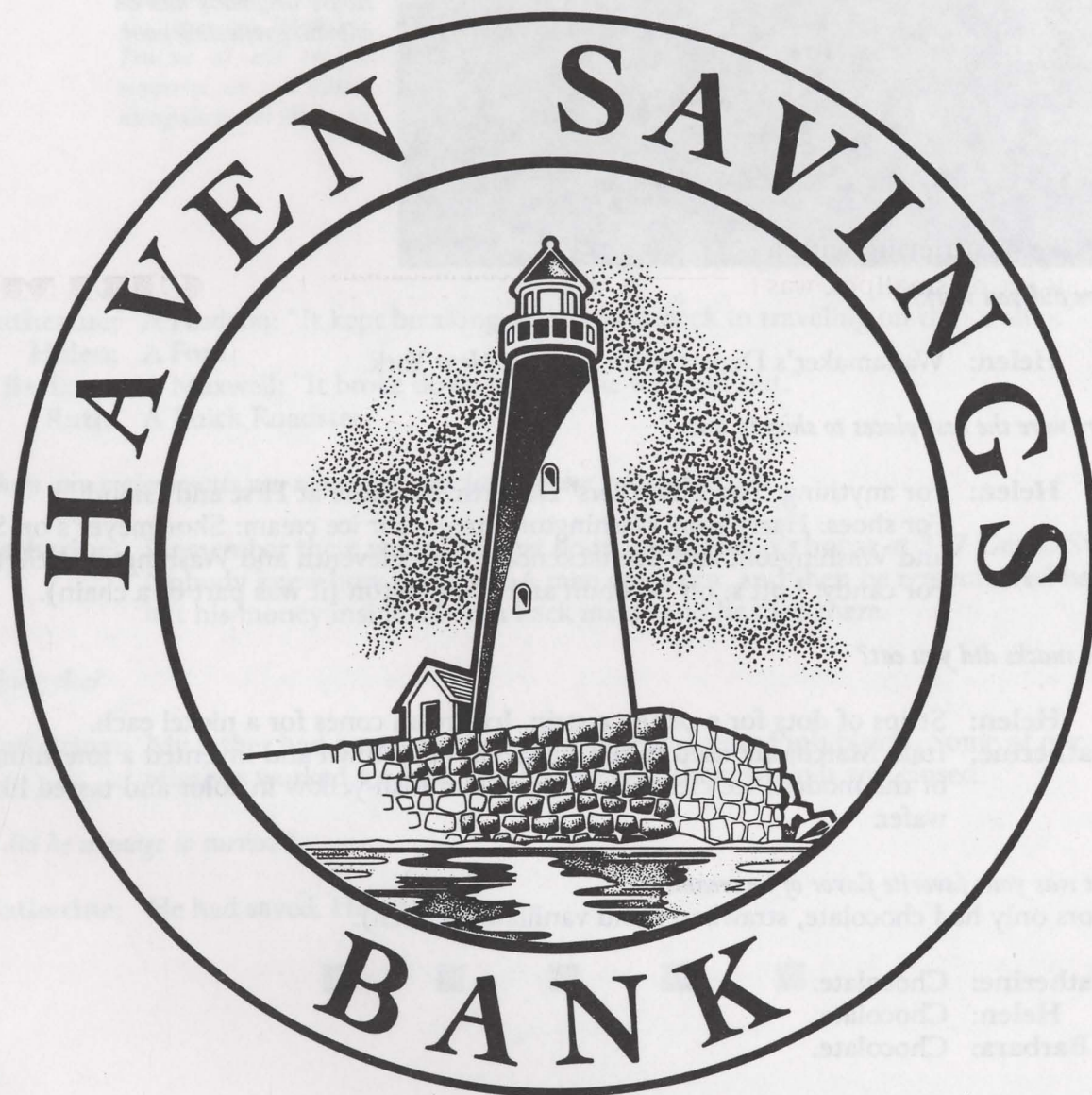
Catherine: 10487, in the 1940's

What did children do for fun when you were young?

Helen: We played hopscotch, jumped rope, and rollerskated. We could ice skate at Columbus Park if the flag was flying to signal that the ice was hard enough. There was a small in-ground pool there that was removed when the park was renovated. We'd put our clothes on the bench. It was very safe.

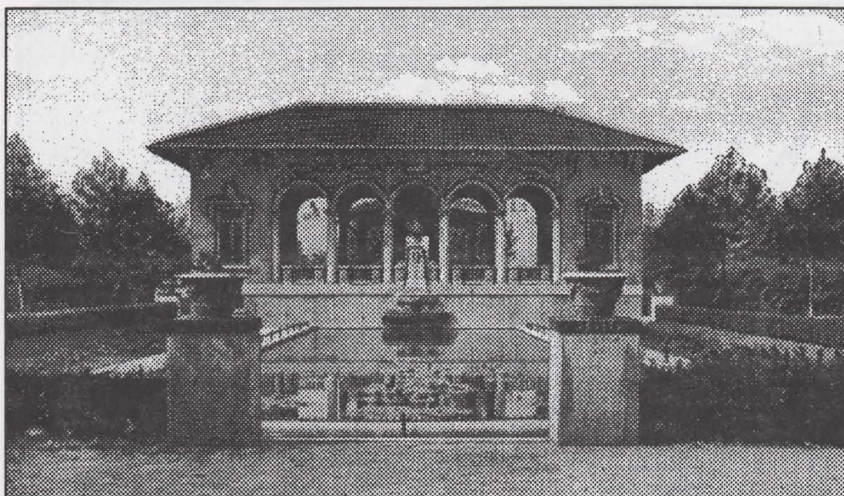
Where did you go to school?

Helen: No. 6 school (now Wallace Primary) until 6th grade, Brandt Middle School for 7th and 8th grade. After that, Branagan's business school at Seventh and Washington. Girls went there to learn stenography, typing and shorthand.



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Postcard depicting an historic view of Hudson County Park (Columbus Park) located between Ninth and Tenth Streets in Hoboken. The Shelter House originally had an adjoining reflecting pool.

Where did you work?

Helen: Wanamaker's Department Store in New York.

Where were the best places to shop in town?

Helen: For anything: Three Brothers' Department Store at First and Grand.
For shoes: Harry's on Washington Street. For ice cream: Shortmeyer's on Seventh and Washington, and Schnackenberg's on Eleventh and Washington (still there).
For candy: Loft's, on Second and Washington (it was part of a chain).

What snacks did you eat?

Helen: Strips of dots for a penny a strip. Ice cream cones for a nickel each.
Catherine: Italo Marchiony used to sell ice cream downtown and invented a forerunner of the modern ice cream cone. It was whitish-yellow in color and tasted like a wafer.

What was your favorite flavor of ice cream?
(Parlors only had chocolate, strawberry and vanilla back then).

Catherine: Chocolate.

Helen: Chocolate.

Barbara: Chocolate.

Which politicians do you remember from your youth?

Catherine: Mayor Barney McFeeley: "He was law and order like Frank Hague [in Jersey City]. If there was snow on the ground, he would make his workers clean it right away." Also, John Grogan in the 1960's: "He was a good mayor;" and Thomas Vezzetti in the 1980's: "He was too honest."

What kind of transportation did you use?

Helen: Trolley cars (they cost a nickel or a dime); taxis. The trolley cars to Journal Square used to go up the mountain on a trestle. Going back downhill was scary.

What was your family's first car?

A postcard view of the elevated road trestle between Jersey City and Hoboken.

The "L" trolley shuttled passengers down to the Lackawanna train station via Observer Highway. Traces of the trestle supports are still visible along Observer Highway.



Collection of George Kirchgesner

Catherine: A Hudson: "It kept breaking, so we went back to traveling on the trolley."

Helen: A Ford.

Barbara: A Maxwell: "It broke down every time we went out."

Ruth: A Buick Roadster.

Are there any major events you remember experiencing here years ago?

Catherine: I remember there was a fire next door, at my friend's house at 317 Grand Street. Nobody knew how it started. A man came out, and then he remembered he had left his money inside. He ran back inside and he died there.

Anything else?

Catherine: My father had a tavern. He had to close it during Prohibition. Some of our relatives worked for him, and he still paid them while it was closed.

How did he manage to survive?

Catherine: He had saved. He was thrifty.



*Do you have memories of old Hoboken?
Write in and tell us all
about them!*

Hoboken History
c/o Hoboken Historical Museum
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Hoboken, NJ 07030

AMATO'S COFFEE CORNER

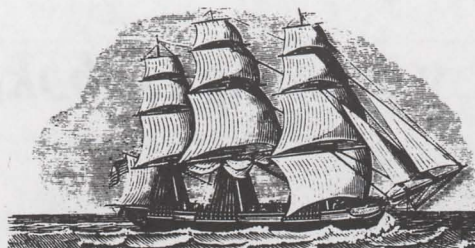
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IT HAPPENED IN HOBOKEN

EVENT	YEAR	PART OF TOWN	Issue of <i>Hoboken History</i> where you can learn more
First brewery in America built	1642	southern end, (now in Jersey City)	
Body of young Marie Cecilia Rogers found floating in Hudson River near Sybil's Cave. Edgar Allen Poe later uses incident as basis for <i>The Mystery of Marie Roget</i> , a sequel to <i>The Murders in Rue Morgue</i> .	1842	Sybil's Cave	No. 3, Spring 1992, p. 18
First organized game of baseball played	1846	12th and Washington	No. 1, Fall 1991, p. 14
Stephen Foster writes "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair"	1854	601 Bloomfield St.	No. 8, Fall 1993, p. 18, and current issue
First sale of packaged chewing gum by local inventor Thomas Adams	1871	A downtown drugstore	No. 2, Winter 1992, p. 9
Ground broken for engineer Gustav Lindenthal's 3100-foot bridge for Pennsylvania Railroad to link 12th Street in Hoboken to 23rd Street in Manhattan for Pennsylvania Railroad. (idea was abandoned because railroad company decided to build tunnels from Weehawken to Penn Station area instead)	1895	12th and Garden	No. 4, Summer 1992, p. 12
Ice cream cone patented by Italo Marchiony, who sold ice cream from carts in Hoboken and on Wall St.	1903	219 Grand Street. (site of his company, I. Marchiony Inc., and plant)	No. 2, Winter 1992, p. 3
Birth of Frank Sinatra	1915	415 Monroe Street.	Upcoming
Birth of G. Gordon Liddy (moved to West Caldwell in 1941)	1930	German section	
"On the Waterfront" filmed	1954	River Street, Elysian Park, Church Square Park, other locations	



A LETTER TO THE MUSEUM

—WALTER MIKE LEICKEN, JR., RETIRED U.S. MERCHANT MARINE—

I was a career man in the U.S. Merchant Marine retiring as second mate (deep sea) 45 years. Served in U.S. Navy, WWII—Korea & Vietnam. I've had a long love affair with Hoboken since 1927-1972 after 45 years at sea. My first visits to Hoboken were to deliver samples of metal —solder—lead—tin to a chemist works "C. L. Constance." I believe they were on Grand Street. I could be mistaken.

When I arrived in Hoboken via the H & M tubes at Lackawanna Ferry, I discovered the world of shipping along River Street. Years later, when I began going to sea, River Street was called River Strasse and Hoboken was known as Little Hamburg. I sailed in and out of Hoboken for approximately 12 years, also was Rigger 1st class at the Bethlehem Shipyard at 14th Street in 1947. My wife (deceased) and I lived in the Grand Hotel and also for two years on Garden Street and 10th.

My last ship, "S/S Exchester," American Export Lines, was November 1965 when I began sailing out of the Gulf and Pacific North West retiring in November 1974.

Seafarers in the old Dollar Line whose docks were in Jersey City had a quote, "You have not been around the world until you have been in Hoboken!" unquote.

Please be so kind as to put me on your mailing list and let me know of the following information available: books, maps, photographs, postcards. I have a pass card of the old Grand Hotel which reminds me of an old retired waiter named "Richard." He was still alive in 1946-48, (about 85-90 years old). He had been at the Grand so long he was part of the building.

Enclosed is postage to cover anything that is available, or furniture. Wishing you and the staff all the success in your enterprise. I am also writing to the curator of the Kings Point Maritime Museum, Mr. Frank O. Braynard to inquire if he is aware of your museum. Perhaps he can give it a plug or two.

Good health to all,
Walter Mike Leicken, Jr.

P.S.

Still recall the old C & B—Clam Broth House—with its clam broth, corned beef sandwiches, steamer clams, etc. Some things one never forgets.

P.P.S.

Curator Braynard has one of the S/S Leviathan name boards in his Leviathan Room at home on Long Island.

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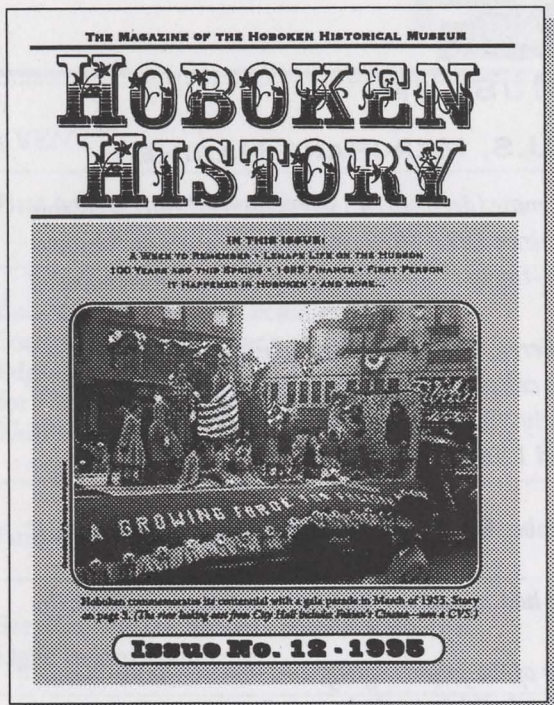
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We also invite you share your own memories of Hoboken history with us. If you have some stories to tell or wish to submit an article for the magazine, please call Lenny Luizzi, Sr., vice president and chairperson of *Hoboken History*, at (201) 420-1803.

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UPCOMING ANNUAL MUSEUM EXHIBITION

The Hoboken Historical Museum presents...

Friday, May 19, 1995

Opening Reception—7:30pm

- *Sinatra-bilia*
- *Special film screening*
- *Tribute by David Tee Theresa*
- *Companion Art Show*
- *Light refreshments*

Hoboken City Hall

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FRANK SINATRA FAME

A Hometown Celebration

The Voice, Ol' Blue Eyes, Chairman of the Board...

Whatever name you knew him by, Frank Sinatra is, without a doubt, Hoboken's most famous son. And whether you swooned with the rest of the bobby-soxers to "Frankie" in the 40's, mooned over a lost love to his music of the 50's, or grooved to his finger-snappin' sounds of the 60's, you won't want to miss the upcoming exhibition of Sinatra-bilia.

Presented by the Hoboken Historical Museum, **FRANK SINATRA FAME, a Hometown Celebration** focuses on the place where "Frankie" dreamt all about it. Among the many items are some early photos of Frank with friends, with fans, and with family. Accompanying the exhibit will be a lively evening featuring the screening of a Frank Sinatra documentary, a musical tribute by Hoboken's own David "Tee" Theresa in the "Sapphire Lounge," (a.k.a. city council chambers) and a companion art exhibition featuring the works of fifteen hometown artists showcasing Sinatra-related paintings, sculptures, and photographs.

So, make a note and mark your calendars for Friday evening, May 19th. Plan to attend the opening reception at Hoboken City Hall, located at 94 Washington Street (between Newark and First Street) in Hoboken. Festivities will begin at 7:30 pm. Light refreshments will be available. For further information, contact the museum at (201) 656-2240.

COMPANION ART SHOW:

Laura Alexander, Joseph Borzotta, Lou Carbone, Trish Classé, Paul Divone, Robert Foster, Frank Hanavan, Jim Hans, Jim Kendall, Lisa Palombo, Jennifer Place, Kurt Ritta, Roslyn Rose, McKevin Shaughnessy, and Ed Tadiello

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