



The MUSIC that TODAY Makes

WORDS . . . winged words . . . seeking and capturing the pulsating tempo that is Today. Telephones are jangling insistently. Type-setting machines rumble rhythmically. A few new bars in life's symphony are crystalizing. And always the hands of the clock advance; behind them, skilled fingers and tireless machinery move endlessly to keep pace with time . . . Done! The pattern is complete. And now the petty clamor is silenced by a fuller note. It is the rich diapason of the printing machines, the Song of Today and of Tomorrow, the clarion call of the press.

The RECORDER is on the street. And so another brief measure in time's endless symphony is played; already tomorrow's happenings are finding birth beneath the maestro's fingers . . . to paint with a brush of Truth the million pictures of the things that happen, in your own town, into an interesting panorama, accurate and unbiased . . . to bring this, *the news of the day*, unfailingly to your fireside . . . that is our self-appointed task.

The following have made this Historical Section of the RECORDER possible:

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The 'Old' Town as I Knew it Fifty to Sixty Years Ago

Recorder 'Tyro' Lauds Burgess in Early Days for Activity in Public Welfare.—Leaves 'Take' to Aid at Fire.—Better Printer Than Fireman, Gets Drenching.—Tramp Printer Steals Editor's Coat.—Founder of Recorder Appointed Postmaster, Resigns, Returns to Printing

By W. K. SOWERS
Cambridge, Mass.—On a recent visit to Conshohocken I called on the editor of this paper and he de- sired me to contribute an occasional letter on reminiscences of the old town as I knew it between fifty and sixty years ago.
I will start these narratives by beginning on Billy Summers, who kept a grocery store in Conshohocken for years. Billy and I were quite friendly, and, like my- self, was of an historical turn of mind. Years ago I contributed several articles on the history of Conshohocken and the old man was delighted to read them. He was a member of the Montgomery County Historical Society and a man well versed in local history. He wanted to propose my name for membership in the society, but inasmuch as I was a resident of Massachusetts, I declined the offer.
In 1876, Mr. Summers, after serv- ing several terms in the town coun- cil and the school committee, was elected Burgess of the town. And say, neighbor, Billy was on the job every minute. I'll tell the world.
Now, friends, listen to this: Henry Stemple, then a police officer of the town, while doing patrol duty, saw a half clad man walking down Fayette street with his shoes in his hands, and in his bare feet. It was a bitter, cold day in Decem- ber. Henry picked up the poor fellow, crowded collected. Billy Summers saw the excitement and joined the crowd. The prisoner was taken before Squier Allen, a western ad- vocate, then a judge, Illinois. Billy who settled in Conshohocken. His bold men and glib tongue got him into politics and he was elected justice of the peace. Mr. Summers, as Burgess of the town and chief magistrate, asked me to be de- stroyed by God. Of course, you know, everybody laughed. They called in a physician and the poor fellow was pronounced insane and sent to the bug-house.
Billy Summers was one of the originators of the Conshohocken volunteer fire department after the installation of the water system into the borough. I don't say that Billy Summers was the first fire- man. My friends, I am not. Henry Stemple, I don't recall his name at this moment, felt alighted in a previous letter that I wrote to the RECORDER on local history. Heaven knows, I was the first offend- ed body in my home town. All right, enough about that.
In November, 1876, while setting type in the RECORDER office, I saw Mr. Summers running up Pay- fette street on a horse. He was in engine house, then located on West Hector street. I dropped my compos- ing stick, grabbed my hat and coat and legged it after him. I reached the engine house almost as fast as he did. It seems a boy had discovered a slight fire on East Hector street and promptly notified the Burgess of his discovery. Now, listen, the fire laddies of Conshohocken had a pet dog, whom everybody loved. He was only mongrel, but a loyal, faithful friend to everybody. Well, Mr. Summers and I dragged out the hose-car- riage and started on our journey toward the fire. The firemen, "every- thing was done by hand. "Jack," the mascot, got terribly ex- cited when there was a fire. He grabbed the end of the rope in his teeth and away he went. The fire- men in the meantime, other help- ers came to our assistance. Mr. Wright, the hardware man; Oscar Knecht, the musician; A. D. Saylor, the grocer; Crankshaw, the blacksmith; and many others. A slight one, caused by a defective chimney. However, we unlimbered the hose, and Mr. Summers at- tached the couplings to the fire plug while I held the nozzle. Ye gods, the force of the water knock- ed the kicking and drenched me to the skin. I looked like a drowned rat. "Skinner" Hart said to me: "Billy, you're a hell of a fireman. Why didn't you hold on to the hose?"
Mr. Summers lived to a ripe old age, and passed to his reward some twenty odd years ago, full of years and honors. Peace to his ashes.
Later years when Charley Jones sold out his business to Heywood and Davis he was appointed Post- master of Conshohocken, under the administration of the Burgess. I remember this want very clearly. In 1872, Jones held down this job for a few years and for some private reasons resigned his government position. C. D. Brooke became his successor. Mr. Brooke married the daughter of Wm. T. Bates, the boiler-maker.
Jones went back to his trade as a printer and was employed by Hallman and Whitney on the RECORDER. The print shop at that time was in Rube Stemple's build- ing on Fayette street. There was a small room set apart which was used as a business and editorial room. Hallman and Jones were using their coats there. Well, one day, in the temporary absence of Mr. Hallman, a tramp printer, en- tered the place, and not finding anybody around saw the two gar- ments hanging on the clothes rack, and in a flash took his own rag off and slipped on Jones coat, which fitted him like a glove and took the other garment over his arm and vanished. Well, noon time

"OLD FOGIES" By H. F. Lewis—Eastern Manager, Direct Mail Division The Reuben H. Donnelley Corporation

Standing at the half way mark between puppyhood and old age and looking both ways we find in ourselves a growing appreciation of the old fogie and a considerable doubt As to the wisdom of entrusting our business properties and our political future to the unbridled enthusiasm of the young bloods who, full of prunes and high purpose, have yet to learn that taking the world apart to see what makes it tick is one thing and that putting it together again and making it tick is something else. As between the two evils of reaction and pre-ignition give us reaction. If we must choose between young Tugwell and Joe Grundy give us Grundy. If there is no middle ground between deflation and the risk of unbridled inflation give us deflation. As a choice between lots of wampum dollars and fewed anchored dollars give us the latter. As between the Cancer of Communism and the Anaemia of Toryism give us Toryism. As between the Brain Trust and the G. O. P. God give us patience.

County S.P.C.A. Does Work of Mercy in Varied Ways

The headquarters of the Mont- gomery County Society for the Pre- vention of Cruelty to Animals is located on a short distance below Butler pike, Harman- ville, a mile from Conshohocken. Here, the work of mercy toward dumb animals is carried busily on. Not only are the animals rescued, but the suffering of the animals, the homeless and suffering animals, but it carries on constant and thorough investigation of the treatment and condition of farm animals, rabbits and other small animals, and does its part in the general work of animal-aid societies, toward effecting a kinder treatment for animals.
Mrs. Edward C. Fish, of "Elan- wold," Spring Mill, executive chair- man of the Montgomery County S. P. C. A. in addition is promoting the establishment of Bands of Mercy in public schools throughout the county, in an effort to create a love of animals and a kinder at- titude toward them, among school boys and girls.
Fred P. Hankin, county agent, directs the work at the Harmanville headquarters, and carries out the work of the organization directed by Mrs. Fish in all parts of the county. In one year, reports reveal, the Montgomery County S. P. C. A. rescued two thousand and forty cats and dogs, and investigated one hundred and ninety-five farm animal cases.
Mrs. Fish issues an appeal at this time to all motorists to join in an effort to avoid injury to animals by motor, and reminds the motorists of the severe penalty which may be placed upon any motorist who kills or maims an animal, knowingly, or who fails to stop and render as- sistance. She supplies this informa- tion.
An important recent decision in a case in point was that of Judge Porter in Com. V. Zeidler, 79 Pa. Superior Court 81 who said:
"The game was a 'sissie' game. Membership began to increase until the present season there are fifty members enjoying the recreational and highly enjoyable game of tennis on the four courts at the ath- letic field.
Tournaments were started in 1929, Ernie Grauel capturing the men's singles that year. Since then with the exception of last year, the championship tournament has been held annually. The local courts, always with a new cham- pion being crowned. This year the tournament started August 15th, and already several matches have been played. It is expected that the club will be the club champion of 1934. But the interest is there. More so than ever. And judging by past experience, tennis is in Conshohocken to stay and to ex- pand."
Wm. Jeannes Library
The William Jeannes Memorial Library was opened April 25, 1933, in a section of "The Homestead," the home of William Ambler, Ger- mantown pike, east of Butler pike. The library is operated by the Plymouth Meeting Society of Friends, made possible through a bequest in 1925 of seven-fifty thousand dollars from the late

Jelo Bowling Teams Won Many Titles

Early Teams Organized in Borough Won Titles in County and Drug Leagues.—Local Players Participated in National Games.
With the excellent teams of foot- ball, basketball and baseball at- tracting the attention of the vastly greater number of the sports loving public of the community during the late '90's and the early years of the present century, few realize that during those same years the borough had a bowling team that was sweeping through all opposi- tion, coping titles in leagues in Montgomery and Philadelphia counties and even having local players on teams that won national championships consistently. When these facts are considered it can be seen that bowling is one of the older sports here.
The team that continued to bring honors to the town without glamour and acclaim was the team that represented the J. Ellwood Lee Sur- gical Company and headed by J. Ellwood Lee, founder and president of the company. The team was known as the "Jelo" Bowling team. Mr. Lee was not only the sponsor for the team, he was a de- votee of the sport and a regular player for years. He collected a group of his employees about him and every one of them became a high-scoring player. The first team and the one that played together for many years, in addition to Mr. Lee, comprised Charles E. Herron, Maurice O'B. Hollowell, Sam- uel Wright, Charles Wells, Addison A. Lindsay, James Nyce and Millard F. Paulus.
There were no public alleys in the borough at that time. There were a few in Norristown and in Philadelphia. In order that his team could procure the necessary practice and be able to compete with other teams in this county and Philadelphia, Mr. Lee fitted up a recreation hall with a regulation alley in the stable in the rear of "Leeland," his beautiful home at Eighth avenue and Fayette street. The satisfac- tion he received from the titles won was the only reward he desired.
For a season or two the "Jelo" team played independent games and became so proficient in top- pling over the maple pins they decided they could make a credit- able showing in the local competi- tion and before the opening of the 1901-02 season they became affili- ated with the Montgomery Bowling League, comprising Ernsie, Temple Elmer and Jelo teams.
All the teams in the circuit, with the exception of the locals, were from Norristown. In the first season the local team showed real competition and while they failed to win, they made an excel- lent showing. Encouraged by their record of the first year, the "Jelo" team started at the beginning of the second season to flash cham- pionship form and when the first team had been played they had won eight games and lost four to share the league leadership with Ernsie. In the play-off to decide the winners of the title the local team came through victorious. From then on they always finished far up in the standing in whatever leagues they played.
The Jelo team also became a member of the Philadelphia Drug League, an eight club organization.

Community's Own Agencies Save Families From Distress

The welfare work that has been carried on throughout the com- munity provides an important chapter in the borough's history. The work is distributed through several agencies, chief of which is the General Relief Committee which was organized in 1921. This committee absorbed the Civilian Relief organized in 1921. In addition to this there is the Welfare committee of John P. DeHaven, Post American Legion, with the Ladies Auxiliary, St. Vincent's, the Conshohocken Post, V. F. W. De Paul Society and the funds that have been created in the individual churches and organizations.
The Civilian Relief was organized in 1921 with a board of di- rectors comprising fifteen members. There were twenty contributors. These were made up of the board of directors and manufacturing plants which contributed annually to the work. No out-of-pocket expenses were solicited until 1931, when conditions in the community became such that the demand for relief was more than could be supplied by the Civilian Relief. A public meeting was held and a general committee was formed. The original board of fifteen members was increased to thirty-five and a strong appeal was made for funds.
In 1931 \$1800 were contributed. In 1932 the amount of contribu- tions totaled \$11000. In 1933 the State relief was extended to this community and less than \$6000 were asked for by the local com- munity.
There has been a surprisingly large amount of relief rendered through the General committee here since 1931. During the year 1931-32 the total amount spent was \$24777. 1932-33 \$95584. The 1933-34 year is not as yet complete but the amount will be increased by many thousands of dollars. This of course, includes the aid that has been given by the State.
Since the State relief has been

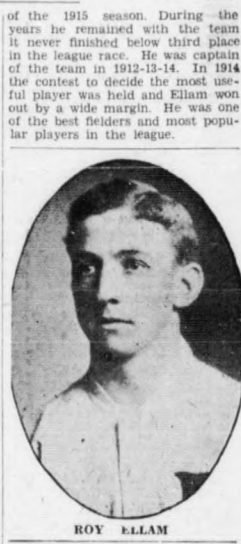
Roy Ellam Made Remarkable Record in National Pastime

Started With Ambler and Worked His Way Into Profes- sional Ranks.—Member of Two National League Clubs.—Played in Longest Scoreless Inning Game

SOUTH KNEW HIM AS "MARVEL OF BASEBALL"

Nashville Won Pennant the First Year He Managed Team.—Fans Presented Him With Automobile.—Was Voted Most Popular Player at Birmingham

From a journeyman plumber to a "marvel" in baseball. This, in brief, appropriately ap- plies to Roy Ellam, 1922 Fayette street, who only a few years ago made the great national game his life's vocation.
His entrance into professional ranks was not gained without re- verses and disheartening incidents but before going into this, let us mention some of the achievements that will linger as fond memories in the years that lie before him. Practically all of his career was spent in the Southern Association. He played with Birmingham for several years and during that time the team never finished the season be- low third place.
In a contest to be decided by the fans as to who was the most used player on the team there were 3600 votes cast of which Ellam received 1800. The largest number received by any other member of the team was 700. He received a silver bat and ball which he treasures as his most valued possession.
As manager of the Nashville team he won the Southern League title the first year and was styled throughout the south as the "Mar- vel of Baseball." The fans of Nashville showed their apprecia- tion by presenting him with a Ford automobile.
During his only year with the Pittsburgh Pirates, of the National League, he enjoyed the proud distinc- tion of playing in the longest score- less inning game ever played in the major leagues. The game was played against Boston and went full twenty innings before the first run was scored. Pittsburgh won in the following inning by a score of 2 to 0.
He managed the first organized team of professional base ball play- ers ever to play in San Diego, Cuba.
Roy Ellam was born in West Conshohocken and attended the school of the Philadelphia area. There was little opportunity for a boy to display any ability other than that for study. He applied himself and completed the three- year high school course, graduat- ing with honors. He was drafted in 1902. Following his graduation he went to Ambler to learn the trade of plumber. While in the North Penn borough he got his first taste of baseball and took to the game as a duck takes to water. He played on sandlot teams and be- came a proficient infielder, covering the shortstop position. In 1907 William Ambler, the popular Am- blestide, owner, operator and man- ager of the Philadelphia Company, a team known as the Ambler P. C. and Ellam was signed to play the short stop position. Lurid Lew Ritchie, later to become a pitcher with the Phillies and Cincinnati Reds, was also a member of the team. Ellam played one year with Ambler and the next season he signed with the Quakertown team.
Starts Professional Career
Ellmer Eaker, manager of Quakertown team, signed up with Connelville, a small league team. In 1908 and took Ellam with him. It was an eventful time in the life of the local player, but he was sent off to drearily and did not play a game until the next season. It was a rainy spring and before the team started playing Ellam was given his first release. Undismayed he went to Latrobe where he ran into more trouble. The team played only two weeks of the season but the attendance at the games was so small the club was transferred to Cumberland. The team could not get going and lost almost daily. In an effort to thrill the fans, the club was moved to Altoona. The first move was signed and the first move of the new pilot was to release eight of the players. Ellam was one of the eight. He returned to Connelville where he made good and Eaker the manager. He was drafted by Birmingham, where he spent a great part of his playing career.
Ellam had trouble in getting "let- tered" at Birmingham. The local press covered with sad. The local short stop had never been sent to this. He does not hesitate to say it was difficult for him to pick up ground balls. The ball would hit the grass and elude him. He was still confident and explained to the manager the difficulty he was ex- perience. When the team started on its first road trip after Ellam was signed the first stop was at a place where the weather was bad. He was given the call to cover his regular position and the manner in which he dug the ball out of the dirt and shot it across the diamond sustained his confidence and in- stilled in the fans a belief that this time on he was the regular short stop and soon was among the league leaders in fielding. At the end of the season he was purchased by Cincinnati of the National League for \$1500. He joined the National Leaguers two weeks be- fore the close of the season and sat on the bench daily until the final game had been played. He did not appear in the game.
Back to Birmingham
During the off-season Cincinnati sold Ellam to Kansas City. He re- ported to his new owners before the opening of the 1910 season and kept him as a utility man and he was fielding and hitting. Later he fell into a batting slump. He was re- able to recover his batting eye and was sent back to Birmingham where he remained until the end



ROY ELLAM

Becomes "Marvel Man"

Before the opening of the 1916 campaign Roy was signed by the Nashville Club to manage the team. How well he succeeded can best be attested from the fact that the team climbed steadily throughout the season and when the curtain rang down Nashville had won the pen- nant. It was an accomplishment seldom achieved by any manager and he immediately became known throughout the South as the "Mar- vel Man of Base Ball." He was showered with congratulations and was the guest of honor at many banquets. A testimonial dinner was arranged in his honor and he was presented with a Ford automobile, purchased with subscriptions from admiring fans.
Played in Scoreless Game
The Pittsburgh Pirates acquired him in 1918 and while he remained only one season with them he had the distinction of playing in the longest scoreless game on record in the major leagues. In a game with Boston the two teams battled for twenty scoreless innings. Pitts- burgh finally won the game by the score of 2 to 0, scoring both runs in the twenty-first inning. Ellam played at short stop during the entire game. His record for the game was eight times at bat, two hits, six outs, eight assists and no errors.
He was back at Nashville in 1919-20. Before the end of the 1920 season he tried to form a com- munity league and the Nashville Club but failed in his effort.
1921 found him at Galveston in the Texas Club. He signed a blank contract that year. His salary was too high for the club and he fin- ished the season with Mobile. He served as both player and scout. Mobile won the pennant that season and went on to win the Dixie series against the Port Worth team, this was the first time the Texas League had won the championship.
During the seasons of 1922-23 Ellam returned North and played semi-professional ball in Philadel- phia and Chester.
He returned South in 1926 to manage the club at Tallahassee, Fla., managed Augusta in 1927, Tampa in 1928 and shifted to Montgomery in 1929-30.
While at Montgomery, Bucky Walters, present third sacker of the Phillies and manager of the Manager Ellam. He immediately saw that Walters was a fine prospect despite the fact his legs were crippled from playing basket ball. Manager Ellam could not afford to keep him as a utility man and as he had a brilliant third sacker, Walters was sent to Highpoint, of the Piedmont League, on option. At the close of the season Bucky was sold to the Boston National League team.
At the close of 1932 season Roy was a member of a barnstorming team that visited Cuba, playing ex- hibition games. The two following years he managed the team that vis- ited the island and took the first- organized professional team to San Diego.
The depression struck base ball in the South. Many teams were forced to disband and Manager Ellam returned home in 1931 and is still in this borough. He likes the game and while his league-playing days are over, he is still interested. He plays with the John Wood Company team and manages the club that uses the Center athletic field on Sundays.
While it was his ability as a player that kept him in the game, it was his gentlemanly manner that made him an idol with the fans in all the cities in which he played. He fought for what he believed to be right but his actions were al- ways that of a gentleman. He has no bad habits and his conduct was always the same on or off the ball field.
Mr. Ellam married Miss Gertrude McCarrus, a former teacher in the local schools. They have one son.



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But then again this is really true—"I live mid sombre shadows too
Faith a lesson I've learned and it's not too late—that love's not
bounded by age or state;
Though we dwell in a world of fume and fret, we always live where
our hearts are set.

"Cold Point" SHANE O'SHEPPARD.
Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

Complete History of Churches in Conshohocken and Vicinity

Pioneer Settlers Founded Churches to Grow With Town

Spiritual Needs of Community Early Recognized.—Growth of Community Leads to Establishment of Churches.—Presbyterian Founded Before Organization of Borough.—Methodist, Calvary P. E., St. Matthew's R. C. and Baptist Churches Soon Follow.—St. Mark's Lutheran Latest of the Churches of Large Membership to Be Established Here.—Plymouth Friends Served Community in Colonial Times.—Gulph Christian Church an Old Institution.—Founded in 1833

The pioneer settlers of Conshohocken early realized the importance of spiritual expression, as well as the satisfaction of material needs.

Three years before the borough was incorporated—before the more physical needs of a borough charter and a town government were seriously thought of—the first church was established in Conshohocken.

The growth of the borough's spiritual being has been concurrent with that of its material form. Now, eleven churches are actively engaged in ministering to the spiritual needs of the faithful within the confines of the borough, while a total of twenty-five are maintained throughout this immediate section, from an area reaching from Gulph Mills to Barren Hill.



Presbyterian

To the Presbyterian sect of Conshohocken goes the distinction of being the first religious group to open a church within the borough. Eighty-seven years of Presbyterianism is recorded here. It was on November 7, 1847, that a little band of Presbyterians—only thirteen strong—gathered in the old Temperance Hall, then standing in Elm street. There is no known list of this group extant, but it is certain that it included Moses Wolverson, William Moore, James Mooney, Jacob Unstradt, together with their wives, and the Misses Catherine and Anna Jacoby and Mrs. Ann Magee.

The organization of the Conshohocken Presbyterian Church was effected at a small afternoon preaching service, at which it is probable Rev. Charles Diver was instrumental in welding the small band of worshippers into a branch of the Presbyterian Church.

Extensive missionary work must have been begun at once by this baker's dozen of faithful, for the next Sunday, records show, the number of worshippers more than quadrupled. There were seventy at the service.

Most of that original congregation was drawn from Conshohocken's bare handful of industries, at the time. They were Colwell's Foundry, Jacoby's Marble Mill and the old water mill. At that time, most of the workers were Irish immigrants, divided according to their origin in North or South Ireland, into the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic sects. The latter, at the time, were without a church here, and united in worship with St. Patrick's congregation at Norristown.

A year later, in 1848, John Freedley of Norristown, gave to the Presbyterian congregation a plot of land at Elm and Maple streets on the site now owned by St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, catering to the spiritual needs of the Polish residents here. His generosity also dictated a gift of stone, sufficient for the erection of a church. Occupied for forty years, it was then abandoned for a larger edifice, and its purpose changed from a spiritual to a commercial one. It was occupied by a chemical manufacturer for sometime.

Because of the steady increase of the Presbyterian congregation here, it was deemed necessary in 1880 to leave the edifice at Elm and Maple, and the handsome greystone structure now occupied at Third avenue and Fayette street, was built. It has been in constant use since that time.

To the late Mr. William McKenzie, whose husband at the time of his death several years ago was Conshohocken's oldest physician, goes the honor of making the first large cash contribution. Her donation of one thousand dollars purchased the lot on which the church now stands.

A second contribution, amounting in actual value, to one thousand dollars, was made by James Beatty. He contributed the necessary grad-



Rev. William A. Ponce

ing, excavating and building of the foundation walls.

The entire property including grounds and horse sheds, the latter now razed, cost \$30,000.

The first president of the Board of Trustees was Moses Wolverson, with J. B. Roberts as secretary. Later presidents were D. Garrick, 1850; William Moore, 1851; W. J. Dunlap, 1867; R. M. Wilson, 1870 and for a period of many years, Daniel Stewart, Sr.

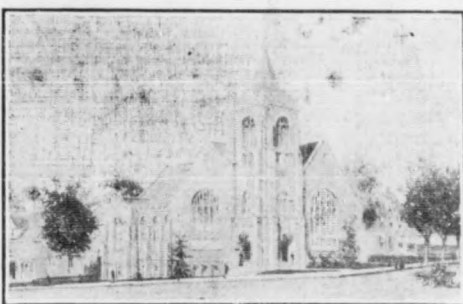
The pastors of the Conshohocken Presbyterian Church have been the Reverends: Charles Diver, 1846; Thomas Murphy, '47; John Moore, '49 and '50; Samuel Paul, first official pastor of the church, '50-'52; James Martin, '53-'54; Joseph Nesbit, '55-'60; James Laverty, '60-'62; H. P. Townsend, '62-'67; J. Symmes, '67-'75; William Fulton, '75-'86; W. Y. Brown, '86-'97; Alexander Wardell, '88-'89; John P. Sheppard, 1890-1926; Rev. William A. Ponce, 1926.

From the original thirteen members who practiced the Presbyterian religion here, the congregation has grown to 400, with an additional seventy-five persons affiliated with it through the Sunday School.

FIRST COMPLETE HISTORY

The RECORDER is especially gratified to be able to include in its SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY EDITION a history of EVERY CHURCH in Conshohocken and vicinity. This is the first known complete compilation of this kind here.

"I have a fine setter at home." "Is that so? What kind is it—an English or an Irish?" "Neither. It's a Plymouth Rock."



Methodist Episcopal

Claiming honors as the second religious sect to establish a place of worship in Conshohocken, is the Methodist Episcopal congregation, who records its first formal sermon by a Methodist preacher, here, eighty-six years ago.

No handsome architecture housed the faithful Methodist belief at that time. Indeed, no architecture at all was boasted by the limited group. That first, modest little service took place with only the blue sky as a roof, and the emerald leaves of an ancient tree at Marble and Forrest street, as an immediate covering.

Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Murphy was the speaker at the original service, from which has grown the strong and progressive Methodist Church in Conshohocken. This was in 1848, two years before the borough was incorporated.

Services in this "outdoor church" were continued, when the weather permitted for a half dozen years. In 1854, the little band, now considerably increased, however, organized into a mission, under the direction of the Merion Square Church, now the Gladwynne Church, with Rev. Lewis C. Pettit, pastor, in charge. Rev. Mr. Pettit was spiritual leader of the mission for two years, during his regime, the first Methodist Sunday School was established here. The year was 1855.

Appropriately enough, Temperance Hall, located then in Elm street above Forrest street, later to become a Presbyterian Church, echoed the divine service of the Methodist congregation next. In 1856, at the session of the Philadelphia annual conference, the Conshohocken Methodist Church was reorganized, and the Rev. Reuben Owen appointed pastor. He served for seven years, and during his pastorate, the church purchased a lot of ground at Elm and Fayette street, where the first formal Methodist Church edifice, actually erected by the church body, came into being.

The cornerstone of this early structure was laid Aug. 1, 1857.

It required ten years, however, to complete the edifice, due partly perhaps to the breaking out of the Civil War in 1861. The first floor, Sunday school and class rooms were completed January 10, 1858. The auditorium was then begun, but progressed slowly, and in 1861, still unfinished, it was used for a drill room by Civil War recruits from Conshohocken and vicinity.

A half dozen more years rolled by with building continuing as funds permitted, and in 1867, the church was finished, and a short time later, a parsonage added. During the third pastorate of Rev. Reuben Owen, 1874-'75, the church witnessed one of the greatest revivals in its history, about 150 persons being received into membership.

During the pastorate of Rev. B. T. String, 1897-1901, the church was renovated and the entire debt upon it cancelled. Not long afterward, expansion of the church membership dictated a larger edifice, and a lot was purchased for that site, the old church sold and plans for a new building approved. Rev. Eli Pickersgill was the pastor at this time.



First Baptist

Harmony between the pastor and the congregation appears to be the keynote of the First Baptist church of Conshohocken, as one reviews the history of this prominent religious sect in the borough.

To the First Baptist church goes the distinction of having had but eight pastors in its sixty-six year history. Outstanding even in that record is the record of Rev. James Abner Davies, present pastor of the church, who has served continuously in this capacity, for 32 years.

The earliest date recorded in the local history of the Baptist faith is 1868.

Then, it is recorded, a number of local exponents of the Baptist belief gathered at the home of Michael Mills, and there formed



Rev. Richard B. Wells

On August 21, 1905, ground was broken for the handsome present edifice, situated at Sixth Avenue and Fayette street. The first shovelful of earth was moved by Brother Jacob Thomas, the oldest member of the church at the time. Mr. Thomas served on the committee to purchase ground for the first church in 1856.

The cornerstone was laid September 29, 1906, and the church dedicated January 19, 1908.

Ten years ago, the debt on this beautiful structure was cancelled, with an appropriate ceremony.

The Methodist church has progressed steadily in membership and activity, until today Methodism in Conshohocken is one of the most staunchly rooted sects of Christian religion, its stalwart principles a major influence in the building of the community.

The present pastor is Rev. Richard B. Wells, who came here a year ago. The entire roster of pastors is as follows: Lewis C. Pettit, 1854-'55; Reuben Owen, 1855-'59; Thomas B. Miller, 1859; Jerome Lindermuth, 1857-'60; W. W. Mythe, 1861; George Heacock, 1862; John O'Neil, 1863-'64; Reuben Owen, 1865-'67; S. G. Hare, 1868-'70; Alex. M. Wiggins, 1871-'73; Reuben Owen, 1874-'75; D. L. Patterson, 1876-'77; R. H. Sandertin, 1878; W. C. Johnson, 1879-'81; Samuel Panoast, 1882-'83; J. P. Miller, 1884-'86; T. M. Griffith, 1887-'91; George S. Broadbent, 1892-'94; J. Wharton Bradley, 1895-'96; B. T. String, 1897-1901; Pickersgill, 1902-'05; John T. Gray, 1906-'10; Robert Retherington, 1911-'12; William I. Reed, 1913; Thomas A. Armour, 1914-'26; John Hartman, 1928-'30; D. A. Hinkel, 1930-'33; Richard B. Wells, 1933.

The Sunday School superintendent has been as follows: John Major, Caleb G. Collins, Joseph Lee, John M. Williams, George H. Pitzer, Sr., Alton B. Chapman, A. Crossmore, Jackson W. Drummond, Herman L. Ely, Jackson W. Drummond, George H. Pitzer, Jr., Frank L. Cloud, Robert E. Elzey, George Griffiths, Herman Thwaites, Maris Congleton, Ray Fiero.



First Baptist

the nucleus of the present church. No regular church body was organized at that time, however, the little band confining themselves to the responsibility of a Sunday School and Missionary Association, only.

Hearing of the ambition of this small group to procure a place of formal religious worship, George Nugent, generous of spirit and material aid, donated to them a plot of ground at Fourth avenue and Harry street, where now stands the handsome structure of the Baptist congregation.

Little time was lost in taking advantage of this generous donation of land. A chapel was erected on one end, with Michael Mills, Francis H. Lubbe and Rev. J. G.

Walker as a building committee, and Deacon William Hollowell as the builder.

The chapel was first occupied early in 1870, when the Sunday School made it its meeting place. In 1871, the organization of a regular Baptist church, holding the doctrines of the Philadelphia Confession of Faith, was effected, with 48 resident Baptists depositing letters of admission, 41 of whom came from the Ballingmire Baptist church, West Conshohocken, which might be described as the "parent" of the local Baptist church.

In 1885, the parsonage was built.

Although the restriction placed upon the ground by the donor, George Nugent, that the edifice should never carry a mortgage, may have lengthened the process of improvement, the church has been added to and modernized with the years, until it is now one of the finest edifices among Conshohocken's numerous churches.

The pastors of the First Baptist church have been: Rev. E. Packwood, A. C. Knowlton, H. H. Leamy, T. J. Seigfried, Thomas A. Lloyd, E. A. Rook, Henry Coldesser, Rev. J. A. Davies, present incumbent.



Rev. A. J. Davies



St. Mark's Lutheran

There were just thirty-four persons in St. Mark's congregation, that day, forty-four years ago, when Conshohocken Lutherans organized into a formal church group.

Today, this flourishing church has 320 communicants, and its activities cover a wide scope.

Rev. A. H. Fischer, at the time pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Barren Hill, is responsible for the founding of St. Mark's Lutheran Church here. Learning of the presence of a number of Lutheran families among Conshohocken's population of 1889, and realizing the inconvenience of their coming to Barren Hill for worship, Rev. Fischer called the matter to the attention of the Philadelphia Lutheran Conference.

Action was not delayed. In a few weeks, a meeting of the Lutheran believers was called, the meeting place being the W. C. T. U. Hall. Plans were formulated for the organization of the church.

The group chose the W. C. T. U. Hall, later to become the G. A. R. Home and still later the Knights of Columbus hall. Third avenue and Forrest street, as its early place of worship. The building is now in use as a printing establishment.

Official organization of St. Mark's Lutheran Church took place May 1, 1890, with the administering of communion to thirty-four persons.

Services were held regularly each Sunday in the W. C. T. U. hall, until January 1, 1891, when the place of worship was transferred to the Baptist Church, where both the church and Sabbath School services were held until October, when services were again held at the W. C. T. U. hall.

There was no regular pastor at the church until January 1, 1891, the service prior to that date having been conducted by Rev. J. Milton Francis, of the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg. The first minister elected by Conshohocken Lutherans was Rev. J. P. Shearer, of Somerset, Pa., who assumed his duties on the first day of 1891.

Shortly after the church was organized, ground was purchased at Eighth avenue and Hollowell street for the site of a church. This ground was later sold, and ground purchased at the site of the present church, Fifth avenue and Harry street, where the present, fine edifice stands. The cornerstone of this building was laid on September 11, 1892, and the church was dedicated on October 1, 1893. In 1912, a parsonage was added.

From the time of the erection of the church to the present day, the record of Lutheranism is one that can be pointed to with pride. Each year, new members have been added, Christian activities expanded and strengthened. The organization of St. Mark's Lutheran Church includes the Sunday School, Lutheran Brotherhood, Busy Workers Society, Cotta Van Bora Society, Luther League, the Men's Bible Class, Women's Bible Class,



Rev. G. E. McCarty

the Tuxis Bible Class, the Light Brigade, missionary societies.

The church holds the enviable record of being entirely out of debt for the last ten years, the building debt having been liquidated in May, 1924.

Four charter members of the church are still living, and still maintain their interest in church activities. They are Mrs. Clara A. Ferrier, 145 East Eighth avenue, Edward Nagle, 134 West Tenth avenue, Jacob S. Moser, Norristown R. D. and Mrs. Mary Missimer, 101 West Eighth avenue.

The church council includes: Rev. G. E. McCarty, pastor; John Z. Hoyer, secretary; L. Frank Markel, current expenses treasurer; Paul D. Miller, benevolent treasurer; elders, Harvey B. Staley, William A. Nagle, Sr.; deacons, L. Frank Markel, James S. Page, Louis Kullmer, Harvey W. Rex, Elmer Faust, John Z. Hoyer and Paul D. Miller.

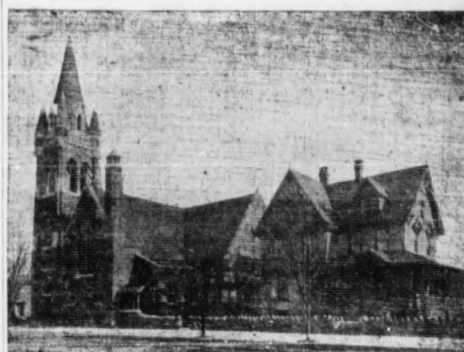
Pastors of St. Mark's Church, from its organization to the present day are: Rev. J. P. Shearer, 1891-'98; Rev. James W. Gidhill, 1898-1901; Rev. Will P. Bare, 1902-1912; Rev. John T. Fox, 1912-1924; Rev. G. E. McCarty, 1925-.

The Sunday School of St. Mark's Lutheran church was organized in 1890, with Rev. J. P. Shearer, who served as superintendent continuously from that time until 1917, with the exception of two years, 1895 and 1896, when William P. Ely was superintendent.

The present superintendent is J. Howard Lentz who has served continuously from 1917.

1st Traveler—The year is only just started and I've already lost three umbrellas.

2nd Ditto—That's too bad. Your 1934 overcoat is going to be pretty high.



Calvary Protestant Episcopal

Calvary P. E. church, the third oldest religious group in the borough, was started on July 25, 1858. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the church was commemorated with a series of events that extended from July 25, last year, to Easter Sunday, April 1, of the present year, the most elaborate being held last October 10, marking the institution of the Sunday School.

A small group of residents of the Episcopal faith, headed by Walter H. Crason, banded together and started the church, holding the first meeting in Stemple's hall, the borough's first school, located in Forrest street between Hector and Elm streets on July 25, 1858, with Rev. W. H. Ries, Rev. M. Hurst and Rev. J. W. Claxton being in attendance. Regular services, however, did not begin until October 3, when Rev. E. L. Lyett, rector of the Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, came here every Sunday to serve as priest in charge. He made the trip to and from his home by horse and wagon. The rector furnished the horse and the member of the new church provided the wagon. He served for five years.

The Sunday School was organized on October 10, 1858, with fifteen members.

From this small beginning the church has enjoyed a steady growth until today it is not only one of the largest and most influential religious groups in the community but an important factor in the Diocese of Pennsylvania of which it is a member.

A resolution to organize under the name of Calvary church was adopted on December 17, 1858, and the first communion service was celebrated on February 27, 1859, with eight communicants. The first Holy Baptism was administered on March 27, 1859. The class comprised two adult members.

One of the most important dates in the newly-organized church was on May 25, 1859, when it was admitted to the convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

The first confirmation class was administered the rite on June 12, 1858, with the Rt. Rev. Samuel Bowman, Bishop Coadjutor, officiating. The class comprised eight members.

A plot of ground was purchased at Fourth avenue and Fayette street and on July 19, 1859, plans for a new church were adopted. Ground was immediately broken and work of construction on the edifice was commenced. The cornerstone was laid August 24, 1859. The charter for the church was granted by the court on August 17, one week prior to the laying of the cornerstone.

The church was completed early in 1860 and the first service was held on February 10, with Bishop Coadjutor Bowman officiating. The building was consecrated on January 7, 1863, with Rev. Alonzo Potter, D. D., LL. D. officiating.

Ground for the rectory was broken on April 1, 1873, and the building was completed on November 1, of the same year, and was occupied by Rev. Emilus Tortat.

With the church and Sunday School gaining in membership a parish was being formed. Needed. Ground was broken for such a building on June 1, 1880. The building was dedicated and formally opened on December 20 and has been in constant service since that time.

More room was needed for church services and on May 7, 1884, ground was broken and work commenced on an addition which was simply a chapel.

The last service was held in the old church on Easter Day, April 1, 1888, and on the following day work on the erection of the present church was started. The building committee comprised Charles Lukens, chairman; Alan Wood, Jr., Charles Heber Clark and William H. Cresson. The corner stone was laid on June 15, and on September 25, 1889, the new church was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. O. S. Williams, Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, assisted by Rev. A. B. Atkins, Rev. O. A. Glazebrook, D. D., preached the sermon, Charles Lukens, rector, wardens, read the instrument of dedication showing the church was free of debt prior to the consecration.

Eleven rectors have served the parish since its foundation seventy-five years ago. Of these only the present rector, Rev. Stanley R. West, is still living. Rev. Addison A. Atkins and Rev. J. Kennedy Moorhouse passed away during their terms of service here. The rectors and their terms of service for spiritual growth.



Rev. Stanley R. West

are as follows: Rev. Edward L. Lyett, 1858-1863; Rev. John Tello, 1864-1866; Rev. Thomas Yocum, 1866-1870; Rev. T. William Davidson, 1870-1872; Rev. A. Emilius Tortat, 1872-1877; Rev. James J. Greich, 1877-1881; Rev. Addison A. Atkins, 1881-1894; Rev. Herbert J. Cook, D. D., 1895-1906; Rev. Archibald H. Bradshaw, 1906-1910; Rev. John Kennedy Moorhouse, 1910-1922; Rev. Stanley R. West, 1922-1934. He immediately established himself in the hearts of his parishioners and became influential in the community. He has played an important part in the civic life of the community and has been extremely active in welfare work since the beginning of the depression.

The imposing church and parish house together with the rectory, is valued at \$250,000.00. The church has an endowment fund of approximately \$52,000.

The church organizations are the choir, Women's Guild, Women's Auxiliary, Altar Guild, St. Martha's Guild, Girls' Friendly Society, Young People's Fellowship, Brotherhood of St. Andrew and Boy Scouts.

Dr. George T. Lukens is the rector's warden; Reese P. Davis is accounting warden, and Will J. Davis is secretary of the vestry.

The members of the vestry and the year of their election follow: Reese P. Davis, 1890; Charles Edward Herron, 1892; Will J. Davis, 1894; Dr. George T. Lukens, 1906; William B. Reed, 1910; Harry Buckle, 1916; Howard Wood, Jr., 1919; Samuel Beaver, 1920; Fred L. Lobb, 1931.

St. John's A. M. E.

St. John's A. M. E. church was begun by African residents of Methodist belief here in 1877.

Stemple's hall, on Forrest street, was the scene of the first services. Eight persons, all of whom have now passed on, comprised its initial membership. Rev. A. H. Campbell, long since deceased, was the first pastor.

Membership increased steadily, until at the end of a year, there were 26 faithful. The need for a headquarters was felt, and funds were raised for a church. The structure, located at Eighth avenue and Harry street, was begun in 1879 and completed in 1881.

The building was lighted only by large lanterns in its earlier days. Now, electricity has been installed, and hot air heat replaced the cruder form of heating with a stove. An organ was presented to the church by the Methodist Episcopal church here, when Rev. Mr. Gibson was pastor.

Rev. E. D. Newcome is now pastor of St. John's A. M. E. church, the thirty-second minister to direct the spiritual welfare of Africans of Methodist sect here. The church membership at present, although only 39, is an active and progressive one, and is steadily reaching out for spiritual growth.



Cold Point Baptist

This is a red-letter year in the calendar of Cold Point Baptist Church.

Situated on a low eminence on Butler pike, in Whitemarsh Township, one mile north of Plymouth Meeting, this quiet picturesque church marks its eightieth anniversary this year. Plans are now underway for an anniversary celebration in October.

Founded in 1854, this church was known for fourteen years as the Plymouth Baptist Church, later taking the name of Cold Point Baptist Church of Plymouth Meeting. It was first a mission of the Chestnut Hill Baptist Church, Sunday School and preaching services were maintained for the Baptist faithful of this quiet little section, since 1843 until the founding of the present church, through the efforts of Rev. Robert F. Young, first pastor of the Chestnut Hill Baptist Church.

On February 15, 1854, fifty three members of the Chestnut Hill Baptist Church, asked for letters of dismission from that church, and permission to begin a new church. This was accomplished on April 19, 1854, when a council met and the church was organized. Recognition services were conducted April 17, 1854, when pastors of six neighboring churches joined in an impressive program of recognition of the new church.

Previous to 1845, early preaching and Sunday School services were held in the old Cold Point schoolhouse, now the residence of Frank Williams. In 1845, on a lot of ground, purchased from William Shinkle, a stone building, still in use as the church hall, was erected as a meeting house. On May 13, 1869, the present stone building now being used for worship, was completed and dedicated. The bell tower was erected later in memory of Louis Thompson of Plymouth Meeting and the present parsonage, situated at the foot of Cold Point hill at the junction of Butler pike and Church Hill road, was purchased from Mrs. Susan Whitehall, later Mrs. Smith, in 1886.

Twenty three pastors have served the church since its organization. Thomas C. Trotter, who acted as supply pastor for the first three months after the church was formed, later became its first pastor in May, 1855. Rev. Roland Kocher holds the record for the longest pastorate at the church. He served for six years from September 1874 to November, 1880. The highest enrollment of members was during his pastorate. It reached 168, never equaled before or since.

Dr. J. Haverall Sheppard, a native of Ireland, and who has achieved a reputation as a poet both in this country and in Ireland, is the present pastor assuming the pastorate a year ago. The membership now is 125. Since the establishment of the Cold Point Baptist church, 450 persons have been baptized, the records reveal.

Churches that are branch organizations of Cold Point Church are the Mt. Pleasant Church of Ambler and the Spring Mill Baptist Church.

The church maintains a burial ground of several acres, surrounding the church building.

Although unostentatious in its attitude and activities, Cold Point Baptist Church quietly carries on numerous worthwhile activities and steadily progresses. A pipe organ, the first the church has ever had, has just been installed and dedicated, at a cost of \$2300.

Among the members of the con-

Plymouth Evangelical Congregational

The contents of this sketch have been handed down by a process known to the historian and to the readers of history as "oral transmission."

When the Methodist church sent her first missionaries into this area, the exact date is unknown. The fact is known that two Methodist Missions were begun, the one at Lancaster, and the other in Plymouth Meeting. During the latter's short stay, the old settlers' shop situated upon the adjoining lot now owned by Contractor Charles Staley.

This Methodist Mission was continued until about 1870, after this time the Methodist church officials thought the mission a hopeless work, and consequently abandoned the work.

In the spring of 1878, Plymouth Meeting was declared from Montgomery circuit by the annual conference. In the stationing committee's report it was designated as, to be supplied. The Rev. J. H. Shirey came into their midst as the first missionary. During the year of the Rev. Shirey, J. C. Krouse and J. M. Metzger, monies were collected and contributed by pastors, members and friends of the congregation. Among the latter may be mentioned, Mr. Stritzinger, of Norristown.

During the labors of the Rev. H. M. Capp, of precious memory, gigantic efforts were made by the pastor, membership and friends to complete the church, which were completely crowned with success. The church was solemnly dedicated to the worship of the Triune God in 1884, by the Rev. Thomas Bowman, now bishop of the Evangelical Association, by the Rev. Hornberger, and by the Rev. H. M. Capp.

The division of the Evangelical church, which occurred between the years 1890 and 1894, gave rise

to the Plymouth Meeting United Evangelical church.

About twelve or fifteen years ago, negotiations were begun in preparation for what it was hoped would result in the glorious reunion of both the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical churches. A new discipline was prepared by a joint commission of both churches. In October of the year nineteen hundred twenty-two, delegates as appointed by the various annual Conferences of the United Evangelical church met at Barrington, Illinois, in the General Conference. It was here they voted to merge with the former Evangelical Association church. They then adjourned to meet in a general Conference of both churches at Detroit, Mich. During this session they completed the negotiations. However, this was not all done without some dissenting voice. It was asked to take a vote upon this matter. This was done at a duly called congregational meeting at which it was decided to remain a United Evangelical church. During the pastorate of Rev. Gieseke, however, the church became affiliated with the Evangelical Congregational church.

The following pastors have served this congregation since the year 1874: W. A. Shoemaker, J. J. High, H. J. Glick, A. Ziegenfuss, F. Smith, C. Krause, G. M. Metzger, H. M. Capp, W. U. Hersh, W. H. Rink, F. Cracker, A. Markley, G. A. Knerr, S. H. Chubb, W. L. Tell, W. W. Yost, C. Long, C. C. Talbot, G. S. Harper, W. P. Rhoads, D. G. Reinhold, F. B. Yeum, Ray W. Muselman, D. G. Reinhold, H. E. Baker, D. A. Draper, P. P. Gieseke and N. S. Hoffman, present pastor. Superintendents of the Sunday school are Walter Knerr, Charles Rhoads and Elwood Ziegler.

Plymouth Friends' Meeting

Early in the spring of 1680 a little band of Friends turned from the shores of England where they were undergoing persecution "for conscience sake," and sailed in the ship Desire for faroff Pennsylvania, William Penn's Holy Experiment, the home of religious liberty.

Landings at Philadelphia June 23, the little group went directly to the location of land which they had bought from Penn before leaving England, some 5000 acres on the east side of the Schuylkill River and approximately 20 miles from Penn's city. Here they settled, naming their new home Plymouth, as had the pilgrims of the Mayflower, both groups having sailed from Plymouth, England.

The leaders of this first settlement were Francis Rawle and James Fox, who, with their families and followers, braved the unknown and uncharted woods of a new country in order to worship God according to their convictions.

Soon followed by a number of Welsh Friends, who bought land from these owners, the little settlement of Plymouth grew in size and importance, and a cart road, now the Germantown pike, was opened to Philadelphia in 1687. By 1691 the settlement was of sufficient consequence to be mentioned by Penn when writing from England "Commend me to the Friends at Plymouth."

Meeting at first in the house of a member of their organization, but with the recognition of the Philadelphia monthly meeting of Friends

then for a time with the Haverford group, the Plymouth Friends by the first of the eighteenth century had come to feel the need of a meetinghouse of their own. "The exact date of the construction of this meeting house is unknown, but a marriage record of April 30, 1709, indicates that it was then extant, although other records might not place the date until 1712. However, the first deed to the meetinghouse property is recorded as 1704.

In 1687 the meeting house was burned, but was immediately reconstructed, and as it now stands is so nearly like its original state that only the porch is different, that first having run across only the end instead of front and end, as it does now.

Standing at the crossroads that lead one way toward the "City of Brotherly Love" and another toward the Schuylkill River and from thence over the old elements of Gulph Mills and Valley Forge to the Plymouth Meetinghouse, with little or no change in its own serene exterior, has seen the passage of two and a quarter centuries in the building itself. Services are held there every Sunday, many prominent families of this section being included in the congregation.

In 1780 provision was made for the establishment of a school within the building itself, an addition being made to one end for this purpose and here it was held until 1813 when it was found necessary to construct a school house to accommodate the growing number of children.

Cedar Heights Community

In the year 1924, Mrs. Edna Wilcox, an active member of East Falls Methodist church, moved to Cedar Heights, in order to answer the need of a church in the community and opened a Sunday school in her home on Hillcrest avenue, with 10 children present.

In August, 1925, this was changed to Mrs. Lillian Frehafer's home and continued there progressively until August 1, 1928. Because of lack of help this was discontinued. William E. Garman, president of the district of Montgomery County Sunday School Association, and superintendent of Primitive Methodist Sunday School, while visiting Cedar Heights, learned of this condition and arranged with Mrs. Frehafer and Mrs. Wilcox to reopen the Sunday school. In October 21, 1923, this plan was carried out and the Sunday school was reopened in the home of Mrs. Wilcox with Mr. Garman as superintendent.

Shortly after that on account of the large number attending, this was moved into Mr. Wilcox's garage. Mr. Garman was then asked to preach after hours in the evening. Mr. and Mrs. William Wilcox volunteered to donate two lots for the purpose of erecting a church. Through a progressive growth of the Sunday school in the year 1929, the ground was broken for this church. The building was erected, and in January 19, 1930, it was dedicated. The church building was erected at the approximate cost of \$2500. In four years approximately \$1500 of this has been paid.

The church and Sunday school have had an increasing growth up to the present time; with a Sunday school enrollment of 105, and 105 members and a church membership of 36.

A daily vacation Bible school was conducted this year with a membership of 93.

A Girls Circle was started this year with 12 members. Mrs. Anna Weidberg is superintendent, with Miss Virginia Small, teacher. They are planning their first camping trip at the Y. M. C. A. Camp, Kutztown, this year.

Mrs. Lillian Frehafer has charge of a junior church with Miss Ruth Frehafer assisting. This meets Sunday evenings at seven.

Mrs. Frehafer also conducts a kindergarten class on Wednesday mornings.

The church officers are: Rev. William E. Garman, pastor and founder of this church.

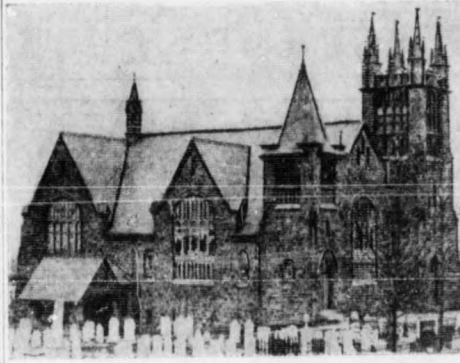
Elders—Mrs. Anna Weidberg, Mrs. Edna Wilcox, Mrs. Lillian Frehafer.

Trustees—Lester Heft, Charles Weidberg, William Watson, Rev. William E. Garman.

Secretary—Mrs. Lillian Frehafer. Teaching Staff—Hilda Frehafer, Mrs. Anna Weidberg, Ruth Frehafer, Mrs. Frank Bacon, Mrs. Harry Berney, Mrs. Floretta Young, Mrs. E. Wilcox, Mrs. Elsie Garman, Mrs. Lillian Frehafer, Lester Heft, Rev. William E. Garman.

Rev. Mr. Garman was ordained October 29, 1929, at Trainer, Chester county, by the Eastern Conference of Underwood Methodist Church.

The church is now enrolled in a Bible course with the John C. Dickson School of Chicago, Ill.



St. Peter's Lutheran

Just when divine services were first held at Barron Hill, Pa., is not known. However, it is historically clear that the Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg conducted services and organized a definite body of worshippers in 1752 known as St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

In the name of Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg and with his letters of recommendation, collectors raised funds with which to build a school house and a church. Money was collected in Philadelphia and the provinces of New Jersey and New York. The school house was completed in 1758. In this building the congregation worshipped until the church building, which was commenced in 1761, was completed several years later.

Considerable damage was done to the church during the Revolutionary War as it was used at various times by contending armies. From the lower, General Lafayette made his observations and watched the English Generals, Grant, Gates and Howe hastening to their unexpected capture of the "boy" General. It was in the cemetery, adjoining the church, that General Lafayette deployed his Indian scouts to give the impression he would engage the British armies in battle, while he skillfully withdrew the main body of his troops across the Schuylkill River at Matson's Ford. The British used the church as a stable for the horses of the chief officers.

After the war the church was almost a ruin; and the members practically poverty-stricken. Several years went by before the building was reconstructed.

In 1836, during the pastorate of Rev. C. W. Shaffer, a parsonage was built, on what is now Park avenue. Rev. F. R. Anspach, D. D., administered the last communion in the old church, April 8th, 1842. The new church building built in 1849, was of Gothic style, two stories high with a tower and spire, one hundred feet high. This structure was completely destroyed by fire on the morning of September 28, 1895.

The Rev. & F. Hartman, D. D., was the last to preach in the old church. He preached as an apostle for the pulpit, which was vacant at the time. Dr. Hartman accepted the call extended to him and during the remainder of 1899 and part of 1901, led the congregation in the erection of the present beautiful place of worship.

During the last few years, many improvements have been made to the several properties owned by the church. Outstanding among these improvements was the changing of the old school building into a double dwelling, one of which is now used as the parsonage. Largely through a gift from Mrs. William C. Mackie, the donor of the original pipe organ, the church is now equipped with a modern electrified instrument.

Thus has been briefly sketched 162 years of service rendered by this venerable servant of the Most High. Glorious things have been accomplished in the past and indications are that they will still more glorious in the future.

Spring Mill Baptist

The first Baptist church of Spring Mill organized as a Saturday afternoon Bible class, was organized October 31st, 1895, by Miss Elizabeth Dick. The meetings were held in the residence of William Davidson with eight scholars and one teacher present at the first meeting.

These meetings continued until the spring of 1897, when the increased attendance necessitated the removal to the adjoining building, donated by Charles H. Hamilton, of Lafayette. Meetings were then changed to Sunday.

About this time the class was augmented by the addition of three teachers, and a regular Sunday school was then organized, the officers being as follows: Superintendent, Harry Guespie; secretary, Elizabeth M. Dick; librarian, Lottie Henry; treasurer, Harry Glespie; organist, Amanda Skilton.

After a donation of an organ by Mr. Glespie, a stove and benches by the mother church (the Cold Point Baptist church) and the purchase of four dozen chairs, it was decided to have Sunday evening meetings having a different speaker each week, with Mr. Glespie occupying the pulpit in the absence of a regular leader.

The first of these meetings was held August 7, 1898. A change of residence on the part of Mr. Glespie necessitated other arrangements and Rev. Arthur Gee was secured as leader, continuing to serve until June 1st, 1899. Various others were secured until January 26th, 1900, when, through the effort of Rev. E. R. Tilton, pastor of the Cold Point Baptist church, Rev. William T. Dickerson, of Philadelphia, was chosen leader, continuing until April 6th, 1902. During the ministry, the sum of \$500 was raised which was used to purchase the lot on which the church building stands.

In September, 1901, this lot was purchased from E. C. Potts for \$600. Mr. Potts donating \$100.

The first Baptist church of Spring Mill was then organized, July 21, 1902, and Rev. Charles J. Dauphin was ordained pastor. The church officers were as follows: Pastor, Rev. Charles J. Dauphin; trustees, Miss Margaret M. Dick, Miss Elizabeth B. Dick; superintendent of Sunday school, Harry W. Cressman.

The breaking of the ground for the present place of worship occurred Tuesday, March 24, 1904, and the cornerstone was laid June 28, of the same year. The building

Trinity Protestant Episcopal

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came into being about 1920, with Mrs. Rosamund Mosman Lebb as the first president, and the latter was organized in 1921, with Mrs. Helen Marion as its initial executive.

As the name of the community in which the church functioned is supposed of Welsh origin it was suggested that the church be named in memory of a Welsh saint. This was given consideration, but the fact that the service of the church was an impressive one. Accordingly, the church was named Trinity.

Although Episcopal in creed, Trinity church has many adherents who are people of various international backgrounds, and might, indeed, be termed a community church. In its application of Christian brotherhood, it reached out to all who sought fellowship, carried on at the church to provide additional necessary revenue, attract patrons of every belief from the entire area of Gulph Mills and surrounding communities.

The altar in use at Trinity church holds particular value and interest for all persons of Episcopal faith in this section. It was that used by the late Bishop Whitaker in Philadelphia and procured through the intercession of Rev. Mr. Cresson.

Among the prominent figures in Trinity church today are Fred Salter, who has assisted in the development of this congregation are Dr. James H. Lamb, rector of St. David's, Radnor; Dr. Houghton, of Bryn Mawr; Dr. Moorhouse, of Conshohocken. Laymen in charge have included George Randall, of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and Edward Boggs, of Norristown.

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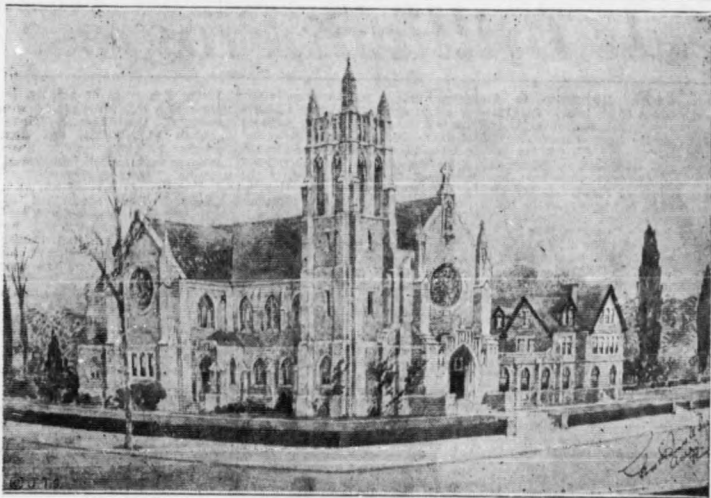
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Rev.



St. Matthew's Roman Catholic

St. Matthew's Roman Catholic congregation is just as old as the borough itself.

It was in 1850, the year of the establishment of the borough, that worship was first held here formally by the Catholics of the borough. Prior to that time, residents of Catholic belief here were required to attend St. Patrick's church at Norristown, the nearest Catholic church available.

The large, oblong structure at Hector and Harry street, was the first home of Catholicity here. This large, old building served the needs of the congregation until 1913, when the handsome buttressed Gothic structure, at Third avenue and Fayette street, present home of the Catholic faithful, was dedicated.

The first pastor of St. Matthew's R. C. church was Rev. James Maginnis. For thirteen years he labored in the spiritual upbuilding of his constantly growing congregation, his efforts stilled only by death. At his demise, Rev. Richard Kinahan, whose name is a synonym for Catholicism here, was named pastor. He entered upon his duties September 21, 1893.

No history of St. Matthew's R. C. church would be complete without a brief sketch, at least, of this

revered clergyman. For 46 years, he toiled among his parishioners, and was responsible for the founding of the parochial school system in Conshohocken, opened about 1870.

A priest and gentleman of the old school, austere, kindly, brilliant and highly spiritual, his death on December 19, 1909, was mourned alike by Catholic and Protestant.

Rev. James P. Parker, a cleric of great vision and ambition, assumed the pastorate at the death of Father Kinahan, a post which he had filled in fact, although not in name, during the declining years of the aged rector.

To Rev. Father Parker goes the honor of the establishment of the great Catholic architectural unit, including church and rectory, on Third avenue almost to Second avenue.

Of magnificent thirteenth century Gothic architecture in purest form, the buildings are show places of the borough. The beautiful, richly colored and artistically designed church windows are the work of Henry Lee Willets and his wife, outstanding among exponents of the stained glass window art in America. The main altar of the church, valued at \$10,000, was made



St. Gertrude's Roman Catholic

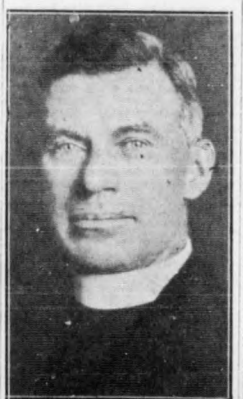
West Conshohocken was formerly a part of St. Matthew's parish of this borough. Following the incorporation of the West Borough the number of Catholic families increased until 1888 when Archbishop Ryan decided there were enough members of the Catholic faith to form a parish of their own. On November 15, the celebration of St. Gertrude on the church calendar, he ordered the establishment of the new parish to be named in honor of the Saint whose birthday was being observed. The new parish included West Conshohocken, the upper section of Lower Merion, the Gulph Mills and Shannon sections of Upper Merion and Swedeland.

Rev. Daniel P. O'Connor was appointed the first rector.

Ground was purchased at Bullock and Merion avenues for the erection of a church and school, and work on the structure was commenced immediately. The building was completed and dedicated by Archbishop Ryan on March 31, 1889, and since that time the church has occupied a prominent position in the religious life of the borough.

A parochial school followed immediately the erection of the church. The basement was equipped with two rooms. Mrs. Elizabeth Golden Collins, of Second avenue and Forrest street, and the late Miss Theresa Valley were appointed teachers. Mrs. Collins taught for only one term and was succeeded by Miss Sarah Naylor. At the end of the second term, Sisters from the Order of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were introduced as teachers. The dwelling at 302 Bullock avenue, owned by the late James Carr, was rented as a convent and was used for a number of years or until the church purchased the three story building at Merion and Bullock avenues, diagonally across Bullock avenue, from the late Patrick Dougherty.

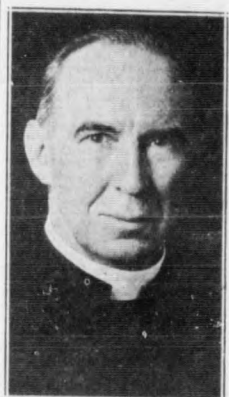
Several years ago the church purchased the property of the late James Moir, a large tract of ground abutting on Merion, Cedar and



Rev. Thomas L. Gaffney

Josephine avenues, on which stood the spacious Moir home. The building was remodeled and converted into a convent and school. The school is a two-year high school, offering the children an excellent commercial course. The music course is also highly rated. Five Sisters comprise the teaching corps.

Five priests have been stationed at St. Gertrude's church. Father O'Connor, who organized the parish, died after serving as pastor faithfully and well for nineteen years. He was the only one to pass away during his pastorate at the church. He was followed by Rev. James McCloskey, who remained only a few years, and then was transferred to the Philippine Islands, where he soon attracted attention as a leader and was rap-



Rev. William A. O'Donnell

idly advanced until he was made a bishop.

His successor, Bishop McCloskey, succeeded Father O'Connor after a pastorate of several years was extended a leave of absence on account of ill health. He removed to California, and a few years ago was fatally injured in an automobile accident. Father O'Brien was sent to the parish as a substitute pastor and remained for only a year when the present rector, Rev. Thomas L. Gaffney, was appointed. Father Gaffney has been in charge for the past fourteen years. He has not only endeared himself to the members of his own parish but he is held in high esteem by the residents in general.

Two important societies are connected with the church. They are the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality and the Holy Name Society.

St. Philip's R. C. Mission, Barren Hill, was established supplementary to St. Matthew's R. C. Church, here, October 22, 1922, for the convenience of the Catholic faithful in Barren Hill and vicinity. Prior to this, these residents were affiliated with St. Matthew's Church, close to three miles distant.

Holy Mass is celebrated at St. Philip's Mission on Sundays and holy days, the priests of St. Matthew's parish conducting services. The mission is located on Germantown pike near Chestnut street.

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St. Mary's Roman Catholic

In 1900, the Polish people began to settle in and around Conshohocken. At that time there was no Polish Roman Catholic Church in Conshohocken, and for nearly four years the Polish people of Conshohocken attended St. Joseph's Polish Catholic Church in Manayunk. The pastor at that time was Rev. B. Tomiak, who first conceived the idea of organizing a Polish parish in Conshohocken.

In 1904 Rev. B. Tomiak and a small group of Polish people met and decided to purchase the site at the intersection of Oak and Elm streets, 32x110 feet in order to establish a church here. In the same year, Rev. B. Tomiak bought more ground at the corner of Maple street and First avenue measuring 75x36 feet, with a large building now the convent for the Sisters.

The present St. Mary's Rectory was said on May 1, 1905 by Rev. B. Tomiak. At that time, there were only 60 families belonging to this newly established parish. This went on for one year.

Soon the parishioners found the Chapel to be small and inconvenient for the increasing parish. In a short time, they built a small church of brick on Maple street.

The first pastor was Rev. Maksymilian Soltyz, who came to this new parish on February 19, 1906, but remained here only nine months. During his short time there happened the first funeral of the deceased one being Adam Shorup. The first baptism was administered to Mary Wloszyna who died February 18, 1906, and shortly after the first Sacrament of Matrimony was administered to Jacob Zareba and Elenore Dymek, April 29, 1906.

Then came Rev. Stanislaw Konecny, who labored for one year and nine months. He was succeeded by Rev. J. J. Zerkow who came to Conshohocken in 1908 and labored for one year and nine months. He was succeeded by Rev. J. J. Zerkow who came to Conshohocken in 1908 and labored for one year and nine months.

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Rev. Sebastian Jerzak

parish and many other constructive deeds were accomplished. From 1920 to 1923 Rev. Joseph Ozmanski was the pastor. It was he who bought the present Convent for the Sisters on Maple street and First avenue. Being in impaired health, he left for his native country and he died there.

His successor was Rev. John Moduszecki, who came from St. Clair, Pa., to Conshohocken in 1923 and left in 1929. He had enlarged St. Benedict's Cemetery and had it fenced at a cost of \$500.

On March 15th, 1929 Rev. J. Moduszecki left to go to St. Peter and Paul Parish in Lansford, Pa., and Rev. S. J. Zerkow came to Conshohocken. In the first year of his administration, the school enrollment of pupils had been increased by 110, the total being 445 children.

Furthermore, he had the Venerable Bernardine Sisters Convent renovated at the cost of \$5,745.35. In 1930, he had the children's playgrounds repaired by constructing a wall and fencing the school grounds, leveling it, and also the parish garden.

For the cost of \$2,798.36. Later, he has had the streets paved on Maple and First avenue and has had the school painted inside and outside. Despite many repairs having been made he was able to pay off a part of the debt on the school amounting to \$12,388.56.

The present Committee are: Stanislaw Denkowski, Francis Oelski, Alexander Planowicz, A. Rakowski, Stanislaw Gier, Ladislav Dybicz, Leonard Kruszyński, Stanislaw Gama, Joseph Borniewicz, Francis Deshiewicz, Joseph Lewanski, Adam Michalski and Edward Pickicki.

The Church organizations are: Polish Eagles, with about 200 members, Polish Eagle Club, Sobieski Club, Kosciuszko, Unia Polak, Beneficial Women Society, Sodality of the Blessed V. M. Girls Society, St. Theresa's Society, Rosary Society, St. Clara Beneficial Society, St. Stanislaw Koski, Boys Society, St. Mary's Y. M. C. C., St. Joseph's Beneficial Society.

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Balligomingo Baptist

Balligomingo Baptist church in West Conshohocken is an off-spring from the Lower Merion Baptist church, and was organized in 1834. Previous to that time the members of the Baptist faith in this vicinity were compelled to go all the way to the Lower Merion church for weekly worship. Daniel Moore, one of the leading residents of Balligomingo and a prominent member of the Lower Merion congregation, erected a building for worship upon his premises. In 1835 this edifice was opened for worship. Some thirty had been baptized and services were conducted every Sunday. Rev. H. G. Jones, of Lower Merion, supplied the pulpit.

In 1840 a call was sent out to the churches of the vicinity to come together in council to organize an independent Baptist church in Balligomingo. The following churches responded: Lower Merion, New Market and Youth street churches, Philadelphia, Hill Town, Chestnut Hill, Norristown, Great Valley, Newtown, Roxborough and Holmesburg. Pleds for recognition as an independent church of the Baptist order were granted by unanimous consent. Letters of dismissal were granted to fifty-two members of the Lower Merion church.

It was Bebel Moore's intention to give the church property to the church but he died before this could be effected. The property passed into the hands of George Bullock, a contributing member. It was his intention also to give the property to the Baptists, but business failure forbade. Under these adverse circumstances the church so long neglected by the congregation, was never the property of the church. The beautiful stone church was occupied for a long period of time or until a frame structure was erected on Williams street below Merion avenue when the first church edifice was dedicated. The building was later turned into a stable and is now occupied as a garage by the Glassine Paper Company, of West Conshohocken, the owners.



Rev. R. Earle Pettingill

For nearly twenty years the congregation continued to worship in their frame church but about 1906 land was purchased on Ford street above Merion avenue and the present beautiful stone church and parsonage was started and in June, 1908 the church was dedicated. The Williams street property was later sold and converted into a commodious bungalow, but not until after it had been used some years as a club house where indoor athletics were staged.

The church has been served by eighteen pastors, a number of whom are still living and active in their noble calling.

Rev. R. Earle Pettingill, pastor for the last six years, now occupies the pulpit and has won much acclaim in welfare and youth circles.

Holiness Christian

The Holiness Christian church is the oldest house of worship in West Conshohocken. The building was erected about 1888 by the Heavenly Recruits Association which was started by the late Rev. Edwin L. Hyde.

The Association grew from a little band of religious worshippers who held their first meetings in the home of a Mrs. Taylor, who resided at 729 Ford street. Meetings were held at the homes of the various workers in the West Borough and in Gulph Mills. The organization was effected on March 25, 1885. In addition to Rev. E. L. Hyde, the charter members comprised Mr. and Mrs. Wesley McCullough, Miss Anna Boyd, who later became the wife of Rev. E. L. Hyde; Samuel Boyd, Sr., Mrs. Sarah Buler, Harry Boyd, Miss Hannah Buler, now Mrs. George Witter; Mr. and Mrs. William Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. William Lowery, Peter Smith, Mr. and Mrs. William Martin, John Earl, Mrs. Mary Yetter, Mrs. Anne Fisher and Ezekiel Rhoads. Five of the original group are still living, and Mrs. E. L. Hyde, for more than a quarter of a century. He was also made an area evangelist in the Methodist conference and one of the leaders at the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting. At the time of his death a few years ago he was one of the most prominent members in the Methodist church.

Following Mr. Hyde's pastorate at the West Side church he was succeeded by a long list of ministers. Rev. J. J. Wright, Rev. Harry Magee and Rev. L. F. Bauman, among the early pastors, have all been admitted to the Methodist Conference.

The present pastor, Rev. Ella J. Nace, has been connected with the church for the past forty years. She was given an evangelist's license many years ago and later was ordained as a minister. She has had a successful career as an evangelist and six years ago was elected the pastorate of her own church. She is popular among the members of her own group, enjoys the confidence of the members of other churches and is held in high esteem throughout the entire community. She has labored diligently in her church and has satisfied a mortgage that was placed on the property to make needed repairs prior to her assuming the pastorate. The church is now free of all incumbrance and is in an excellent state of repairs.

Her annual report to the last conference showed an increase in the membership of both church and Sunday school and the financial condition to be excellent.

From the Moorhead Estate and a frame edifice was erected. The cornerstone was laid with an impressive service on December 29, 1905. The building was completed and dedicated the following summer.

Rev. Mr. Brewster remained as pastor of the church for a few years and then resigned. He was followed by Rev. E. E. Hoffman, who labored for several years and then resigned. A short time later the church was made a memorial to the Charles Pyle and changed to the Pyle Memorial church. The church entered another conference in 1910 and was admitted to the Methodist Conference. Rev. J. C. Nace followed a succession of members and remained at the church for several years. His efforts were rewarded

with success. He increased the church membership and the Sunday school grew to be one of the largest in the community. During his pastorate a lot adjoining the church property was purchased and an annex for social activities erected. This incurred a debt which the members are now striving to pay. It is the only encumbrance on the church property.

Early this year the conference removed Rev. Mr. Keller and appointed Rev. George W. Harrison, a young preacher from the Wilkes Barre district, who is rapidly establishing himself as an influence for good in the community.

Mrs. Mary Johnson, of Spring Mill avenue, is the only member of the original group still living.

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St. Paul's Baptist

At the close of the World War, a number of colored people had found their way from the south-land to Conshohocken. They were industrious and came in search of employment. Many were hired by the Alan Wood Steel Company. Among this group many were religious and felt that they should have a place of worship.

These people were mainly of the Baptist denomination and as there was not a Baptist church for colored people, a movement was started among them. The Rev. J. T. Shepard, pastor of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. W. W. Leonard, the first religious meeting with these workmen in the camp at Schuylkill iron works. They were accompanied by Jacob Moser. Later, Warren Woods, one of their number, got permission to use the old James Hall mill for a meeting place. This property belonged to the Alan Wood Steel Company. After a little time, Rev. M. W. Lee was asked to consider leading this group. He consented, met the people and preached to five persons the first time. In a few weeks, however, many more came to the meeting and a number

History of Conshohocken Schools Reveals Brilliant Progress

School System Marks Town's Years of Development

First Borough School Organized as Country School, With No Grading.—R. F. Hoffecker Chosen First Principal.—Organized a Graded System With High School.—District Gave Two of Its Directing Educators to Head County School System.—Commercial, Home Economics and Manual Training Courses in Addition to Academic Courses Now on Roster

Conshohocken's public school system had its beginning in a one-room building, situated next to a stable yard. From that humble origin, the borough's public school system had grown to extensive proportions, occupying two large school plants, the grade schools at Third avenue and Harry street, and the high school unit at Seventh avenue and Fayette street.

Now, the estimated value of the public school property here is \$550,000, and an annual expenditure of \$111,000 is necessary to operate the public schools.

Upon the erection of the village of Conshohocken into a borough, a part of the responsibilities attached to the new dignity was the establishment of a borough school. The first school was established in Stemple's hall, located on the west side of Forrest street between Hector and Elm streets. It was a one room school. The school was continued there until 1837.

In 1852 Theodore Trewendt gave to the borough a plot of ground at Second avenue and Fayette street, the site now occupied by the Conshohocken Trust Company and the Talone buildings, on the Fayette street frontage and dwellings in the rear. A site for a school building. In 1853 a stone building of two stories, containing four rooms was erected. The school was located upon a hill with a steep terrace supported by a high stone wall. The entrance was from Fayette street, by a double flight of stone steps to the height of the wall and thence by a wide wooden flight of stairs, with platforms to ease the ascent, to the top of the hill.

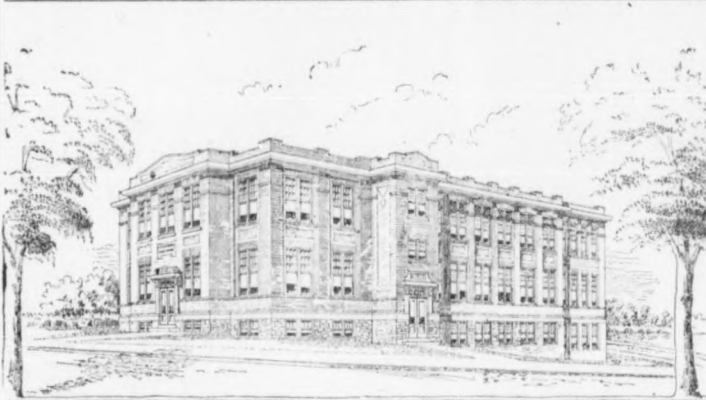
Three rooms were opened in the new building in 1857 and two hundred and thirty pupils were enrolled. The building was heated with a large stove in each room. At the rear of the building was a large stone wall, the purpose of which was to protect the pupils sitting nearest the stove. The benches were large to accommodate the larger pupils and two sat at each desk. In front of the stove were placed desks and movable benches at which the largest pupils in the room were seated.

The growing community soon demanded larger school facilities and in 1867 the present Hoffecker building was erected. This, in its day, was an imposing structure. It is built of brick and contains eight classrooms. Four on each of the two floors, and two small rooms on the ground floor, one of which was used as a library and the other was called the "flower" room, as in the winter plants were kept there and it was also used as a place for administering corporal punishment as many of the older residents of the borough remember. The building was surmounted with a wooden bell and clock tower and steeple. A large bell was installed and a great bell rang eight days a week with four or five bells and immediately became known as the town clock.

In 1864 Reuben Hoffecker was elected principal of the Conshohocken school and organized the grades as well as it could be done under the handicap of an inadequate building. When the new school, known as the Third Avenue Grammar School, was occupied, the principal of the Conshohocken school was established with a three year course, the first class being graduated in 1872. The members were: James C. McGonagle, who later became an engineer and a member of the electric street railways; Miss Mina Matthews, who married A. A. Lindvall, of this borough and is now deceased; James B. Ray, who is engaged in the jewelry business; and Miss Maudie Kees, who married Mr. Horn, of Philadelphia. The commencement exercises were held in the high school room and the first principal of the Conshohocken school district were presented by Prof. Hoffecker for the school board.

Prof. Hoffecker placed the schools upon a high plane and encouraged the parents to permit their children to complete the school course. In this he was successful in a great measure, for as the graduating classes were small there was a class each year. Mr. Hoffecker was principal of the local schools until 1878 when he was chosen county superintendent of schools. He was succeeded by J. Warren Schlichter, who proved an able successor. Mr. Hoffecker and maintained the high standards set by his predecessor. Two schools were in operation: the Third Avenue school and the "old" school on the hill at Second avenue. These schools were continued until the needs of the growing town demanded expansion. The needs were met by the erection in 1885 of the Harry street school, on the same tract of ground with the Third Avenue school. This building was of brick, two stories and basement and contained eight classrooms. With the opening of this school, the old school was abandoned. This centralized the schools and gave the principal, who also taught the high school without assistance, better opportunity for supervision. Mr. Schlichter retired from teaching in 1888 to

THE CONSHOHOCKEN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL



On the morning of May 11, 1923, the Harry street school building was destroyed by fire. The building was rebuilt with two additional rooms.

None of the school buildings are fire proof. The addition to the high school is of the more modern construction and is of the slow burning type of construction. With the completion of the new high school building, the schools were reorganized and a junior high school established. The administration office of the school system is located in the high school building and is in charge of Miss Phyllis Jones. A complete list of the superintendents and principals who have

managed the local public schools is as follows:

Early Principals
1864—Reuben Hoffecker
1878—J. Warren Schlichter
1888—J. Addison Jones
1898—John K. Harley
(Frances Jones, asst.)
1892—J. Horace Landis
(Frances Jones, asst.)
Superintendents
1896—J. Horace Landis
1904—Elmer Zeigler
1911—Frank Cloud
1915—A. M. Weaver
1918—Paul Y. Eckert
1920—Charles Hottenstein
1927—Robert C. Landis (present)

Principals Beginning 1896

1896—Caroline Niblo
1904—Frank Cloud
1911—Irvin Noll
1915—L. B. Earhardt
1917—H. S. Rausch
1919—Charles Hottenstein
1920—Byron Hunsberger
1925—R. M. Weaver
1926—Edward Oerman
Board of Education
Oscar Freas, president; Walter Eisenberg, vice president; John R. Wood, treasurer; Howard Roberts, secretary; Leonard Talone, Esq., Alexander Young and Miss Phyllis Jones, secretary and school clerk.
E. Arnold Forrest, Esq., and State Assemblyman, is school solicitor; Dr. Percy Corson, school physician; Miss Ada Sturge, school nurse.

St. Matthew's Famed for Excellence of Teaching Corps

Parochial School Founded by the Late Rev. Richard Kinahan Given Award of Merit at Chicago "Columbian" Exposition.—First Teachers Selected From Parish.—Pupils Fitted For Teaching.—Change in Church Policy Places Schools in Charge of Sisters.—Modern School Building Adjoins Church.—Enrollment Has Increased to Total 1000 Children

From a modest schoolhouse costing \$15,000 and representing considerable volunteer work on the part of men of the parish, to a magnificent Gothic structure, valued at close to \$200,000 runs the history of parochial education in Conshohocken.

The banner of Catholic Christian education in this community was planted in 1870, when the first spadeful of earth was turned for the original St. Matthew's parochial school.

Today, the St. Matthew's parochial school system comprises the extensive building, immediately adjacent to St. Matthew's Roman Catholic church, Third avenue and Fayette street, and the modernized original structure on Hector street, below Ash. The Fayette street structure is used as a grade school, and the Hector street building as a high school.

Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia, dedicated the new St. Matthew's parochial school, December 6, 1930.

With a frontage of 100 feet on Fayette street, the property extending back to Harry street, the structure was erected at a contract price of \$164,000. The new school contains eight large classrooms, four on each floor, cloak rooms for each grade, a superintendent's office, medical examiner's room, modern sanitary washrooms, an auditorium with a fully equipped stage, rooms for parish social activities, club rooms for men and women and a basement kitchen.

The auditorium has been said by architects to rank among the finest in the state for acoustic purposes. A test of the latter showed it to be close to one hundred per cent perfect. In this regard, a mechanical ventilating system keeps the air of the auditorium, sweet and healthy.

The entire building meets every requirement of the best modern schools and is equipped with every convenience for the health and health of student and teacher. The structure is approximately 100 by 140 feet in area, the classrooms are standard size, 22 x 28 feet, the auditorium 73 feet by 71 feet, with a stage 33 by 17, with dressing rooms on either side.

Rev. William A. O'Donnell, present rector of St. Matthew's R.C. church, and Rev. Philip Gallagher, D. D., L. D., now rector of Mount St. Mary's College, Emmittsburg, Md., and a former rector of St. Matthew's R.C. church, are the clergymen responsible for providing the children of St. Matthew's parish with its present school facilities.

The need of a new parochial school for St. Matthew's parish had been apparent for sometime, when Rev. Dr. Gallagher assumed the pastorate here in 1921. Feeling that the parish was not financially able at that time to take on the burden of a new school structure, Rev. Dr. Gallagher extensively improved the original structure, at a cost of \$35,000. A third story was added, providing two new classrooms and second story classrooms were increased in size. To provide additional room for the constantly growing enrollment, the original St. Matthew's church, at Hector and Harry streets, abandoned when the new structure at Third avenue and Fayette street was opened, was put in condition for use as a

the confines of Conshohocken, where it was felt. Students from the surrounding territory eagerly sought admission, and Father Kinahan, mindful of the needs of the community and untiring in the discharge of his pastoral duties, soon found need for a principal of his school. Peter Bolger, a graduate of the then famous Locke school, of Norristown, and since a newspaper correspondent of repute, also secretary of the Civil Service Commission was engaged to take the position of first principal and Professor of the high school.

Soon the inadequacy of the accommodation in the church basement, and the steady ingress of scholars made necessary the acquiring of another location. In 1870 a plot of ground on Hector street was purchased, and the erection of a school was begun forthwith. The structure designed by Father Kinahan, was one of stone, two-story, 50 by 76 feet, and cost the parish \$15,000. Compared to many present-day buildings of a like nature, it comprised ten teaching or school rooms and six cloak rooms. Its ceilings were high, the rooms well lighted, all with outside exposure, and in all it evinced the high standard of the great man. On the first floor an altar was erected in the central room and sliding partitions made possible the hearing of the sacrifice of the Mass (frequently said here) by a large gathering.

On the second floor classes were held, beginning in September 1872. Gradually classes were added, until finally every room in the building was being used. Meanwhile, Father Kinahan, in constant daily attendance watched and guided the destinies of the school. Nothing was neglected, nothing overlooked, that might improve in one iota its high standard.

Thomas E. Kennedy succeeded as Principal in 1875, also a product of the Locke School in Norristown. In the four years following St. Matthew's school won a prestige unequalled in any other corresponding time. The first class of graduates went forth in 1878, and comprised four girls and one boy. Of unusual distinction, this class was truly representative of their high standard. St. Matthew's graduates for their course comprised part of what we today know as a college course.

Responsive to the promptings of his heart, St. Matthew's principal, then but 21, and destined for great things, entered the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo at Overbrook in September 1879. After three years here, having impressed his preceptors with his ability, he was sent to the North American College in Rome, to continue his theological studies in the very heart of Catholicity itself. In 1887, on July 24th, he was raised to the rank of priesthood, and the following year, having gained the title of Doctor in Philosophy and Theology, he was back in St. Charles Seminary, now in the role of Professor. There he labored until 1904 when he was honored with the Rectorship of the North American College in Rome. Success came from indefatigable labor, and henceforth the students of the American College drew wide acclaim from the Vatican.

Long before ecclesiastical regulations required a parochial school, Father Kinahan, prompted by holy desire to serve both his people and the community at large, early planned a school under the auspices of religion, for Conshohocken. Succeeding the late Father McGinnis, and assuming his pastorate on St. Matthew's Day, September 21st, 1883, Father Kinahan at once took up the work so dear to his heart. He met with a very ready response from his people, and in September 1886, a school was opened in the basement of the church building at Hector and Harry streets. Three teachers were engaged, Miss Mary McGuire, Miss O'Brien and Miss McCullough, and the work was supervised in its minutest detail by Father Kinahan. Bare the first year was completed, 50 pupils had enrolled. The following year a course was arranged for advanced scholars by Father Kinahan. Miss McCullough taking over this work, while Miss Cora Shaw assumed her work in the grades.

Early recognition of the high standards of St. Matthew's school and the extraordinary ability of its founder as a master and schoolman, made its impress far beyond

answer quietly and composedly any questions asked them. The teachers are well grounded in their methods of instruction, can describe and exhibit them with ease and fluency. Then the school is marvelously equipped. Beautiful indeed, is the collection of rare and costly instruments—unequaled in any Philadelphia from the University downwards.

"The walls of the classrooms are hung with maps, original and instructive. There are curiously practical maps of the great divisions of the earth, made up of nearly all the maps of all kinds—in the school by the teachers. There are large oil paintings on canvas, of the countries with their rivers and boundaries; the mountain systems are modeled in plaster, correct to the minutest detail, and samples of the products of each country, such as corn, wheat, wool, lumber, coal, etc., are fastened on the surface of the territory to which they belong. Even some precious stones are there and tiny bottles of syrup, molasses, etc., dot the West Indies, South America, and the southern States of America together with small bales of cotton in the latter. It was a most ingenious and clever thought and most admirably wrought out.

"The chemical and physical laboratories present an array of apparatus of inestimable value; terrestrial and celestial globes that actually locate, propelled by clockwork; the famed Lullatellus showing the various orbits and daily eclipses; while a visit to the Observatory on an elevation in the school yard, will always remain a pleasant memory. Here is found a Siderial clock, the finest of its kind in the country; a meridian transit with a four inch glass; portable telescopes in number, while mounted on a beautiful pedestal stands, in the center of the building, a revolving telescope with a six inch glass. Frequent use is made of these instruments in the classes, with the result that the idea of astronomical exactness dominates the work of the students in every branch.

"St. Matthew's school well deserved the World's Fair Medal, awarded to it in 1893, and the diploma and certificate awarded to it by the Board of Education in Philadelphia. This system provided ways of reaching the last gift of the school and they stood in the time, and it is even in our times, accepted as an advanced method in pedagogy.

Following the death of Professor McDonald in 1890, Bernard P. Corrigan, a graduate of St. Matthew's, assumed the principal. His efforts with those of the teachers under him, brought to the attention of many prominent educators in the east, knowledge of the wonderful work being done, and accordingly, the Board of Education sent representatives here to review the work done and the methods adopted, and at times nationally-known educators came here and were always ready to spend the time spent in St. Matthew's school. These visitors included Mr. Samuel Corson, well known here, Mrs. Mary Mumford, one of the first women representatives on the Board of Education in Philadelphia, and Dr. Edward Brooks, superintendent of Philadelphia schools. All spoke of the high grade of teaching in St. Matthew's, the high ideal of Father Kinahan in education, his sincerity and the results he had attained.

A correspondent of a Philadelphia daily newspaper, telling of a visit to Conshohocken, writes: "Conshohocken has, moreover, a Parochial School (St. Matthew's) which made a decided impression on the Judges at the World's Fair in Chicago last year (1893) and brought a noble testimony of certificates, diplomas and complimentary letters to this quiet little town. The school is celebrated for its excellence, and I spent most interesting hours in its classrooms. I have never seen such wonders wrought with all sorts of pupils. From the primary grades—the 'tiniest ones'—everyone writes a 'clear, distinct hand; copy books have no blots, no crooked lines; examination papers or practice papers are of purpose uncompromisingly neat; all of which lent much to the success of his mighty enterprise."

Worn with years of activity, he contracted a cold while attending a meeting of the Diocesan School Board in Philadelphia, and died December 19, 1909.

But the work he had inaugurated went on. Father Parker assumed the direction of the school as a precious heritage, requested by his illustrious predecessor, and carried on in the great work with the same high ideals as had Father Kinahan. Frequent meeting of the teachers were held, and an extraordinary ideal of education was discussed and solutions offered, with the result that the school teachers gave the benefits of their experience to the less tried. Progress was felt, devotion and tutelage under Father Kinahan, proved most capable in his position, and St. Matthew's school marched on in the vanguard of educational progress.

Pursuant to instructions from His Excellency the Most Rev. Archbishop Prendergast, early in 1915, Father Parker sought the services of a teaching Order of Religious. To maintain the high standard of excellence of St. Matthew's was a task of no mean proportions, so when the Sisters of St. Joseph, one of the best qualified of the teaching Orders of the Country, were announced as coming here, the parishioners felt devoted that St. Matthew's school would continue on the high plane it had attained in all the years of its existence.

And so it has been St. Matthew's school today, and unique in the distinct quality of the high type of American citizen going forth annually as graduates. Father Parker spent with the toil of erecting the new Church, suffered failing health, and death ended his earthly career February 17, 1921. His zeal for education fell little short of that of his illustrious predecessor as evidenced by his many discourses on the advancement of the parishioners' education, and to him the parishioners and the community owe much for his efforts to advance the interests of education in Conshohocken.

As in the past success depended on the loyalty, devotion and self-sacrifice of the principal, today St. Matthew's school owes much to Mother M. Catherine, the first Religious Principal, and also to Mother M. De Charlat, during whose tenure of six years studies were revised and rearranged and the high school accredited.

The school, today, continues to maintain its enviable reputation under the direction of Mother M. Ambrosine and the nuns who composed its faculty.

The graduates of St. Matthew's have achieved fame in all walks of life. Most noteworthy of the young men who have been ordained to the priesthood are Archbishop Thomas Kennedy and the late Monsignor John J. Greenhill, Rev. Hugh Dugan, Rev. Daniel J. Kehoe, D. D., Rev. Thomas Mullaney, all of whom rendered or are rendering distinguished service in the various parishes to which they were assigned.

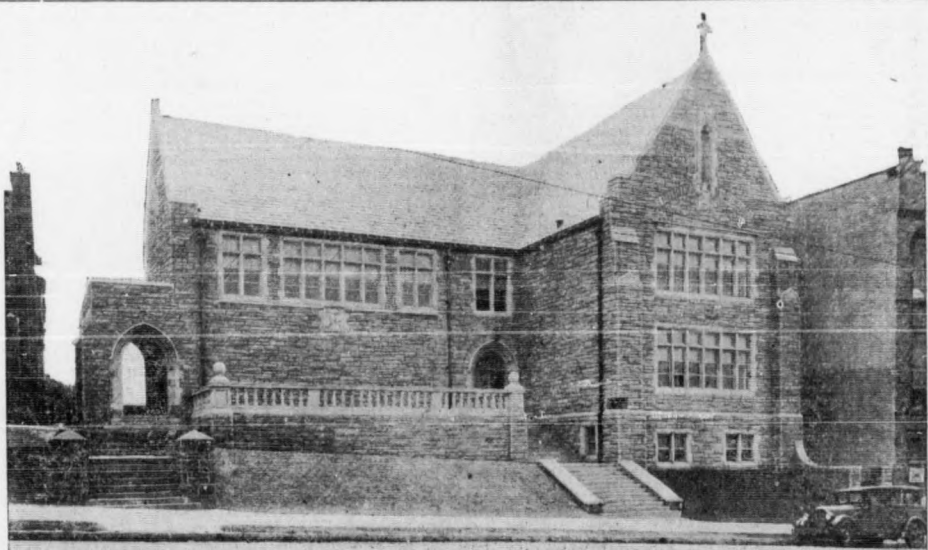
ST. MARY'S PAROCHIAL. Just prior to 1910, St. Mary's parish established its first school in a modest way in a brick building on Maple street near Elm, adjacent to the present church, erected for use as a chapel several years previous. Rev. John Oadnick was pastor of St. Mary's Church at this period.

Eighty seven pupils comprised the initial enrollment. Today, close to five hundred boys and girls are listed on the school roster.

The Bernardine Sisters, with headquarters in Reading, were engaged to man the little school, with Sister Mary as the superior. The school increased yearly, until in 1927, Rev. J. Moduszewski, then pastor, contracted with Andrew Kaczmarek, to rebuild the old school, construct several more classrooms, and bring the school up to date. The sum of \$34,884 was spent on this renovation. Enrollment in 1928 jumped to 325 pupils and has increased at the present time to close to five hundred.

All the usual elementary subjects are taught in this school, giving the children a sound preparation for high school and higher learning.

THE ST. MATTHEW'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL



Borough Always Maintained Leadership in Realm of Sports

Borough One of First Small Towns to Foster Basketball

First Conshohocken Team Organized by Old Pioneer Corps Forty Years Ago. — Charles Moore and Howard Cox Introduced Game to Fans Here

EARLY TEAMS RECOGNIZED AS BEST IN COUNTRY

Present St. Mary's Church Housed First Court. — Teams Were Leaders in League Competition. — Games With New York Team Among Contests

Conshohocken was one of the early small towns to foster basketball. The first team was organized here forty years ago when the population of the borough was about 3000. It was virtually an off-spring of the old South Philadelphia Y. M. C. A. Charles Moore and Howard Cox, members of the Y. M. C. A. and players in that organization, started the game here in 1894 and became regular players on the team. Cox resided here and was employed at the Lee Surgical Works. Moore resided in Philadelphia. They joined the Pioneer Corps, a social organization composed of young men. The Pioneers had no military standing but they were well drilled in marching and maneuvering. They dressed in military attire and attracted much attention on parade. Pioneers had their headquarters in the old school which stood on the hill between First and Second avenue. The hill has since been removed to make room for a row of stores, apartments and the Conshohocken Trust company building. Moore and Cox organized the basketball team and the Pioneers moved their headquarters from the school to the old Presbyterian church at Elm and Maple streets, now occupied as St. Mary's Polish Catholic church. A basketball court was laid out. A board fence surrounded the court and on either side tiers of seats were erected. A screen was placed in front of the pulpit platform and behind the screen there were tiers of seats arranged for the spectators. Irwin Wilkinson was manager of the first team.



CHARLES MOORE

Who in company with Howard Cox started basketball in this borough. Short and stocky built, he was one of the most brilliant forwards of his day. The bigger his opponents came the better he liked it. And none were able to outplay him. He has lived here since his basketball days. The above picture was taken about the time he was ready to retire.

When the game was first started here there were seven men. The original team was composed of the following players: Charles Moore and Samuel Neville, forwards; Howard Cox, center; Albert Eiland and Joseph A. Ruth, side centers; and David Custer and Alfred Rambo, guards. Robert Crawford and a number of others joined the team later. At that time divided floor rules governed the game.

There were only a few teams in Philadelphia at that time. Teams had also been organized at Millville, Camden and Trenton. Much interest was shown in the game in these towns. Series of contests were arranged between the several teams and many real battles were staged. Conshohocken soon forged to the front as one of the best teams and wherever they played proved a big drawing card. The forwards did all the scoring, the game as in the present girls' game, although the rules were not so strict as they are now. There was comparatively little scoring and if a team tallied eight or ten points it was worth a big head in the metropolitan daily papers.

The game was played for sports sake in those days. None of the players were paid and the money went into the treasury of the organization. The traveling expenses of the team, however, were paid out of the treasury. The Pioneer Corps was a popular organization and the new game went off with a bang. Not only were the home games played to crowded houses

but many of the rookers followed the team to other towns and around the city. Many of the older residents of the town recall the exciting games that were staged when Millville, Trenton and Camden played on the local floor. That was before the organization of any leagues. Later Hancock, Penn. Wheelmen, Caledonia and other Philadelphia teams came here regularly for games and as a special attraction the twenty-third street Y. M. C. A. New York team came here several times. This team had no home floor and was considered the best team in the country. The names of kid and also Asadie, Sandy Shields, Wendelkin, Kew and Stein, comprising the New York team, became known as well here as the names of the local players. Shields was considered the greatest scoring forward of his time. In later years New York played here regularly as a member of the National League.

The seven player team remained in vogue only a few years when the number was cut to five by eliminating the side center positions. A few years later the rules were again changed and the divided floor system discarded and the open floor system introduced. This made the game much faster and permitted any player on the team to score. Following the adoption of the open floor, Custer started dribbling the ball down the floor and was probably the instigator of this play which has gone a long way in making the game spectacular.

The original team remained intact for several years and finally disbanded. Two of the members are dead. They are Custer, one of the town's best athletes and most popular residents, died at his West Conshohocken home many years ago, and Bob Crawford, well-known athlete and sports promoter, who passed away a little more than a year ago following a protracted illness. Rambo is residing in Frankford and Howard Cox has been living in Detroit for the past several years. However, before he left town he married Lillian Jones, a West Conshohocken girl. Moore married the former Clara Murray of this borough, took up his residence here and has been a local resident ever since. He still likes the game and while too old to play, frequently serves as an official at the Church League games. Joseph Ruth, Albert Eiland and Sam Neville are still residents of the borough they kept in the forefront of the basketball world in the early days.

Three years ago the members of the original team were invited as guests to the annual banquet of the Church League and all were present with the exception of Sam Neville. Mr. Cox motored here with his family from Frankford. It was a happy reunion and the old days were happily discussed.

Second Team Organized
At the opening of the season of



BILL HERRON

Conshohocken lost one of its stand-out athletes when Bill Herron died, a victim of the flu epidemic. A big husky fellow who tipped the beam above the 200-mark, he was a tower of strength on a football line and as a basketball guard he had few superiors. He was a member of two championship teams. He played with Conshohocken when they were crowned champions and later played with Homestead when they won the "World's" title. The above picture was taken when he was in his prime as an athlete.



BILL LUKENS

As he appeared just before becoming a member of the Homestead team, in the Central Pennsylvania Basketball League, which won the "World's Championship" during the season of 1908-09. Bill started his career as a member of St. Mark's Lutheran church team and developed into one of the best forwards in the Philadelphia section. He played on a number of league teams in Philadelphia. In addition to basketball he was a football player. He resides in West Conshohocken.

1897-98, after the original team had pulled away to play independent ball, a second team was organized by the Pioneer Corps. William Neville, local druggist, who later managed the Conshohocken Champions, entered the game to manage the new team, comprising Joseph J. Bennett, George W. Jones, Harold Barker, John Keyser, Samuel Colen, Andrew Pass, Bill Shaw, Bill Irwin, Sr.

The team played their home games in the old Washita Hall, where a court was built. By this time the game had sprang out of parts of Philadelphia and several surrounding communities were represented on the court and games were plentiful. The new team met with success, both in the matter of games won and from a financial standpoint. After two or three seasons here, the team was switched to Norrisown, where it remained for a short time and then disbanded.

Bristol had organized a strong team and was gaining rapidly in popularity. Al Rambo and Billy Bennett, of this borough, were loaned by the Bristol management. It was while a member of this team that Bennett became one of the best guards of his time. There were few forwards he could not prevent from scoring and it is a matter of history that he had fewer fouls called on him than any of the other leading guards. During his years at Bristol, Bennett worked at least two hard games a week and worked continuously at a heavy job in one of the local iron mills.

Neville remained out of the game for a few years but returned about 1902 to organize a new Conshohocken team and enter the professional field. He collected a strong array of players including Steve White, Al Glassey, forwards; Bill Keenan, center; Dr. Charles Bossert and Bill Herron, guards, with some strong substitutes. The old lively stable, formerly conducted by the late Frank Skeen, on Hector street below Poplar, was leased. The first floor was altered and made into a court at an expense of about \$4000. The team entered the Philadelphia League. The games here attracted considerable interest and the team had a large following. The players were signed at fixed but moderate salaries. From the beginning the local team assumed the lead and held onto first place. League officials objected to the strength of the local team, claiming it took interest out of the race and hurt the attendance at other games.

In the early part of the season of 1904-05 Manager Neville decided to take his local championship team on a trip West. Games were scheduled with the strongest teams possible in the Western part of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois. The team was heralded as "world beaters" in all cities and such they proved to be. They were greeted by capacity crowds wherever they played and teams having them on their schedule sent their scouts miles to get a line on the style of play employed by the "Big Shots From the East." The team was away for two weeks playing nearly every night and frequently two games were played a day. The trip was a howling success, every game, with the exception of one or two, resulting in victory.

A game had been arranged at Kenton in the western part of Ohio. The team was considered the best in the world (by the natives). They had gone through five games without a defeat and when Manager Neville and his basketballers from the East hit the town they were surprised to find posted in a window of the leading hotel a certified check for \$4000 as a wager that Conshohocken could not defeat Kenton. A three-game series was played. Conshohocken

Much has been contributed to the social, industrial, judicial, professional and literary activities of Montgomery County by Conshohocken residents since the incorporation of the borough in 1850.

No higher in their respective spheres have these persons stood than those who have represented the town in athletics.

Probably no attempt to write a history of athletic activities here has ever been undertaken. The field covers a wide and varied scope dating back to the middle '70's. A complete account would fill an interesting chapter in the borough's history. To write this, however, is an impossibility as there have been no records kept of the early doings, prior to the formation of leagues. The information has been gathered from a number of the older residents, either participants or those who were otherwise interested. There may be and probably will be some exceptions taken to that which is written. This is only natural as many recorded historical events are doubted by some persons. Such a history should prove interesting and give the followers of athletics down through the years something to ponder over and talk about.

Few towns of similar size have been more active in so many branches of athletics than Conshohocken. In fact, next to the popularity gained through its three leading manufactured products—automobile tire, boilers and iron—athletics has given the borough much favorable advertisement. Baseball, boxing, football, basketball, bowling, golf, tennis and the great Italian game—bocce—have all been represented by Conshohocken athletes.

The first organized team, which happened to be a base ball nine, had a large following and during those days the borough was recognized as a good sports town. This reputation was lived up to for many years. Visiting teams were greeted by large attendances and the hospitality accorded them was not more generous in any community. A few years after the ending of the World War, a change was wrought in athletics which resulted in the virtual ruin of the borough as a "good sports town". Prior to that time foot ball was the most popular form of sport. The Conshohocken team was among the best in the East and was composed almost exclusively of local talent.

With prosperity at its peak and wages the highest in the history of mankind, foot ball was commercialized. No longer were local boys good enough to get "in the money". The Conshohocken team was re-organized and college players were brought here. Within a few years many All-American stars were introduced to local fandom. High salaries were demanded for their services. The cost of financing the team ran into large sums of money and ere long the gate receipts became too small to meet the expense and the game was doomed and the sport ruined.

A base ball team was formed about this time, a number of outside players were brought here to represent the town and the team was entered in a league. Conshohocken made an excellent showing in league competition but the attendance failed to pay the carrying charges and the proposition did not last long. Since then only independent teams and local leagues have been organized.



BILLY NEVILLE

The local pharmacist found time between compounding prescriptions during the closing years of the last century to take an interest in basketball. He managed the Pioneer Corps Seconds and later opened the court in the former Skeen livery stable on East Hector street, where he developed the Conshohocken Champions. Billy still gets a kick out of talking about his experiences at home and on trips with his classy performers.

won the first game by a score of 22 to 20 before a capacity crowd. Realizing the receipts from three games meant a lot of money to them the local players decided to leave Kenton take the second game with the intention of coming back and coping the third game and the series before another crowded house. Instead of winning the third game, the contest ended in a tie score. For the benefit of the more curious nobody accepted the \$4000 wager.

Probably the most memorable victory was that over East Liverpool, by a narrow margin. The Ohio team was considered the

Editorial



STEVE WHITE

Leading scorer of the Conshohocken Champions. He was one of the smallest and ranked among the best forwards of his time. He is now a member of Philadelphia's police force.

Town's Oldest Baseball Star

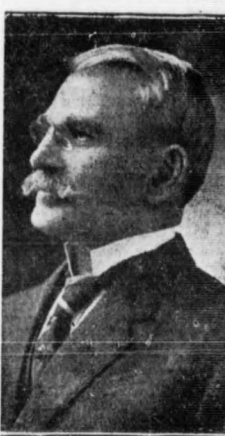
"Jack" Harrold Only Living Member of Borough's 1st Diamond Team

SPONSORED BOXING

Taught Art of Self Defense. — Personal Friend and Second For Jim Corbett

John A. (Jack) Harrold, proprietor of the hotel bearing his name on West Elm street, cannot be credited with being the town's best all-around athlete but there is no denying the fact he is the oldest and one of the best sportsmen in Montgomery county. Obscuring his birthday last July 15, he now has passed the eighty-fourth milestone in his life's journey and every year has marked an interesting chapter. Despite his more than four-score years, his eyes are bright, his intellect keen and he moves about with the ease and grace of a man twenty years his junior.

A pleasant conversationalist, Mr. Harrold likes to reminisce of the early years of his life, which were filled with experiences that today make interesting reading.



JOHN A. HARROLD

He was a good baseball player, conducted a boxing school, loved horse racing and took an interest in all forms of sports.

Not only was he acquainted with all the local boxers but he was a personal friend of many of the fighters who had gained national prominence. Professor J. J. Clark, who aspired to the lightweight championship of America, was a frequent visitor to the Harrold home. When Clark was defeated by Arthur Chambers for the lightweight title at Black Rock in 1879, the local resident was at the ringside. He had spent several days prior to the fight with Clark in Erie, Pa.

James J. Corbett, former heavyweight champion of the world, was another of Mr. Harrold's personal friends and he was one of Corbett's advisors when he defeated John L. Sullivan for the title at New Orleans, La., on September 7, 1892. In speaking of this fight Mr. Harrold said, "I was always an admirer of Sullivan and this was the first time I did not favor him to win. Corbett was a new style fighter to Sullivan, who had fought only men who were known as in and out fighters. Corbett was a man who fought with his hands, feet and head and I could not see where Sullivan had a chance to win. It

was a great fight."

Speaking of Corbett in the last years of his life, Mr. Harrold continued, "I frequently heard from him through relatives and friends. I had no idea he was so seriously ill and going to die so soon. It was only a short time before his death I was talking to one of his relatives and he did not know at that time that Corbett's condition was so serious. I had planned to go to New York and visit him but he passed away before I could make arrangements for the trip."

Mr. Harrold, himself, was a clever boxer, and during his early life engaged in the sport as an instructor. He equipped a room in his house in West Elm street as a gymnasium and there he trained a number of the town's early boxers. Mr. Harrold was the borough's first police officer and later became a member of town council, on the Democratic ticket, from the First ward, serving several terms. He is an accomplished musician being an accomplished violinist.

Boxing One of Borough's Early Sports

Some Clever Fighters Have Been Developed Although Interest in the Sport Here Has Not Kept Pace With Other Branches.

Although it has never aroused the same interest as other branches of sports, boxing is one of the borough's oldest forms of recreation and some clever boxers have been developed.

The sport was established here prior to the time Jim Corbett defeated John L. Sullivan for the heavyweight championship by the town's leading sportsman, John A. Harrold. Himself, a clever boxer, Mr. Harrold started up a gymnasium at his home on West Elm street and started to give lessons in the many art of self defense. Many of the young men of the community attended the school and became proficient boxers. While there were many interesting bouts staged at the Harrold school there were no public programs such as today. No effort was made to commercialize the sport and those who swapped punches did so for the love of the game.

Tom Lanthorn, one of the old fighters of the borough, also conducted a school and taught a number of boys how to handle their "quicks". There was a little money to be picked up here and there for the boys who were considered the class and the borough began to get some notoriety.

Several years later "Bunny" Blake, the present chief of police, Councilman Johnny Kelly and some others took to the game and became clever boxers. They were scheduled for some of the big bouts arranged in nearby communities, although neither were considered of championship calibre. Chief Blake is a close personal friend of Tommy Loughran and he delights in telling his friends of the merry times he has had and the swift punches he has stopped from Tommy during some of his training periods for important engagements.

Joy Blake, Midget Fox and Joy Hadfield came next. All of these, while maybe not any better than the others, attracted more attention and were scheduled for more important cards. Both Hadfield and Fox fought in several cities throughout the East and South and both attracted much attention. Hadfield has probably seen action in more different cities than any of the local scrappers.

Johnny Craven and Wally Novak are the two present most popular local fighters with Hadfield now trying a comeback after a year's idleness. Craven has probably been the most successful. He has met and defeated some of the boys who were contenders for championship honors in the lightweight class. He has a long string of victories to his credit and proved to be a good drawing card wherever he was scheduled. He is still active, although the long continued depression has had its effect on the boxing game and there are not as many shows as there were two or three years ago.

Novak started only about two years ago. He has been very successful and by many of the experts is looked upon as a comer. He keeps in condition continually although his calls to action are few and far between. The town as a boxing center has not advanced very far. Several attempts to stage weekly boxing bouts both indoors and outdoors went over big for a few weeks and then interest died and the promoters were glad to crawl out from under the load.

BILLY BENNETT

A local athlete who gave his best years to bring renown to some other community is Billy Bennett for years one of the stars on the Bristol team and one of the best and cleanest guards the game has produced. He was given his start with the Pioneer Second team, under the management of Bill Neville, was signed by Bennett, where he was developed and helped that team to cop the championship of the National Professional Basketball League in the early part of the present century. He was invariably selected to play the highest scoring forward of all opposing teams.

Good Record on Golf Links

Borough's Outstanding Players Rank High in Tournament Competition

S. L. JONES WON TITLE

Mrs. Scheidt Has Played Many Prominent Women. Other Leaders in Sport

A few outstanding players have kept the borough in the forefront on the golf links, all of whom have been playing the game for several years and have been entered in the leading amateur championship tournaments of the East. One is Spencer L. Jones, of 516 Fayette street, a member of the firm of The H. C. Jones Company, textile manufacturers; Mrs. Kari Scheidt, the former Charlotte Thom as, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. Quincy Thomas, sixth avenue and Fayette street; Mrs. A. A. Garraway, of North lane, and Philp Carson, of Plymouth Meeting. Incidentally these are among the early devotees of the links in this community.

Mr. Jones has for years been recognized as one of the best players in this district, a reputation that has been won through successful competition with other stand-out golfers. He has for years stood among the leaders of the Philadelphia District and in 1927 won the championship. In recognition of this achievement he was the guest of honor at a testimonial banquet held at the Manufacturers' Club in Philadelphia and presented with a handsome silver putter.

Mrs. Scheidt and Mrs. Garraway have successfully upheld the women's end in links competition. Mrs. Scheidt, while no longer a resident of this borough (she now resides at Colonial Village) reached stardom prior to her marriage. While still a young woman she is now old in the game. She began her career when very young. By the time she reached the age of fourteen years she was an expert player and attracted much attention for her ability. She has successfully competed in many of the invitation tournaments in this community and has qualified to play in the National Golf Tournament, competing against such stars as Glenna Colclough, five times National champion; Miss Edith Quiler, Mrs. Dorothy C. Hurd and others who have gained prominence.

Mrs. Garraway has also been entered in many of the tournaments in this community and while she has not been in national competition, she has established an excellent record. Mr. Garraway is also an enthusiastic golfer but his time is occupied with the manifold duties as an executive of the Lee Tire & Rubber Company.

Mr. Carson has devoted much time to the sport and ranks in the same class as Mr. Jones, having won the Philadelphia District championship.

There are numerous others who have displayed championship ability in the game, but have not entered into competition for honors because of the pressure of time. Among these are Frank Donovan of West First avenue, whose ability has attracted considerable attention. Devotees of the sport who have seen Donovan play repeatedly predict that if he would follow the game he would soon be listed among the golfing greats. Others frequently visit the links but for the sole purpose of recreation.



G. ALLEN GLASSEY

Regular forward on the Conshohocken Champions. He came here from the Germantown Boys' Club. Al is now engaged in the plumbing business in Elmer, N. J. He visits his old manager, William Neville, occasionally.

Since the passing of the colors, there have been plenty of football, but only a few players on local teams, there have been organized, some have ad-

Since the passing of the colors, there have been plenty of football, but only a few players on local teams, there have been organized, some have ad-

Mr. Harold narrated one episode of the team's fourth season. It was staged at the Philadelphia against the J. B. Dovie Club. Among the players on the Dovie Club was A. Reach. Bobby Matthews was the first baseman. The team was a rather first Athletic team in Philadelphia. "The Nerve of Coshocken" played games with other teams as far away as Chester and Philadelphia.

Following the initial team test the Aerials, on which were one two players of the first team, were composed chiefly of young men. The team was composed of Edwin Harrison, Dick Clinton, Dick Blunk, Frank Jones, Mike McDonnell, M. Rooney, Bill Davis, Gillespie, Hank Ryan, Joe McGowan, and Mike McDonnell. The team was a very good one. Rooney and McGowan were deceased.

The Youngs Aerials, composed of the most part of West Chester, were composed of Lou Pollard, the Coshocken team followed.

and that in the runner-up position.

LONG COURT GAME

One of the loudest, if not the loudest basketball game on record was played with Camden here. It was back in the early days of the game here when the divided floor rules were still in vogue. The score was tied at two all. In those days an overtime round was played to break a tie. The game was interrupted until one or the other team scored. Twenty-four minutes elapsed before Charles Moore, local forward, ducked under the giant Charles Newman, who was Camden guard, dropped the ball in the basket and gave his team a 4 to 3 victory, after an hour and four minutes of actual playing.

Camden entered the Suburban League and the district championship. Conshohocken never failed to win the divisional and league title until the past year when Darby edged them out by winning every game on the schedule.

With the exception of one or two seasons when the team was exceptionally light and composed of inexperienced material, Conshohocken High has been among the leaders in foot and hand team sports usually much lighter than their opponents but what they have lacked in weight they have more than made up through speed and ability. In the 1930s, when the high school ever had was in 1931 when they went through the entire season without losing a game. Included in their string of victories was a season when Conshohocken, a town High, a team that has been on their schedule for years.

Some good track teams have been developed at the school and while

the high school as "Perk" Heisterkamp was a football player but his highest honors were on the baseball diamond. As a hand moundsman he twirled local team to several championships during his school career. He was a few years older than any other high school hurler of time. His ability was recognized through the suburban district his work attracted the attention major league scouts. Following graduation he was out to Philadelphia National League team and entered the vestry of Pennsylvania to take course in accounting. After the semester he gave up his studies has been playing this season for the Camden team in the Line League.

George—You look sweet eat to eat Lucile.
Lucile—I do eat. Where shall we go?

class, while they won admiration and respect wherever they went for their courageous and plucky spirit against teams which were far out of their class, such as Catholic high, West Catholic, Northwest Catholic, Salesianum, Bethlehem Catholic and Malvern Prep. Always battling against terrific odds, the old fighting spirit never died down from one end of the game to the other.

It is interesting to note that some nationally famous stars competed against St. Matthew's in their scholastic days, foremost of these are Tom Conley, captain and all-American end of Knute Rockne's last Notre Dame team, national champions of 1930; Ed Michaels, star guard of Villanova last year; Johnny Highfield, another former Villanova star; Bill Wenzel, North Catholic star and at present a Villanova back; Reds Burgoyne, star fullback at LaSalle, and many others.

LEO REDMOND
A product of St. Matthew's, Leo and later a three-letter man at Drexel Institute, where he starred in baseball, football and basketball. During his senior year he captained the gridiron team. Not was he one of the school's most brilliant athletes but he ranked high in scholastic standing, completing a course in accounting with honors. He is still active in athletics.

Mr. Harold narrated one episode of the team's fourth season. It was staged at the Philadelphia against the J. B. Dovie Club. Among the players on the Dovie Club was A. Reach. Bobby Matthews was the first baseman. The team was a rather first Athletic team in Philadelphia. "The Nerve of Coshocken" played games with other teams as far away as Chester and Philadelphia.

Following the initial team test the Aerials, on which were one two players of the first team, were composed chiefly of young men. The team was composed of Edwin Harrison, Dick Clinton, Dick Blunk, Frank Jones, Mike McDonnell, M. Rooney, Bill Davis, Gillespie, Hank Ryan, Joe McGowan, and Mike McDonnell. The team was a very good one. Rooney and McGowan were deceased.

The Youngs Aerials, composed of the most part of West Chester, were composed of Lou Pollard, the Coshocken team followed.

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Alan Wood Steel Company

One hundred and two years ago, there was erected at the foot of Fayette street, between the Schuylkill River and the Schuylkill Canal—then called the Plymouth Canal—a water mill for the rolling of iron.

It was the first industry of its kind in the borough, and one of the first in this section of Montgomery County.

The owners were James Wood, since affectionately referred to as "the Father of Conshohocken", and his son, Alan, operating upon an agreement drawn up on New Year's Day, 1832.

The land for this early mill was purchased from the Schuylkill Navigation Company for a song. The latter company at the same time, contracted to furnish the Wood industry with "900 square inches of water at an annual rent of \$1000".

The water wheel used to create the power for the new industry was 20 feet in length, with a diameter of 16 feet. The balance of the equipment included one grate furnace.

Shovel plates were the only article manufactured by the Wood company, then. The sheet mill was coupled directly to the end of the water wheel shaft. The rolls were 18 inches in diameter, and 36 inches in length. The capacity of the rolls was 54 sheets every twelve hours. There was a handful of employees.

The iron was rolled partly of bars purchased from various sources, partly from blooms delivered by boat from the forge of James Seyfert in Reading. Blooms were also supplied by Lewis A. Lukens, of Newmarket Forge, Lebanon County.

To roll the blooms into bars it was necessary to take out the sheet rolls and put in the bar rolls, stopping temporarily the making of sheet iron until a supply of bars was acquired.

Skyscrapers.

Today, that first, modest mill has become one of the nation's greatest steel industries.

The dozen, ebony stacks rising from the great open hearths at Ivy Rock, that might themselves be termed "the skyscrapers of Ivy Rock" have built the skyscrapers of the nation.

The giant buildings of New York City, and other metropolises, etching the Song of Progress twelve hundred feet in the blue sky, have been made possible through the steel that is an evolution from that first small mill.

Alan Wood steel, made at Ivy Rock, was used in fashioning the Zephyr, magnificent, modern, new streamline railroad train, which caused a sensation when it was launched a few months ago by the Burlington Company.

Alan Wood steel is used in making many of the locomotives, that speed over railroads of the nation. It is used in myriad ways, in all corners of the earth, wherever Man and Progress are found together.

Today, the Alan Wood Steel Company's plants cover an area of 1000 acres, normally employ 3000 persons, and are capable of an output of thousands of tons of steel sheets and steel plates, per year.

Romance of Iron.

The life experience of those early Americans who first embarked in the production of iron and steel in the nation, records an industrial warfare against adverse conditions—political, economic and mechanical. Conditions more variable perhaps, than those realized in the upbuilding of any other of the many important forms of manufacture which have created and enriched this great country.

Three-quarters of a century before America became a republic, the iron industry was a problem to the colonists. Here's what William Penn, alive to the importance of the iron issue, wrote in 1700: "As the inhabitants of the British Colonies have already erected 100 furnaces and forges for the making of bar iron, Great Britain may, in the course of years, be supplied and restored independent of any foreign country for a commodity so essential to the support of our navigation".

"But it is feared if some encouragement be not given for the importation of it into Great Britain that they will be induced to work up the iron themselves".

The disposition of the Colonists to do this, resulted in a law passed by the British Parliament in 1750:

"An Act to encourage the importation of Pig and bar iron from His Majesty's Colonies in America and to prevent the erection of any mill or other engine for slitting or rolling iron, or any plating forge to work with

a tilt hammer or any furnace for making steel in any of the said Colonies."

Thus it was that, until the period of the Revolution, neither the working up of iron nor the production of steel was lawful in America.

The Founder of The Iron Industry Here

James Wood, the first of his family to engage in iron-making in this country, was born October 23, 1771, upon a farm near Narcissa, situated on the road between Plymouth Meeting and Blue Bell.

Records of the Wood family reveal that, as a boy of six, he sat upon the knee of George Washington, when the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army was a guest at the Wood home, enroute with his troops to Valley Forge.

In 1796, James Wood married Tacy Thomas, daughter of John and Mary Thomas, of Gwynedd. His wife was an Episcopalian, while he was a member of the Society of Friends. Having wed "out of meeting", he was dropped from membership for sometime, but was later reinstated.

Alan Wood, for whom the Alan Wood Steel Company is named, was born of this union.

James Wood, several years before his marriage, established a "smithy" near Hickorytown, now called Plymouth Center, then picturesquely known as Pigeon-town. He was known both as a blacksmith and a white-smith, because in addition to the ordinary work of the county blacksmith, he also made kitchen or domestic wares.

His actual entrance into the iron business came in 1805, when he opened a forge at "Hammer Hollow", a ravine in the southern escarpment of the Chester Valley, located one mile north of the present station of Strafford on the Pennsylvania railroad. The place derived its name from the fact that hammers were the leading product of the forge. Hammer Hollow is now a part of the Hecksher property.

Three years later, James Wood took over the operation of a forge on the Pennypack Creek, and ten years later, in 1818, joined John and Jacob Rogers and Isaac Smedley in a forge property at Valley Forge, there manufacturing sickles, scythes, shovels and other agricultural implements, as well as files, cross-cut and circular saws.

This mill is historic. The original forge was built according to the best obtainable evidence in 1742, by Stephen Evans, Daniel Walker and Joseph Williams, and was bought in 1757 by John Potts, whose grandson, Isaac Potts, lived in the stone residence near the mouth of the creek, now venerated as Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge.

The lower forge, built by Col. William Dewees, a son-in-law of Isaac Potts, was burned by British troops in the fall of 1777, and they also sacked his residence, now a part of Washington Inn at Valley Forge. Records reveal an order written by General Washington relative to the Dewees forge, April 29, 1778:

"Complaints having been made by Mr. Dewees, the proprietor of the Valley Forge, that the soldiers pull down the houses and break up the Fore Bay, of which is called the Valley Forge, the Commander-in-Chief strictly forbids all persons from further damages to the said buildings and works, which he hopes will be particularly attended to, especially when they consider the great loss that Mr. Dewees has already suffered by the great waste which our army has been under the necessity of committing upon the wood and other improvements."

James Wood and his partners continued the operation of the forge, with Mr. Wood as manager. Soon they erected a crucible steel furnace, turning out saws, shovels, etc. After the Valley Forge venture, James Wood returned to the Pennypack. Here on February 10, 1825, it was recently discovered, a patent of much historic value, signed by James Monroe, President, John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State and William Wirt, Attorney General, was granted to him.

The improvements are described as follows: "The blanks are entirely of iron or steel, the blade being attached to the handle by means of steel or iron straps fastened to the blade, and also to the handle by rivets,

on the front and back side of the blade and handle, the said blades being each of a single piece of steel rolled to the proper dimensions and not hammered." This was a decided advance in the making of these implements.

In 1826, James Wood turned his attention to the State of Delaware, retaining his property at Pennypack, however until 1883. He sold it at that time to William Slater for \$5500. The deposit of bog-ores in Delaware were mainly responsible for attracting James Wood to that state.

With his son, Alan, James Wood leased a small water mill upon Red Clay Creek at Wooddale, Del., 1826.

A comparison of interest may be entered here, in connection with transportation. The distance between Philadelphia and the State of Delaware now is less than one hour. In those days, it was a considerable undertaking, six-horse teams requiring many hours to transport the finished product from Wooddale to Wilmington, and from there by sloop to the Market and Arch Street wharves.

The Wood business continued in Delaware until May 1832, when it was removed to Conshohocken. In 1840, however, a younger brother of Alan Wood, John Wood, took charge of the Delaware plant again and operation was continued under the control of the Wood family until 1889, when they abandoned the Delaware business entirely.

Progress.

The evolution of the Alan Wood Steel Company from the modest beginning of the iron business by the Wood family here a century ago, until the present day, is a story probably familiar to everyone in this community.

The great plant at Ivy Rock, and its auxiliaries at Conshohocken and Swedeland, are an industrial monument to that pioneer "man of iron".

The Alan Wood Iron and Steel Company actually came into existence November 21, 1901, when it was incorporated at the instance of Hon. Alan Wood, Jr., in the Alan Wood Company, which came into being in 1857, found that a steel mill was sorely needed.

Repeating the history of the first Wood mill here, the Alan Wood Iron and Steel Company grew and expanded in similar manner, until it gained position as one of the greatest steel-making units in the country.

In 1918, the Alan Wood Iron and Steel Company entered into an agreement with the W. J. Rainey estate for the formation of the Rainey-Wood Coke Company, operating at Swedeland. Gas is supplied to the furnaces, steel plant and to the Counties Gas and Electric Company in this section. In 1929, the Alan Wood Iron and Steel Company became the Alan Wood Steel Company, under which name it is operating at present.

Staff.

The Alan Wood Steel Company is manned by a group of able executives. They are:

President, W. F. Rust, Pittsburgh.
Chairman Executive Committee, Scott Stewart, New York City.
Executive Vice President, H. C. Thomas, Norristown.
Vice President, J. T. Whiting, Villanova.
Operating Vice President, R. S. Poister, Bryn Mawr.
Vice President in Charge of Sales, A. L. Meyer, Merion.
Secretary and Treasurer, John W. Logan, Bala.

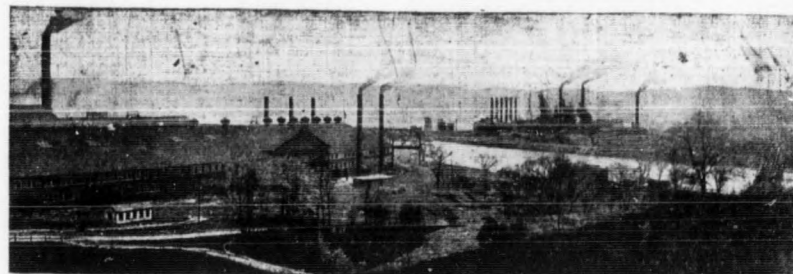
Directors:

W. F. Rust, Scott Stewart, H. C. Thomas, T. D. Wood, Ledyard Hecksher, H. Lee, Joseph Becker, J. T. Tierney, Angus MacArthur, Robert Wood.

Conforming

The Alan Wood Steel Company is operating in full conformity to the U. S. Steel Code, and maintains the employees plan for representation of workers, similar to that in effect in other industries of this nature.

The schedule of the working week is five days, eight hours each.



The Story of Electric Service in Conshohocken



As told by Ready Kilowatt
... Your Electrical Servant

Let's look back forty-seven years. Spurred on by what was being done in larger cities a group of Conshohocken citizens organized the "Conshohocken Electric Light & Power Company," and after receiving their charter in December, 1887, they began the construction of the first electric light plant in this community.

The electric business was at that time the newest venture in the industrial field. Electric engineering as a profession had not been developed, and electric light plants were being erected faster than experienced men could be found to operate them.

The incorporators of Conshohocken's first company were F. H. Lubbee, President; W. F. Lubbee, General Manager; David H. Ross, Secretary and Treasurer; John H. Griffith, John R. DeHaven, William Henry Cresson, James Hall, W. J. Sholl, George Meyers, and Edwin N. Sanderson.

The plant was supposed to be run by water power from the canal and a water wheel and "dynamo" were installed in Maxwell's old grist mill on the "berme" bank between the canal and the Schuylkill river. After considerable opposition permission had been obtained to install electric lights in the streets, using the new Edison incandescent bulbs. This was a full year before the first Edison plant was put in operation in Philadelphia.

The bulbs contained a single loop of carbon filament, and critics of that day ridiculed the idea of "lighting the streets with red hot hairpins."

Early in 1888 the water wheel and dynamo were in place, the wires had been strung to the street lamps, and officers and stockholders gathered at the plant late one evening to see the first try-out. Waiting until most of the townspeople were in bed, Sanderson opened the mill race and the machinery began to turn. On the hillside above the "hairpins" began to glow a bright red. The watchers waited for them to light up the town, but they got no brighter.

There was not enough power in the water wheel to develop the necessary speed for generating purposes.

The water power having proven inadequate, it was necessary to purchase two Westinghouse steam engines, and these were eventually hooked up by leather belting to the dynamos. A power plant in those days was generally a maze of flying belts that frequently gave serious trouble by slipping or breaking.

The Conshohocken Gas Light Company had been then operating since 1875, its first holder having a capacity of 25,000 cubic feet. Gas lamps had succeeded kerosene lamps as street lights, and it was part of the duties of the police to light the gas lamps every night and turn them out every morning. Neither the gas company nor the electric company proved profitable for their stockholders in those early days, and a few years after the advent both plants were bought by the Electric Company of America. A new and more modern electric generating station was later built by this company on Poplar Street adjacent to the gas works.

The trends of the last fifty years are still operative today. Improvements in service and economies are still to be looked for; and unless the increasing burden of taxation interferes, it is to be expected that our customers will share in the progress of the future as they have in the progress of the past.

In the "eighties" and "nineties" small electric plants were necessary because no practical method had been found for transmitting current more than a very few miles. In consequence any small breakdown might mean a complete suspension of electric service, sometimes for days.

To-day, in a period of less than half a century, there has been amazing progress in the electric industry, a progress that has been shared by all users of electric energy. The trend of rates has been consistently downward, and the stability of the service has become a tradition.

It was private initiative financed by private capital that gave Conshohocken its first electricity and gas services, and that developed them to their present efficiency. As in other fields, mistakes were sometimes the price of progress, but the will to achieve overcame each obstacle in turn. To-day there is a generating capacity within this company of 1,282,350 horsepower back of Conshohocken's electric service, and an additional generator of 220,000 horsepower is now being installed at the Richmond station of the Philadelphia Electric Company.

Where Conshohocken was once dependent for gas on a single holder with a capacity of 25,000 cubic feet, it is connected with holders to-day having a capacity of more than 26,000,000 cubic feet. The big West Conshohocken holder alone holds 10,000,000 cubic feet.

As improvements have been made in these fields, customers have benefited through a more dependable service and lower rates, and investors have found a more stable field for their savings.

Following are two representative instances from the books of the Philadelphia Electric Company, illustrating how voluntary reductions in electric rates during the last twenty years have affected Conshohocken residents:

George P. Rafferty, 1012 Fayette St.
1915— 54 kilowatt-hours at 10c \$5.40
1934—June 24 kilowatt-hours at 8c \$1.92
30 kilowatt-hours at 5½c \$1.65
54 kilowatt-hours \$3.57
This is a reduction of 33.9 percent.

H. C. Jones, 435 Fayette Street.
1915— 200 kilowatt-hours at 10c \$20.00
50 kilowatt-hours at 7c 3.50
20 kilowatt-hours at 5c 1.00
270 kilowatt-hours \$24.50
1934—June 24 kilowatt-hours at 8c \$1.92
36 kilowatt-hours at 5½c 1.98
140 kilowatt-hours at 3c 4.20
70 kilowatt-hours at 2½c 1.75
270 kilowatt-hours \$9.85
This is a reduction of 59.8 percent.



The H. C. Jones Co.

Two and a half million yards of cotton and worsted materials utilized for men's clothing are produced yearly by one of Conshohocken's major industries.

The H. C. Jones Company, whose extensive holdings are flung along the Schuylkill River, just south of the Montgomery County bridge, contributes an important percentage of the cotton and worsted materials used throughout this country, and in several foreign centers.

In 1880, the H. C. Jones Company was founded by Horace C. Jones, one of the borough's outstanding citizens and early residents, and Stanley Lees, member of another pioneer family here. The name of H. C. Jones and Company was adopted. From the beginning, the firm was successful. In 1885, the late John Booth was taken into active partnership, the business expanded, and sixty looms and four sets of cards placed in busy operation.

Demands for products of H. C. Jones and Company steadily increased. In 1899, additional space was needed. The mill of S. and J. Lees, at Washington and Ash streets, was acquired, the entire plant remodelled to modern design, and additions built. Especial attention was paid, even at that time, to providing the maximum of light and air in the weaving rooms.

At this time, also, the business of the company was reorganized and the title of the company changed slightly to read The H. C. Jones Company.

From that time, the business of the mill expanded steadily, its market reaching to all parts of the nation, to South America, to Canada, to the Antipodes.

During the World War, the H. C. Jones Company was one of the important units in the nation in the matter of providing material for the clothing of American soldiers. Thousands upon thousands of yards of olive drab shirting flannel were produced by Conshohocken hands in this Conshohocken industry, for the United States government. Virtually, the entire production went for patriotic uses at that time.

Today, the H. C. Jones Company is one of the finest and most modernly equipped industries in Montgomery County and the east. One hundred and twenty-five men and women are given employment there, and one hundred and fifty up-to-the minute, high-powered looms move rhythmically to and fro, contributing their tremendous yardage to the "design of living". To all the Americas, to Cuba, to Mexico and to other foreign nations go the products of this local mill.

Horace C. Jones is president of the H. C. Jones Company; Spencer L. Jones, vice president and secretary; John L. Larzele, treasurer; Richard B. Walker, superintendent; William Ewing, assistant superintendent.

James A. Lynch

From the Covered Wagon to the Stratosphere! Thus runs the gamut of the pioneers of America!

Limned boldly in this great panorama of the builders of a new civilization are the exponents of aviation, daring men who braved the little known skies in an effort to advance man's methods of transportation.

Conshohocken's pioneer in this field, is James A. Lynch, realtor and insurance broker.

Long before aviation had become an established means of transportation—when the whirl of a plane turned every face upwards, James Lynch purchased and flew an army plane, the first owned by a local resident.

Entering the United States Air Service shortly after America was drawn into the World War, James Lynch completed a course in aviation at Kelly Field, Texas, and was named a flying instructor in recognition of his unusual aptitude for this new profession.

Upon his honorable discharge from the service at the close of the war, he engaged in com-

mercial flying for some time, carrying passengers to and from various points between Philadelphia and Florida. He was one of the first aviators to engage in stunt flying for motion picture producers.

Frequently flying his plane to this section, he furnished Conshohocken with its first thrills in the spectacle of flying. Now, that many have blazed the trail, the way is not so difficult. Then, it required unusual temerity.

Commercial flying at that period offered limited opportunity, and James Lynch put aside his plane to enter an older business. Completing special courses in real estate, insurance and commercial law, he entered the real estate and insurance offices of C. A. Desimone.

In 1927, he purchased this business from Mr. Desimone, and in addition took over the insurance business formerly conducted by H. B. Heywood.

Success crowned his efforts. Advancing steadily, the business of James A. Lynch has become one of the most important in the real estate and insurance fields in Montgomery County. The newest methods, and most modern ideas, are sagaciously applied.



**PHILADELPHIA
ELECTRIC COMPANY**

A Pioneer in Voluntarily Establishing Low Rates for All Electric Service

Philadelphia Suburban Water Company

Conshohocken holds the distinction of being the first of the forty-nine municipalities in the three hundred square miles of territory served by the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company, to receive the benefit of a public water supply.

Today, a turn of the household spigot brings forth a crystal stream of pure, sparkling, healthy Springfield water. Before the beginning of the present century, residents of the community had only the Schuylkill River as their main source of water supply.

Prior to that, rainwater caught in barrels, provided water for laundry work for some of the homes, and melted snow found its way in cisterns to furnish drinking water in many.

Just two years after the founding of the RECORDER, the Conshohocken Gas and Water Company, for the past thirty years merged into and consolidated with the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company, was incorporated to supply water for the borough of Conshohocken.

Charter

The charter, granted May 5, 1871, by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at the hand of Governor John W. Geary, is interesting. Here it is in part:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that Lewis A. Lukens, Evan D. Jones, A. D. Saylor, Alan Wood, Junior, Benjamin Harry, Frederick Light, Samuel Fulton, David L. Wood, William Summers, Dr. John K. Reid, George W. Jacoby, Michael O'Brien, James Tracy and William Heywood, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners, and they, or any five of them, are hereby authorized to carry into effect the establishment of a gas and water company, by the name, style and title of the Conshohocken Gas and Water Company, and to be located in and near the borough of Conshohocken, in the county of Montgomery, with a

capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, to be divided into shares of twenty-five dollars each, for the purpose of supplying gas light and pure water to the borough of Conshohocken and inhabitants residing therein and near thereto as may desire the same, at such price as may be agreed upon, to be organized, managed and governed as is provided by an act, entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation of gas and water companies", approved the eleventh day of March, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and to be subject to all the provision and restrictions together with all the rights and privileges by said act and the supplement thereto not supplied or enlarged by this act."

River First Source

The act further empowered the Conshohocken Gas and Water Company to take water from the "river Schuylkill or from any stream or streams, spring or springs in Montgomery County, within two miles of the borough of Conshohocken". This area included the famed Bubbling Springs at Spring-Mill, once considered as a source of water supply for Philadelphia in Colonial times. Use of this pure, effervescent water would probably have been made by the first water company, but some concern was felt about the adequacy of the supply as the demands increased.

A pumphouse was erected along the banks of the Schuylkill River in Plymouth township, just north of the upper canal locks. A reservoir was erected in Whitmarsh township, just east of the borough line at Twelfth avenue and Fayette street. William Ferrier was the superintendent and only employee in those early days. It was his duty to operate the pump, keep the reservoir in condition, tap the main for new installations, shut the water off when accounts were delinquent, make repairs and collect bills.

The water was taken from the Schuylkill at the little pumping station, and conveyed to the Twelfth avenue reservoir, and thence distributed.

This was raw Schuylkill River water, unsettled, untreated, unfiltered. Despite its quality, the best available at the time, the water was equal and probably superior to that being used in Philadelphia then, and for thirty years afterward. Humans and dogs swam in it. When it rained, it turned brown from the incoming waters of the Perkiomen, then black with the inky residue of the upstate coal regions.

Progress

As soon as a better supply of water was available however, steps were taken to procure it.

Such an opening came through the then Springfield Water Companies, now consolidated into and known as the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company. Some fifteen years after the Charter of the Conshohocken Water Company, the original Springfield Water Company was organized in 1886 through the efforts of a group of professors of Swarthmore College, who, with a number of their neighbors, joined together to obtain a supply for themselves and the community.

A little later, in 1898, another branch of the Springfield Water Company began a development on Pickering Creek, between Valley Forge and Phoenixville, principally for a supply for the Main Line territory between Philadelphia and Berwyn.

The piping of this water from Pickering Creek to the region lying along the Lancaster Pike on the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, made this source easily available for Conshohocken, and about the end of the last century arrangements were made whereby Pickering Creek water was extended through a pipe line across the Schuylkill River to Conshohocken and even as far as the territory north of Philadelphia, along the Old York Road.

Since 1900, Conshohocken has been supplied with Springfield Water and the scourge of the dread typhoid fever, which accompanied the use of Schuylkill water, passed out of the picture.

Philadelphia Suburban Water Company now operates a metropolitan system for the benefit of Suburban Philadelphia. There are four sources of supply, one on Pickering Creek, one on Crum Creek, one on Neshaminy Creek and one on Pennypack Creek. These sources of supply are augmented and stabilized by storage reservoirs, the largest of which, on Crum Creek, holds nearly four billion gallons.

The water from these points, after being treated and protected, is pumped into a network of pipes nearly 1,100 miles long, furnishing a supply of pure and wholesome water from sea level to elevations of 600 feet above it.

Mr. C. H. Geist, president of the company, has had a life time of experience in serving the public and his motto in the operation of Philadelphia Suburban Water Company is "The Best Water in the Country and Plenty of it."



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING in 1873

STATEMENT OF CONDITION At Close of Business March 13, 1873

(First Day's Business)

RESOURCES	
Cash—Due From Banks	\$ 42,272.09
Securities	64,211.00
Banking House	11,117.00
Other Assets	197.12
	\$118,497.21

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	\$ 92,580.00
Circulation	20,000.00
Deposits	5,917.21
	\$118,497.21

Officers and Directors at Time of Organization

President	Alan Wood, Jr.
Vice President	George Bullock
Secretary	Elias H. Corson

DIRECTORS

George Bullock	Evan D. Jones
Elias H. Corson	Michael O'Brien
John V. Crawford	Augustus D. Saylor
William Davis, Jr.	Alan Wood, Jr.
Samuel Fulton	

The First National Bank of Conshohocken, Pa.

CONGRATULATES

The Conshohocken Recorder

on its

65th Anniversary

And commends it for the service it has rendered
this community during these many years.



PRESENT HOME OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

STATEMENT OF CONDITION at Close of Business June 30th, 1934

RESOURCES

Cash—Due From Banks	\$ 367,590.83
Securities	1,228,816.05
Loans	1,992,518.74
Banking House	144,180.50
Other Assets	110,331.04
	\$2,853,437.16

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 275,000.00
Surplus and Reserves	286,511.36
Circulation	125,000.00
Deposits	2,166,925.80
	\$2,853,437.16

Present Officers and Directors

OFFICERS

Chairman of Board	Horace C. Jones
President	Reese P. Davis
Vice President	Spencer L. Jones
Vice President	Frank Sutcliffe
Vice President	Donald P. Horsey
Secretary	John C. Tracy
Cashier	David M. Hayes

DIRECTORS

Reese P. Davis	Spencer L. Jones
A. A. Garthwaite	William J. Long
Harry B. Heywood	Thomas F. McCoy
Donald P. Horsey	Federico F. Mauck
Horace C. Jones	Frank Sutcliffe
	John C. Tracy

It also gives us some measure of satisfaction as we look back upon the past sixty-one (61) years, and realize that throughout this period we have provided the citizens of Conshohocken and its environs with banking privileges.

During this span of years wars have been fought, panics have taken place, depressions have followed periods of prosperity — but throughout all these years THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CONSHOHOCKEN has carried on, striving to meet the banking needs of the community in a helpful, conservative and constructive manner.

Whatever credit there may be for the way this bank has met the tests of the past sixty-one years, and especially the difficult problems of the last few years, is, in a large measure due to our depositors and friends—to the people of our community—their loyalty and confidence has been an inspiration to the officers and directors at all times—their cooperation has made possible the growth and strength of this bank.

As we look forward to the future, we welcome the years ahead as an opportunity for continued service and, if possible, a greater service. We shall endeavor to merit your confidence by our fairness and by conducting our business in a safe, courteous and progressive manner.

REESE P. DAVIS,
President.

Ford & Kendig Company

With a half century of business integrity and efficiency as its background, the Ford and Kendig Company, located at Washington and Cherry streets, is one of Conshohocken's important industries.

Here are stocked a highly dependable line of mill, mine and contractors' supplies, pipe, fittings, valves, mechanical rubber goods, wire rope, chain hoists and other aids to modern industry.

The extensive buildings of Ford and Kendig Company are ideally located for both truck and railroad deliveries. Railroad sidings connect both warehouses and shops directly with main railroad lines.

The pipe storage warehouse has a capacity of more than one hundred and fifty carloads, and is equipped with a five-ton electric crane, providing for quick unloading of incoming cars, and loading of outgoing trucks. The pipe-fabricating and cutting shops are equipped with the latest and most efficient machines.

Ford and Kendig Company are distributors for the National Tube Company, Reading Iron Company, Stockham Pipe and Fittings Company, Ohio Injector Company, Hewitt Rubber Corp., Hazard Wire Rope Company, Wright Manufacturing Company, as well as other nationally known manufacturers.

Kenneth E. Ford is in charge of sales, David Harshaw is in charge of deliveries and Frank Booth is shop superintendent. The general offices of the company and the store and display rooms are located at 1428-30 Callowhill street, Philadelphia.

Francis L. Freas Glass Works

This industry was founded in 1905 by Francis L. Freas, an experienced and practical Glass Blower in the manufacture of Hydrometers, Thermometers and other glassware for special purposes.

The business was successful from the start and continued to prosper with the result that in order to better care for the increased business and to give better service, the business was incorporated on February 5, 1917, under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, with Francis L. Freas, the founder, as president of the Corporation.

Since the organization of the business it has operated continuously producing Hydrometers, Thermometers, Graduated Glassware and many special glass items for industrial uses.

The Hydrometers produced by the company are used in Laboratory, Research and Industrial purposes, while the Thermometers are widely used by Industrial, Laboratory and Processing Industries.

The company, as a result of the excellence of its products has retained the continued patronage of nearly all its original customers and continues to retain the confidence of new connections.

Factory and office address:

FRANCIS L. FREAS GLASS WORKS,
146 East Ninth Avenue,
Conshohocken, Pa.

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

On September 9, 1934, Schuylkill Valley Lines will complete its first year of operation—coincident with the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Montgomery County and the 65th Anniversary of the Conshohocken Recorder.

In the past year, Schuylkill Valley Lines has transported over 3,275,000 passengers—without a single fatality or serious injury to any of its patrons or employees. This is a record of which we are very proud, especially when it is remembered that our employees had no previous experience in the operation of buses and that, for over four months of the year, we were operating over icy roads, in the sub-zero temperatures of the worst winter in a century. The Management heartily congratulates its co-workers upon this notable record.

The on-time record of Schuylkill Valley Lines—the maintenance of its fast schedules with safety to its patrons and other users of the highway—is the combined result of the careful selection of employees, their careful and thorough preliminary training, the rigid and thorough daily inspection of all bus equipment and the elimination of mechanical defects when they first develop.

Schuylkill Valley Lines affords frequent, convenient service, connecting Conshohocken with Spring Mill, West Consho-

hocken, Swedeland, Bridgeport, Norristown, Jeffersonville, Trooper and Collegeville. Its low and attractive rates of fare, modern, comfortable buses, and fast, frequent service have united into one closely knit community the several municipalities above named. Its attractive bus service has shortened the time required by those residing in other communities to reach their employment in Conshohocken, or vice versa, and has encouraged pleasure travel between the several communities.

The number of passengers carried by Schuylkill Valley Lines is over 50 per cent. greater than was carried by the old Traction Company. This added traffic is made up in large measure of people who formerly used their private automobiles in making daily journeys in their own communities or to neighborhood communities. Thousands of people use S. V. Lines buses for shopping and amusement purposes in preference to their automobiles.

Transportation is the life-blood of modern urban communities. High class transportation is an important community asset, attracting new residents and new industries and sustaining real estate values. The stimulation of travel by Schuylkill Valley Lines has been of great benefit to every community which it serves.

For years, the people of Conshohocken and neighboring communities were handicapped by the antiquated and indifferent service afforded by the Schuylkill Valley Traction Company, which was controlled and operated by the Reading Transit Company, with headquarters in Reading, Pa.—an absentee management working for absentee owners.

Schuylkill Valley Lines has no corporate nor financial connection with the old Traction Company, nor with the interests which formerly controlled the traction enterprise. Schuylkill Valley Lines was organized by public-spirited citizens of Conshohocken, Norristown, Collegeville and intermediate communities who realized the importance of good local transportation in furthering the prosperity of this section and who contributed their capital and their abilities to promote this end. Schuylkill Valley Lines, therefore, is a company locally owned and locally managed and therefore, to a peculiar degree, it is in a position to understand local needs and to cooperate in furthering local interests.

Schuylkill Valley Lines plans to continue to improve its service. The Management is always grateful for constructive criticism and suggestions, thanks its patrons for their generous patronage, and hopes to continue to serve you to your satisfaction.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY LINES, INC.

OFFICERS

NORRIS D. WRIGHT, President Norristown, Penna.	THOMAS CONWAY, JR., Chairman Philadelphia, Penna.
WM. L. BUTLER, Executive Vice President Philadelphia, Penna.	FRANK W. STEINBRIGHT, Treasurer Norristown, Penna.
CLINTON D. SMITH, Vice Pres. & Genl. Manager Norristown, Penna.	B. BROOKE BARRETT, Secretary Norristown, Penna.

DIRECTORS

REESE P. DAVIS, Conshohocken, Pa.	HORACE C. JONES, Conshohocken, Pa.
A. T. EASTWICK, Bridgeport, Pa.	NORRIS D. WRIGHT, Norristown, Pa.
A. H. HENDRICKS, Collegeville, Pa.	CLINTON D. SMITH, Norristown, Pa.
JOHN A. LONGACRE, Norristown, Pa.	WM. L. UTLER, Philadelphia, Pa.
THOMAS CONWAY JR., Philadelphia, Pa.	

Riant Theatre

Standing for the highest in refined, wholesome motion picture entertainment, the owners of the Riant Theatre have operated continuously in Conshohocken for twenty five years.

The Novelty Amusement Company, which now operates a number of fine motion picture theatres in the east, had its inception in Conshohocken in 1909. Henry O. Schwalbe, present owner of the Riant Theatre and James McCaffrey, now deceased, were partners in the firm.

Operations were begun in the former Little's Opera House, known in the borough's earlier days as Washita Hall, located at First avenue and Fayette street. The second floor of the building was fitted up as a motion picture theatre. The project was continued here for twelve years.

In 1918, Little's Opera House was purchased by the Novelty Amusement House, but as the years went on, the space available for theatre use in this building proved more and more inadequate for the constantly growing patronage accorded the Novelty Amusement Company.

On Armistice Day, 1921, the Novelty Amusement Company opened and dedicated the handsome Riant Theatre, which has continued in operation since that time, constantly improving its splendid service of entertainment to the citizens of Conshohocken and vicinity.

The Riant Theatre was one of the first motion picture houses in Montgomery County to present sound moving pictures, as the Novelty Amusement Company has been a pioneer throughout its quarter century of service to the public, in introducing improvements and progressive ideas in the field of good entertainment. Sound equipment was placed in use in the Riant Theatre more than a half dozen years ago.

From time to time, the interior of the theatre is freshened throughout, a complete renovation having been made to the interior less than a year ago. New, super-comfortable seats were installed, and the interior beautifully re-decorated in Egyptian influence. The seating capacity of the Riant Theatre is close to one thousand.

The policy of the Riant Theatre needs little reference in Conshohocken. For years, the Novelty Amusement Company has maintained the highest standard of operation, and is always ready to give hearing to any constructive suggestions from its large group of Riant patrons, which come not only from Conshohocken, but from the Main Line and many sections of Montgomery County.

Closed throughout the latter part of the summer for improvements, the Riant Theatre will again open its doors shortly after Labor Day, to welcome again its friends, whose numbers are legion.

William Davis Jr. & Co.

The birthday of the borough and of the William Davis, Jr., and Company, are simultaneous.

One of the oldest and best known business units of this section, this company has conducted business continuously for eighty-four years, at the same location, Front and Ford streets, West Conshohocken. During that long period, vision of its executives has resulted in constant expansion of its area of service, and continuous upbuilding of this stalwart business firm.

Covering close to four acres of land in the heart of West Conshohocken, William Davis, Jr., and Company carries a complete line of lumber and coal, building supplies, including building hardware and paint, and all the newest building accessories.

Reese P. Davis, son of one of the two original partners in the business, and president of the First National Bank, is senior partner in the firm, and although the active management is largely in control of his two sons, Norris and William, he still maintains daily contact with the firm's activities. His sons are junior partners. Miss Emily Y. Davis, of San Francisco, California, a sister of Reese P. Davis, silently shares the senior partnership with him.

The firm of William Davis, Jr., and Company was formulated in 1870, by William Davis, Jr., his brother, Charles Davis and his brother-in-law, David Horton.

This business partnership continued successfully until 1860, when the firm was reorganized, and William Davis, Jr., and another brother, George Davis, formed a partnership and engaged in the lumber and coal trade. They continued until 1870.

At that time, George Davis withdrew from the firm, and it was shortly after that period that William Davis' sons, Reese and Egbert were admitted into partnership.

This father and son management of the business proved entirely successful, and the business consistently developed and expanded. It was known throughout the community and the county for its integrity and dependability.

William Davis, founder of the business, was the son of William and Phoebe Davis, and was born near the Old Swedes Church, Upper Merion Township, September 13, 1826. He died in 1907, leaving the business in the hands of his two sons.

Experiencing ill health, however, Egbert Davis was compelled to withdraw from business activity, and management of the firm fell into the hands of Reese Davis, who directed it virtually sole-handed, until his sons, Norris and William, became old enough to enter into partnership.

John Wood Mfg. Co., Inc.

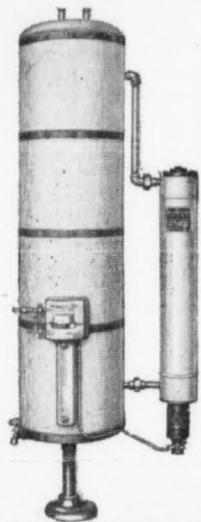
James Wood—father of Conshohocken—laid the foundation for the John Wood Manufacturing Company, that May day, more than a century ago, when the picturesque water wheel in his early industry—Conshohocken's first iron mill—made its initial turn.

The story of that first Wood mill here, and the evolution of the Wood iron and steel making in Conshohocken, limn an impressive background for the briefer, more modern but intensely vital history of the John Wood Manufacturing Company.

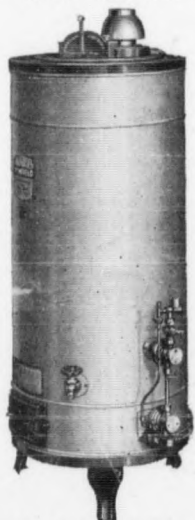
It was not until the guns of the great war were silenced on the first Armistice Day, 1918, that the local company returned to normal activity.

In 1919, the company took another important step onward, when it entered into the manufacture of ice cream cans. Not only did this create another great field of demand, but it utilized the smaller welding machines installed in the plant, for fulfilling of war orders. The same year, further progress is noted, in the purchase of a large munitions plant in Canada, completed just as the war closed, and ideally suited to the manufacture of range boilers.

Today, the John Wood Manufacturing Company operates plants, strategically located, an in its local plant alone, covers an area a full city block in length and gives employment to seven hundred and eighty men.



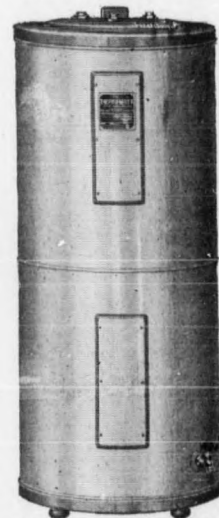
The Hydro-Stak Automatic Side Arm Gas Water Heater



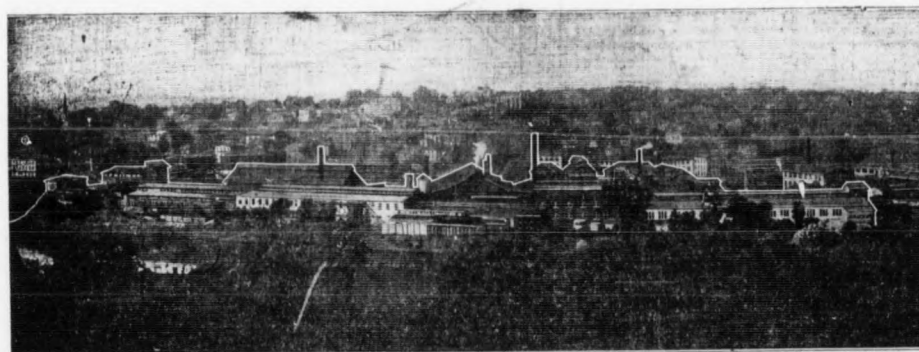
The High-Low Penfield has Speed Automatic Gas Water Heater



The 2 Click Recovery Penfield Automatic Gas Water Heater



The Thermo-Watt Automatic Electric Water Heater



PLANT OF THE JOHN WOOD MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INCORPORATED, CONSHOHOCKEN, PA.

Founded just three-quarters of a century ago, the John Wood Manufacturing Company now takes its place as one of the largest manufacturers of electric weld products in the world, and the largest manufacturer of household water heaters in any nation.

Expansion.

The John Wood Manufacturing Company actually began operation under this name in 1867, the modest foundry and machine shop having expanded to such an extent, that reorganization was necessary.

The process of range boiler and tank fabrication, forty years ago, was not a speedy one. Its evolution might easily be compared to that of modern transportation. Then the "mileage on tanks", or the number riveted in a day was 20. Scores of rivets were used to hold the cylinder ends in place.

The oft-used simile "as noisy as a boiler shop" was not undeserved. The early boiler shop howled with noise, and was manned by stalwart men that might have doubled for the village blacksmith.

One of the major improvements in the evolution of this industry was the introduction of range boilers. So drastic a change was this process from the earlier method of riveting, that its introduction into industry was akin to the introduction of the automobile into transportation.

In 1906, the John Wood Manufacturing Company began the manufacture of water heaters, in which it now leads the world, and which have become an integral part of every modern American home.

Aid to Government

At the advent of the World War, the John Wood Manufacturing Company had a position of prestige in the world of industry, was the first mass production boiler and tank company and the largest of its kind in the world. It was to this Conshohocken industry that the United States government turned, to furnish it with powder containers and steel tanks.

The company soon became swamped with government orders. The pressure of manufacture of war material superceded all other business. The John Wood Manufacturing Company was virtually dedicated during those war-torn years to furnishing of materials for the nation and the Allies.



The Merion Automatic Gas Water Heater



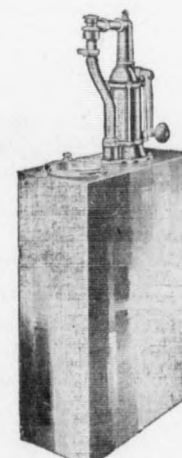
The Electric Weld Range Boiler



Domestic Oil Storage Tank



SEPTIC TANK



Oil Dispensing Equipment

Service Station Equipment Company



The Service Station Equipment Company, operating under the same roof as the John Wood Manufacturing Company, adopted Conshohocken as its home just five years ago this summer.

A merger of the Metalwares Corporation, of which the John Wood Manufacturing Company was a big factor, the Service Stations Equipment Company, Ltd., of Toronto, Canada, and of seven other companies manufacturing kindred lines of products, resulted in the formation of the Service Station Equipment Company.

This history-making merger of nine important industries in the United States and the Dominion of Canada, took place in Toronto, June 15, 1929.

The merger of the nine companies automatically placed in the hands of the new company, numerous factories, strategically placed throughout this country and Canada.

The products of the Service Station Equipment Company find their way to all quarters of the globe, fulfilling vital needs on the part of the great motoring public.

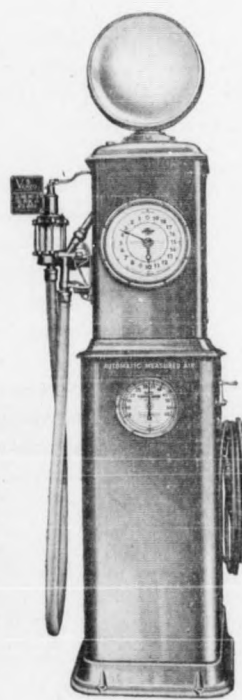
The Service Station Equipment Company gasoline pump, made by Conshohocken hands, dots the major highways of the nation west to California, south to Florida and throughout the entire east, and north. It's other great products, too, are found wherever modern progress has control.



Tire Inflator



Air Compressor



Gasoline Pump

Valley Forge Cement Co.

Major highways of Pennsylvania, of New York and New Jersey, and of many other states; the skyscrapers that loom into the blue heavens and the subways that weave through the dark bowels of the earth, all have been made possible to a considerable extent by use of a product made within the borough limits of West Conshohocken.

The Valley Forge Cement Company, West Conshohocken, although one of the community's younger industries, is in the front rank of important manufactories here.

Established only seven years ago, this industry, the only cement manufactory in Montgomery County and within a radius of sixty miles, plays a vital part in the construction program of the eastern United States.

Choice Site

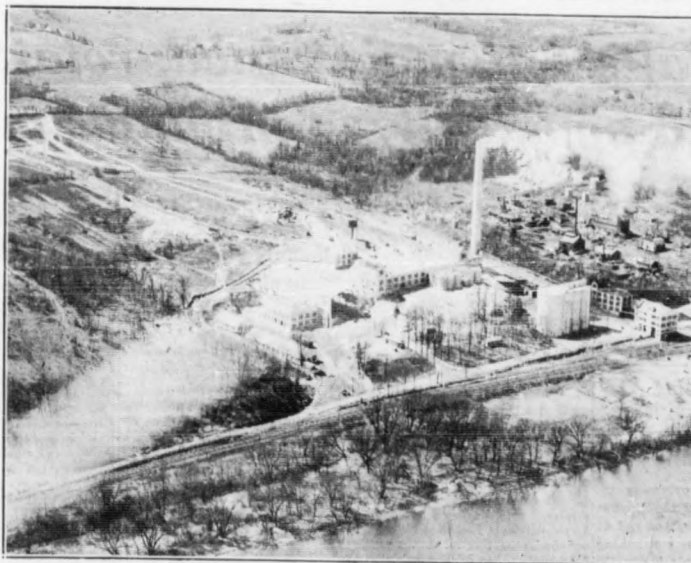
The Valley Forge Cement Company covers an area of two hundred acres of land, rich in limestone rock, situated along the river road, in the west section of the borough of West Conshohocken.

The strata of rock contains an almost inexhaustible supply of all the raw materials necessary to the manufacture of cement. No materials are imported for its manufacture.

This unending supply of raw materials, and the proximity of the site to important markets, were instrumental in calling the attention of the site to the prospective manufacturers.

Establishing almost a world record, was the quick transition from the decision to manufacture cement here into actual operation of the plant. On January 9, 1927, the first preparations for the large plant were begun. The first shipment of finished cement from the plant was made July 30 of the same year.

VALLEY FORGE CEMENT COMPANY'S WEST CONSHOHOCKEN PLANT



The plant is one of the most modern manufactories in the world. Built entirely of concrete, steel and glass, with asbestos walls and roof, it eliminates all fire hazard. Every attention has been given to safety measures in the plant, with the result that state inspectors give the plant an A-1 rating, and can offer no recommendation for improvement.

All electrical transmission is underground with no wires visible where. All conveying is done underground, adding further to the safety and high sanitary standard of the industry.

Aids Borough

The Valley Forge Cement Company has been largely responsible for major improvements in West Conshohocken.

The handsome new high school opened in West Conshohocken a few years ago, was made possible, school directors state, to a considerable extent by the additional thousands of dollars paid in taxes by this firm, yearly. The concrete road program carried out in West Conshohocken recently was made possible, also to an important extent, by large contributions of cement by the Valley Forge Cement Company.

In addition, employment is afforded close to 200 men by this comparatively new industry. Virtually all the employees are recruited from Conshohocken and West Conshohocken.

Dust Kept Down

The Valley Forge Cement Company has gone to great effort, and has spent thousands of dollars to prevent any discomfort to residents of nearby communities, due to residue from its plant.

Dust-collectors have been placed in operation in every department of the plant, and a special type of electrical precipitation, designed exclusively for this plant, has been installed for the elimination of stack residue.

New Process

An exclusive new process of cement manufacture, based on a discovery at the West Conshohocken plant, has been placed in operation at the Valley Forge Cement Company.

This process is considered revolutionary in the cement industry, and has created wide interest in the industry in this country and abroad.

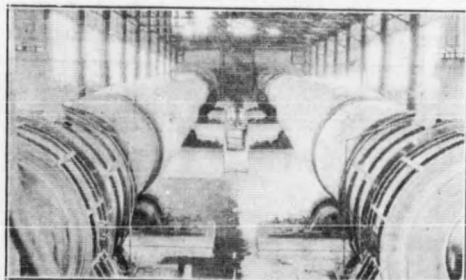
Many inquiries have been received at the West Conshohocken plant from cement manufacturers and research chemists throughout the world.

This new process enables the Valley Forge Cement Company to place on the market, a highly superior type of cement, beautifully refined and suitable for the finest type of cement construction work.

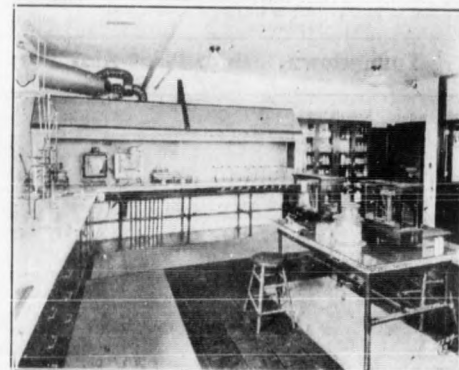
Output

The normal output of the Valley Forge Cement Company is 3000 barrels a day.

Direct connection with the Reading railroad, and with the Pennsylvania railroad through the Upper Merion and Plymouth railroad, afford excellent shipping facilities for the plant.



KILN ROOM—Showing two large rotary kilns used for burning rock into cement clinkers, 223 feet long and 11 ft. 10 in. at the largest diameter.



LABORATORY—Modernly equipped with the finest instruments known to the engineering profession.

LEE TIRE EMERGES FROM DEPRESSION IN STRONGER POSITION THAN IN 1929

Independent financial set-up maintained; retail outlets increased; quality and popularity of products multiplied.

Company Enters Second Half Of Century's Activities Well Fortified

Founded in 1881 by Conshohocken Resident, Great Monument to Him



J. ELLWOOD LEE

In the last thirty years more than three hundred and fifty tire companies have appeared in the United States while today less than thirty remain. That Lee is one of these survivors is an able tribute to the genius of its founder and his successors.

Officers All Experienced Capable Men

Today the Company is in a strong financial position. It has no outstanding bonds or other forms of indebtedness, every bill is discounted, and the Company enjoys a quiet, but substantial growth.

You couldn't very well ask a butcher to run a department store or an automobile dealer to build giant bridges. Every man is a specialist in his business if he achieves any great degree of success and this fact is strikingly illustrated by the officials of the Lee Tire organization.



JOHN J. WATSON

His first venture in the rubber manufacturing business was limited to a small line of surgical rubber goods which was gradually expanded to include many other items. However, it was not until 1910 when Lee's company entered the tire field that the concern leaped into national prominence.

Mr. Lee's first tire will be remembered by all veteran motorists. The Lee "Puncture Proof" tire sprang into an important place in the industry almost overnight and was followed by tire after tire which repeated the quality and success of the pioneer. To keep pace with the growing business the present Lee Rubber & Tire Corporation was organized in 1914.

The first great unit in the thoroughly modern series of factory buildings which now overlook the Schuylkill River just below Conshohocken was built in 1910. The illustration shown on this page was made from an "air" photo taken in 1927 and several additions to the plant have been made since.

The quality of preciseness of manufacture required by the medical profession in the early days of the Lee organization has proved a priceless inheritance with the result that these standards have ever been followed. In the half century and more of the organization's existence these two words have been the watchword of the Company and proved of the utmost value in the past few years when the country passed through the worst depression in its history.

Youngstown, Ohio, Plant Also Busy



Youngstown, Ohio:—A glance at the former plant of the Republic Rubber Company, now a part of the Lee Rubber and Tire Corporation indicates a degree of prosperity far back over the horizon. Acquired by the Lee Company in 1922 this plant is now specializing in the production of rubber products other than tires. Conveyor and power belting; hose for railroads, fire departments, gardens and other purposes, bath mats, and literally hundreds of other items are produced by this subsidiary of the Lee Rubber and Tire Corporation.

Understanding Of Dealer Problems Big Factor In Success -

To make a quality product is one thing, to successfully merchandise it is quite another problem and to combine both is an outstanding achievement. Yet this is exactly what has happened in the case of the famous LEE of Conshohocken Tires and a great measure of this success belongs to Lee's skillful interpretation of the problems of its tire dealers.

By keeping in close intimate contact with Lee dealers in all sections of the country, the officials at Lee headquarters have been able to form a sympathetic understanding of the dealers' problems. Analysis of these problems reveals the two outstanding facts:—that merchandise must be of such outstanding quality that it wins new friends while holding the old, and that it is priced low enough to meet competition.

It has not always been easy to combine these two factors, yet the history of Lee's development is a significant contribution to safe and sane merchandising and production where quality has excelled and price has been kept within competition.

LEE - The Tire That Made Conshohocken Famous

Two towns in the United States enjoy a close link with their greatest industry:—Kohler, of Kohler, Wisconsin and Lee, of Conshohocken. In the first instance the town was built around the industry, but in the case of Conshohocken, the circumstances were altered, the industry built itself in the town and, as a mark of appreciation for the friendship and loyalty of the town has made its name known in all sections of the world as LEE-of-Conshohocken.



A. A. GARTHWAITE

The combined ability of these men has kept the name of the Lee organization in the forefront of the tire world and maintained the Company in a financial position second to none.

The Company also manufactures at Youngstown many rubber articles for the automobile industry such as window channels, floor mats, mountings for engines, etc., and the prosperity of the automotive field is clearly reflected in the production records being set by the Youngstown plant.

Tires Now Enjoy Nation - Wide Distribution

Few tires are more instantly or readily available in the United States than those made by Lee of Conshohocken. Without any "bally-hoo" Lee has quietly built up a distributing organization of retail outlets which are superlatively capable of selling and servicing tires. Dealers who now sell Lee of Conshohocken Tires are practically hand picked, so capable and efficient are they. In addition to independent retail dealers, Lee has arranged with leading oil companies to distribute Lee tires throughout the United States. In the east, for instance, Lee of Conshohocken Tires are sold by The Atlantic Refining Company. In the middle west these tires are distributed through the Phillips Petroleum Company while on the Pacific Coast an equally splendid job is being done by the Signal Oil and Gas Company. Lee tires are also sold and serviced by the Hickok Oil Corporation and its subsidiaries, Cities Service Oil Company, Refiners Oil Corporation and others.

Super De Luxe Holds Quality Reputation

Jacksonville, Florida:—Few American cities see a more constant stream of tourists than this city, the gateway to Florida. Local observations confirm the statement that Lee of Conshohocken Super De Luxe Tires are enjoying a constantly growing popularity among those discriminating motorists who insist upon the best tire equipment on the market.

Lee Super De Luxe Tires, introduced several years ago are made of the world's finest rubber and cotton and are processed with all the expert care of the Lee organization. These tires are widely recognized as the last word in tire construction, utmost safety, durability and riding comfort.

Lee Famous for Quality From Raw Material to Finished Tire

Detroit, Michigan:—In this automobile capital of the world few tires are respected by men who know as are tires by Lee of Conshohocken. Automotive authorities recognize the fact that there are few secrets in the tire industry and that sincerity of purpose is the greatest evidence of quality. Men in their position know that there are many grades of cotton, rubber and even of workmanship and that these grades never fail to reveal themselves in the performance of the finished product.

In many series of tests for quality, durability, riding comfort and other tire features, Lee Tires are consistently high scorers; test after test revealing the fact that the raw material such as rubber and cotton which goes into Lee Tires are of the finest and these facts are doubly confirmed by referring to the purveyor from whom these products are purchased by Lee.

In performance, it is a common occurrence for Lee to receive reports of mileage records on these Conshohocken-made tires of sometimes forty, fifty and even sixty thousand miles in commercial service.



W. W. BENNER

Lee Makes no 'Brand' or Equipment Tires Sells only to Replace- ment Market

Unlike most tire manufacturers, the Company makes no tires to be sold under other names, nor does it sell tires to the automobile manufacturers for equipment.

As a result, the Lee organization is confronted with the problem of building its own market.

Recognizing this fact, the Lee organization might be termed a group of quality tire specialists. Everything that can be done to make a Lee out-perform any other tire on the market and thus hold a customers' good will is done by the Lee plant. As a result every day Lee tires are becoming more famous for their safety, mileage, riding comfort and good looks. Never before has such an assembly of outstanding qualities been combined in any one tire.

Company Declares Dividend Aug. 15th

New York, N. Y.:—Wall Street recently read a pleasant announcement in these days of diminished incomes that Lee Rubber and Tire Corporation had declared a most acceptable cash dividend to its stockholders.

New Lee Tire



Another Important Contribution To Industry

K-90 For "Knee - Action" Cars

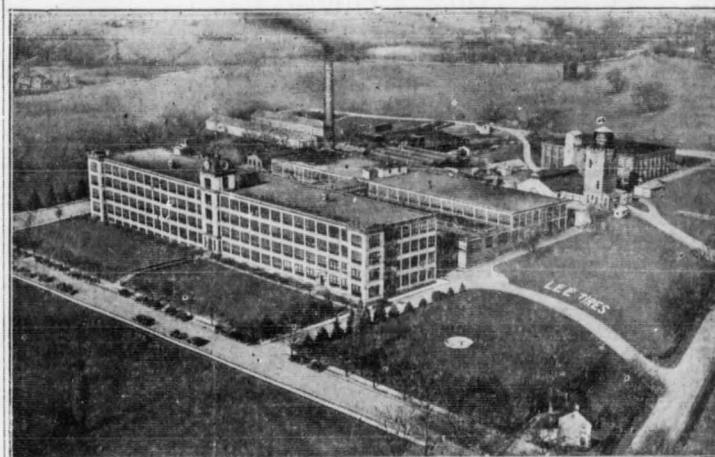
Akron, Ohio:—This city, said to be the tire capital or headquarters of the world is expressing keen admiration and honest envy at the achievement of an outside organization in perfecting a safe new tire for cars with individually sprung front wheels. This tire is the K-90 made by Lee of Conshohocken.

Shortly after so called knee-action cars first appeared on the market it was discovered that conventional types of tires would not give full service on these cars.

Ordinary tires were noisy—they squealed while rounding curves; the construction of the knee action axle permitted a sideways which frequently threw the car over on the sidewalk of tire with disastrous results to both tire and car. While many manufacturers of tires pondered over these problems the Conshohocken laboratory of the Lee organization was rapidly developing a new tire, the K-90.

This tire has specially constructed sidewalls and tread design which keeps the tire always running on its thick, heavy tread. This safety tread design holds the road under all normal conditions and eliminates the customary squeals and noises. Owners who have put K-90's on their cars are highly enthusiastic about the performance of these outstanding tires.

Plant Thoroughly Modern MAINTAINED AT HIGHEST EFFICIENCY



Adequate Financial Resources Assure Prompt Adoption of Latest Machinery

The Lee Company's policy of "freedom from debt" has worked marvels of efficiency in the Lee manufacturing plant. Here the latest in tire making machinery is to be found, for Lee is always in a position to develop or purchase and install every important development in mechanical equipment. Developments which would be front page news for some concerns are taken as a matter of course by the Lee organization.

This does not mean, however, that the Lee Company snaps up every new idea without exhaustive investigation. Instead, Lee is one of the most cautious buyers in the industry, caution so tempered with conservatism that nothing is left undone to improve the quality of Lee products.

Lee Meets Code

Conshohocken, Penna.:—Officials of the Lee Rubber and Tire Corporation recently announced that the firm is vigorously upholding every detail of the Code Authority for the Tire Industry, both manufacturing and merchandising.

Lee Research

Have you ever heard of a "torture room"? There's one at Conshohocken—part of a thoroughly modern Development Department. The first Heavy Duty Balloon tire came from this department; the first "rib type" tread design originated here to be widely adopted by the entire industry; the first "K-90" tire emerged recently from this department as did the recent Lee "Bevel Weld" tube.

Today the technicians of this organization are quietly smiling at the advertising of some of the large tire concerns who are proclaiming their ability to conduct long research campaigns and tedious tests. Practically all of these much publicized tests are "old stuff" to the Lee laboratories and are a matter of history. Such experiments were, as a matter of fact, routine in the Lee organization years ago and their results, now announced as "new" and "startling" by other manufacturers are already to be found in the construction or performance of Lee of Conshohocken Tires.

POPULARITY OF LEE TIRE OFFSETS MILLIONS SPENT BY OTHER TIRE COMPANIES

New York, N. Y.:—This city, home of many large magazines and of leading firms in advertising and merchandising, agrees that the well earned popularity of Lee Tires readily meets the millions of dollars annually spent by great tire companies in promoting the sales of their tires. Lee makes no claim to being among the "biggest" of the tire manufacturers and bases its sales appeal on the performance of its tires.

The modest Lee advertising expenditure is less per year than some competitors spend in a single month. To many this would be a decided handicap as it would Lee

if it were not for the fact that Lee Tires are of such outstanding quality that they enjoy the finest-of-all advertising — the word of mouth publicity spoken by satisfied users of Lee Tires to other motorists. Lee, however, possesses adequate resources to strikingly advertise any new tires and at appropriate times sends messages of vital importance to the motorists of the United States through such nationally known publications as the Saturday Evening Post, Time, Colliers, Literary Digest, Liberty, Atlantic Monthly, World's Work, Scribner's, Harper's, Life and other similar publications.

Lee Tires Guaranteed Against All Road Hazards

During recent years the Lee retail sales campaign has led the way to many sane and sensible developments in tire merchandising.

Prior to the introduction of the Lee-Way of selling tires, the average tire merchant did business on a basis of "hoss-tradin'" argument with each customer and thus the dealer frequently sacrificed all of his profits for the sake of another sale. Lee pioneered a drive to enforce among the Company's dealers a uniform sales price for Lee Tires. This plan is now in operation from coast to coast with the result that Lee tires sell at identical prices the country over.

This plan has been followed by a uniform guarantee on all Lee De Luxe passenger car tires. This guarantee consists of a written and dated certificate which protects the customer for one year against all road hazards, such as stone bruises, blow-outs, glass slashes and punctures. Under this plan every Lee tire must deliver a full year's satisfactory service to the purchaser. Since the Lee guarantee has been in force it has been widely imitated.

Franklin Institute Recognizes Lee

When the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, world famous museum of science as applied to commerce, sought a complete exposition of the rubber industry, they confirmed Lee's leadership by asking this Company to install a permanent exhibit of manufacturing processes from raw rubber to finished products. Just another endorsement of LEE's world-famous quality reputation.

Wanamaker Stores Sell Lee Tires

The Wanamaker Stores in both New York and Philadelphia sell and recommend LEE of Conshohocken Tires to their hundreds of thousands of customers.

Recent Lee Tire Window Display in Wanamaker Store

