



# BELLEVUE

The First One Hundred Years

1867 - BELLEVUE CENTENNIAL - 1967



*Bellevue's*

*steps to greatness.....*

Steps pictured were a shortcut from Riverview Avenue to the Bellevue Station in the days of the commuter trains.

CONGRATULATIONS

BELLEVUE!

FROM

PITTSBURGH NATIONAL BANK

MEMBER F. D. I. C.

BELLEVUE OFFICE

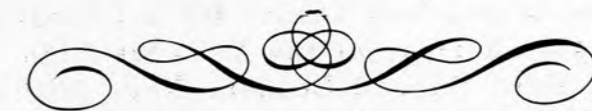
470 LINCOLN AVENUE

766-1770

One hundred years of progress for the Borough of Bellevue, and still going strong! We at Pittsburgh National are confident that the next one hundred years can be just as progressive, and our personnel and resources will be dedicated to that task.

Be sure to visit our office to view the photo montage depicting, "People and Places in Bellevue, 1867-1967." There is sure to be a picture of someone you know; and perhaps one of yourself.

CENTENNIAL BIG WIGS



Preparations for Bellevue's Centennial Celebration were two years in the making. During that time some changes took place in committee personnel. Some original ideas were discarded and later ones were incorporated to make this a never-to-be-forgotten event. In the final months of activity the above group headed the committees which handled the details for the three weeks' program of events.

Seated, left to right: Robert Sheetz, Retail Committee; Mrs. Lenora Bauer, Publicity; His Honor the Mayor, Harry N. Irvin, General Chairman; Mrs. Thelma Seifert, Secretary; Dr. John C. Pillow, Finance.

Standing, left to right: Wallace M. Judd, Program; Rev. M. Douglass Willey, Ministerial; Edward C. McClain, Executive Coordinator; Mrs. Margaret B. Lillich, Historical; Curtis Hyde, Retail Committee; James A. Otterson, Publicity; William Bracken, Chief of Police. (Howard B. Read, Parade Chairman, not in picture).



CENTENNIAL  
PROGRAM OF EVENTS

June 19 through 24 - Centennial Carnival at the Bellevue High School Field sponsored by the Bellevue Fire Department. All kinds of games, rides for the kids and fun for the whole family.

June 23 at 9:00 P.M. - Crowning of the Centennial Queen at the High School Field. The Queen and her guest will receive a seven day vacation at the Hollywood Beach Hotel in Hollywood, Florida. She will also reign at all activities during the Centennial. The Queen candidates are:

Pat Schutte representing Bellevue High School  
Margie Just representing the Chamber of Commerce  
Cheryl Stock representing the Kiwanis Club  
Rosemary Cooper representing the Lions Club

June 24 at 1:00 P.M. - Bellevue Centennial Parade sponsored by the Bellevue Fire Department. Included in the anticipated four and one-half hour parade will be fifteen bands, eighty-eight fire companies, sixteen floats, thirty-one drill teams. The clowns of Islam Grotto, the K. of C. Marching Unit, the Syria Temple Highlander Bagpipers, the Horse Patrol, the Provost Guard, the Harige Unit, the Oriental Band, the Area Patrol, all led by the Allegheny County Color Guard and the Bellevue High School Band. In addition, a Nike site missile will be on display at the corner of Lincoln and Jackson Avenues.

June 25 - Morning Worship Services at all Bellevue churches. The theme will be "The Changeless Christ for a Changing World." 8:00 P.M. United Worship Service at the Bellevue High School Field. Speakers will be Rev. Howard Cooper, Rev. William McDonough, Rev. Fairbanks Hill. Participating personalities are Herbert Gwyer, William B. Laux, Walter Neal, C. Dean Streater and the combined choirs of all churches of the borough.

June 26 - Antique Car Display, Classic and antique cars from the Horseless Carriage Club of America, Pittsburgh Region. A collection of early 1900 antique cars and later classics. Approximately twenty-five cars will be on display along Lincoln Avenue.  
8:00 P.M. Amateur Nite featuring local and district entertainment under the direction of Howard Miller.

June 27 - Youth Day. Swimming program at Bellevue Memorial Pool in the afternoon.

7:30 P.M. The Bellevue High School Ensemble will present a musical skit depicting the chartering of Bellevue Borough. Any resemblance to true facts is purely accidental.  
8:30 P.M. Street Dance to a live orchestra.

June 28 - OX ROAST - 5:30 P.M. till 9:00 P.M. A delicious barbecue dinner for the whole family.  
8:00 P.M. Dixieland Band Show featuring music of Benny Benack.

June 29 - All day old fashioned sales by the merchants.  
1:30 P.M. Senior Citizens Day at the Y.M.C.A. featuring an address by the Rev. Harold Kinard and a concert by the Salvation Army Band.  
7:30 P.M. Fashion Show featuring fashions from the gay nineties up to the present day.  
8:45 P.M. Senior Women's Friendship Club will sponsor an Old Time Dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

June 30 - All day old fashioned sales by the merchants.  
7:00 P.M. Strawberry Festival. An old fashioned delight of strawberries, cake and ice cream. A treat for the entire family.  
8:00 P.M. Barber Shop Harmony Show featuring the Pennsylvania Chapter No. 1 of Pittsburgh, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Participating quartets will be the Circle W, Bon-Aires, Travelers, Dukes and the Three Rivers Chorus.

July 1 - All day old fashioned sales by the merchants.  
11:30 A.M. Ribbon cutting, reopening the High Bridge.  
1:30 P.M. Centennial Rally at the High School Field. Main speaker will be Lt. Governor Raymond Broderick of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Senator Robert D. Fleming will be Master of Ceremonies. Other dignitaries have been invited.  
8:00 P.M. Old Time Square Dance featuring state championship square dancers and dancing for all.

July 2 - Morning worship at all churches. Theme: "The Changeless Christ for a Changing World."  
7:30 P.M. Band Concert in Bayne Park with the Bellevue High School Concert Band. A program of popular music and stirring marches.

July 3 - All day auction sale. A combination of old and new merchandise such as cars, diamonds, televisions, oil paintings, etc.  
8:00 P.M. Judging of Beard Contest. The day the bearded brothers have been waiting for. \$150.00 in prize money to be awarded for the likeness of Lincoln, Grant, Handelbar mustaches and goatees.

July 4 - Holiday. Open Day.

July 5 - Homecoming Day. A day to welcome old neighbors, old classmates and renew acquaintances.  
8:00 P.M. Old Fashioned Hymn Sing at Bellevue High School Auditorium featuring Charles Beebe and Walter Neal at the piano and

organ. Henry Netting will supervise the singing. A program of old fashioned hymns.

July 6 - Sidewalk sales all day. Small Fry Day.  
4:00 P.M. till 9:00 P.M. Free pony, covered wagon and stagecoach rides for the small fry.  
7:00 P.M. Small Fry Parade featuring kiddie dress-ups, pets and wheels.  
8:00 P.M. An old-fashioned melodrama, live, on stage by the Trinity Lutheran Players Plus One. Come and boo the villain and cheer the hero.

July 7 - Sidewalk sales all day.  
9:30 P.M. Centennial Ball aboard the Gateway Party Liner from the Monongahela wharf. A gala ball while cruising down the river. Centennial dress requested.

July 8 - Sidewalk sales all day.  
7:30 P.M. All Star stage show and fireworks at Bellevue Memorial Park.

#### DAILY SHOWINGS

BALPH HOMESTEAD ANTIQUES - 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. daily.  
BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY EXHIBIT - June 26 to July 1, 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Bellevue Borough Hall Auditorium.  
DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY EXHIBIT - July 3 to July 8, Hawley Avenue.  
A display of Modern Electric Heating.  
CLUB BOOTHS - HISTORIC WINDOW DISPLAYS  
KANGAROO KORT TRIALS - Fun and frivolity with the antics of Keystone Kops and the judge of the Kangaroo Kort. Beware: Oh beardless ones. Kangaroo Kort begins June 26 and runs to July 3 inclusive.

#### SPECIAL NOTE

All activities will take place along Lincoln Avenue from North Balph to North Jackson Avenues.

The above program was designed for the public's pleasure, at no cost to the individual, with the exception of those listed below:

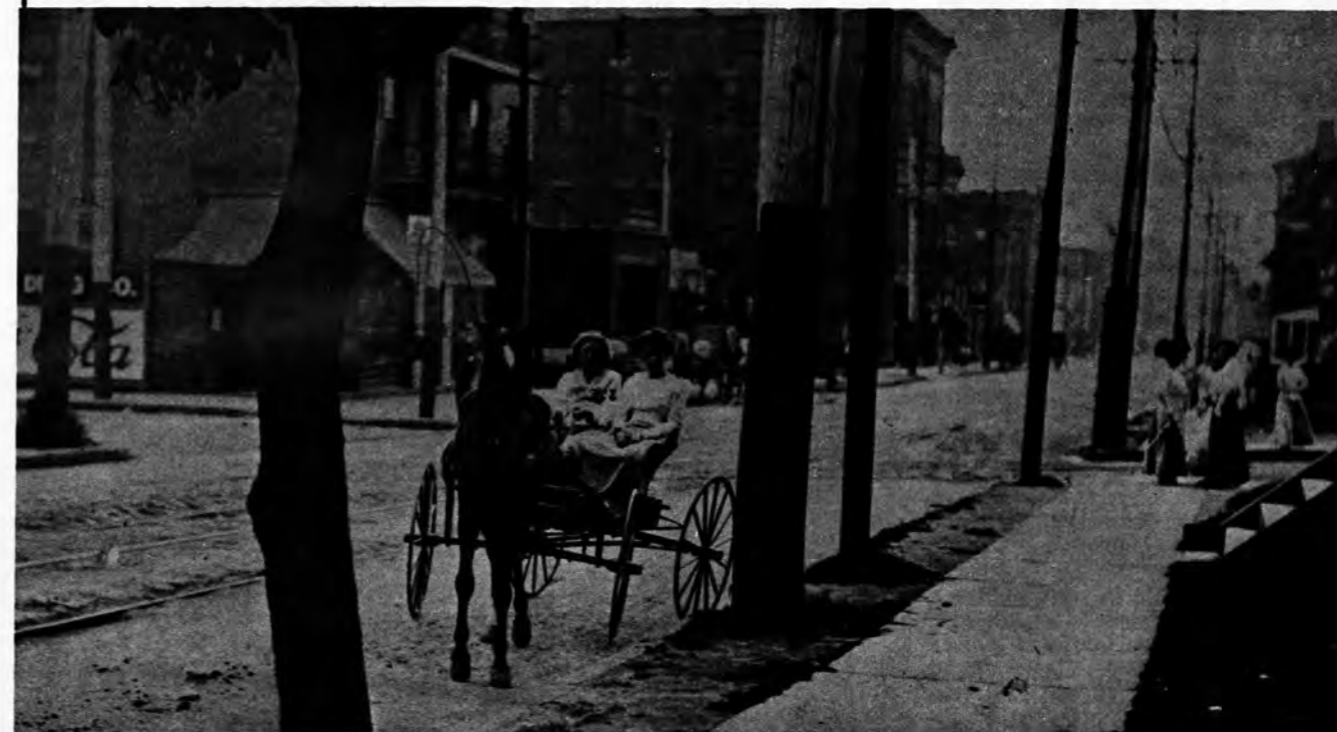
June 28 - Ox Roast  
June 30 - Strawberry Festival  
July 7 - Centennial Ball

#### THE STORY OF OUR TOWN

This is the story of a town. Like many other small towns carved out of the virgin wilderness one hundred years ago, it owes its very existence to the dreams, ideals, hard work and devotion of generations long gone to their reward.

What makes our town a little different from all those others scattered across this great country is ... it has a beautiful view. So they called it Bellevue, a name derived from the French.

In this little volume we turn back the clock more than one hundred years, to look in on events which were the stepping stones to our destiny. After exploring the history of these hardy, God-fearing people who endured frightful hardships to set down their roots here, we can only say that their industry, foresight and integrity is what we see manifested in the fine community we have here today.



## SIDNEY AND SANDY BOTTOM LAID OUT IN LATE 1700'S

### RAILROAD BRINGS CITY FOLKS IN MIDDLE 1800'S

### EARLY HISTORY IN THE BEGINNING ...

The so-called "Depreciation Lands", including what is now Bellevue, took in almost all of southwestern Pennsylvania. Before 1795 it was all wilderness, without a single permanent white settler north and west of the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers, and not more than two cabins in what later became known as Allegheny City.

After the Revolution this land was offered to the soldiers who had come home from the war, weary and bankrupt. The Pennsylvania currency in which they had been paid was practically worthless.

Depreciation certificates were issued to them in amounts representing the estimated difference between the paper currency and hard money. The first sale took place near Sewickley where the land sold at 28 cents per acre.

The first owners of the 640 acres of this land, now known as Bellevue, were James Robinson and Hugh Henry Brackenridge.

Robinson, a soldier, was one of two settlers living on the north shore of the Allegheny River across from Pittsburgh in 1799, the year he received his patent. He operated a tavern and a ferry at the north end of the present Sixth Street bridge. His son, William, 14 years old at this time, became the first Mayor of Allegheny City in 1840. Their only neighbor on that side of the river was J. Lichtenberger who was growing buckwheat on Smoky Island.

Robinson's grant was 412 1/2 acres known as "Sandy Bottom" or the western half of Bellevue. A local historian recalls that before Monroe Avenue was opened to traffic between Meade and South Jackson, a huge sandbank operated there. "The sand from that bank," he said, "is scattered through the mortar of half the residences of Bellevue standing at the beginning of the present century."

Brackenridge, a chaplain in the Revolution, received his patent for "Sidney," in 1792. Half of his 400 acres was in Pine Township. We are concerned with the 227 1/2 acres in Ross Township which became the east-

ern half of Bellevue, adjoining what is now Pittsburgh.

Brackenridge was Princeton educated, a lawyer, orator, historian, and first citizen of Pittsburgh. He was well known for his shrewd leadership in the Whiskey Rebellion. Later he became a judge in the State Supreme Court.

### HERE ARE OUR ROOTS ...

Neither of these men kept their land. By the early 1800's it was laid out in five farms. Their owners were Bellevue's original settlers.

Andrew Jacque (Jack), a Frenchman, owned the land south of Lincoln Avenue from South Fremont to Jacque's (Jack's) Run. He had brought his family over the mountains in a Conestoga wagon and wanted to locate near the river, settled in the run. Here he built a grist mill and a stone house. He also operated a tavern on the river, on the trail from Fort Pitt to Fort McIntosh. He is considered Bellevue's first settler.

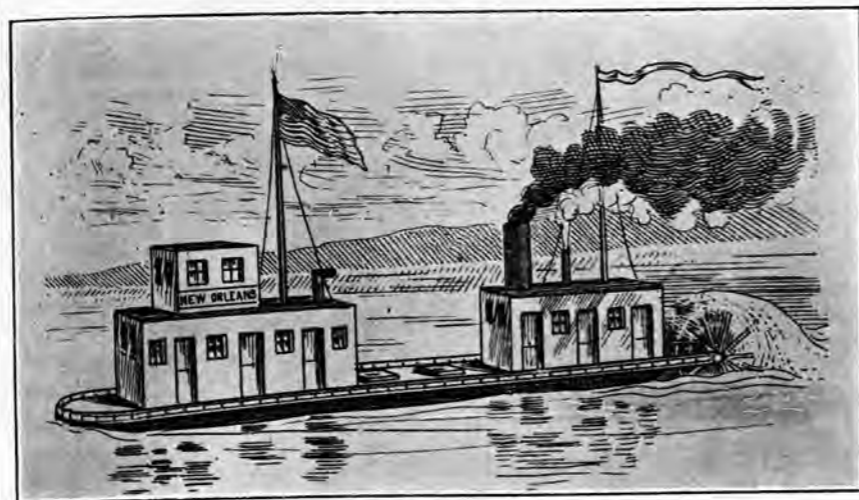
He also brought distinction to local history as the man who piloted the first steamboat on western rivers when he took the Pittsburgh built stern-wheeler, "New Orleans", on its maiden trip down the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans. The year was 1811. A grandson, James Pollock Jack, was born in Bellevue and lived out his life here. He followed the river as a ship carpenter for 24 years.

The farm of Samuel Dilworth joined that of Andrew Jacque extending westward to the Avalon line with Lincoln Avenue and the river as north

and south boundaries. This section was later referred to as Dilworthville. The log house built by Samuel Dilworth for his family on what was later to become Miller Street (Roosevelt), was enlarged as his family increased, and was called Dilworth Hall. There were seven children. One of them, William, a member of the firm Colhart & Dilworth, built the Court House in Pittsburgh in 1834. He also served in the State Legislature.

North of Lincoln Avenue, extending from the Avalon line to North Sprague Avenue, stretched the land of Erasmus Cooper. The site of his cabin was said to be in the vicinity of the old Means homestead on North Avenue. According to Mrs. Anna Jenkinson, early historian of Bellevue, pioneer Cooper was a student of the Bible. He named the site of the reservoir on the hill above, Mount Pisgah, and the hill below, Mount Nelson. A son, Joshua, built the first bridge over the Allegheny River at Pittsburgh, and Erasmus, Jr., was the first Poor Commissioner of Allegheny County.

North of Lincoln Avenue, from Sprague to North Fremont (Tom's Lane), was the farm of Zachariah Blackburn. A loyal churchman, farmer Blackburn almost at once deeded an acre of his land to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for a house of worship. There was one restriction: only a Methodist preacher could use the pulpit! The lot on the hill (actually in Ross Township today) is still in possession of the Bellevue Church. Here, in what was sometimes called Bayne Cemetery or Mt. Lebanon Ceme-



STEAMBOAT "NEW ORLEANS" built by Robert Fulton, L. R. Livingstone and Nicholas J. Roosevelt, 1811.

## CITY FOLKS MOVE TO BELLEVUE

tery, rest in their eternal sleep, some of the early pioneers. The log church, built in 1813, is but a memory.

North of Lincoln Avenue from North Fremont eastward to Jacque's Run, was the smallest farm of them all. It was owned by William Whitesides of whom we know nothing. For this reason, writes one witty historian, we must assume he was "pretty thoroughly good."

### TIME MARCHES ON ...

In the middle 1800's the farmlands of Ross Township were beginning to attract the attention of well to do businessmen in Pittsburgh. They were tired of the dirt and noise of industry and wanted to build homes where it was quiet and clean. Very likely it was this same dirt and noise of industry (in now thriving Pittsburgh) that was attracting many a young lad away from the farm, too. At any rate the five farms were subdivided and the gracious homes of early Bellevue began to appear.

The next order of business was to get municipal improvements from Ross Township in return for their tax money. But Ross Township was developing to the north, along the Venango Trail (Route 19) and turned a deaf ear to complaints from this section. Accordingly, on June 8, 1867, a majority of the property owners petitioned the court to become the Borough of Bellevue. The name was suggested by J. J. East, French scholar and linguist, Belle Vue (beautiful view). The East home stood on a terrace where the Pennzoll station now stands, at Lincoln and Florence Avenues.

The thirty-three property owners who signed the petition were: J. J. East, Hugh Forrester, A. W. Clane, Richard Straw, R. C. Rodgers, W. A. Rodgers, Emery Gleason, Samuel Clane, Marsh Hunnings, William Clane, D. T. Douthett, Hugh Clane, G. Wells, W. A. Tuttle, Henry Williams, John Snodgrass, Jonathan Gallagher, George W. Smith, William Roseburg, Andrew Bayne, Robert Means, Jane Hersperger, Cyprian Preston, Robert Davis, John Kenning, Alex Rickert, James Sterritt, E. F. Lightner, R. B. Megraw, Thomas Megraw, John W. Pittock, James Old, Thomas W. Bakewell.

Attorney Thomas M. Bayne was the legal representative of the property owners. The petition could not be presented until the borough population was at least 300, according to the law. While the population was only 299 when the fever to incorporate was at high pitch, everyone knew that Mrs. East was "expecting" so the plans went ahead. Finally little Frankle

East was born, in the house which was really the "Borough's Birthplace," for, here his father, J. J. East, had been meeting with prominent citizens to plan the incorporation. Later, for several years, the Council meetings were held in the same house.

In granting the petition, the Court set September 11, 1867 as the date for the first election and designated the store of Henry Williams as the place. The Court further decreed that Richard Straw be the Judge and Thomas Bakewell, Jr., and J. J. East, be the Inspectors for said election.

At this election Samuel Clane became the first Burgess. Councilmen elected were: Captain W. A. Rodgers, J. J. East, Emery Gleason, Hugh Forrester and William Milton Clane.

A School Board was elected at the same time. For this important body the following were elected: W. Roseburg, Richard Straw, Thomas W. Bakewell, John Snodgrass, Hugh Clane and J. J. East. (Mr. East had the distinction of serving on both Council and the School Board).

The fledgling borough was now on its own...free to raise taxes, fight over elections, march in parades, build its own boardwalks and make the kids go to school.

### 70TH ANNIVERSARY ...

### WOMAN'S CLUB OF BELLEVUE RECALLS BOROUGH HISTORY

In its century of progress the Borough of Bellevue has had only three official celebrations. The first was on September 7, 1897 (Jubilee Day) and celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the borough's incorporation.

The second, five years later, on September 6, 1902, marked the borough's 35th Anniversary and the first anniversary of the founding of The Suburban Life, community weekly newspaper.

On May 26, 1914 the borough celebrated Bellevue's Civic Jubilee to advertise the town, and its new street lights. A parade of automobiles left the borough at 1:30 p.m. traveling through the North Side, out to East Liberty, back through another section of the North Side and home again. There was a band concert in the evening and speeches by prominent officials.

When the time came for a 50th Anniversary party the borough was engulfed in World War I. When it was time for the 75th Anniversary, World



JAMES J. EAST

War II prevented a celebration. Thus, it was of special importance when the Woman's Club of Bellevue observed the borough's 70th Anniversary on October 22, 1937.

### A BELLEVUE "BOY" ...

The speaker for this special occasion was Mr. Edmund W. Arthur, who, although then residing in Ben Avon, said he still considered himself a Bellevue "boy". Prominent attorney and outstanding conservationist, Mr. Arthur was known for his column, "Country Rambler" which was carried in the old "Pittsburgh Sun." He loved the outdoors and he loved people. The community was shocked to learn of his collapse and death on a Pittsburgh street, October 8, 1948 at the age of 74. In his talk to the club, Mr. Arthur recalled many interesting things about early families. We quote from his speech.

### EARLY FAMILIES ...

Cyprian Preston opened a tavern at the northwest corner of the borough where the Disciples of Christ Church (Christian) now stands. That reminds me of the motto which appeared on the old Spencerian copy books: Da Locum Mellioribus" which being interpreted, "Give place to better things." So it was that the accommodation which Andrew Jacque had furnished with his tavern at the southeast corner, Cyprian Preston carried to the northwest corner, so that no traveller need enter or leave "Sandy Bottom" unrefreshed.

## THE BAYNES WERE IN POLITICS



THE HOME OF J. J. EAST, ESQ. was at the corner of Florence and Lincoln Avenues, where the gas station is now. Originally a one story cottage, a second story was added as the family increased.



Adjoining the Preston property on the city side, was the land of J. J. East. His home was a beautiful piece of rural architecture, a typical country mansion with scrolled woodwork trimmings and adornments, set as it was, in the midst of a generous lawn that extended back to a shady brook toward the north.

I remember, as a boy, seeing Mr. East and purchasing stationery and school books from his store on Federal Street where, as I recall it, he had an extensive stock of wallpaper too. Mr. East was a genial man who contributed largely to the cultural side of the life of the infant community.

When I was a boy, Bayne Farm was in the hinterland beyond Brighton Road. There was a farm lane led up the hill from the corner of Balph Avenue where the Rodgers place was (site of present Mellon Bank). I remember a gate there, and how curious I was to explore the land beyond when the gate was removed.

Hughey Ford was an expressman who had a large single horse drawn bobsled with long runners. It must have been 10 feet long. He took a crowd of us out over Bayne's Hill once, just after the road had been opened through, to our great discomfiture as well as delight, when the bobsled see-sawed over half a dozen drains that quartered their way across the Quail Farm.

The Bayne Farm must have been the scene of an Indian conflict as we found a number of flints in the vicinity of Smith Christy's house at the corner of Balph and Forest.

Andrew Bayne, who bought the Blackburn farm, and his son, Thomas, were active in politics. I remember a beautiful banner made by Mrs. B. I. McClure and her sisters, Elizabeth and Mary Brooks, which was carried in a torchlight parade and bore the device, "Blaine, Logan and Bayne". This was in 1884.

East of the Baynes, William Roseburg had a pretentious home, a really fine manor consisting of a brick house, ample lawn, orchard, stables and out-buildings. William Roseburg was a real character and there are many interesting incidents about him.

The Straws were the merchants of the early borough. They lived in the "mud" (stucco) house at the head of the road at the head of Jack's Run Hill.

Now back to the western line. There was the Porter property which David Porter owned. The mansion on it, now the Y-building, was built by him. Mr. L. K. Porter, of Emsworth, a prominent and one time active member of our Bar, tells me he was born at that place and that his father had a market garden. He told me that a ram pump which his father put in at the spring along the road to West Bellevue

Station, was the first ram pump in this section.

The Pofter property came out of the Dilworth tract. East of it was the Rodgers property. When I was a boy, Tom Rodgers was a friend to all the youngsters in town. They were always welcome about his barn or greenhouses. He and his brother and sisters lived in a great frame house back amid the gloom of Norway spruces on what is now South Balph Avenue, a street cut through their lot. Tom Rodgers was a versatile man; teamster, horse breeder, florist, nurseryman and general utility man, an individualist, genial and very independent.

"Milkman" Miller lived in the old log house first built on the Dilworth tract. It stood at the eastern end of Roosevelt Avenue. There was the inevitable spring, which in pioneer days, determined the location of the dwellings. Some folks said jestingly that the spring was the original of the "elastic dairy story."

Mr. Schleid had a shoe store at South Howard and, as the school population increased, and Mr. Taylor, the tobacconist next door, put in a candy counter which was well patronized, Mr. Schleid also put in a candy counter. I recall there was considerable rivalry between Schleid and Taylor. Schleid said nothing, but the Taylors rather resented the intrusion and Mr. Taylor and his young son went fishing down to Davis Island Dam with increased regularity, leaving his wife and daughter to meet the competition.

Out of the Erasmus Cooper tracts were the Claney lands. In an about what are now Jackson Street and Spring Avenue, there were two brothers, Hugh and Samuel Claney, both solid substantial citizens. To the enterprise of one or the other, many comfortable dwelling places are still standing as evidence of their excellent workmanship.

Hughey Forrester was another builder and contractor. He owned a cottage where the colonial house stands at the corner of North Fremont and Lincoln. I never could understand why Hughey built his home in the dark woods of the block now crowded with dwellings at the corner of Lincoln and South Fremont (house still remains, on Hallett Place back of Young's). His pond was a popular place, especially in mid-winter until the time, each season, when Alex McIntosh thought the ice was thick enough to cut.

How well I remember the Cantata of Easter, parts of which were taken by such familiar personages as Lee Anna Starr, Anna M. Frazier, Mamie Holliday, Nannie Holliday, Edith Moyle, Florence C. East, Mamie F. Roberts, Mrs. Maria McIntyre, Mrs. M. E. Steck, Mrs. E. S. Reynolds, Louisa Zapf, Mrs. Leila Logan, Mrs. H. Kallenbaugh, Bessie Seville, Mrs. D. H. Munsch and many others.

# MELLON BANK is proud to participate in the Centennial Celebration of Bellevue.

## For better ways to serve you in the next one-hundred years, it's our Bellevue Office.

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"The Lone Sentinel", historic elm standing in one corner of the Andrew Bayne Memorial Park, has seen a lot of history taking place. The elm is estimated to be approximately 365 years at the present time. It has a height of 90 feet; spread of the largest limbs cut off, 125 feet; diameter of trunk, 63 inches. The tree is carefully tended by the Davey Tree Company and it gets a yearly check-up. Since the sisters who gave the park to the borough, requested that the trees be saved, there must be a constant watch lest the elm tree disease may reach it. The row of buckeye trees were planted by Mothers of Democracy after World War I. The tree is mentioned in the Brittanica.

## REMINISCENCES ...

### VILLAGE LIFE IN THE FIRST DECADE AT A SLOWER PACE

Do You Remember...

Who can guess what it was like to be a small boy growing up in the newly incorporated borough? We get a glimpse of those wonderful days from the reminiscences to follow.

The Rev. Charles Fayette Irwin was born in Bellevue on November 2, 1872 son of Martha A. and George Irwin (former Burgess) who lived on Monroe Avenue near the corner of Madison. He was a cousin of Mrs. Samuel L. Hosack. His mother and Mrs. Hosack's mother (Martha Morse Irwin and Mary Morse Steck) were sisters. The good pastor died August 1, 1932.

Although away from Bellevue many years in various pastorates, he retained a love for the scenes of his boyhood. Upon his return from duty as a chaplain in World War I he was inspired to set down these snatches of magic recall.

### THREE R'S ...

From the earliest days the town was generous in its provisions for training the children. The first school building was on Lincoln Avenue. It consisted of three rooms. A beautiful lawn with plants and trees covered the frontage while two large playgrounds, separated by a high board fence, were in the rear. A row of locust trees ran alongside the boys' yard next to Roseburg's field (present high school field).

We had splendid instructors in those days. They threw their personalities into their work. Among the earlier principals were Henry Kallenbaugh, Mr. Leslie and Dr. Allen.

Mr. Kallenbaugh was tall with a decided stoop to his shoulders. He had piercing black eyes which bored straight through a guilty conscience. Mr. Leslie was suave and one of the best music leaders in the borough. Dr. Allen was red-headed and nervous and when stirred up proved a serious problem to young bolsheviks.

I recall upon one occasion while in the first room, that for some reason all the boys were kept after school. When Mr. Kallenbaugh entered the room and paused, peering through his glasses at us, several of the small boys began to cry. He called for one boy to come up front and the boy was so scared he began to walk over the desk tops to the front.

## PERSIMMON TREES AND FUN

When Dr. Allen came upon the scene as principal he was unmarried. During his period here he married and took several weeks off for his honeymoon. It chanced that on Friday he gathered us together for our weekly singing session. When he inquired what number we wished, a roar went up, "Number 46". Turning to this, Mr. Allen grew redder than was his wont, for the words ran:

We live within a rustic cot, my little wife and I,

We think it is the better spot, my little wife and I,

We laugh and sing from day to day, and care not what the world may say,

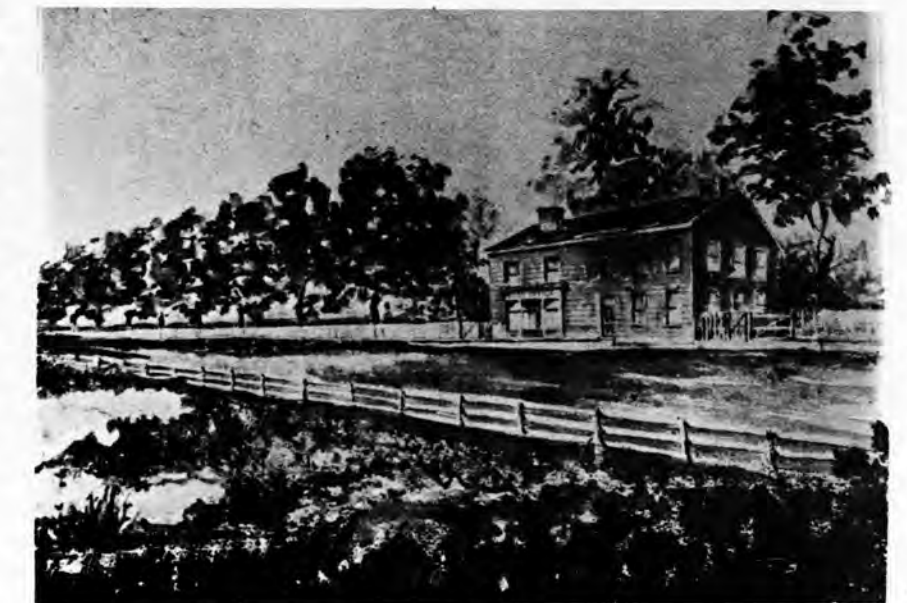
We think it is the better way, my little wife and I.

If my memory does not betray me, that finished the singing for the day.

Some of the teachers whose fine spirit and splendid training remain in memory are: Miss Lizzie Kennedy, Carrie Readdy, Rose Gibson, Mary Wilkins and Cora Stutchfield.

### OLD SWIMMIN' HOLE ...

In these days of building concrete swimming pools within the limits of town, I like to remember several popular water resorts we had within the borough limits. Among them was a pond within the confines of either the Andrew Miller or Hugh Forrester property, near the Lincoln Road, between Howard and Fremont Streets. Another was the frog pond on Lincoln Avenue about where Cray's building now stands (diagonally across from the Masonic Hall).



HENRY WILLIAMS' STORE and Bellevue's first postoffice with the famous frog pond in the foreground. (Site of present Masonic Hall).

We had a saying in those days that should be mentioned here. There were several institutions standing in a row on that side of Lincoln Avenue. They were: the Methodist Protestant Church, the W.C.T.U. Hall, Anderson's Roller Skating Rink, the frog pond, and an old German squatter's hut (named Heyl). We ungodly ones used to say, that if the Bellevue youth quit going to the church and Temperance School, and got into the rink, they would go straight over the frog pond to Hell (Heyl).

### WHO PLANTS A TREE ...

One of the outstanding features of the older borough were the old persimmon trees that stood on Lincoln Avenue, just across from Sheridan. The present street is so much wider than the old road that they probably stood where the north sidewalk now is. When our city cousins came to visit, with their insidious comparisons between city and country ways, our one means of retaliation was to escort them to these trees for a taste of the native product. They always chose the plump fruit while we took the squashy. Our resulting glee may have been diabolic, but fun.

The old elm trees on the Balph estate stood like sentinels over the life of the borough. Flocks of doves lived in those branches and on a hot, dry summer's day, their solemn cooling aroused emotions and vague wonderings in many a youth's heart. I felt this same emotion in France in the summer of '18 when I heard doves calling from ancient trees over there.



**BEFORE THE BRIDGES ...**

It is not generally known that the first electric street car to be tried out in Western Pennsylvania was successfully run in Bellevue. A short line was built commencing with the intersection of Sherman (South Jackson) and Lincoln Avenues. It ran down the slope to old Windsor Park on the bluff over the West Bellevue Station. There a high tower of steel, containing an elevator with upper platform to the bluff, provided transportation to the commuters. The first cars were the electric cars. Motors were on the front platform, uncovered. The motorman sat on a small stool in front of this motor. When an unusual load was put on the motor, huge streams of sparks and flames leaped from the brushes and the motorman would turn a back flip-flop, landing in the aisle of the car. The grade and the curves proved too much for the car and it was replaced by a cable system. This car did well except at the sharp curves where it, too, would stick. The commuters called it the "G. O. P." system because when it stuck at the curves, all the men "got out and pushed" the car around the curve.

**ANYONE FOR TENNIS ...**



In the late 70's tennis made its appearance. The first court was on the lawn of Hon. John Morrison's home. It was here that the first white "duck" trousers appeared in Bellevue.

**ALL ABOARD ...**

As recounted by many of the early citizens, the travel morning and evening to and from the city, was fraught with repeated comedy and tragedy. Three trains carried folks to the city. They were nicknamed: The Worker's Train, The Clerker's Train and The Shirker's Train.

The citizen who invariably was the last to board a train of a morning,

was Mr. William Roseburg. Like other commuters, Mr. Roseburg remained at home til the last possible moment. Often on his way down the boardwalk he would stop to tie up one shoe, run a bit and then stop to do likewise to the other shoe, run a bit and tie up his collar and necktie. Whenever a latecomer saw Mr. Roseburg coming down the walk, he began to sprint because he knew the last moment of grace was gone.

**PLAY BALL ...**



Our ball park was up Sprague Avenue about one square from Lincoln. One of our heartiest rooters was the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Swift, pastor of the M. P. Church. He was popular with the young people who often attended his evening services. "Ernie" Miller was one of the finest catchers Bellevue ever had. Miller had most of his fingers twisted and disfigured by hurts. I can recall him continuing a game when a finger had to be pulled back into joint. We small fry sat under the locusts and tallied on short sticks with our knives as the game progressed.

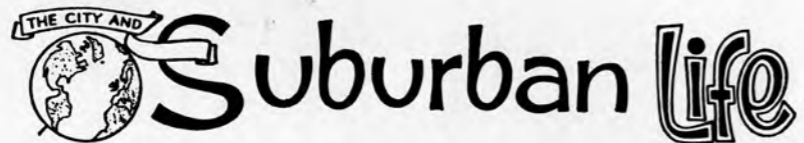


**CORNER OF LINCOLN AND FLORENCE AVENUES ABOUT 1890.** The big house was built for B. W. Flack and sold at the turn of the century, to the T. Lee Clark family. In 1910 the property was purchased by John Dewar who had the house torn down and on its site erected another beautiful home. It was called "Knockcoid" for his Scotch ancestry. Years later it became the John Hermann Art Museum. This, too, was demolished to make way for Kroger's. In the picture Starr Avenue is not opened yet and the YMCA property would be to the left of the big house. The two children are not identified.



Left to right, first row: C. W. Littlecott, Mayor Harry N. Irvin, Dr. J. C. Pillow;  
Second row: J. W. Bonistalli, Albert Sirianni, H. J. Siegel, L. A. Wightman;  
Top row: William D. Reese, Jr., Robert J. Ludwig, John M. Strouss, Jr.

**RECORDING BELLEVUE'S  
HISTORY SINCE 1901 ...**



**... THE NEWSPAPER  
YOUR GRANDFATHER READ.**

605 LINCOLN AVENUE

BELLEVUE, PA. 15202

**RAILROAD STATION POPULAR PLACE**

**A FREE PRESS  
FOR SEVENTY-FIVE  
YEARS**



Bellevue had its first weekly newspaper in 1892. On Saturday, March 5, of that year the first issue of The Suburban News made its appearance. The founder and editor of the paper was Edward C. Sykes. Fred A. East was the business manager. The office was in the Langfitt building, Lincoln and Sprague.

Mr. Sykes had settled in Bellevue when he was in his early twenties. He owned the first paper route in the community and drove his own pony to deliver Pittsburgh papers to his clients. Mr. Sykes later became a reporter for the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph (later Sun-Telegraph), remaining with them continuously for 56 years until his death in 1946.

The Suburban News was later sold to a Mr. Boughton of Neville Island, with Mr. East remaining as manager, and E. E. Davis looking after the printing. Succeeding owners and publishers were: C.A. Holms, 1896 (Bellevue News); J.I. Deming, 1897 (Bellevue News); Brownfield Scott, 1899 (The Saturday Visitor); Ira Harper, 1900.

In June of 1901, a publication known as The Advertiser passed into the hands of Edgar E. Douglass, along with the Bellevue Publishing Company, located in the bank building, corner of Lincoln and Hawley Avenues. By September 7, 1901, the goodwill and subscription list of The Advertiser was purchased by John W. Vickerman, Sr., and renamed The Suburban Life. The paper continued under this name until January 5, 1907, when Mr. Vickerman bought out a smaller paper called City Life and combined the two names. It has remained that ever since.

After Mr. Vickerman's death in 1932, the paper was operated by his family until March of 1937, when the late William D. Lillich and his wife, Margaret, became the owners. Two years after Mr. Lillich's death in 1960 the paper was sold to Anderson Newspapers, Inc., Len Anderson, publisher. The plant is located in Oakmont, Pa. The editorial office is at 605 Lincoln Avenue.

(Note: Mention has been made of the "Bellevue Gossip" but it was short-lived and without much influence.)



**THE HOME OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM B. RODGERS** overlooking the river he loved so well. Called "The Windsor" for Windsor Park in that area. The captain's yacht, "The Troubadour" was tied up at a private landing below the house.



**BELLEVUE BECAME** a village of commuters in the 50's with the arrival of the railroad. This is where you got your train after hiking down a long steep boardwalk at the end of Fremont Avenue. Coming up was murder!

**METHODISTS USE  
LOG HOUSE ON  
BLACKBURN FARM**

In 1812 a Methodist class was meeting in the home of William Jackman on land now occupied by Shannopin Country Club. In 1813 twenty-five loyal members raised a small log meeting house on land located in Ross Township (which then included Bellevue) near the present Summit Avenue. Robert Quail, a fine scholar, kept excellent records which are historically valuable and preserved carefully. The cornerstone of the 1813 log building may be seen in the wall of the stairway leading to the balcony of the present church.

Services were discontinued in 1832 at the log meeting house near the present Summit Avenue. Members then attended services at "Hopewell" which was three miles away. When the congregation moved to Jack's Run in the 1840's, the land near Summit Avenue was used as a burying ground by early settlers. It is still in the possession of the church and is known as Bellevue Cemetery.

The Jack's Run church was dedicated in 1850 and was called Fleming Chapel in memory of Thornton Fleming, first presiding elder (district superintendent) in this area. In 1867 Bellevue was separated from Ross Township. In 1875 the congregation of Fleming Chapel moved to a new frame church at the corner of what is now California and Home Avenue. The present church of green stone (hence the popular name "The Greenstone Church") replaced the frame structure in 1906. The building committee was the following men: Frank Cruikshank, chairman; Captain W. B. Rodgers, R. M. Kerr, Dr. B. L. Davis, W. J. Sample, S. W. Bragdon, Harvey Lewis, Jr., J. W. Vickerman, and Thomas E. Long. In 1926 a large and well equipped educational building was added.

The church had an average of two ministers a year from 1813-1875 because circuit riders usually were changed to another circuit every six months. In 1875 the church became a station with a full time pastor of its own. Since then it has been served by twenty-five pastors and three associates.

The church now has a membership of 1060 persons. Its facilities are used for many district meetings, because it has a large seating capacity in the worship area, and many rooms for all types of gatherings in its educational building. In recent years it has been host to an annual, inter-denominational "Festival of Faith" of the North Boroughs. (The above information has been ob-

tained largely from a 54 page history of the church written in 1963 by the late Mrs. Ralph Beard on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the church.) Officers of the Official Board 1966-1967 are: Chairman, Martin H. Cole; Vice-chairman, John H. Feather; Re-

cording Secretary, Mrs. William G. Roberts; Treasurer, Charles W. Granacher; Financial Secretary, Stanley W. Cotton. Present ministers are J. P. Lambertson and J. Howard Cherry. C. S. Garver, Jr. is church School superintendent.



**THE SKETCH OF THE LOG CHURCH** was made in 1906 from a description by Mrs. Elizabeth Bragdon, born 1816, daughter of William Jackman. She died in 1908 at the age of 92 and is buried in the little cemetery. On another tombstone is the name J. J. East who died in 1891.



**NORTH BOROUGHS WEEKDAY SCHOOL  
OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

During World War I, a group of citizens in Gary, Indiana decided to open a Weekday School of Religious Education for the children of their community. It proved so successful that a similar kind of school was organized in Van Wert, Ohio in 1918.

In 1923 Dr. James H. Ferguson, pastor of the Bellevue United Presbyterian Church, felt there was need for such a school in Bellevue. In the fall of that year the first classes were held with Mrs. John Bailey as supervisor, a post she held for more than 25 years. Mrs. Nellie Robertson was co-founder and treasurer of the school.

Numerous schools of this kind have opened and closed, but the local school has the enviable record of serving the community for 44 years without interruption. Mrs. Harry Bailey is the present supervisor.

The school is operated on a released time basis, enrollment voluntary. Present enrollment is 665, third grade through ninth. In the past 25 years a total of 2300 pupils have been graduated.

There are 14 teachers on the present staff. One of them, Mrs. James Brenner, was a member of the first graduating class.

**CENTRAL METHODIST  
OLDEST WITHIN THE  
LIMITS OF BOROUGH**



In the spring of 1865, a group of God fearing men and women met to discuss the question of establishing a church in the community. They believed in the proverb, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." They were known as the Union Church, having members from various denominations, mainly Methodist and Presbyterian.

Representatives of these two denominations went before their respective church headquarters in Pittsburgh for financial aid. It was found that the Pittsburgh Methodist Conference was willing to advance the necessary funds. Under the name of the Bellevue Methodist Protestant Church, the property was purchased from Andrew Bayne on July 7, 1866 for \$200.00 with the stipulation that a fence be erected around the building. A frame church was constructed on the property.

The officers (Trustees) were formally organized September 17, 1866, one year before the Borough of Bellevue was established. Officers were: Emory Gleason, President; James J. East, Secretary-Treasurer (who named Bellevue from the French words "Beautiful View"); Henry Williams, Sunday School Superintendent; Samuel Claney, Hugh Claney, Alexander Claney, John W. Claney, Richard Straw, and James Taylor. The charter for the church was granted November 5, 1866 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania after the building was dedicated on September 30, 1866.

The present stone structure which cost \$50,000, was dedicated April 19, 1903. The organ, which is considered to be one of the finest in Allegheny County, was a gift from Andrew Carnegie. The stained glass windows are memorials to some of the early settlers. The Rose window was placed by the Christian Endeavor (young people's society of the church.)

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized September 14, 1880.

The name of the church was changed from the Bellevue Methodist Protestant Church to the Bellevue Central Methodist Church on March 28, 1955.

It is interesting to note that the Sunday School room is the original Church Sanctuary, which was moved to its present location in 1903 and the present building constructed.



**METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH - 1865**  
Lincoln and North Sprague Avenues

**BAPTISTS MEET IN  
TEMPERANCE HALL  
FROM 1900-1904**

Baptist people organized their church in Bellevue in 1900, with just 12 charter members, persons who had moved here while members of Sandusky Street and other North Side Baptist churches. A temporary place of worship was the Women's Christian Temperance Hall on Lincoln Avenue, where our post office now stands. The roof was bad and on rainy days some of the congregation raised umbrellas during the service.

The Baptist membership grew rapidly with the attractive growing suburbs of Bellevue, Avalon, and Ben Avon. In 1904 a small church building was erected on Meade Avenue, a half block below Lincoln. There devout and congenial groups of consecrated Christians worshipped, worked and sang together until by 1920, at the age of twenty, Bellevue Baptist was one of the substantial churches of the area.

In 1924 the congregation moved into its present stone building on Lincoln Avenue at Howard, opposite Bellevue High School. The beloved church home on Meade Avenue, now outgrown, was sold to the Mt. Zion Baptist congregation.

The Bellevue Baptists have been very fortunate in securing a series of able and energetic pastors. The



**EARLY CHURCH** on Meade Avenue now used by the Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

present one is Rev. M. Douglass Willey, a past president of the North Boroughs Ministerium. The members rate high in their offerings to local expenses and World Missions and are in loyal affiliation with the American (Northern) Baptist denomination and the Federal Council of Churches.

The Baptist form of worship is informal but sincere. Its social atmosphere is warm and friendly so that both adults and children love their church.

**1867  
1967  
ON YOUR 100th  
ANNIVERSARY**

**Congratulations  
Bellevue**

**FIRST FEDERAL  
SAVINGS AND LOAN  
OF BELLEVUE**

**1891  
1967  
75 Years  
of  
Community  
Service**

**CORNERSTONE MOVED TO NEW CHURCH**

**BEGINNINGS IN  
BELLEVUE FOR  
EPIPHANY CHURCH**

Travel was difficult 100 years ago and the convenience of an Episcopal Church in the North Boroughs was more a necessity than an extravagance. Thus, a committee of churchmen petitioned Bishop Cortlandt Whitehead to attend a meeting in the spring of 1887 with the idea of forming a new parish.

Members of the committee were W. W. McCandless, E. G. Whitehead, E. H. Harding, John McClurg and L. M. Bulger. Bishop Whitehead also appointed Mr. McCandless as a Lay Reader and a small frame building owned by the W. C. T. U. was rented for Sunday and Wednesday services. On September 1, 1887 the Rev. George A. McKallip Dyess, Ph. D., was called to be the Deacon-in-Charge of Epiphany.

Just a year after organizing the Mission, the decision to build a church edifice was made. Cornerstone for a frame building was laid July 24, 1888 on property at the corner of Lincoln and Rodgers (now Balph). The lot had been purchased in 1887 for \$800. It was sold in 1923 for \$17,500. First service was held in the completed church on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 1889. Official records of the Parish also began on that day.

Bishop Whitehead consecrated the Church of the Epiphany on St. Peter's Day, June 29, 1891, after all indebtedness had been paid. In March of 1892 a committee was named to make plans for the addition of two rooms across the back of the lot. The addition was completed in February of 1893 and the following June Dr. Dyess submitted his resignation, to accept a call in New York.

While the search went on for a permanent rector, the Rev. Robert H. Moor came to supply until Easter, 1894. Shortly after his arrival the Rev. Mr. Moor contracted pneumonia and died on December 10, 1893. He was buried in Bayne Hill Cemetery.

On April 25, 1894 the Rev. Robert Erskine Campbell of Baltimore accepted the call to be Epiphany's second rector. He resigned to accept another call in 1897. That same year the Rev. George Gunnell came to the church, remaining in Bellevue six years.

In 1889 a second addition was erected. In 1902 the church proper was enlarged by an extension toward Lincoln Avenue. The main entrance was moved from the side street to Lincoln Avenue.

On April 12, 1903 Dr. Dyess returned as rector of Epiphany and remained until August 31, 1909. The following August, the Rev. John Dows

Hills, D. D. became the rector and saw the church progress through its so-called "middle years" (1909-1934).

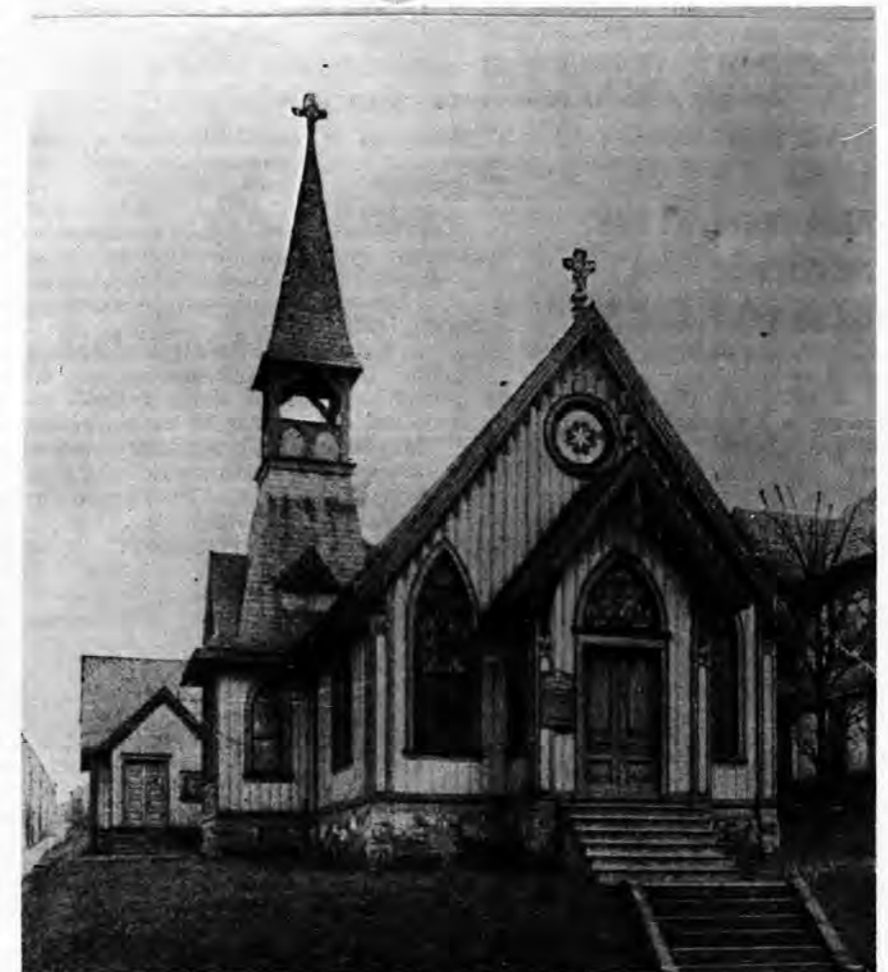
A few months after Dr. Hills arrived (March 14, 1910) a large lot at the corner of California and Home Avenues in Avalon, was purchased from the Hamilton estate at a cost of \$21,000. Ground for the present church was broken in the spring of 1912. Regular services began in the new building on Sunday, November 23, 1913. Plans to honor Dr. Hills on the 20th anniversary of his rectorate in October, 1929, had to be cancelled because of his illness. He died on Friday, April 27, 1934.

Succeeding rectors at Epiphany have been John N. Warren, 1934-1940; Kenneth R. Waldron, 1941-1958; Donald

L. Campbell, 1958-1964 and the present rector, the Rev. David C. Casto, who came in February, 1965.

In another building operation, the 130 year old rectory was razed to make way for a new stone house to match the church, and Father Waldron and his family moved in, the fall of 1955. Bishop Pardue blessed the new Rectory on the Feast of Epiphany, January 6, 1957.

The cornerstone of the original Church of the Epiphany is an integral part of the present edifice. If you look above the font, you will see the stone carved with the date "1888". The stone had been removed in 1912. The sodden contents of the box were carefully sealed in a new box of copper and placed in a cavity behind the stone.



**THE WAY IT LOOKED AT THE CORNER OF RODGERS AVENUE (Balph) and Lincoln at the turn of the century...the Church of the Epiphany after undergoing major improvements.**

## STORM TEARS THE ROOF OFF



**FREMONT AVENUE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
(formerly Bellevue Presbyterian) South Fremont. 1874.

### PRESBYTERIANS USE FIRST SCHOOL HALL FOR CHURCH, S. S.

In 1867, when Bellevue was incorporated as a borough, one of the first and great needs was a new school. Very soon, there was built a brick building, two stories high, with rooms on the first floor and a hall on the second, called the Public Hall.

This proved to be the cradle of the Fremont Avenue United Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterians of the borough had, after a period of Cottage Prayer Meetings, decided to form a Union Sunday School, and obtained permission from the School Board to hold its session in the first floor school room. After Sunday School, a Worship Service was held in the Public Hall. This hall was used as a Sanctuary until a Presbyterian Church was erected and available for use June 14, 1874. On November 2, 1869, the Presbyterian Sunday School was formally organized.

On January 25, 1871, the church was formally organized as the Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of Allegheny, Synod of Erie. The first Communion was held Sunday, April 2, 1871.

Early in 1872, a church lot on the easterly side of S. Fremont Avenue was purchased. The deed was dated November 11, 1872, and the cornerstone of the new church was laid September 30, 1873.

Scarcely had the cornerstone been laid, the framework erected, and the roof on, when a storm twisted and rocked the building to its foundation. This damage was scarcely repaired when another, even more violent storm, shook the building. These calamities necessitated a slight change in the original plan, involving additional expense.

The first floor was finally finished and furnished. The dedicatory service was held June 14, 1874. One Elder presented the pulpit to the church, and one of the Trustees gave the bell. That bell now hangs in the present church building on N. Fremont Avenue.

The church was finally completed and dedicated September 14, 1879. The pulpit furniture and communion table were presented by the ladies of the congregation. The pulpit Bible was also a gift to the church.

Time brings changes, and the growing congregation began to feel that their building was too small and that the location was not suitable. So the present lot fronting on N. Fremont Avenue, extending through to N. Howard Avenue, was bought. The date of the deed was July 22, 1909.

At a Congregational Meeting, February 7, 1910, it was decided to build a new church. Plans were approved, and the contract let July 8, 1911. On April 20, 1912, the cornerstone for the new building was laid. The church was dedicated and the first service was held therein February 23, 1913. The total cost of the building, furnishings, and lot was approximately \$95,000.00.

During 96 years, the Fremont Avenue United Presbyterian Church, formerly the Bellevue Presbyterian Church, has been served, guided, and blessed through the services of eleven dedicated pastors. The first pastor was the Rev. Robert Thompson Price, who came to the church in May, 1873. The last pastor was Dr. James McClure Barnett, who came in September, 1946. At present, the church is being served by the Rev. Bradley Watkins, interim pastor, on leave from the Mission Fields of Egypt.

The current boards of the church are under the leadership of Mr. Milan P. Getting, Jr., Session; Mr. Donald M. Pearson, Board of Trustees; and Mr. David E. Strunk, Board of Deacons.

### EARLY CATHOLICS HELD FIRST MASS IN LIVERY STABLE

Assumption parish was officially born on September 7, 1903, when the first pastor, Rev. Israel McGovern arrived to assume the pastorate. The area of the parish comprises the Boroughs of Bellevue, Avalon and some adjacent sections of Ross Township bordering upon Bellevue.

The first Mass was offered in Greenough Hall which stood on the site now occupied by Corsello Sales and Service, Lincoln Avenue. Chairs were loaned by the United Presbyterian Church of Bellevue.

The official title of the new parish, The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Beautiful River, was chosen by the then Bishop Richard Phelan and was taken from the Log Cabin Chapel of old Fort Duquesne, now known as Fort Pitt.

The first parish school was opened in September 1913, in the frame house that still stands on Jackson Avenue, next to the present school structure. The enrollment was 120 pupils, taught by three Sisters of St. Joseph from Baden, Pennsylvania. The next thirty years saw a steady increase in membership and resources. Father McGovern during the years was as-

sisted by the following Curates: James A. Healey, Edward H. Kelly, James H. McGinniss, Michael J. Hegerich, Leo Gattes, Francis R. Mullen and Thomas C. Brown.

The present church structure on North Sprague Avenue was begun on June 7, 1930 and on November 22 of the same year was dedicated by the late Bishop Hugh C. Boyle, D. D. The cost of the church was \$347,000-however, this figure did not cover the complete furnishings which had to be completed at a much later date because of the depression.

Two years later, Father McGovern died in his 64th year, after serving the parish for 31 years. The second pastor was Father George J. Bullion, DD, JCD, who came to Bellevue February 7, 1935. In the depth of the depression, he re-financed the entire parish debt, bringing it down from a typical 6% to 4% interest rate. A personal notation of Father Bullion indicated that "\$100.00 a day was needed to take care of expenses, interest and payment on the debt."

At this time, the social activities of the parish began to expand and Father Bullion was ably assisted by his Curates: Joseph McCarthy, Francis A. Glenn, Ferris Guay, Joseph Janok, Thomas Nee, Joseph A. Kopecky and Elroy Grundler.

At the close of 1940, the congregation numbered 1312 families with 536 children in school, taught by ten teaching nuns and four lay teachers. In the ensuing 15 years, the congregation reduced the debt from \$182,000 to \$98,000, while at the same time expanding the parish facilities as they were needed. Father Bullion was

## FATHER McBRIDE COMES TO ASSUMPTION

taken ill March 1st, 1946, taken to Mercy Hospital where he died that evening.

Father Michael P. Hinnebusch was appointed by Bishop Boyle, June 13, 1946, as Father Bullion's successor. During his 21 years as pastor, the interior of the church was brought to final completion through the installation of stained glass windows, marble side altars, decoration of interior and the church organ. A new school building of 12 rooms was constructed on Florence Avenue, bringing the total number of school rooms to 24. The convent properties were extended and the present rectory purchased. The parish individual membership consists of approximately 5120 parishioners-the school faculty, 17 teaching nuns with one music teacher, under the guidance of Sister M. Celestia, the school principal, and eight lay teachers, pupil enrollment-1031.

From 1946 to the present, the congregation was served by the following curates: Francis A. Glenn, Elroy Grundler, Joseph A. Kopecky, Vincent R. Hallstein, John A. O'Rourke, John L. Phillips, Henry J. Donabedian, Charles B. Roach, Francis A. Nazimek, George P. Stuparitz, Joseph R. Bryan, Zygmunt V. Szarnicki, Robert G. Turner, Thomas J. Hanlan. The present curates are Fathers Harry E. Parsons and William C. McDonough.

Father Hinnebusch's pastorate was officially terminated by his retirement on June 7, of this year and his successor, Rev. James F. McBride took over on the same date. Father McBride was formerly pastor at St. Camillus Church, New Castle, Pennsylvania.

## BELLEVUE COUNCIL #1400 K OF C



Bellevue Council #1400 Knights of Columbus was instituted on May 2, 1909. Their first meeting was held in the Masonic Building on Lincoln Avenue and later on in the Bank Building at Hawley Avenue. The first Grand Knight of Bellevue Knights of Columbus was F. William Ries, Jr.

In 1921 the present location at 450 Lincoln Avenue was purchased and in 1928, eight bowling alleys were added in the rear. Early in 1963 the old mansion was removed and the new quarters, including Mariner Hall, was built and dedicated in October 1963.

The total membership today is 360 with three active charter members still living. They are Albert N. Glaser, age 89; Charles J. Schneider, Sr., age 82; David M. Martin, age 81. Included in the number above are 19 Honorary Life Members and 34 Honorary Members. In nearly 60 years of service to the community there have been 32 Past Grand Knights, 21 of whom are still living. The present Grand Knight is Albert B. Dietrich

### MISSIONARY ZEAL OPENS WAY FOR A LUTHERAN CHURCH

The beginnings of Emanuel's Lutheran Church can be traced to the missionary spirit of Dr. William Pas-savant. In 1886 a congregation had been organized in Manchester, but Pastor Benjamin F. Hankey accepted the call to Emanuel's in 1907 with the understanding that new work should be begun at once in Bellevue. A temporary organization was effected in the Bellevue W. C. T. U. Hall, when 22 members adopted a constitution. In December the two congregations merged, and in 1908 the Bellevue church building was dedicated. The congregation has continued to grow and in 1966 numbered 700 baptized members.

The entire community, as well as the members of Emanuel's, was shocked by the sudden death of Dr. Hankey on November 5, 1930.

In June, 1931, the Rev. G. Lawrence Himmelman accepted the call to Emanuel's and he continued to serve until 1950 when he became the president of the Pittsburgh Synod. (Pastor Himmelman's three sons who are all now Lutheran ministers, and one daughter, are graduates of Bellevue High School.)



On New Year's Day, 1905, the congregation of the Church of the Assumption had its first Mass in its own church building, shown here, on North Jackson Street.

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS TELL THE STORY

Ground had been broken in 1926 for a Parish House, and in 1937, Pastor William C. Hankey, son of the founder, preached the sermon marking the occasion of the completion of the debt on the Parish House. Emanuel's is proud to note that Dr. Hankey is now president of the Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, having succeeded Dr. Himmelman.

The completed edifice as it now stands was dedicated in 1942, and in 1951 Emanuel's celebrated the burning of the mortgage of indebtedness on the extension to the church building. The extension provided for a narthex, balcony, commodious chancel and increased the seating capacity to 450. It also provided for a pastor's study, and additional meeting rooms. A public address system was installed, and a set of Schulmerich Carillon chimes was installed in the tower.

Among other improvements made in the church building in more recent years, one of significance was the creation and installation of a series of stained glass windows setting forth the major values of the Christian life.

In 1959 Emanuel's dedicated a fine three manual type organ of 25 ranks which had been designed, built and installed by H. P. Moller, Inc.

This year, 1967, which marks the 60th Anniversary of Emanuel's, the exterior beauty of the church building is being restored by sand-blasting.

Other pastors of Emanuel's have been the Rev. Lester M. Utz (1951-1958) and the Rev. Theodore Althof (1959-1962). The Rev. William O. Bradley has been the pastor since 1963.



FOREST AVENUE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## MISSION CHURCH ON THE HILLTOP GROWS ALONG WITH THE BOROUGH

The beginnings of the Forest Avenue United Presbyterian Church were found in the missionary spirit of the Bellevue United Presbyterian congregation, who in 1906 determined that their hilltop neighbors should receive "the means of grace" in their own community. In 1907 a site at the corner of Forest and Ravenswood Avenues, in Ross Township, was purchased for \$2,500.00. Ground was broken and the cornerstone laid for the first chapel, which was dedicated February 16, 1908.

A week after the dedication the Sunday School was organized. On April 1, 1908, twenty-eight persons became charter members of the congregation and elected officers. The Rev. J. Fulton Wilson became the first shepherd of the little mission church on the hilltop and in June 1908 he was installed as minister. His ministry continued until December 1, 1924, at which time the twenty-eight pioneers had become a host of more than two hundred and fifty members. Early records are sprinkled with names like Shuff, Kerr, Boyle, Lawson, Wehling, Woodburn, Trimble.

The first Session was elected in 1909. Prior to that time policies of the congregation were directed by the Session of the mother church. 1910 saw the formation of three missionary societies and the erection of the parsonage on land donated by the Keystone Land Company at 722 Ravenswood Avenue. By 1911 the church was self-supporting and by 1914, as the result of a Silver Dollar Social, it was freed from debt.

In 1920 the missionary-minded people of Forest Avenue undertook the support of Paul A. Miller as their foreign pastor in the Punjab, India, a work which was kept up until 1930.

The Rev. Raymond B. Drukker was the next pastor, ordained and installed on May 8, 1925. Under his leadership the congregation undertook, in 1928, the remodeling of the early chapel into the present beautiful edifice. Succeeding ministers have been the Rev. Dr. John C. Lorimer who led the congregation through the depression



EMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## "FOREST HALL" OPENS ITS DOORS

years, the Rev. William H. Lawrence, the Rev. Paul R. Graham, the Rev. Edwin D. Emmel, and the Rev. Howard I. Cooper, the present pastor. Mr. Cooper was installed on December 14, 1962. He and his wife, together with their four daughters and young son, Mark, live in the present parsonage at 216 Summit Avenue. Under his direction an active Youth Group, encompassing boys and girls from fourth grade through high school was established. This group has been meeting for dinner and classes each Thursday evening throughout the Fall and Winter months for the past four years.

In 1966 a growing Sunday School and church made it necessary to purchase additional property and the large house and grounds next to the church on Bellevue Terrace were acquired. By popular vote the house has been named "Forest Hall."

The years have been friendly to Forest Avenue Church. Present membership is 487 and the Sunday School has an enrollment of 200. Miss Ruth Bastian is clerk of Session; Gilbert G. Ortmann is chairman of the Board of Trustees; Mrs. Jack Croker is chairman of the Board of Deacons; William J. Chisholm is Church School Superintendent.

## FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST STARTED IN BELLEVUE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bellevue, was organized on January 21, 1928 at a meeting attended by a major portion of the members of Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Pittsburgh, (then located at North Avenue and Galveston Street), who lived in the North Boroughs and were desirous of having a church more convenient to their homes.

The new church held its first service in the home of one of its members living in Avalon on February 5, 1928. Within a short time the services and Sunday School exercises were being conducted in the auditorium of the Bellevue High School and continued there for several months.

In the meantime a search for a permanent location in Bellevue had been made and the committee appointed for this purpose recommended the renting of the second floor of the present Post Office building at 530 Lincoln Avenue which was under construction at the time. It was thus possible to arrange partitions to meet the needs of the various church activities including the Sunday School and Reading Room.



BELLEVUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Prior to moving into the new location, The Mother Church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts and recognized this church as an authorized branch on March 30, 1928 thus giving it the official name, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bellevue, Pa., which it retained until February 26, 1959 when it became First Church of Christ, Scientist, Avalon, Pa., after construction of its present edifice on South Home Avenue.

Each Church of Christ, Scientist, is required to maintain a Reading Room which is open to the public for the sale, loan, or study of the Bible, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy and other authorized Christian Science literature. The first such Reading Room established by this church was in the home of a member living on North Bryant Avenue and was continued there until the Post Office building space was available. A ground floor location was rented some years later on Lincoln Avenue and subsequently on Hawley Avenue.

The first free lecture on Christian Science sponsored by the church was given March 17, 1929. A minimum of one lecture has been given each year since then, many of them in the Bellevue Theatre and in the church auditorium on Lincoln Avenue. Though the church is now officially in Avalon, it has deep and inseparable roots in the history of Bellevue.

## SOMETHING STYLISH FOR SUBURBANITES

Peacocks for the lawns of country houses are becoming more and more popular every year. There are dealers who make a specialty of these decorative birds. There is even one dealer who sells noiseless peacocks for which he readily gets \$75 apiece.

The one objection to the peacock is his hoarse and piercing cry. The dealer in silent peacocks operates on the birds' throats in such a way as to quiet them forever. The operation, not perilous or painful, increases the peacocks' value fourfold.

A good peacock can be bought for \$15. The bird eats corn and barley. Its actual living expenses are not great, but it is apt, at any time, to die. The peacock, in this matter of sudden illness and death, is almost the monkey's equal.

They who keep a dozen or more peacocks, have among them, always a few hens. Hens sell at a lower rate than cocks, for they are not so beautiful. The hen's eggs are large and brown and when she is nesting, she must be fed by hand. (Newspaper Clipping, 1906).

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ON YOUR

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BELLEVUE, PA.

## CHURCH IN THE MASONIC HALL

### JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ERECT THEIR CHURCH AT "THE CROSSROADS"

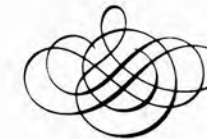
In April of 1942, some 48 members of the Allegheny Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, who lived in the North Boroughs, rented a second floor room at 553 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue, to form the Bellevue Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. Mr. J. H. Grant, of 526 Semple Avenue, Avalon, was appointed by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York as the presiding minister.

In the spring of 1943 a Ministry School was organized for the training of Ministers. This school, along with the other established study courses, contributed to the rapid growth of the Ministerial group.

In 1957 they purchased the property once occupied by the Clark Real Estate Company at 230 Lincoln Avenue, and built their own Kingdom Hall. Soon the membership grew to 140, in spite of the fact that over the years about 100 had moved out of Bellevue, some taking up the ministry in foreign fields.



MASONIC HALL, corner of Lincoln and Meade. Built in 1894.



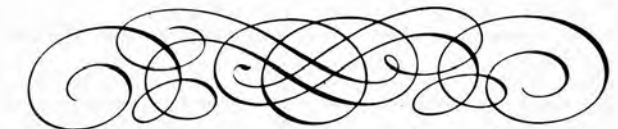
### CHRISTIAN CHURCH ORGANIZED IN MASONIC HALL

Bellevue Christian church began with an informal meeting in the Masonic Hall of Bellevue on November 23, 1896. Forty-four of these interested Christians a week and a half later were charter members of the new congregation. The first minister, Joseph H. Craig, led them in membership growth and the erection of the main building.

Under the following successive ministries the church grew numerically and served well in the community: Alfred Place, 1904-1907; William Ross Lloyd, 1908-1910; W. E. Pierce, 1911-1912; F. A. Bright, 1912-1919; H. Irwin Stafford, 1920-1924; E. H. Koch, 1925-1926; Frank G. Helm, 1927-1936; Reed J. Downs, 1936-1939; John J. Scott, 1940-1945; Franklin R. Payne, 1945-1949.

The present minister, W. Milton Johnstone, came here from Cameron, West Virginia, in October of 1949. During the past 17 years the church has developed an increasing interest in missions and has added 294 members to its congregation. In 1962 after first spending over \$30,000 on the main building, the church dedicated a \$90,000 addition. This has given the needed room and facilities required for a successful Christian education program. Years of further effective service are eagerly anticipated.

Present officers of the Board of Control are: President, J. I. Carmack; Vice-President, Charles W. Dickson; Secretary, Robert Muirhead; Treasurer, C. A. Pauley; and Bible School Superintendent, C. R. Blazier, Jr.



BELLEVUE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH and parsonage in 1899 just after rebuilding the original frame structure which had been erected in 1875 on the same site, corner of California and Home Avenues.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR

*100th Anniversary*

**RETZER-HYDE**

YOUR LEADER DRUG STORES

*Avalon - North Side - Bellevue - Allison Park*

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ON ITS

*100th Anniversary*

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HOME OF  
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TWO PASTORS IN SIXTY-THREE YEARS

**REV. W. W. BOONE  
WELL REMEMBERED  
AS MT. ZION HEAD**



Early in 1900 Rev. Willis White moved to the Bellevue district. He organized the few residents for regular prayer meetings in their homes. Then Mrs. Thornell, who lived at 222 Walnut Street (now Varney Street) offered her home as a regular meeting place.

From these meetings a mission was built at the end of N. Bryant Avenue. Rev. White died in 1903 and Rev. V. T. Eubanks came down from the Tabernacle Baptist Church to direct the mission.

From the few members in the mission, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church was organized and the Rev. William W. Boone was called to be the first pastor. He began his pastorate early in 1904, with fourteen active members. Under his leadership the church grew and by 1925 the church building was much too small. A committee was formed to seek a new location.

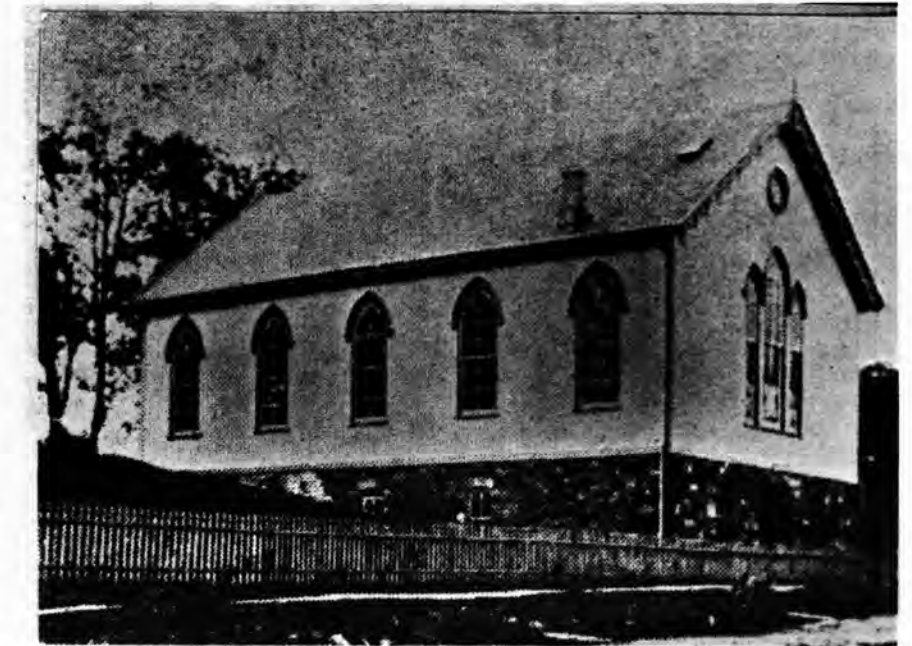
The Bellevue Baptist Church had outgrown their building and built a new one on Lincoln Avenue. The committee was able to purchase the vacated building on Meade Avenue and early in 1927 the Mt. Zion Baptist Church moved to its present location.

Rev. Boone became a legendary pastor. He was well known for his great leadership throughout the Pittsburgh area, in fact, throughout the eastern half of the United States. In September 1952 Rev. W. W. Boone finished his work here. His great leadership will be remembered as long as there's a Bellevue.

In 1954 Rev. Fairbanks B. Hill became the pastor. The church is still growing and has a great potential as almost half of the members are young people. Deacon James Williams is the only living member who was in the meeting when the church was born. The church has had only two pastors in its sixty-three years.

Church officers include the following: Deacons-Edward Copeland, Sr., Theodore Deyampert, Covert Edmunds, Ezra Mattox, John Welford and James Williams, chairman; Trustees-Thomas Abercrombie, James E. Austin, Lloyd Briscoe, Albert Edmunds, John Eskridge, Millard Horne, Ulysses Irving, John Jones, Luther Mattox, Fleming Parker, and Clayton Williams.

Alice Brannon is Church Clerk and Bertha Horne is Organist and Director.



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 1873, South Howard Street

**UNITED PRESBYTERIANS  
BOAST LONG HISTORY  
OF SERVICE AND SONG**

This church was organized on March 22, 1872, with twenty members. The first church building stood on South Howard Street. It was erected at a cost of \$4,500.00 and was used continuously from 1873 to 1901. When the Rev. Samuel H. Graham became the first pastor in November, 1874, the congregation numbered 38 persons; upon his leaving in 1891, it had grown to 120.

Meanwhile our first "offshoot" was organized, the Avalon United Presbyterian Church. Hence, when Dr. Lawrence became pastor in 1893, the congregation numbered only 68 communicants. However, in a fast-growing community, the congregation soon required a larger house of worship.

On November 24, 1901, the present church building was dedicated at a cost of \$56,000.00, the congregation numbering 266. It was in the spring of 1908 that this church mothered a second congregational organization, the Forest Avenue United Presbyterian Church. In 1908 Dr. Lawrence resigned as pastor and Dr. James M. Ferguson was installed; the congregation at this time numbered 394. Dr. Ferguson ministered to this church for forty years, retiring in 1948.

Dr. Robert F. Truesdell came to the church from Erie, Pa., and was installed on January 20, 1949. After serving only three years, he resigned and was succeeded by Dr. William A. Minter who served a ten-year pastorate, from 1952 to 1962. The Rev. John D. H. Snively served as pastor from 1963 until April 1966, when he resigned to take up new work with the Allegheny Juvenile Court. The Rev. Frederick J. Horst was installed on October 16, 1966 as the seventh pastor of the congregation. Pastor Horst came to Bellevue from the Grace United Presbyterian Church of Ambridge, and was previously known to this community as the song-leader of the Festival of Faith for a number of years.

From a charter membership of twenty on March 22, 1872, the congregation has grown to number more than five hundred. The excellent record of the giving of self and substance which this church has established at home and abroad is a tribute both to its members and to its pastors.

Four ministerial sons have been given to the church-at-large . . . Rev. S. J. Shaw, Rev. E. G. Forrester, Rev. James H. Grier, D. D., and Rev. Henry S. Evans.

Space prevents further details on the people and the accomplishments that make up the history of these ninety-five years. To the men and women of Bellevue's yesterday we are greatly indebted. And, by God's grace, we will earnestly strive for a tomorrow worthy of them and of ourselves, and of the Great Head of the Church.





Kingdom Hall, Bellevue  
Dedicated, March 14, 1959



First Church of Christ Scientist, Avalon



**STYLES CHANGE IN ARCHITECTURE TOO**

The Greek Revival in architecture, as evidenced in the columns on Bellevue's first public schoolhouse, may seem a bit pretentious now but 100 years ago this was "in". Compared with the other buildings on this page, erected not too long ago, one might conclude that today's architects are somewhat partial to the "uncluttered" look.

**SERVICE TO ALL ....  
HOSPITAL PLAYS  
VITAL PART IN  
BOROUGH HISTORY**

The growth and development of Suburban General Hospital parallels that of the North Boroughs. The history of the hospital reflects the far-sighted and generous spirit of the community as these people, over the years, have provided and supported their hospital.

Records disclose that by the turn of the century, much thought had been given by some of the citizens that there was a real need for a hospital in the North Boroughs. In 1903 nine gentlemen met together to discuss the matter. Attending the conference were: Captain William Martin, John Shannon, Captain William B. Rodgers, L. K. Porter, Alexander M. Hamilton, Dr. W. W. McCleary, William P. Kuipers, William B. Kirker, and Stephen P. Newburn.

These men, along with W. H. S. Thompson, entered into formal organization and comprised the first Board of Directors and applied for a charter. It was decided to have the institution known as the Suburban General Hospital.

The charter was dated July 16, 1903. At a later meeting, a medical and surgical staff was elected: Dr. W. W. McCleary, Dr. C. C. Croft, Dr. W. J. K. Snyder and Dr. John S. Donaldson.

Numerous meetings were held to find a suitable site for the Suburban General Hospital. After much consideration, the founders decided to purchase the present site, known as the Brown Homestead. The property, consisting of a private home and three acres of ground, was purchased for \$15,500.

To provide the necessary funds, the directors borrowed \$8,000 from the Bellevue Savings and Trust Company on notes endorsed by the directors themselves. They paid this amount on the purchase and gave a mortgage for the balance. This transaction was completed in April 1904.

At an approximate cost of \$4,000, improvements of the house were accomplished and the furnishings were purchased for the 14-bed hospital that opened its doors in September 1904.

Suburban General remained in these original quarters until 1911 when Mr. W. P. Fraser of Ben Avon donated a new building in memory of his mother, Jane Coleman Fraser. Known as the Fraser Memorial Building, the new hospital increased the bed capacity to 50 and was formally opened February 1, 1912.

**HOSPITAL GROWS WITH TOWN**

This four story structure provided all the services necessary for the fifty-bed hospital such as operating rooms, laboratory, kitchens, etc. The previous hospital building was converted to a nurses' residence. The Fraser Memorial Building, now known as the East Building, is still in use today although much of its space has been reallocated to departmental use rather than patient accommodations.

A small addition to the Fraser Memorial was constructed in 1914, expanding the bed capacity to 65. In 1919, the laundry building, still in existence, was constructed to house not only the laundry but a garage and heating plant. With this addition, space was again reallocated to meet the demands placed on the growing hospital.

Accordingly, in 1923 the Directors and staff decided to erect another structure to meet the needs of the growing population. A public subscription campaign, together with a bequest from the estate of the late R. H. Boggs, provided the necessary funds. Opened in 1926, this building was connected to the Fraser structure by means of a tunnel. Bed capacity was increased to 118 and the most modern, up-to-date equipment of that era was installed. At the same time, another expensive remodeling program was conducted in the Fraser Building. The 1926 "annex" is still an integral part of the Suburban General Hospital complex and is known as the South Building.

Although the hospital had no expansion from 1926 to 1951, it was able to care for many more bed patients

through careful planning and supervision. However, the population of the area served by the hospital was growing at a very rapid rate--especially after World War II. Farmlands were converted into new communities and houses were planned and constructed, particularly in the areas north of the hospital.

To keep pace with this rapid growth of community development, the first stage of the master plan of expansion was completed in 1953 when a connecting wing of three floors was constructed as a link between the Fraser building and the annex. The connecting wing, increasing the capacity of the hospital to 175 adult and pediatric beds and 25 bassinets, provided four operating rooms, a new central supply department, surgical recovery room and expanded dietary facilities as well as other ancillary improvements.

Construction of the second phase of the overall expansion was begun in 1957 following a million dollar building fund campaign. This goal was reached through public subscriptions that were added to a bequest by the late Dr. E. H. Sloan--a member of the medical staff for over fifty years-- plus Hill Burton funds and a grant from the Ford Foundation. February 20, 1959 marked the formal opening of the admissions wing and new entrance of the hospital which now has a capacity of 224 adult and pediatric beds and 24 bassinets.

In 1960 yet another building was erected at the northern end of the East Building. This structure houses the diagnostic and therapeutic x-ray department, the clinical laboratories



SUBURBAN GENERAL HOSPITAL - 1904

## AUXILIARIES ACTIVE SINCE 1907

and a large meeting room.

Over the years additional land has been acquired but Suburban General Hospital essentially is located on the ground originally purchased by its founders.

Today over four million dollars are invested in property, buildings and equipment, an investment in health. This figure, compared to the \$15,500 for the original purchase and \$4,000 for the original equipment, offers one measure of growth.

Space does not permit a list of all of the thousands of people who played a part in the development of Suburban General during the past 64 years. Nor could we begin to record statistics that would reveal the scope of service and the numbers of people who have benefited in health because of the hospital. Tracing of the physical growth by buildings constructed offers only a pale reflection of the story of Suburban General.

As of this writing, there are 20 directors; 104 doctors and dentists on the staff; 525 employees; and 400 volunteers who comprise the Suburban General Hospital family.

## AUXILIARIES HELP

The present Senior and Junior Auxiliaries working for Suburban General Hospital, are the outgrowth of the old Women's Advisory Board set up in November of 1907. At that time, approximately three years after the hospital opened, the directors sent letters to the various women's clubs and organizations, requesting that they forward the names of four women from each club or organization, for election as members of the Advisory Board. The staff was also asked to submit the names of four women for this Board.

In December, 1907, the following names were submitted and elected to serve for one year:

Bellevue Hospital Club: Mrs. J.S. Donaldson, Mrs. T.E. Wilson, Mrs. J.A. Hanna, Mrs. L.M. Bulger; Home and Hospital Club: Mrs. Stephen Newburn, Mrs. E.E. Stuart, Mrs. Sophia Stuetz, Mrs. D.W. Zeber; Suburban Hospital Club of Avalon: Mrs. J.W. Cook, Mrs. C.C. Croft, Mrs. D. Kennedy, Mrs. W.H.S. Thomson.

In April, 1908, the membership was increased to 25; in 1917, to 40. The Women's Advisory Board met monthly at the hospital from September to May for all-day sewings for the hospital. The Board took charge of Donation Week and held a Musical-Tea for the hospital.

Early presidents of the Board were: Mrs. Sophia Stuetz, 1907-1909; Mrs. C.W. Benny, 1909-1911; Mrs. Crawford, 1911-1913; Mrs. Frank East, 1913-1915; Mrs. J.C. Woods, 1915-1917; Mrs. Alma M. Ward, 1917-1919; Mrs. Nellie Robertson, 1919-1933; Mrs. W.J. Frenz, 1933-34; Mrs. John Metz, 1934.

In 1952 the name of the Advisory Board was changed to the Women's Auxiliary of Suburban General Hospital, Senior Section and the officers named were: Mrs. W.H. Morgan, president; Mrs. T.V. Armstrong, 1st vice-president; Mrs. A.W. Herdt, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. Paul Fisher, recording secretary; Mrs. J.W. Cummings, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M.F. Sloman, treasurer; Mrs. P.G. Andrews, assistant treasurer.

Present officers of the Senior Auxiliary are: Mrs. James M. Barnett, president; Mrs. Robert L. Stevenson, 1st vice-president; Mrs. John A. White, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. Fred F. Auretto, recording secretary; Mrs. Thomas B. Carter, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Theodore M. Vaughn, treasurer; Mrs. Frank T. Focer, assistant treasurer.

In October of 1952 Mrs. J. Milnor Roberts, founder of a newly organized Junior Women's Auxiliary of Suburban General Hospital, was elected its first president. Other officers were: Mrs. William B. Thomas, 1st vice-president; Mrs. Edward W. Tait, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. J. Paul Miller, recording secretary; Mrs. Joseph F. McManus, corresponding secretary; Mrs. George J. Cross, treasurer.

Present officers of the Junior Auxiliary are: Mrs. A.P. Maggio, president; Mrs. Richard Bowers, vice-president; Mrs. Robert Espy, recording secretary; Mrs. William Smith, corresponding secretary; Mrs. O.H. Dennis, treasurer.



MRS. ANNA CLANEY JENKINSON

Daughter of the first Burgess; active in plans for a hospital in Bellevue. She wrote a History of Bellevue when she was 74 years old (1927). Died 1942 at age 89. She was the wife of William Jenkinson, president of Bellevue's first bank.



## TYPHOID VICTIM IS FIRST PATIENT IN NEW HOSPITAL

On October 18, 1904, a little girl was discharged from Suburban General Hospital after a bout with the dread typhoid germ. Fifteen years old at the time, she was the first patient admitted to the hospital. The date was September 6, 1904.

Forty-eight years later (1952) the little girl, now Mrs. Lula Trice of Varney Street, Bellevue, was working as a maid at the hospital. By then she was the mother of nine children. The doctor who handled her illness was the late Dr. W.J.K. Snyder.



JENKINSON HOME, Lincoln Avenue

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FROM ALL OF US  
AT

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## COMMUNITY LIBRARY PROJECT FOR THE FUTURE

### OLD BALPH HOME COMES ALIVE AS VOLUNTEER AID

Bellevue is the richer today because of the love and generosity of two sisters who planned a memorial to their father which would be shared with generations to come.

The old homestead housing the community library, and the beautiful park surrounding it, was a gift to the borough from Jane Bayne Teece and her sister, Amanda Bayne Balph, in memory of their father, Andrew Bayne.

The four acres of land and the homestead are known as the Andrew Bayne Memorial Park. Contrary to popular belief, the stately home set among the elms is not the Bayne homestead. Andrew Bayne's farm home was on a rise of ground at the corner of Teece and Balph Avenues long before the grassy slope had been cut down to lay out streets.

The house in the park was the home of Amanda Bayne Balph, designed and built in 1875 by her husband, James Madison Balph, a prominent architect of Allegheny. The initials, J.M.B., are engraved in the glass transom over the front door.

Jane Bayne Teece, married to Arthur Teece in 1880, and widowed four years later, lived in the house now occupied by the Lawrence Miller Funeral Home. When she died in 1896 all her property was left to her sister

for life with the provision that after the sister's death, it would revert to the borough for a park and library.

Mrs. Balph, widowed in 1899, lived on in the big white house until her death in August, 1912, when it became borough property. One of the conditions of the settlement was, that the name of Rodgers Avenue be changed to Balph Avenue, and Bayne Avenue be changed to Teece, in memory of the sisters. (The short street now called Bayne was formerly Locust Street. Before 1912 when people talked about Bayne Avenue they were referring to the present Teece Avenue).

In May of 1914 a Library Committee consisting of George F.P. Langfitt, A.E. Hummel and J.B. Arthur announced the opening of two rooms in the old home for use as a library. They called for contributions of books from the public. Mr. James Greenough, the caretaker, without any expense to the borough, solicited plants and bulbs and prepared flower beds. Walks were laid out and a general plan of grading was suggested by Mr. William Faulkner, formerly superintendent of Schenley Park.

In 1916 a swimming pool was built in the part of the park closest to Lincoln Avenue. Borough Council opened up the old borough well located near the pool and through the kindness of Councilman Harry Newell, who put the pump in operation, secured enough good water to fill the pool at no cost to the borough.

In the early twenties a group of women calling themselves the Bellevue Federation, secured permission to use the home as a community meeting place.



AMANDA BAYNE BALPH

The upstairs rooms were cleaned and furnished. The ladies also had tennis courts built and these were used extensively.

On Memorial Day, 1927 borough officials participated in a formal dedication of the park and library to the citizens. The program consisted of music by the Bellevue Concert Band, solos by Sarah Jamison Logan, and speeches by Burgess W.J. Longmore, Rev. Dr. James M. Ferguson and others. At the close of the service the public was invited to make a tour of inspection of the house and grounds.

The library, then two months old, contained approximately 3,000 books, some of them original gifts from the libraries of Mrs. Teece and Mrs. Balph. Mrs. W.R. Newell, the librarian, had issued to date, 954 cards to Bellevue residents. Two little girls were among the first to take out cards. Emma Greenough (Mrs. Philip Berger) was No. 15. Her little friend, Jean Reid (Mrs. Daniel Spisak) was refused a card because she was in her bathing suit!

By the time she ran home and changed her clothes and got back to the library she had to be content with card No. 154.

After 23 years of service as librarian, Mrs. Newell died in March of 1948. The work was carried on by Mrs. Ruth Zimmer and Mrs. Robert McFeely.



BAYNE LIBRARY



## "PARTY LINE" BEGAN IN THE 80'S

In the early 60's the borough did extensive renovating in the three library rooms but the books had never been catalogued and by now the shelves were crowded with books no longer in demand, many in poor condition.

In December, 1962, Miss Helen Studer, Bellevue High School librarian, Mrs. Thelma Seifert, Mrs. Jeanne Penrod and Mrs. Harriet Whiting met to begin the staggering task of updating the collection. Some books were discarded, many were repaired, but, best of all, the entire collection was catalogued. They were joined later by volunteer workers from Grant PTA and Jackson Mothers' Club. The work still continues, the volunteers meeting one night a week at the library.

As a result of the updating of the collection, along with the pleasant atmosphere inside the building, circulation has increased tremendously. New books are being purchased all the time and the citizens are invited to enjoy the use of the old Balph estate. Mrs. Thelma Seifert and Mrs. Ann McClain are the librarians.

Upstairs in the Balph home there is a display of paintings, collection of ivory and other art objects left to the borough by the late John A. Hermann, Jr. The 84-year-old artist, who lived on North Harrison Avenue, had purchased the 14-room Dewar home (where Kroger's now stands) just for the display of his work. Just before his death he gave the property and its art contents to the Borough of Bellevue.



**BAYNE LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS** celebrate Christmas. Left to right (seated); Mrs. Harriet Whiting, Miss Helen Studer, Mrs. Virginia Heinbockel, Mrs. Ann McClain; (standing): Mrs. Elaine Carlini, Mrs. Thelma Seifert, Mrs. Regina Brown, Mrs. Nancy Meiser, Mrs. Nancy Baker.



## THE TELEPHONE BRINGS THE WORLD CLOSER

The first telephones were installed in Bellevue in the early 80's, one in the residence of W.J. Hammond, Euclid Avenue and Laurel Street, and one in the residence of John H. Gailey on South Fremont. In the Pittsburgh Telephone Directory for 1896 the following residents of this area were listed as subscribers: Cook, J.W., Contractors, Ben Avon; Caughey, E.G. & Co., Lincoln & Rodgers Ave., Bellevue; Burgdoff, O.C., Residence, Termon Avenue.

Public pay stations were in operation in each of the boroughs. The one in Bellevue was located in the General Store of Walter H. Straw on Lincoln Avenue near where the Gas Company office is located. For the boys who worked in the store there were certain rules. The boy nearest the phone when it rang was to answer it, and if it was pouring rain, and the message was meant for someone away out on Union Avenue, he was expected to deliver it.

The above mentioned telephones were, of course, connected directly with Pittsburgh, Bellevue having no local exchange at the time. A Bellevue man, M.O. Coggins, is credited with getting an exchange established here.

In 1897, Mr. Coggins was engaged in the commission business on Liberty Street in Pittsburgh. Known as the "Cantaloupe King," Mr. Coggins is believed responsible for introducing this delicacy to the district as well. He saw the advantages of the telephone in business and secured the signatures of fifteen friends who applied for telephone service. The exchange was established in September of 1897 just it time for the subscribers to have their names appear in the edition of the Bellevue News on Jubilee Day, September 7, the borough's 30th anniversary.

The list of subscribers at that time were: Josiah Barrett, Bellevue News, Fred Burki, M.O. Coggins, Fred A. East, Gordon & Wehling, W.R. Johnston, T.W. Maginness, T.C. Marshall, W.W. McCleary, M.D., W.J. Morrow, W.B. Rodgers, John I. Shaw, Lawrence Sloan, William L. Walton.

The new office of the Central District and Printing Telegraph Co., was located on the first floor rear of the Masonic building with the entrance at #6 S. Meade Avenue. The office was in charge of Annie McIntosh, member of an early Bellevue family. Miss McIntosh was on duty during the day, and Marg-

## THE FIRST BUSINESS BLOCK



**THE LANGFITT BLOCK**, built in 1873, corner Lincoln and Sherman (South Jackson) Avenues, was the first of Bellevue's business section. In 1932 the building was condemned and the upper two stories removed. Dr. George W. Langfitt was born in Beaver County, 1844. Unusually ambitious, he put himself through school and obtained experience in the Army Medical Corps at Philadelphia. Some years later he came to Bellevue being the town's first physician. He died in 1890, age 46.

Since this was before the street cars it was appreciated by housewives who used the trains to go to Pittsburgh. Had it been developed into an efficient method of transportation we might never have heard the commuters groan about "cardiac hill."

## REAL ECONOMY

On July 6, 1893 Bellevue Borough Council approved the purchase of a gavel and block. At Council meeting three months later, October 3, 1893, the treasurer complained that the Burgess had not yet signed the warrant for same, and wondered why.



aret Crozier (later married to Harry E. Stotz) came on duty at 4 p.m., remaining until 10 p.m., when Herbert Hamilton assumed the duties of night operator. There was a public telephone in the corner which was in frequent use in those days.

After a few years the office was removed to larger quarters on the third floor of the Bellevue Realty

Savings and Trust Company Building at the corner of Lincoln and Hawley Avenues, where it remained until October 1907, the 40th anniversary of Bellevue's founding. At this time it was moved into the new building erected on S. Balph Avenue. Later these quarters were expanded with a new and modern addition.

## INCLINE PLANE AN ENGINEER'S DREAM

What's left of an engineering feat that might have put Bellevue on the map as a tourist attraction, if nothing else, lies buried under Lincoln Avenue, near the intersection of Sprague. A large wheel, used to maneuver the little cars up the long hill from the West Bellevue Station, was supposedly covered over when the project was abandoned.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania directed, on September 4, 1882, that Letters Patent be issued to the Bellevue Incline Plane Company. The company's stockholders at that time were Joseph S. Brown, J.W. Kirker, F.A. Mahon, John W. Morrison, John I. Shaw and A.S. Miller.

The company was formed "for the purpose of locating...and operating one or more Incline Plane or Planes in the Borough of Bellevue from the bank of the Ohio River at the Davis Island Dam to a point on the New Brighton Turnpike, etc."

Allegheny County deed records disclose that an inclined plane owned by that company was sold at sheriff's sale in April, 1889. (This information contained in an article by Margaret Pearson Bothwell in the Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine.)

Bellevue Council approved ordinances in 1886 and 1887 authorizing the Bellevue and Davis Island Plane Company to operate such a railway. As near as can be determined it was first tried with an electric motor which did not give enough power to get the car any farther up than the Dilworth bridge. It was then operated by a cable which was wrapped around a large wheel buried in the center of Lincoln Avenue in front of the movie, approximately.



**JANE BAYNE TEECE**

CONGRATULATIONS TO BELLEVUE .

100th Anniversary

## LYONS FORD SALES

400 LINCOLN AVENUE

"CONGRATULATIONS BELLEVUE"

FROM

## FRED DIETZ FLORAL

615 LINCOLN AVENUE

### CLUB ACTIVITIES TRACE BELLEVUE'S HISTORY

#### GROUPS SPONSOR VARIOUS SOCIAL CIVIC PROJECTS



COL. THOMAS BAYNE



#### IRON CITY LODGE

Iron City Lodge No. 182, I. O. O. F. was instituted May 18, 1846. Some of the early members had previously belonged to the old Mozart Lodge in Manchester. Elected officers for the coming year are: Noble Grand, James Armstrong; Vice Grand, George Cain; Secretary, James Heagerty; Treasurer, Fred Watson; Warden, Walter Wright; Conductor, Boyd Weaver; Inside Guardian, Norman Herbold; Outside Guardian, Robert Donald; Chaplain, William Keim. The Odd Fellows Temple is on North Sprague Avenue.

Of interest to Centennial readers is the history of the Col. T. M. Bayne Lodge No. 1098, instituted June 22, 1896. On its early roster appear the names of many well known early families. It was constituted with the following officers: Noble Grand, David L. Starr; Vice Grand, W. J. Morrow; Permanent Secretary, W. R. Swan; Assistant Secretary, C. M. Botsford; Treasurer, C. L. Roy. The Trustees were: Harvey Lewis, W. H. Colmer, Samuel Means.

Appointed officers included Samuel L. Means, A. J. Douglass, George H. Quail, Harry W. Taylor, C. P. Maeder, W. A. Fair, William B. Kirker, George W. Dean, John Johnson, Frank Thompson and C. W. Brockunier.

At the first session of the new lodge, the following members were duly balloted upon and elected: John M. Bald, W. R. Johnston, Samuel Parker, John Young, Harry B. Buscher, Charles T. Schatz, John D. Quail, Frank Arbuckle, E. W. Thompson, A. L. Brunn, Charles Elste, John McNish, A. W. Beighley, William A. Loudon, A. M. Adams, James S. Cooper, Thomas H. Porter, W. S. Gunn, W. W. McCleary, W. E. Schaffnit, James Greenough, P. C. Bonham, Edward C. Sykes, A. G. C. Rhodes, W. G. Reel, Edward N. Fairley, Robert Main and Gailley Myers.

Col. Thomas McKee Bayne, esteemed citizen of early Bellevue, had passed away in 1894. The lodge, no doubt, adopted his name as a mark of respect. After distinguishing himself in the Civil War, Col. Bayne served as District Attorney of Allegheny County and then went on to serve in Congress. He was the son of Andrew Bayne and the brother of Amanda Bayne Balph and Jane Bayne Teece.

In December of 1915 it became necessary to combine the Col. Bayne Lodge and the Iron City Lodge. Because Iron City was the older, the charter of the Col. Bayne Lodge was surrendered at this time, and its membership was transferred to Iron City Lodge No. 182.

#### AVALON LODGE



Avalon Lodge No. 657, Free and Accepted Masons, was constituted May 5, 1908 with Robert W. Woodburn as the first Worshipful Master.

The Lodge meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Masonic Building, 525 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue. Members of Avalon Lodge reside in most of the 50 states and three foreign countries. The bulk of the membership resides in and about Bellevue.

The present officers are: George F. Stephens, Worshipful Master; John C. Rickart, Warden; Richard A. Watson, Warden; Christian H. Mueller, Treasurer; Arthur B. Besnecker, Secretary; John G. McKissock, W. Howard Thompson and Edward H. Fowler, Jr., Trustees.



#### ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Bellevue Chapter No. 286, Royal Arch Masons, was constituted April 19, 1904 with David Carlin as the first Most Excellent High Priest.

The Chapter meets on the second Friday of each month in the Masonic Building, 525 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue.

The current officers are: William A. McPherson, Most Excellent High Priest; Grafton Duvall, Jr., King; Walter S. Novak, Scribe; Christian H. Mueller, Treasurer; Arthur B. Besnecker, Secretary; Robert L. Forsythe, Walter J. Baker and T. Alan Richardson, Trustees.

Bellevue Chapter congratulates the Borough of Bellevue on its 100th Anniversary.



#### A-B KIWANIS

The Avalon-Bellevue Kiwanis Club was organized on June 3, 1946 at a meeting in the Greenstone Methodist Church.

The first officers of the club were: President, Richard Mitchell; 1st Vice-president, William Young; 2nd Vice-president, Fred Cotton; Secretary, Brad Crawshaw.

Broad of Directors were: Orion Pinkerton, E. H. Oehmler, Clayton Burt, Louis Baird, Jesse Wolcott, Stuart Deardorf, and Paul J. Uhlman.

The club, over a period of 20 years, has met at the Greenstone and Central Methodist Church and the YMCA.

The club's main projects are Boys and Girls work, and community service. It has approximately 30 hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches, etc. for the use of the people in the community.

The club has given the Pennsylvania District 3 Lt. Governors, Bert Crawford, Richard Mitchell, and Rudolph Hoffman.

The present officers are: President, Robert Ludwig; 1st Vice President, Paul Bouma; 2nd Vice President, Perry Grose; Secretary, William Peterson; Treasurer, John Criswell.

The Board of Directors are: Frank Irvin, Franchard Christie, James Luxner, Fred Dietz, Lewis Wightman, and Rudolph Hoffman.

**ORDER OF DEMOLAY**

North Boroughs Chapter, Order of DeMolay, was organized on October 18, 1923, at Institution ceremonies conducted in the auditorium of Bellevue High School. On that occasion, there were 147 Charter Members present, along with a number of Masonic dignitaries who were active in the DeMolay movement. This new boys' organization, which sprang so suddenly onto the community scene, was sponsored, as it is today, by Allegheny Commandery No. 35, Knights Templar, many of whose members served, and are still continuing to serve, on it's Advisory Council.

The original chairman of the council was the late George W. McPherson, a Past Commander of Allegheny Commandery and a prominent citizen of the Borough of Bellevue. Undoubtedly, the most colorful event of the Institution ceremonies, was the initiation of 137 candidates into membership in the new chapter. Since that time, many hundreds of area boys, between the ages of 14 and 21 years, have passed through its portals on their way to

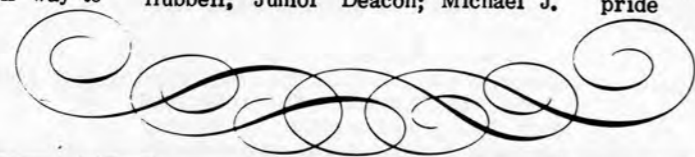
manhood. Many still continue to live and work in the Bellevue area.

Throughout its entire existence, the Chapter has known but one meeting place--the Masonic Hall Building at 525 Lincoln Avenue. The first Master Councilor, elected to preside over the conduct of the Chapter's meetings was Brainard T. Webb, and his duties have been passed on successively during the past 44 years, and are presently being administered by William A. Kirk, who was installed Master Councilor on March 9, 1967. During this span of time, the fundamental teachings of DeMolay -- Reverence for Sacred Things; Fidelity; Love of Parents; Courtesy; Comradeship; Cleanness of Mind, Heart and Body; and Patriotism--as exemplified by its ritualistic presentation of these Seven Cardinal Virtues, continue to make their impact felt on the youth of the community.

In addition to William A. Kirk, as Master Councilor, the other Officers now serving the Chapter are, Charles E. Melder, Senior Councilor; David M. Cooper, Junior Councilor; Richard D. O'Connor, Scribe; Clifford B. Schultz, Jr., Senior Deacon; Thomas W. Hubbell, Junior Deacon; Michael J.

McManus, Senior Steward; Richard J. Webster, Junior Steward; Harvey D. Lecollier, Jr., Chaplain; David L. Schuman, Sentinel; Paul D. Lang, Standard Bearer; Dyer C. Vann, III, Almoner; Howard S. Burns, Jr., Marshal; and Donald J. Swanson, Orator; with Charles J. Ray, Fredric E. Schminkey, Raymond R. Lederer, Fred H. Riegelmeier, III, Michael Wusylko, Fred J. Vey, and John C. Toward, acting as Preceptors of the Seven Cardinal Virtues. The members of the Advisory Council are Christian H. Mueller, Chairman; Robert E. Daume, Jr., Chapter "Dad"; Edwin A. Barnes, Ronald E. Long, David Motley, Robert B. Rudolph, Gary E. Schuman, and F. Earl Schuman, Advisors.

In concluding this brief sketch, we should pay a special tribute of respect to the many active members of the Chapter, who have been called upon to serve our Nation in times of crisis and conflict, especially those who have made the supreme sacrifice. The Honor Rolls of World War II, Korea and Viet-Nam, bear mute testimony to the fact that their service has been freely given with unflinching pride



CHARTER MEMBERS, BELLEVUE CHAPTER NO. 286, ROYAL ARCH MASONS

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Left to right, top row: **Ronald Salamon, Andrew Ketterer, Richard Ball, James Winters**  
 Fourth row: **Donald Gilliland, Richard O'Leary, Lee Sesto, Norbert Bauers**  
 Third row: **Ronald Young, Harry McCarthy**  
 Second row: **Gene Tiffany, Leona Bauer, Annabelle Collins**  
 Bottom row: **Marie Kusserow, Lillian Sovyak, Lt. Wm. Morris, Lt. Victor Eason,**  
**Chief Wm. J. Bracken, Lt. Thomas Williams, Kay Greca, Betty McFarlane**



**AUTO GENIUS ONCE LIVED IN BELLEVUE**

**BELLEVUE CHAPTER  
NO. 85 O.E.S.**

Bellevue Chapter No. 85, O.E.S. was constituted in the Bellevue Masonic Hall December 17, 1908 with 40 members on the Charter. The first corps of officers were: Worthy Matron-Mary Noah, Worthy Patron-Asbury Bryte, Associate Matron-Margaret Bryte, Secretary-Alma Ward, Treasurer-Minnie Davenny, Conductress-Melissa Frew, Associate Conductress-Abbie Bettinger, Chaplain-Alice Butler, Marshal - Eva Speer, Organist - Myrtle Sarver, Adah-Frances Moore, Ruth-Jennie Shuff, Esther-Carrie Davis, Martha - Alberta Louthan, Electa-Bessie Speer, Warder-Edith Schleid, Sentinel-A. E. P. Kerr, Trustees-Katherine Carlisle, William Noah, Mary Kerr. Meetings were held the first and third Thursday of each month.

Skimming hurriedly through the minute books a couple of special interest items catches the eye such as the first card party being held in 1912 with a 25¢ admission; 1914 a church service led by W. T. Sunday; 1916 a rent raise from \$2.50 to \$3.00. Many other projects and social events were held each year helping this Chapter to grow and knitting its members closely together in their fraternal efforts, and also making it a real part of Bellevue Borough social life.

April 1919 the Chapter moved to the Odd Fellows Hall, upstairs of Murphy's 5 & 10. In 1924 Bellevue Chapter furnished a room in the new O. E. S. Home on Bellevue Road. In 1939 No. 85 moved again, this time to the Bellevue Borough Hall, present location where meetings are held the third Thursday of each month.

North Boroughs Assembly #24, Order of the Rainbow for Girls, came to life in 1946, sponsored by Bellevue Chapter; 51% of the Advisory Board Members are members of Bellevue Chapter, donating their time for the girlhood of our community.

Many members have given many years of service to the Order of the Eastern Star, but the record books show five who gave a total of 116 years of service as officers of the Chapter: Edna Post, Alma Ward, Ida McKissock, Laura Menge, and Edith Freeze.

Beside our Eastern Star Homes our interest, time and money go to Rehabilitation, Cancer Research, Rheumatism & Arthritis, Share our Substance, and of course our never ending fraternal activities.

Past Matrons lists the following: Mary Noah, Estella Long, Margaret Bryte, Melissa Frew, Abbie Bettinger, Edith Schleid, Maude Dermitt, Alice Butler, Elizabeth Evans, Katherine

Carlisle, Clara Edwards, Katherine Rowland, Alma Walker, Mary McMillen, Clara Shook, Johanna Bott, Elizabeth Duff, Bernice Stedford, Erma Weber, Anna Dashiell, Adele Landers, Alice Smithco, Bessie Stewart, Bernice Jones, Mary Keefe, Mildred Berry, Mary Biggert, Elvie Espey, Anna Boggs, Lillian Moulton, Ruth Chaffey, Estella Watts, Ruth Walker, Marguerite McWilliams, Nellie Cross, Julia Huebner, Helen Walchi, Esther McCartney, Martha Dittmar, Lillian Stoyer, Della Zinn, Lela King, Eleanor Zinsner, Kathryn Messner, Anna Mary Maas, Louise Ervin, Margaret McCandless, Ruth Gibson, Helen Zimmerman, Dolores Kimberlin, Gertrude Maas, Laura Smith, Ruth Stroup, Marion Bakewell, Kathryn Weise, Mildred Richardson, Norma Weber, Marjorie Timmons, Helen Kunst, Ellen Little, Anona Watson, Frances Stanton, Harriet Collins, Willa Schivley. The present Worthy Matron is Christabel Jones. Next in line are Nora Bailey, Ella Reshko, and Beatrice Bradel.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Bellevue Borough as we celebrate this Centennial. Bellevue Chapter is very proud to have played a part in the history of this fine borough.



**WALTER CHRYSLER LIVED HERE**



**WALTER CHRYSLER**

**DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S  
CLUB OF BELLEVUE**

On March 15, 1966 The Democratic Women's Club of Bellevue was formed. Its main function is to bring the Democratic women of Bellevue together on a social basis and secondly to raise funds for the Democratic party. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the North Boroughs YMCA. Speakers from various walks of life are invited to the monthly meetings which makes for educational as well as interesting meetings.

The first officers of the club were Mrs. Alice Armendariz, president; Mrs. Kathrine Busch, vice-president; Mrs. Eleanor Smith, secretary; Mrs. Patricia Wadlow, treasurer; and Mrs. Anne Ries, honorary vice-chairlady. The present officers include Mrs. Patricia Wadlow, president; Mrs. Helen Dornetto, vice-president; Mrs. Mary Cerny, secretary; and Mrs. Mary Byrnes, treasurer. Membership is 60.

The Democratic women have also given unselfishly of their time, not only to political services but to civic ones as well. These include supervision of the North Hills Democratic Headquarters, conducting the Cancer Crusade on a local level and giving a helping hand to the Heart Fund Drive in our community.

One of Bellevue's most illustrious residents was Walter Chrysler, founder of the Chrysler Corporation. Mr. Chrysler lived in the Borough from 1908 to 1911 while employed by the American Locomotive Works in Allegheny where he was assistant manager.

The family home was near the end of North Harrison Avenue (then called Seville Avenue) and neighbors remember how he worked over his prized Locomobile in the garage back of his home.

At the age of 36 Mr. Chrysler left the Borough to take charge of the automobile works at Flint, Michigan. As a farewell his friends here gave a dinner for him on January 25, 1912 at the Elks Club on the North Side. He was presented with a "handsome silver loving cup" by his co-workers.

Mr. Chrysler died in 1940. His daughter Bernice (Mrs. Edgar W. Garbisch) lives in New York City. Another daughter, Thelma, and a son, Jack, are deceased. Walter Jr. lives in Provincetown, Mass.

## SERVING GOD AND FELLOWMAN

### BELLEVUE SISTERHOOD DAMES OF MALTA

After a number of preliminary meetings Bellevue Sisterhood No. 96 Dames of Malta was instituted on February 7, 1916, in Masonic Hall in Bellevue. This Institution far surpassed anything on record in this part of the State, there being 118 members taken in, 99 Ladies and 19 Sir Knights. Nine Sisterhoods were represented and a total of 300 persons were present. Mrs. Clara Shook was the first presiding Queen Esther, and her daughter, Mrs. Esther Watson of Bellevue, is one of four remaining Charter members. Mrs. Anna K. Pagel was given the honor of being the first Protector. Present membership is 57 Ladies, 36 of whom are Protectors. The other three remaining Charter Members are: Mrs. Emma Minnick, Mrs. Carrie Skillen and Mrs. Edith A. Wall.

We moved from the Masonic Hall to the Odd Fellows Hall on Lincoln Avenue and held our first meeting there on May 9, 1918. We met in this hall until 1936 when the G. C. Murphy Company took over the entire building. On May 8, 1936 we held our first meeting in the Avalon Borough Hall and met there until 1966 when we moved back to our own Borough and now meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the new Odd Fellows Hall on N. Sprague Avenue.

The present Queen Esther is Mrs. Garnet E. Stewart of Allison Park, and her officers are Dorothy Moreland, Betty Sullivan, Betty Heagerty, Marie Warriner, Helen M. Hall, Mary Hicks, Neva Laib, Marie Grant, Louise Bieller, Esther Watson, Dorothy Seaber, Josephine Wanker, Laurette Knell, Thelma Rodesch, Oda Robinson and Leona Pemberton. Our Deputy is Mrs. Esther Davis of Glenshaw, who is also a Past Sovereign Protector of our Zenodacia.

Our Zenodacia is our National governing body, and Helen M. Hall, a long time resident of Bellevue, is now Sov. Jr. Deaconess and is the first member of Bellevue Sisterhood to be elected to an office in the Zenodacia.

On February 11, 1966, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary at the Sewickley Motor Inn, with sixty-six members and friends in attendance. Lady Esther Watson was the only Charter Member present and she was presented with a Certificate of Merit for 50 years service, and similar Certificates were sent to our other Charter members.

We hope that our Sisterhood, as well as all Dames of Malta organizations will survive for many years to come, so that we may continue to serve God and our fellow man.

It is a pleasure to be a part of Bellevue's Centennial Celebration and we wish for everyone the best of everything.

### HOLY TRINITY SISTERHOOD NO. 92

Holy Trinity Sisterhood, No. 92, Dames of Malta, was instituted November 20, 1915 in Emsworth and met for many years in the YMCA hall at North Avenue and Ohio River Boulevard. After then spending some time in the Avalon Borough Hall, the group recently moved to Bellevue.

Membership is 57 including five Charter Members: Nellie Hastings, Essie Metz, Margaret Shondel, Bertha Sigel and Elsie Sprott.

Present officers include Freda Gill, who is serving her third term as Queen Esther, and the following other officers: Alice Utberg, Loretta McCrae, Laura Geiser, Ann Schultz, Betty Jo Armstrong, Edna Alcock, Helene Shanley, Elizabeth Di Pilla, Margaret Graham, Ethel Morris, Betty Dilllott, Carolyn Platt, Margaret Dilllott, Essie Metz, Edith Christy, Margaret Shondel, Louise Craig and Ruth Luckan.

One of the members, Helene Hibbs, will become Sovereign Protector of our Order in Atlantic City in September. This is the lodge's highest office and the local group is very proud and honored that she has attained this position.

Holy Trinity Sisterhood No. 92 meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the Odd Fellows Temple, Bellevue.

## SENIOR CITIZENS PLAY AN ACTIVE PART

### SENIOR MEN'S CLUB

The history of the North Boroughs Senior Men's Club dates back to late 1960, when employers started retiring their employees, when they reached the age of 65. The retirement of these employees, many of whom were active, created a change in their lives, because much leisure time was forced on their hands, and it also meant the loss of friends, with whom they had been associated for years.

The urgency to help these retired men became apparent to a small group of seventeen men who met at the North Boroughs YMCA, on November 14, 1961, to discuss the matter. These men were, Alfred E. Bailey, John F. Bippus, Robert B. Beitel, Fred Karn, Roy E. Kidd, Charles Grossman, Claude Hiskett, Louis R. Knell, Harry F. Woodward, Earl F. Niehaus, Dale H. Osburn, George Schiellein, Harry Siegel, Elmer Speer, Walter J. Thompson, Earl Mock and Edward Adler, who were the charter members of the organization.

With the co-operation of the North Boroughs YMCA, who offered the group the use of their facilities, these men decided to organize, naming the organization "The North Boroughs Senior Men's Club" and selected each Thursday as their weekly meeting day.

The purpose of the organization was to be a brotherhood, furnishing recreation, entertainment, trips to points of interest and other activities for its members, but in addition, to take a brotherly interest in each other.

In order that all senior men of the community might participate in its membership, the organization voted to be Non-Sectarian and Non-Political and also eliminated the payment of any dues or assessments by its members.

The new organization first met in the second floor rooms of the old YMCA building, but later outgrew these quarters and were granted the use of the new first floor building, where the club meets today. The first officers were: Alfred E. Bailey, president; Dale Osburn, secretary; Harry Woodward, treasurer. Current president is James Weaver.

In addition to its meetings each Thursday afternoon at which time speakers, entertainment and games are provided, other activities of the club over the season include an annual picnic, anniversary celebration, trips to points of interest and ball games, and members can meet each day at the YMCA for sociability and games.

The past presidents of the club are: Alfred E. Bailey, Robert B. Beitel, Louis R. Knell, James L. Morgan, Fred C. Haegle and Fred Watson.

Since its organization, the club has lost 120 members by death and six members from other causes and at present has a listed membership of 325. The organization has tried to be of service to senior retired men of the community and wishes to thank the North Boroughs YMCA, businessmen and all who have helped in this work.

### SENIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

On April 12, 1966 a group of 28 women from the North Boroughs met with Ken Dykes at the Bellevue YMCA to organize a Senior Women's group. It was decided to have two meetings a month, on the second and fourth Tuesday, at 1:00 p.m.

At a meeting on May 10 officers were selected and the club name was chosen. It was decided to call the

group the Senior Women's Friendship Club.

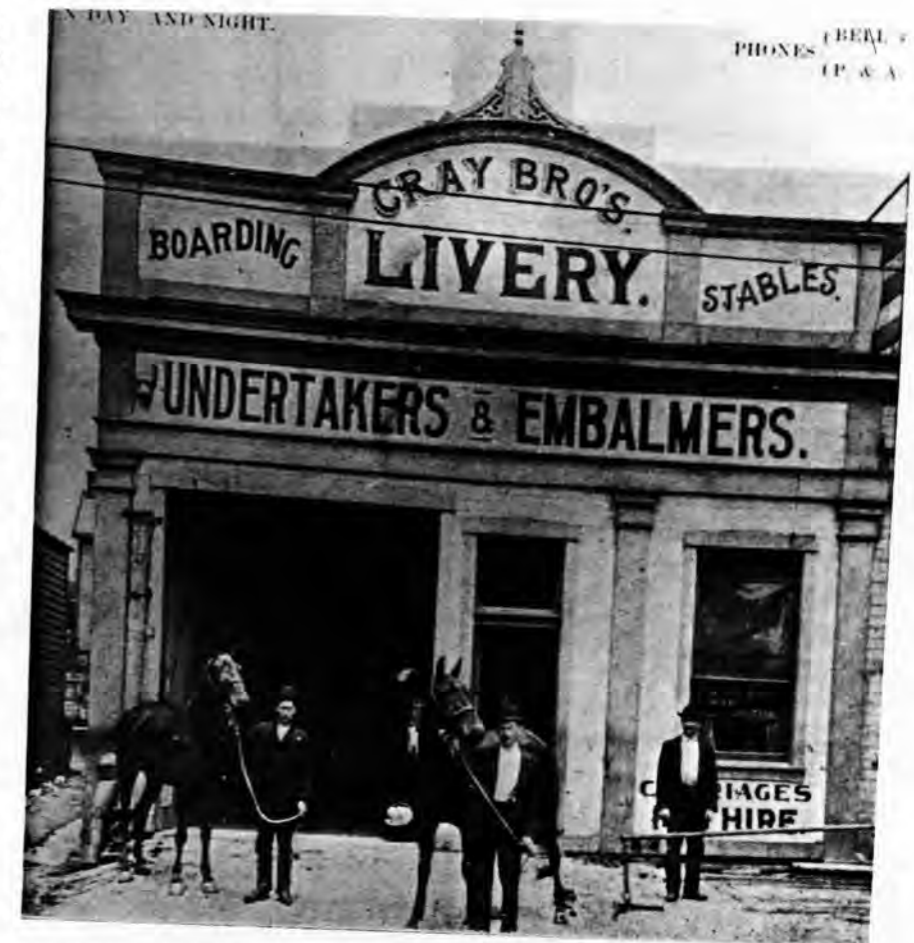
The following officers were chosen: Mrs. Tillie Arndt, president; Mrs. Tillie Mensch, 1st vice president; Mrs. Louella Heagerty, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Ethel Steinmark, financial secretary; Mrs. Catherine Schessler, treasurer; Mrs. Margaret Walter, secretary.

Members enjoy various kinds of entertainment at the meetings, followed by refreshments. During the past year trips were taken to such places as Falling Waters, a visit to the Columbia Gas Company, and attendance at the movie showing of "The Bible" in Pittsburgh. The group plans to have an old time dance in June to celebrate Bellevue's Centennial.

Present membership is 116. Meetings are not held during July and August, but will resume again in September. Last year baskets were packed for the needy at Thanksgiving; in December members had a Christmas party; and the group took an active part in the "Y" Membership Drive.



LINCOLN AVENUE LOOKING WEST FROM FREMONT AVENUE



LINCOLN AVENUE at the turn of the century (where Corsello's is now). Holding the horses, Walter McPherson on the left, Tom Cray on the right. Third man unknown.



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NORTH HILLS

## FIRST ELECTRIC STREET LAMPS

### BOARD OF TRADE FOUNDED IN 1916

The Chamber of Commerce was originally known as the Bellevue Board of Trade and was founded November 3, 1916. Over the years the name was changed from the Board of Trade to the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, then to the North Boroughs Chamber of Commerce, then back to the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce.

Present officers are: W.L. Arnette, President; Bernard Baskin, 1st Vice President; John Rihs, 2nd Vice President; James M. Porch, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Chamber originated and still sponsors the Christmas program for the community each year. The Chamber also joined with the Borough, financially and physically, to bring about the municipal parking lot. The Chamber sponsors a Halloween program each year and in the past, sponsored Fourth of July activities.

It has sponsored many promotional programs such as George Washington Sales, Treasure Chest Hunts and a Boat Show. Looking to the future, it is actively campaigning to secure better access to the local business community, working with the Area Planning Commission.

Presently helping with the Bellevue Centennial, the Chamber extends to the Centennial Committee, a sincere good wish for a successful Centennial.

### REBEKAH LODGE

In March of 1915, a group of persons led by Odd Fellows met to form a Rebekah Lodge in Bellevue. Through their efforts, ELIZABETH BARRETT REBEKAH LODGE #469 was instituted on May 20, 1915 with forty-four charter members. The meetings were first held in the Masonic Temple, Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue.

In 1953, IRON CITY I.O.O.F. Lodge dedicated a new temple on North Sprague Avenue, Bellevue, at which time ELIZABETH BARRETT REBEKAH LODGE relocated in the newly built temple where meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

There is only one living charter member, Mrs. Nellie Donald, 633 Forest Avenue, Bellevue, who has been a Rebekah for 70 years.

Present officers are: Nobel Grand, Betty Heagerty, Vice Grand, Edna Beitel; Secretary, Lillie Chapman; Treasurer, Esther Watson.

### ART MUSEUM

Mr. John A. Hermann, Jr., a lifelong resident of Bellevue, created the John A. Hermann Memorial Art Museum in 1939. This consisted of a spacious home on Lincoln Avenue at South Starr Avenue, housing a large collection of his own paintings and other valuable art objects including carvings in ivory and works in brass and bronze.

The operation of the museum on Lincoln Avenue was not economically feasible for this memorial and the trustees, through court proceedings, secured permission to sell the estate and transfer the art collection to the Bayne Memorial Library. The proceeds from the sale were added to the trust fund which is used to perpetuate the Hermann Memorial.

This trust fund is managed by trustees appointed by the court. They are: Joseph Stephens, Edward Unverdorben, Ralph Morcroft, Robert Lee and Wallace Judd. Gilbert Morcroft has been the solicitor for the Memorial Fund since 1942.

### NORTH BOROUGHS LIONS CLUB



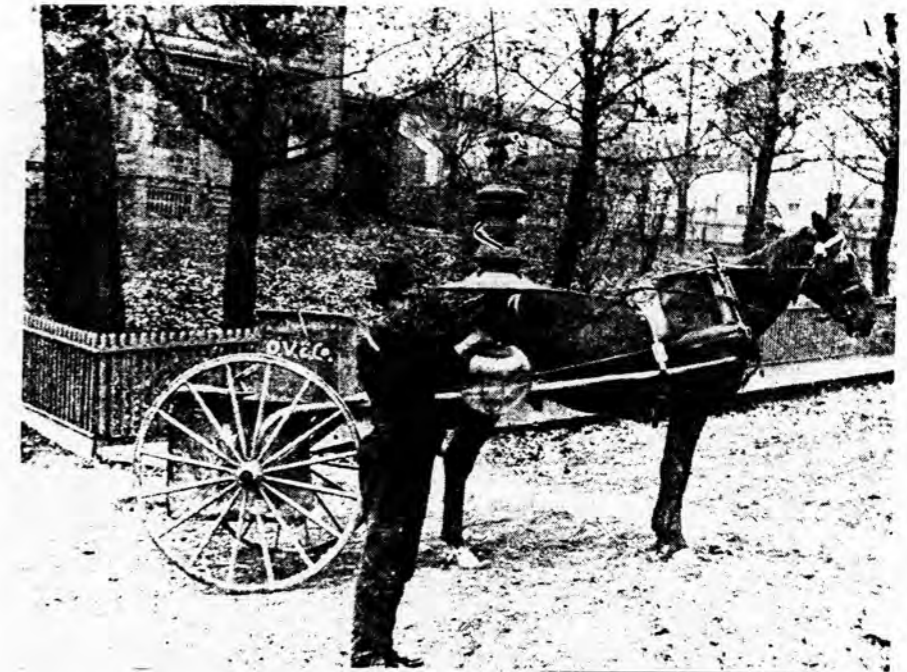
The North Boroughs Lions Club was organized in October, 1935. The first officers were: Alfred W. Beattie, president; David F. Bonnett, secretary-treasurer; 1st vice-president, Paul C. Cost; 2nd vice-president, William C. Means; 3rd vice-president, C.C. Elste. Tail Twister was James F. Bunting and Lion Tamer was Joseph C. Vickerman.

Directors named were: William J. Montgomery, R.H. Dieterle, C.J. DeBar and Harold A. Boyd.

Present officers of the club are: Frank R. Brown, president; Robert F. Freudenrich, 1st vice-president; Samuel Bahm, 2nd vice-president; Ken Dykes, 3rd vice-president. John G. Rihs is Lion Tamer and Dr. James E. Micucci is the Tail Twister.

Present board of directors includes: John D. Mallon, Charles W. Walliser, Thomas J. Perka, Edward W. Jordan, Clarence C. Elste, Robert B. Mowry, Donald J. Motz and John C. Grau.

Dr. Earl D. Baumann, one of the members, has served as Past International Director.



"YES" JAMES SHOWN trimming the arc lamp on his rounds for the Ohio Valley Electric Co. His duties ranged from shoveling ashes from the rather primitive steam plant on Spruce Run Road, Ben Avon, to reading meters and setting arc lamp carbons. For many years he was night troubleman for Bellevue. The picture was taken in 1903.

## FRATERNAL ORDER FOR YOUNG GIRLS

### RAINBOW GIRLS ASSEMBLY #24



North Borough's Assembly #24 was instituted Saturday, October 12, 1947 by the Orient Assembly from Wilkesburg, with Initiation in the afternoon and Installation of the first Corps of Officers in the evening. The meeting was held in the Bellevue Borough Hall where the Assembly still meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

There were 212 names on the Charter. Dolly Bevington Grable was the first Worthy Advisor and Mrs. Helen Marien was the first Mother Advisor. Mr. Fred Moore was the first Rainbow Dad with Mr. Charles Marien as the first Deputy. The present Rainbow Dad is Mr. Robert Young. For several years this was the only Assembly in the North Boroughs and North Hills area, and the Assembly prospered and grew.

Each year's minutes record three Worthy Advisors and their Corps of Officers serving four months each, thus our list of faithful workers is

too long to mention individually. The terms show a service project, such as, visiting the ladies at the Eastern Star Home, Christmas gifts for children at the Davis Avenue Home, canned goods for the Epileptic Home in Rochester, Candy Strippers at Suburban General Hospital, making stuffed animals for Children's Hospital, Christmas Caroling and various other worthy projects. They also show money making projects -- a Minstrel Show was the very first money making project which made them financially independent, followed by car washes, bake sales, dinners, submarine sandwich sales, card parties. But it is not all work!! The girls enjoy many fun times together throughout the year, such as picnics, corn roasts, Christmas Formal, bowling parties, skating parties, Mother and Daughter Banquets, slumber parties, and many social hours of dancing and parties in the Borough Hall after the Rainbow and DeMolay Meetings when the two groups joined socially.

A church service is held each year on the Sunday nearest April 7, which is the birth date of Rainbow. Each August the girls are off to Grand Assembly which in recent years has been held at Penn State.

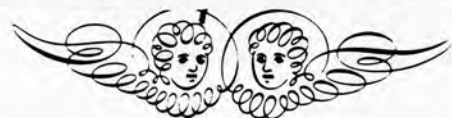
North Boroughs Assembly is sponsored by Bellevue Chapter #85, Order of the Eastern Star, fifty-one percent of the Advisory Board members being members of Bellevue Chapter. In appreciation of the work and interest given by the Star members, the Rainbow Girls of Pennsylvania in turn give a substantial monetary gift to the Eastern Star Home each year.

The Order of Rainbow is a fraternal organization, made up of girls between the ages of twelve and twenty, who are daughters of Master Masons, Eastern Stars or friends of Rainbow Girls.

The Worthy Advisor works with an adult advisor who in turn works with the Advisory Board. North Boroughs Past Mother Advisors are Mrs. Helen Marien, Mrs. Myrtle Moellenbroch, Mrs. Anna Ziegler, Mrs. Alice Shevlin, Mrs. Isabelle Kutcher, Mrs. Hazel Schug, Mrs. Mary Helen Reutzel, Miss Delores Kimberlin, Mrs. Margaret Morrow, Mrs. Margaret Sye. The present Mother Advisor is Mrs. Betty Young.

The present Elective Line Officers are: Nancy Setler, Worthy Advisor, Debbie Young, Associate Worthy Advisor; Pam Scott, Charity; Carol Humphreys, Hope; and Susan Appleton, Faith. Miss Sherry Sye is Grand Lecturer of this District.

As Bellevue celebrates its 100th birthday, North Boroughs Assembly becomes of age (21 years old). The girls have tried to play a real part in the growth of the Borough and are proud to be one of its active organizations. They would like to Congratulate Bellevue Borough on its Centennial Anniversary and wish them many, many more years of continued success.



HOME OF HUGH FORRESTER, one of the borough incorporators, still standing on Hallet Place. The house, built in 1853, was surrounded by twenty acres of land, later sold off in town lots. Mr. Forrester was a stone contractor. He constructed St. Andrews Church, the stonework of the first bridge over the Allegheny River, and the old penitentiary.

### BELLEVUE LODGE



Bellevue Lodge F. & A.M. No. 530 was constituted April 10, 1875 with Lee S. Smith as the first Worshipful Master. The lodge celebrated its 28th anniversary in April of 1903 with a banquet in the Masonic Hall. George H. Quail, District Deputy Grand Master was the toastmaster. Chancellor John A. Brashear of Western University was a speaker.

Present officers are: Walter E. Noss, Worshipful Master; Walter C. Galbraith, Senior Warden; Herbert R. Gildersleeve, Jr., Junior Warden; Robert E. Daume, Jr., Treasurer; John D. Wood, Secretary.

The Trustees are: John E. Winner, Martin H. Cole and Phillip A. Marsell.

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**BELLEVUE**

### WCTU PROFITS BY SALE OF LINCOLN AVENUE BUILDING

Except for the fraternal organizations, Women's Christian Temperance Union has been in continuous service to the community for a longer period of time than any other organization. Organized January 17, 1881 in the Presbyterian Church, the Union has carried on a program for 86 years.

The officers at the time of organization were: President, Miss Connor (no first name given); Vice-presidents, Mrs. Eliza Sands, Mrs. Richard Straw, Mrs. S. J. Starr and Mrs. W. P. Herbert; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. George Irwin; Recording Secretary, Miss Lee Anna Starr; Treasurer, Mrs. William Jenkinson. Miss Connor resigned shortly afterward and Mrs. Sarah Harper Starr filled the presidency until 1882 when she was elected to the office.

A little over a year after the organization, a reading room was opened with a library of thirty volumes, which was soon increased to 600. That same year a Temperance School was established with Mrs. Sara B. Hunnings as Superintendent, a position she kept for 21 consecutive years. The school was open every Friday from 4 to 5 p.m. with an average attendance of 40 pupils.

### BIRTHPLACE OF MANY "CAUSES"

Up to now the Union had been renting various storerooms on Lincoln Avenue. As their work prospered they began to think about purchasing a lot and erecting a public hall thereon. A committee called upon their good friend, Col. Thomas M. Bayne. He commended the enterprise and offered many valuable suggestions, including the advisability of securing a charter.

The group took his advice. A charter of incorporation was granted April 24, 1886. On May 20, 1886 the Union purchased a lot 50 x 150 feet on Lincoln Avenue from Col. Bayne for the stipulated sum of \$500, paying \$15 as purchase money, to be increased to \$50 when the deed was given. Two weeks later the ladies had moved to their new lot, a small frame structure they had been meeting in, farther up the street, which the owner had sold to them for the price of the lumber.

This lot on Lincoln Avenue is now the site of the Bellevue Post Office. For years various churches, Sunday Schools, and other organizations met in this little frame building while looking for quarters of their own. Finally, in 1919, the Union sold the property to Edward P. McCall, of West Virginia, for \$10,000 cash. This money furnished the working capital for the Union to carry on its work.

Present officers are: President, Mrs. A. E. Bailey; Secretary, Miss Pauline Wooldridge; Treasurer, Mrs. E. E. Coffin; Promotion Secretary, Mrs. Kenneth White.



MRS. ANGIE STARR-MARTIN, loyal temperance worker and ardent champion of equal rights for women.



### ALMOST FORGOTTEN PIECE OF HISTORY

Few people seem to recall that there was once a foot-bridge spanning the Jack's Run ravine from the end of Dunbar Avenue over to the Seville Plan. When the bridge was suddenly closed in the late summer of 1917, many people became aware of its importance. At least the 200 families in Seville who used the bridge to shop in Bellevue were aware of its value, as was the Bellevue Board of Trade, recipient of their patronage.

Citizens went into court but Common Pleas Court Judge, John A. Evans, refused to grant an injunction to restrain Charles F. Gass from closing the bridge. The defendant contended the bridge (built by private capital) was unsafe, which caused him to have it barricaded as a safeguard. He said it would cost \$15,000 to make it safe.

Judge Evans declared that, from the evidence, the bridge was unsafe and that Gass had a right to close it. Dismantling of the bridge started at once. Men removed 300 feet of one end which weakened the structure so that the center of the bridge fell, taking with it all telephone wires which connected houses in Seville.



FOR YEARS THE MEETING PLACE of many groups in addition to the W.C.T.U. the building was torn down in 1919 when the postoffice was built. It was a landmark for 33 years.

**PROGRAMS STRESS CIVIC ACTION AS WELL AS CULTURE**

From the very beginning, Bellevue people were a gregarious lot. The big homes surrounded by spacious lawns were ideal for entertaining. There were lawn fetes, strawberry festivals and amateur dramatics...and of course, the lecture platform.

Almost all of the early so-called "women's clubs" were for self-improvement and charitable activities. Who knows how much this played a part in the molding of the fine community character Bellevue has always enjoyed.

One of the earliest of these groups was the Excelsior Reading Circle which organized in the summer of 1884. The husbands belonged, too and on the roster you would find such names as Paden, Simeral, Steck, Irwin, Kallenbaugh, Seville and Logan.

Until a few years ago, the Bellevue Outlook Club ranked with the Women's Literary Club of Bellevue and the Bellevue Round Table as the three which had been in existence since the early 1900's. The Outlook had started out as the Conversazione Club, but several years ago it disbanded.

Times change, but Bellevue folks still have that urge to "get together" which accounts for the many organizations that still "carry on".

**NORTH BOROUGHS WOMAN'S CLUB SENIORS-JUNIORS**

In the summer of 1933 Miss Marion Cooley inspired a group of twenty young women to help her organize a Junior Woman's Club of the North Boroughs. The club was organized November 6, 1933 and on April 7, 1934 became affiliated with the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

While the program was still in the making, Dr. W.J.K. Snyder addressed the new club, telling them of the hospital's needs. As a result the hospital became a major interest as well as the civic, social and educational interests of the members.

Officers of the new club were: Miss Nina Johnston, President; Miss Mary Orr Wilson, Vice-President; Mrs. George E. Morcroft, Jr., Recording Secretary; Miss Florence Liddell, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Clara Belle McKee, Treasurer.

In 1938, according to Federation rules, the club was divided into two groups: The Woman's Club of the North Boroughs, or the Senior Group, with a Junior Section.

Officers of the Senior Section at this time were: Mrs. Robert J. Corbett, President; Mrs. Paul Fisher, Vice-President; Mrs. J. L. Rigby, Recording Secretary; Miss Elizabeth Beerman, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. J. W. Amon, Jr., Treasurer; Mrs. Donald P. Stewart, Assistant Treasurer.

The Junior Section, with 67 members, had the following officers: Miss Rhoda Jane Bragdon, President; Miss Kathryn Warren, Vice-President; Miss Lillian Edgcomb, Recording Secretary; Miss Eleanor Kelly, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Betty Waldschmidt, Treasurer; Miss Isabelle Cullison, Assistant Treasurer.

The Silhouette Ball, which became the major charity event for the hospital, was started at this time. Over the years, both Juniors and Seniors, have given over \$88,000 to the hospital, from this event.

In 1943 the club name was changed to the North Boroughs Woman's Club, affiliated with the North Boroughs Junior Woman's Club.

Present officers of the North Boroughs Woman's Club are: Mrs. Lewis A. Wightman, President; Mrs. Donald C. Finney, 1st Vice-President; Miss Betty Leyda, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. James H. Kratt, Recording Secretary; Miss Sylvia E. Eayre, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Louise Roeger, Treasurer; Miss Mary A. French, Assistant Treasurer.

Junior Club officers are: Mrs. Charles Schultz, President; Mrs. Richard Wilcox, Vice-President; Mrs. Timothy Brown, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Donald Huch, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Earl Ceh, Treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Smola, Assistant Treasurer.

The New Horizons in Art Show, an event of the last few years, is sponsored solely by the North Boroughs Junior Woman's Club.

**WOMEN'S LITERARY CLUB**

The Women's Literary Club of Bellevue was founded November 1, 1905 at the home of Mrs. W.R. Murphy, its first president. In addition to Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. J.M. Bailey, co-founder of the club, twenty-one other ladies were present that day. They became the charter members. Throughout its history, the club has become noted for being a mother

and daughter club, having about ten such memberships. In the 62 years of club activities, five women and their daughters have served as presidents of the club. Membership is 40 active members coming from all over the North Suburban area, in addition to associate and honorary memberships.

The club, which celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 1965, was formerly federated with both the Congress of Clubs and the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Twelve meetings are held each year at members' homes, pursuing the study of selected topics. During the coming year members will discuss "Trends In Contemporary Literature" under the guidance of Mrs. William T. Orr, Program Chairman.

Officers for 1967-68 include: Mrs. Lucian L. Leape, President; Mrs. Paul C. Ketterer and Mrs. Jay Warren Kaufman, First and Second Vice-Presidents, respectively; Mrs. Warren H. Mayo, Recording Secretary; Mrs. J. Haynesworth Boyd, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. David E. Benner, Treasurer.



**SALVATION ARMY AUXILIARY BOOTH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

There was snow and sleet and ice and the weather was about 6 degrees above zero in February, 1935 when just a few women got together to organize the Auxiliary to the Salvation Army Booth Memorial Hospital. Many people will remember at that time the Salvation Army Hospital for Unwed Mothers was located at Meade Avenue in Bellevue. In 1945 the hospital moved to its present location, 2214 Pauline Avenue, Pittsburgh 26, Pennsylvania.

The North Boroughs Auxiliary has 88 members and meets the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Bellevue Baptist Church, Lincoln and Howard Avenues, Bellevue. For the past ten years the Auxiliary has had only two projects to raise money to give to the Salvation Army Booth Memorial Hospital -- a rummage sale and a luncheon-card party. Over the past 32 years the Auxiliary has donated over \$40,000.00 to the Booth Memorial Hospital which includes \$5,000.00 the mem-

**BELLEVUE ROUND TABLE**

The Bellevue Round Table was organized April 9, 1908 with fifteen members, at the home of Mrs. Helen Bridwell McLean. Miss Belle Meyers was the first president. The object of the club was to increase the knowledge of its members in literature, art and science.

Membership was confined to twenty-six at any one time. However sixty ladies, at one time or another, have enjoyed membership. Because of death and removal from the borough, membership is now ten active members and six associate members.

Through the past fifty-nine years the club has had many fine programs of book reviews, play-readings, papers and lectures on various subjects.

Philanthropies of the club have been many and varied--war work during World Wars 1 and 2; contributions to CARE; orphanages in France, Italy,

Armenia, Syria, China and Japan; YMCA work, Red Cross Work and Dixmont Hospital at home.

Present officers are Mrs. C. M. Kefover, president; Mrs. E. H. Wicks, first vice-president; Mrs. W. B. Rodgers, second vice president; Mrs. J.H. Caughey, secretary; Mrs. A. C. Dunn, treasurer; Miss Anne Herbert, historian.

**"SHE WAS FIRST"**

Borough records say that Alice Hunnings Lewis (Mrs. Harvey Lewis, Jr., of Avalon) was the first child to be born in the newly incorporated Borough back in 1867.

This dubious distinction no doubt plagued Mrs. Lewis for the rest of her life because historians and parade committees never let her forget it. She was the daughter of Marsh Hunnings, one of the Borough incorporators.



THE SPACIOUS GROUNDS of the East property extending from Florence to Jackson Avenues, was a favorite spot for benefit parties. This was a Japanese garden party, to raise money for the Sterilized Milk Association. The picture was taken in July of 1905. Can you find your mother, or maybe your grandmother in the picture?

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### ROSTER OF IMPORTANT NAMES

50TH ANNIVERSARY BELLEVUE ROUND TABLE

MAY 6, 1958



Seated (left to right) - Agnes Bragdon Albig, Anne Hemphill Herbert, Louise Hunt Reel, Alberta Howard Adams, Betty Caughey Stegmaier, Ruth Rodgers McCrady, Mary Ann McCurdy Wrenshall, Grace Daughaday Wicks, Bella Hays Giffin. Standing (left to right) - Helen Dunn, Anna Jenks Roberts, Florence Boswell Kefover, Estelle Mecklin Jackson, Ella Wallace Diffenderfer, Roberta Quail Bragdon, Bernadine Elliott Diffenderfer, Helen Boswell, Ellen Cullison Germerodt, Emma Barr Caughey, Nancy Caughey Klopfer, Margaretta Steck Hosack, Virginia Cullison Baker, Flora Barr Rodgers, Mabel Heater Ashe, Helen Wilson Williams, Estelle Healy Close, Elsie Wuesthoff, Betty Cruikshank Hodgdon, Elva Sargent Cruikshank.

## FIRST POSTOFFICE CALLED ROBELLA



**POSTOFFICE EMPLOYEES** - In the center of the doorway is A. J. Claney, postmaster 1897-1906. To the right is Miss Margaret Claney (later Mrs. Harry Thomas) and left is James P. Sullivan who succeeded Mr. Claney, serving until 1923. Front row, left to right, William H. Garman, John C. McCray, Harry Murray, H. B. Buscher, James M. Sullivan, J. J. Adams and U. S. G. Steel.

## MELODY CLUB



Melody Club was organized in April 1936, at a meeting in the home of Mrs. E. Lee Harris. Those present were: Anne Sander, Marjorie Harris, Helen Biber, Dorothy Woodworth, Jean Wolfe, Jean MacGregor and Mrs. William Dorrance James. Mrs. Harris was elected the first president. Mrs. MacGregor suggested the name "Melody Club", after Philadelphia Club of which she had been a member. The object of the club shall be to create, in the North Boroughs, a broader appreciation and love of music. The club colors are dark red and white. Meetings are in the members' homes -- the second Monday -- at 1:15 p.m. Mrs. Louis Biber made the first yearbook when she was president, 1938-1939. About this time the club joined the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Membership is divided into four categories. A person can become a member by being able to perform

as: (A) as a soloist; (B) in the ensemble; (C) sing in the choral; (D) in the arts. The programs for each month are carefully prepared as to study and interest. It is required that each member participate in at least one program a year.

A Guest Day is held almost every year, usually in a church, which makes it possible for an organist member to perform. About 1950, the Hymn of the Month was introduced by the Federation. A member is appointed to tell the origin and interesting facts of a selected hymn and it is sung, either by a soloist, or the whole group. Some of the club members also belong to the Tuesday Musical Club of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Harris, for many years, has been a counselor of the Young Artists' Club, (a Junior Club which we sponsor) They meet each month in their homes, with varied programs given by the members. They provide a program for us each year, and their parents are invited also. Thus, we believe the fruitful work started in 1936 -- 31 years ago -- will continue to advance.

Officers for 1966-67 are: President, Mrs. Paul W. Nettrou; Vice-President, Mrs. V. T. Burt; Recording Secretary, Mrs. B. H. Moore; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Robert Kruss; Treasurer, Mrs. Samuel E. Craig; Historian, Mrs. R. C. Daugherty.

## WOMAN'S CLUB OF BELLEVUE

"Warm friendship, like the setting sun, sheds kindly light on everyone." This was the motto chosen for The Woman's Club of Bellevue by Mrs. S. J. Corbett, who was its founder. Bellevue had several fine literary and philanthropic clubs, but this was to be a federated club. Mrs. Corbett's planning committee included Mrs. D. W. Zeber, Mrs. B. S. Lockwood, Mrs. B. F. Johnson, Mrs. J. E. Baughman, Mrs. C. C. Elste and Miss Margaret Elsie Wright.

The first meeting of the club was held in the Bellevue Borough Hall in October of 1934, at which time Mrs. Corbett was elected president. The club was organized with many departments, each providing a program of interest each month, in addition to the monthly programs of the larger group.

Bellevue and its needs have always been the concern of this club over the years. The club sponsored the Queen Esther Orphans' Home (just over the border on the old Tom Irwin property in Avalon while it was operating.) Birthday and Christmas parties for the children, with gifts, was directed by Mrs. Sylvia Ablett.

For many years the club has made the Andrew Bayne Memorial Library a major interest, giving money each year for the purchase of new books. Mrs. J. L. Delaplane is the present chairman of this project.

Overseas relief during two World Wars, Red Cross work, sewing for the blind, making cancer dressings, collecting used Bibles to be distributed where needed, and collecting old eye glasses for the needy are part of the welfare work the club does.

Cash contributions are made to many worthwhile organizations, too numerous to mention, and constant service is directed to needy people and causes in the community.

Present officers are: President, Mrs. Robert C. Zinsmaster; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. L. S. Ross; 2nd Vice-President, Miss Edythe Hambricht; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Gorman Johnston; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Cutler; Financial Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Keim; Treasurer, Mrs. Herman Babel; Publicity, Miss Maria Moeser; Budget Chairman, Mrs. S. L. Hosack; Building Fund Chairman, Mrs. L. J. Kasing.

## THE MUSICANTERS

The Musicanters choral group was formed in 1947 by some North Boroughs high school seniors who enjoyed singing together and did not want to disband after graduation. After much preparation the group embarked on its first season under the direction of L. Herbert Ostrander. Rehearsals were held in the Bellevue Methodist Church and with much hard work the Musicanters became a recognized choral group by the end of their first year. The North Boroughs Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Musicanters and with this aid, uniform dress (gowns and tuxedos) was purchased for the group.

In 1949 Paul F. Brautigam became director, William H. Keister took over in 1953 and C. Dean Streater began directing in the 1954 season. The rehearsal place was moved to Emanuel's Lutheran Church on Fremont Avenue and later to the Bellevue U.P. Church on Lincoln Avenue.

Mr. C. Dean Streater, the present director, is a graduate of the Carnegie Institute of Technology Music School and is musical director of Bellevue High School. His wife, Lois, accompanies the Musicanters. She is also a graduate of Carnegie Tech and is quite active as a musician in her own right throughout the Pittsburgh area.

Presently, there are approximately 50 members in the Musicanters whose backgrounds and occupations vary widely. Nurses, teachers, salesmen, secretaries and others who, for the most part, have had no formal voice training, but who have sung with school or church choirs, get together every Sunday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 to rehearse for the many performances they give throughout the Greater Pittsburgh area. The program these young people present is varied and the music is selected to appeal to all types of audiences. Performances have been given for church groups and fraternal organizations, also for the Variety Club, the Pittsburgh-Jaycees and many others. Future dates are already being scheduled for the 1967-1968 season.

## GIRL SCOUTS

"On my honor, I will try  
To do my duty to God and my Country  
To help other people at all times,  
To obey the Girl Scout Laws."

On these principles are the Girl Scouts of Southwestern Pennsylvania founded. Started in 1912 by Juliette Lowe, the Girl Scout Organization is

## MUSICANTERS SING "FOR FUN"

dedicated to help girls realize and develop the ideals of womanhood as a preparation for their responsibilities in the home and as active citizens of the community and of the world. It is a character building agency open to girls of all faiths, color and creed.

Poplar Neighborhood Association, an intergral part of the Council of Southwestern Pennsylvania for forty years, is comprised of Scout leaders of Bellevue, Avalon and Brighton Heights who meet every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Bellevue YMCA. These meetings provide the opportunity, through discussion, for the development of Council and board plans, as well as troop needs and accomplishments.

The present officers, elected by the leaders and serving for a period of two years are: Mrs. James McNiff, chairman; Mrs. Douglas Mac Donald, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Jean Ritzenhouse, Mrs. Ralph Musthaler, troop organizers; Mrs. A. J. Gusew, Mrs. William Marterer, and Mrs. Robert Tritinger, troop consultants.

There are now twenty five troops registered in "Poplar", each troop having about twenty to thirty girls actively engaged in programs geared to their own age and grade levels, starting with Brownies at ages 7-9, Juniors 10-12, Cadettes 13-15, then Seniors. Each troop has the guidance of two leaders who have been trained in the various fields of scouting, basic, outdoor, and camping. Camping is emphasized, with many taking advantage of established camps at Redwing, Henry Kauffman, and Riamo, for those who are not able to do this there is Day Camp for one week in June at the scout cabin in Bellevue Memorial Park, which is also used for many enjoyable week-ends.

## GENERAL NEVILLE CHAPTER D.A.R.

"Our emblem is a golden wheel,  
Banded in deepest blue,  
Each shining spoke tipped with a star...  
The distaff showing through...  
The only jewel in the world  
That money cannot buy,  
Without such proof of ancestry,  
And no one can deny."

The General John Neville Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution was organized and confirmed February 1, 1928 in Bellevue. It is known as the North Boroughs Chapter because most of the members live in the boroughs and surrounding area.

Mrs. Joseph Baldrige was the organizing regent, assisted by many well known North Boroughs women. To name a few: Mrs. Robert McCrea, Mrs. A. J. Fueller, Mrs. Smiley Graham, Mrs. H. F. Matthews, Mrs. A. E. McKee, Mrs. A. C. Miller, Mrs. Mattie Bruce Quail, Mrs. Jeannette Powell Kelso, Mrs. Edna Worley Applegate, Mrs. Mary Bresee, Mrs. Olive Millisack Galbreath, Mrs. Bell Reel McKee, Mrs. Elizabeth Neely Pillow, Mrs. Elizabeth McCrea Flaherty, Mrs. Jeannette Kelso Young, Mrs. Virginia Spencer Winner and Mrs. A. B. Hooker.

As with all D. A. R. Chapters, the guiding spirit is patriotism... and it takes various forms. To name the most important... perpetuating the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence, promote the development of enlightened public opinion and foster patriotic citizenship.

The National Society established, owns and operates two approved schools. Kate Duncan Smith School is located at Grant, Alabama, and Tamasee is in South Carolina. General John Neville Chapter aids these two schools with money, boxes of clothing and books. Also, Crossnore School in North Carolina, receives our aid. All of these schools are for underprivileged boys and girls.

The American Indian schools also are supported by scholarships and aid for their student industries. Rosalyn Running Horse of St. Mary's School for Indians in Springfield, South Dakota, won one of our scholarships in 1956. Her letter of appreciation was most delightful and is contained in our Chapter Scrapbook.

The Scrapbook is a history of all the Chapter activities for the two years each regent serves. It is exhibited at the State Conference and a prize is given for the best book. In 1956, General John Neville Chapter won first place.

General John Neville Chapter participates each year in the Good Citizenship Awards, in which a high school senior girl is chosen for her outstanding qualities. She receives a pin, and if lucky enough to be chosen by the State Chairman, is given a U.S. Savings Bond.

The roster of regents who have served the General John Neville Chapter is as follows: Katherine Haldeman Baldrige, Jeannette Powell Kelso, Edna Worley Applegate, Jeannette Kelso Young, Katherine Neely Sailor, Millicent Moore Patrick, Myrtle King Graham, Faith Schuette Eibling, Cecilia Kenly Kirk, Florence Aldstadt Secoy, Clara Kelley Waldschmidt, Miriam Moore Wackenhut, Margaretta A. Walker, Ellenrosan P. Grosick, Faith White Metcalf, Helen G. Gebauer.

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DUTCH BOY PAINTS

## BRIDGES ALWAYS POSED A PROBLEM IN BOROUGHS

### EARLY RESIDENTS

### FIGHT TOLLS,

### UNSAFE SPANS

On March 2, 1893 the people of the City of Allegheny and the Borough of Bellevue met in joint celebration at the opening of the first High Bridge, a steel viaduct spanning the deep Jack's Run Ravine.

This structure, gigantic in those days, was constructed by the Jack's Run Bridge Company. It was 790 feet long and cost about \$29,000. It was immediately opened to street traffic. The roadway carried steel car tracks flanked on either side by sidewalks while the girders were decked with planks to permit vehicular travel.

When the bridge was erected the old Pleasant Valley Street Railways Company guaranteed the interest on the bonds which were sold to raise money with which to build the bridge. The interest on these bonds represented the toll which the car company paid for the use of the bridge. All vehicles paid 10 cents each way, foot passengers two cents each. When a new manager of the bridge began charging school children two cents each in 1909, this raised the ire of Bellevue officials. (In spite of this concern shown by their elders, the youngsters who were lucky enough to come by two cents of their very own, got a thrill spending it this way!)

In November of 1909 a committee consisting of Burgess A. E. Hummel, J.C. Breeding, Solicitor D.L. Starr and J.W. Vickerman of Bellevue, and Councilman Noah Shafer and William G. Stern of Avalon, called on the County Commissioners hoping to have the county take over the bridge. By this time the Pittsburgh Railways Company had purchased the lines from the original company and was continuing to pay the tolls to the stockholders of the bridge company.

A week later a large number of citizens from both Bellevue and Avalon met with the commissioners at the bridge site. The County Engineer, James G. Chalfant, was instructed to make surveys of various sites nearby where an entirely new bridge could be erected. The commissioners felt the most favorable site would be from Straw Avenue to Brighton Road. A bridge at this point would be from 2000 to 2200 feet long.

Shortly after this meeting it was learned that Mayor Magee, of Pittsburgh, had no intention of permitting a new bridge which would require an anchoring site on city property. Bellevue officials looked upon this as a political move to force annexation of the borough to Pittsburgh. Burgess

Hummel declared he would go into court with a petition for the condemnation of the present bridge.

Most of Hummel's term of office was devoted to this project and he is credited with having the bridge declared free on Saturday afternoon, June 2, 1917 (in Burgess Longmore's regime). A gigantic ceremony was held at 4:30 p.m. followed by an automobile parade and a banquet in the borough hall, served by the Board of Trade.

After all kinds of litigation the County of Allegheny took over the bridge at a cost of \$104,500. The commissioners, who were guests of honor at the celebration, were: A.C. Gumbert, Frank Harris and Gilbert F. Myer.

When Bellevue Council met on August 14, 1917, Dan Zeber, of Bellevue, presented to Mr. Hummel a small watch charm made from the last dime collected as toll on the High Bridge, with a proper inscription befitting the occasion.

The improvement of Brighton Road about 1912 had deflected some of the traffic accustomed to using the High Bridge, but this was not lasting due to the grade and dangerous curves. Eventually the bridge floor was paved making travel easier and safer, but in the early twenties, agitation reached a high point, for a new concrete bridge. Unfortunately Mr. Hummel passed away in January of 1924 and so did not live to see the ultimate in

modern bridge construction.

The formal opening of the new High Bridge took place Saturday, June 27, 1925. Burgess Park H. Martin received the bridge for the North Boroughs. The County Commissioners in office at that time were: Joseph G. Armstrong, James Houlahan and Addison C. Gumbert (succeeded by E.V. Babcock after his death.) Harold M. Irons, assistant city solicitor, represented Mayor Magee.

The celebration was marked by ceremonies at the bridge after which the officials of all the boroughs and townships adjacent were taken to the Ben Avon municipal building for lunch. Then followed a colorful parade of autos and marching units through the boroughs.

The contract for the bridge had been let January 2, 1924 with \$419,332.00 the stipulated price. Work was begun February 15, 1924 by the John F. Casey Company under the direct supervision of S.L. Fuller, vice-president. Wayne Byers superintended the job on location. The bridge was thrown open to traffic December 31, 1924, six full months ahead of contract time. One of the most remarkable features in the construction of the bridge was the moving of the old bridge, as a unit, from its original site some distance toward the river, to enable traffic to continue during the building of the new bridge. The old structure was moved in 24 hours.



FIRST HIGH BRIDGE



Left to right (small pix):  
 Joe Cuda  
 Henry Di Ianni  
 Bob Kusserow  
 Dick Warner, Sr.

Left to right (above):  
 George Steele  
 Richard Warner, Jr.  
 Al Slaney  
 Dennis Steele  
 Dom Falvo  
 Clayton Sanders  
 Joe Gibbs  
 Kneeling:  
 Ed. McClain,  
 Street Commissioner

**BELLEVUE ALWAYS  
 A POPULAR TOWN  
 WITH ATHLETES**



The man called "Branch Rickey of Sandlot Baseball" by a Pittsburgh sports writer, is still active in community affairs but not in the field that brought recognition to Bellevue for many years.

W.J. (Tommy) Thompson retired in 1958 after 35 years of managing ball teams for the local borough. Thompson came to Bellevue in 1923, from the McKeesport district where he was active in organizing church baseball teams.

When the Greater Pittsburgh Baseball Federation was formed by Honus Wagner, Cum Posey, Doc McClelland, Dave Roberts, and others, Tommy was active in its organization serving as a district commissioner.

Tommy came to Bellevue at the request of the late Rev. Dr. Robert Galbreath, one time minister of the Bellevue Presbyterian Church, taking over the reins of the church team. Later he sponsored a team for the U.P. Church.

When the church league was discontinued, Tommy organized a mushball team and secured the use of the high school athletic field. This team developed into one of the best in the district, winning a number of league championships. Older fans will recall the names of pitcher Vince Ketchell; catcher, Dick Mohler; shortstop, Willis Lippert; left fielder, Bob Sisak and others of that team.

For almost 20 years Tommy labored to keep the team in operation, soliciting finances, trying to stir up enthusiasm, getting the players and managing the teams. In 1943, due to the war, the team was inactive but to keep his hand in, Tommy organized the North Boroughs Mushball League. This included both young and older men from Bellevue, Avalon, Emsworth and Glenfield, and about 100 had an opportunity to play.

About 1944 Congressman Robert J. Corbett sponsored Tommy's team and it played for two years under the name, Bellevue Corbett's Mushball Team. Ralph Morcroft, Bellevue's former police chief, joined Thompson about this time. He had been active in high school sports. The faster game of softball became popular about this time, so the team switched and become

known as the Bellevue Merchants Softball Team and made quite a record in several leagues. In 1946 the team went into the newly organized Bellevue Athletic Association and played under their sponsorship.

Up to this time the teams had been playing under the lights, many times, on the high school field and had quite a large following. When the school board changed its policy and reserved the field for strictly school events, Thompson and Morcroft decided to switch to baseball and took the games to Bellevue Memorial Park.

It was a radical switch and the team had to be rebuilt. Mission accomplished, and in two years the team was champion in the North Side Twilight Baseball League. When this league broke up, the local boys entered the Greater Pittsburgh League along with Dormont and other strong teams. In the second season Bellevue finished in second place.

The team record was never finishing below second place, winning the playoff championship in 1956, the league championship in 1957 and the playoff championship again in 1958. According to Thompson, the '58 season was the most difficult and discouraging season ever experienced by sandlot baseball,



**BELLEVUE A. A. CHAMPION 1947 TEAM, Metropolitan League:** left to right (back) Goch, Pabst, Lewis, Manager Thompson, Morcroft, Hanner, Bob Stringert, Dugan; (front) Gerlach, Porch, Phillips, Yary, Ludwig, John Stringert. On "Bellevue Night" at Forbes Field, June 14, 1967, Manager Thompson was presented with a plaque for his contribution to sports throughout his lifetime.



## WERE YOU A CAMP BUDDY BOY?

due to the difficulty of financing a good team, and the unexpected loss of interest by the fans.

During the four years that the Bellevue Baseball Club rose to such heights, it was sustained by the efforts of the Bellevue Baseball Boosters. This was run by W.F. Lancaster, president; M. Belohlavek, vice-president; and B.J. Moore, Jr., treasurer. Its Board of Governors included:

T.V. Armstrong, Harold Bahm, M. Belohlavek, C. Denhard, Charles Franklin, Alex Gyekis, Martin Foley, S.L. Hosack, Wallace Judd, Louis Kasing, John P. Kasing and John Krohne. Robert J. Ludwig, Steve Lucas, B.J. Moore, Jr., S.V. Miller, Ralph A. Morcroft, R.W. Peters, Dr. J.C. Pillow, James Porch, W.D. Reese, Jr., C. R. Thomas, Tony Turici, W. J. Thompson and W. F. Lancaster.

Ex-Manager Thompson now devotes himself to the activities of the Senior Men's Club but he is known to take time out to watch the Pirates play.

When Robert J. Ludwig was Mayor of Bellevue (at the time of Thompson's retirement), Council passed a Resolution thanking the team for the recognition it brought to Bellevue over the years.



HON. ANDREW BAYNE, member of Constitutional Convention of 1837-38 and subsequently elected Sheriff of Allegheny County in 1838.



## CAMP BUDDY AND THE YMCA BRING BACK MEMORIES

The YMCA came to the North Boroughs in 1876. It was at a meeting in the Presbyterian Church of Emsworth on March 27, 1876 that the original organization was formed. Meetings were held in various neighborhood churches until a single room was located on the second floor of a business building in Bellevue. On June 6, 1876, the first YMCA headquarters in the North Boroughs was dedicated. It was located on the second floor of what is now the Dietz Floral Shop-next door to the present YMCA complex.

The first organization was known as "The YMCA of Emsworth and Bellevue." Little is known of the early work of the organization but its name was changed several times until it became a branch of The YMCA of Pittsburgh - "The North Boroughs Branch."

After being handicapped by cramped space and sparse equipment, a great step forward was made in 1916 when the YMCA acquired the building of the Bellevue Country Club at a cost of \$40,000. Additions and improvements cost about \$35,000 until in 1960 a new building was added in front of the old building. It represented an investment of \$68,800.

Secretaries of the North Boroughs YMCA included the following names: Paul H. Yourd, W. C. Batchelor, C. H. Weeks, John O. Wicks, S. E. Evans, J. O. Bower, Fred W. Rapp, W. C. Wolcott, William J. Montgomery (Monty), William R. Arthur, Joseph D. Ruddle, Kenneth R. Dykes, and the present Acting Branch Executive C. X. Heinlen. Until the coming of William J. Montgomery, only one secretary-C. H. Weeks-served more than one year.

Mr. Montgomery served thirty-five years and retired having spent all his YMCA experience in the North Boroughs. During his tenure "Camp Buddy" came into existence and became one of the most influential parts of the program of the "Y". Mr. Arthur, Mr. Ruddle, and Mr. Dykes left the North Boroughs YMCA, each after a number of years of service, to become secretaries of much larger YMCA organizations.

Two branches of The North Boroughs YMCA were organized and flourished for a time. In 1920, a branch was formed in Emsworth and operated a program in its own building for better than 30 years. In 1922, and again in 1945, branches were opened in West View.

64



THE BAYNE HOMESTEAD at the northwestern corner of the present Ralph and Teece Avenues. Mrs. Bayne was the former Mary Anne Matthews, of Butler County.

The first one lasted about two years and was closed when it became apparent that the time was not yet ripe. The second attempt was made in 1945 with the cooperation of the churches, the schools, and other community groups. Upon the advent of the North Hills YMCA, Ross Township and West View were transferred to the territory of the new branch.

Members of the Board of Management of the North Boroughs Branch have been too numerous to enumerate. Suffice it to say that they were and are a cross-section of the business and professional life of the North Boroughs community.



## MOTHERS' CLUB

The Mothers' Club is a recently organized group of mothers whose children take part in the activities at the local YMCA. The club helps the YMCA personnel with parties that require adult supervision, and raises money by various means, to purchase equipment for the "Y".

The club had its first official meeting in October of 1966. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Ella Saunders; Vice-president, Mrs. Virginia King; Secretary, Mrs. JoAnn Dunham; Treasurer, Mrs. Jean Rhinfus; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Myrtle Midgley.

The club meets at the YMCA on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. All mothers of children attending the "Y" are invited to become members.

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THE LADIES WORKED FOR A NEW "Y"



North Boroughs "Y" Building, 1911



THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, North Boroughs Y.M.C.A. was a busy organization for many years. When there was talk about erecting a new building for the "Y" (before the old Bellevue Club was purchased) the ladies took on the project of buying the furniture for the new quarters. From then on they engaged in all kinds of fund raising events toward this end.

When this picture was taken in July of 1915 they were preparing for a "Carnival of Nations" which was held three days in September "on the Lincoln Highway, between Jackson Street and Starr Avenue." Some of the activities took place on the grounds surrounding the Bellevue Club and there were booths placed along the sidewalk. Over 1,000 people took part.

Mrs. George J. Campbell was the General Chairman. One of the features was a beauty contest judged by a committee of bachelors; of which George G. Herring, of the YMCA was chairman. Miss Lucille Wilson won the contest by a 22,000 majority. There was a parade of 100 cars through the boroughs with marching units, fire trucks and even a "Votes for Women" group.

Reading left to right (first row): Mrs. Amelia Schatz, Mrs. John Kenning, Mrs. A. D. Brown, Mrs. Mae W. Fraser, Mrs. H. C. Lintner, Mrs. E. H. Fraser, Mrs. W. J. Montgomery, Mrs. W. T. Wharry, Mrs. C. W. Feick, Mrs. R. C. Furst; (second row): Mrs. W. S. Hill, Mrs. J. C. Heckman, Mrs. E. M. Walters, Miss Winona Hill, Mrs. E. F. Seaman, Mrs. M. J. Davidson, Mrs. M. P. DeFrance, Mrs. James Lee, Miss Anna Jack, Mrs. J. P. Wilson, Mrs. C. W. Goodnough, Miss L. A. Herring, Mrs. W. G. A. Millar.





Top left: Bellevue Savings and Trust Company, corner Lincoln and Hawley Avenues(1901-1923). When the bank moved to its new building, corner Lincoln and South Balph, October, 1923, the clock went along too, remaining a landmark for many years.

Top Right: Location of the postoffice for 10 years before moving to its present location, May, 1928. Prior to that the branch was located in the small building in the rear on Meade Avenue for a short lease, moving there from the Wallace building (lower left) corner Lincoln and Balph Avenues, where the branch was located for 10 years having moved there from the corner of Lincoln and Jackson Avenues. Through the years the following have been in charge of the local station: James Sterritt, Henry Williams, Alexander McIntosh, Charles T. Schatz, Albert J. Claney, Joseph Sullivan, Fred McCune, Robert J. O'Hara, Frank J. Shawkey. The present superintendent is Alvin Darkey.

## BELLEVUE OFFICE MELLON NATIONAL BANK & TRUST CO.

Founded by a group of Bellevue citizens concerned with progress and the future of their community, the Bellevue Office of the Mellon National Bank and Trust Company began in 1900 as the Bellevue National Bank. Conviction for the organization originated from meetings in the home of William Jenkinson.

Six months after its founding, the company was moved from temporary frame quarters to its own building--now occupied by Sheetz Poultry--at the corner of Hawley and Lincoln Avenues. One year following this move, the company's bank charter was relinquished and a trust charter obtained, with the bank becoming known as Bellevue Realty Savings & Trust Company. The word "Realty" was dropped from the title in 1923, and the bank moved to its present location at the corner of Balph and Lincoln Avenues.

### A First for Mellon Bank

In 1947, the savings and trust firm became the Bellevue Office of the Mellon National Bank and Trust Company. It was the first office to be established by Mellon Bank outside the City of Pittsburgh. First manager of the new office was Thomas V. Armstrong. He was assisted by George E. Meyer, J. H. Alter, and J. T. Stephens.

Many changes have occurred throughout the Bellevue Office's 67-year history. Present staff of the office numbers 25, exclusive of many other employees in service units of the bank. The size of today's staff and dimensions of the present building are far greater than those of the original modest staff and small frame structure. But the spirit in which the bank was originally conceived has not been altered or dampened, for it is this same spirit which today governs the bank's service to our community.

### Planning for Tomorrow

The future will witness even more improvements in this program of community service. The bank has completed acquisition of two apartment buildings located at 22-24 Sheridan Avenue and 17-19 South Balph Avenue. These buildings will soon be razed to provide additional parking space for our customers. Also, a Mosler Teller-Vue closed circuit television banking system with two service islands is

## STRONG FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS



**WILLIAM JENKINSON,**  
first president,  
Bellevue Savings and Trust.

scheduled to be installed. The system will incorporate pneumatic tubes from the customer consoles to the teller station located within the bank. This new customer service is expected to be completed by August 1, 1967.

Joseph T. Stephens is Assistant Vice President and Manager of the Bellevue Office. Assistant Managers are David A. Thomas, Jr., and Robert Hedges. Administrative Assistant is Marie D. McPherson.



## PITTSBURGH NATIONAL BANK

The Bellevue community office of Pittsburgh National Bank is a relative newcomer to the Borough. The doors were officially opened for business on June 14, 1965. The attractive building, located at 470 Lincoln Avenue, is a welcome addition to Bellevue's business district. Free parking is available as well as a drive-up banking window.

Modern styling and comfortable appointments highlight the office interior and an unusual arrangement of ceiling lights present a pleasing view to passersby, especially at night. Mr. John G. Rihs is the officer-in-charge and is assisted by Mr. Gene F. Walters.

In this day and age it's not uncommon to find yourself torn between the big and the little, the old and the new. But in a banking connection each of these qualities has its place--and at Pittsburgh National, happily, you get all four.

In this bank office near your home you have the neighborliness and personal recognition that is traditional in a community bank. Yet you enjoy all the speed and convenience of modern services based on the electronic facilities of a large central bank.

You also have the deep reassurance which comes from knowing that your bank has resources of \$1.5 billion and that it has stood rock strong on the financial horizon of this region for over 100 years.

You never know when you may have a sudden need for some of the more specialized services that are available through this great institution. But if and when you do, the door to your Bellevue Pittsburgh National office is your handle to the whole billion dollar bank.

## HOME BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Home Building & Loan Association of Bellevue, which was chartered September 24, 1903 with an authorized capital of \$500,000.00, is the oldest established organization of this type in Bellevue.

The charter members were George C. Orth, D. W. Zeber, George J. Campbell, C. G. Kiskaddon, Diedrich P. Klindworth, Marshall Johnston, J. C. Dicks and W. B. Kirker. Meetings were held at various locations on Lincoln Avenue, until headquarters were established at 564 Lincoln Avenue early in the thirties.

As the organization grew, capitalization was increased to \$1,500,000.00, and in 1960 to unlimited. Since its inception dividends of 4% or more have been paid annually. Many prominent men in the Borough have served as officers and directors, with some active for 40 years or more.

The present officers and directors have had varied experiences in finances, construction, and public relations. They are B. A. Griffin, President; William D. Teuteberg, Vice-president and Assistant Treasurer; Paul G. Ketterer, Secretary; and Louis E. Reilly, Treasurer. The Directors are Homer J. Freese, B. A. Griffin, William D. Teuteberg, Harry C. Engel, Paul G. Ketterer, Robert G. Culp, Floyd V. Winner, Louis E. Reilly, Earle C. Toye, William L. Munro and Lewis A. Wightman. William R. McClintock is office manager.

**ECONOMY SAVINGS  
AND LOAN  
ASSOCIATION**

Economy Savings and Loan Association was established 57 years ago. In the Spring of 1964 it moved to its present location at 683 Lincoln Ave., Bellevue, and in the three years since grew 30% as much as it had in the previous 54 years. Assets were five and one-half million on April 30, 1964 and over seven million on April 30, 1967, the eve of Bellevue's Centennial Celebration.

The association was chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1910 and was known as Economy Building and Loan Association of North Side Pittsburgh. Its office was in the 27th Ward of Pittsburgh near the corner of Woods Run and McClure Avenue, about a block below St. John's Hospital.

It is the only state chartered savings and loan association in the North Boroughs with saving accounts insured to \$15,000 by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

Mr. R. Frank is Chairman of the Board. He is the only living charter member of the association. He was the managing officer of the association from its inception in 1910 until 1964 when he was elected to his present office.

Casper W. Metz is president of the association, Charles R. Frank, executive vice president and Mary K. Mikulan, secretary-treasurer. In addition to Messrs. Frank and Metz, the following complete the board of directors: Edward C. Ela, Albert J. Fersch, William Krause and Ralph J. Meyer.

Economy Savings and Loan Association has a responsibility under its charter to promote thrift and home ownership. It is eager to do so in the service of the community as long as Bellevue and its sister communities exist.

**FIRST MAILMAN**

After 43 years of service with the Post Office Department, John J. Adams, of Ambard Avenue, retired from active service September 30, 1938. Mr. Adams entered the postal service August 8, 1895, as a substitute carrier at the old Allegheny Post Office.

On January 1, 1898, he was appointed the first carrier ever to serve the Bellevue district, on the date free carrier service was started here.



PRESENT BOROUGH BUILDING ERECTED 1910

**LIFE CHANGES WHEN  
ELECTRICITY COMES  
IN THE LATE 90's**

Street lighting was not given priority by the borough residents in 1874. When it was proposed in Council to light the streets of the borough with oil lamps at the public expense, it was bitterly opposed and the matter was defeated every time it was brought up. Finally, some of the more progressive and public-spirited citizens proposed to Council that they would erect, at their own expense, one or more lamps on the public streets, provided the borough would furnish the oil and attend to the lighting of the lamps. This Council agreed to do, eventually taking over the entire project.

In 1889, when Council first authorized the establishment of a Police Force, it passed Ordinance No. 36, saying: "That it shall also be the duty of the members of said Police Force to light, extinguish and take full care of the public street lamps."

The first electric lights in the borough in 1895 were uncertain and not entirely dependable. A small power plant operated in Ben Avon, on Spruce Run, by the Ohio Valley Electric Company, operated twelve 50 candle-power lamps in the borough. Storms and other emergencies would cause interruptions in the service so it is

likely that kerosene lamps and gas jets were a part of many households, too.

On November 14, 1922, the Duquesne Light Company purchased all of the property and franchises of the Bellevue Electric Company. Since that time, the service to the Borough has grown until today there are 4128 Residential, 419 Commercial and 2 Industrial customers in the Borough, including four (4) all-electric apartments (a total of 116 units).

Bellevue's Civic Jubilee, May 26, 1914, was to celebrate the installation of a new ornamental lighting system in the business section of Lincoln Avenue. The lamps were 2000 candlepower, placed 100 feet apart on brackets from the trolley poles. When Burgess Hummel threw the switch, Lincoln Avenue became the "great white way."

In 1915, the first Tungsten 1000 lumen and 2500 lumen Incandescent size street lights appeared on Lincoln Avenue. In 1961, the last of the 1000 lumen size Incandescent was replaced by larger size Incandescent street lights.

In 1963, the first Mercury Vapor (20,000 lumen) was installed at North Fremont and Teece Avenues. In 1965, all of the lights on Lincoln Avenue were changed to Mercury Vapor.

Also, in 1965, the first 7000 lumen size Mercury Vapor street light was installed on the side streets. By the end of 1965, there were 260 Incandescent and 259 Mercury Vapor helping to reduce the crime and accident rate within the Borough.

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- \$30.00 2nd prize
- \$20.00 3rd prize

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**OUR 57TH YEAR**



CHARTERED SEPTEMBER 30, 1910



**ROSTER BELLEVUE FIRE COMPANY**

Left to right:

- Top Row: Wallace Wills, Bernard Zawojcki, Alex Gray, Felix Zawojcki, Jack Nine, George Steele, Stanley Zawojcki, Harry Bauer, Robert Young  
 Third Row: Harry Irvin, Charles Amrhein, Robert Kusserow, Ed. McClain, Fred Smith  
 Second Row: Fran Fink, Thomas Barr, Rod Haverlandt, James Horak  
 Bottom Row: Thomas Paff, Edward Terry, David Strunk, Bud Kastroll, Victor Eason, Edward Weixel, Dale Pinkerton, Robert Stringert, Harry Seigel, William Bracken, Jack Murphy, John Pillow, James Greenough, W.C. Littlecott, Roy Helt, Henry Gercken, Robert Beatty



**FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN STARTED IN 1891**

The First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Bellevue had its beginning in 1891 when a small group of earnest men, promoting a cooperative program to make home ownership possible, organized under the name of Commercial Building and Loan Association. The organization operated from the rear of a storeroom in the old Woods Run section of Allegheny City which we now know as the North Side of Pittsburgh. One of the original founders was Albert H. Eckert; a name well known to many old North Side and North Boroughs families. Mr. Eckert was a charter member and the first Secretary and Manager of the Association. Mr. Eckert held this position until his death in 1925 when his son A. M. Eckert took over the management of the Association. Today, A. M. Eckert is still associated with the Association as its president.

In 1941 the Association obtained a Federal Charter from the Federal Government in Washington, D. C., and the name was changed to the present First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Bellevue. The Association opened a new office in 1941 at the corner of Lincoln and South Jackson Avenues. The Association immediately experienced success with their new Bellevue office and secured many new savings and mortgage customers. The Association became a valuable member of the Bellevue business community.

In 1952 the Association realized that they had outgrown their present office and decided to build larger quarters at 532 Lincoln Avenue which was formerly the Dr. Granville H. Walker residence. The spacious new quarters were formally opened in 1953 with a greatly appreciated welcome from the entire community. By this time the Association had grown to \$7,000,000.00 in assets. After the new headquarters for the Association were opened, the Association then embarked on its greatest growth in its history. The Association soon became well known for its friendly staff and capable personnel and offered many and new services for the public such as: selling and redeeming of Savings Bonds; selling of Travelers Cheques; Money Orders; Christmas Club Accounts; School Savings Accounts; and the cashing of checks for customers.

In 1960 the Association management realized the great growth potential of the North Hills district and opened its first branch office on Route 19,

Wexford. This very modern and attractive office offers all the services and personal attention that the main office has given through the years.

The Association is proud to be part of the Bellevue community and sees a great future for Bellevue.

Total assets today are in excess of \$35,000,000.00; thus, marking it as the 9th largest Savings and Loan Association of Allegheny County, and the largest Savings and Loan Association North of the Allegheny River.

The Association is, also, proud to state that A. M. Eckert is currently celebrating his 50th year with the Association; and, that last year the Association celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

Current Officers are: A. M. Eckert, President; Earl D. Baumann, M.D., Sr. Vice-president; Albert H. Eckert II, Executive Vice-president; Michael J. Potts, Vice-president; Albert H. Eckert II, Secretary; Frederick W. Moore, Treasurer; Carl T. Hitchew, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, David E. Staudenmaier, Accounting Officer.

Present Directors of the Association are: A. M. Eckert, Albert H. Eckert II, Earl D. Baumann, M.D., Frederick W. Moore, John E. Reynolds, Hon. John L. Miller, Robert E. McMonigle, Albert P. Rightor, Michael J. Potts.

Solicitors: McMonigle and Vesely.

**COMMENCEMENT 1897**

The first commencement exercises for the Bellevue Public Schools was held June 24, 1897 in the Masonic Hall. A class of nineteen was graduating from the 8th grade.

The class motto was: "Rowing-- Not Drifting." Class colors were navy blue and gold. Agnes B. Dickson was their teacher.

The board of school directors included: Dr. H. W. Arthur, J. D. Rhivers, George Irwin, W. J. Shaw, U. S. Fleming and J. E. Hurford.

C. C. Williamson was principal, W. A. Smith was assistant principal. Teachers from grade 1 to grade 7 inclusive were: Sarah B. Miller, Marie Kallenbaugh, Blanche O. Young, Emma L. Bricker, Elizabeth M. Sheeran, Jeanette McCalmont, and Sarah E. Kingan.

Members of the class were: Hugh Arthur, Catherine A. Boyd, Thomas Brown, Elizabeth Bechtold, Helen Mildred Crooks, Frank Fisher, Mabel Gallagher, Marie Graham, Mary Lavinia Harding, Laura Evelyn Hummell, Ralph Martin, Le Ora Marjorie McCandless, Mattie Bell McKissock, Wade Linton McWilliams, Pettes Louise Moore, Vena Roberta Quail, Margretta Le Etta Steck, Mabel Vandervort and Clarence A. Zimmer.



OLD SAW MILL on Spruce Run Creek at the foot of Home Avenue in Avalon and North Starr Avenue in Bellevue.

## CONGRATULATIONS

ON THE 100th ANNIVERSARY

We Are Happy To Have Spent 22 Lovely  
Years Of Them Here

LINCOLN BAKERY

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew G. Slezak

## CONGRATULATIONS

BOROUGH OF BELLEVUE

THE HOME BUILDING  
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Located At

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Will continue to offer its help and service to the community by providing mortgage loans for eventual home ownership and a high yield savings program.

DAVE PRICE

CARPETS

ENJOING BELLEVUE

A GOOD PLACE

TO WORK

AND LIVE

## THOSE WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY NOT FORGOTTEN

### VETERANS' POSTS IMPORTANT PART OF LOCAL HISTORY



### AMERICAN LEGION

The organization of the American Legion followed soon after the close of the World War in much the same manner as the organization of the G.A.R. followed the close of the Civil War. Although conceived under different conditions the American Legion has many purposes similar to those of the G.A.R.

Both of these organizations have for their one great and common object the fostering of patriotism, the performance of civic service, the lending of assistance to their wounded and otherwise incapacitated comrades, and the perpetuation of reverence for the memory of their departed comrades.

Early in 1919 some twenty officers then in France, appointed themselves as the temporary nucleus of an organization that later became known as the American Legion. Their plans being approved by General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces, a caucus was called, to meet at the Cirque de Paris. It was here, on March 15, 16 and 17, 1919, representatives from the many army organizations then in France met and formed the original plans for the American Legion.

On Wednesday evening, July 9, 1919, a meeting was called for the purpose of forming a local Post of the American Legion. Mr. W. P. Smart, of the County Executive Committee of the American Legion, explained the aims and purposes of the Association. The officers elected for organization purposes were: C. C. MacMillan, Chairman; E. F. Locher, Secretary; and P. K. Rodgers, Treasurer.

It was agreed to hold the first regular meeting of the Post at the Bellevue Borough Hall, Thursday evening, July 17, 1919. It was further agreed that the Post would bear the name of the North Boroughs Post, subject to the ratification or change at the first regular meeting.

The Charter applied for at the meeting of July 9, 1919, was received July 29, 1919. The name of "North Boroughs Post 116" came into official use at the regular meeting of November 20, 1919. It was at this meeting, that the first Post Officers were elected for the calendar year of 1920. Comrade L. B. Duff was elected as the first post commander of the North Boroughs Post 116.



FRANK EAST whose birth in 1867 made 300 population needed for a charter.



### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

In 1928 a group of veterans assembled in the Bellevue Borough hall to discuss the organization of a Veterans of Foreign Wars post. An application was obtained from the National Headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas.

The following names appeared on the application for a new charter: Elmer C. Warriner, Edward Scholz, Edward H. Thompson, H. Frank Easley, William R. McKrell, John H. Opperman, David Twaddle, \*Frank L. McGowan, Otto Holzhauser, Paul Murphy, \*D. G. Dillman, \*William A. Ellinger, \*James D. Swaney, Edward Wilt, \*George Shaney, A. E. Heckel, \*Thomas Moody, Sr., \*William Darling, D. F. Griffin (starred names indicate deceased veterans).

The group had to select officers so National Headquarters would have it on record. They were: Commander, Elmer C. Warriner; Sr. Vice Commander, George Shaney; Jr. Vice Commander, James Swaney; Quartermaster, Paul Murphy; Adjutant, H. Frank Easley; Trustees, William R. McKrell, Thomas Moody, Frank L. McGowan.

The application had to be presented to the Allegheny County Council, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Pittsburgh for approval, and then recommended to the National Headquarters. It was approved, and on March 29, 1932, Post #2454 was instituted. With the approval

At the regular meeting of May 20, 1920, it was agreed to co-operate with the G. A. R. in holding a joint Memorial Day service at the Bayne Cemetery. After that it was a regular custom of the Post to act with the G.A.R. in the observance of Memorial Services on the Sunday preceding Memorial Day.

During the regular meeting of April 21, 1921, the Post voted in favor of the formation of a Ladies' Auxiliary. This organization was duly formed and has since co-operated with the Post on all occasions on the work of the Legion.

Among some of the more important activities in which North Boroughs Post No. 116 has been interested and has accomplished definite results are as follows: The care of the disabled veterans; Decoration of graves; Co-operating with the G.A.R. and Red Cross; Co-operating with Board of Trade and Borough Council on matters of Community interest; Awarding American Legion School Award Medals; Promoting a standard flag decoration for street display.

## FOURTEEN GRADUATES IN 1903



**FIRST GRADUATING CLASS from Bellevue High School (1903) reading left to right, top, Philip D. Weaver, Grace McPherson, William M. Cooper, Arthur Barrett, William Fleming, Lillian B. Lease, Joseph W. Ward; bottom row, Edwin F. Johnston, May Wasson, Grace Proven, Roy D. Wheeler, Ethel Proven, Mazie Kayser, Albert P. Hill. The course was two years.**

of the Fleming family (Walter, William and John), the Post was named the Robert D. Fleming Post, for the first boy from Bellevue to be killed in action in France, 1917-1918.

Membership increased and meetings were moved from the borough hall to the Lothamer Building, corner South Sprague and Lincoln Avenue. While meeting here the Post gave the ladies permission to form an Auxiliary which was chartered and instituted January 31, 1934.

The next move was to #2 Meade Avenue, renting the storeroom from the Masonic Building Association and, in order to raise money to pay the rent, Penny Bingo was sponsored. Later the Post held a carnival on Cray's Lot, next to the Bellevue Savings and Trust Company (now the Mellon Bank), always around the 15th of August, so as not to interfere with the firemen's carnival which was always held in June.

The Post progressed and moved into the storeroom on Sheridan Avenue, now occupied by Ye Olde Tax Collector's office. Several years later, the Post had saved enough money to purchase a home at the corner of Hallett Place and South Fremont Street, which was remodeled under the supervision of Comrade Ralph Fisher. Beside

the yearly carnival, bigger and better bingo was arranged under the direction of Comrade Herman Melcher and his committee.

During World War II, at this location, the draftees leaving the borough for the service were furnished with gifts, coffee and doughnuts by the Ladies Auxiliary, before going down to the Bellevue Railroad Station, enroute to camp.

Still another move was made when membership continued to increase and the Post purchased the old Lambskin Club building at 650 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue which was owned by an individual. The second year the Post remodeled the front of the building. The fifth year, the basement was remodeled and it became necessary to build an additional section in the rear. Since moving to Lincoln Avenue all carnivals and bingos are held on Post property, as well as the display of the miniature Flander's Field each Memorial Day.

The Post has had 28 past Commanders. Present officers are: Commander, Andrew Koltick; Sr. Vice Commander, John Schade; Jr. Vice Commander, Jack Clyde, Jr.; Chaplain, Phillip Burda; Adjutant, Ralph Melcher; Quartermaster, John Harper; Sergeant at Arms, William

Zinkand; Trustees, Elmer C. Warriner, Carl Beckman, Herman Melcher.

The Post membership extends its appreciation and thanks, and wishes Bellevue Borough a successful Centennial celebration.

## LOCAL BOY STATE WINNER IN ESSAY CONTEST BY VFW

On January 31, 1934 officers were elected for the newly organized Ladies' Auxiliary to the Robert D. Fleming Post No. 2454, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Gertrude Cronkhite, wife of Major General Adelbert Cronkhite, Commander of the 80th Division, was the first President. The Charter was signed by Julia L. Pitcock, President and Grace H. Davis, Secretary.

There were 31 charter members and one honorary member. Four of the Charter members still belong to the Auxiliary; Teresa Easley, First Secretary, Lillian Murphy, Josephine Pluskey and Marie Warriner, First Treasurer of the Auxiliary.

The first meeting of the Auxiliary was held on February 7, 1934; the first social affair, a card party, was held on March 10, 1934.

The Auxiliary has maintained a Life Membership in the V. F. W. National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan since May 1937.

May 13, 1950 was the first Poppy Day sponsored by the Auxiliary. In previous years, the Auxiliary worked with the Post members.

On April 24, 1954, Larry Pearson of Bellevue High School, the first winner of the Ladies' Auxiliary V. F. W. Essay Contest, sponsored by our Auxiliary, was presented with a bronze Essay Medal and a \$25.00 Savings Bond. In July 1954, he was selected winner in the state of Pennsylvania and was presented with a cash award of \$100.00.

Our Auxiliary was honored to have two Past Presidents serve as President of Allegheny County Council Ladies' Auxiliary to the V. F. W. Gertrude Cronkhite (deceased) served as President 1946-47 and Dorothy Harper served as President 1962-63. Mrs. Frank O. Cummings is the current president of the Auxiliary.

The primary goal of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars is service to the veteran and his family. Locally, our Auxiliary members participate in Community Service, contribute to Veterans' Hospitals monthly, V. F. W. National Home, Scotland School, Salvation Army and many other worthy causes.

## STREET SCENE CIRCA 1928

### MRS. FRED P. MOORE FIRST AUXILIARY PRESIDENT UNIT 116

On April 7, 1921 an organization called the Mothers of Democracy, feeling that their work as a separate organization was finished, and wishing to be of the greatest service to the ex-service men, voted to affiliate with the American Legion. An application for a charter as Auxiliary of North Boroughs Post #116 was sent to National Headquarters.

On May 2, 1921 a temporary charter was drawn up and the following officers were elected: Mrs. Frederick P. Moore, President; Mrs. Hugh Millar, Vice-President; Mrs. Charles L. Yost, Secretary; Mrs. Alden J. Green, Treasurer; Executive Board - Mrs. Heber Ker, Mrs. Margaret Davidson and Mrs. H. D. Ramsey. The Charter was presented to the President, Mrs. F.P. Moore on May 19, 1921.

The American Legion Auxiliary of North Boroughs Post #116 was formed for the purpose of aiding the American Legion in carrying out the great

program of peacetime service to America to which the American Legion is dedicated. One of the major activities of the American Legion Auxiliary is the task of caring for the disabled veterans who are hospitalized, and assist other veterans to regain a place in civil life. The child welfare program is built upon the pledge to maintain the integrity of the American family home. Each year the Auxiliary presents to the students of various schools, medals which are awarded on the basis of Honor, Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Courage.

Present Gold Star Mothers of Unit #116 are Mrs. Edna Haug, Mrs. H. M. Helt, Mrs. Jack McLellan, Mrs. Helen Neilson, Mrs. R. Nestleroad, Mrs. Mary Weingartz and Mrs. Amelia Wilhelm.

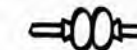
Present officers of the Auxiliary are: Mrs. J. Stauber, President; Mrs. A. J. Mura, 1st Vice-president; Mrs. S. DiDomenico, 2nd Vice-president; Mrs. J. Comiskey, Recording Secretary; Mrs. E. Hood, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. J. Chereck, Treasurer; Mrs. E. Conaway, Chaplain; Mrs. G. Mura, Historian; and Mrs. C. DeLucia, Sergeant-at-arms.

### GREATER BELLEVUE BUILDING & LOAN

A charter was granted April 18, 1923 for The Greater Bellevue Building and Loan Association. The organization meeting was held in the office of J.O. Bower, Tax Collector, in response to popular demand by a great number of people who wished to own their own homes.

Officers elected were: James B. Arthur, president; George E. Morcroft and S. Frank McKee, vice-presidents; J.O. Bower, treasurer; T.B. Craig, secretary; J.H. Alter, assistant secretary; Owen S. Cecil, solicitor.

Present officers of the association are: George Morcroft, president; Edward F. Baker, vice-president; Harry Irvin, secretary; Tom Barr, assistant secretary; William Penberthy, treasurer; Gilbert Morcroft, solicitor.



**THIS WAS THE CORNER of Balph and Lincoln Avenue about the year 1928. Perhaps you will remember some of these people (reading left to right) Walter R. Demmler and daughter Alice, Walter Klindworth, Carl Poerschke, Nicholas Herbick, Julius Poerschke, Bertha P. Heinsberg, Mrs. Walter Klindworth, Charlotte Poerschke Bernauer, Hermine Poerschke (wife of Julius), John Bernauer, Marie Poerschke (Mrs. G. A.). The man at the corner is C. W. McCall.**

CONGRATULATION

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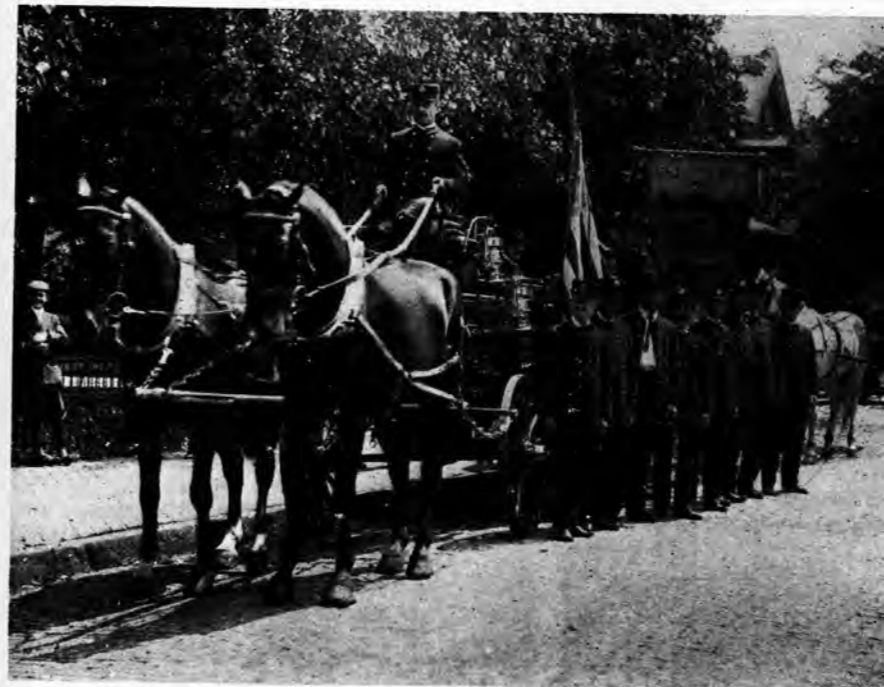
CONGRATULATIONS

ON

YOUR BIRTHDAY

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE

REMEMBER BUSTER, FRED AND DUKE



FIRST HORSE DRAWN LADDER TRUCK - 1909

Early in 1893 Council enacted an ordinance creating a volunteer fire company and purchased the first fire equipment. Under the provisions of the ordinance, C. L. McIntyre was appointed Chief Engineer. A hand-drawn ladder truck was purchased from S. F. Hayward Co. and consisted of five ladders of various lengths, twenty-four rubber buckets, a six inch double acting Excelsior hand pump, 200 feet of two inch hose, eight Babcock fire extinguishers and the standard assortment of bars, axes, pike poles, lanterns and nozzles. This equipment was delivered in February of 1894, at a cost of \$1,000.

During the next year and a half, the fire department consisted of anyone who would answer the alarms or who could be pressed into service to help pull the equipment over the mud streets of the borough.

The deficiencies of this system was recognized by John Johnston, a member of Council, and on April 26, 1895, a meeting was called in the old second ward school for the purpose of organizing a volunteer fire company. Those who attended the meeting were: R. J. Brown, C. P. Carson, Charles Fisher, Sr., William Brown, Frank Hauser, William Hauser, Charles Hauser, H. A. Forrester, John McKissock, Sr., John Tomer, Sr., W. C. Mercer, J. H. Besser, James Lee and William McCormick.

R. J. Brown was chosen president and W. C. Mercer, secretary. The meeting was then adjourned until May 3, 1895 when Charles Fisher was elected Chief and A. J. Claney, Assistant Chief.

At subsequent meetings the matter of a name for the company was discussed. Two names were suggested: Bayne and Columbia. The name of Columbia Fire Company of Bellevue, Pennsylvania was finally adopted.

The first appearance of the Columbia firemen in uniform was at a convention at McKeesport in October, 1896. The uniform consisted of the old time red shirt, wide leather belt, and the blue trousers and cap. The money for these uniforms was raised by public subscription.

A charter was applied for in 1902 and issued in 1903. Charter members were: Charles Fisher, Sr., R. J. Brown, W. T. Hauser, H. A. Forrester, J. McKissock, Sr., C. P. Maeder, S. K. Stright, A. H. Donaldson, J. D. Quail, F. L. McCormick, P. L. Warner, G. G. East, W. H. Brown, E. C. Baird, J. McKissock, Jr., A. J. Claney, Frank Hauser, John Tomer, Sr., William Tomer, and James Lee. Just about this time the name was changed to Columbia Hose, Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 of Bellevue, Pennsylvania.

Soon the hand-drawn equipment was outmoded. In March, 1909 the borough received the first horse-drawn hose carriage and hook and ladder truck. Centennial readers may remember the black team, Fred and Duke, charging to a fire with Dan Rosemier at the reins.

As much a part of the fire company as the members themselves, was the mascot. The first one was a dog named Buster who passed on and was given a proper burial service on Christmas Day, 1909. Later another dog was

adopted, a Boston Terrier, also known as Buster. This dog answered all the calls, either running ahead of the horses or riding the rig alongside the driver.

The first motorized equipment was purchased in 1923, by the Borough Council. The old horse-drawn ladder truck remained in active use until 1928. The need for additional equipment grew and in 1939 the company purchased and equipped, with their own funds, a squad car-emergency truck. It was equipped with a portable electric generator, stretcher, first aid equipment and inhalator. Besides being a piece of modern fire equipment, this truck soon became the show-piece of the department and took many prizes and awards in parades and exhibitions.

Again in 1951 the company purchased and equipped with its own funds, a truck to carry specialized equipment. It was later rebuilt as a first aid truck. The latest equipment to be received by the department is an 85-foot aerial truck. In addition to the hydraulic ladder it also carries a booster pump and two hundred gallons of water, a life net, ladder pipe and two hundred and sixty-five feet of hand ladders.

The Bellevue Drum and Bugle Corps, remembered by many as the "Redgolds" with "Hap" Dunbar as drum major, was a colorful part of the local scene for fifteen years. It was organized by the Fire Department in 1925.

The present Fire Chief is Howard Reed. In the past, the following have served: Charles W. Fisher, 1895-1920; James Greenough, Sr., 1921-1932; J. E. Wills, 1933-1935; H. J. Gercken, 1936-1940; James Greenough, 1941-1945; H. J. Gercken, 1946; James Greenough, 1947-1951; G. T. Kimberlin, 1952-1955. (Taken from the History of the Fire Company on its 60th Anniversary, compiled by Edward J. McClain).



BUSTER



# Benagusta

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TO CELEBRATE

100 Years of Progress

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RED CROSS SHOES

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NUNN BUSH FOR MEN

KEDS

AMERICAN GIRL

BUSTER BROWN

AMERICAN JR'S FOR BOYS

P. F'S

## DEAR OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS

### SCHOOLS CAME FIRST ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEW COMMUNITY

School children of the pre-charter days learned the three R's in a one-room brick schoolhouse on the property of Richard Straw, "at the crossroads" (Brighton Road, Bryant and Lincoln Avenues). Col. John Snodgrass was their teacher and best known for the inevitable singing school enjoyed by all. The building was on private property and its use as a school was just a permissive gesture by the Straw family.

After incorporation, the borough fathers lost no time in providing a public school within the borough limits. The first minutes of the newly elected school board are dated September 17, 1867. First meetings of the board were largely taken up by investigation, discussion and eventually purchase of a suitable lot in the Second Ward for a building.

After many discussions, and some argument, a lot was purchased in the exact center of the town, and a brick building was erected thereon. It was opened for school purposes November 7, 1868. One of the stipulations of the board was, that the front porch on the building be at least 70 feet back from Beaver Road (Lincoln Avenue). James Madison Balph was the architect. His fee was \$225. The location is the present high school site.

J. J. Snodgrass was elected principal at \$80 per month. Miss Annie McCune was the other teacher at a salary of \$35. Centennial readers may be amused by the fact that one of the first changes in curriculum was to exchange the Osgood readers for McGuffey's.

As borough population increased, more rooms were needed. In 1881 a three-story brick building was added in front of the first one, with the entrance flush with the sidewalk on Lincoln Avenue. When elementary schools were built elsewhere in the borough this became the first high school. It had a bell tower, with a bell put into place by Heeren Brothers. The tapper was made and presented by W. J. Barnhart of Jackson Avenue. Cast on the bell were the names of the school directors at that time: John M. Kirker, president; A. McIntosh, treasurer; H. L. Myers, secretary; John Fleming, Thomas D. Williams and John Simeral. When the building was torn down for the present high school, the bell was given to the fire company, to sound alarms.



FIRST BUILDING had a public hall on the second floor. It was used for a Sunday School and Council met there.



Youngsters finishing the eighth grade in the late 1800's had no high school course at their disposal in Bellevue. If they wished to pursue their education, they had to go to Pittsburgh. About the turn of the century a two-year high school course was offered in Bellevue, the first class graduating in 1903.

In February of 1905 the Bellevue School Board announced plans to have a four-year course. Enrollment in the high school at that time was 100. Of the students graduating the year before, 11 returned to take the four-year course.

At a special meeting of the School Board in February of 1902, two lots were purchased for school sites. One, at the corner of Jackson and Orchard in the Third Ward, was purchased from Hugh Clancy for \$6,000. The other, at the corner of Grant and Jefferson in the First Ward, was purchased from the Bole family for \$12,000.

Jackson School was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1903. Grant School was ready for use in September of 1905. William J. Shaw was the architect, and Ben Groah, the contractor, for both buildings. They were so located, that a straight line drawn through them would also bisect the high school in the center of town.

By the time the present high school was erected, school population had increased so much that a Primary room was provided therein for first grade pupils who would normally attend Jackson and Grant Schools.

The present high school was dedicated November 15, 1916. Fifteen hundred school children and teachers, marched in a parade led by Danny Nirella's Band, at noon, after which the building was open for inspection. The newly organized Board of Trade had a banquet in the borough hall followed by evening exercises, at which Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh was the principal speaker.

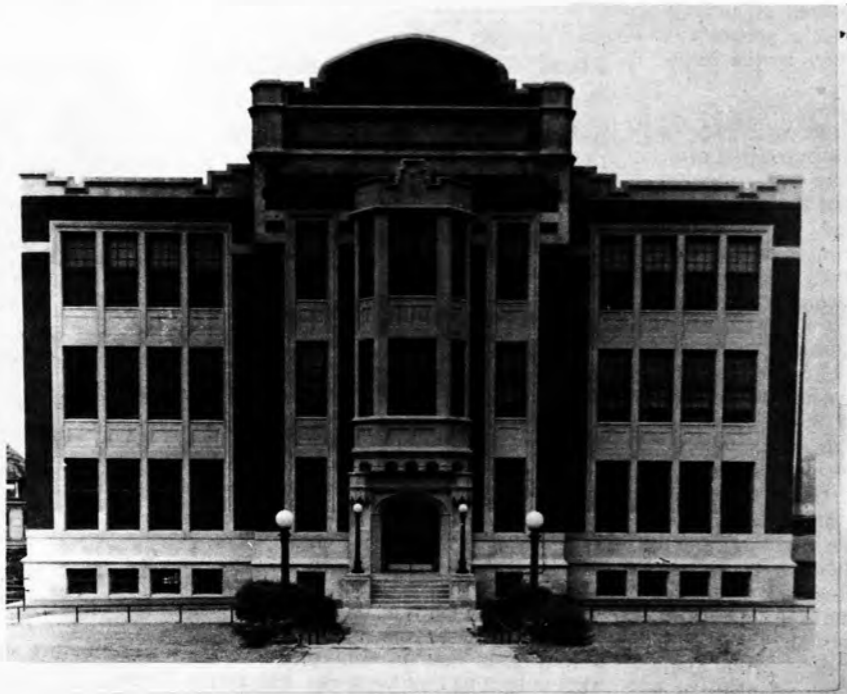
Today the high school has a faculty of 35; Jackson has 12; Grant, 16. Student population in the high school is 782; Jackson, 345; Grant, 452. Four special teachers are employed: Art, Music, Physical Education, Workshop. Bellevue has come a long way since the days of Mr. Snodgrass and his one room school.



SECOND BUILDING in front of the first provided the high school space. A close look behind the pole reveals the famous fountain erected by a group of ladies for the Jubilee. Later it was moved to Lincoln and Florence Avenues. Finally it was dismantled and put in storage somewhere. Miss Florence East designed it. Money was raised by public subscription.



CONGRATULATIONS!  
 from  
 BELLEVUE SCHOOL SYSTEM



Robert J. Hardy, President  
 Robert C. Beswick, Vice President  
 Harry E. Qualtrough, Treasurer

Harvey L. Barnes  
 David T. Buente  
 Elmer J. Griser  
 John S. Martin

William W. Milnes, Solicitor  
 John G. Harris, Secretary

Leslie H. Marietta, Superintendent  
 Harry G. Williams, High School Principal  
 Hubert J. Winner, Elementary Supervisor

THEY CHOSE THE RED AND BLACK



THIS CLASS WAS GRADUATED from Bellevue Grade School in June, 1901 and was the first class to go to Bellevue High School. William Rodgers, Jr. was class president and Flora Barr, now Mrs. Rodgers, was the Vice President. The class had the honor of selecting the school colors, red and black. Reading from the top (left to right): Allan Cruikshank, Edwin Johnston, William Flemming, William Rodgers, Jr., Albert Hill, Roy Wheeler, Sarah Wright, Kathryn Kenning, Frank Goodnough, William Cooper, Alex Fraser, Joseph Ward, Raymond Stackhouse, Flora Barr, William Church, Pearl Lynn, Mabel Swain, Martha Terry, Jack Burns, Howard Day, Chester Hawk, Grace McPherson, Estella Gibson, William Arthur, Ethel Waddell, Ethel Proven, Birdie Morrison, Grace Proven, Maud Arthur. Their teachers were Professors Williamson and Smith and "our beloved Miss Dickson".



Neville Wire Chiefs Force, Bell Telephone, Bellevue

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SERVING MOTORISTS FOR  
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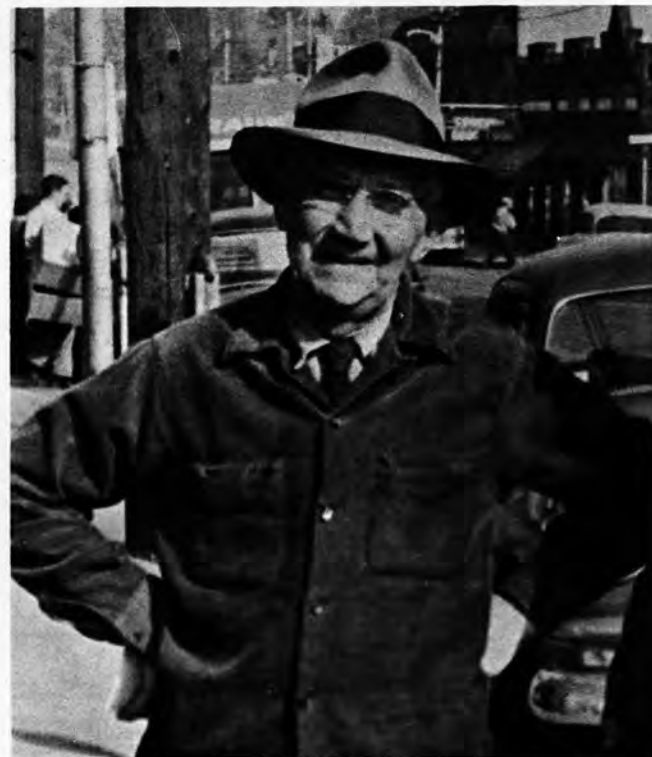
BEST WISHES ON

YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY

BARDS

DAIRYLAND

409 LINCOLN AVE.



SAMUEL L. HOSACK has been auditing the books for the Bellevue School District for the past 56 years. Mr. Hosack took over the task in 1911.



WORK

Work, work, my boy, be not afraid;  
Look labor boldly in the face;  
Take up the hammer or the spade,  
And blush not for your humble place.

There's glory in the shuttle's song;  
There's triumph in the anvil's stroke;  
There's merit in the brave and strong,  
Who dig the mine or fell the oak

I doubt if he who lolls his head  
Where idleness and plenty meet,  
Enjoys his pillow or his bread  
As those who earn the meals they eat.

And man is never half so blest  
As when the busy day is spent  
So as to make his evening rest  
A holiday of glad content.

- McGuffey's Fifth Reader



*This is to Certify that William B. Bradley,*  
*has completed the full course of study prescribed for the*  
*Primary and Grammar Departments of the Bellevue Public Schools,*  
*viz: Orthography, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography,*  
*History, Composition and Drawing, and is entitled to this*  
**TESTIMONIAL**  
*of his Attainments, Industrial Habits and Correct Deportment.*

*In Testimony Whereof* *signatures and the Seal of the Corporation*  
*are hereby appended. Done at Bellevue this 29th day of June 1899*

*John O. Rivers* *President*  
*John E. Dunford* *Secretary*  
*W. H. ...* *Director*  
*C. C. Williamson* *Director*  
*Andrew S. ...* *Director*



BELLEVUE OUTING CLUB  
FORT PITT HOTEL MAR 5 1914



THE BELLEVUE OUTING CLUB was one of the popular groups for young men in the early days of the Borough. Sometimes the boys went on long hikes or overnight camping trips. Social events filled the rest of their calendar. The picture was taken in March of 1914 when the club had a dinner at the Fort Pitt Hotel in honor of a former member, P. H. Stowell, of Livingston, Idaho. George Gunn is president at this time and R. E. Carlin was toastmaster for the affair. Reading left to right (front row): Glen Aiken, Sam Harper, Lester Dodds, ..... Joseph Kevan, Allan Cruikshank, Merle Forney, Will Rodgers; (second row): Bill Simeral, Charles Rese, Jack Littell, Harry Feick, Steve Goodnough, Ed Stamm; (third row): Howard Jackson, George Gunn, Ralph Carlin, Jim Norris, Bill Burns, P.H. Stowell, Fred Cockburn, Deke Hartley, Joe Walton, Bill Bradley, Bill Church, Ed Sutter.



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YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY

BEST WISHES - CONGRATULATIONS

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BEST WISHES ON  
YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY

CONGRATULATIONS  
AND BEST OF LUCK

MAY THE CENTENNIAL BE  
A BIG SUCCESS

COOKUHN TEA ROOM

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**ALL REPUBLICANS ...**  
**TWENTY-THREE MEN**  
**SERVE AS BURGESS**  
**OVER THE CENTURY**



**SAMUEL CLANEY, ESQ.**  
 First Burgess of Bellevue.

Samuel J. Claney, the first Burgess, was born June 7, 1802 in County Down, Ireland. The family came to America in 1829 on a sailing vessel, landing at Baltimore. With his brother, Hugh, he took the overland stagecoach for Pittsburgh. Two weeks after starting they had only reached Greensburg so the brothers left the stage there and walked to Pittsburgh.

Samuel was in the grocery business on Liberty Street for a short time, then went to the old Bank of Pittsburgh where he remained for 27

years. During 1859-1863 he lived on a farm in Ohio and moved to Bellevue in the fall of 1863. He was one of the prime movers to get a borough charter. He served as Burgess for seven years and died July 4, 1874. He was married to the former Elizabeth Wilkins.

At Council meeting on March 14, 1922, his daughter, Mrs. Anna Jenkinson, presented to the borough a portrait of her father which now hangs in the Council chamber. His term of office was 1867-1874. The home of the first Burgess, still standing, is a little red brick house on Watkins, opposite Dunbar Avenue. Originally it faced toward Lincoln Avenue but was turned around when the street was opened through.

The first Borough Ordinance states: "that any horse, mare, gelding, mule, ox, cow, heifer, hog or goat found running at large within the precincts of the borough, shall be considered a public nuisance." The fine for such was \$1.00 and costs.

Nothing is known about George Tomlinson, the second Burgess, 1874-1875. His regime seems to have been distinguished with the passage of Ordinance No. 5, "with regard to survey, plan and street grades of the borough as made by Messrs. Ediburn and Cooper."

William Robb Johnston was the third Burgess, serving 1875-1877. He also served in Council and on the School Board. Later he was Director of the Poor in Allegheny County. At the time of his death in March of 1918, he was known as Squire Johnston. It was said that he had served in every office within the power of the people to bestow.

Mr. Johnston was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnston of Allegheny. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted and served throughout. He came to Bellevue as a young man although his business was in Pittsburgh. He was a member of the firm, Spratt, Johnston, & Co., manufacturers of plows.

In 1873, Mr. Johnston was married to Emma Forrester, daughter of Hugh Forrester, one of the early property owners in the borough.

Many ordinances were passed for the opening of streets in his term. By Ordinance No. 9, the borough fathers guaranteed severe action toward those who would damage or mutilate the street lamps. The fine would be \$5 to be placed in a light fund. This was passed February 7, 1876. Ordinance No. 10, guaranteed similar protection for the boardwalks and shade trees.

It was during the term of Alex McIntosh, 1877-1878, the fourth Burgess, that Ordinance No. 11 was passed, setting the borough property tax at 3/4 mill on the dollar for streets,

1/2 mill for a light tax, for the purpose of providing lamps and light for the year ending the first Monday of April, 1878.

Mr. McIntosh was married to Ellen Claney (daughter of Hugh Claney) and one of their seven children was Miss Annie, who served as the first telephone operator in the town.

Richard Straw was the fifth Burgess, serving 1878-1880. He was born March 23, 1819 in Derbyshire, England, and came to America at the age of 21. Mr. Straw brought the first sewing machine west of the Allegheny Mountains and, for a long time, he was the district agent for Singer Manufacturing Co.

The Straw homestead is the stucco house, still standing on Lincoln Avenue, opposite Grant. When built, it faced the valley overlooking the Straw farm but was later turned around.

Mr. Straw was married in 1847 to Anna Allcott of England. They had nine children. Mary Emma became the wife of George F. Wright and the Wright homestead is still standing on Sumner Avenue. Another daughter, Annie E., married Dr. E.G. Whitehead of Bellevue.

Mr. Straw was a Republican since the organization of the party in Pittsburgh. He came to Bellevue in 1853, and was instrumental in getting the party organized here. He was on the first School Board and played a prominent part in providing the first school house.

His term in Council was highlighted by the passage of Ordinance No. 12, "for the suppression of disorderly conduct, fine \$20" and Ordinance No. 13 providing for the first dog taxes.

John Semple, the sixth Burgess, 1880-1882 was opposed to rubbish in the streets. Council passed Ordinance No. 14 to take care of the situation.

During the term of J.J. McCormick, seventh Burgess, 1882-1885, two large plans of lots were approved providing for further expansion of the town. Ordinance No. 15 was for "approving plan of lots and streets laid out by A.M. Watson at Jack's Run and changing plan of Laurel Avenue to conform therewith." Ordinance No. 16 "approved the plan of lots and streets laid out, by Thomas Bayne."

Mr. McCormick was married to Sarah Meade. Their daughter, Gertrude, who married David Osborne, Jr. was well known as an organist and pianist. She played in the Bellevue Christian Church for more than 10 years.

The eighth Burgess, William B. Kirker, 1885-1887, was born in Butler County and was brought to Bellevue when four years old. Eventually he filled the offices of Burgess, Clerk of Council, Justice of the Peace and



**MUDDY ROADS GIVE WAY TO PAVED STREET**

Solicitor. When he died he was Prothonotary of Allegheny County.

During his term as Burgess, Ordinances No. 17, 18 and 20 granted the right to certain companies to lay pipe lines for the transportation of natural gas in the Borough of Bellevue.

The most exciting proposal of his regime was contained in Ordinance No. 84 which authorized the Bellevue and Davis Island Incline Plane Company to locate and operate their railway in Bellevue. The Ordinance passed September 13, 1886.

When Fred East became the town's ninth Burgess, 1887-1888, he was already known as the son of a distinguished family. After his term as Burgess he was Borough Treasurer for 20 years. For more than 40 years he was secretary and treasurer of Bellevue Lodge No. 530, F. & A. M.

In his term, Ordinance No. 22 permitted the Baden Gas Company to lay pipe lines and Ordinance No. 23 permitted the operation of the incline plane as an electric motor railway.

J. J. McCormick served a second term as the tenth Burgess, 1888-1890. This was when the Council passed Ordinance No. 30 "Authorizing the Street Committee to appoint a competent resident of the borough to act as Street Commissioner, whose compensation shall be fixed by said Street Committee not to exceed \$1.75 per day for each day actually spent in attending to the duties of his office, unless otherwise instructed by Council."

Also, on February 5, 1889, Ordinance No. 32 was passed providing for the widening of Lincoln Avenue to a uniform 60 feet.

Ordinance No. 36 (April 2, 1889) authorized a Police Force.

George Irwin, 1890-1891, was the 11th Burgess. On May 6, 1890, during his regime, Council passed Ordinance No. 52, granting the Allegheny and Bellevue Street Railway Company the right to construct, and operate, a railway on certain streets and avenues in the borough, naming certain conditions:

"To enter upon and occupy Washington Street, from its southeastern terminus to Grant Avenue, thence along Grant to Taylor; thence along Taylor to Fremont; thence along Fremont to what is called Brighton Turnpike Road (or Lincoln Avenue); thence along and across the Brighton Turnpike Road or Lincoln Avenue to Thomas Avenue (N. Fremont); thence along Thomas to Bayne (Teece); thence along Bayne to Sprague; thence along Sprague to said Brighton Turnpike Road or Lincoln Avenue with a street railway line having double tracks." The Ordinance was passed prior to the time when the first High Bridge was erected.

William Robb Johnston was called upon to serve for a second time when he became the 12th Burgess, 1891-1892. During this time ordinances were passed licensing picnics and entertainments. This caused another ordinance to be presented later, saying that lodges, schools, churches, well known clubs, etc., were exempt from having to get a permit. Two other ordinances were approved, licensing peddlers and prohibiting the use of firearms.

David H. Martin was the 13th Burgess, 1892-1893. He was to serve another term later on and he was also a Councilman for three terms. He was the husband of Angie Starr-Martin, active in the temperance and equal rights movement and the father of Park Martin. Burgess Martin was an active worker for the Prohibition Party.

During his tenure the all important Ordinance No. 98 was passed which created a Fire Department. The date was July 6, 1893.

Also in his term, on March 28,

1893, Council passed Ordinance No. 87, establishing the grade on Lincoln Avenue.

When Robert J. Miller became the 14th Burgess, 1893-1896 the town was in a fever of excitement over the new bridge and better street car service. Ordinance No. 125 authorized the grading, paving and curbing of Lincoln Avenue (February 6, 1894).

Ordinance No. 128 concerned the dedication of land for public use (Kendal curve). At this time land was given for the street car line by Richard Straw, William Jenkinson, and Edward S. Wright, executor estate of Hannah Straw, deceased. The Ordinance was passed June 14, 1894.

On August 30, 1894 Council passed Ordinance No. 138 which said the borough was to furnish and break the stone necessary to be used under the ties of the Pleasant Valley Railways Company. The Pleasant Valley Company had won out over the other street car company in securing the necessary franchise from the borough.



Samuel Claney 1867-1874  
Geo. Tomlinson 1874-1875  
Wm. R. Johnston 1875-1877  
Alex McIntosh 1877-1878  
Richard Straw 1878-1880



George Irwin 1890-1891  
Wm. R. Johnston 1891-1892  
D. H. Martin 1892-1893  
R. J. Miller 1893-1897  
Fred W. Kiefer 1897-1900



E. A. Lawrence 1918-1922  
Park H. Martin 1922-1926  
W. J. Longmore 1926-1930  
Walter F. Cooley 1930-1934  
Wm. C. Means 1934-1939

**MEN OF GREAT TALENT SERVE THE BOROUGH**

Mr. Miller was a skilled workman, having learned his trade from Hugh Claney, foremost Bellevue contractor. Later he married the boss's daughter, (Agnes Claney) and improved his time by studying architecture. When he was about 70 years of age he taught classes at night, at the Carnegie Tech School of Architecture. He was the architect for the Parkview Apartments on Balph Avenue and the last house he designed was the one at the junction of North Bryant Avenue and Brighton Road.

In addition to serving as Burgess, Mr. Miller was a Councilman for one term and building inspector for over 20 years. It was during this time he formulated the building code for the borough. Ill health forced him to retire in 1928.

Fred W. Kiefer was the 15th Burgess, 1897-1901. Mr. Kiefer made a stirring speech on Jubilee Day (September 7, 1897), when the borough celebrated its 30th birthday. Among other things, he said: "Located as we are on the bluff bordering on the Ohio

River, the Rhine and Hudson River of Pennsylvania, a magnificent view is offered. As far as the eye can reach to the north, south, east and west the panoramic effects are wonderful. It is a healthy location, where you can breathe the pure air of sun-kissed hills. We never get sick here. We only die of old age. It is the coming residence district of two cities."

Burgess Kiefer lived in the house where the Lawrence Miller Funeral Home is now. He had purchased it from the estate of Jane Bayne Teece after her death. He was an organist of note and, in 1876 he officiated at the keyboard in Trinity Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, playing the chimes for the program marking the first 100 years of American independence.

Fifty years later, Mr. Kiefer was invited back to the same church, to play when the 150th anniversary was commemorated. He said he thought he would play "Old Hundred."

During his term of office an ordinance was passed defining

the powers and duties of a policeman and placing the department under the direct supervision of the Burgess.

In August, 1899, the citizens approved a bond issue of \$40,000 to complete the sewerage system for which an ordinance was passed. Another ordinance made it illegal for minors to visit pool rooms and billiard parlors.

Ordinance No. 262 authorized changing the grade of Rodgers Avenue (which we understand Mrs. Balph was never quite able to accept).

W. J. Longmore served his first term as the 16th Burgess, 1901-1903. He was to be called back for two more terms. He also served six years as a member of Council.

Burgess Longmore was born on the North Side, November 18, 1860, the son of James and Jessie (Blackstock) Longmore. His father was a pioneer leather dealer. After finishing public school, he went to work at the painting trade, following this occupation until 1881 when his association with Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company began. This continued for the rest of his life.

Mr. Longmore is credited with building the first transformer and served as manager of various divisions in the plant, finally becoming Purchasing Agent. His genius for organization and careful attention to details is reflected in his years as Burgess. Many times he questioned an Ordinance, often refusing to sign it until it was worded to his liking. There are many instances when Council passed Ordinances over his veto.

His favorite recreation was fishing, and on the Lake of Bays, Canada, he had a summer home, "Bellevue." By now the tax millage was set at 4 mills for streets, 3 1/4 mills for the sinking fund to pay bonds and interest, and a light tax of 1 1/2 mills.

D. H. Martin was called to serve a second time when he became the 17th Burgess, 1903-1905. Ordinance No. 360 in this period, created the position of Building Inspector for the borough.

Ordinance No. 362, granting a franchise to the Perrysville and Bellevue Street Railways Company, was passed February 9, 1904, unanimously by Council but was vetoed by Burgess Martin. His reason was, that he thought the Borough ought to have some guarantee that a bridge would be built across Jack's Run to connect Forest Avenue with Brighton Road. At a previous Council meeting, a large delegation of citizens, led by Andrew S. Miller, bitterly protested the laying of tracks on Thomas Avenue (North Fremont) past their homes.



John Semple 1880-1882  
J. J. McCormick 1882-1885  
Wm. B. Kirker 1885-1887  
Fred A. East 1887-1888  
J. J. McCormick 1888-1890



W. J. Longmore 1900-1903  
D. H. Martin 1903-1906  
E. S. Means 1906-1909  
A. E. Hummel 1909-1914  
W. J. Longmore 1914-1918



John Bragdon 1939-1958  
Robert Ludwig 1958-1961  
Harry N. Irvin 1961-

## BELLEVUE PIONEERS IN SMOKE CONTROL

With one fell swoop, Ordinance No. 381 repealed some thirteen Ordinances passed before 1900 either because of vague or meaningless objectives, or because new Ordinances had been drafted covering the same.

E. S. Means was the 18th Burgess, 1906-1909. Mr. Means was born in Pittsburgh but came to Bellevue about 1875. He was connected for many years with Wayne Iron and Steel Company. The family homestead was on North Avenue, Bellevue, Means Avenue having been cut through the original plot. His father, Robert Means, was one of the incorporators.

In the Means term of office Council passed the first ordinance to regulate the speed of automobiles. Ordinance No. 472 provided: "That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to operate any motor vehicle upon the public streets or highways of the Borough of Bellevue at a speed greater than a mile within six (6) minutes."

During his term the ordinance was passed creating the office of Borough Solicitor.

Burgess A. E. Hummel, the 19th, 1909-1914, saw the building of the borough hall. Citizens approved a \$25,000 bond issue by a majority of 92 votes, and Council passed the necessary Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 565 declared "it to be a nuisance to produce or suffer to be produced, to emit, or suffer to be emitted, dense black or dense gray smoke within the corporate limits of the Borough of Bellevue and prohibiting the commission of such nuisance, and prescribing penalties therefor." Bellevue was "up front" in smoke control.

Burgess Hummel had an inspector checking speeders and 65 owners of automobiles were brought in for hearings. Many of them were prominent Sewickley people. The charge: driving through the Borough at more than 12 miles per hour.

Ordinance No. 584, approved April 17, 1911, changing the name of North Howard Street to Jenkinson Place.

W. J. Longmore served a second term as the 20th Burgess, 1914-1918. There were few Ordinances during this period but the Burgess was a great one for issuing long statements for publication in which he set forth his views on current questions. He supported public projects, such as the Merchants' Exposition, and Women's Suffrage which was sweeping the country (including Bellevue). He was concerned with the behavior of young people and was known to raid a poker game.

The 21st Burgess was E. A. Lawrence, 1918-1922. In his time the first Ordinance was passed regarding parking of automobiles and regulating traffic.

Council also passed an Ordinance increasing the bonded indebtedness by \$50,000 for street improvements and another Ordinance changing the name of North Avenue in the Third Ward to Carolyn.

Ordinance No. 662 (which was to be quoted many times) "forbids the keeping of a dog or bitch addicted to habitual howling or barking, and providing for a penalty for same."

During this period the Boroughs of Bellevue and Avalon sought to have county take over the maintenance of the Dilworth Bridge.

Also at this time, a group of citizens urged Council to purchase the property at the corner of Lincoln and Balph Avenues to make an entrance to Balph Park from the Lincoln Highway (Lincoln Avenue).

Park H. Martin was the 22nd Burgess serving 1922-1926. Mr. Martin, son of the former Burgess, D.H. Martin, had served the Borough in many capacities. In his term the new High Bridge was finished and opened for use.

Mr. Martin was one of a small group of businessmen who started the ball rolling for Pittsburgh's Renaissance. Later he became Executive Director of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and was named to Governor Leader's 25-man "brain trust" in 1955.

As Borough Engineer for most of the North Boroughs he played an important part in the opening of the Ohio River Boulevard which occurred after his term as Burgess. The boulevard followed almost the exact route of the old McIntosh Trail which went through Bellevue in the early days.

During his term an Ordinance on building regulations was passed; also one regulating the control and operation of the Andrew Bayne Memorial Park.

W. J. Longmore was returned to office as the 23rd Burgess, 1926-

1930. At the time of his death, March 4, 1930 he was just beginning his fourth term, having been re-elected at the November election previous. In addition to his services in the official borough family, he was a member of the Fire Company, a director of the Bellevue Savings and Trust Company and chairman of the Memorial Park Commission.

Following the death of Burgess Longmore, Council elected Walter F. Cooley to fill the vacancy. Mr. Cooley, the 24th Burgess, served from 1930-1934. He had been in Council for 10 years and was connected with the American Bridge Company. To fill his seat in Council, William B. Rodgers was elected.

In November, 1930, citizens approved a bond issue of \$50,000 for the purchase of land to be used for an

athletic field and recreation center.

Ordinance No. 826 approved the purchase of a tract of land in the lower part of the borough, part of the Watson Plan, for \$1,000.

During Burgess Cooley's term the official opening of the Ohio River Boulevard and the McKees Rocks Bridge took place with Bellevue officials taking part. William B. Rodgers was Assistant Chief Marshall of the parade.

The Board of Adjustment denied permission for the erection of an 86-room modern apartment building on Lincoln Avenue between Grant and Bryant. The building, to cost \$550,000, would include basement parking and elevators.

William Chauncey Means was the 25th Burgess, 1934-1939. His father had served in Council; an uncle was a former Burgess; his grandfather was one of the organizers of the borough.

In August, 1934, an architect's plans were submitted to Council for a new swimming pool and bath house to be constructed with Federal Aid in the Andrew Bayne Memorial Park. The cost to the Borough would be approximately \$30,000 for the material and equipment. Labor would be paid by Federal Aid of \$40,000. After much litigation and court proceedings, the project was denied.

During his term the speed limit for automobiles in the borough was raised to 25 miles per hour. An Ordinance was passed permitting commercialization of the Ohio River Boulevard from Fremont Bridge No. 2 to the Dilworth Bridge.

(Continued on next page.)



## A BONUS FOR GOOD BOYS

In December of 1903, Strassburger & Joseph, Federal Street, Allegheny, were advertising skates free with boys' suits and overcoats!

Said their ad: "We're making boys happy by giving them a pair of 'Barney & Berry' skates, and we're pleasing parents with the low prices on the suits and overcoats."

Boys' overcoats were \$2.50 to \$10... new long, loose-fitting styles, with belts, like the men's. Suits were the same price... latest effects in Eton and Sailor Blouses, single and double-breasted Norfolks and plain Jacket Suit.

## BOROUGH HALL COSTS \$30,000

At this time Bellevue joined with other North Boroughs officials in petitioning the state for a road connecting the Ohio River Boulevard and the Perry Highway. The suggested route is the present highway 02211 (Union Avenue).

In August of 1939 Burgess Means resigned to become a state employee. Park Martin, then County Planning Engineer, was named by Council to fill the unexpired term of two years. Later, in a letter to Council, Mr. Martin declined, saying that he was a candidate for County Commissioner at the time and did not wish to hold another office at the same time.

In a meeting of Bellevue Council in October of 1936, John H. Bragdon was elected 26th Burgess serving 1939-1958. During his term in office Bellevue laid out the municipal parking lot, Bellevue Memorial Park was dedicated to honor the war dead. Burgess Bragdon served the longest of any.

Burgess Robert J. Ludwig was the 27th Burgess, 1958-1961. In his term of office, by Act of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the term "Burgess" was done away with. He is, therefore, the first one to be called "Mayor."

The present Mayor of Bellevue is Harry N. Irvin who has been in office since January of 1962. He is the 28th to head the Borough.



OLD TOWN HALL stood on site of present borough building, corner of Bayne and Hawley Avenues. Demolished in 1909.

## TOWN TURNS OUT FOR OPENING OF NEW BORO HALL

Wherever men gather there will be conversation and this, in turn, implies a meeting place. Bellevue citizens outgrew Uncle Henry's store as a gathering place, almost as soon as the ink on the charter was dry.

The new Council met for a year in the home of J.J. East (where the plans for incorporation were first discussed) but when the first little schoolhouse was built, permission was granted by the School Board for Council to meet in the upstairs room.

In 1870 Bayne Hall was built on Lincoln Avenue, near North Balph, supposedly a place for public entertainments. The hall was 40 x 30 feet and seated 300. The difficulties encountered (especially involving the sense of smell) were because the lower floor was a livery stable.

The first building on the present site of the borough hall was outgrown when the borough purchased a new hook and ladder about 1909. The horse-drawn vehicle was hard to maneuver in and out of the small opening provided at the rear corner of the building. A new borough building was a necessity.



STREET SCENE -

J.A. Sanderson was selected as the architect for the new building and Ben A. Groah was the contractor. The cost was \$30,000 (finishing the auditorium not included in the bid). The new building was of steel frame construction with concrete foundations, walls of terra cotta pressed brick and terra cotta trimmings. It provided a Council chamber of 41 x 46 feet with a committee room adjoining and a large storage vault for borough records.

In the basement level, four large 8-foot double doors opening into Hawley Avenue were provided for the new fire equipment, including stalls and harness room "and space for additional stalls."

The building was opened to the public on October 10, 1910, with an appropriate program. The reception committee included Burgess A. E. Hummel, chairman; D. Hubley, John A. Mengel, D.L. Starr, J.M. Simeral, Fred A. East, D.C. Wills, George G. East, R.D. Jenkinson and some of the ladies.

G. Lincoln Hays, Chairman of the Property Committee, presented the building to the borough. The Rev. Dr. John Dows Hills, rector of the Church of the Epiphany, gave the invocation. The main speaker was the Hon. George W. Guthrie, Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh. Charles P. Fisher, Fire Chief, made appropriate remarks about the new facilities for their equipment and the program was concluded with music by the Yost Orchestra.

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*OF*

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*FROM*

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**SERVICE**

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766-9753



THE OLDEST HOUSE IN BELLEVUE (above) is believed to have been situated at the corner of what is now Roosevelt and Riverview Avenues. It was mentioned by historian Edmund Arthur as being part of the Dilworth tract, and occupied by "Milkman Miller." Below is the old Davis Island Dam built in 1881 and said to be the first of its kind in America. During the winter of 1886 the Ohio River was frozen solid from the dam to Pittsburgh and hundreds of people took advantage of the skating. Men fastened "sails" to their arms and "flew" along the ice. With the building of the Emsworth Dam this one was razed. The Pennsylvania Railroad bought from the government, a little more than six acres of land with buildings along its Ohio River right-of-way at the dam, for \$100,000.





### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In presenting the Centennial Souvenir Booklet it is important to acknowledge some of those who were most generous with historical material, especially pictures. Many others, too numerous to mention, were helpful answering questions, pin-pointing dates and running down research material. These include all those generous folks who took the time to write a brief history of a particular organization, for publication.

Obviously, if this little book contributes in a small way to the success of our 100th Anniversary celebration, it is due to the cooperation of many people. Here are the names of a few who deserve special thanks:

The Jenkinson Family  
Mrs. Joseph H. Caughey  
Mrs. Samuel L. Hosack  
James and Wilma Kraft  
Mrs. Arch Alston  
Miss Lillias Alston  
Mrs. L. S. Cotton  
Mrs. John Flaherty  
Mrs. Kathryn Doner  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Wray  
Mr. Sam Harper  
W. H. (Tommy) Thompson  
Polly Reilly, Bell Telephone Company  
Kenneth A. Scherer, Duquesne Light Company  
Mrs. A. E. Bailey  
Mrs. C. W. Millar  
Edward McClain  
Pennsylvania Room, Oakland Carnegie  
Library  
Bayne Memorial Library  
Borough and School Officials  
John Rihs  
John Schleid  
Jackson T. McGuire

Special thanks to my friend, Thelma Seifert, for leg work, important source material from Bayne Library and the ever present spirit of optimism and enthusiasm necessary to carry out this project.

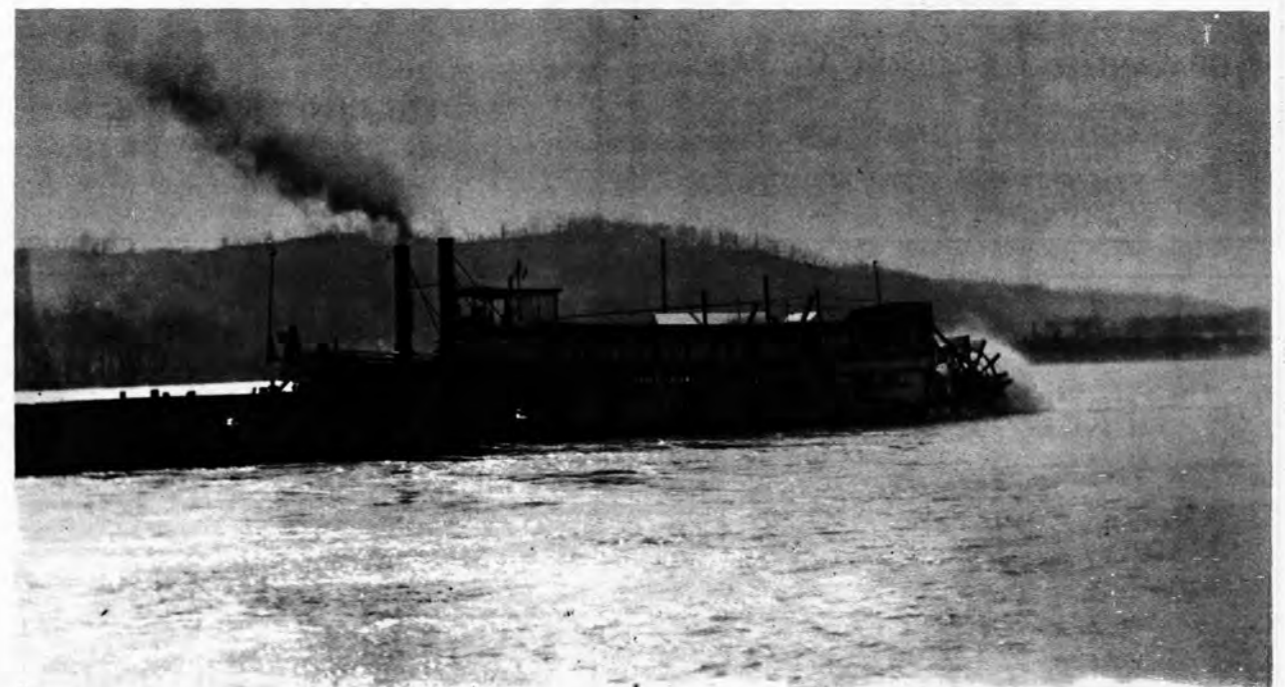
Finally, this booklet will bring back memories with its pictures of long ago, copied for publication by my son, Bob Lillich. Among these are some printed from priceless old glass negatives made many years ago by Mr. Joseph H. Caughey. For Bob's interest, patience and long hours in the dark room, a mother's loving appreciation.

Margaret B. Lillich,  
Historian-Editor

Furnishings for the two rooms upstairs in the Balph homestead, Bayne Memorial Park, were provided by Dale A. Gilliland, Mrs. Esther Forsythe and Dave Price.



AN OLD LOG CABIN built in 1807 stood on property on what is now Teece Avenue in the 500 block. The rain barrel at the corner of the porch is a reminder of one hardship of the early pioneers. Below, a familiar scene to villagers who took time out to enjoy the "beautiful view" out over the "beautiful Ohio." Many a boy followed the romance of the steamboat age with the same zest today's boys have for the space age.



CONGRATULATIONS  
BELLEVUE CENTENNIAL

**JENKINSON REALTY CO.**

507 LINCOLN AVE.  
BELLEVUE, PA.  
761-3147  
Margaret R. Jenkinson

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