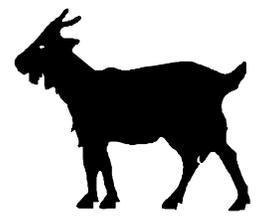
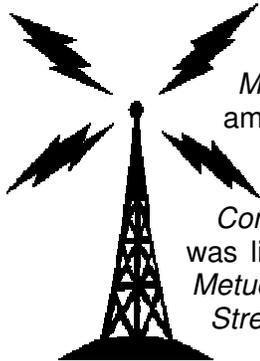


Nannygoats



The following article was submitted by former resident George M. Muha, now of Cream Ridge, NJ, and Waverly, TN, whom readers may remember from his previous contributions "Tending a Grave Site" and "Metuchen's World War II Aircraft Observing Tower." The Society is once again a thankful beneficiary of Mr. Muha's thorough local history research, and looking forward to responses from readers whose memories are jogged by his work.



Over a 23-year period beginning in early 1957, the Metuchen YMCA sponsored an amateur radio club. The club's radio call sign, as assigned by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), was K2YNT. It was listed in the FCC Registry as the Metuchen YMCA Radio Club, 65 High Street, Metuchen, NJ.

By any standard the club was a highly successful "Y" activity. As an educational program, it provided classes in radio fundamentals to the benefit of literally hundreds who aspired to hold an FCC amateur radio license ("Ham license"). As a community service it was involved in many Borough sponsored events and, in 1980, received recognition and an expression of appreciation for service to the community in the form of a formal resolution adopted by the Metuchen Borough Council. At the county and state level, it provided a cadre of trained and experienced radio communications operators active in emergency and disaster control organizations.

The club had its inception in late-1956 when the then General Director of the Metuchen "Y", Harry Williams, felt the need for an activity such as Ham radio for those "with an inquiring mind and adventuresome spirit."

In early-1957 the task of initially setting up the club was undertaken by three area residents: Dr. George Hyde, a nuclear physicist, Charles Kingsford Smith Jr., a recent engineering school graduate, and Allen Hughes (K2SHD), who at age 19 was one of the youngest physical directors at

the "Y". George Russell (W2SJU), a professional engineer, joined this cadre as a volunteer instructor in 1959.

The initial entry in the station's log lists K2YNT as first "coming on the air" at 11:43 AM, February 22, 1957. Mindful of its public service function, within a month the club offered its services to the local Civil Defense Council. The offer was accepted and to this day the successor to the YMCA club continues this service.

Dr. George Hyde served as the club's first Advisor and Trustee. With his passing in 1960, George Russell assumed his duties and, ably assisted by the energetic Alan Hughes, the club continued its growth and further expanded its service to the Metuchen area community. The author of this article, George M. Muha (N2XM), joined the club in 1973 as a volunteer instructor for the Saturday afternoon sessions.

Continued on Page 4



Also in this extended Summer "Beach" Issue...



- * Metuchen Club Dance, 1905
- * New in the Archives
- * Local History & Preservation Updates
 - * Sporting History
 - * Then & Now Photographs
- * Class of 1931 History – the Wars
 - * 1928 Directory excerpts
 - * Historic Home Seeks Owner
- * John F. Kennedy in Metuchen
 - * New Book for Sale, *Exit 10*

The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society was founded in 1974 with the primary purpose of promoting an interest in and appreciation of the history of the Borough of Metuchen and of Edison Township.

Jane Gruenberg

The Society regrets to announce the passing of long-time member Jane Gruenberg, 77, on April 19, 2011, at her home in Metuchen. Born in Union City, she had worked for the New Jersey Department of Labor until her retirement and had made her home in Metuchen since 1980. Jane was passionate about environmental issues and protecting open space. She was a lover of fine art and classical music, especially opera. She also belonged to the local YMCA and Metuchen Senior Citizen Center, where she enjoyed Tai Chi, line dance and play reading. She also took yoga classes and was an avid reader. She loved animals, especially her cats.

Jane was predeceased by her parents, Sidney and Louisine; her sister, Saress DeWinter; and her brother, Ralph Gruenberg. She is survived by her niece, Lois Autie of California; and her great-nephews and great-niece, Philip Gruenberg and Rachel Gruenberg of Arizona, and Rafe Autie of California. A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 18 at the Old Franklin School in Metuchen.

New in the Archives...

Many thanks are due to the following for their recent contributions:

Nicholas DiBrino, of Yonkers, NY, for providing additional information about local airplane spotting in response to our Summer 2010 newsletter about Metuchen's World War II Aircraft Observing Tower at Beacon Hill.

Nicholas Mundy Sanborn, of Palm Harbor, FL, for generously sharing his genealogical research on the Mundy Family.

Society Director Byron Sondergard, for initiating the recent "Snapshot of Main Street" project, wherein all buildings between Lincoln and Durham Avenue along Main Street were photodocumented.

Dr. Donald Kline for donating pencil sketches he drew of area homes in the 1980s.

THE METUCHEN CLUB, 1905.

Archived in the Society's Grimstead Room, this photograph was taken at a dance at the Metuchen Club in 1905. As noted on the reverse, in 1991 Ruth Eby was able to identify some of the guests: Edie Molineux, Herbert Moss, Clinton Rowland, Marguerite Toll, and Lloyd Grimstead.

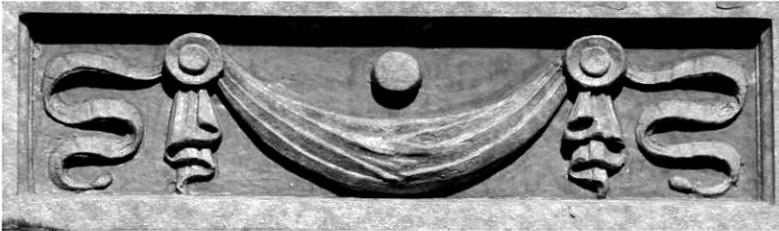


PHYLLIS BOEDDINGHAUS NAMED HONORARY MEMBER

It is with great pleasure that the Society announces it has elected long-time member, Phyllis Boeddinghaus, as an Honorary Member of the Society.

Phyllis served as President of the Society during the Metuchen Centennial and over the years has prepared numerous oral history tapes. She has also served on the Nominating Committee, acted as Sunshine Chair, and coordinated the staffing for our many events. She has served loyally and with distinction in many capacities as an active director and officer of the Society – she is always willing to lend a hand and is the “Roving Ambassador” for the Society.

We have always been able to depend on Phyllis’ knowledge of people and events in Metuchen and Edison and her willingness to help and assist at our meetings and many yearly events. This is an honor richly deserved.



“Hunters” Successful on Historic Main Street

This past May, the Borough of Metuchen’s Historic Preservation Committee (MHPC) hosted a Main Street Scavenger Hunt in which residents and visitors were invited to attempt identifying a series of architectural details and elements found along Metuchen’s historic Main Street. Three winners of Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce gift certificates were drawn at random from the twenty-five completed, correct entries, and all twenty-two of the remaining 100% correct entries received a copy of the 1888 “cookbook” *Crumbs of Comfort*, from the Society (the answer key is posted on the Society’s website). Based on the success of this year’s hunt, the MHPC plans to host another hunt next year, so keep an eye out for the flyers and entry forms next spring.

In addition to hosting the scavenger hunt, the MHPC was busy this past year with a grant project which involved follow-up research on the potential Woodwild Park-Middlesex Avenue Historic District. The consultant hired compiled a list of all early 20th century residents in the area, cross-referenced with occupation and address. In addition, a great deal more information was gathered about the “Battle of the Brainy Borough” (see the Winter/Spring 2011 edition of *Nannygoats*).

1928 Directory of Metuchen, Column 5

Below is the fourth column of entries from a 1928 Directory of Metuchen that includes both addresses and telephone numbers of local residents. The small “r” after the name indicates the entry is for a “residence.” The Society began reprinting the entirety of this directory in the Winter/Spring 2010 issue of *Nannygoats*.

Fontanella Jos r Franklin av...Metuchen-36-M
Ford Benj D store 468 Main...Metuchen-366-W
Residence 48 Linden av...Metuchen-136-J
Fords Foundry Co Fords...Metuchen-307
Forepaugh A ser sta 900 Middlesex av
Metuchen-785
Forse E B r 57 Oak av...Metuchen-606
Fortner Wm H r 12 Clinton pl...Metuchen-210-R
Forum Theatre Main...Metuchen-582
Foster D Mrs r Iselin...Metuchen-630-W
Foster James C r Plainfield av...Metuchen-69-M
Fouratt E news dealer 410 Main...Metuchen-725
Fox F r 52 Spring...Metuchen-34-M
Fox Poultry Farm 167 Plainfield av...Metuchen-295
Fraser Wm H r 76 Linden av...Metuchen-255
Frazee E P confc Oak tree...Metuchen-494
Frear Henry N r 123 Rose...Metuchen-145-W
Freeman M E W Mrs r 159 Lale av...Metuchen-281
Freeman M & Son coal lumber
707 Middlesex av...Metuchen-294
Fresta S rl est broker Iselin...Metuchen-703-W
Fresta S r Iselin...Metuchen-528-W-2
Friesz A r Bonhamtown...Metuchen-696
Fugle Wm C r 36 Carson av...Metuchen-98-W
Fugle C C r 20 Carson av...Metuchen-79-M
Fugle F r 36 Jonesdale av...Metuchen-346
Gade Hans J r 147 Amboy av...Metuchen-167-J
Gahan H W r 423 Middlesex av...Metuchen-154-W
Galbraith Martin hotel Iselin...Metuchen-719
Gallagher F r 48 Rose...Metuchen-63
Gallagher F J r Iselin...Metuchen-528-J-3
Gannon B M r 295 Amboy av...Metuchen-94
Garbolino S r Metuchen rd...Metuchen-152-J
Gatewood Geo r 420 Main...Metuchen-27-M
Geary J ser sta Plainfield av...Metuchen-742
Geary S M Miss r 72 Durham av...Metuchen-597
Gedney J T r 39 William...Metuchen-207-W
Geiger C F r 176 Maple av...Metuchen-39-W
Geiling A J r New Brunswick av...Metuchen-437-R
Geilinger Robt Jr r N Brun av...Metuchen-167-R
Gellner H r Oak Tree...Metuchen-107-M-2
General Ceramics Co Jackson av...Metuchen-163
Gerber A C r 38 Plainfield av...Metuchen-608-R
Gerlufson W r 3d...Metuchen-367-J
Gillis C r Fords...Metuchen-430-M
Gilman Arthur Jr r 33 Carson av...Metuchen-353
Glass H H r 69 New...Metuchen-347
Gloria Leather Goods Co Dorothy av
Metuchen-389
Golden Robt G r Iselin...Metuchen-570-R
Goldfarb B r Jonesdale av...Metuchen-248-M
Gondola M r Fords...Metuchen-244-M
Gorbe J r Howard...Metuchen-139-M-2
Gordon W S r Menlo Park...Metuchen-91-W-1
Gorman J W r 199 S Main...Metuchen-231-W
Granroos W r Bonhamtown...Metuchen-328-R
Gray H r Middlesex av...Metuchen-522
Gray M E r 30 Clarendon ct...Metuchen-85
Gray P H r 275 Grove av...Metuchen-4-R
Greenwald Wm H r
455 Middlesex av...Metuchen-129-J
Greisen A S r Amboy av...Metuchen-532-M
Greisin Hans r N Thomas...Metuchen-578
Grieb L grocery 451 Main...Metuchen-355-W
Griffin R A r 435 Main...Metuchen-42-R
Griffith A Mrs
genl store Oak Tree rd...Metuchen-757
Grigg Arthur F r 45 Carlton rd...Metuchen-441
Grimley J E r 43 Carson av...Metuchen-717
Grimstead F P r 64 Pleasant...Metuchen-538
Grimstead J r 576 Middlesex av...Metuchen-13-M
Griswold L C r 80 Rector...Metuchen-170-R
Groff J J r 42 Sheridan...Metuchen-735-W
Gross Mfg Co Fords...Metuchen-20
Gross Wm r Fords...Metuchen-20
Gronney J E r Fords...Metuchen-60-W
Guhik J grer 150 Main...Metuchen-611-W
Guest E W r 43 Main...Metuchen-550-M
Guile Frank r N Amboy av...Metuchen-380
Gulf Refining Co Lincoln hwy...Metuchen-644
Gunst R r 16 Charles...Metuchen-407
Haddad Nassib r Iselin...Metuchen-194-R-1
Hahn W C r Rose...Metuchen-206-W
Haines S Mrs r 78 Hillside av...Metuchen-309-M
Hale W R r Plainfield av...Metuchen-360
Haley K R r Robins pl...Metuchen-105-W

Continued from Page 1

From its inception until late-1974 the club met only on Saturday afternoons during the school year. Membership was open to all with an interest in electronics and/or radio science.

Although adults were welcome and some attended, these sessions were predominately populated by aspiring Hams of high school age. At its peak in 1975, the seemingly always changing club roster listed 25 young men.

At the time, to obtain a Ham license the applicant was required to pass a two-part FCC administered examination held at a FCC Regional Center. For Metuchen-area applicants this was the center in either Philadelphia or New York City. In addition to demonstrating a proficiency in receiving International Morse Code the applicant took a written test covering radio theory, operating procedures, laws, and protocols. Hence Saturday activities covered these topics, albeit only indirectly.

Indeed, these afternoon sessions were anything but traditional instructional sessions. Rather, the activities were dictated by the current interest(s) of those in the young group. George Russell had captured the true flavor of the Saturday activities in a draft version of a club history that he prepared in 1980.

George wrote: "... Imagine if you will, receiving



television images direct from South Africa, Germany, or the West Coast using equipment of your own design and development. Such was the case when a 17-year-old boy who was fascinated by a method of picture transmission called 'slow scan' television. We had to turn the lights off one rainy Saturday afternoon and sure enough, everything worked as planned. A few years later, the same boy brought to the club a small home made computer terminal which could work off the pay telephone lines. Contact was made with the computer terminal at one of the local colleges and the fun ended when the writer (i.e. George Russell) ran out of dimes for the telephone."

Another type of activity: "... another one of the teenage members became a vital part of a communications link that brought special medicine to an ailing child in the bush country of South Africa."

A truly exciting contact: "... Because amateur or 'Ham' radio is worldwide, how else is it possible for a Jewish boy at the Metuchen 'Y' on Saturday afternoon to talk to the head of state of one of the Arabian countries, King Hussein?" (the potentate of Jordan).



Above: "One-on-one" operations at K2YNT (1978): at table in right foreground - Alan Hughes, one of club's founding members, with a would-be Ham on his left. Background view through door into radio shack - George Russell with another young Ham working on a different project.

Left: K2YNT antennae atop roof of Metuchen YMCA (1977). Right: tri-band antenna on fold-over tower. Left: club-constructed satellite turnstile antenna and reflector. Also 80 and 40 meter wire dipole antennae were suspended from the tower but are only faintly visible in the photo.



evening classes. The program proved highly successful. By my count, from 1976 through 1980, the number of adults who received their initial ("Novice Class") Hams licenses with K2YNT's help was in excess of 75. Also many more upgraded to a higher license class with more operating privileges.

The Tuesday and Saturday sections were, in effect,

In the early 1970's, the emergence of unlicensed "citizen band" radio (CB radio) as a popular adult activity led to an expansion of the club's activities. With their interest in radio communication whetted by CB operations, many adults desired to obtain a Ham license to broaden their range of legally allowed activities.

Early on George Russell recognized this trend and in late-1974 he added a Tuesday evening "adult session" at K2YNT. The growth of this session can only be described as explosive - a roster count of 22 adults in 1976 rose to 193 in 1980. The club's reputation for helping aspiring Hams to obtain their license spread widely - club members were drawn from as far away as Hightstown, Irvington, Princeton, Staten Island, Trenton, and Union.

The Tuesday and Saturday sessions differed in format in that the former was organized to provide repetitious practice in receiving International Morse Code and formal classes in radio science theory. Several additional volunteer instructors came forth to staff these

independent operations. However in late June of each year they came together for a nationwide "Field Day" weekend sponsored by the *Amateur Radio Relay League* (ARRL), the national organization of Ham radio enthusiasts.

Field Day is primarily a test of preparedness for civil emergencies. Within an allotted 5-hour period prior to commencing operations, shelters (tents, camping trailers, etc.), transmitters, receivers, antennas, and electrical generators are setup. The next 24-hours are spent establishing radio contact (a "QSO") with other stations, primarily within the USA, but occasionally also with others throughout the world that may be monitoring the operation.

Above: A long running Saturday project (1976) - after nine months of work, the club's World War II Navy Model 13 teletype machine is finally in operation. Second from right with pipe, Fred Fiorino (KA2DZT) a volunteer instructor and later a club trustee.

Right: Another Saturday activity (1977) - troubleshooting "homebrew" electronic construction. George Russell (center) with two young Hams.





A club's overall performance in this exercise is rated by the number of confirmed QSO's it completes within the proscribed 24-hour period. A friendly competition arises in that a club's performance relative to other clubs within its call area becomes a matter of considerable pride. (K2YNT is in the FCC's geographically-defined 2nd call area which encompasses NJ/NY.)

In the five "competitions" between 1976-1980, K2YNT ranked either first or second four times among the 50+ clubs in its category within the 2nd call area and in 1978, nationwide (i.e. all eight geographic call areas), it ranked second overall in its category within the USA. Certainly these were achievements of which to be proud.

Much to the regret of both the YMCA Board of Directors and the K2YNT membership, by early 1980 financial exigencies precluded further support by the "Y" of an amateur radio club. An era had come to an end. By late February of that year all of

the club's radio gear had been moved from the radio shack on the second floor of the "Y" and placed in storage. Eventually the gear would be setup anew in the club's next permanent home at the Metuchen High School.

After spending the earlier part of a Saturday afternoon in late February packing club gear for storage, George Russell chose to reminisce concerning his years as Trustee of the club. It became clear that although he took equal pride in both the Saturday and Tuesday sessions, he viewed his Saturday "youngsters" (his term) with special affection.

He remarked "... *these youngsters were self-starters, they would do well anywhere*". He recalled that the youngest club member was only eight years old when he acquired his Ham Novice license; another lad obtained his license at age 10 and then at age 14 skipped two years of high school and via early-



Above: ARRL Field Day (1977) setup of one of five operating stations at a site off of New Durham Road, Edison, NJ courtesy of the Edison Asphalt Corp. The wooden mast with its mate (not shown) will support an 80 meter wire dipole antenna 35 feet off of the ground. The transmitter/receiver and associated gear will be housed in the tent at the base of the tower.

Left: ARRL Field Day (1979) power generators setup on Busch Campus, Piscataway, NJ, site courtesy of Rutgers University. Left: Metuchen resident, Bill Byrnes WA2AEU, right: Piscataway resident, Chuck Phillips W2LOG.

admission, enrolled in the Computer Science program at Rutgers University; three of his youngsters were, at the time, enrolled in some of the finest engineering schools in the nation; still another teenage member, who always built his own radio equipment, later became a member of the engineering team that brought the first televised pictures of the surface of the planet Mars by the Viking Lander; two other of his youngsters were then members of the scientific staff at the Bell Telephone Laboratories. And there was more ... he was proud of his "youngsters" as indeed he had reason to be.

At the close of these reminiscences George Russell handed to me a copy of a handwritten unfinished draft manuscript that he had composed.

Entitled *A History of K2YNT*, he requested that I "hold it for posterity". With his family's permission, it is from this history that his quotes cited earlier were taken.

In 2001 I placed George's draft version of the club's history in the archives of the *Metuchen-Edison Historical Society* along with an extensive annotated collection of pictures, newsletters, newspaper clippings, etc., which I had accumulated and which dealt with pre-1981 K2YNT activities.

Epilogue: In 1984 George Russell relinquished his club trusteeship and, with his wife, retired to Florida. Shortly before leaving he received a well-deserved accolade as *Metuchen Man of the Year*. In retirement



Above: ARRL Field Day (1979) operating station at Busch Campus, Piscataway, NJ site courtesy of Rutgers University. On the left is Piscataway resident Bob O'Leary WB2NHT, while on the right is Union resident Bill Osborne WD2ABC.

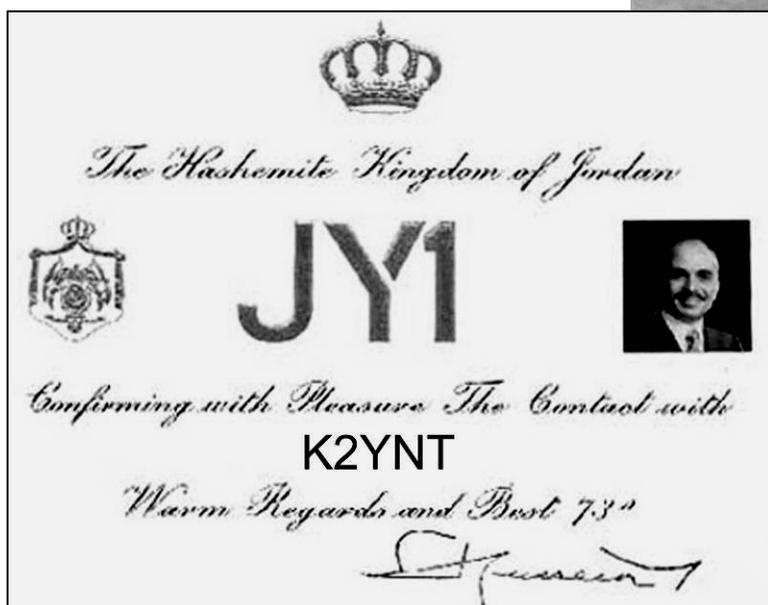
however he did not retire from amateur radio nor public service. He served three terms as president of the *Gainesville (FL) Amateur Radio Club*, receiving the club's *Outstanding Ham Award* in 1988. He also remained active in the Gainesville (FL) High School Science Fair programs right up until his passing in 1995. In Ham-speak, that year "his key became silent" – his call changed to W2SJU_SK.

It was an established practice for the FCC to reissue a call sign of a silent key after a decade or so of disuse. In early-1996, twenty of George's friends from K2YNT, citing his many contributions to amateur radio and his extensive public service, petitioned the FCC to permanently retire his call sign as a tribute to a truly remarkable man. We received no reply from the FCC but now, 15 years later, neither has his call sign been reassigned.



Right: George Russell, W2SJU_SK, foreground kneeling, transmitting from the K2YNT radio shack on the second floor of the Metuchen YMCA on a Saturday afternoon in March 1979. He is operating in his favorite mode, ATV (450 mHz amateur television).

Below: As a formal proof of a radio contact, post cards ("QSL" cards) are often exchanged between operators via surface mail. A card such as this would have been sent by JY1 (King Hussein of Jordan) to K2YNT.



A note about the image on the Front Page: To permit international communication between individuals who speak different languages, Hams make use of an extensive list of internationally agreed upon "Q-signals". For example, if during a contact, an operator queries "QSL?" via International Morse Code, (s)he is asking if the recipient will confirm the contact by postcard (a "QSL card") sent via surface mail. An affirmative reply would be "QSL" (note the absence of the question mark.) The image on the front cover of the newsletter is of the QSL card used by K2YNT during its era at the Metuchen YMCA. Information written on the reverse side of the card would include the operator's signature and details of the contact.

SPORTING HISTORY

Former Heavyweight Boxing Champion Jack Johnson's Brush with the Law in Metuchen

By Rich Puerzer

The August 11, 1922 issue of the *Metuchen Recorder* reported on what must have been an interesting, albeit minor, event in the history of law enforcement in Metuchen. The newspaper reported that "Jack Johnson, former heavyweight champion of the boxing world, was arrested near here last Sunday by a member of the State Highway Police Department while on his way from New York to Philadelphia via the Lincoln Highway." Johnson, who was driving a "high-powered car," was arrested and charged with "exceeding the speed limits." Apparently Johnson was immediately brought before a judge in Metuchen who fined him "\$20 and costs" for his infraction.

In the previous weeks, there were articles in the *Recorder* relating concerns with the

safety of traffic in Metuchen. A few of the fines given to law-breaking drivers were reported, although none was in excess of \$10. Johnson's large fine must have been a result of driving especially fast, or his celebrity, or both.

Jack Johnson was African-American, and as a heavyweight champion boxer was among the very few African-American celebrities at that time in the United States. He was also rather infamous for both refusing to subjugate himself in the sports world to the ruling white establishment, and for his taboo personal life, which included relationships with white women. Just a few months before this incident, Johnson had completed a one year term in Leavenworth Prison as a

Continued on Page 11



Want to be kept up to date on what's happening at the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society's throughout the year? Join our Facebook group!



LOOKING FOR A HOUSE WITH HISTORY?



IT'S LOOKING FOR YOU, TOO!

79 Graham Avenue in Metuchen is on the market, and we "historic house matchmakers" here at the Society want to see it paired up with a good owner. Built in 1867 as a Parsonage for the Dutch Reformed Church and later owned by the Easton & Amboy Railroad Company, it is now known as the Governor Silzer House after its famous resident and Metuchen native, George S. Silzer, who served as New Jersey's 38th Governor from 1923 to 1926. Shown here with the Governor are 1930 and 2011 views of the house. Contact Sherry Tamasco at Keller Williams Elite, Realtors (908-812-0200), if you are interested in this elegant and historic home.

Metuchen High School's Class of 1931 *History of Metuchen*

The following is continued from the Class of 1931's *History of Metuchen*, which is being reprinted in *Nannygoats* serially (beginning with Volume 5, Issue 2, Summer 2007). While the history contains some known factual & grammatical errors, the document is reproduced exactly as originally written.

THE WARS

History relates that the United States has engaged in war several times; Metuchen has shared in the responsibilities of several of these wars and has a proud story to tell as a result of them.

The first of these is, of course, the Revolution, in which the scattered, poorly organized, struggling colonists fought and finally threw off the British yoke and established the United States. Metuchen saw much of the war, being in the thick of the fight that ranged back and forth, for quite some time, between New York and Philadelphia. Local residents had helter skelter times on occasion, for one never knew when the British would drop in for a visit and depart with most of the supplies.

The American force, led by General George Washington, and the English troops crossed and recrossed New Jersey numerous times, making

rapid thrusts at each other, and then darting quickly back to safety. Under such military tactics Metuchen and the towns immediately surrounding it, Plainfield (Short Hills), Perth Amboy, and New Brunswick, saw much war action, several skirmishes taking place at different times. Tradition has it that George Washington stopped in Metuchen several times and slept one night in the house on Chestnut Avenue now owned by Dr. C.C. Mook [note from editor: in 1930, Dr. Charles C. Mook, a geologist, resided at 231 East Chestnut. This house was demolished in 2003 by a developer to make way for new construction]. It is also stated that Washington made and discussed plans with other officers, in Metuchen. Such was the atmosphere in which our town lived during the War for Independence.

Some seventy-five years later the United States was again torn by strife, and the peace of the country again disrupted, by the Civil War, Metuchen contributed several men to the Union cause in this conflict, but in direct contrast to the Revolutionary War, was not the scene of any actual fighting, being too far north.

Those Metuchen men who fought in the Civil War are: Robert Bruce Crowell, a member of the board of education, and District Clerk for thirty-three years; C.C. Campbell; William Van Siclen; James Grimstead; Albert Acken, a grocer; David Martin, a blacksmith; Oscar Lawrence; Colonel Houghten; Robert L. Mallory; and, James H. Oliver. [ed., Dr. Ezra Mundy Hunt, a noted local resident, served as a surgeon during the Civil War]

Of this list, but one man lives today, James H. Oliver.

Metuchen took but a small part in the Spanish-American War at the end of the 19th century. No men enlisted from Metuchen as far as is known. However, after the war, several men who had volunteered made Metuchen their home. Those, several of whom are quite well known in the town, are: E.A. Daniels, Ned Stevens, J.H. La Rowe, James Cruikshank, E.R. Donnan, and Henry A., Rumler [ed., Rumler was the co-founder of the Forum Theatre].



*1931 photograph of James H. Oliver,
the last surviving Civil War veteran in Metuchen.*

Next Issue: more from *THE WARS*

Continued from Sporting History on Page 9

result of "transporting women across state line for immoral purposes." He had been arrested for traveling with the woman who would become his second wife, who was white. The life story of Johnson was documented in the 2005 Ken Burns documentary *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*.

It was reported in the *Recorder* that Johnson was traveling with "two white friends, whose names could not be learned." It was also reported that "the news of his arrest spread very quickly and his departure from town was attended by a crowd that gathered quickly. His massive frame and happy smile were observed with wonder by many of the small boys present." Finally, the article closes with the following: "This visit of a celebrity to our borough is regarded by different authorities with varying ideas as to the honor which it brought to the brainy borough, but it is probable that we will not entertain another heavyweight champion for some time to come and is a pretty safe bet that Johnson will not be given another invitation to visit our city."



Photograph of Jack Johnson on file at the National Archives.

Interested in reading previous issues of *Nannygoats*? All of our back issues are available online at the Society's website at www.metuchen-edisonhistsoc.org.

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The name of the newsletter, "Nannygoats," is taken from the title of a collection of anecdotes, articles, reminiscences, and letters compiled by photographer J. Lloyd Grimstead. He took more than 2,800 photographs of the Metuchen-Edison area, mostly during the 1930s, which make up 80 percent of the Historical Society's photographic collection. The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society dedicates this publication to Lloyd Grimstead, as a way of honoring him for collecting and recording so much of our local history.

The Metuchen-Edison Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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Victorian Office Rentals



MARTIN D. JESSEN
President

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Borough Improvement League

Founded in 1901, the "BIL" is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, affiliated with the GFWC and NJSFWC Womens' Clubs, devoted to community service & preserving the ca. 1807 Old Franklin School on Middlesex Avenue in Metuchen.



Old Franklin School Rentals
Our charming & historic 200-year-old schoolhouse with full kitchen is available for fine events of up to 65 seated guests. For more information or reservations, please call 848-250-1258.

www.boroughimprovementleague.org

Would you like to become one of *Nannygoats*' advertising supporters? Your advertisement reaches local residents who are interested in supporting their community, and your contribution helps the society to gather, preserve, and improve public access to the photographs, books, maps, and other artifacts that tell the story of who we are and how we have grown. And, your advertisement becomes a piece of history itself, by living on our archives!

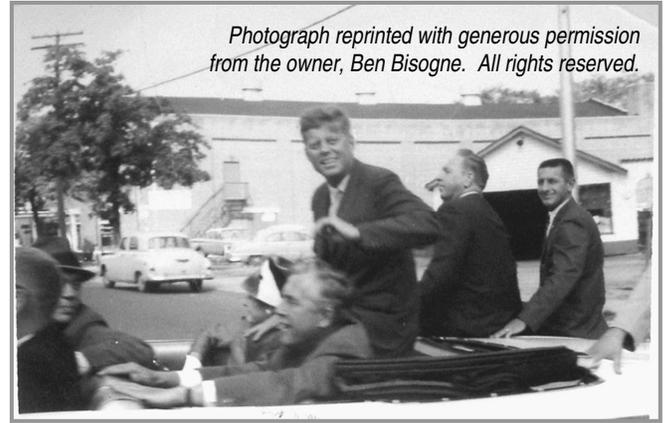
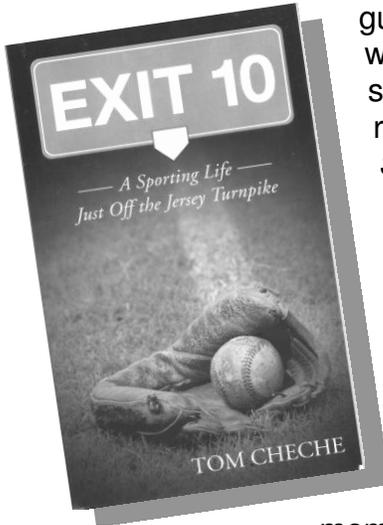
Make sure to visit the Society's booth at the Metuchen Country Fair on October 1, 2011

We've got big plans for this fall's Metuchen Country Fair! Not only will we have an expanded booth this year, allowing for both plenty of space for our historical displays and Society merchandise, but we will also be hosting a special

guest; **Author Tom Cheche** will be on hand to sell and sign copies of his recently released book, ***Exit 10, A Sporting Life Just Off the Jersey Turnpike.***

In addition, the next issue of *Nannygoats* will be released at the fair – this special issue will feature a newly re-discovered photograph of **John F. Kennedy** driving along Amboy Avenue, as well as stories and remembrances of the Metuchen and Edison area in the 1960s. **Were you there the day JFK drove through the area? Did you take any photographs?** We would love to know more, so help us document this more recent – but often overlooked – time period in our history. If you have anything –

memories, photos, maps, etc. – that you would like to contribute, please contact the editor at ayersallenhouse@msn.com or 732-261-4807.



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Metuchen-Edison Historical Society
P.O. Box 61
Metuchen, NJ 08840

Local History Mystery? Visit the Archives!

The Society's Grimstead Room archives, containing thousands of local history images and documents, are located in the basement of the Metuchen Public Library. For more information, contact us at 732-906-0529 or wstochel@earthlink.net. We may just have the key to your local history mystery!