

Our 163rd Anniversary Issue  
**RAHWAY**  
**News Record**

PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
 RAHWAY, N. J.

New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822

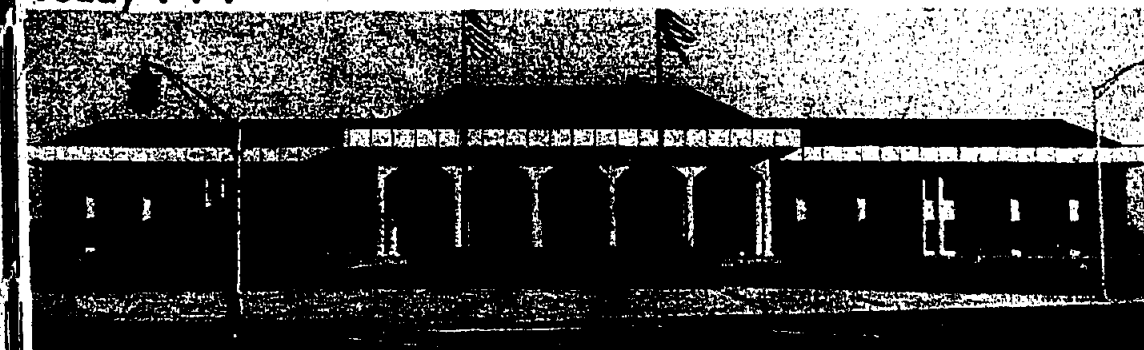
POSTAL PATRON  
 RAHWAY, N.J. 07065

JULY, 1985 ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

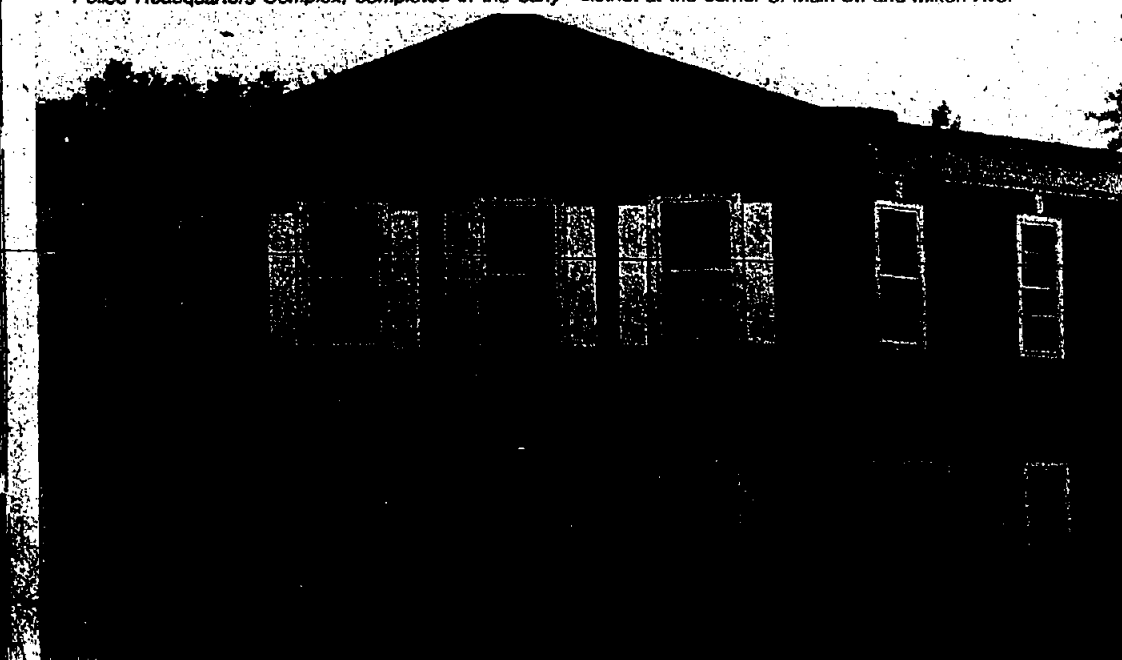
We cordially invite you to  
 Join us . . . as we  
 celebrate our 163rd  
 anniversary . . .  
 Walk with us—down memory lane,  
 comparing Rahway's  
 yesterdays with the present  
 days we share together,  
 as we dream of  
 Rahway's future, with you,  
 our readers.

*The Rahway News Record*  
 — A continuous part of Rahway's tomorrow

Today . . .



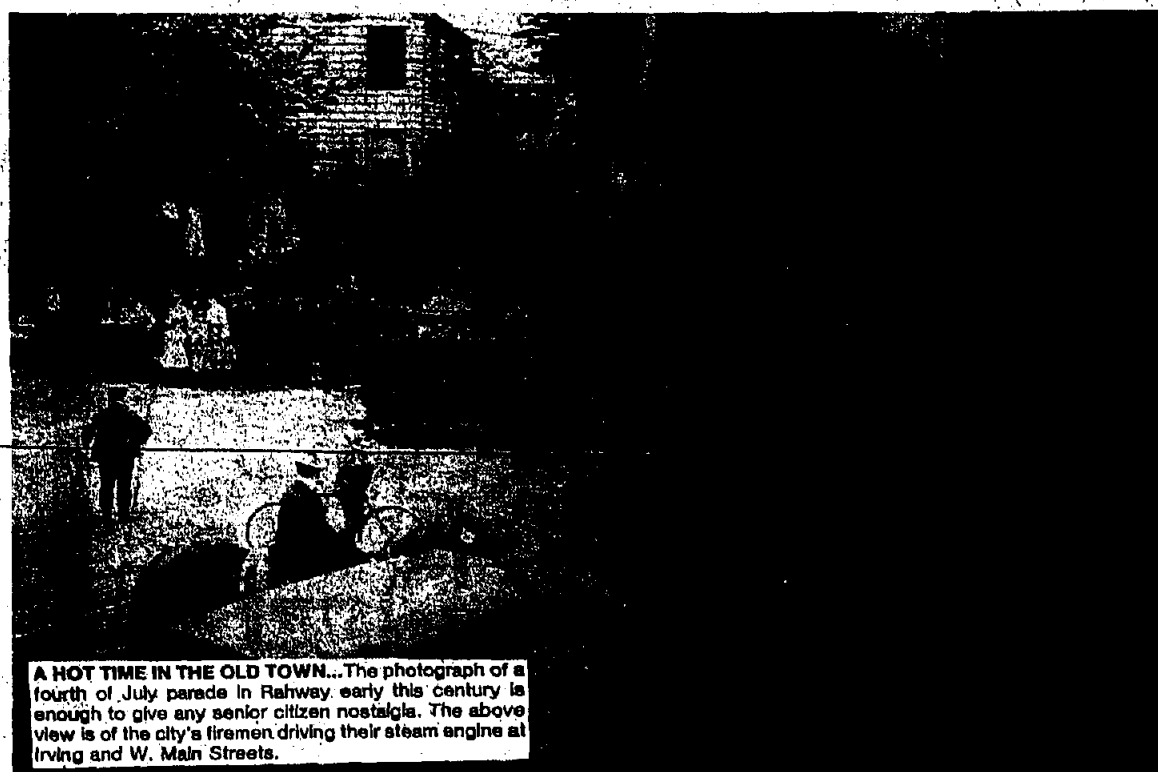
WELCOME TO RAHWAY . . . Rahway's new City Hall, 1980's stands in the center of the central business district at the corner of Main St. and Milton Ave. Police Headquarters Complex, completed in the early



WELCOME TO OUR HOME . . . The former Elizabethtown Gas Co. building, at 219 Central Ave., Rahway, has been the home of The Rahway News-Record since 1982.



PROTECTING YOU . . . Rahway's fire headquarters, off Milton Ave., is a recent addition to a growing city and business complex in the center of the city.



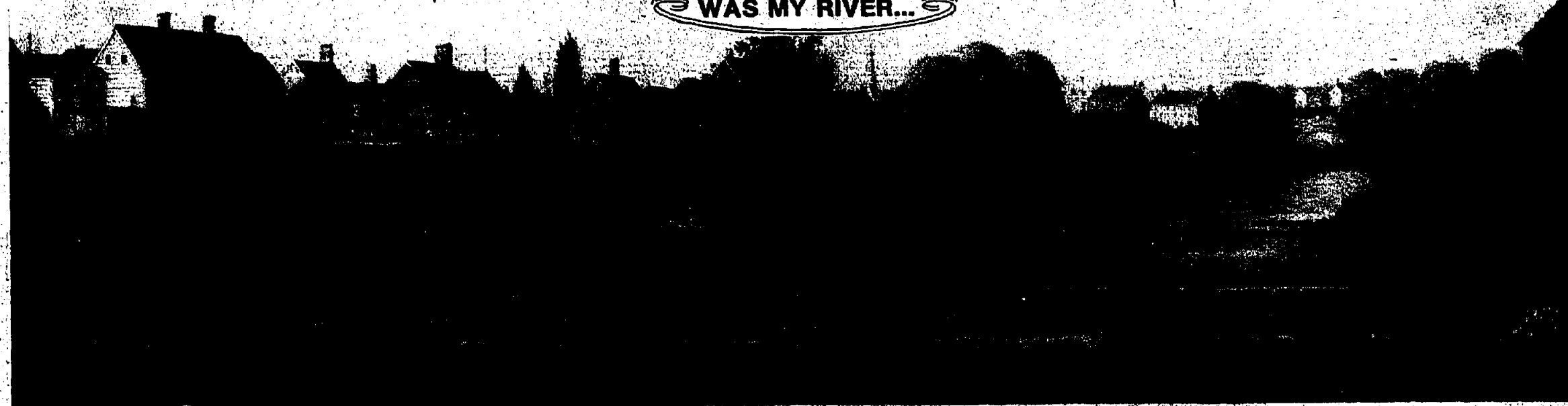
A HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN . . . The photograph of a fourth of July parade in Rahway, early this century is enough to give any senior citizen nostalgia. The above view is of the city's firemen driving their steam engine at Irving and W. Main Streets.

yesterdays . . .

a part of our past . . .

HOW CLEAR  
 WAS MY RIVER . . .

. . . yet part of our future.



BY THE OLD MILE STREAM. The pastoral view of east Rahway in 1843 is undoubtedly the finest picture of pre-Civil War Rahway the staff of The Rahway News-Record has ever seen. A photograph of the painting was discovered by Charles Miller of the Rahway Historical Society when he was doing research work at the Newark Museum. The landscape is from the collection of Mrs. Carlos A. Hepp. Depicted is a section of the Rahway River looking east showing the suburban character of the city even in that early year. The artist was John Jesse Barker (1815-1860), and the work is entitled "East Entrance to Rahway, New Jersey." Just where on the river is hard to determine because its bed has been changed by nature and man over the years. In the distance in the center of the composition, however, one can see the tower of the First Presbyterian Church which probably means the view is of a section of the main branch of the Rahway River.

# We measure ourselves against our forerunners

Editor's Note: Following is the lead story of the special 110th anniversary edition of The Rahway Record as it appeared on Friday, Oct. 7, 1932. Much is made of the size of the paper and the effort it took to put it together. Although today's technology makes some of the production work less tedious than in the "Good Old Days" the 163rd anniversary issue of The Rahway News-Record still took many, many hours of work and creativity both from a dedicated staff and

from the many friends of the paper in Rahway and surrounding areas. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. We hope this edition fulfills the predictions of 1932.

...

The Rahway Record presents today its 110th Anniversary Edition of 42 pages, all of which relate to Rahway and its people during the period, not only of a century ago, but since the founding of the city. This edition is the largest

newspaper ever printed and published in a newspaper plant in Rahway.

None save those initiated into the Fourth Estate will realize the detail that has been involved in such an effort. That The Record has been able to produce this edition testifies to the capacity of this newspaper. All the work involved, preparation of copy, composition, presswork, assembling and mailing, has been done in the modern plant of The Record without interruption to the regular business of this organization.

**Two Tons Of Paper Required**

This edition required about two tons of newspaper originating in the Canadian woods and it would take only half a dozen copies to paper an average sized room. If the paper used were laid out end to end it would reach about 35 miles, or from Rahway to Trenton.

More than two and one-half tons of type and cuts were used to produce the edition and about 100

pounds of ink. It is estimated that in the 328 columns more than 100,000 words were set for the edition, or about as many as in the average novel.

But statistics are unimportant except insofar as they indicate an achievement which the staff of The Rahway Record is proud of in a year of depression. The publisher is at the same time grateful to his loyal workers in office and shop and to the many advertisers who made such an edition possible. The paper would also

like to thank a number of its readers who lent photographs and wrote or supplied interesting articles.

**Search For First Issue Falls**

Work on the edition began several months ago, it taking a long time to search out so much old feature story material and compile the advertisements. Historical research usually leads down many blind alleys and it sometimes ends in vain. This was the case in The Record's effort to find

a copy of the first issue of the "Bridge Town Museum and New Jersey Advocate," its predecessor. W. Woodford Clayton, who compiled a "History of Rahway" said, "We have before us a file of the Bridge Town Museum and New Jersey Advocate extending from July 13th to December 23rd, 1822."

The publishers of the history have long been out of business and a search in various places in New Jersey, New York City and Philadelphia, failed to reveal a history of the

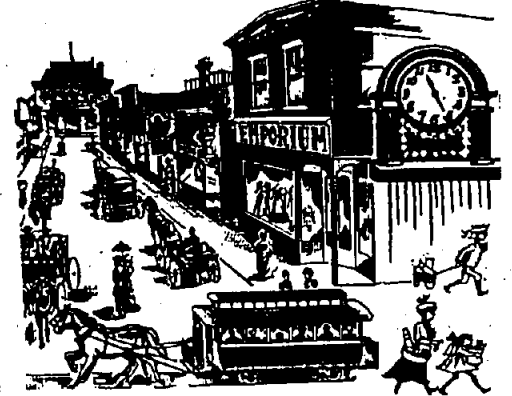
paper. The Library of Congress at Washington, the New York Public Library, the New York Historical Society, the New Jersey State Library, the Historical Society of Philadelphia and the Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass. were all unsuccessful in their efforts to find the first folio of this paper.

The fact that such an edition as this is possible in a newspaper plant like The Record is indicative of the great mechanical progress of the past 110 years. It will

probably seem a feeble effort when the next century rolls around and Rahway is a great metropolis. Probably the anniversary edition at that time will be produced in some new way entirely, the type set electrical-ly and directly from the typewriter's keys or the pages manufactured photographically without the use of any type or ink. There will be many thrilling things to come in the years ahead for a local paper to chronicle for its readers in Rahway.



**BRAVEST ON PARADE**... Members of the Rahway Fire Dept. are shown marching in an early parade in the city.



## Landmarks

Congratulates Its "Neighbor,"  
**RAHWAY News Record**

*New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822*

on its 163rd anniversary

We also take this opportunity to publicly thank Red & Ellen Vigilante and their two fine newspapers for their role in saving the

**old RAHWAY THEATRE** for restoration as the **UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER**

**Congratulations**  
**RAHWAY News Record**  
*New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822*

**La Fayette Lodge No. 27,  
H. and A.M.  
Rahway, New Jersey**

**REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS  
FIRST and THIRD MONDAY  
MASONIC TEMPLE  
1550 IRVING STREET**

CONSTITUTED A.L. 5854 - A.D. 1854

**WE'RE PROUD OF YOU....  
THE VERY BEST OF LUCK  
AND CONTINUED SUCCESS  
TO THE RAHWAY News Record**

*New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822*

**VINCE'S CAR WASH**  
751 NEW BRUNSWICK AVE.  
RAHWAY 382-3030  
(Opp. Regis. Bldg.)

Mon. to Sat. 8:30-5:00 P.M.  
Closed for lunch 1-1:30  
Open Sunday 8:30-1:30 P.M.

*Congratulations and Best Wishes*

**RAHWAY News Record**  
*New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822*

*from all of us at*

**The Dream of Home Ownership**

Realize it with the help of a REALTOR®

**RAHWAY-CLARK BOARD OF REALTORS**  
P.O. Box 278, Rahway, N.J. 07065

**SAFETY THROUGH SONGS** is the Make America Better program to be presented to all 1st-Grade students of Rahway and Clark this September. The presentation includes a coloring book and record for each child together with a film strip for use by the teacher. The material demonstrates the child's experience in daily activities covering safety factors on seat belts, bicycles, water, traffic and strangers. "A child's life may be spared because a New Jersey Realtor cared" is the slogan for the Make America Better program of the 27,000 members of the New Jersey Association of Realtors!

**APEX AGENCY INC.**  
Catherine McCutcheon, George McCutcheon

**ARCH AGENCY**  
Michael Prieco

**BERG REALTORS INC.**  
Barbara Kukura  
BI-STATE REALTY  
Michael Russo

**CAMPANA REALTY**  
Peter Campana, Joseph Campana

**F. LARR REALTY**  
Philip J. Carr

**COMPTON REALTY**  
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**MIEE FORD AGENCY**  
Michael Ford

**G-G REALTY**  
Anthony Ghosal

**JEN-LEE REALTY**  
Julia Stunford

**JERSEY-WIDE REALTY**  
Frank LaBasso

**KUBERSKI REAL ESTATE**  
Ronald Kuberski

**LYNCH AGENCY**  
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John D. Mankey, Jr.

**MICHAEL PETERS REALTY**  
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**MORCROSS REALTY**  
Anthony M. Arneso

**PAINTER REALTY**  
Dudley E. Painter, Fred Barth

**PASCAL AGENCY - RAHWAY**  
Eve Pascual, Anthony J. Pascual

**CHAS. E. SEARLES REAL ESTATE**  
Chas. E. Searles, Catherine Reese

**VINCENT A. TIMONI ASSOC.**  
Vincent A. Timoni

**VILLAGE GREEN REALTY**  
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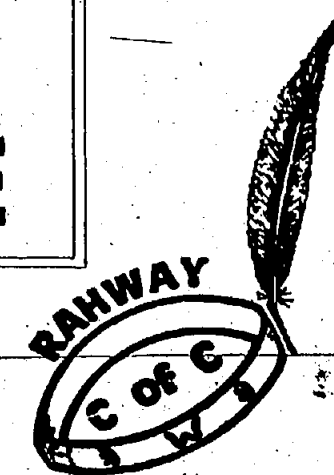
**RAHWAY News Record**

*New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822*

**YOU  
"MAKE EXCITEMENT"  
FOR THE CITY OF  
RAHWAY**

**RAHWAY  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

**RAHWAY, NJ**





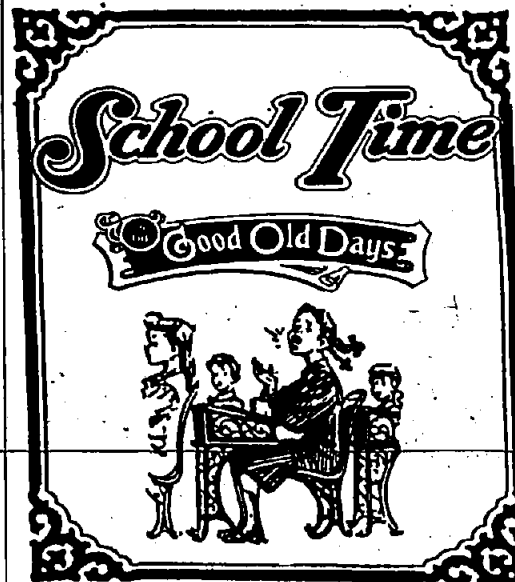


FIRST COLUMBIAN BUILDING...The "old" Columbian School was shown on a post card printed in the 19th century. The building was in use before the present Columbian School.



GOOD OLD SCHOOL DAYS...The return of cool weather will mean the return of school, but this is one schoolhouse children will not return to. This view of the old Franklin School on Union Street in Rahway was taken about the turn of the century and used for a postcard. The school was constructed in 1851 and razed in 1922, the year the new Franklin School on St. George Avenue was opened. In 1922 410 pupils attended the old school, some of whom were housed in portable buildings. The next year, with children from added areas being sent to the new school, the student population rose to 641. The new school at that time was the first grammar school constructed in 25 years in the city.

SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS...The old city hall on Campbell Street is pictured as it appeared not long after its construction at the turn of the century. It served as the city's high school until it was condemned in the 1930's. The stone banisters at the entrance are no longer there—presumably the same thieves that stripped the pyramids of the stone found their sequel in Rahway. Note the boy in knickerbockers on the corner. There is also no parking lot or trees. The building is now being converted into townhouses.



*Happy Birthday*  
and  
**CONGRATULATIONS**  
TO OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS  
AT THE  
**RAHWAY**  
**News Record**

*Markley Realty*  
208 CENTRAL AVENUE  
RAHWAY, N.J. 07065  
(201) 388-0154  
Dor Mackey-Broker

### 'Laureate' writes verse to school

Editor's Note: The following was submitted to The Rahway News-Record from a reader who will only describe himself as "Poet Laureate — Rahway High School Class of '39."

REPRISE  
An ancient pile of crumbling bricks — Rahway High.  
With falling plaster, rotten sticks — Rahway High.  
Give us instead a decent school.  
With spacious rooms — a swimming pool.  
And knowledge as the goal rule — at Rahway High.  
REPRISE  
That hulk, alumni, wouldn't last? — (breathe a sigh)  
It rose like phoenix from the past — (makes you cry)  
As City Hall it "was the minimum"  
With "wreck" a proper synonym...  
ITS NOW A CONDOMINIUM!  
Now THAT is wry!

STILL SERVING RAHWAY...Columbian School, above, constructed in 1897, housed first, second, third, and fourth grade. The cost was \$18,020 for the land, \$237,240 for the building and \$7,839 for furnishings. The building was renovated and enlarged after a fire. The addition included a gymnasium as part of the modernization program. The main change in the appearance of the building on New Brunswick Ave. between E. Hazelwood Ave. and William Street was removal of the tower. The school is now owned by Eric Rickoes of Rahway and houses the Rahway Day Care Center.

### SCHOOLS IN RAHWAY

Congratulations  
To The Editors  
And Staff of  
**News Record**  
For Serving  
The Community  
So Well

CONGRESSMAN  
**MATT RINALDO**

WE NEED A FEW GOOD BOYS & GIRLS!  
Become A Carrier Today.  
Learn to be a business person  
with the responsibility while  
earning money.  
CALL 574-1575 TODAY!  
OR MAIL APPLICATION  
THE ATOM TABLOID

ROUTES AVAILABLE IN RAHWAY

Route No. 721 — Jacques Ave., Weller St., Coddington St.,  
Forbes St. Route No. 723 — W. Stearns, W. Albert St.,  
Stanton St., Broad St. Route No. 724 — W. Lake Ave.,  
Oak St., W. Stearns St., Bryant St., Pierpont St., Stanton  
St. Route No. 704 — Orchard St., W. Imeson Ave., Jefferson  
son Ave., St. George's Ave., Madison Ave. Route No. 803  
— Broad St., Lantz Ct., Huberle Pl., Orchard St., W.  
Imeson Ave., Madison Ave., Albemarle Ave. Route No. 811  
— Harvard St., Madison Ave., Grove St., Sycamore St.  
Route No. 825 — Thoro Pl., Charlotte St., Truster Pl.,  
Madison Ave., Stone St., Jefferson Ave.

Application For Home Tabloid Home Delivery Route  
Transportation Must Be 11 yrs. or Older

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address & Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

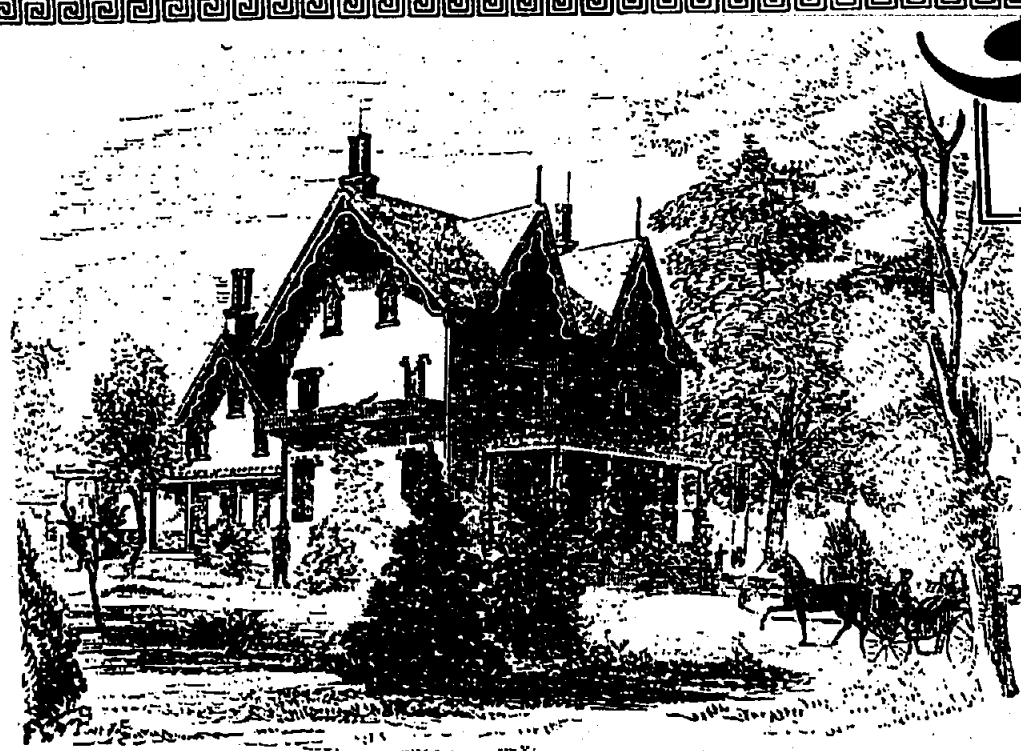
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### RAHWAY

# News Record

New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822

- RAHWAY**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
- Mrs. Bettie Jacobs, President
  - Louis R. Rizzo, Vice President
  - Leo Kahn, Board Attorney
  - Mr. Frank D. Brunette, Superintendent
  - Nicholas F. Delmonaco, Assistant Superintendent
  - Anthony Rocco Jr., Business Administrator & Board Secretary
  - Mrs. Lillie Henderson
  - Ronald Matusaitis
  - Rick Proctor
  - William Hoodzwg
  - William A. Ulrich
  - Bernard Miller
  - Mrs. Eileen Benes



OF DAYS LONG PAST...This drawing of the residence of A.C. Watson of Rahway graced the pages of Balo's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion about 1860 when the editors commissioned a two-page pictorial essay on Rahway. The drawing was said to have been done by a city artist who signed his work Neutral Tint. In the essay accompanying the artwork he described the house as one of "three ornate private residences in the vicinity" and said it was located at "Milton Avenue facing Fourth Street" and was "encompassed by every variety of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubbery." It is believed the location is somewhere between St. George Avenue and Esterbrook Avenue on West Milton Avenue.



A PAGE FROM THE PAST...This picture of the Rahway mayor's office was taken about 1900. Some of the decisions taken in this office included the call for arms in 1898 for young Rahway residents to join the third regiment of New Jersey volunteers and fight in the Spanish-American War.



BYGONE DAYS...Three of the "regulars" of A. Bartholomew's Wine and Lager Beer Saloon step outside for a breath of air. The photograph above apparently was taken about the turn of the century at the bar which was in the Exchange Building on Irving Street. The bar was owned after the end of the prohibition era by Harry "Oats" Orr. The building was demolished several years ago and an addition to the National State Bank of Elizabeth was erected on part of the site. The picture, brought to The Rahway News-Record by Robert Brennan of 27 Princeton Avenue, Colonia, previously was owned by E.F. Brennan who resided at 163 E. Lake Avenue.

### Retired minister honored on 80th

Editor's Note: Following is a story about the 80th birthday celebration for The Rev. John P. Collier, the former pastor of The Ebenezer African Methodist Church of Rahway, who died in 1971 at the age of 88. The story came from his daughter, Mrs. Virginia Jones of Rahway. ... The Rev. John W.O. Collier Sr., who served as pastor of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church for 26 years, was given a surprise party on his 80th birthday anniversary. The Rev. Mr. Collier, who retired in 1947, was honored by relatives and friends on June 12 in the church. The invocation was by Samuel Rucker, president of the Stewards' Board of the church. Participating in the program were the Gospel and Celestial Chorus; Mrs. Vern Bergen, Mrs. Frank C. Lintoni, Hester Mitchell of Newark and B. Andrew Collier of Paterson, who gave

**Congratulations**  
**News Record**  
Perm Special  
**\$5 OFF ANY PERM**  
WITH THIS AD  
EXPIRES 8/31/85

**Hairport**  
UNISEX Creative Hair Design  
PAUL MITCHELL RETAIL  
Nail Tips & Body Waxing  
HOURS:  
Thurs. thru Sat.  
Thurs. & Fri. Nites late  
222 St. George Ave.  
382-3740

### Rahway church nears 160th

Editor's Note: Rahway's Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church will be celebrating its 160th anniversary in 1986. Following is a story about the church's 150th anniversary celebration which was contributed by Mrs. Virginia Jones of Rahway for The Rahway News-Record's 163rd anniversary issue. ... Services throughout the week, beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday and culminating at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 19 will mark the 150th anniversary of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church. Among the highlights will be a banquet at 7:30 p.m. next Saturday at the Holiday Inn, Carteret. The main speaker will be The Rev. Richard Allen Hillsbrand, primate of the First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Rev. Jesse F. Owens, pastor of the Macedonia A.M.E. Church, Camden, will speak at the opening ceremony Sunday at the church. He is a former pastor of the church. The anniversary also will be marked with services at 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. The church, founded in 1826, was the first organ-

**163 Years Old?**  
You really hold your age well!

THE RAHWAY  
**News Record**  
Has The Look Of The 80s  
Happy Birthday  
Ray Eggers Agency  
Insurers  
Rahway

TO THE  
**RAHWAY**  
**News Record**  
New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822  
Another 163 Years  
from all of us at...

**QUADREL BROS**

1603 HART STREET, RAHWAY, N.J. 07065





JUST ABOUT THE SAME... This scene of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter...

Mount Arlington on August 6, 1909. The church is still at its same location at Seminary and St. George Avenues.

Golden days recalled at 50th reunion

Editor's Note: Members of Rahway High School's class of 1931 held their 50th reunion in 1981.

They came from Maine, Georgia, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Illinois and Ohio, silver dominating their hair and many peering over and through glasses at each other.

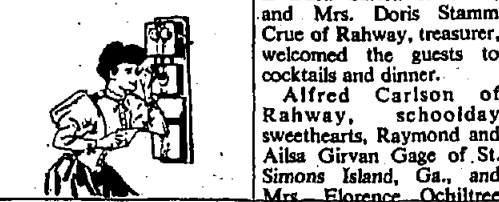


CITY HOUSE HIGHLIGHTED... Members of the Union County Cultural and Heritage Commission released a small booklet entitled 'Gateways to Architecture in Union County'...

completers selected this home at 537 Union Street, Rahway, as an illustration. 'With its gable end facing the street, this handsome town house shows the boldness so typical of the period.'



FIRST ON THE BLOCK?... Getting a car in 1916 was a big event, similar to the acquisition of a television in the late 1940s and early 1950s.



Best Wishes... and Congratulations May The Rahway News Record Go on forever

Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco

graduated from Rutgers University returned to Rahway High as football coach.

Reminiscing inevitably included stories of the Great Depression, following the stock market crash of 1929, that had an impact on succeeding jobs after graduation.

Billboards of photographs and various mementos dating back to the 1931 era served as backdrop.

MR. CLEGGON read several letters of gratitude to attend. J. Edward Tompkins

Honored guests for the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Austin Singer of Rahway; Mrs. Singer was active in sports during his high school days and, after being

player, John Jost and, in his star, Raymond Kuncy.

Each classmate was presented with replicas of diplomas and engraved paperweights.

MR. CLEGGON read several letters of gratitude to attend. J. Edward Tompkins



LAP OF LUXURY... Hot and cold water in every room, easy access to New York City and reasonable rates for boarding horses...



BIG-CITY LUXURY... The high-rise apartment buildings near Hazelwood Ave. are just some of the newer real estate developments which are improving Rahway's image as a small city with big-city conveniences.



A GREAT MOMENT IN HISTORY... Photographed in Rahway on April 18, 1893, the John Bull No. 1, the oldest railroad engine in America, is pictured on its historic trip to the World's Fair in Chicago.

Melick House gave city luxury

More than 100 years ago, the Melick House of Rahway was a pleasant way to spend one's vacation in the country.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MAP: INSIDE THIS SPECIAL ISSUE

cool near enough to the depot for convalescence and just far enough away from New York City to escape the smoke and noise.

With the Gordon Opera House drawing the finest families of the Garden State to Rahway, many took advantage of the facilities at the Melick House.

Happy News Record Birthdays. PASCAL AGENCY - RAHWAY. REAL ESTATE, NOTARY PUBLIC. (201) 381-3104. Eva Pascale, 815 Pratt St., Rahway, N.J. 07065.

Christensen's DEPT. STORE. The Friendly Store apparel for the entire family. National Advertisements. Free parking in rear official distributor for Boy Scouts of America.

SIDWALK SALE THURS., FRI., SAT. July 25th, 26th & 27th. 40% OFF ON MOST STOCKED MERCHANDISE IN CASE OF RAIN, SALE WILL BE HELD INSIDE.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY NEWS RECORD. AIR CONDITIONER SERVICE & REPAIR. TUNE UP YOUR GRILL. Suburban Technical Service.

Vertical advertisement for J.P.A. (J.P.A. SERVICE CENTER) with various services and contact information.

Happy 163rd Anniversary News Record. DISC BRAKE SERVICE \$5.00 OFF. \$36.56 MINOR ENGINE TUNE UP \$36.56. \$24 AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE. \$19 WHEEL ALIGNMENT. \$170 OFF PREMIUM RIDE SHOCK ABSORBERS. \$34.55 COOLING SYSTEM FLUSH. ECONOMY AUTO SERVICE CENTER. 125 St. George Ave., At New Brunswick Ave. Rahway • 381-3959.

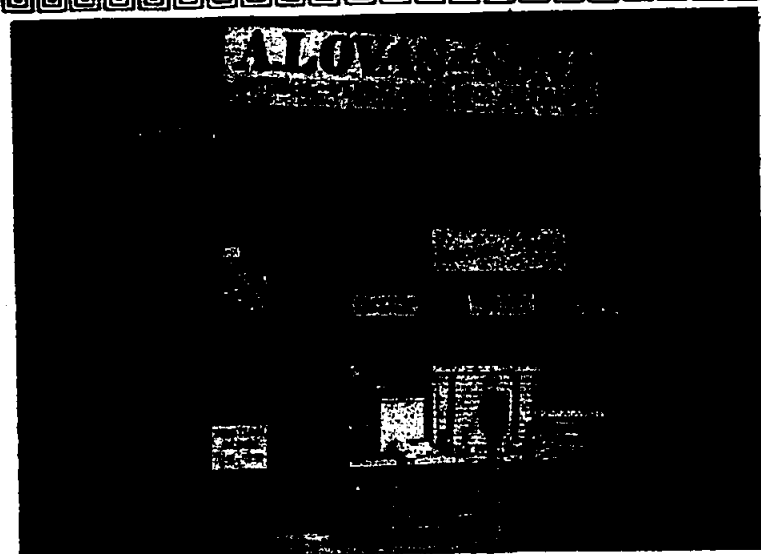
Happy Anniversary News Record VIDEO CORNER. THE ONE STOP COMPUTERIZED VIDEO STORE. PATHMARK & K-MART SHOPPING CENTER. 1610 St. George Avenue. Avenel, N.J. 07001. (201) 499-7199. OAKWOOD PLAZA. 165 Wood Avenue & Oaktree Rd. Edison, N.J. 08820. (201) 494-5511. MON. THRU SAT. 11 A.M. - 9 P.M. SUN. 12 NOON - 7 P.M. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$14.95. TUES. SPECIAL Rent 1 or more Movies, receive 1 Free! MID-WEEK SPECIAL Mon. - Thurs. 3 Day VCR Rental - \$20.00.

Grand Opening PhotoCorner. SPECIAL OFFER. BRING THIS COUPON. 1 FREE MOVIE RENTAL With Each Roll Of Film Processed. A \$2.00 VALUE FOR MEMBERS. A \$3.50 VALUE FOR NON-MEMBERS. (201) 499-7199.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the News Record on your 163rd Anniversary. St. Mark's R.C. Church. Rev. Thaddeus F. Zuber, Pastor. 287 Hamilton Street. Rahway, New Jersey.

Best Wishes to The Rahway News Record on its 163rd Anniversary from Rahway Hospital. Your Community Hospital. We're Close. We're Competent. We're Compassionate.





ALL THOSE YEARS AGO — This photo, taken during the 1940's, is of A. Lovis & Sons' original store located at 1587 Main St., Rahway. Established in 1939 by Andrew Lovis Sr., the business is still operated by the current Lovis clan of Andrew Lovis Jr. and his sons Tom and Greg. Their new store is now at 685 Hwy. No. 27, Levin. If you look carefully at the reflections in the store window you can see how the old cars parked head-on while parking on Main St.



IT'S A LONG, LONG WAIT . . . In the days when Bauer-Brooks Co. at 1594 Irving Street, Rahway, was a Motor Vehicles Agency, lines would form on Irving Street nearly back to Bauer's, the site of the new addition to The Rahway Savings Institution now. This scene taken about 1940 was provided to The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot by Mrs. Nicholas (Agathe) Gruenwald, 80, who with her late husband ran Gruenwald's Delicatessen across the street from the bank. Mrs. Gruenwald has lived in Rahway since 1922 and resides at 167 Monroe Street.

The REGINA the Queen of Music Boxes.

Delightful Music in Every Home

BOXES FROM \$12 to \$100

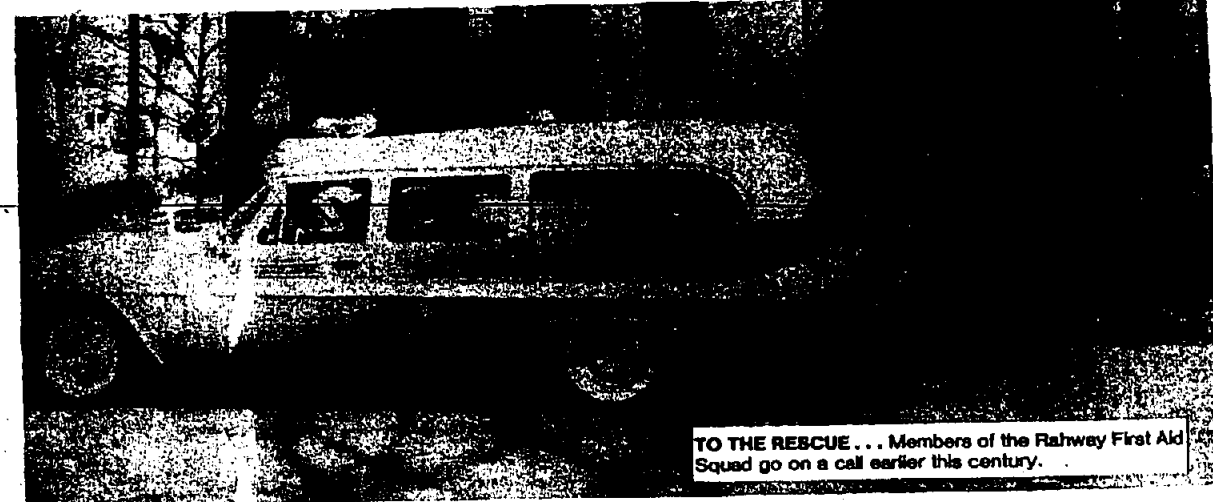


It Plays Thousands of Tunes

Grand Opera, Waltzes, Marches and All the Latest Songs.

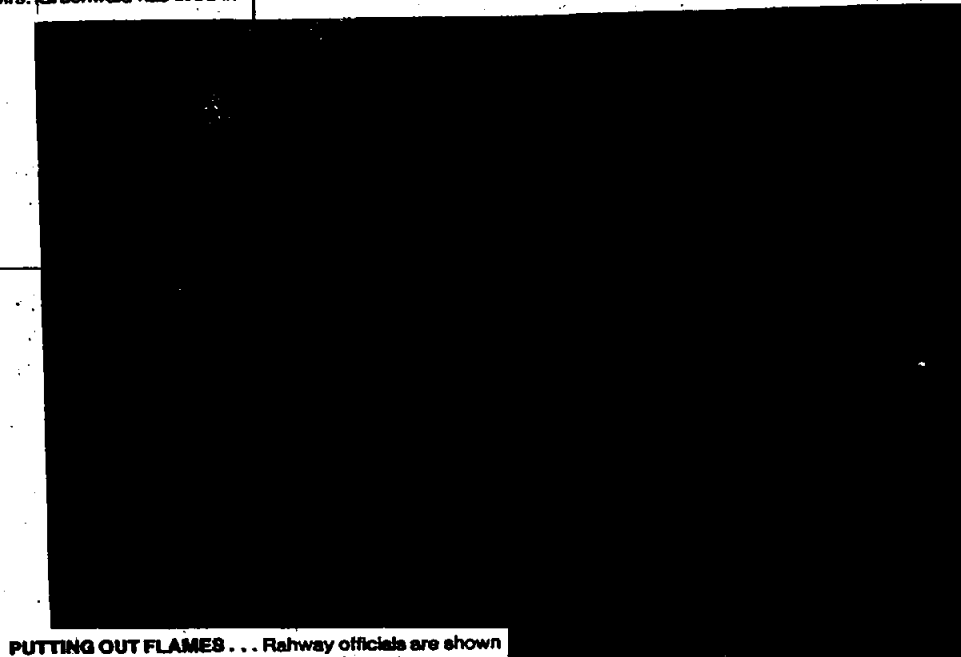
This is not a record instrument, but plays on a steel comb, with a sweetest and volume of tone far beyond any other. The metal tone discs are indestructible. The cases are of hand-painted polished wood, and an ornament to any home. The prices are reasonable and the box is a source of endless enjoyment to yourself and friends. New Music issued every week. Send for hand-painted illustrated Catalogue to

THE REGINA MUSIC BOX CO., Rahway, N.J.



TO THE RESCUE . . . Members of the Rahway First Aid Squad go on a call earlier this century.

PROGRESS



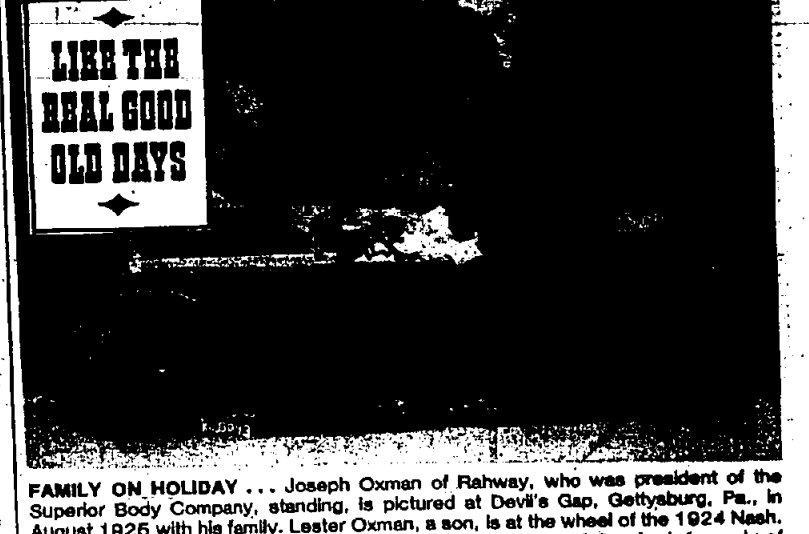
PUTTING OUT FLAMES . . . Rahway officials are shown with some of the city's early fire equipment.



HAND LABOR . . . Constructing an automobile body in the plant of the Superior Body Company of Rahway involved much work by hand, including the cutting of upholstery and sewing. The employee operating the electric cloth cutter is Samuel Hrisberg, and the woman in the left hand line is Mrs. Coppie. The first employee in the middle line is the woman in the left hand line is Mrs. Coppie. The first employee in the middle line is the woman in the left hand line is Mrs. Coppie. The first employee in the middle line is the woman in the left hand line is Mrs. Coppie.



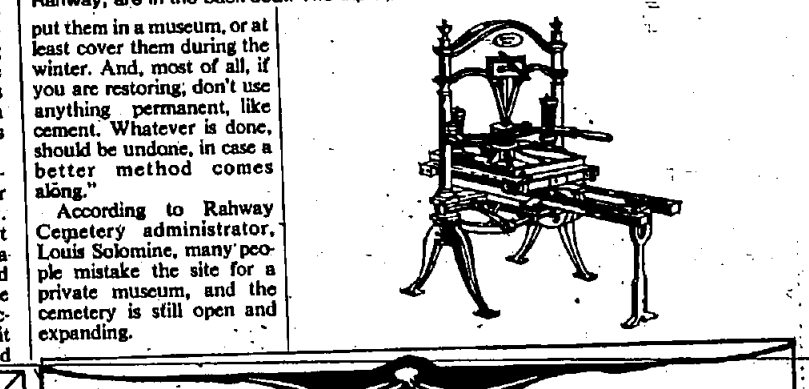
HOME OF HISTORIAN . . . This house, at 208 W. Milton Ave., one of the earlier homes in Rahway, is shown about 15 years ago. It is now minus the front porch and is the source office of the Ray Eggers Agency. Mr. Eggers, a history buff, supplied much of the historical material for the 163rd anniversary issue.



FAMILY ON HOLIDAY . . . Joseph Ozman of Rahway, who was president of the Superior Body Company, standing, is pictured at Devil's Gap, Gettysburg, Pa., in August 1925 with his family. Lester Ozman, a son, is at the wheel of the 1924 Nash. In the front seat is the guide, Mrs. Ozman and Carl Kainer of Cranford, formerly of Rahway, are in the back seat. The trip was taken after the liquidation of the company.

Rahway heritage buried for many. Despite the fact some people have the idea the oldest settlements in New Jersey are in the New England states because they have the ranks right up there with the most famous of them. Lawrence, who died in 1766 and is buried in the grave of Abraham Clark, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who died in 1794, as well as the stone-carving works of Osborne and John Frazee, who later gained recognition as a sculptor. Here is a quotation from the tombstone of John Lawrence, who died in 1766 and is buried in the Rahway Cemetery: "Each year lawnmowers destroy—far—more graves than vandals do," the association president declared, explaining the sharp edge of the machines gouges chunks out of tombstones when gardeners scrape the stones for a close cut. For those who are concerned with preserving their funeral heritage, Mr. Chase suggested, "Get together and adopt a neglected cemetery. Record and catalogue the gravestones and take pictures. If the state allows it take the fragile stones and

put them in a museum, or at least cover them during the winter. And, most of all, if you are restoring, don't use anything permanent, like cement. Whatever is done, should be undone, in case a better method comes along. According to Rahway Cemetery administrator, Louis Solomine, many people mistake the site for a private museum, and the cemetery is still open and expanding.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! News RAHWAY Record. AMBASSADOR WORLD TRAVEL. CORPORATE TRAVEL DEPARTMENT 388-9500. AIR • LAND • SEA AND MORE. PASSPORT PHOTOS WHILE YOU WAIT. OPEN MONDAY THRU SATURDAY. NOTARY PUBLIC. 88 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK.

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BEST WISHES from JAMES J. FULCOMER Councilman.

Congratulations Rahway News Record. We're Both Flying High. Joseph T. Freire Director of Flight Training. \$20. Mistral Aviation Inc. Linden Airport. Linden, New Jersey 07036 (201) 862-3846.

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UNION COUNTY FREEHOLDER. WALTER E. BORIGHT. Salutes the News RAHWAY Record. A fine newspaper in a fine city in a fine country.

Congratulations and Many More Years to our Friends and Neighbors at the News RAHWAY Record. RELIANCE SAVINGS. 848 Kings George Road, 738-7771. 1585 Irving Street, 388-2202.

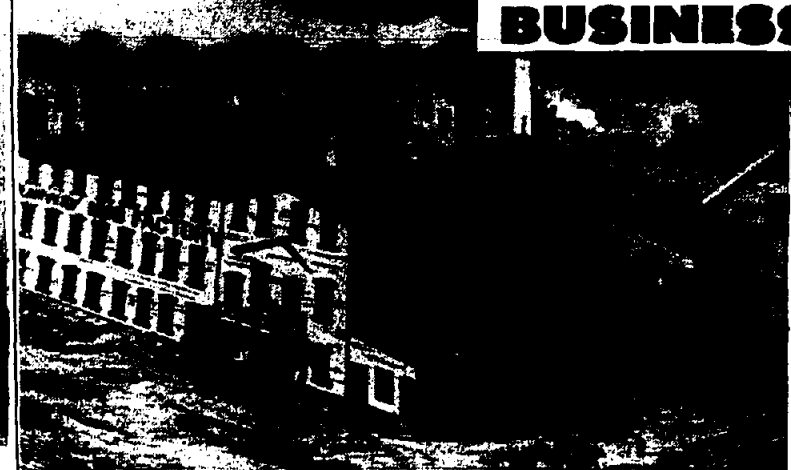
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BUSINESS and INDUSTRY



JOHN URMSTON



HUB FACTORY PROVIDED MATERIAL FOR UNION FORCES IN CIVIL WAR

HUB OF INDUSTRY

The Rahway Steam Hub Manufacturing deserves more than passing notice not only on account of the excellence of their products, but for the age of the business as well. So begins an advertisement printed in the late 1800's that continued to sing the praises of one of Rahway's most ignored and prosperous establishments.

John Urmston, who built, owned and ran the factory, came to Rahway in 1835. The business he developed was a relatively small concern until 1847 when he purchased the corner lot on Union and Ludlow Streets.

Following the war Mr. Urmston's trade extended to all parts of the world. Rahway hubs used in carriages, coaches, wagons and carts were sold throughout the United States, in Europe, in South Africa and in Australia.

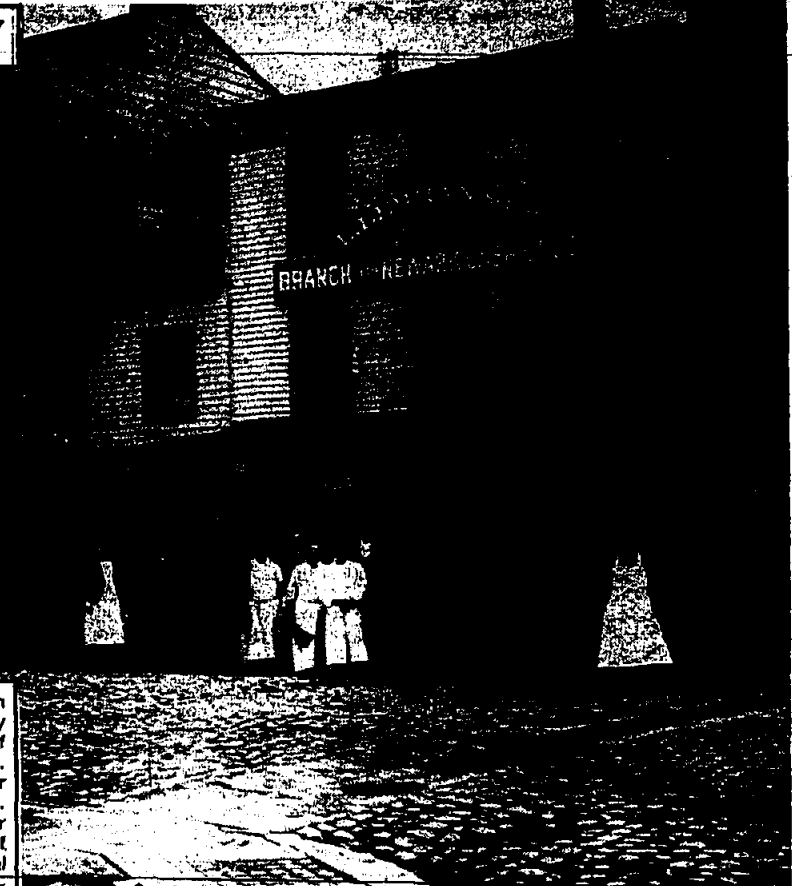
In 1876 Mr. Urmston received the honor of being the only hub manufacturer to be awarded a medal at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.



HOME OF THE URMSTONS ON UNION STREET

Today all that remains of this successful venture are the two buildings that served as the Urmston home and office. The home now owned by Mrs. Edward Hickman is located at 663 Union Street. Directly behind the home facing Ludlow Street is the structure that served as the business office. The present owner of this building is Mrs. Frank Cherubini.

THEY WERE THERE TO SERVE YOU...in the days when service was the golden rule of business these delivery wagons lined up outside of the Rahway Branch of Newark Cash Grocery on Main Street opposite E. Cherry Street.



THE REAL GOOD OLD DAYS

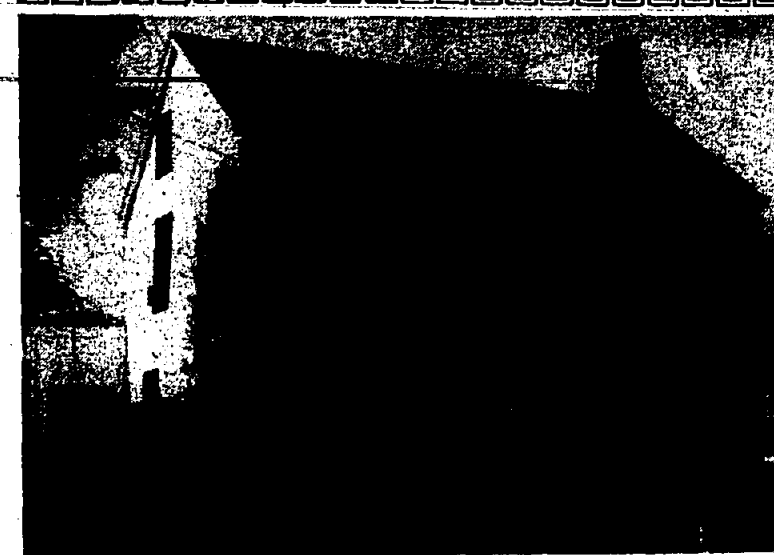


RSI, Rahway's oldest bank, third oldest NJ savings bank

The world's first savings bank was opened in Drumfriehill, Scotland, in 1810. Only six years later, in 1816, the first savings bank in America opened in Boston, Mass., and 12 years after that the first such bank in New Jersey opened in Newark.

WHEN LOCAL MARKETS PROSPERED...This picture was shot during the early 1900s in front of a delicatessen store at W. Grand Avenue and Whittier Street.

Congratulations News Record Compliments of BREZA BUS SERVICE, INC. Transporting Your Children And Athletes For Over 30 Years FULLY INSURED 1st and only bus company in Rahway. John, Helen, Scott Breza 101 East Inman Ave. 1000 W. Lake Ave.



150-year-old azalea graces home built on Westfield Ave. before Revolution

A 150-year-old azalea bush attests the age of the two-story white stucco house located at 882 Westfield Avenue. The house itself, which was built around 1745, has had this beautiful plant decorating its east side since the 1820s.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Alexander, owners since 1951, have gotten a great deal of pleasure in researching and maintaining both their home and their property.

Clapboard originally covered the exterior walls that are today stucco finished. Bricks line the walls and cellar and the foundation is made of fieldstone and mortar.



READY AND WAITING...Members of Independent Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 stand for a photograph in front of the Seminary Avenue fire house in 1910.

Moore. The beautiful pair of white horses are Mike, left, and Boss. The firemen are carrying horns which they blow on the way to a blaze.



A DIFFERENT RAHWAY...This engraving shows a hotel in the central area of Rahway, a stopping place for cars of the New Jersey Railroad.



AN OBELISK TO NAPOLEON?...What is it? Is it the top of a buried steam ship or a vessel of a valiant from another galaxy? The old photograph, courtesy of the Free Public Library of the City of Rahway, is one of the city's filtration stand pipe built during the early 1900s.

From N.J. Advance to News Record RAHWAY HISTORICALLY You've Been A Good Neighbor Telephone-Telegraph-Tel-a-Neighbor GUARANTEED TO SPREAD THE NEWS Lions Club of Rahway

BACHMANN'S Restaurant and Tavern Home Cooking - Sandwiches Bar Open Sunday 9 a.m. Busses 135 and 134 Stop at our door 2223 St. Georges Ave. Rahway, 574-8095 FRUIT BASKETS BY FRAN 'MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY' WE CARRY A FULL LINE OF SUMMER FRUIT 548 W. Grand Avenue • Rahway

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY News Record Extra Special Good Wishes ... for an Extra Special Newspaper American Association Retired Persons Chapter 607 Rahway, NJ



# Stillman estate is a good example of 19th century Italian villa vogue

A century ago Rahway was one of the more desirable places to live in Union County. It was a city that boasted several thriving industries, a bustling downtown area where the most sophisticated types of entertainment could be found, and residential sections that attracted the very wealthy.

Jacob R. Showell was a wealthy man who decided to build his home in Rahway. While in the city he was to become one of Rahway's most prominent citizens. He held such responsible positions as director of the Rahway Gaslight Company, water commissioner and vice president of The Rahway Savings Institute.

Mr. Showell owned a track of land encompassing much of the area between Central and Elm Avenues. In the 1870s he, like many other wealthy citizens, built a home that illustrated what a success he had become.

Architecturally the home is a perfect example of an Italian or Tuscan villa. The most distinguishing feature of this style is the square, flat topped tower that ascends directly above a formal entrance way. The arched, paladian windows situated on the sides and rear of the building are also common to this design.

One might also recognize the Tuscan influence by the heavy brackets supporting the deep, overhanging roof and the formal bay windows was utilized as a wine cellar. The fancy balcony above the entrance was also a must for anyone wishing to complete the villa to the most elegant degree.

The beauty of the structure was further enhanced by carefully landscaped gardens and pathways. The Showell estate as said to have looked like an English park due to the variety of trees and plants on the property.

A map of 1882 shows the home had an entrance drive from Eastbrook Avenue and another from Elm Avenue, both of which led to a handsome circular driveway pasting in front of the entrance.



ONCE STately VIEW... This scenic photograph of the Showell house on Elm Avenue in Rahway, was taken about 1910 when the estate had passed to F.M. Stillman. He called his home Elmwood. Mr. Stillman's family was active in St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Rahway, although the property is now owned by Zion Lutheran Church. The photograph is from the archives of The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot.

In the late 1950s the home became the property of the Zion Lutheran Church and has since served as a Sunday school building. Since that time a bay window was removed to make room for the new education building, and fire escapes have been added as a safety measure. Besides these minor changes, the building is unchanged.



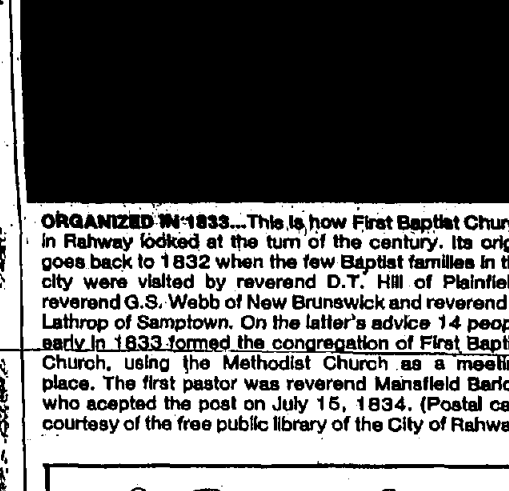
The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter, Rahway, New Jersey

FOR THE LOVE OF A WIFE... Ralph Marsh built a memorial, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter, to his wife on a one-acre plot in 1870. The church had a bell of unusually pleasing tone which was mysteriously lost when the original church burned to the ground in 1899. The bell weighed 400 pounds. The present structure shown above was completed by the end of 1898 from the insurance of the original church which was fully covered. The church was also pictured on one of the Moore postal card series at the turn of the century.



OLDEN CENTRE OF WORSHIP... The classically-styled Presbyterian Church was one of the buildings restored to bring Clinton to its New England-style attractiveness.

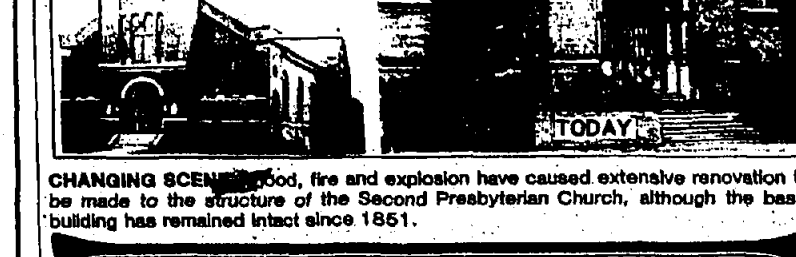
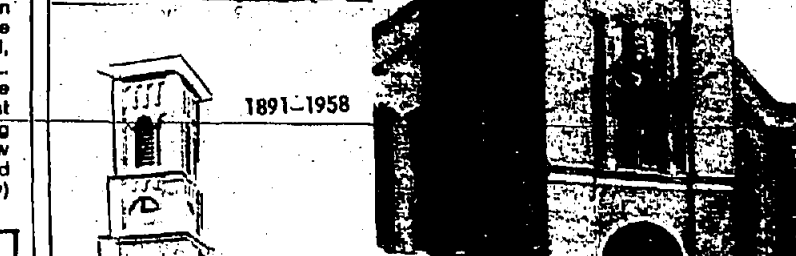
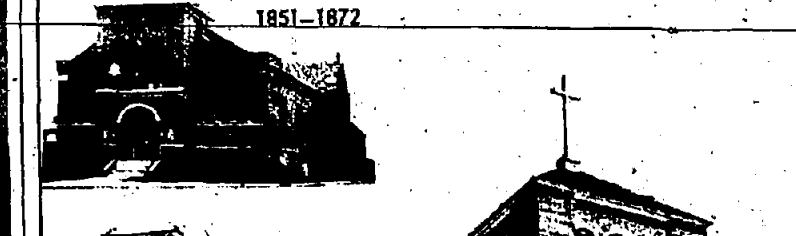
ALMOST UNCHANGED... This lovely view of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 80 Elm Avenue, Rahway, was drawn in the 1850s and included in that famous guidebook of the 19th century, "Balou's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion." The Gothic spire work is now gone, but otherwise the church is nearly unchanged. It has stood at the present site at the junction of Elm Avenue and Irving Street since 1842. The rectory was located opposite the church at one time, as it is shown. The engraving was sent to The Rahway News-Record by Charles Trilicane of 544 Harton Street, Rahway.



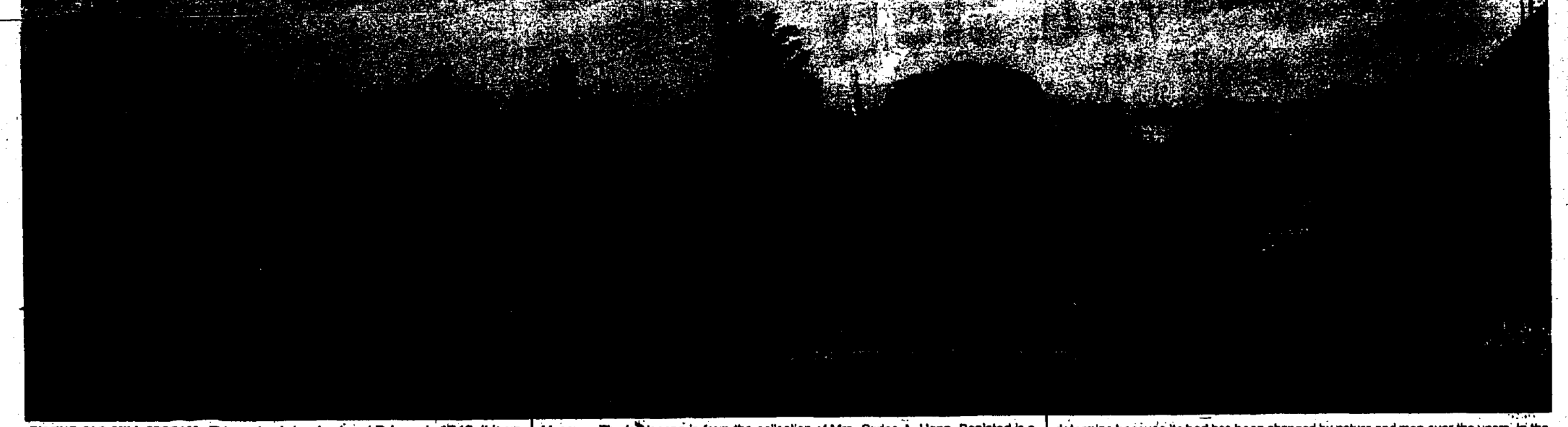
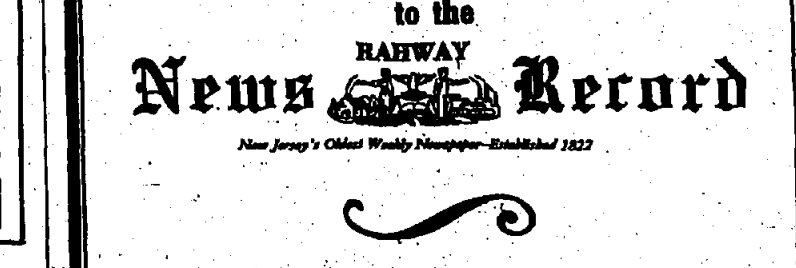
ORGANIZED IN 1833... This is how First Baptist Church in Rahway looked at the turn of the century. Its origin goes back to 1832 when the few Baptist families in the city were visited by reverend D.T. Hill of Plainfield, reverend G.S. Webb of New Brunswick and reverend L. Lathrop of Saratoga. On the latter's advice 14 people early in 1833 formed the congregation of First Baptist Church, using the Methodist Church as a meeting place. The first pastor was reverend Mansfield Barlow who accepted the post on July 15, 1834. (Postal card courtesy of the free public library of the City of Rahway)



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CHANGING SCENES... Flood, fire and explosion have caused extensive renovation to be made to the structure of the Second Presbyterian Church, although the basic building has remained intact since 1861.



BY THE OLD MILL STREAM... The pastoral view is of east Rahway in 1843. It is undoubtedly the finest picture of pre-Civil War Rahway the staff of The Rahway News-Record has ever seen. A photograph of the painting was discovered by Charles Miller of the Rahway Historical Society when he was doing research work at the Newark Museum. The landscape is from the collection of Mrs. Carlos A. Hepp. Depicted is a section of the Rahway River looking west showing the suburban character of the city even in that early year. The artist was John Jesse Barker (1815-1860), and the work is entitled "East Entrance to Rahway, New Jersey." Just where on the river is hard to determine because its bed has been changed by nature and man over the years. In the distance in the center of the composition, however, one can see the tower of the First Presbyterian Church which probably means the view is of a section of the main branch of the Rahway River.



HOW CLEAR WAS MY RIVER... This isn't a 19th-century scene of a quiet river in New England. If you don't recognize it, that is understandable because the Rahway River hasn't looked like this almost with the memory of living there was revocatable in downtown Rahway bringing commerce from New York City, Newark and Perth Amboy to name a few. Pictured on the postcard above is a docked boat with a small boat by its side. Houses came right up to the trevelled banks where residents swam, fished and took packet boats to various cities and to vacation spots along the New Jersey coast, Connecticut, Cape Cod and other New England retreats. The scene is taken looking east. The postal card series from which this picture was taken probably was issued somewhere around 1874. The scene, however, is from a much earlier period. The card is courtesy of Mrs. William Mcbourne, 355 W. Lake Avenue, Rahway.

MUSEUM... The landscape is from the collection of Mrs. Carlos A. Hepp. Depicted is a section of the Rahway River looking west showing the suburban character of the city even in that early year. The artist was John Jesse Barker (1815-1860), and the work is entitled "East Entrance to Rahway, New Jersey." Just where on the river is hard to determine because its bed has been changed by nature and man over the years. In the distance in the center of the composition, however, one can see the tower of the First Presbyterian Church which probably means the view is of a section of the main branch of the Rahway River.



THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE... It certainly looks like it, but the scene is of an area then called Six Spades. The scene is taken looking east. The postal card series from which this picture was taken probably was issued somewhere around 1874. The scene, however, is from a much earlier period. The card is courtesy of Mrs. William Mcbourne, 355 W. Lake Avenue, Rahway.

OVER 50 YEARS OLD... The 331-foot span Monroe Bridge in Rahway was built in 1919. It is of steel beam, concrete slab construction and spans the Robinson's Branch of the Rahway River. Information of the bridge's history was supplied by Joseph A. G. Kitchin, Union County engineer. The picture was taken from a post card supplied by Mrs. John Svhra of 698 Seminary Avenue, Rahway.



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## Colonial Rahway shaped by river

The history of Rahway in its earliest phases centers on the Rahway River and the influence it and nearby colonial settlements played on the development of the community. From the mid 1800s on, however, internal factors began to emerge as the driving force of the city, although always modified by national developments.

In the earliest colonial times Robinson's Branch of the Rahway River marked the boundary line between colonial Elizabeth to the north of the river, settled as early as 1664-1665, and colonial Woodbridge to the south, settled by 1680 and chartered in 1669. Land seekers from each community settled on their respective sides of the river.

COLONIAL DAYS  
The name "Rahway" or "Rawack" was given in Elizabeth records to the river, and the nearby settlements north of it, although exactly why is not certain. It can be said with some certainty that the area of what is now Rahway was not likely settled prior to 1680, quite possibly even as early as the late 1600s along with the settlement of Elizabeth. The area south of the Rahway River became known as both Bridgetown and Lower Rahway. Records of colonial Woodbridge show one of the community's original "Associates," John James owned in 1670, 368 acres in what is now Rahway, possibly in the area of what is now Main Street. As time went on three distinct hamlets developed. The one to the north of the river was called Rahway and was located in what was then Essex County. To the south, in Middlesex County, were Milton and Bridgetown (also known as lower Rahway). A fourth known as Locust was a distance away but within the present boundaries. These small farming communities were separated by long stretches of undrained meadows and marshes. Still the first sign of development for the area was not long in coming and would be prompted by the river. On June 25, 1683 John Marsh was granted permission to build a sawmill on the river. One year later the same man erected a grist mill. There is also a record of a second saw mill owned by another. At the same time the clearing of land and subsequent cultivation was proceeding well. In 1687 a second division of common lands was made. Rahway first came into prominence during the American War for Independence as the site of the Battle of Spoktown in January of 1777. "Spoktown" is another early name for the origin of Rahway. American troops were located in the Short Hills to the north of the community. British troops in New Brunswick, American soldiers came down from the hills, drove the British

out of Newark and Elizabeth and fought with them at Springfield and Spoktown. The American forces captured 1,000 bushels of salt, possibly a cargo which had been brought up the river for the British soldiers in Elizabeth. It was reported that in December of 1776 Rahway was headquarters for an estimated 500 British soldiers who terrorized the local communities.

EARLY 1800s  
After its brief glory in the war Rahway enjoyed slow progress through the early 1800s. It was reported in 1810 to be a community of 50 or 60 houses, a Presbyterian church and a post office. There was commerce via the river between Rahway and New York. After the war was over produce was shipped from the community directly to Bristol, England with ships bringing dry goods in return. Records of two old newspapers from the 1820s show there was continued commerce during that period between the city and New York by boat plus active stagecoach traffic throughout the community. The first newspaper, a forerunner of The Rahway News-Record, was begun in 1822. A letter dated 1834 described Rahway as a town of 350 to 400 houses with a population of about 3,000. There were reported to be 25 stores, and three public buildings.

There was also an academy, a bank with capital paid in \$70,000, a post office, an incorporated fire engine company and a mutual insurance company. City businesses at that time manufactured for export, hats, shoes and boots, carriages, soap and candles, cabinet furniture and lin ware among other lines. There were reported to be five vessels, one or two leaving every day for New York. What was to become a familiar Rahway site, the railroad, entered the community in 1835. RAPID GROWTH  
The 1850s and 1860s were a period of rapid growth for the city. To meet the need for water power Rahway's industries had erected many dams along the river.

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News Record  
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**Holy Comforter Episcopal Church**  
A House Of Prayer For All People

**Mother Church of Methodism in Rahway**  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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As a Church that was serving this community for more than five decades before the Rahway Record was born, WE OFFER OUR CONGRATULATIONS.  
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Sunday worship is at 11:00 A.M.  
Summer worship (July & August) is at 10:00 A.M.  
We welcome visitors and honor requests for a tour with brief church history.  
United Methodist Women 7:30 p.m. fourth Tuesdays, except July & August.  
Adult Fellowship - 6:00 p.m. Second Saturdays, except July & Aug.

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**HOW CLEAR WAS MY RIVER...**  
Community grew rapidly in mid-1800s and became center of industry

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TELEPHONE: (201) 379-3400



# News-Record story: Tale of Many Newspapers

by R. R. Faszczewski

**Editor's Note:** The following history of the Rahway News-Record, for this, our special 163rd Anniversary issue, was compiled with the generous aid of Pat Bontempo, a former editor of the newspaper.

It had to be true in this day of the demise of many newspapers—but Rahway at one time had four weekly newspapers and at two other times in its history its own daily newspaper.

The earliest definite record of a newspaper in the city is of "The Bridge Town Museum and New Jersey Advocate," a four-page weekly which began publication on Sept. 12, 1822. It was a direct forerunner of today's Rahway News-Record.

Although the paper was printed in Elizabeth, the publisher, Edgar Smith, had his offices on Main St., Rahway. The city was then known as Bridge Town. A subscription to the paper, then issued on Saturdays, cost \$2 a year. Advertisements cost \$1 a square for the first three insertions and 25¢ a square for each additional run.

The journal was printed on a George Washington press, a hand-operated, screw-pressure machine on which each side of the 13-by-21-inch pages of newspaper had to be imprinted separately.

There is, however, some evidence Rahway's newspaper history may have begun as early as 1816—in a letter dated Feb. 2, of that year from Nathaniel Combs to Dr. E. R. Manning of Bridge Town. Mr. Combs, who is believed with an investment of \$800 he could start a newspaper which would attract 300 subscribers.

What is most interesting, however, is he spoke of a gentleman, presumably in Rahway, who could offer him a "complete outfit" and stated "the printing material can be had on very reasonable terms."

This raises the possibility there already existed in the city a printing press, one which may have issued a newspaper before Mr. Combs' suggestion in 1816 and well before Mr. Smith's first newspaper in 1822. Or perhaps Mr. Combs did succeed in his attempt.

However, the nature and extent of these early printing ventures remain a mystery and no physical proof of a pre-1822 journal has yet surfaced.

In any event, by his fifth issue, dated Aug. 10, 1822, Mr. Smith had changed his newspaper's name to the Rahway Museum and New Jersey Advocate, reflecting the change in the city's name.

Around March, 1823, the weekly's name was changed to The New Jersey Advocate and Middlesex

and Essex Advertiser. This was before the formation of Union County, when half of the present city of Rahway laid in Essex and half in Middlesex County. The paper was on one of eight newspapers in the state at the time.

With the name change came a new owner, James A. Bennett, who had his offices on the corner of what was then Front and New York Sts., one door above the post office. He increased the paper's size to six columns per page and made it a general news sheet as two pages worth of advertisements.

About 1829 a second Rahway weekly appeared, The Working Man's Advocate. Little is known about this journal, which lasted until Feb. 13, 1836.

By about 1834 Mr. Bennett sold his newspaper to Thomas Green, who, three years later, transferred it to E. W. Gray, who had his offices on the corner of Main and Monroe Sts. and who kept the paper firmly in the Whig camp.

On Sept. 12, 1850 The Advocate changed its name to The New Jersey Advocate and about seven years later Mr. Gray sold the paper to C. W. Haven, who ran it for about a year. Haven became a four-page newspaper in 1858 when another weekly journal continued in Rahway until about 1840 when The New Jersey Advocate, the paper's new publisher, was formed by a stock company with Walter Graham as editor.

However, Mr. Haven soon ran into trouble with the Advocate and Register, and Mr. Shann bought it out in 1859 and merged it with his Rahway Republican, ending the long press battle.

The treaty was short, however. In 1860, Uzal Osborn launched The Rahway Advocate, a weekly and at times semi-weekly, to challenge Mr. Shann's Republican plus The Times and The Register and American.

After a few more name changes and after Mr. Graham, the publisher of The Times, was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as the American consul to Cape Town, South Africa, his newspaper was merged with The Register and American to become known as The Register and Times.

The following year The Rahway Advocate was merged with The Register and Times to form The Advocate and Times, leaving it as the sole challenger to Mr. Shann.

After Mr. Shann renamed his paper The National Democrat in 1864 it was purchased by Lewis S. Hyer. Mr. Hyer became active in local politics and at various times was mayor, city clerk, clerk of the county board of chosen freeholders, judge of the county court and president of the county board of chosen freeholders.

Gas Co. building at 219 Central Ave., Rahway. The editor and publisher of the two newspapers is C. Vigilante.

A special commemorative edition of The Rahway News-Record was published on June 25, 1932, in recognition of the dedication ceremony for Rahway's new City Hall and Police Headquarters. This newspaper, published in collaboration with the city, was mailed out to about 10,000 homes in Rahway and was made available through the city's administrative offices.

It contained historical features about the city, its business, its schools and its history and copies rapidly became a rarity.

## Early theatre put city on map

The building which was rebuilt in 1924 for the New Jersey State Reformatory at Woodbridge, Harry A. Simmons of Rahway, sheriff of Union County; M. J. O'Toole, president of the Public Service Motion Picture Theater Owners of America; and Raymond F. Woodhill, director of the Motion Picture Theater Owners of New Jersey, were introduced.

## Sword from Revolutionary War found under floor boards of Kenna farmhouse in 1916 remains a mystery to this day

This old, two-and-a-half story farmhouse is located at 752 Leaville Avenue, Rahway, once known as Leoville after an early family that resided in the area.



CITY ATTRACTION... The New Empire Theater, shown above in an architect's rendering, was comparable to theaters in cities much larger than Rahway when it was completed in 1924. Opening of the theater at 99 Irving Street (now 1544 Irving Street) took place with an elaborate ceremony on Monday, Dec. 15, 1924.

**"ACRYLIC NAILS"**

7 NAILS Reg. \$5.00 Off \$5.00 WITH THIS AD

July 29th thru Aug. 12th

**"Hair We Are" of Rahway**  
1096 St. George Ave.  
Rahway • 382-5186

**Happy Birthday**

from the News-Record

**Rahway Women's Club**

**Congratulations**

News-Record

for 163 years of Success

from **MUSICA**

Disc Jockey-Entertainers For All Occasions

471-2333

**Sincere Good Wishes To**

News-Record

**Second Presbyterian Church**  
1221 New Brunswick Ave., Rahway  
Came And Worship With Us

388-1136

Beginning Sept. 1st - 11 A.M.  
Pastor Gregory J. Koosian

Summer Union Services of Second Presbyterian Church, July 28, August 4, Communion and August 11

**Congratulations and Best Wishes!!**

News-Record

CANDY FAVORS for: Birth Announcements, Weddings, Showers

Specialty Cakes Made To Order (baking done at premises)

Summer Hours: Closed Sun., Mon., Tues. Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday 10-4 p.m.

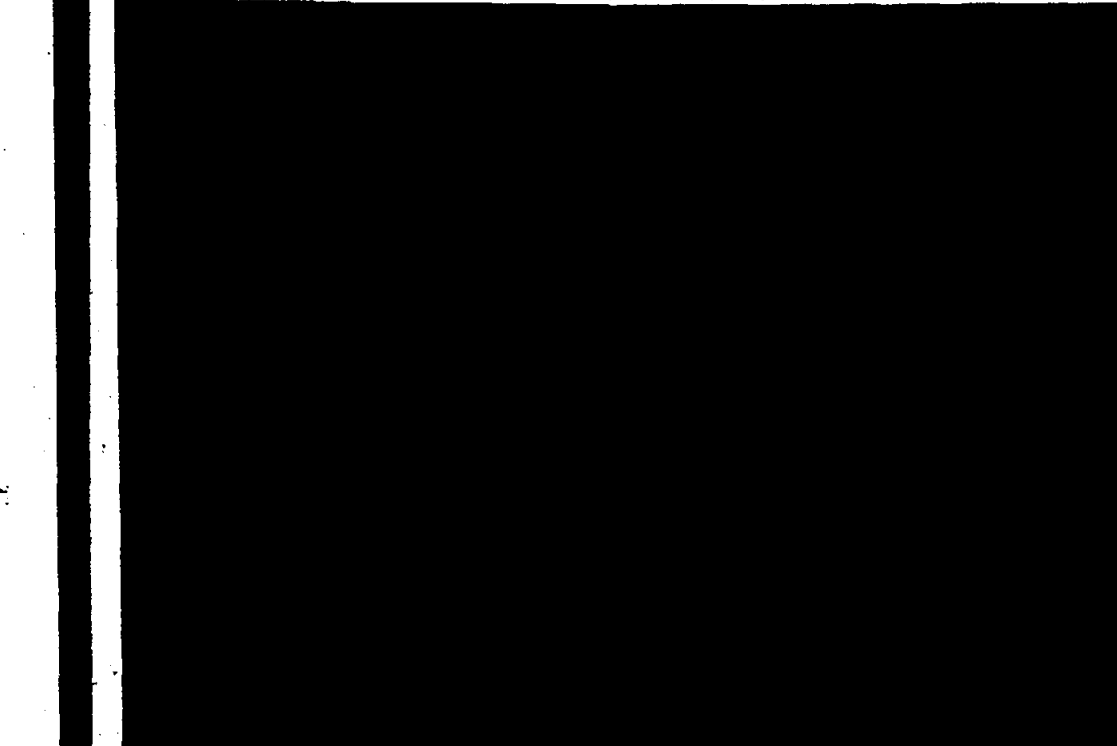
**KITCHEN CUPBOARD**

388-4084

**Congratulations**

News-Record

from the Sweetest Place in Town



THE FOUNDATION OF THE KENNA HOME BEARS THE DATE 1801

In 1916 electricity was installed, and when some floorboards were lifted, a Revolutionary War officer's sword was found. How many years it lay there and who put it there are a mystery. The sword has been authenticated and is still in the possession of the owners.

The information for this article was supplied by the Rahway Historical Society.

**Good Wishes To The**

News-Record

**FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RAHWAY-CLARK AREA BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE...**

**RAHWAY News-Record**  
Established 1822

**Clark Patriot**  
Established 1865

Union & Middlesex Counties	Out of County and State
1 Year - \$10.00	1 Year - \$12.00
2 Years - \$18.00	2 Years - \$22.00
3 Years - \$25.00	3 Years - \$30.00

Please enter my subscription to the Rahway News-Record or The Clark Patriot starting immediately. Enclosed is my check, cash or money order to cover subscription.

NAME (Please print name clearly) PHONE

STREET ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

219 CENTRAL AVE., RAHWAY, N.J. 07065

**Superior was largest**

**Rahway firm making custombodies for automobiles**

Rahway, once a center of the carriage manufacturing trade, developed an automobile body trade in the years before World War I.

One of the largest of the Rahway plants which made automobile bodies was that of the Superior Body Company which had Joseph Oxtman as its president. Mr. Oxtman was a designer of carriages before the manufacturing of carriages ended in Rahway. Thomas Armstrong, vice president and treasurer of Superior, had been a draftsman for the carriage industry. Mr. Oxtman's sons, Lester and Carl, and Mr. Armstrong's niece and nephew still reside in Rahway.

The plant superintendent was Daniel Martin. His son, Daniel L. Martin, and many of the Martin family are in Rahway. The office manager was "Chatterbox," also a Rahway resident.

The Superior Body Company was located originally on Hamilton Street but later was moved to a site now occupied by the Huffman-Koos furniture store on St. George Avenue, which was known as the Lincoln Highway. The plant on St. George Avenue was completed in 1913. Several additions were constructed later.

Success of the body buildings plants started in the area was assured by several factors. One was the sharp, customer-oriented design of the World War I years, 1914-18, of automotive production and the plants of the largest automobile manufacturers were devoted to the production of war materials. There was a shortage of automobiles and even when all restrictions were removed the demand for cars outdistanced the supply.

Chassis manufacturers made motors, frames and a stock model open touring car. The large chassis manufacturers competed for the attention of the body builders. Only the body builders produced special order touring cars together with specialized and stock sedans and exclusive special order town cars. The automobile was on the way to becoming a necessity rather than a pleasure vehicle.

Most of the automobile bodies produced by Superior were stock body sedans painted in Brewster green, maroon or dark blue. The most popular special order automobile chassis was the Reo.

The radiator shell was taken off the Reo and a silver radiator shell was used along with many specially requested personal insignias and individualized upholstery. Special-order cars were generally painted in high colors such as purple or robin's egg blue.

Other cars obtained included Stutz, Lozier, Winston, Templar, Mitchell, Cadillac and Cole.

When the car arrived at Superior's shop, it was stripped down to the chassis and fitted with a special body. The town cars produced were chauffeur driven. The cabriolet occupied the open part of the car which had a leather top that could be extended along with easelglass curtains for inclement weather. The passenger section of the car was enclosed.

Special order cars were made for actresses, including Gloria Swanson, Mabel Norman and Pearl White, and for royalty, including the king of Siam. The majority of the plant workers were Rahway residents and they have relatives who still reside in the city. During the peak period there were 400 workers employed. Twenty bodies a day were sent directly to manufacturers in Detroit, Mich., and 20 were shipped to other areas.

Superior had contracts with such companies as the Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company of Detroit, Mich.; Bishop, McCormack & Premier, Peugot, Fiat, Reo Motor Car Company; Fleet Motor Car Company; maker of the McFarlan, and Templar.

The 1917 Superior Body Company sponsored the first industrial league.

(Continued on Page 16)

**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
Byzantine Catholic Church

ST. GEORGE AVE. RAHWAY, N.J. 07065

**Congratulations The**

**News-Record**

On Its 163rd Birthday

**Congratulations and Best Wishes To The**

**RAHWAY News-Record**

New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822

**on the occasion of its 163rd Anniversary of service to the Rahway Community.**

**St. Mary's R.C. Church**  
232 Central Avenue  
Rahway, N.J. 07065

**388-0082**

A caring family-oriented community with a heart for all.





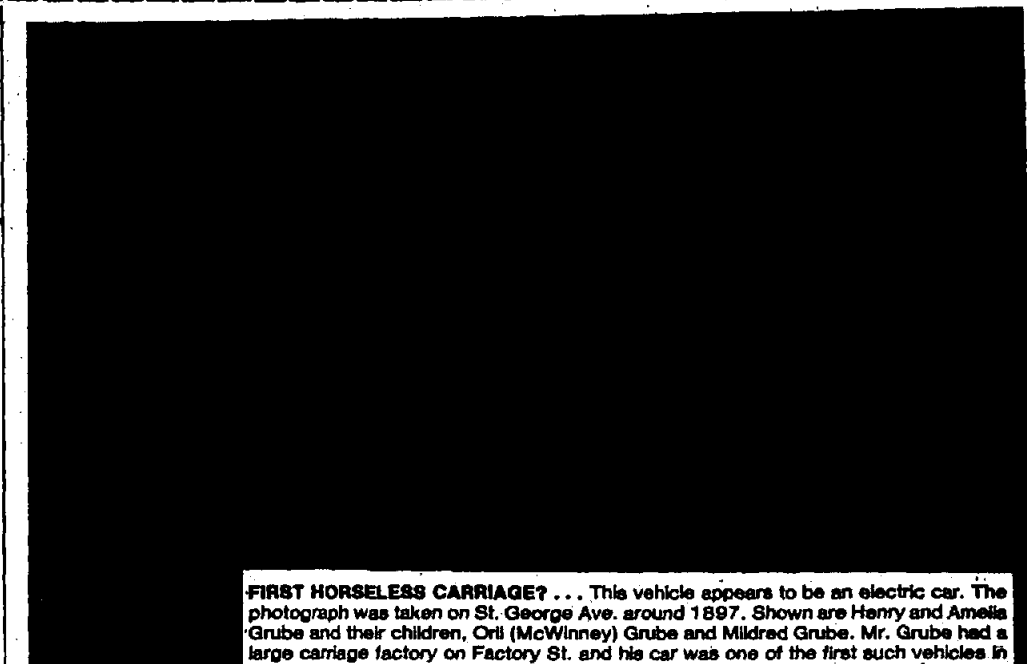
FRESH AS THE FLOWERS... The baby parade used to be an annual event in Rahway at the early part of the century. Amel Leonard, an employee of Baumann's Florist of Rahway, took this photograph of his nephew Thomas W. Burton, Jr., center, during the parade of

Superior Firm (Continued from Page 15)

the Twilight League. Plant employees formed the nucleus of the Superior team which won the championship. The players included "Buster" Albright, John Brooks and Elmer "Doc" and Arthur "Mona" Armstrong, sons of Superior's vice president.

A prospectus offering stock in Superior at \$5 a share listed the directors as mayor David H. Trenbly, A.F. Reilmeyer, secretary and treasurer of the Perth Amboy Gas and Light Company of Elizabeth, and Garrett S. Jones, an employee who formerly was cashier of the Rahway National Bank.

The company stated that its file of applications for automobile bodies manufactured of \$7 million worth of the business which would be handled would be limited only by our plant capacity and the working capital available for our use. The prospectus added.



FIRST HORSELESS CARRIAGE? ... This vehicle appears to be an electric car. The photograph was taken on St. George Ave. around 1897. Shown are Henry and Amelia Grube and their children, Ott (McWinnay) Grube and Mildred Grube. Mr. Grube had a large carriage factory on Factory St. and his car was one of the first such vehicles in the county. ... Photograph courtesy of Eric Rickes.

A profit-sharing plan was inaugurated in the plant and the result was increased production, the company

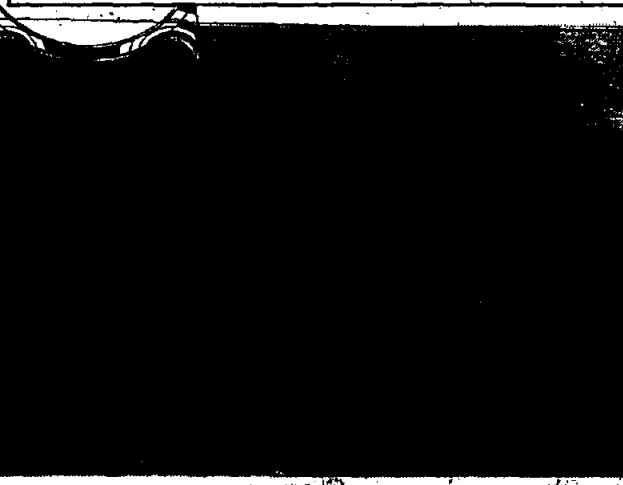
stated. It also noted that the board of directors voted to apply one-half of all profits to excess of 10% to each payment of dividends.

"The labor situation at the plant is exceptionally good and it is expected that the bonus plan now in force will entirely eliminate any possible dissatisfaction on the part of the employees," the prospectus stated. "The majority of the workmen are natives of the Rahway district, many of them owning their own homes."

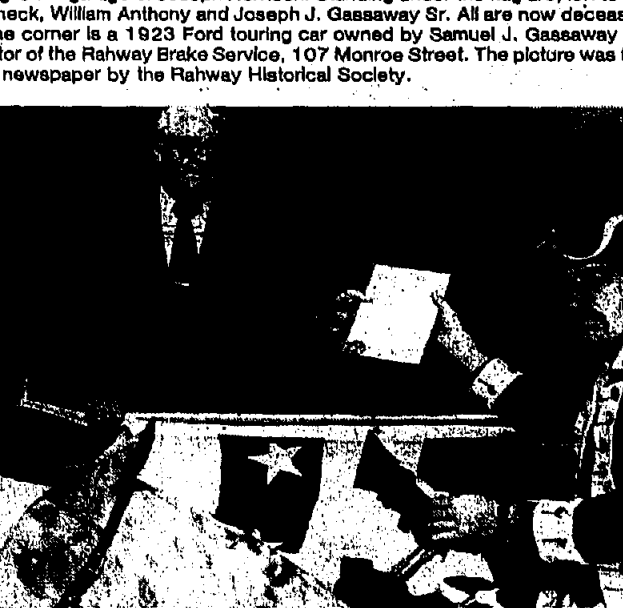
The company planned to sell 45,000 shares. The prospectus said the Superior Body Company, with continuation of its successful management and with enlarged organization and distribution facilities, would be likely to "rank among the leaders of the automobile body industry" as a result of obtaining the additional capital.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for the above feature story was provided by Mrs. Celia Ozman who is father's Lester Ozman, son of the president of the Superior Body Company.

EVENTS and HOLIDAYS



MEMORIAL DAY 80 YEARS AGO... Holiday traffic along St. George Avenue at Colonia Boulevard, Rahway, was lighter a half century ago as this photograph taken by Samuel J. Gassaway Sr. from the bridge of the Penn Central Railroad (formerly the Pennsylvania Railroad) on Memorial Day in 1924 shows. The picture of the area north of St. George also shows the area relatively undeveloped. The building with the American flag flying is the garage of Joseph Hornick standing under the flag are left to right - Julius Hornick, William Anthony and Joseph J. Gassaway Sr. All are now deceased. Parked at the corner is a 1923 Ford touring car owned by Samuel J. Gassaway who is proprietor of the Rahway Brakes Service, 107 Morrow Street. The picture was furnished to this newspaper by the Rahway Historical Society.



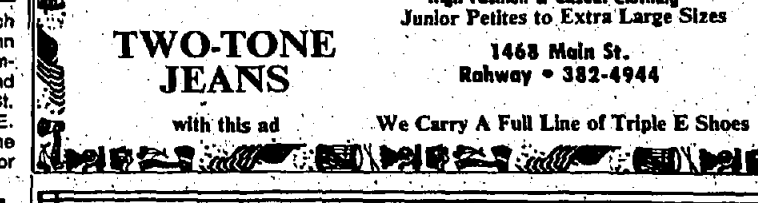
THEY WERE ALL FOR GEORGE... The flag shown draped across what is now Sound-A-Rama on Main Street was put out to honor the men "first in the hearts of his countrymen," by members of the Junior Mechanics who maintained a meeting hall on the second floor. The picture was taken on Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22, 1894 by George Chamberlin. The store, then operated by D.F. Coles who sold everything from medicine to books, is basically unchanged from that early day. In fact most of the business district dates from the early and late 19th century.

Our Thank-You Card

Putting together a historical issue such as the 163rd Anniversary Issue of The Rahway News-Record requires the talents and creativity of many dedicated people on the newspaper's staff in addition to the help provided by our many generous readers. Special acknowledgments to the following:

EDITORIAL Editor and Publisher - C. Vigilante Assistant Editor - Bob Faszczewski

GRAPHIC ARTISTS Joann Cichowski, Ruth Dorey and Lynn Jaros ADVERTISING Manager - Ellen Vigilante Debbie Stacey CAMERA WORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY Mike Vigilante and John Hawk COMPOSITION AND TYPESETTING Supervisor - Joan Gorznicki Gail Esposito, Debbie Dieterich, Joanne Albolino and Jeannette Petralia.



News Record logo and contact information for C. Vigilante, Robert R. Faszczewski, and Ellen Vigilante.



BATTLE ON ST. GEORGE AVE... This painting, by Lloyd Garrison of Rahway, depicts the Battle of Spanktown, and it can be seen in the Rahway Cemetery, can be seen a little further down. All the way down is the Merchants and Drivers Tavern, as it looked in 1777.

St. George Ave. hosted battles

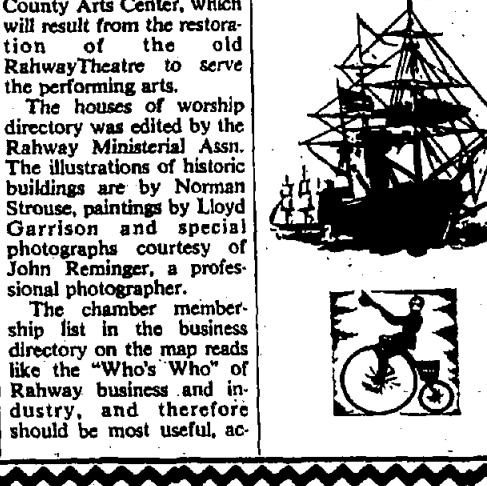
For several months prior to 1777 Gen. George Washington had been corresponding with Brigadier Gen. William Maxwell in regard to the control of the town and settlements in central New Jersey. British troops had control of the entire area. After the battles of Red Bank and Princeton, Gen. Washington wrote to Gen. Maxwell ordering him to attack the British. After driving the British troops out of Short Hills through Newark, Springfield and Elizabethtown, he then fought them at Spanktown (Rahway). The name Spanktown was used only during the Revolutionary period and was used with relative consistency. The painting depicts the first of many encounters. The British, under the command of Brigadier Charles Mowbray, were joined by a large contingent of troops from the 52nd Regiment, 5th Regiment and 10th and 38th Grenadiers. On Sunday, Jan. 5, 1777 Gen. Maxwell's men fired upon Her Majesty's troops on St. George Ave. by Scott Ave. To the right is a white house known as the Marsh House, built around 1690. The old First Presbyterian Church, which was located in the Rahway Cemetery, can be seen a little further down. All the way down is the Merchants and Drivers Tavern, as it looked in 1777. The British Grenadiers seen in foreground are members of the Famous 38th Regiment. The artist, Lloyd Garrison, is related to two Revolutionary War veterans, Abraham Terrill, 1735-1791, and Ames Terrill, 1746-1802. They may have been involved in these battles.



SPARKLING NEW... The passenger station of the Pennsylvania Railroad, now New Jersey Transit, in Rahway was new when this photograph was taken for a post card series about 80 years ago. The station was opened formally on July 26, 1913. Elevation of the tracks was completed in the same year. Plans for renovation of the structure called for a new facade to be constructed and remodeling of the interior at a cost of \$995,000. The work was to be completed several years ago according to word received by former Assemblyman Herbert H. Klein from the state department of transportation. The post card shown above was one of 25 given to The Rahway News-Record by Mrs. William Melbourne of 358 W. Lake Avenue, an aunt of former Mayor Robert E. Henderson. Mrs. Melbourne's grandfather, Benjamin Hughes, served as a street commissioner of the city.

CHAMBER MAP ON INSIDE

As a special feature of the Rahway News-Record's 163rd anniversary edition included inside is the new map of Rahway recently issued by the Rahway Chamber of Commerce. The map is full of interesting information on the city, many photographs, a directory of the houses of worship and, of course, the many street directory and a list of 42 points of interest. One of the more notable additions this year is the material on the Union County Arts Center, which will result from the restoration of the old Rahway Theatre to serve the performing arts. The houses of worship directory was edited by the Rahway Ministerial Assn. The illustrations of historic buildings are by Norman Strouse, paintings by Lloyd Garrison and special photographs courtesy of John Reminger, a professional photographer.



The chamber membership list in the business directory on the map reads like the "Who's Who" of Rahway business and industry, and therefore should be most useful according to project director, Ray Egert.

Chamber membership is open to civic, business and industrial entities in the community, and also to individuals whose civic interest may make membership desirable. Please telephone 499-0210, 388-8087 or write to Rahway Chamber of Commerce, Post Office Box 595C, Rahway, N.J. 07065 for a membership application.



As we go to press, our President Ronald Reagan is in Bethesda Naval Hospital, Maryland, recuperating from recent surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery along with our sincere best wishes for good health, strength and endurance.

Advertisement for 'Happy Birthday' with contact information for Rahway Community Action Org., Inc. at 796 East Hazelwood Avenue, Rahway, 382-9311.

Best Wishes News Record

Advertisement for Miller Shoes, featuring a 50% off storewide sale and contact information at 1524 Main St., Rahway, 388-2073.

Auto Supply

Advertisement for Rahway Auto Supply & Service Co., featuring a Chevrolet dealer and contact information at 1500 Ave. & Broad St., 388-0410.

Advertisement for Atlantic Tire, Neighborhood Tire Distributor, 1430 St. Georges Ave., Avenel, 381-0100.

Advertisement for Gibson Air Conditioner, Model No. AL95A4EB, price \$2595, with 20% off.

Advertisement for Mimi's Fashions, \$5 off two-tone jeans, 1468 Main St., Rahway, 382-4944.

Advertisement for Rahway Democratic Club, featuring a historical illustration of a woman.

Advertisement for Everything Sale at Marks Harris, savings up to 70%.

Advertisement for Lady Fair, Main St. at the Bend.



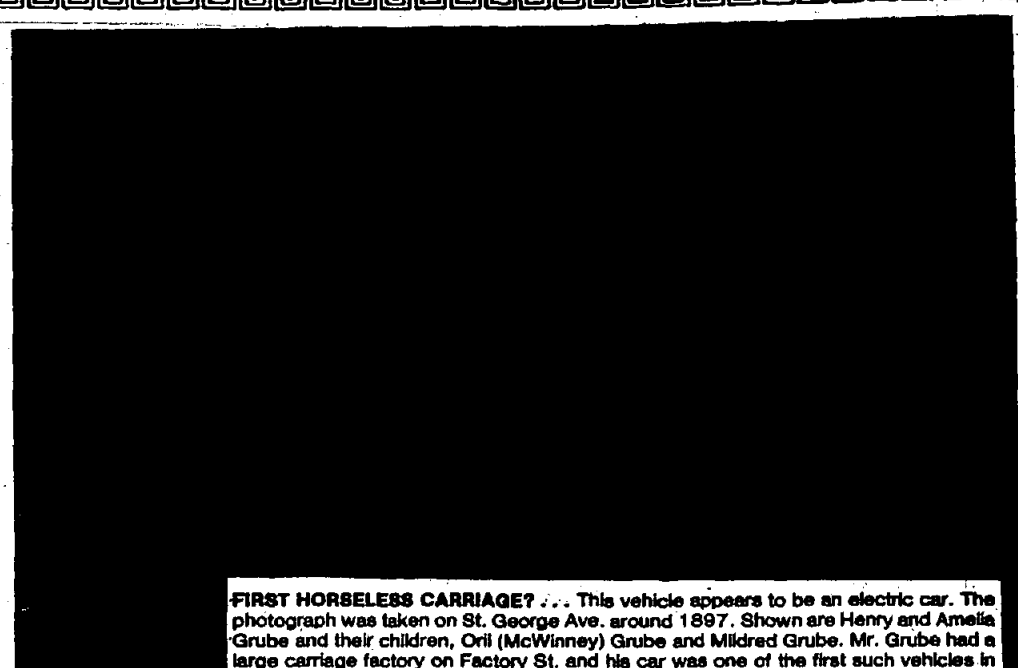


FRESH AS THE FLOWERS...The baby parade used to be an annual event in Rahway at the early part of the century. Anni Leonard, an employee of Baumann's Florist of Rahway, took this photograph of his nephew Thomas W. Burton, Jr., center, during the parade of either 1919 or 1920. Despite the passage of years Mr. Burton of 879 West Inman Avenue is still a city resident and Baumann's Florist, established in 1858, is still in business.

Superior Firm (Continued from Page 15)

the Twilight League Plant employees formed the nucleus of the Superior team which won the championship. The players included "Rattle" Abright, John Brooks and Eimer "Doc" and Arthur "Monk" Armstrong, sons of Superior's vice president.

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EVENTS and HOLIDAYS



"YOU MUST HAVE BEEN A BEAUTIFUL BABY..." Winner of the July 4 baby parade held in Rahway in 1920 is Mrs. Walter J. Hou of 1475 Lawrence Street, Rahway, the daughter of Mrs. Charles J. Klasek. The Rahway answer to Shirley Temple is being pushed by her mother in the first white carriage on the right in front of the man in the skimmer. Behind the eventual winner is Mrs. William Degenhart pushing her daughter in a decorated baby carriage.

MEMORIAL DAY 60 YEARS AGO... Holiday traffic along St. George Avenue at Colonia Boulevard, Rahway, was lighter a half century ago as this photograph taken by Samuel J. Gessaway Sr. from the bridge of the Penn Central Railroad (formerly the Pennsylvania Railroad) on Memorial Day in 1924 shows. The picture of the area north of Six Roads also shows the area relatively undeveloped. The building with the American flag flying is the garage of Joseph Horneck. Standing under the flag are, left to right, Julius Horneck, William Anthony and Joseph Gessaway Sr. All are now deceased. Parked at the corner is a 1923 Ford touring car owned by Samuel J. Gessaway who is proprietor of the Rahway Brake Service, 107 Monroe Street. The picture was furnished to this newspaper by the Rahway Historical Society.

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Congratulations News Record Storewide Sale 50% OFF. Includes list of items like Curtains, Bedspreads, Draperies, Linens, etc.

Congratulations News Record from the RAHWAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB



As we go to press, our President Ronald Resgen is in Bethesda Naval Hospital, Maryland, recuperating from recent surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery along with our sincere best wishes for good health, strength and endurance.

To The News Record Happy Birthday Many More Successful Years. RAHWAY COMMUNITY ACTION ORG., INC. 796 EAST HAZELWOOD AVENUE RAHWAY 382-9311

Best Wishes News Record From MILLER SHOES. ALL SUMMER SHOES 20 To 40 OFF. Rack Shoe Sale 19.99. 1524 Main St. Rahway 388-2073

RAHWAY'S AUTHORIZED CHEVROLET DEALER Since 1919

Happy To Wish The News Record Congratulations and Best Wishes For Many Years to Come. Rahway Auto Supply & Service Co. 1510 Main Ave. & Broad St. 388-0410

CONGRATULATIONS News Record Neighborhood Tire Distributor serving the wonderful people of Rahway for the past 20 years. Atlantic Tire 381-0100 1430 ST. GEORGE'S AVE., AVEVEL CALL FOR APPOINTMENT • 381-0100 WE ACCEPT

GIBSON Air Conditioner 5,000 BTU, Model No. AL05A4EB OUR DISCOUNT PRICE: 259.95 Additional 20% OFF with this ad. RAHWAY HARDWARE & APPLIANCE CO. 1553 MAIN ST., RAHWAY 388-1574 388-0772

Congratulations News Record Everything ON SALE Mark's Harris SAVINGS TO 70% LADY FAIR (MAIN ST. AT THE BEND) Rahway, N.J. 388-7998



# We're Proud To Have This Opportunity To Say ...

## **Congratulations!**

TO THE

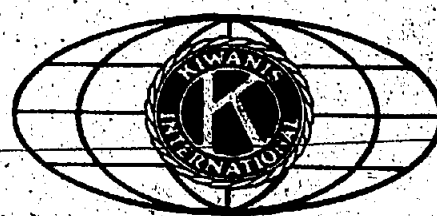
RAHWAY  
**News Record**

*New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822*

**Kiwanis Club of Rahway, N.J.**  
Chartered January 15, 1923

**We are proud of our 62 years of service...**

### **SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES...**



- Rahway High School Key Club • Rahway Jr. High School Builder's Club
- Annual scholarship to deserving high school graduate residing in Rahway
- Annual donation to the Rahway Public Library for children's books & visual aids
- Sponsor of Annual Golf Tournament benefitting the Rahway Hospital
- Ongoing can collection for the Hospice Program at Rahway Hospital
- Holiday canned goods collection for distribution to the needy
- Sponsor of various sports, charities and civic projects

