



**Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation, Inc.**
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The Gazette



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Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day - Third Saturday of Each October
BCHF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all volunteer organization.

FEBRUARY 2015

We Need Your Continued Support In The New Year

When you read this copy of THE GAZETTE, you will recognize that our organization is a very active one. Your financial support is very important; however, by volunteering for the various activities and especially attending

programs, you will help make our organization important to the community. BCHF was started 48 years ago and we hope that it will continue for many years in the future.

Thank You Robin and Welcome Geraldine

At the January 2015 meeting of the BCHF Board of Directors, Board Member, Robin Simmers-Butrey submitted her resignation as a member of the Board of Directors. BCHF appreciates the work that Robin has done for our organization. Robin is not moving away from Bristol and we look forward to her continued membership, interest and participation.

At the same meeting in January, Geraldine Cole was

approved for membership on the Board of Directors to fill the three-year unexpired term of Robin. We welcome Geraldine and look forward to her membership on the Board of Directors. Most recently, Geraldine has helped with the work on various programs and especially at the Annual Peach Festival in August. Welcome Geraldine.

BCHF Calendar of Events for 2015

FEBRUARY - Sun., 2/8, 3-5 PM. Annual Tea, with "Tea at Sea at 3" Theme. \$20/ticket. BCHF headquarters. Advance reservations required; call 215 788-9408.

MARCH - Sun., 3/22, 2 PM. 1st person presentation by Linda Kenyon, entitled "Julia Says, 'Bon Appetit!'" Light refreshment. \$4 pp. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 788-9408 for info.

APRIL - Wed., 4/22. "Philadelphia Culture & Culinary" bus trip. Tour and lunch at Culinary of Arts, followed by self-guided tour of the Barnes Museum with digital audio guide. \$87 for BCHF members; \$90 for non-members. Reservation deadline is Feb. 13. Call 215 788-4138 for info/reservations

AUGUST - Sun. 8/2 Annual Peach Social. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches and ice cream, plus beverage. Takeouts available with own container. Baked goods table. \$5/adult, \$3 under age 12. BCHF air-conditioned headquarters. **BENEFITS BCHF AWARDS TO BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.**

SEPTEMBER - Fri., 9/18. Bus trip to National September 11 Memorial and Museum, followed by free time and lunch-on-

your-own at the annual San Gennaro Festival in "Little Italy." \$71 for BCHF members; \$76 for non-members. Reservation info will be announced in April 2015.

OCTOBER - Sat., 10/17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 39th Historic Bristol Day, Fee for House Tour & Tea. For details, visit the BCHF website given below.

NOVEMBER - Wed., 11/18, 7:30 p.m. BCHF's annual business meeting, incl. election of Board members. Program and refreshments follow. Free. BCHF headquarters. Call 215 781-9895 for info.

DECEMBER - Wed. - Fri., 12/2-4. "Newport Mansions at the Holidays" bus trip, featuring The Breakers, Marble House and The Elms. 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners. Stop at Olde Mistick Village, guided tour of Newport, tours of the three-stated decorated mansions. All taxes & meal gratuities, driver & Newport guide gratuities. \$370 pp double, \$360 pp triple, \$445 single. Call 215 788-9408 for info/reservations.

- BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol
- For current information about activities and events, check out our web site at www.bristolhistory.org.

Bristol Riverside Theater - 2015 Season

"Always Patsy Cline" - January 27 - February 22, 2015

"Ragtime: - March 17 - April 12, 2015 / "An Enemy of the People" - May 12 - 31

Phone 215 785-0100 for tickets, dates and additional information.

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Harold Mitchener, Editor

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Articles for this issue of THE GAZETTE were contributed by: Helen Younglove, Carol Mitchener, and Harold Mitchener.

"Bon Appetit!"



On **Sunday, March 22**, at 2 p.m., actress Linda Kenyon will bring her one-woman show entitled "Julia Says 'Bon Appetit!'" to BCHF's stage. Ms. Kenyon, appearing in costume and accompanied by props, will do a 50-minute presentation on famous chef Julia Child.

Light refreshment will be served at the conclusion of the program. A donation of \$4 per attendee is requested, payable at the door.

Call 215 788-9408 for further information.

Trip Talk

February 13 is the reservation deadline for the Wednesday, April 22, "Philadelphia Cultural & Culinary" bus trip. As of this writing, seats were available. The itinerary includes a brief tour of the Culinary of Arts, a 4-course luncheon in their "Petite Passion" restaurant, and a self-guided tour of the Barnes Museum using digital audio guides. Cost is \$87 for BCHF members and \$90 for non-members. Contact Ellanna Delaney at 215 788-4138 re: current availability.

Reservations are now being accepted by Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408 on the December 2-4 "Newport, RI, Holiday," featuring tours of three beautifully decorated mansions; viz., The Breakers, The Elms, and Marble House. Enroute there will be a stop at Olde Mistick Village in CT. The package includes round-trip motorcoach transportation from Bristol, 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, tours of the aforementioned mansions - each elaborately decorated for Christmas, a guided tour of Newport, free time at the Brick Market Place, baggage handling, all taxes and meal gratuities, and driver and Newport guide gratuities. A \$200 pp deposit will secure a reservation, with the balance due by October 2.

**2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
ENVELOPES ARE IN THE MAIL - -
DON'T FORGET TO RETURN IT
WITH YOUR DUES
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
We Look Forward To Another
Active Year of Service
To The Community**

Two Important - But Entirely Separate Groups

Two groups that function in Bristol are BCHF and HARB; each organization has its own purpose and mission. Bristol Borough is a very old and important town in Pennsylvania. Being one of the oldest (having been founded in 1681), there are sections of the Borough that have very old and interesting buildings architecturally. Once portions of the town were added to the National Register of Historic Places, the Borough government saw a need to create the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) to advise homeowners of how their properties should continue to meet the goals that were established.

The Districts named for the National Register were:

Bristol Historic District (including the oldest portion of the Borough)

Bristol Industrial District (13.8 acres consisting of 36 buildings and 7 structures)

Jefferson Land Association (6.6 acres which contain 4 blocks comprising 76 residential buildings and 4 commercial buildings)

Harriman District (17 acres mostly constructed in early 1918 as a planned residential community for workers employed at the Emergency Fleet Corp.)

Quoting from the "Statement of Purpose" - page 1 - "The residents of Bristol Borough have been aware of the Borough's association with historic events and famous people for many years. Recently, the significance of this rich history received recognition with the nomination of four historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places. The Borough of Bristol has determined that with this recognition comes a respon-

Bill Booster Helped Bristol

An interesting small article appeared in the "Bristol Daily Courier" newspaper in February and March of 1923. The article included a cartoon type figure of a man whom they called "Bill Booster". It reminds this writer of a similar campaign in 2015 called "Raising the Bar". The person leading the present day campaign is another "Bill", Bill Pezza.

In 1923, Bill Booster was saying the following: "I am a booster. I am for everything that is for the Good of the Town! I'm for Good Roads, Brass Bands, Public Libraries, Paved Streets, Schools, Chautauquas, Commercial Clubs, Newspapers, Town Celebrations, and so on! I AM A BOOSTER!"

Some of the aforementioned items in that small article at the present time (2015) are especially interesting. Readers would respond that we already have paved streets within the Borough, a state-of-the-art library (Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library), serv-

sibility to inform the residents of the community of the historic and architectural significance of the neighborhood in which they live, and to encourage the preservation and restoration of the qualities and features that warrant the National Register standing."

In contrast, Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. (BCHF) was started in 1967 and serves the town as an organization that promotes history, art, music and literature as its main mission. This is the organization that sponsors Historic Bristol Day on the third Saturday of each October and provides various programs, trips and tours that meet the goals of the mission of the group. It also awards money to four members of the Bristol High School Senior Class each June in the four areas of the organization's stated mission. This newsletter ("The Gazette") is published nine times a year by BCHF. When someone contacts BCHF for historical research, an agreement was established with the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library to help that person try to find the answer. An appointment can be made with the Library personnel to have various photography, documents, papers, etc. used in the research.

HARB continues to function under the purview of the Bristol Borough Council. BCHF is a 501c3 non-profit, all-volunteer organization. These two groups are entirely independent of one another. If there is any doubt, one of the best ways to check on this is to telephone the Bristol Municipal Building on Pond Street and have HARB further explained or contact BCHF and have its mission further explained.

ice type clubs (Rotary, Lions, Elks to mention a few), a newspaper "Bucks County Courier Times" (formerly the "Bristol Courier"), Town Celebrations (particularly Historical Bristol Day in October each year) as examples.

The Chautauquas we do not have in Bristol. In the early part of the 20th century and the latter part of the 19th century, these were important because they were meetings that promoted areas of cultural activities and learning particularly in summer when people could gather in various locations, sometimes out of town. In a time when television had yet to be invented along with other forms of social media, they served the population with information and ideas that they may never experience.

Even at the present, the ideals of "Bill Booster" should be taken seriously to match with the present time. "BOOST BRISTOL".

Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **FEBRUARY 1955** issues of THE BRISTOL DAILY COURIER.

2/1 - - FOUR BOARDS AGREE TO BUILD TECH SCHOOL. Construction of a Bucks County Technical School somewhere between Bensalem Township and Morrisville Borough is now a certainty.

MAILMAN TRAMPS 34 YEARS IN BORO. Morris "Cookie" Carter, Bristol Borough's oldest mailman, celebrates his 34th anniversary with the Post Office, a record unmatched by any carrier in the borough. He began in 1921 in the Harriman section. "Cookie" has probably delivered more than a half-million letters.

2/2 - - CHEERERS' SKIRTS ABOVE EYELINE; SCHOOL BOARD TO TAKE ACTION. When is a cheerleader's skirt too short? Bristol High School authorities took up this interesting question last night at the school board meeting. Following investigation, the skirts have been found exceptionally short. In the near future, they will be either altered or the girls with the short skirts will be withdrawn from the cheerleading ranks.

PATROLMAN BIDS FAREWELL TO FORCE. Bristol patrolman John Sackville retired after more than twenty years of service with the borough. He is the first patrolman in Bucks County to be pensioned.

2/3 - - MERC HITS A RECORD LOW. A record-breaking 3 degrees above zero smacked Lower Bucks County early this morning, the lowest February 3 temperature since 1887 and the lowest reading for any one day since January 31, 1948.

"A&P . . . More Low Prices! Kleenex Facial Tissues - Box of 300, 19¢. Cut-Rite Wax Paper - Roll, 23¢. Ann Page Salad Dressing - 25¢. Jane Parker Donuts - Dozen in Carton - 19¢. Gerber's Strained Baby Food - 10 Jars, 95¢. Heinz Soups - Two 11-oz. Cans, 33¢. Veal Cutlets - \$1.29 Lb. Rock Lobsters - 99¢ Lb. Ground Beef - 3 Lbs., \$1.00."

2/8 - - FESTIVITIES MARK RETURN OF AIRMAN. Christmas was celebrated again this week at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Cochran, Sr., 819 Garden Street, Bristol. They celebrated Christmas and the return of their son, Naval Airman Earl Cochran, who was discharged on his mother's birthday. He will soon report to work with Seaboard Container, his former employer.

BRISTOL COPS 3rd STRAIGHT TITLE. Warriors Top Pennsbury to Clinch Flag. Coach Barbara Yerkes' lassies also made it eight straight for this season and a total of 16 straight over a two-year span. Playing for Bristol were: Woodring, Mazzella, Sanko, J. Diamanti, Adams, Moffett, Galione, and L. Grosby.

2/15 - - BRISTOL COUNCIL APPROVES BUDGET, SETS MILLAGE AT 17. The 1955 budget was adopted without a dissenting vote by Bristol Borough Council last evening, and revealed that \$10,000 is set aside for a proposed roadway into the borough parking lot from Old Route 13. It also states that borough employees will be given an increase of five cents per hour dating from January 1.

"O'BOYLE'S 33rd ANNIVERSARY SALE! 1922-1955. 1/2 Gallon - only 88¢. 1 Qt. Hand-Dipped Bulk - 79¢. 18

Wonderful Flavors! Route 13 & Beaver Dam Road and Green Lane & E. Farragut Ave."

"CAPITOL FURNITURE CO., 238-240 Mill Street . . . Colorful, Casual Saratoga Group by Kroehler. Sofa - \$160. Chair - \$99.50."

"Double Yellow Trading Stamps - Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday - on All Purchases! PREMIER, 302 Mill Street. Jewelry, Records, Radios, Appliances."

2/21 - - JERRY CROSBY VOTED OUTSTANDING LOWER BUCKS WRESTLER. Jerry Crosby, Bristol High junior, was voted the outstanding wrestler of the season, following the first annual Lower Bucks wrestling championships in the Delhaas High School gym on Saturday. Crosby, a 112-lb. wrestler, won nine and lost one during the season.

"PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD . . . Ladies Day One-Day Excursions to New York. Every Wednesday. Only \$1.35 Round Trip in Coach from Trenton. Fares subject to 10% Federal Tax."

2/22 - - FORT DIX BEATS BLS ALL-STARS. Soldiers Spurt Late in Game to Win 103-88. The game was sponsored by the Courier and Times, with the receipts to be used towards the purchase of an electrically-operated football scoreboard for Bristol High School. The All-Stars squad consisted of Houck, Paone, Bowe, Osborne, Eckert, Faccioli, Strobele, Whitfield, Loud, Knull and Williams.

2/22 - - BRISTOL COUPLE ENGAGED TO MARRY. Mrs. Rose Marino, 217 Dorrance Street, Bristol, announces the engagement of her daughter, Rose, to Mr. Francis T. Kirk, son of Mr. & Mrs. F. Kirk, Jr., 631 New Buckley Street, Bristol. Miss Marino is a graduate of St. Ann's Commercial School, Bristol. Mr. Kirk is a graduate of Northeast Catholic High School, Philadelphia. No date has been set for the wedding.

"MODERN MAID, 236 Mill Street . . . Dollar Days, Thursday, Friday, Saturday! Misses' Winter Coats, 100% Wool - Values to \$39.95 - Just \$12. Juniors' & Misses Dresses - Values to \$22.95 - Now \$6, \$8, \$10. Join our Dress Club. Winners every week."

2/24 - - ABANDONMENT OF BRISTOL TERRACE 2 HALTED. Bristol Township Commissioners Move to Save the Development. The commissioners adopted a resolution asking the Federal Housing Administration to sell, instead of tearing down, the 400-unit low rent development.

2/28 - - HISTORIC WATERWAY BREAKS OPEN. The historic Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania canal burst its bank in Bristol yesterday, drying the 124-year-old canal bed four miles upstream. It broke through 100 yards north of the Pennsylvania Railroad's mainline, washing away a narrow wooden trough that had diverted its waters to Adams Hollow Creek. The now-dry canal was used for fire protection for three Bristol plants - Warner J. Steel Company, Thomas L. Leedom Co., and the Grundy plant of Kaiser Metal Products Corp.

"JOHNSTON'S WAYSIDE FURNITURE INC., Route 13 & Beaver Dam Road, Bristol . . . Large Selection of **Bubble Lamps!** Would Sell for \$19.95 - Special \$9.95."

The Bristol Riverside Theatre and an Oscar Winner

In 1986, the BRISTOL RIVERSIDE THEATRE opened its doors to the public for the first time. On the stage was the play "THE GOOD EARTH" by Bucks County author, Pearl Buck. Sitting in the audience was Louise Rainer. She had gained Hollywood immortality by becoming the first person to win an acting Academy Award in consecutive years. In 1936 her Oscar was for her work in the film, "The Great Ziegfeld". Her second Oscar was awarded in 1937 for "The Good Earth". Only four other actors have been awarded back-to-back Oscars: Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Jason Robards and Tom Hanks.

Louise Rainer, whose home at the time was in Switzerland, was in her 70's when she visited the Bristol Riverside Theatre.

In December 2014, the death of Louise Rainer was announced by her only daughter, Francesca Knittel Bowyer. She was 104 years old. Her daughter stated at the time of her death "that she was bigger than life and could charm the birds out of the trees". "If you saw her, you would never forget her".

The Bristol Riverside Theatre was fortunate to have had Louise Rainer visit the theater to be present for its opening performance.

Louise Rainer - 1910-2014

Where Did The U.S. Penny Go?

January 17th was the day Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1706. Wanting to leave the city of his birth where the Puritan Fathers had many restrictions, he made his way from Boston, MA to Burlington, NJ. There he went to the Delaware River and managed to obtain a ride down the river to the Quaker City of Philadelphia. Once in that city he found work in the printing business, an occupation he had learned from his brother in Boston.

Between 1732 and 1758 Franklin published "the Farmers' Almanac", a periodical that was enjoyed by many and in it many subjects were covered, including weather predictions and remedies for all kinds of illnesses. The year 1732 was to become a rather famous year; it was the year of George Washington's birth and also the year the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia was erected. In that building was signed the "Declaration of Independence".

One of the interesting quotes attributed to Franklin was "A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned." That quote is recognized by many and when thinking about it, it does have a ring of truth.

In 1892, when Benjamin Harrison was the twenty-third

U.S. President, several newspapers published the statement "The Penny Must Go". One Pennsylvania newspaper published an article about it saying that it must be shut out of Church collections. Often those who dropped a penny in the church collection basket were really the people who could easily have afforded to contribute a nickel or a dime. The article went on to say that a church service was at least worth more than a penny.

This writer is not aware of what Bristol publications were printing; however, most likely a similar thought was published in Bristol. In 1892, Bristol had the Bristol Society of Friends' (Quaker), St. James Episcopal Church, Bristol Methodist Episcopal Church, Bethel A.M.E. Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, St. Mark Church, Bristol Presbyterian Church and First Baptist Church of Bristol. These houses of worship may have also had many pennies to count.

By 2015, articles have begun to appear to get rid of the penny, not due to contributions in houses of worship, but due to present costs. Will the image of President number sixteen, Abraham Lincoln on coins, be erased forever?

decided to have a school class, which was on a field trip of the historical district of Philadelphia, have their lunch at an automat. (Hopefully it was a learning experience).

Having received a package of Horn & Hardart Coffee for a Christmas gift in 2014, it was decided to try a cup of the company's coffee as this article was being composed.

WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THIS JOURNEY THROUGH SOME OF THE 20th CENTURY'S GASTRONOMIC HISTORY.

Let's Have Lunch At the Horn & Hardart Automat

Many older people in the immediate Philadelphia area, including Bristol, sometimes had an opportunity to travel to the "city" for special shopping. This was often at the Christmas Holiday. Public transportation was usually available.

For many people a shopping day in the city would not be complete without a stop at an automat. The word automat comes from the Greek word "automatos" meaning "self-acting". But for many of the people, especially the children who did not care about the Greek derivation, the important thing was to have nickels to put in the slots. After inserting the correct amount of nickels and turning a knob next to a window, the glass door would open. This was a special eatery where the customer did not see the person placing the food behind the glass doors. (A special divider kept the purchaser from seeing the person in the kitchen.) As the food was selected, similar food was soon replaced behind the glass on the doors.

In 1927 Horn & Hardart sponsored a radio program "The Horn and Hardart Children's Hour" which was a variety show with a cast of children. In Philadelphia, the radio station was WCAU. Frankie Avalon was a frequent performer of the "Children's Hour" and a child prodigy trumpet player. In NY City the Radio station during the 1940's and 1950's was NBC Radio hosted by Paul Douglass succeeded by Ralph Edwards and others.

Joseph Horn (1861 - 1941) was born in Germany. Frank Hardart (1850 - 1918) was raised in New Orleans. The two met and decided to open a restaurant together. It was an 11 x 17 foot lunchroom at 39th South Thirteenth Street. There were no tables and only a counter with 15 stools. This location had been a print shop of Dunlap and Claypoole, who were printers to the American Congress and George Washington. The two entrepreneurs decided to introduce Philadelphia to New Orleans style French-drip coffee which was promoted by Horn & Hardart as their "gilt-edge" brew. This made their luncheonette a local attraction. Soon, many people wanted to stop and see the new luncheonette and business flourished. They then incorporated in 1898 as the Horn & Hardart Baking Company.

Once incorporated, they opened their first automat in Philadelphia, June 12, 1902. They copied the automat idea from similar eateries in Berlin, Germany.

Horn & Hardart expanded their idea to New York City. The first automat opened in that city was in Times Square, July 2, 1912. Later that week another opened on Broadway and East 14th Street, near Union Square.

In 1924, Horn & Hardart opened retail stores to sell

prepackaged automat favorites. Using the advertising slogan "Less Work for Mother", the company popularized the notion of easily served "take-out" foods as an equivalent to "home-cooked" meals.

During the Depression era, macaroni and cheese, baked beans and creamed spinach became the staple offerings at their restaurants.

By the time of Horn's death, 1941, the business had 157 retail shops and restaurants in the Philadelphia and New York City areas and served 500,000 patrons per day.

In 1953, the company split into two independent corporations. The New York Company became known as the Horn & Hardart Company and in Philadelphia they used the name Horn & Hardart Baking Company. The New York Company traded on the American Stock Exchange and in Philadelphia the Horn & Hardart Baking Company traded on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange.

The nickel was very important to the first automats; however, the company started to offer more expensive items and they decided to require tokens valued up to 75¢ which were available from a cashier. By this time they had provided heated units for hot foods and cool units for foods that people liked to eat cold.

Eventually they served lunch and dinner entrees such as beef stew and Salisbury steak with mashed potatoes. Self-serve restaurants operated in the city for nearly a century.

Restaurants remained popular into the early 1960's with automats, sit-down waitress service restaurants, cafeterias and baking shops.

In the 1960's consultants attempted to develop automats with interiors decorated relevant to surrounding neighborhoods. These did not improve sales.

The eateries began to close with the rise of fast-food restaurants. The last New York City Horn & Hardart automat was at 42nd and Third Ave. It closed in April 1991.

In the 1990's, two entrepreneurs bought the Philadelphia Baking Company out of bankruptcy by selecting some of the most famous foods that had been served at the Horn & Hardart automats and restaurants. Those foods were macaroni and cheese, harvard beets, tapioca pudding and cucumber salad. These selections were packaged fresh, refrigerated and sold in supermarkets in Philadelphia and New York City. By 2002, these foods seem to disappear from the supermarkets.

Continued on next page