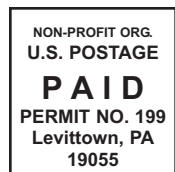




Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation, Inc.
Post Office Box 215
Bristol, PA 19007

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Gazette



Published by Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Box 215, Bristol, PA 19007

VOL 31
No. 5

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

MAY 2012

Ninety Years Ago This Month, Harriman Joined Bristol

In May of 1922, just after the Primary Elections were completed, the village of Harriman was annexed by the Borough of Bristol. This added considerable land to Bristol and it became the “Sixth Ward” when dividing the town into political areas. Harriman already was a functioning community with a police headquarters, a fire company, a post office and a hospital. Also in the community there was a school, a church and several stores where people could purchase staple items. It was at this time that the houses that were in use for the shipyard were being offered for sale. The 500-room Victory Hotel, located on Farragut Ave. between Harrison and Garfield Sts., was soon to be sold and the building materials were purchased and shipped elsewhere. The site of the former shipyard was being dismantled and that area would be available for other industries. The electric trolley passed through on Radcliffe St. and the Pennsylvania Railroad station was very close to the new sixth ward. The Delaware Canal still remained active, as it had since 1830; however, with the improvement of the railroads by October 1931, the last canal boat transporting coal completed that portion of the history of the canal. The Landreth Seed farm at the north end of the area continued to operate producing farm seeds, trees and plants.

There were several changes that would soon be put into place. The school on Wilson Ave. and Garfield St. by 1923 became the high school for all Bristol and a portion was reserved for elementary classrooms. By 1929, an addition was added to the high school which included a gymnasium and auditorium and additional classrooms. The athletic fields were also developed.

The hospital in Harriman was purchased by a Bristol physician and prepared to serve as a com-

munity medical center. Bristol at this time had a small private hospital (Wagner’s Hospital) located at the corner of Radcliffe and Franklin Sts.

In the next several decades, the “Harriman” area became home to an aircraft factory, a soap factory and several smaller industries. Bristol was now becoming a very important urban and commercial location but still was surrounded by the farming areas in Bristol Township. An example of the commercial importance was it was here on weekends that cars from Bristol and Bensalem townships would proceed to the town for banking and shopping in the local stores even using supermarkets that had located in town. Mill Street was the commercial center and other than traveling to Trenton or center-city Philadelphia, it was where purchases of all kinds were made. By 1950, the former Canal Basin was filled in with soil so that additional parking was made available for automobiles at Mill Street. Several theaters, a bowling alley and multiple restaurants took advantage of the hub location. The ferry boat continued to connect Burlington and Bristol and in summer making stops at Burlington Island where an amusement operated until 1934. Industries within the town, Grundy Woolen Mill, Leedom Carpet Mill, and several other mills employed people from the town but with improved transportation now also employed people coming to town by automobile, trolley and train.

Be sure to join us on Historic Bristol Day and purchase your ticket to ride on one of the trolley-bus tours and learn more about “Harriman” and other parts of Bristol. Additional information about these docent-lead riding tours will be available in the near future.

Historic Bristol Day is the third Saturday of October; this year’s activities will be Sat., Oct. 20th.

BCHF Calendar of Events for 2012

JUNE - 6/17 TO 22. Bus trip to Mackinac Island & Frankenmuth, MI. \$570 pp double; \$550 pp triple. \$200 pp deposit at signing; balance by 4/27. Call 215 788-9408 for flyer.

JUNE - 6/24, 1 to 8 PM. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Celtic Day in Lions Park. Sponsored by Celtic Heritage Foundation 215 788-5232

AUGUST - Sun., 8/5 between 3 & 6 PM. Annual Peach Festival. Angel food cake topped with fresh peaches & ice cream, plus beverage. takeouts available; bring container. Baked goods table. \$5 adult, \$3 under age 12. Benefits BCHF awards to Bristol High School Graduates.

SEPTEMBER - 9/9, Noon to 8 PM. BCHF sales & info table at Annual Italian Festival in Lions Park. Sponsored by Bristol Lions Club, 215 785-2677.

SEPTEMBER - 9/29 TO 10/8. “Trains & Canyons of the Southwest” including the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Call 215 788-9408 for detailed flyer.

OCTOBER - Sat., 10/20, 10 AM - 4 PM. 36th Annual Historic Bristol Day. Theme: Harriman and the Shipyard, 1917 - 1922.

NOVEMBER - Wed., 11/28, 7:00 PM. BCHF’s annual business meeting incl. election of Board members, followed by program & refreshments. BCHF headquarters. Free.

FEBRUARY 2013 - 2/3 through 2/15. 13 day/12 night Southern Caribbean Cruise from NYC. For cruise flyer call 215 788-9408.

- 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 - 2012

“Rent” - - May 8 - June 3, 2012

Phone 215 785-0100 for tickets, dates and additional information.
25th Anniversary - Congratulations, Bristol Riverside Theatre

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. - Harold Mitchener, Editor
Post Office Box 215 • Bristol • Pennsylvania • 19007 • 215 781-9895 • www.bristolhistory.org
Articles for this issue of *THE GAZETTE* were contributed by: Helen Younglove, Tillie VanAken, and Harold Mitchener
Additional research by Carol Mitchener. Photography by Helen Younglove, Grundy Library Historical files, and Jan Ruano

Your Choice: Bus, Plane or Boat

As announced some time ago, our Ways & Means Committee has selected three longer duration trips of an historical and/or cultural nature which, hopefully, will appeal to BCHF members and friends. Space is still available on all of these three offerings.

(1) Mackinac Island & Frankenmuth, Michigan, June 17 - 22. \$570 pp double, \$550 pp triple and \$740 single. Price includes three dinners and five breakfasts, including a breakfast at the renowned Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, 5 nights lodging, sightseeing and more.

(2) The Trains & Canyons of the Southwest, Sept. 29 - Oct. 8. \$3,199 pp double, \$3,169 pp triple and \$4,199

single. Highlights include the Grand Canyon, Verde Canyon, the Painted Desert, the Petrified Forest National Park and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

(3) Southern Caribbean Cruise on the Norwegian Pearl, Feb. 3 - 15. Rates range from \$1,261 to \$1,786 pp double; \$2,165 to \$3,215 single. The ports of call are: San Juan, St. Thomas, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados and Antigua.

For details on any of the above, contact Ways & Means' trip chairperson Helen Younglove at 215 788-9408.

Raffle

Pictured is the first prize in B.C.H.F.'s 2012 Historic Bristol Day Raffle. It is an original watercolor by local artist Joseph Sagolla. The painting has been framed by the artist.

Second prize is B.C.H.F.'s Historical Bristol throw showing nine of the town's landmarks plus the "Welcome Friend" arch that greeted General Lafayette upon his visit here in 1824.

Look for your raffle tickets to arrive in the mail. A book of six chances will be sent to the members under separate cover and we are hopeful the recipients will once again support this annual raffle. The proceeds will be used for the maintenance of our historic headquarters built in 1874, and for other expenses of our all-volunteer, 501c3 non-profit organization. The suggested contribution is \$1 / chance or \$5 for a book of six.

The raffle will close at the conclusion of Historic



Bristol Day, Saturday, October 20.

Please send your remittance to Tillie VanAken, 1500 Moore St., Unit 201, Bristol, PA 19007.

Should you not wish to participate, it would be greatly appreciated if you would return the chance book to the aforementioned address. THANK YOU!

FINAL REMINDER

In next month's issue of THE GAZETTE, the names of those who have paid their membership dues for 2012 will be listed. We hope that your name will be on our membership list. If you have neglected to forward your check of \$12.00 for an Individual, and \$24.00 for a Family or \$50.00 for a Business, please mail your check made out to B.C.H.F., P.O. Box 215, Bristol, PA. Thank you for helping support out organization.

From Out Of The Past

The following items were excerpted from **May 1962** issues of THE BRISTOL DAILY COURIER.

5/2 - - KAISER EQUIPMENT GOING ON BLOCK. At \$10,000,000 It'll Be Bucks' Biggest Auction. It is the equipment in the giant Kaiser Metal Products plant on Radcliffe Street, ranging from tiny bolts, nibblers and filling segments up to a five-story high power press with 2,500 ton capacity that cost at least \$250,000. The equipment will be auctioned off on May 22, 23, 24 and 25.

BRISTOL CLUB SLATES PLAY. The junior high dramatic club of the Bristol Junior and Senior High School, under the supervision of Miss Mary Lou Henry, will present an amusing play entitled "Tommy in the Dark" at the assembly period on Tuesday. The cast includes the following members of the dramatic club: Roger Wagman, Gary Cole, Candy Cole, Cynthia Favata, Christine Favata, Mary Jane Gattelli, Roxanne Lovett, Donna Louder, John Messanelli, Mark Ancker and Dick Tranter.

"Under New Management! AMERICAN FAMILY Comes to Bristol. We Invite You to Come in and Get Acquainted. Beaver Dam & Magnolia Roads, Bristol Terrace Shopping Center, Bristol, Pa. 3 Lbs. Lean, Freshly Ground Hamburger - 99¢. Hot Dogs, 2 Lb. Pkg. - 89¢. Assorted Lunch Meats, Sliced Fresh - 49¢ Lb."

5/5 - - LAWN FETE AT DELAWARE VALLEY HOSPITAL. The auxiliary of Delaware Valley Hospital will hold a lawn fete, May 25 and 26, on the hospital grounds in Bristol. There will be a giant ferris wheel, pony rides, a carousel, fire engine rides and various amusements and games of skill. The chairman, Mrs. George Levenson, plans five prizes to be awarded each evening of the fete.

HARD WORK EARNED BRISTOL GIRL JOB IN AFRICA. A few years ago, a Bristol High senior who had been taking an academic course suddenly switched to home economics as her major. Today this girl, Miss Jeanne Davis of 727 Cedar Street, Bristol, sees that decision as the hand of God moving to guide her life. The reason? Jeanne is now on her way to an assignment in Africa as a fraternal worker for the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S. She is the first single Negro girl ever to have held such an appointment and the job she will have is to head the home economics department in Girls' School in Elat, Cameroun.

FOR SALE. Bristol Borough. Store and dwelling, 4 bedrooms, modern kitchen, hot water oil heat, garage. Immaculate condition. Asking \$7,500. Details Messina Realtor, ST8-0456.

5/9 - - BRISTOL TO LURE 2,000 INDUSTRIALISTS. The People of Bristol Borough Were Asked for Their Help Today. Business, industrial and professional leaders were invited to a special meeting by the Bristol Industrial Growth Committee (B-I-G) tomorrow at 9 p.m. in the Warren Snyder School on Buckley Street. The purpose of the meeting, according to John M. Rodgers, chairman of B-I-G, is to consider ways and means of attracting new industry to the borough. This effort will be of particular importance during the next two weeks, when 2,000 industrialists are expected to visit the borough. They will be in Bristol to inspect and purchase equipment at the recently closed Kaiser Metal Products Corp. on Radcliffe Street and, while they are in the borough, B-I-G hopes to induce them to bring their factories here.

BRISTOL SCHOOL BUDGET TO INCREASE FOUR MILS. Jump Will Net \$46,000. The total budget figure is \$922,995.04.

5/11 - - BUDDY POPPY SALE SET FOR MAY 18-30. Plans are being formulated for the annual sale of Buddy Poppies by

the Veterans of Foreign Wars, May 18-30, in Bristol, according to Commander Randall M. Yeagle, Chester W. Terchon Post 5542. As in past years, these symbols of Flanders Fields will be sold by a group of volunteer young girls and women under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Bassett, chairman of the Post's ladies auxiliary. The goal for the 1962 sale has been fixed at 2,500 Buddy Poppies.

"Take Mom Out to Dine on Her Day, Sunday, May 13. We Know that Mom Will Love to Go to Pennsbury Inn! Dinners Start at \$2.75. Special Prices for Children - \$1.75 to \$2.00. Picturesque PENNSBURY INN, Bordentown-Ferry Road, Morrisville."

"DIECKHAUS MOTORS, 1776 Farragut Ave . . . Factory-franchised Dodge-Chrysler Dealer. Super-Special Sale. 1962 Chrysler - \$2964, Full Price Delivered."

5/14 - - SENIOR CITIZENS GIVEN NEW CENTER IN BRISTOL. T.N. Luz Associates, managers of the Realtors' multiple listing service, this week announced the rental of the ground floor of a three-story building at 201 Radcliffe Street. The main floor has been completely redecorated and will be used as an activity center for retired and senior citizens, a non-profit organization chartered under the State of Pennsylvania in 1959. MILL STREET GRANDMOTHER CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED. Mrs. May Lauble of Newtown was the oldest grandmother entered in the Mill Street Businessmen's contest. She will be 101 on February 20. Mrs. Ronald Jackson, of 1144 Beaver Street, was the first mother on Mother's Day. Her first child, a daughter, Cheryl Ann, arrived at 7 a.m. on May 13.

5/15 - - 250-BOAT MARINA, PUBLIC PARK NEARER. Bristol Borough Council took a giant step last night toward the creation of a 250-boat marina and a vast public park extending along the Delaware River and into Otter Creek all the way to Route 13. Council by a unanimous vote approved an ordinance which will create an authority to finance the half-million dollar project.

"POMEROY'S Birthday Sale. Smart Little Fun Furs - \$88. Rain or Shine Coats - \$9.90. Famous Make Jamaicas - \$2.97. Men's Banlon Knit Shirts - \$3.99. Suite Sale - \$38.90. Leisure Time Pants - \$3.97. Blazon Backyard Play Gym with Slide - \$18.77. 7-Pc. Family Size Modern Dinette - \$68.87. 6-Pc. Living Room Set, Solid Maple in Colonial Styling - \$188."

5/16 - - GRUNDY'S HOME WILL OPEN AS MUSEUM THIS SUMMER. The historic home of the late former U.S. Senator Joseph R. Grundy, benefactor and millionaire industrialist of Bristol Borough, will be opened to the public as a museum in August or September of this year. In addition, bids for construction of the \$750,000 Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library, which will be built next door to the home, will be advertised approximately at the same time.

"It's Good to Shop on **Friendly Mill Street**, Bristol . . . AUTO BOYS - Swimming Pool Sale - 10' x 2' deep - \$22.99. KANTER'S - Ladies Summer Dresses - \$6.98. DRIES FURNITURE & CARPET - Modern Room-Divider Record Cabinet - \$18.88. NORMAN'S - Underwood Lettera 22 Typewriter - \$68 + Fed. Tax. RICHMAN'S - Cafe Curtains - \$1.11 Pair. MC CRORY'S Garden Shop - Extra Size Dogwoods - \$2.27."

5/18 - - SIROTT HEADS SPAN GROUP. Jack Sirott, 35, is the youngest man ever to be elected chairman of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission. Sirott, a Bristol attorney, who lives in Levittown, was elected chairman at a meeting in Morrisville yesterday.

5/23 - "MIMI'S CAFE, formerly the Arcadi Cafe, 1800 Farragut Ave . . . You Are Invited to Our

Continued on Page 6

Thomas Paine and Common Sense

Author, Gordon S. Wood’s book Revolutionary Characters: What Made The Founders Different, discussed George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Adams, Thomas Paine and Aaron Burr and how they met his criteria for the title.

The one that seemed most unusual in this list, according to this writer, was Thomas Paine. It was Paine’s writing that had inspired the Continental Army in December 1776 to cross the Delaware River. The commander-in-chief had passages from Paine’s pamphlet, Common Sense read to the troops just before their crossing to Trenton.

In looking at the life of Paine, he had not been in America very long before his writings became vital to the “cause of the Revolution.” Paine was an obscure individual who was born in 1737, five years after George Washington’s birth in 1732. His father was a member of the Society of Friends and his mother an Anglican. In his writings, historians believe that he borrowed from the moral teachings of both religious groups.

His early education was about six years in duration and he did not learn Latin, which was a standard subject taught in most schools. His father’s business was in the corset or stay-making trade. He joined his father at age thirteen in the business. He recognized that his father’s business was in decline so he moved to London for awhile. His next adventure was to run away to sea as a privateersman. This lasted about six months. Upon his return to Dover, he was hired as a stay-maker in the corset industry. Soon moving on to Sandwich, he married but in 1760, his young wife and child died in childbirth. As a 23 year old widower, he moved back to his home town of Thetford where he secured a position as an excise tax collector (one of the more hated government workers in England). He next tried teaching followed by preaching in a church. Returning as a tax collector in Lewes, he married again in 1771, but this marriage did not last and he was soon separated. (For the remainder of his life, he did not marry).

He joined a discussion club that was interested in pol-

itics and local affairs. In so doing, he moved to London where he met Benjamin Franklin. By 1774, he declared himself bankrupt. He was now 37 and had failed at almost every task he had tried.

Benjamin Franklin must have observed a talent in Paine that had not been previously discovered and Franklin encouraged Paine to sail to Philadelphia. It was Franklin who wrote a letter of introduction for Paine to Franklin’s son-in-law, Richard Bache, recommending him as “a clerk, or assistant tutor in a school or an assistant surveyor”.

Paine spent only fourteen months in Philadelphia editing a Philadelphia magazine before he suddenly “burst upon the world stage” with his pamphlet Common Sense published in 1776. His life would never again be the same. “For God’s sake” Paine wrote, “let us come to a final separation . . . “ “the birthday of a new world is at hand” wrote Thomas Paine.

Paine went back to Europe where he continued to write and especially was in France during most of the 1790’s where he became deeply involved in the French Revolution with his writings.

In 1802 he returned to the U.S.A. He died on June 8, 1809 in New York City at age 72. His body was brought to New Rochelle, but no Christian Church would receive his remains for burial. He had been ostracized for his ridicule of Christianity. His remains were buried under a walnut tree on his farm in that area. Only six people attended his funeral.

In 1819, William Cobbett, an English agrarian radical journalist came to America and dub up his bones with the idea of giving him a heroic reburial in his native land. This never happened. When William Cobbett died, Paine’s bones were found in Cobbett’s effects. The bones were later lost.

Benjamin Franklin’s daughter, Sarah Franklin Bache, later said of Paine that “the most rational thing he could have done would have been to have died the instant he had finished his Common Sense, for he never again will have it in his power to leave the World with so much credit.”

From Out of the Past . . . Continued From Page 7

Grand Opening, Tonight, May 23rd. Music . . . Fun . . . and Plenty of Eats!”

“AL GREEN, Oldest Exclusive Renault-Peugeot Dealer in the Area, 1427 Radcliffe St. . . . Tired of Gas Bills? Drive the Thrifty Renault Dauphine. Seaside - 36¢. Atlantic City - 49¢. Trenton - 7¢. Philadelphia - 7¢. New York - 58¢.”

5/25 - - TORNADO MISSES HERE: HITS TRENTON. Lower Bucks fortunately was spared from a small tornado yesterday afternoon but the twister and thundershower caused considerable property damage in the central and upper portion of the county.

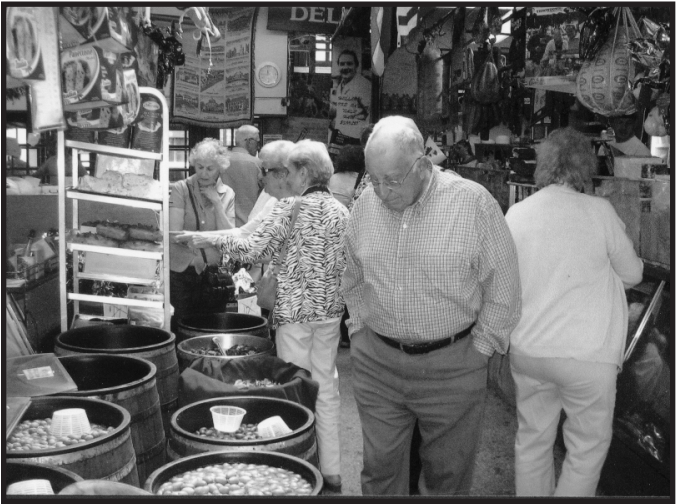
“Now Open. MOBY DICK. ‘A Whale of a Place for Food,’ 50 Beaver Dam Road, Bristol. Opening Platter Specials, Friday, May 25, to Thursday, May 31. Deviled Clams - 59¢. Imperial Deluxe Deviled Crab - 65¢. Fish ‘n Chips - 55¢. French Fries, Cole Slaw, Sauce Included. Take-out Orders Only!”

Visiting The Bronx

On Tuesday, April 17, BCHF sponsored a trip to The Bronx, the northernmost of the five boroughs of New York City. The Bronx is the only borough that is located primarily on the mainland, and has a population of 1,400,761 according to the 2010 U.S. Census. This borough has a land area of 42 square miles, making it the fourth largest in land area of the five NYC boroughs. Although The Bronx is the third most densely populated county in the U.S., about a quarter of its area is open space, including the New York Botanical Garden and The Bronx Zoo. Our itinerary included a ride through City Island, referred to as the “seaport of The Bronx.” It’s an active fishing village, settled by European immigrants about 1614 and surrounded by the waters of the Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay. The group enjoyed a full-course lunch with wine at Mario’s Restaurant on Arthur Avenue, followed by free time to shop in what’s affectionately called “the real Little Italy.”



Trip participants checked out the fresh produce and Italian specialties in the Arthur Avenue Retail Market.



The art of cigar rolling was demonstrated in the Market by employees of La Casa Grande Cigars.



The new Yankee Stadium, home of the NY Yankees, which opened in 2009.

Some Interesting Titanic Facts

This being the 100th anniversary of the sinking of RMS Titanic, people are reminded about this unique tragedy. April 14/15, 1912 was the day that would eventually help to improve passenger ship-ping safety for the world.

1. At the time of her launch, Titanic was the largest object that had ever been moved by humans.
2. RMS Titanic was 828 feet 9 inches in length and 92 feet 6 inches in width. When compared with the cruise ships of the present time, it was a much smaller vessel.
3. Original plans called for Titanic to carry 64 lifeboats. Owners and builders reduced that num-ber to 16 plus two collapsible boats in order to pro-vide more space for passengers on the boat deck.
4. Since the loss of Titanic, maritime laws now require that ships must have enough room for all passengers and crew plus 25% more space than peo-ple the vessel was constructed to carry.
5. Water-tight bulkheads were built into the con-struction; however, these did not go all the way to the top of the ship. Water could flow from one cham-ber to another at the top.
6. Passengers on the Titanic were divided into three classes, depending on the amount paid for the passage. The most costly suite on Titanic would cost approximately \$50,000 per person in today’s value. The third class ticket would cost approximately \$300 in prices today.
7. The fuel used on Titanic was coal. The vessel carried 6,598 tons of coal. Burning this fuel created steam power which drove the ship forward and pro-vided the electric power to light the vessel and oper-ate the elevators and other machinery.
8. The last land that Titanic stopped at was

Queenstown, Ireland. That town today is called Cobh, Ireland.

9. The ship Carpathia picked up 705 survivors from life boats and 306 bodies floating in the water. Over 1,500 people perished in the accident.
10. Titanic carried many bags of mail (RMS -royal mail ship) which were all lost. It also carried nine dogs, two of which survived. There were 12 cases of ostrich plumes that did not survive. (They were very popular in ladies’ fashions at that time.)
11. The construction of Titanic commenced on March 31, 1909 and took place next to a sister ship at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Titanic was launched May 31, 1911 and maneuvered by tug boats to a fitting out pier where the interior was completed. The ship-building construction company employed 15,000 workers to build the two ships.
12. At the time of the launch, it took 62 seconds for the hull to slide into the water. There were 33,589 pounds of tallow (animal fat) and 11,199 pounds of tallow mixed with oil to help lubricate the ship over the wooden blocks in the dry dock area.
13. Olympic, the ship constructed adjacent to Titanic had been launched 7 months earlier.
14. Since the discovery of Titanic in the 1980’s, a scientific study of the ship has commenced and will continue for many years into the future. Scientists have discovered that the ship is being covered by drifting sands on the floor of the ocean. They also found that the ship had broken into two sections as it was sinking and that the two sections landed upright with much debris scattered on the ocean floor.

. . . Continued “Questions about Harriman”

We hope that you have been able to answer most of the previously published questions about Harriman. Here are a few more to test your skills.

21. What building materials were primarily used to construct the Pipe Foundry town houses on Hayes, Cleveland and McKinley Sts.”
22. What was the first use of the large building at the corner of Monroe St. and Farragut Ave.” More recently it was the first location of the Amish Market in Bristol.
23. On what street was the Harriman telephone exchange building located?
24. What is presently the use of the original Harriman police station?

25. What is the present use of the original Harriman Fire Co. station?
26. What major kind of industry replaced the Harriman Shipyard on the same site?
27. What was the construction in NYC that encour-aged the Manhattan Soap Co. to move to Bristol?
28. Where was the bowling alley located in Harriman during and immediately after World War II?
29. What political office was won by Averell Harriman in NY state later in his career?
30. Which U.S. President appointed Averell Harriman Ambassador to the Soviet Union?

Answers on Bottom of Page 4

Monument in Washington, D.C.



For the Musee du Luxembourg in Paris, the French Government purchased a marble replica of the head of the memorial.

Excitement On The Island

At present for Bristol residents when someone men-tions “The Island”, most will envision Burlington Island. This four-hundred acre property has served the area well from the Native Americans who stopped and hunted there to the people from the river towns who used it for summer recreation mostly in the twen-tieth century.

For many years the local ferry connecting Bristol and Burlington stopped there to transport people for summer picnics and recreation. Boaters used canoes to bridge the distance across the river. Picnics, swim-ming and games were the main form of recreation.

In 1917, it was determined that an amusement park could be constructed. By 1922, a carousel was turning with colorfully painted horses and other wood-en animals as music played. A roller coaster had been constructed and was thrilling the riders with moments of excitement. The “whip”, a train and other rides for

smaller children were being offered.

Refreshments could be purchased and a bathhouse to change into swim suits also was heavily utilized.

Steamboats started to make regular stops coming from Trenton, Bordentown and Philadelphia. Burlington Island called “Island Beach Park” was a major attraction on the upper Delaware River. Eventually 40 cottages were erected and could be rent-ed for summer vacations. These would be removed in the 1970’s, due to a lack of proper water and sanitation facilities.

The amusement portion of the park burned in 1934 and fortunately the carousel was mostly saved and moved to Seaside Heights, NJ where it is used daily in a building along the boardwalk. At present, the island, with its 100 acre lake dug for sand and gravel, remains a “natural” island not used by humans. The City of Burlington owns the island and occasionally there are newspaper articles with assorted plans for its use and development.

WE NEED TIME



Two hours of your time, to be specific . . . to help staff BCHF’s sales and information table at the Celtic Festival in Lions Park, Sunday, June 24! We’ll start setting up around noon and break down shortly before 6 p.m. If you can spare some time that afternoon, please contact Ways & Means Chairperson Kathy Barniskis at 215 943-9258.