

The Churches of Delanco



Dobbins Memorial United Methodist

"Beverly station is a comparatively new but spirited charge," the Rev. J. Lewis wrote to the *Christian Advocate and Journal* in a letter that appeared in the March 25, 1858 edition.

"It embraces not only the town of Beverly and the adjacent neighborhood," Rev. Lewis's letter continued, "but another new place about two miles distant, called Delanco. At this place, a class of twenty-seven has swelled to fifty, a fine eligible lot has been secured for a church, which I have no doubt will be erected at no distant day. Fifty persons have joined on probation."

Thus did the journals of the date take note of the formation of the Dobbins Memorial United Methodist Church, which was celebrating its 120th anniversary as our nation headed into the Bicentennial year.

From its founding in 1855, the church can point to the mark made on the community, through the youth in Christian service and by its missionary projects around the world in its century-plus of service.

The church began as a Sunday school, started in 1855 by Bertha Bolton (or Borton) in the farm house of Samuel Deacon on Rancocas Avenue. Richard Wilmerton, who owned the farm along the Rancocas River from the Delaware River to the railroad, had drawn plans for a village and procured a charter for it in 1845, calling it "Delaranco." As lots were sold and people built houses and moved in, the town developed and the Sunday school soon outgrew

its meeting place. It was moved to the railroad station, then to the Stacy White carpenter shop and then to the basement of the old boarding house owned by Dr. Parsons on the east side of Union Avenue at Delaware Avenue. From there it moved to the newly built school house on Buttonwood Street.

Before the Methodist Church was built, the people walked to Beverly for the morning service. In the afternoon, R. W. Lawrence, a preacher at Beverly, came down to preach at Parson's boarding house.

William Jeffries, pastor of the Methodist Church in Beverly, visited the place in 1855 for the organization of a Methodist Society. He formed the Methodists he found there into a class meeting, with Micajah Dobbins as the leader. The members recorded were Dobbins' wife Mary, the John Stocktons, the Richard Wilmertons, the John Butchers and Charles Gray. In 1856, R. L. Barvis built a home and moved to the new village and soon took an active part in the work of the church. In 1857 Dobbins and Barvis, in consultation with Jefferson Lewis, who was now the pastor, arranged for an "extra meeting" during the winter. A gracious revival resulted and 27 people were added to the group. On Feb. 25, 1858, following due notice of the meeting, the society came together and voted to take the name of Methodist Episcopal Church of Delanco.

On Sept. 27, 1858, at a meeting called for this purpose, it was decided to build a church.



THIS IS HOW the Delanco Methodist Episcopal Church (later the Dobbins Memorial United Methodist) looked after the addition of the belfry about 1875.

The man standing next to the tree is Samuel Quigg, an early schoolmaster. The other man is thought to be the Rev. John W. Tower, one of the ministers.

The Delanco Improvement Company and Caleb Clothier each contributed \$100 for the church lot. In the summer of 1859, the church was erected and furnished at a cost of \$1,653.20. The benches were procured from the old Coopertown Church and the altar railing from the Bridgeboro Methodist Church.

The first members of the Board of Trustees were Samuel Lowden, Micajah Dobbins, John Stockton, Joseph Yerkes, Richard F. Wilmerton, R. L. Barvis and Paul Jones. John Stockton was the first janitor at a salary of \$10 per year.

In 1860, the church was separated from the Beverly Charge and made a part of the Bridgeboro Circuit. This circuit was divided in 1863 so that only three churches remained on it. In 1872, the Delanco Church was removed from the circuit and made an individual station. Andress Ridgway was the first Sunday school superintendent (and continued for 37 years), Andrew

McClure, Samuel Lowden, Joseph Yerkes, Paul Jones and Benjamin Keebler were added to the roster of workers in the church and Sunday school. Others joined in the list—Deborah DeNight, Charles Ellis, Frank Jones, Mattie Fletcher, Samuel Quigg, Laura Ridgway, Anna Cook.

During 1875 and 1876, many improvements were made in the building. The belfry and steeple were built and the bell was installed as a gift of the Sunday school. On New Year's Eve, according to the old trustees' records, "it rang out joyous peals to the joy of all the people." The basement was fitted up for prayer and business purposes and the exterior of the church was painted.

The church was again on a circuit with Bridgeboro for a year or so, then again a separate charge in 1880. Under the administration of W. J. Gwynn, the Christian forces won their battle with the liquor traffic even at the cost of losing some members. In 1884 Delanco Church and Asbury



LATER, A NEW CHURCH was built around the old Delanco Methodist Episcopal Church building, as shown in this 1902 view reproduced from a glass

photographic plate. The addition cost \$12,000. In 1909, the church adopted the name the Dobbins Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church.



THE INTERIOR of the sanctuary of the Dobbins Memorial Church looked like this before the pipe organ was installed in 1926. The pews, the center light-

ing chandelier, the choir loft and the pulpit furniture have since been replaced.

were joined together, being separated again at the end of the year.

During the year 1890 to 1893, the parsonage was built. The growing church enlarged its facilities in 1902. A new church was built at a cost of \$12,000 right over the old one and the former sanctuary was converted to a Sunday school section.

In honor of its first class leader, Micajah Dobbins, the name of the church was changed in 1909 to "The Dobbins Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church." The word Episcopal was dropped at the time of the worldwide unification of the church in 1939. It was known thereafter simply as "The Methodist Church."

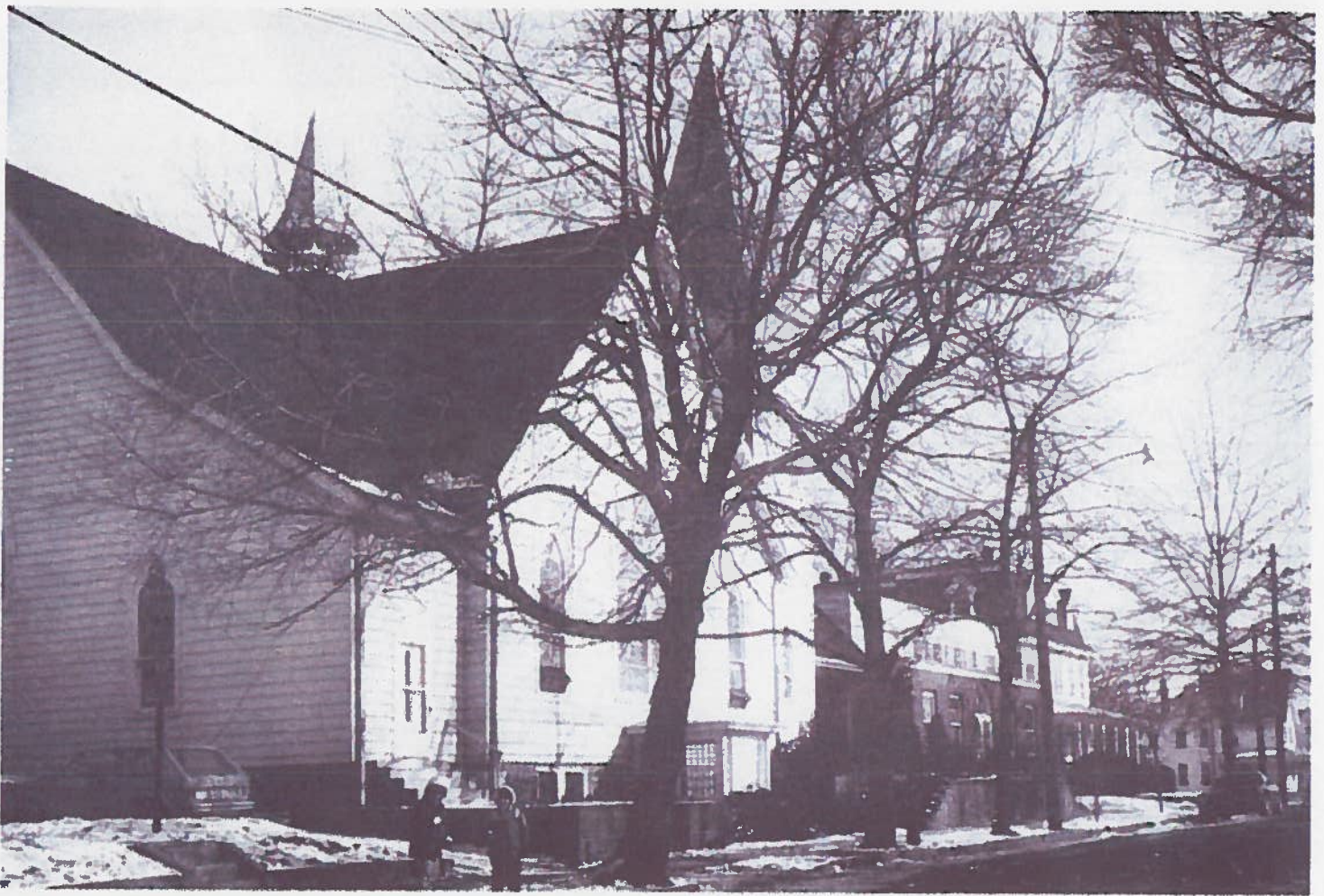
The musical life of the church grew under the leadership of Willard McEwan, Harry Beck, Frank Perkins, Harry Mitchell, Wesley Perkins and the present leader, Mrs. Agnes Perkins. Con-

certs were given by the Mitchell Concert Orchestra. The Delanco Male Chorus was well-known and sought after to perform in the area.

The present four choirs in the church consist of the Junior Choir (preteens), Youth Choir (teenagers), Senior Choir, which sings at the Sunday morning services, and the Gospelaire, also an adult group, which performs at evening services. They have made notable contributions to the life of the church.

Clara Belding was the first organist of the church and was succeeded by Mattie Fletcher. The objections of her Unitarian family were overcome by the friendly spirit of their Methodist neighbors in helping to extinguish the fire that consumed their home. Miss Laura Ridgway presided at the organ for 29 years and Mr. Frank Perkins for 30 years.

An organ fund was started by the Primary



THIS IS A VIEW of the Dobbins Memorial United Methodist Church as it looked in 1975. Early in 1976, The Del-Meth Hall, the brick front structure to the right

of the church, was changed in appearance with the addition of an A-front roofline. To the far right, on the corner, is the parsonage.

department of the Sunday school under the leadership of Mrs. A. C. Ridgway and in 1926 a two manual Moller pipe organ was purchased for \$2,500. Mrs. Agnes Perkins has added its music to the services of the church for 50 years. A testimonial dinner was given in her honor in 1972.

In 1968 the organ was rebuilt by the Moller Company at the cost of \$11,265. Most of this money was subscribed by memorials.

World Service-giving has always played a better part in the church. In 1952, the church built the Delanco Chapel in Wembo, Nyama, Africa and then, as needed, added new seats and a new floor to it. Brother Jim, in India, was our new project in 1955 and this work still carries on. We partially support missionaries who have gone out from our church to Korea and Kenya, Africa, J. B. and Bette Shipps Crouse to the former and Earle and Dorothy Nace Bowen to the latter.

The Sunday school facilities were enlarged in 1947 with the purchase of the corner property

for a parsonage and the conversion of the old parsonage into class rooms. The building was named by Gordon Shipps in a contest—"The Del-Meth House," combining parts of the names of Delanco and Methodist. A Sunday school bus was purchased and step by step, a little better one, through the years.

The W.S.C.S., which was organized out of the former Women's Missionary Society and the Ladies Aid Society, moves along with its accomplishments and is now The United Methodist Women.

The Methodist Men, organized under the leadership of Dr. Hammell P. Shipps as the first chartered Methodist Men's group in the Conference, still continues to function.

In 1955, "one hundred years of Methodism in Delanco" was celebrated. At the anniversary dinner, the address was given by Bishop Fred P. Corson. During this time we have been served by 48 pastors. The cornerstone ceremony was very

interesting. Just what did those folks who went before us tuck away? In the box were legal papers, a Bible and some coins. The papers were illegible because of rain seeping into the box. The Bible and coins were put back for another 100 years.

In 1967, we began a major renovating and rebuilding program, including a new entrance, new pews, carpeting, interior decorating of the sanctuary, aluminum siding on the entire outside and remodeling the kitchen facilities, costing \$69,000.

In 1968 the Methodist Churches became a part of "a merge" with the United Brethren and our church is now known as "Dobbins Memorial United Methodist Church."

In 1973, our beloved pastor, Rev. F. Cooper Nace, died and was succeeded by the Rev. David T. Wilson, our present pastor.

Pearl Keebler Kalmes, a faithful worker in the Sunday school who was within several weeks of receiving her fifty-first year bar for over half a century of perfect attendance, was not to see the Bicentennial year arrive. She died in September, 1975, after serving the Sunday school for

many years as financial secretary.

Officials for the conference year 1976-77 were:

David T. Wilson, pastor; Agnes B. Perkins, music director and organist; Robert Jenkins, Jr., lay leader; Dr. Hammell P. Shipps, lay member to conference; Robert Jenkins, Jr., chairman administrative board; Mrs. Bertha Wanckel, chairperson, council on ministries; Mrs. Charles Weller, president United Methodist Women; Richard Pitko, president United Methodist Men; Eugene Wanckel, president adult fellowship; Richard Choyce, chairman pastor-parish relations committee; John Burk, president of trustees; Harvey Moritz, finance committee chairman; Alfred B. Parker, church treasurer; Mrs. William Bolton, financial secretary; Eleanor James, junior choir director; Eugene Wanckel, youth choir director; Agnes Perkins, senior choir director; Dr. Hammell P. Shipps, Gospelaires director; and Mrs. Richard Pitko, Sunday school superintendent.

The Dobbins Memorial United Methodist Church has a great heritage and, being well-equipped to minister to the needs of the present day, it also has a dedicated future.

The First Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Delanco was organized on the morning of Aug. 25, 1872, when a group of friends met in the public school house under a commission by the Presbytery of Monmouth. Rev. A. H. Dashiell, Jr. of Bricksburg preached the first sermon, W. M. Flackand and F. S. Irwin were elected and ordained as elders. In the afternoon the first session of the Sabbath School was held.

Session held its first meeting on Aug. 28, 1872 with Rev. Martin L. Hofford as moderator. On Sept. 19, 1872 Rev. Hofford was unanimously called to be the first pastor and on Aug. 6, 1873, Pastor Hofford officiated at the cornerstone laying of the first church.

In it was placed a leaden box containing a list of members, of which the first were William M. and Hannah Flack from Olivet Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Stults from First Presbyterian Church of Cranberry, Mrs. Mary E. Elliott from Summerfield M.E. Church of Philadelphia, Mrs. Carrie J. Hofford from Beverly Presbyterian and Francis and Louise Irwin from

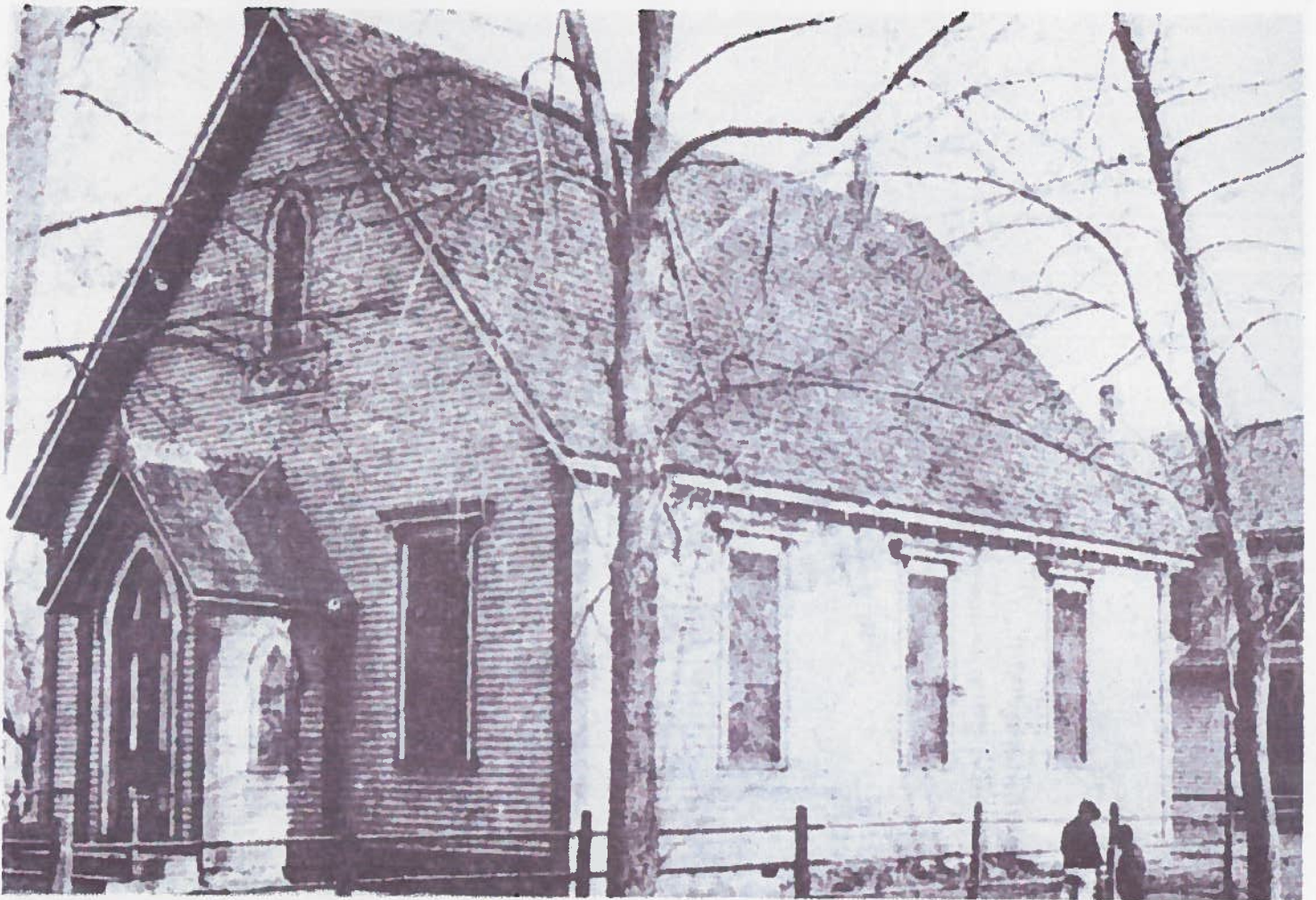
Spring Garden Presbyterian of Philadelphia. Received by profession of faith were Robert H. Poynter, Oscar B. Elliott, Arthur V. Stults and John Parsons.

On April 18, 1874, the Session met in the new church at the corner of Union and Poplar Streets, built at a cost of \$3,500. The first sabbath morning service in the new church had been held March 1, 1874, with dedication on Aug. 9, 1874.

The following March, the Sunday school was reorganized with such teachers as Mrs. John Denning, Mrs. Mary J. Barnitz, Miss Millie Deacon, Mrs. S. E. Brown, Miss Mary E. Denson and Mrs. Mary Elliott.

Rev. Hofford continued as pastor until April 16, 1876. The second pastor was John R. Lanson, from 1877 to 1879, and the third was E. K. Donaldson of Princeton, who ministered to both the Delanco and Fairview churches in 1881. He was paid a salary of \$500 per year so that he would "be free from worldly cares and avocations."

For the next 10 years, the church had interim



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church of Delanco was organized Aug. 25, 1872, and the cornerstone of this

building laid on Aug. 6, 1873. First sabbath morning service was held on March 1, 1874.

pastors, with the assistance of Rev. Dashiell as moderator. In 1886, the church at Fairview dissolved and its members united with the Delanco congregation.

Then came F. Livingston Jones from April, 1891, to April, 1892; H. W. Haring from May, 1893 to June, 1903; James A. Matheson, Nov., 1904 to May, 1909; Franklin J. Miller, June, 1909 to May, 1911; Raymond C. White, Oct., 1911 through Sept. 1914; W. R. Memmert, Jan., 1915, through April, 1919; Homer J. O. Rinker, June, 1919 to May, 1931 (the longest pastorate); J. Clayton Lime, April, 1932 through Dec., 1939; Dr. Karl Palmer Miller, April, 1940 through Sept., 1944; Raymond C. Rogers, May, 1945 through July, 1948; Dr. C. DeBoe, interim pastor until George A. Allen was installed, March, 1949, to be succeeded by DeBoe, again in Aug., 1951 as interim pastor, until the arrival of William Shea, Sept., 1952.

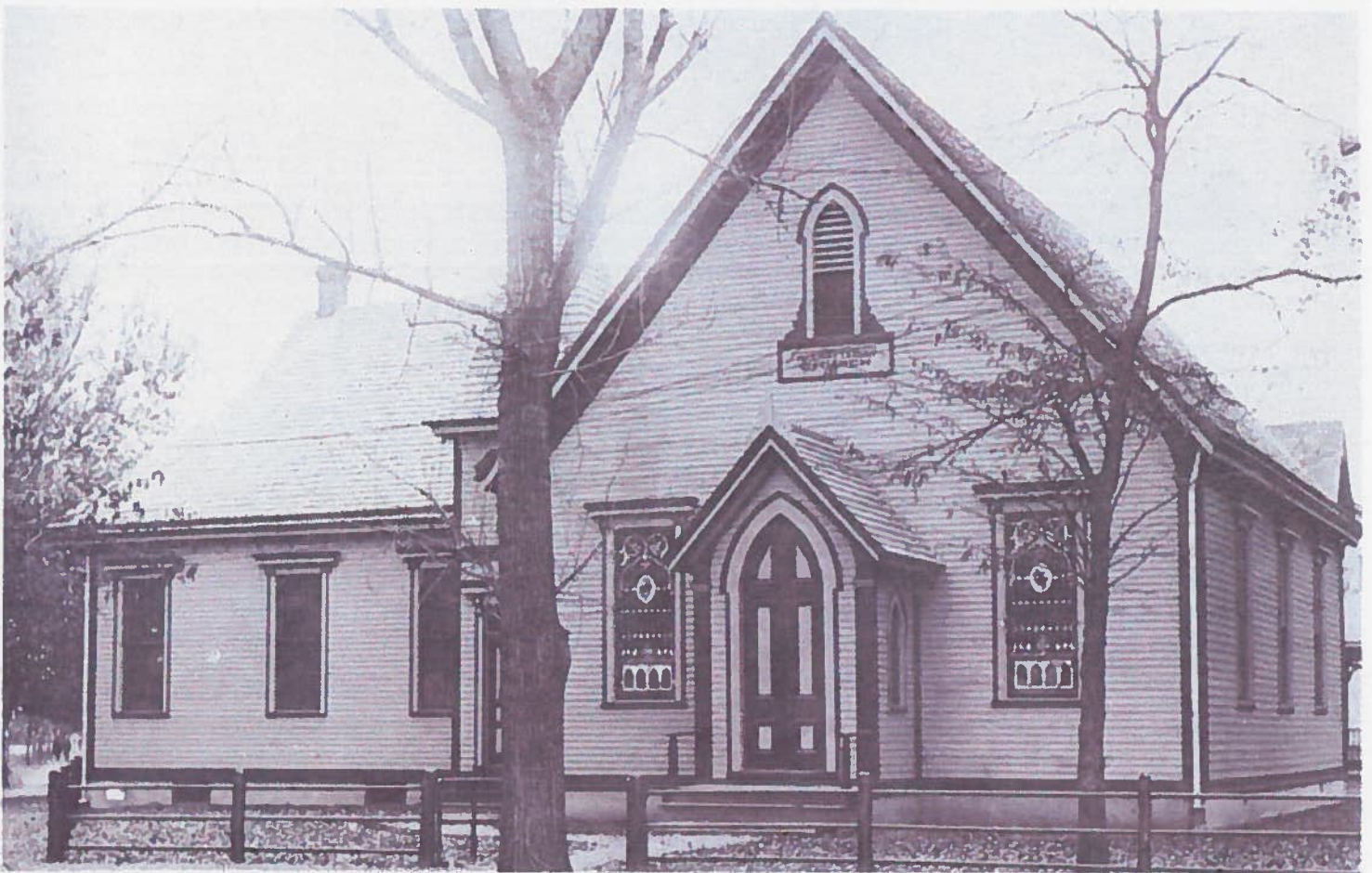
Dr. K. P. Miller was again called in 1957 to serve as interim pastor, being succeeded by John

Maurer in 1958. He served until Dec. 1, 1967, when Dr. W. J. Beeners was invited to be a temporary pastor. In Nov., 1968, Richard Thompson became pastor, through 1972; Clarence Boyer succeeded him and was, in turn, succeeded in 1974 by Laurence Miller.

Church milestones included the completion of construction of a parsonage in the fall of 1891 next door to the church on Poplar St. and the mortgage was burned on Sept. 28, 1902. (In another financial note, the organist then asked for a salary and was subsequently dismissed.)

Howard Russ was appointed clerk of sessions in 1903 and also became Sunday school superintendent and a ruling elder. He was for many years a pillar of the church, which he joined in 1886.

Regular Sabbath services were held each week, morning and evening. A Women's Christian Endeavor met regularly and a Young Men's Club was organized in June, 1897. As of April 9, 1899, there were 90 communicant members, with 114



A SUNDAY SCHOOL annex was added (left) in 1905 to the First Presbyterian Church. New memorial win-

dows were also installed, as was the steeple (partly obscured by the tree).

enrolled in Sunday school.

Among new members up to 1900 were John H. Briggs and Reba Briggs-Fisher, who served as choir director and organist respectively for many years. Others joining about this time were Mrs. C. R. Killian, John Waschle and his sister Carrie; George Bacon, George Lillian, Ellsworth Berryann and Miss Laura Zeigler.

On Oct. 26, 1905, services of dedication and consecration were held for a new church building and Sunday school annex and for the unveiling of new memorial windows in the sanctuary.

An enlarged Sunday school room was opened in 1926. No one was to teach Sunday school unless a professed Christian and a member of the church.

Sunday school picnics were enjoyed each summer—family picnics at Barnitz Grove, at Willow Grove, Clementon Park, Depression Lake, Burlington Island by river steamer and Rancocas Park. On one occasion, Hiram Torrey charged five cents for a ride in his Model T and gave the proceeds to the school.

A new pipe organ was installed March 29,

1936. Organists at the time were Ann Story, Mrs. Lidie Toy and Mrs. Millie Bishop. Mrs. Julia Torrey organized a young ladies Bible Class and called it her "Lambs."

Donald Killian was the first from the church to enter the ministry, in 1941.

On June 11, 1944, the congregation burned another mortgage ("which had kept our church in indebtedness since 1874").

In the 1950s, a new church site was explored and the problem finally resolved with the construction of the present Education Building and Social Hall in 1961 at a cost of \$78,419. The old manse was torn down and the space incorporated in the new building. The Wells home on Hazel Ave. was purchased as the new manse in 1954.

A Mr. and Mrs. Club was organized in 1952, officers were elected and a most hilarious program started the activities. It has continued to grow to the present time.

In 1959 the Boards of Elders and Trustees were combined into one Board.

By 1960, there were 442 members in the congregation after the rolls had been pared of



THIS IS A PRESENT-DAY view of the Presbyterian church. The church complex today includes a new ed-

ucation building and social hall that was constructed behind the church in 1961 at a cost of \$78,419.

those who had been dismissed to other churches or moved away.

In Nov., 1971, a new organ was dedicated. The present organist, Mrs. George Cunningham, has served the church for 20 years.

For the church's 100th anniversary in 1972, a dinner was held and a booklet compiled including pictures of members of the congregation and families. Picture plates of the church were sold as mementoes.

A Young at Heart group was formed in 1973 which was for the younger workers of the church although anyone "young at heart" was invited to join them. It was primarily a social group and was active and helpful in the church.

New electrical renovations were made including new lighting fixtures for the sanctuary in 1974.

The Board of Deacons was organized on Jan. 5, 1933 and is in charge of "local mission" for the church. Members of the Board are: Mrs. Marlene Bracken, Mr. James Comstock, Secretary; Mrs. Ethel Clark, Mrs. Edna Force, Mrs. Margaret Gatti, Mrs. Edith Hoey, Mrs. Mildred Krivulka, Mrs. Leatha Krusen, Chairperson; Mr. Charles Lutes, Mr. William McDowell, Mrs. Dorothy Myers, Mrs. Gloria Olkiewicz, Treasurer; Miss Arlene Phillips and Miss Kathie Van Sciver. Elected to the Board in 1976 were: Mrs. Hilda

Hackney, Mrs. Maizie Caruso, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Janson, Mrs. Margaret Guenther, Mrs. Betty Lutes and Mrs. Edith Raup.

As 1975 drew to a close, the destinies of the First Presbyterian Church of Delanco were in the hands of the Rev. Laurence Miller, pastor; and the following elders of the church, members of the Session: Mrs. Alice Burkholder, Mr. Burdette Johnson, Mr. James Sabo, Mr. George Woodington, Mr. Edward Ingham, the clerk of Session; Mrs. Robert Diehm, Church Secretary and Church School Co-Superintendent; Dr. Alan Schaeffer, Treasurer of Benevolences, Mr. Robert Hoey, Mr. Clarence Oakerson, Mr. Spencer Cooper, Mrs. Herbert Hanneman, Mr. George Roberts, Mrs. Eleanor Maguire and Mr. Adair Herbst, Church School Co-Superintendent.

Elected to the Session as the Bicentennial year began were Mr. Lewis C. Osmond, Jr., Mrs. Karl Becker, Mrs. James Phillips, Mr. William McDowell, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Wagenknight.

Stanley Merchant is the treasurer, Madeline Roberts, assistant treasurer, Florence Wagner, treasurer of capital improvement fund, Nancy Schaeffer, treasurer of memorial fund.

Mrs. Harold Story is the choir director and David Verner is sexton. Mrs. Mary Oakerson succeeded Mrs. Irma Fithian as youth choir director in 1976.

The Fire Department



ONE OF THE FIRST pieces of mobile firefighting equipment in Delanco was this horse-drawn carriage

equipped with soda and acid tanks. The driver was George Reeves Sr. Note the ladders and lanterns.

First Company Organized March 8, 1900

Firefighting in Delanco dates from the beginning of this century. The town's first fire company was organized on March 8, 1900. The volunteers fought fires with a hand-drawn carriage equipped with ladders and buckets. Total cost of the apparatus was \$358.

The first firehouse was in Mike Hart's meat store building on Ash Street. It was then moved to the present site on Union Avenue. When the fire company decided to build a brick building in 1919, the old wooden one was moved to the corner of Burlington Avenue and Walnut Street to serve as Osmond and Beck Print Shop.

A few years after its formation, the fire company disbanded, probably because the volunteers were discouraged when they were unable to obtain the necessary equipment.

However, the fire company was reactivated on Feb. 16, 1912, and because of the date's

proximity to the birthdate of our first president, the new organization called itself "Washington Fire Company No. 1."

Shortly after reorganizing, the company obtained a second piece of apparatus—a carriage with ladders and two 35-gallon soda-acid tanks that could be drawn by either horses or men. The apparatus arrived on May 20, 1912.

On June 6, 1916, the Delanco fire department became motorized. A Vim truck was purchased for \$680. (By contrast, when a new apparatus was purchased in 1973, it cost \$49,000.) The two chemical tanks were taken from the old horse-drawn apparatus and placed on the Vim truck. Later, the Vim truck was disposed of and a new Acme truck was purchased. On Dec. 28, 1923, the company became a two-apparatus unit with the arrival of a new Seagraves 750-gallon-per-minute pumper. It was nicknamed "Big Ber-



THE ORIGINAL firehouse in Delanco was this one-story structure shown on Union Avenue, where it had been moved from an earlier location on Ash Street.

tha" and it was up to date in every respect. It was a powerful firefighting device and it remained in service until 1953.

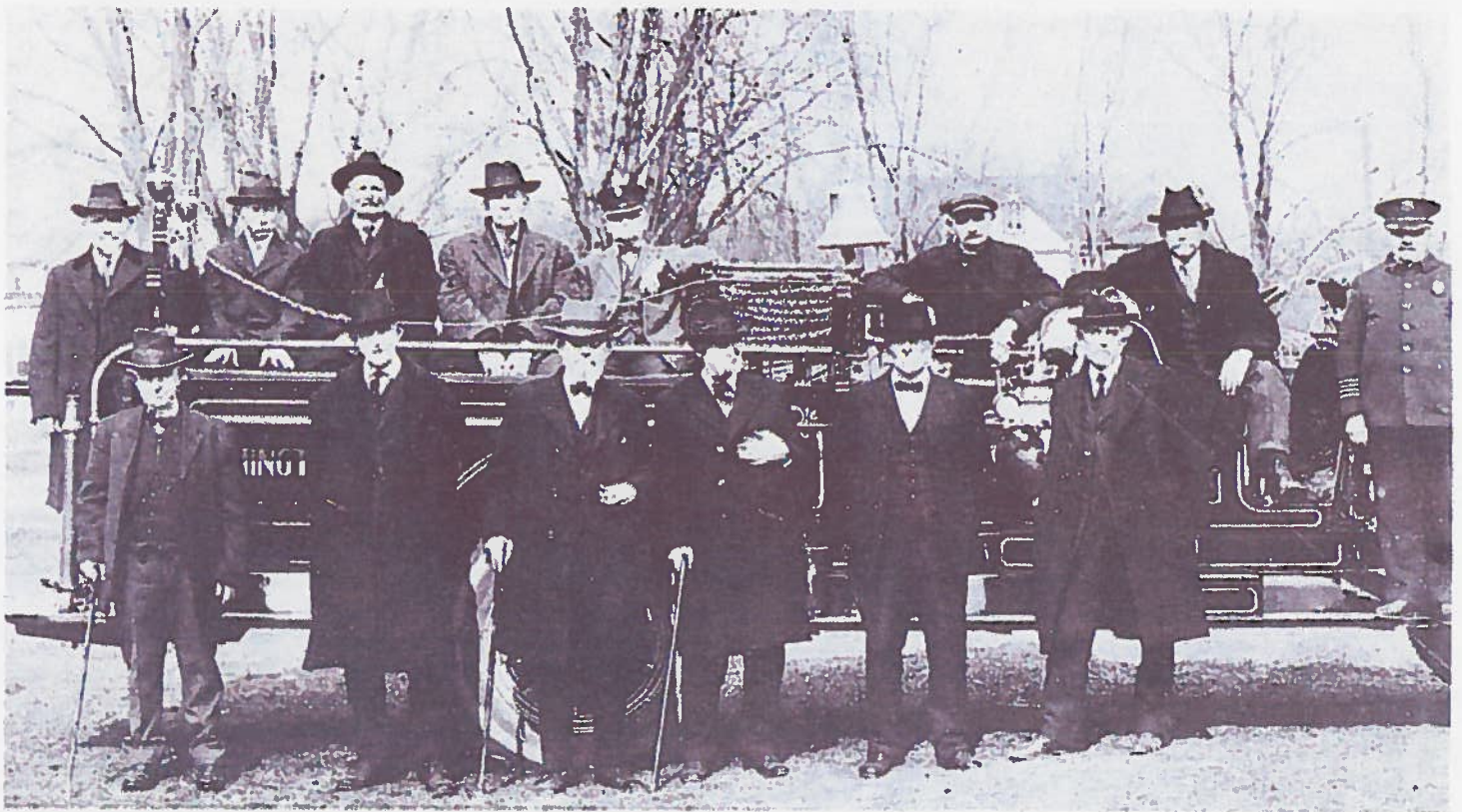
In 1936, a 600-gallon-per-minute Seagraves pumper was purchased. It replaced the chemical truck and remained in service until 1963. Next to come was a Diamond T chassis, which was purchased in 1947. Doing most of the work themselves, the firemen built a fire pumper body for the frame. This apparatus carried a 35-gallon high pressure pump, plus a 40-gallon booster tank, and remained in service until 1973.

To keep abreast of the continuing growth of the community, the fire company purchased a 750-gallon-per-minute 1953 Seagraves pumper with a 300-gallon booster tank. This truck replaced Big Bertha, which had given 30 years of yeoman service. A second, 750-gallon-per-minute Seagraves pumper arrived in 1963, replacing the 600-gallon pumper bought in 1936. And in 1973, a



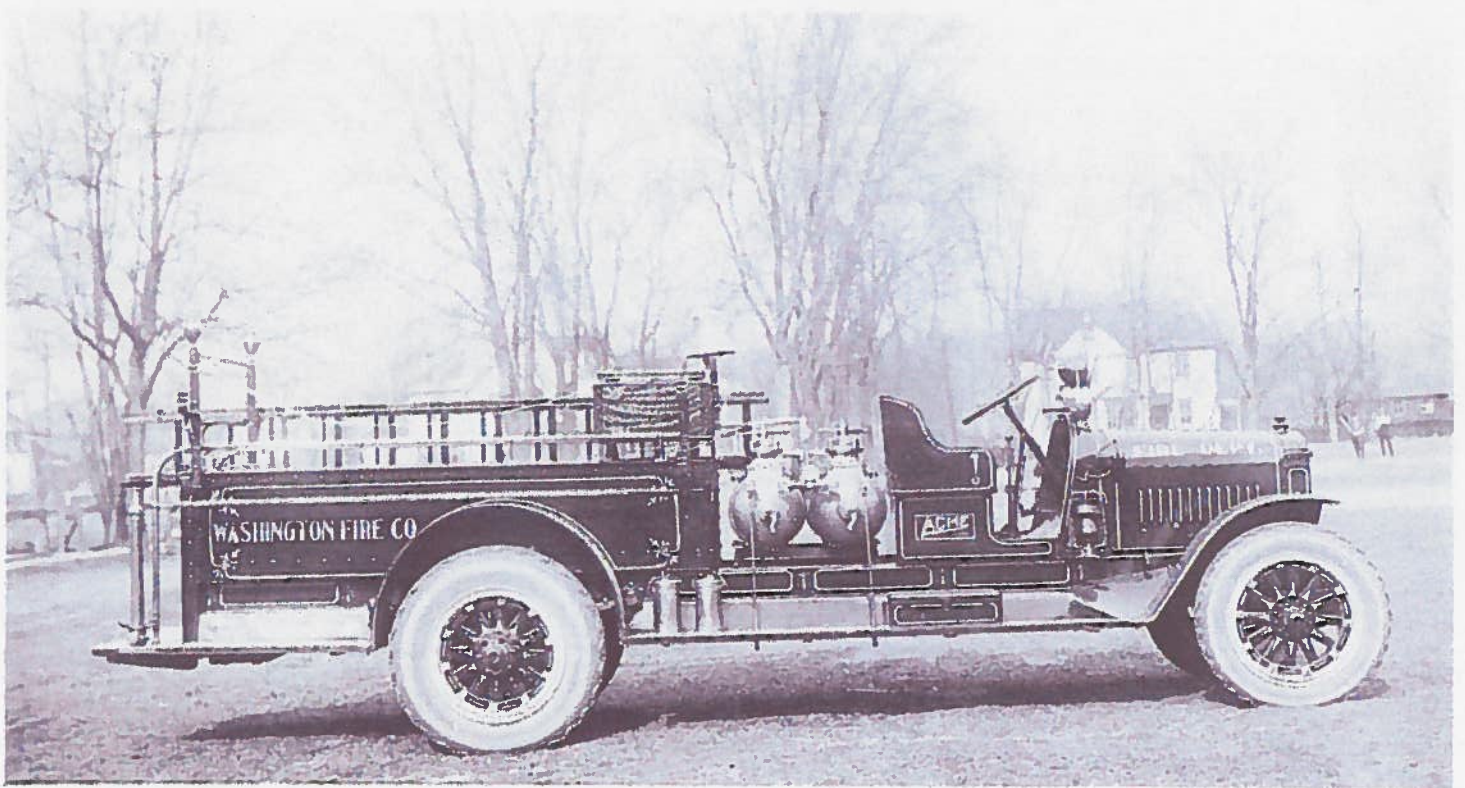
THE PRESENT firehouse on Union Avenue was constructed in 1919 and has been enlarged several times

since then. Shown in front are two fire trucks and a 1947 Cadillac ambulance.



MEMBERS of the township's first fire company held a reunion at the time Delanco acquired this new Acme fire truck sometime prior to 1923. Identifications show only last names in some cases. Front row, from left,

*Mason, Snyder, Ridgway, unknown, Hunter and F. Jones. On the truck, from left, Everingham, Ben Ellis, Pestridge, Charles Ellis, Bacon (the first chief), Hanne-
mann, Russ and Police Chief George Hahner.*



AND THIS is a photograph of the new Acme fire engine itself in all its early 1920's glory. The fire company

took two chemical tanks from the old Vim truck and installed them on the Acme.



IT WAS A FINE YEAR when the fire company acquired, in 1923, this Seagraves pumper, which could deliver

750 gallons of water a minute and was quickly dubbed "Big Bertha." It remained in service until 1953.



THE FIRE COMPANY posed for its portrait in 1923 in front of the Seagraves pumper. Standing, front, left to right (last names only) Kreiner, Howe, Kemble, Hunter,

Hamlin, H. Ellis and L. LeConey. Rear, from left, Police Chief Hahner, Cook, A. LeConey, Carter, Reeves and Carr.



THE FIRE COMPANY'S fleet of apparatus around 1963 consisted of these four pieces—from left, a Cadillac

ambulance, the Diamond T, the 600-gallon Seagraves pumper and the 750-gallon Seagraves pumper.

1,000-gallon-per-minute Seagraves pumper with a 300-gallon booster tank, fully equipped, was placed in service.

The fire company had made three additions to its present building, the latest in 1960 when a room was added to house an emergency power generator to provide a contingency energy source for the building during periods of disaster. The fire company purchased a plot of land on Burlington Avenue in the center of the community in 1964 and hoped to construct a new, modern facility there to meet the firefighting needs of the community.

During the Bicentennial year, there were 69 members of the Delanco fire company, consisting of 27 active members, two associate members, 11 active exempt firemen and 29 life members.

The leadership of the fire company was vested in Cornelius Berrevoets, president; Fred McQuade, vice president; William Wolverton, secretary; Angus Asay, treasurer and Fred McQuade, chaplain.

Line officers were headed by William Ewans, fire chief; Richard Ehrhart, first assistant chief; John Zuber, second assistant chief; John Van Emburgh, chief engineer; Clarence Wallace, first assistant engineer and Fred McQuade, second assistant engineer.

There are five fire commissioners, elected by the public, and in 1975 they consisted of Charles

Gerken, Angus Asay, Cornelius Berrevoets, Robert Guenther and Clarence Wallace. They are responsible for acquiring apparatus and fire fighting equipment with funds obtained from the fire tax.

The Emergency Squad is an important arm of the Delanco Fire Company. The squad has become well known throughout the area for its aid to those in distress. The ambulance is manned by the members of the fire department.

This phase of the fire company's work got underway in 1939. The need for a community ambulance was apparent and when the company purchased a 1933 Buick ambulance, the emergency squad was born.

To keep abreast of the ever increasing demands for service, a 1947 Cadillac ambulance was purchased to replace the original ambulance, and in 1951 a new Cadillac ambulance was acquired, staying in service until the fire company purchased a 1972 Pontiac ambulance, equipped with the most modern equipment, at a cost of \$15,000.

The ambulance and equipment used by the squad is financed by its annual drive for funds.

The Emergency Squad also operates a 12-foot aluminum rescue boat to provide coverage for the four miles of waterways that surround the

community. The craft was purchased in 1960 and is still in service. It is towed to the scene by a 1974, one-ton Econoline Van equipped to handle any situation.

Over the years, the squad has purchased considerable amounts of medical supplies and

equipment, which are available to all residents of Delanco. The squad also works closely with other squads in surrounding communities to provide assistance.

The Bicentennial year captain is Keith Mohrmann with George Sacalis acting as co-captain.



THE BICENTENNIAL parade gave Delanco an opportunity to exhibit its firefighting equipment.

Community Organizations



THE BOYS' BRIGADE was the precursor of Scouting in Delanco and the first Brigade company was formed here in 1910. Early members in this photograph are,

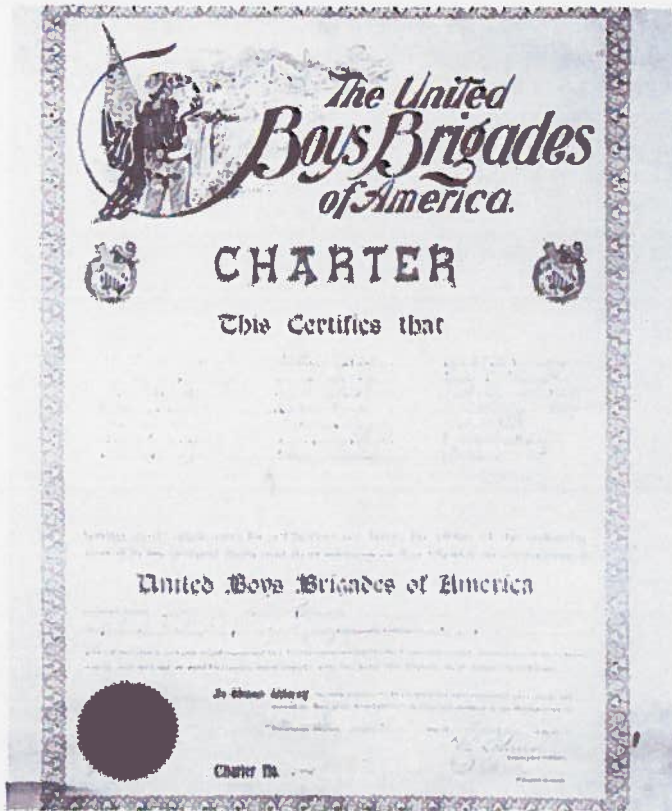
front row, from left, George Christie, Chester Denning, Lemuel Haywood and Lester Toy. Rear, Joe Carter, Walter Bright, William Holt and Andrew Treffs.

First Came the United Boys Brigades . . . Then the Boy Scouts

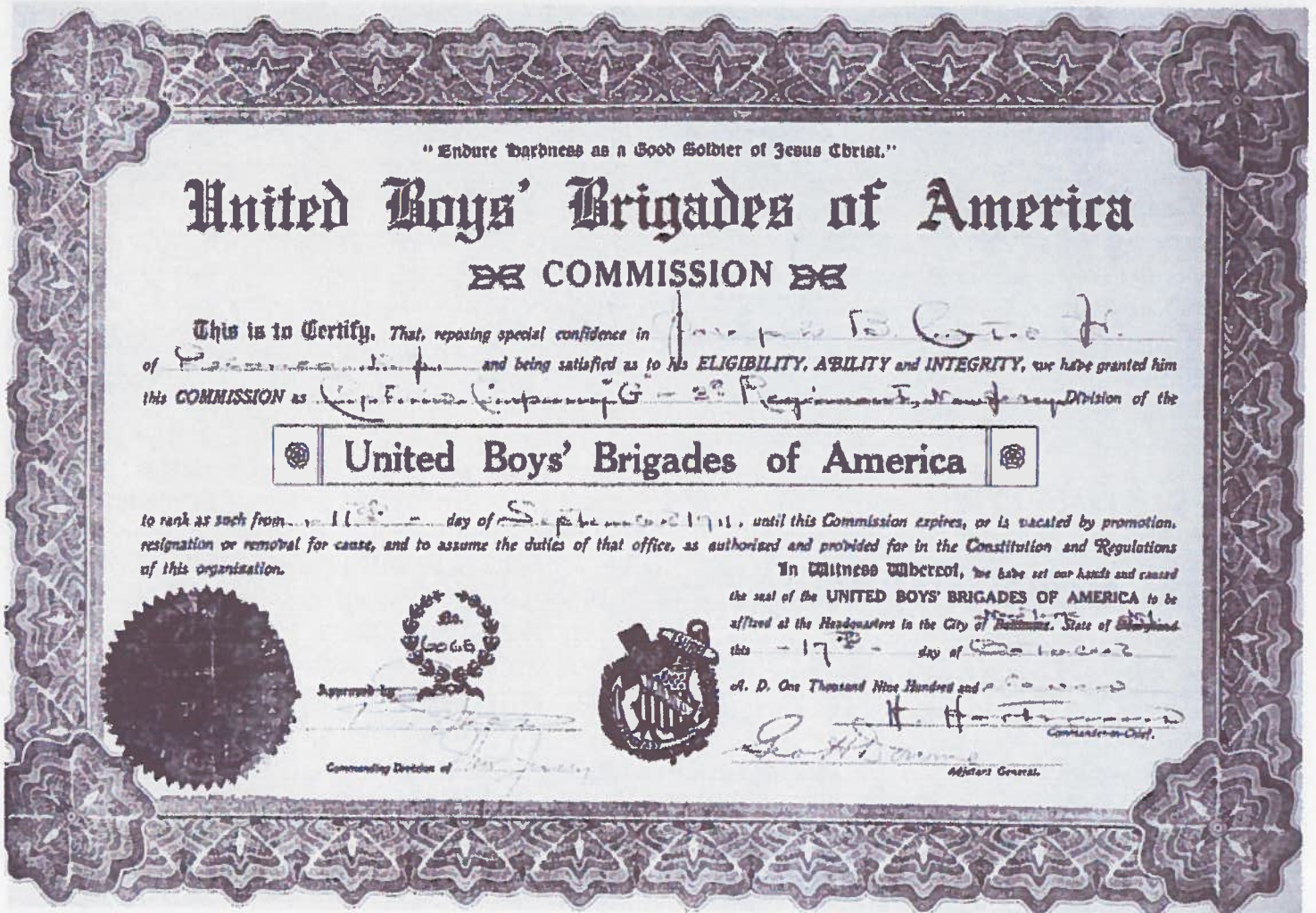
Of necessity, we must write a preface to the history of Scouting—Boy Scouting, that is—in Delanco. Although the scouts are, historically, the group one first calls to mind, the fact is the Boy Scouts in Delanco were preceded briefly by a group with very similar goals.

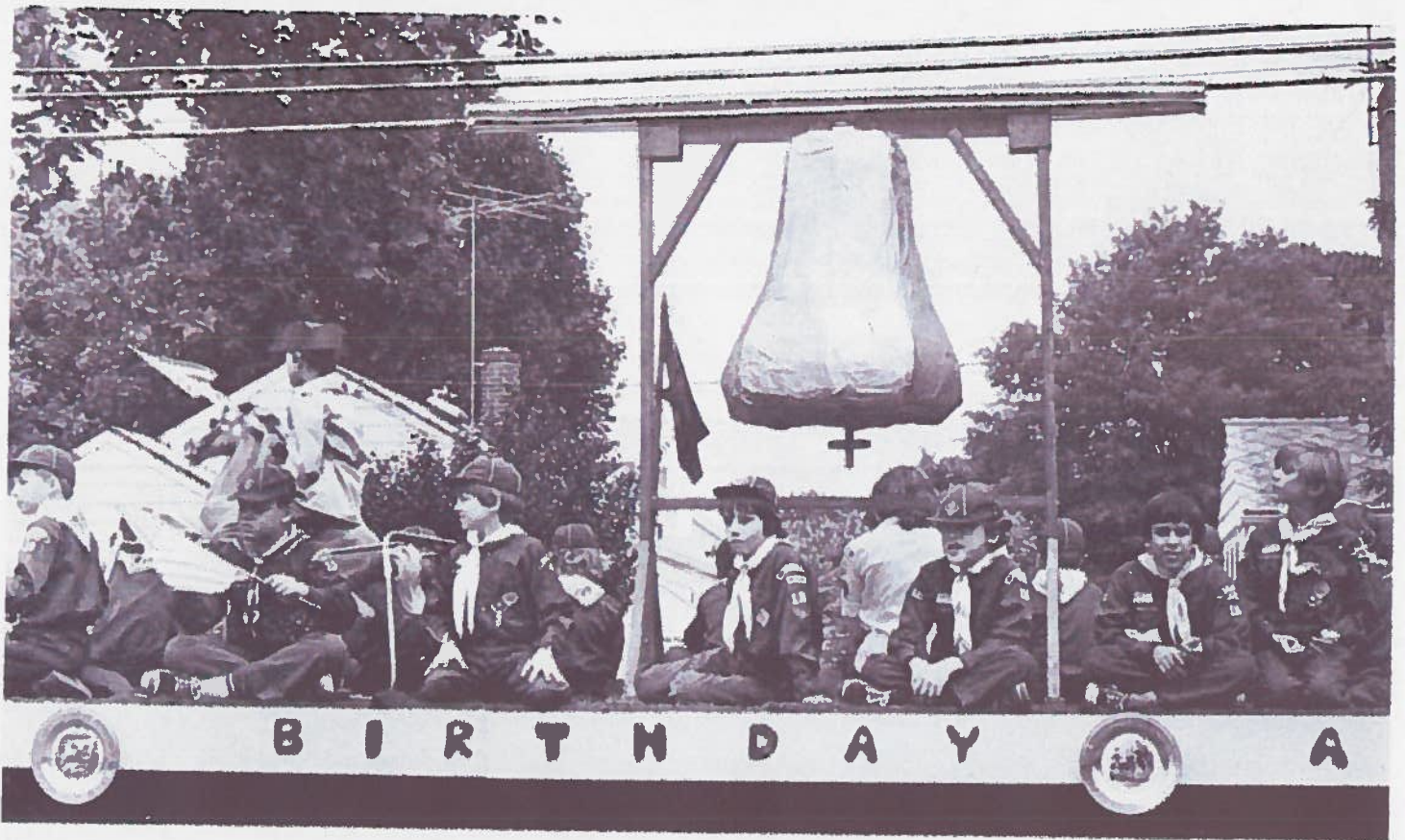
The name of this group was the United Boys' Brigades of America and at the start of the second decade of the century, there was organized such a chapter in Delanco. The group received charter number 1642 on March 8, 1910, and was designated company "G," Third N.J. Regiment.

The Brigades' motto was "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ," and Brigade activities were similar to those of the Scouts. The Brigade met in the Presbyterian Church.



THE ORIGINAL charter of the Delanco Company of the United Boys Brigade of America is shown at left, listing all the charter members. Joseph B. Carter, Jr., right, was one of the charter members and below is his commission as a captain in the Brigade, dated Sept. 11, 1911.





Cub Scouts ride a float depicting the Liberty Bell during a 1976 parade.

Twenty-one names appear on the original membership charter. They are the Rev. Franklin J. Miller, Philip John Chroninger, Joseph B. Carter, Jr., Andrew H. Treffs, J. Siddon Neville, David George Horn, Abie LeConey, William L. Holt, Frank Lester Toy, Albert L. Watkins, Harold Neville, Wade LeConey, John Henry Christie, George Pestrige, Chester A. Denning, George DeDean, Jr., Walter Thomas Bright, Robert Quigg Phillips, Nolan Killian, Gilbert I. Stokley and William Pettit.

Carter was commissioned as captain of this group on Sept. 11, 1911. Many of them grew up to be outstanding citizens of the community and some were still around to greet the Bicentennial year.

It was in 1920 that the first Boy Scout Troop was formed in Delanco—Troop No. 1, with Harold Neville as scoutmaster. Research indicates no predecessors to this troop, whose members included Lewis Osmond, Jr., Marshall Johnson, Arthur Slight, William Krusen, William Keebler, Stanley Carter, Hartzel Willard, Russell Hunter, Philip Dennis, Albert Price and Charles Price. The sponsors' names are not known.

This troop was active at least until about 1925, when Troop No. 2 was founded under the leadership of Clarence Hunt. Its membership included Russell Hunt, Edward Finertie, Louis Zimmerman, Linwood Reifsnnyder and Bill Phile. For a while, both troops were active and operating. We do not, however, know when Troop No. 1 ceased to function.

About 1934, Sheldon Risley, then scoutmaster of Troop No. 2, was transferred because of his work and left Troop 2, which stopped operating.

William Phile went from Delanco to Beverly as a scout for one year, then was joined by Bill Lindh, Jr., and William Jenkins. They continued to attend at Beverly until 1937, when Tom Perkins applied for and was granted a charter for Troop No. 19—which is active to this day.

Troop 19 was chartered in April, 1937, with the Presbyterian Church as its sponsor, Thomas Perkins as scoutmaster and Charles Williams as assistant scoutmaster. After Williams, William Phile became assistant scoutmaster. When Perkins left, too, Phile was not old enough (21) to be scoutmaster, so Ed Zimmerman acted in that

capacity until Phile could take over. After that, there were quite a few scoutmasters, including Lewis Osmond Jr., Charles Forsell, George Widmaier, Rufus Alden, Raymond Vanaman, Jim Blinebury, Russell Cliver, Skip Poole, Daniel Bianchini and doubtless others not recalled or of whom records have been lost. Edmond Robins is the present scoutmaster. Until Robins took charge, the title of scoutmaster was vacant for a time and it was only due to the efforts of Rudy Stotz that scouting remained alive in Delanco.

Fittingly, history was made and some recompense achieved in April, 1975, when Rudy's son, David, who aided his father during the Scouts'



trying period, became the first Eagle Scout ever produced by Delanco Troop 19 and was so designated before a court of honor.

Explorer Post 19 was chartered in 1952 with Post Advisor being Benjamin Lucas and Explorer Post 115 followed with Chauncey "Bunky" Cox and Fred Smith as Post Advisors.

Cub Scouting in Delanco had its origins many years ago, too. It is known that at the time of Boy Scout Troop 2's existence, Rufus Alden was cubmaster. When he moved away, the Cubs stopped operating, although he did return and became a scoutmaster.

Cub Pack 19 was chartered in 1954, is sponsored by the Delanco Presbyterian Church and has been operating ever since. Past cubmasters included commissioner Skip Poole, Maurice Perkins (prior to 1954), Herbert Harlow, Ed Kuhl, Dave Osmond, Jim Blinebury, Elmer Mohrmann, Joe Atzert, Harry Devenny, Michael Conda, Bob Bentone and Manny Santos. Hubert Clair is current cubmaster of Pack 19.

The Sea Scouts—official name Delanco Sea Explorers Ship number 19—are sponsored by the Delanco Presbyterian Church. The unit was formed in 1956 by Raymond T. Vanaman and Bud Styles from a nucleus of 10 boys from the scout troop. Sea Explorers are for boys 14 to 18 interested in learning how to handle and repair boats and in learning safety on water and land.

The unit wears uniforms like the navy and activities include camping on water and land, taking boat trips and participating in camporees, Scout Olympics, bridges of honor and others.

SEA SCOUTS raise Old Glory on Liberty tree-planting day on April 17, 1976, in front of town hall.

The Girl Scouts of Delanco

It is believed that prior to the present organization of Girl Scouts there was Girl Scouting activity but no record of it has been found.

On Nov. 8, 1950, Mrs. S. W. Meader, Jr., of Oakford Avenue, Delanco, wrote to the National Girl Scout Council in New York requesting information on the proper steps for starting a Brownie troop. Within two weeks, she received a packet containing all necessary articles.

A troop committee was formed consisting of the Rev. George Allen; Miss Mildred Denneler, advisor; Mrs. George Cunningham, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. John Steinsieck, chairman. Mrs. Meader was named leader of the troop, which was sponsored by the Women's Guild of the Delanco Presbyterian Church.

In January, 1951, all girls interested in becoming Brownie Scouts were invited to register at the Presbyterian Church. The new Brownie



GIRL SCOUTS march up Burlington Avenue in Memorial Day parade in the 1950s.

Troop made progress under the aegis of Mrs. Meader and patrol leaders Mrs. J. R. Donahue, Mrs. R. B. Force, Jr., Mrs. L. C. Krusen and Mrs. L. Mahn.

The girls studied scouting in other countries and held their first bake sale to raise funds. An investiture service was held in February, 1951.

A town committee was formed to help run the troop more efficiently. The committee consisted of the town chairman, secretary, cookie

chairman, publicity chairman, fund drive chairman and trip planning chairman. Leaders and assistants were also part of the committee, whose job was to discuss and solve problems facing the troops.

As the girls progressed, they participated in Juliette Lowe Day, Girl Scout Week, Girl Scout Sunday, Thinking Day, parades, fly-ups, cookie sales and other events.

In a quarter-century, Delanco's program has



THIS CONTINGENT of Girl Scout Brownies marched in Bicentennial parade here.

grown on all levels of scouting and there are now Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes and Senior Troops.

Activities consist of the old stand-bys, as well as new ones. The girls enjoy camping, swimming, hiking and first-aid. They are active in politics, religion, social services and activities that will help them become better citizens.

Sponsors for the Delanco troops are the Delanco Presbyterian Church, groups of the Dob-

bins Memorial United Methodist Church, the Delanco PTA, the Delanco Fire Company Auxiliary and Delanco Woman's Club.

The present officers for 1976 were: Mrs. Eleanor Keating, service team chairman; Mrs. Dorothy Nixon, organizer; Mrs. Esther Klaproth, Jr. and Sr. advisor; Mrs. Katherine Mueller, Brownie advisor; Mrs. Joyce Walton, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Alice Breen, calendar chairman; and Mrs. Marion Myers, cookie chairman.

The Library

The Delanco Library Association, the first library association in the community, was incorporated in 1866. It had been first organized in 1860, with Frank Jones, Sr., as its first secretary. The library was quartered in the office of the Wilmerton Lumber Mill and later was moved to the small building on the corner of Vine and Buttonwood Streets. That building, erected in 1868, has since been demolished to the loss of history lovers.

Thanks to the minutes taken by the

association secretary, W. W. Deacon (Theo. E. Belding was president), we have some information on the construction of the library building:

"Oct. 14, 1867.

"On motion, a meeting of the Delanco Library Association be held on Monday evening Oct. 28 at 7½ o'clock to take into consideration [sic] the propriety of putting up a new building."

"Nov. 11, 1867.



A HEFTY volume cataloguing the Bicentennial events is held by Mrs. Alice Yardumian, right, the town librarian, and Mrs. Pat Fynan, a member of the library board.

"On motion, we build a building 18' x 24'. Mr. Dobbins, Belding and Crane were then chosen as the building committee. On motion, we build the building according to the plan talked about, only on a smaller scale and not having a gallery. On motion we proceed at once to erect the building, get the foundation laid and frame ready."

"Jan. 6, 1868.

"On motion an order be drawn on the treasurer for one hundred dollars for labor on our building." (In the next few months, orders were drawn on the treasurer for \$333.38. This included hardware and construction costs.)

"April 7, 1868.

"On motion that we instruct the building committee to put up the chimney."

"Jan. 5, 1870.

"Samuel C. Deacon presented a bill of \$105.40 (probably the cost of erecting the chimney). On motion the Board of Trustees be authorized to mortgage the property for \$150.00."

"Aug. 8, 1870.

"Motion reconsidered—on motion, \$250 be the amount of the mortgage."

"Jan. 2, 1870.

"Trustees reported that they have made an Association note and raised \$130. With this money, S. C. Deacon's bill of \$100 for plastering the building and T. E. Belding's balance of \$30 was paid. H.A. Johnson's bill for labor and hardware on the shutters for \$37.58 was received and ordered paid.

"April 18, 1871.

"On motion the trustees be authorized to rent the hall (the library building) to the trustees of the Delanco School District, the rent to be not less than \$40 per year." (This was for the overflow of pupils from the school building next to the library. It is said the pupils used the chairs for desks on which to write their lessons, while they sat on boxes.)

"Jan. 2, 1882.

"On motion the use of the building was given to the tax collector for the collection of taxes." (For many years, the building was used for this additional purpose.)

The constitution of the Delanco Library Association, consisting of five articles, was adopted Oct. 27, 1860. The constitution, with its accompanying by-laws and a list of members, is found in this same secretary's minutes. The

record of the Library Association makes very interesting reading for those who have the time and inclination to learn more about these early residents, who were concerned with the culture of Delanco's inhabitants.

When the new building was erected in 1868, these were the officers: Theo. E. Belding, president; Thomas Stevenson, vice-president; Hezekiah A. Johnson, treasurer; Will W. Deacon, secretary; John H. Shipp, librarian; and Charles E. Dennis, assistant librarian.

A. C. Ridgway served the association for many years as secretary, Joseph B. Carter as president and Charles H. Ellis as librarian. Harry J. Dennis held several offices. The name Charles Ashton is mentioned many times as an active member holding various offices. Other oft-repeated names are Charles Fletcher, V. B. Hansbury and Charles Weiler.

During its history, the library association sponsored concerts by the Mozart Glee Club from Philadelphia, offered lectures, staged strawberry and peach festivals, oyster suppers and Christmas festivals, and rented out the building to political groups, churches and lodges. This provided funds for erection of the building and the expenses of upkeep. The association also had a committee to raise funds by subscription, in addition to revenue from dues.

Although its location was changed several times, it wasn't until the 1930s that a permanent home was found for the library in a second-floor room of the Walnut Street School. Space was confining, however, and the book collection and other services were limited.

Miss Linda Long was one of the early librarians. A maiden lady, she lived in Allen's boarding house. Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis became the librarian in 1951 and served as head librarian for 16 years.

In 1961, a group of concerned citizens formed the Delanco Free Library Association and incorporated it under the laws of New Jersey. Then in 1964 came another important step when the library moved into the basement of the new municipal building.

Mrs. Lewis, who was feted in 1967 with a surprise party and presented a monogrammed, gold pin, said it was once a busy day in the library if two or three dozen books crossed the check-out desk. Today, books go out by the hundreds.

The public's fascination with television-watching was, according to surveys, on the wane

through the mid-1970s and, with people becoming more selective of their entertainment, the public was again making increased use of the library.

In the first year following the library's move into the municipal building, book circulation increased from 5,000 to 12,182 for the twelve months. Since then, yearly totals have shown increases. In 1969, a then all-time high of 14,322 books were circulated. The highest month's total in 1969 was recorded in August, when 1,541 books were taken out. Registered borrowers jumped from 705 to 1,188 in 1969.

With the needs of school children becoming more and more evident, a reference section was started. In 1970, the reference section included over 400 books, with a special section for 100 New Jersey books. The McNaughton Book Service was obtained through the Burlington County System, books being borrowed on a long-term basis.

In 1965, all books were catalogued using the Dewey Decimal System, properly processed and a card catalog started. Books were arranged in adult, teen, juvenile and easy sections, plus the reference and New Jersey sections. Purchased were 6 tables, 22 chairs, 2 charge-out desk sections, a card catalogue, 2 book trucks, a 4-drawer vertical file, adding machine, ditto machine, 2 typewriters and a photo-copy machine. Records were also made available.

Mrs. Alice Yardumian, who took over Mrs. Lewis' duties upon her retirement, heads a library staff of one full-time and two part-time employees, who maintain 30 open hours each week. In 1975, the library's budget had increased to \$17,780, of which \$14,805 was from the township's appropriation of public funds. State aid, membership dues of \$2 per person and \$3 per family per year, and fines supplement the operating budget. Funds are also raised by activities ranging from card parties to teenage dances.

New volumes are purchased from an annual book budget of \$3,000. In 1974, there were 1,196 books added to the collection. The McNaughton Plan has been increased by 50 books and now a basic inventory of 250 books is maintained, with 25 new best-sellers being received each month. An average of 340 McNaughton books circulate monthly. Some 885 books comprise the reference collection; the New Jersey collection totals 176 volumes. The total book collection owned at the

end of 1974, the latest year for which figures were available, was 10,277. Another 5,000 books are on loan from the Burlington County Library, making a total of over 15,000 books available to borrowers.

With the increase in volumes, total circulation also increased. At the close of 1972, another new all-time circulation high was reached—17,955. In 1974, the yearly circulation dropped slightly, to 17,144. The high monthly total for 1974 was 1,754 in August. The number of borrowers fluctuates, naturally, but at the end of 1974, there were 496 adults and 501 juveniles registered as borrowers.

To house new books, additional shelving was ordered and 3 newer typewriters, a second four-drawer file, a new adding machine, a new Bell and Howell 16mm film projector, a 60 x 60 projection screen, 12 two-drawer 3 x 5 files for accessioning purposes, a filmstrip viewer and a cassette recorder were purchased.

Each year, National Library Week and Children's Book Week are observed with special programs, free return of overdue books and various contests.

Summer programs have been enlarged to include a Vacation Reading Club in which all who finish the requirements receive a gift. Film hours and game hours are scheduled each week. A puppet show was also given during the summer. Filmstrips are borrowed from the County Library so that pre-school children may view them on the new viewer and listen to the story on the cassette player.

Delivery service to shut-ins and senior citizens, plus films for local organizations are additional services available. A total of 1,684 photocopies were made for township residents in 1974. A small record collection and framed print collection is available for borrowing.

The library has reached full capacity in its present location. Shelves are overcrowded and no space is left to place new books. However, the library keeps up with the needs of its borrowers for school work and personal reading pleasure. It is hoped that new and larger quarters may soon be found.

All improvements have been made possible through the efforts of the township committee and a Board of Trustees comprised of 12 residents.

Entering the Bicentennial year, the Board of Trustees included: Robert Breen, William Emery (President), Patricia Fynan (Treasurer), Connie Laverty, Ruth Murphy, James Queenan, Margaret

Reynolds, Herbert Shagg, Marie Sutton, Margaret Wagenknight, Margaret Yetter.

The 1976 staff consists of Alice Yardumian, Janet Comstock and Gloria Olkiewicz.

The Parent-Teachers Association

There were just six teachers in the school system when the Delanco Parent-Teachers Association was founded on Feb. 1, 1917.

Entering the Bicentennial year of 1976, there were approximately 36 teachers in the Delanco school system but the PTA was working just as hard as it had been over 50 years earlier.

The children of the community have always come first, naturally, and all the money earned by the PTA is put back into the school system for the children's needs.

The PTA's list of achievements through the decades is a proud one. Such as in the . . .

1920s and 30s—Chairs were purchased for the nurse's room (clinic). Children were given oranges and shut-ins were given candy at Christmas. A picture machine was purchased. The State advised that parents could attend a program at which a guest speaker would discuss sex education so that the parents could instruct their children. Two trees were purchased for the Washington Bicentennial celebration. Fifty trays were bought to serve school lunches. A committee on dental work was formed and card parties planned to raise money to purchase eyeglasses for needy children. Eighteen dollars was raised to buy hockey sticks for the children. The PTA awarded prizes at the manual arts department's first exhibit.

1940s and 50s—Mrs. Alfred Parker was chairman of a Tom Thumb wedding which was a fund-raising project with children from the lower grades as participants in a mock wedding. Eighth grade girls took care of smaller children so mothers could attend PTA meetings. The first fashion show was held. During World War II, small gifts were sent to servicemen who were left in camp at Christmastime. The PTA donated its services to the Defense Board. Used clothing and shoes were purchased for needy children. Buddy bags were given to the men on the battleship

New Jersey. The teachers were presented with \$50 to start a school library and the fire company was given a donation for a Christmas party.

1960s and 70s—Life memberships in the PTA were presented to Peg Hunter and Martha Salber and to Miss Mary Lucas, the music teacher for many years. New uniforms were purchased for the boys' and girls' basketball teams. A Helping Hand project was started and is still very successful. The PTA held a follies, which was a great success. And the ways and means committee raised money for new drapes and curtains for the auditorium at a cost of \$1,970. A new public address system and lights were purchased.

Currently, the PTA stages a number of annual events. With the help of the teachers, there is a musical each year with the children taking part. There are the parent-teachers "Get Acquainted Hour," the Harvest Fair, the annual dinner, the Valentine Dinner Dance, Founders Day, the fashion show, and the sixth, seventh and eighth grade sewing and dressmaking display.

Here are the PTA presidents through the years:

1917, Miss Lila T. Branson, Principal; 1918-20, Mrs. Y. G. Fromuth; 1921-22, Mrs. A. T. Hagstoz; 1923-24, Mrs. Charles Denning; 1925, Mrs. Samuel Borel; 1926, Mrs. Justin Spain, Sr.; 1927-28, Mrs. Platt; 1929-30, Mrs. Bower; 1931-32, Mrs. Hayward; 1933-34, May Deveney; 1935-36, Pearl Wells; 1937, Agnes Perkins; 1938-39, Ethel Johnson; 1940, Janet Richmond; 1941-42, Flora Shipps; 1943, Faye Naeole; 1944, Laura Kumpel; 1945-46, Sara Phillips; 1947-48, Ruth Bolton; 1949-50, Bertha Wanckel; 1951-52, Peg Fenimore Hunter; 1953-54, Julie Knoff; 1955-56, Fran Van Ness; 1957-58, Gerrie Hook; 1959-60, Martha Salber; 1961-62, Emily Johnson; 1963-65, Bernice Hearn; 1966-67, Ruth Ogden; 1968-69, Lillian McDonald; 1970-71, Peg Hunter; 1972-73, Shirley Rossi; 1974-75, Myrna Candy; 1976-77, Doris McCullough.

The Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens met and organized on Jan. 9, 1973 in the municipal building. There were 38 persons present, with Dick Mueller assisting in the formation of the club.

The club elected these officers: Peg Hunter, president; William Larmouth vice-president; Cora DeCollewart, treasurer; Virginia Harding, recording secretary; and Martha Salber, corresponding secretary.

The Presbyterian Church gave permission to use its social hall as a meeting place and permitted the club to use its dishes, silver and urns.

The club made its first trip on May 21, 1973 to Duke Gardens, having dinner at the Summerville Inn. The first covered dish meeting was June 12, 1973, honoring Eddie Diggs on his 107th birthday.

The group attended the first Senior Citizens Jamboree at Wildwood Crest Sept. 17-21, 1973, with 24 members in attendance. They stayed at the Sands Motel.

At present, there are 121 members in the club, which has done wonders for lonely people. Members who didn't know how to make a knot in the end of a thread have learned crafts and made beautiful things to present to hospitals and homes for the aged, or to sell at fairs to raise funds for the clubs.

A committee headed by Frances Mullans raised \$300 for the Bicentennial Commission by a 2-day bake and food sale.

The 1976 officers are William Temple, president; Lester Daniels, vice president; Mary Parsons, secretary; Esther Murphy, treasurer.

The Delanco Woman's Club

The Delanco Woman's Club was organized in 1949 and federated in 1950. The first president was Mrs. Curtis Eves.

In its first quarter-century, the club raised thousands of dollars through various projects, donating the proceeds to Zurbrugg Hospital in Riverside, the Delanco Library, the Delanco Recreation Commission and the Delanco public schools. In addition, the club has helped many needy families through its social service department.

In 1957, an amendment to the by-laws led to the formation of the Garden Club to augment the Woman's Club's activities.

The club was active for many years working with the American Field Service program and sponsoring art and essay contests in the Delanco schools. Beginning in 1972, the club annually presented the Flora Shipps Art Award to the outstanding art student in the Delanco public schools' eighth grade graduating class.

The club also sponsors every year a delegate to Girls Citizenship Institute at Douglass College.

This enables a high school junior from Delanco to attend Douglass for one week.

In 1961, the organization was named the Club of the Year by the *Burlington County Times* for its Holiday Fair, from which the \$500 proceeds were contributed to the Recreation Commission for the township tennis court.

The club's street lighting project, which was entered in the National Civic Improvement Program for 1968, won third place in the nation and with it a cash award of \$200.

In 1971, the club presented a three act play. Members arranged and staged the play with and for members of the community to promote goodwill among all ages and to nurture cultural enrichment. For this effort, the club was named by the *Burlington County Times* as the club of the year in the drama division.

In addition, the club has also presented a charm course for teens, and arts and crafts classes for both youngsters and adults for two years. The club also annually presents a candidates night in which the public can meet those seeking public office.