THE BULLETIN
of
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume II
SPRING, 1970
No. 10

INCORPORATED April 30, 1948

Headquarters and Museum
THE FINLEY HOUSE
BEECH TREE LANE AND BELLEVUE AVENUE
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA
Visitors Cordially Welcome. Telephone MUrray 8-2668.

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RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(a non-profit educational institution)

Annual Treasurer's Report
April 30, 1970

RECEIPTS

- Balance cash — April 30, 1969: $4,988.56
- Dues: $853.00
- Contributions: $1,826.88
- Interest on Investments: $1,587.69
- Rent: $960.00
- Advertising: $187.50
- Bulletins Sold: $21.00
- Miscellaneous Receipts: $19.95

TOTAL RECEIPTS: $5,954.68

DISBURSEMENTS

- Stationery & Printing Expenses: $189.73
- Bulletins: $389.50
- Telephone: $91.60
- Insurance: $331.00
- Gas & Electric Service: $214.67
- Water & Sewer: $54.91
- Fuel Oil & Fuel Service: $509.93
- Lawn Care & Snow Removal: $18.50

Borrowed Money

- Interest: $128.20
- Principal Payments: $800.00

- Repairs, Maintenance & Building Cost: $629.30
- Dues & Subscriptions: $10.00
- Investments: $303.99
- Canvas Top for Covered Wagon: $165.00
- Photographing Prints: $228.50
- Transfer to Savings Account #3-4614: $24.00
- Miscellaneous Expenses: $18.50

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: $4,208.83

BALANCE CASH IN GENERAL FUND — April 30, 1970: $1,745.85

TOTAL: $5,954.68

Savings Account — $200.06

Membership is open to those interested. Minimum Dues $3.00 per annum.
Contributions to the Society are deductible for Income Tax purposes.
Balance of Restoration Debt is $2,000.00
We need additional community support.

O. LOUIS EHMANN, JR., Treasurer
123 W. Lancaster Avenue, Wayne, Pa.
THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year has passed and the Society continues to open its doors to the public every Tuesday afternoon, from 2-5, and on other days by appointment. Those interested in the contents of our carriage house will see a new canvas top on the Conestoga Wagon. Visiters to the Finley House itself will enjoy one of our new acquisitions—a charming Dolls' House donated by Mrs. Henry Ecroyd. This three-story house was set up and furnished in 1892 and was given to Mrs. Ecroyd and her sister by their grandmother. Over the years new pieces of furniture have been added, such as telephones and other "modern conveniences." It is a delightful and valuable addition to our collection. We are also deeply grateful for other gifts contributed to the Society (a list of which is noted elsewhere in this Bulletin) and wish to thank all the donors for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

We are always happy to be of help to the community and during this past year the Society has been consulted by researchers on many topics. These include The Calhoun College property; the Eastern Baptist College property; the underground railroad; Indians; Citizenship; the James family; the Pugh House; and the Bromfield, Priest and Tyson families.

Our membership has again increased. And I am pleased to report that our debt has been reduced to $2,000; this from a total of $10,100 five years ago. Our thanks to those who have helped to make this possible.

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Mrs. Richard Tunis, a member of the Board of Directors of the Society.

NECROLOGY (since the last issue of the Bulletin)

John Blair Bunting
Mrs. Paul J. Hess
Clarence E. Tolan, Jr.

Mrs. Richard Tunis
Mrs. Thomas E. Walton

NEW MEMBERS (since the last issue)

C. N. Agnew
Edward F. Beatty
Harold G. Beebe
Devereux Butcher
Mrs. Devereux Butcher
Mrs. A. C. Carlton
Benjamin F. Clark
Mrs. John W. Favett
Mrs. J. Montgomery Forster
Mrs. Robert Goodman
Mrs. Kenneth H. Gordon, Jr.
Richard Hawkins

Rolman B. Heckman
Herbert S. Henderson
Mrs. Herbert S. Henderson
John Johnston
Miss Katherine C. McHenry
Paul Magin
Mrs. P. B. Moyer, Jr.
Mrs. William Muttart
Mrs. William A. Ogletree
Lloyd McLean Roberts
Mrs. Albert H. Thayer
Mrs. Henrietta K. Wallace

A little boy, about to make a momentous decision, stood in the middle of a stone bridge, which he had bridged a tiny rill. On either side of him was a low, serrated, stone wall. Should he go over the rill into the Frederick Schmidt property or the one on the right into the Edward Schmidt property? Or should he continue on the path that he had been assigned - up the rough lane to the Rush house to invite Miss Alice Rush to have tea with his sister Mary.

Edward's bridge had been intended to provide access to the two Schmidt properties, as it had sold the west end of the Lainshaw Food and Mr. Rand had sold the west end of his property to Frederick, continued down on down a steep, short hill, after passing the gateways of the two brothers; crossed the rill and then went up the other side to the Rush house. It had never been paved and was rough and stoney, so carriages seldom tried to negotiate it. Consequently, the bridge was almost invisible from either of the big houses, and the temptation to trespass was nearly irresistible. True, most of the allure offered by Frederick was perfectly seen from the lane. It was a small grotto, replete with gnomes, deer, castles, moats, fairies and narrow, winding, gravel paths.

Thru the middle of the grotto ran the little stream, with small waterwheels and waterfalls; arched here and there by bridges of white stone from which elves fished. The grotto was located in a grove of tall trees, under which was a bower of rhododendrons and laurel, making the whole, enchanting scene a veritable fairy-land in semi-darkness. It was this fact, as much as any other, that lured the large eyed child on to further exploration and many was the time that he succumbed to the temptation. When he did so, there was always a slight element of disappointment, partly because of the fear of being discovered and partly because the trespass did not reveal anything that could not be seen from the road.

The Edward Schmidt side was quite different. Here there was a large expanse of green lawn, with a white, gravel path winding thru it towards a gazebo (or summer house, as we called it), just visible on the brow of a hill, and then disappearing over the other side. There were no fairy creatures on this side but to follow the winding path over the hill and down again to the stream, out of sight from the safety of Belrose Lane but in plain sight of any gardener who might be working there would enjoy the pulsating thrill of dangerous adventure. It was like a safari thru Darkest Africa or Indian country. To obtain a glimpse of the fairies and nymphs of the stream on the south side where there would be nothing more fearsome than the old Indian, Bill, with his two fat dogs, with whom he was on good terms.

Today, vandals would have destroyed all the little figures in Frederick's grotto and defiled Edward's gazebo, so that it would have been necessary for the brothers to screen off their properties from the prying eyes and physical depredations of the neighborhood "darlings" by immoveable, iron fences, but I do not recall any malicious damage to them in my boyhood days.

Allto, Edward Schmidt had bought his land from Father and was our next-door neighbor and although relations between the two gentlemen were always courteous and friendly, there was never any intimacy between the two families. The heirs to the Schmidt Brewery fortune kept discreetly to themselves and their huge dwellings, set well back from the road and nearly concealed by the suburban cas. We kids played with the McDonald (Edward's coachman) kids and we knew by sight his gardener, Tom Holman, but the nearest we ever came to either of the "Lords of the Manor" was an occasional fleeting glimpse of them as they were whisked by in their carriages. Both men were stocky, wore small mustaches, and were always impeccably dressed, and I seem to recall that Frau Edward was an immense woman, but I do not recall if I was an adult that I got to speaking terms with the brothers. Even then, it was not much of a experience, despite the fact that we were greeted as we passed one another. In the late Twenties, I was admitted to the immense Edward Schmidt house for my one and only glimpse of its interior, but even then, I went not for the house but the lovely entrance hall. The occasion was an attempt by me to obtain a contribution from Mr. Schmidt to the Association Against the
Prohibition Amendment, of which I was then Treasurer of the Delaware County Chapter. It must have been shortly before dinner because I was to dine in a dinner jacket. He received me courteously and we sat on stiff, high-backed chairs - from which I could get glimpses of a large, handsome dining room, set for dinner, and of an equally large, handsome drawing room - while I explained my errand. He received me courteously, large, handsome dining room, set for dinner; he then proceeded to do.

On the day before the great house was razed - two generations later - my wife was one of many invited to inspect it, in anticipation of a public auction of china, furniture and bric-a-brac, most of which altho extremely handsome, were unsuitable for modern, small dwellings.

One of the pleasantest recollections of my childhood is the outdoor, gong clock on Frederick's place, that rang out on still nights its reassuring report of the passing time. I am not sure whether it sounded the half or quarter hours but its voice was frequent and dependable, and somehow contrived to give great comfort to a little boy lying awake in his bed in the corner of Richard and Gilbert's third floor, front room.

A far from comforting - but fortunately much rarer - voice of the night was the fire siren in Wayne. It was a horrible sound; a great, loud moan, of a demon that wavered up and down, carried by the breeze, now soft, now loud and ominous; and often set me to sobbing in bitter fear and horror. I would jump out of bed and look in the direction from which the ghostly wail came, as hoping that there should be the scene of the calamity. And once - O, never-to-be-forgotten horror! - my watch was rewarded and fears confirmed, for there appeared on the horizon, in the west, a street's length from the house, a wall of fire that mounted higher and higher while I stared in frozen fascination at the holocaust. I imagined that I could hear the dozen flames, as they leaped and subsided, then leaped again and lit the dark night with Hellish delight. Even after the flames finally ceased and the glow died away, I stood by the window, shivering and sobbing, expecting the fire to break out all over again.

On that night, I learned that the Wayne Times building on the pike had burned to the ground, and most of the building next door. I learned, too, that the worst fire in Wayne's brief history.

After that, the friendly chime of the Schmidt's clock was doubly comforting but, even so, it was many a moon before the horror of the Wayne Times fire subsided in my memory and I was no longer alone in that big room, so far from Mother and Margaret.

Between Lainshaw and the Edward Schmidt property, there was an iron fence of a type very common then but now almost extinct. It was a post and rail affair; the upright posts, about four feet high, standing about four feet apart and supporting three or four iron rails. The posts were flat and the rails round and about 4 inch in diameter. They lent an air of considerable distinction to a place but I suppose that today's prices would make them prohibitive to all but the very wealthy. Beyond this fence, Mr. Schmidt kept a small pasture for three or four Jersey cows which provided a certain bucolic charm to a community that was, even then, in the process of converting from a farming to a suburban, residential one. Beyond this pasture was a straight, back drive, leading from his stable to Belrose Lane and it was this straight-away that gave his gardener, Tom Holson, a flying start for his daily gallop in his horse-drawn cart that so excited my childlike admiration.

In April, 1917, Edward's daughter married a member of the nobility of Austria-Hungary, Baron Carl Czoernig von Czernhausen. I do not recall that any of the Montgomerys were invited to the wedding but the story that follows quickly got back to Father who relayed it to his children and other interested parties. On April 2nd, the United States declared war on Germany and its ally, Austria-Hungary. Just a day or two before the wedding, a couple of Secret Service men called on the father of the bride.
THE GREAT ROAD OF MARPLE

Mrs. William Lucas
December 4, 1969

Dressed as a Colonial Quaker Lady, Mrs. Lucas showed a series of colored slides of houses, old and modern, on or in the vicinity of the Great Road of Marple that ran from Chester to the Lancaster Turnpike on what was basically the present Route 320, popularly known as the Sproul Road. Many of these houses have been altered, enlarged or otherwise modified since the road was first built, early in the 18th Century; and many are doomed to oblivion in the path of the infamous "Blue Route".

The most famous, of course, is the Caleb Pusey house in Upland, built in 1683 just one year after Penn's landing; and this is where the "tour" began. This is believed to be the earliest surviving house of an English settler in the state and the only surviving one in his province visited by Wm. Penn. Pusey was agent and manager of Penn's grist and saw mill which he established for the benefit of the colonists, immediately upon arrival.

The Caleb Pusey House is in Upland, on the Chester Creek, and strictly speaking not on the Great Road of Marple but on the King's Highway to Maryland. The 1724 Court House in Chester might be said to be the Southern anchor of the Marple Road. Mrs. Lucas showed several pictures of it. This is the oldest building devoted to public uses in the State of Pa. and possibly in the U.S. It antedates Independence Hall by ten years and Faneuil Hall in Boston by 18. In its belfry is the original bell that rang for the accession of Geo. III in 1760 and for our independence in 1776.

In 1786, the county seat moved to West Chester and in 1798 the county was divided and this old building served as Court House for the new Delaware County until Media was chosen as being more central.

Mrs. Lucas told an amusing story of a conversation that she had while photographing the exterior. Three colored boys came along and began clowning, saying "Take my picture, Lady. Take my picture." She explained that she was taking pictures of old houses only and then asked if they knew the history of this building.

"Sure we do," was the prompt reply. "This house is where William Penn spent his first night after he landed in America."

From the Old Courthouse, the pictorial tour proceeded in a generally Northerly direction, with exterior and interior shots of the Joseph Sharples House (1700), the Thomas Leiper Mansion (1785), "Lapidea", the James Leiper house (1818) which became the home of Pennsylvania's Governor Wm. C. Sproul (for whom the road was renamed), the Jacob Simcock home (1695), the Sharples Dining Hall at Swarthmore College (1864), the Samuel Leiper home (1696), Thomas Massey House (1696) at Lawrence Park, Broomall, which was recently bought by a descendant, Lawrence M. C. Smith of Germantown and given to Marple Township with the agreement that it be restored within ten years. After that, there was an exterior shot of the Tudor-style Strawbridge Mansion, now empty, and then many of the interior of the former Anthony J. Drexel Mansion, which in the latter part of the 19th Century was perhaps the most magnificent of the many ornate mansions of the Phila Main Line area and is now occupied by the St. Aloysius Academy.

The pictorial tour closed with some interior shots of the residence of our energetic secretary, Mrs. Robert I. (Kady) Cummin, which, while not a very old house, does contain many excellent examples of old furniture. Mrs. Lucas concluded her interesting lecture by saying, "Altho it actually lies a little beyond the northern terminus of the Old Road of Marple, it seems appropriate that our tour should end here.

ANTIQUE DOLLS
Mrs. Frances Walker

On Wednesday evening, April 8, 1970, Miss Frances Walker addressed the Radnor Historical Society in the Community Room of the Main Line Federal Savings and Loan Association. Her subject was "Antique Dolls".

Mrs. Walker had with her 32 ancient dolls of assorted sizes and make: China dolls, made by Jumeau in Germany between 1840 and 1873, with cloth hands and hairdos made from clay moulds; Bisque dolls made by Steiner in France until 1890; Papier mache dolls made by the Pennsylvania Dutch (flirting dolls and walker dolls); Papier mache dolls lined with linen, made by Chase of Rhode Island and Greiner of Philadelphia; and wax dolls made by Ellery Thorp.

Penn Gaskill House
(On February 11, 1970, Mrs. James S. Maier addressed the Radnor Historical Society on the history of the Harford Estate, in anticipation of its public showing by the Philadelphia Vassar Scholarship Fund. It was a delightful and informative talk but, by reason of its considerable length, it will be possible to reproduce only parts of it here.)

In 1879, Judge John Innes Clark Hare bought property in Radnor and engaged Mr. Allen Evans, of Furness and Evans, as architect. By the end of the year 1880, "Harford" had been completed and was occupied the following Spring. Judge Hare's chief reason for acquiring a country place was to provide a healthy environment for his grandchildren and his widowed daughter-in-law, for "Harford" was run as a farm until 1943, providing milk and vegetables for two families, and all the hay and pasturage for three cows and several horses.

Each year in May the whole family, consisting of Judge and Mrs. Hare, their daughter-in-law Emily Power Beale Hare and her four children, Willing, Esther, Horace and Truxton, moved from their 22nd Street houses to Radnor, where they stayed until late in October when the open fires and the coal range in the kitchen were no longer adequate and they were forced to return to the centrally heated town houses. The farmer, of course, remained, taking care of the place and the animals and sending the milk to town each day by train.

When Judge Hare first knew it, Radnor was named "Morgan's Corner" for the Morgan family who worked the farm near an earlier station established there by the Pennsylvania Central Railroad when its
During the first World War, Mrs. Hare housed a group of 40 ladies who met every day to make bandages and surgical dressings. They worked in the log cabin at the end of the lawn and, during the winter, on the house and around to the sides, depending on the weather. The log cabin was built in 1901 by Truxton Hare, the University of Pennsylvania's famous professor of Law.

The building now used for doctors' offices, bearing the date 1768, was probably one of Pennsylvania's famous football player, George Washington Carver's. Although he considers the house "salubrious," he has made addition to the architect's primary concern, the preservation of the house. During the first World War, Mrs. Hare was the last of the Hare family to live at "Harford." She came there when she was six years old and stayed there until she died in 1967. She continued to use the house for doctor's offices, a library, and a museum of local history.

In 1875, the railroad was built, and the crossing of the road connecting Llanerch and Chester with King of Prussia, and the road to Matson's Ford on the Schuylkill River. The building was made for doctors' offices, bearing the date 1768, was probably one of the many at this intersection.

When Judge Hare picked Radnor for his summer home, he was moving into an almost completely farmed area. The railroads had been trying to raise interest in the suburban area. The Pennsylvania RR was promoting its summer homes and encouraging city dwellers to enjoy the "salubrious" climate of the county.

John Innes Clark Hare was born in 1816. He became a Philadelphia judge in the District Court of Philadelphia, and a judge when transferred to the Court of Common Pleas No. 2, of which he was later named President. He was re-elected in 1875 and remained in the position until 1901. During some of this period he was a professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania,

Mr. James C. Massey, an executive of the National Park Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, of the United States Department of the Interior, has been the closest kindling for the appended photographs which he took in February, 1966, while working in the area for a guidebook. Although he considers the house "a very fine one" and hopes it will be preserved, it was not recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey until 1966.

As Miss Hare told others, he believes that Allen Evans was probably the responsible architect, G. W. Ensinger, was the contractor, and the house was built, as this is shown on an atlas in 1896. But if so, it was not continued long.

Far larger was the dining room which had a door to the greenhouse, to accommodate an additional bathroom above. At that time a fifteen foot window of small leaded panes gave it, too, a distinctive view of the valley to the Schuylkill.

The den also had a tiled fireplace. It was somewhat darkened when the porch around it was raised to the same floor level, and a greenhouse-sun porch. It is possible that the Hares had a greenhouse of the sort that could be seen in the view where the view to the Schuylkill.

There were long shutters on the exterior of the main floor to cover its English doors, and the windows, to present unending beauty and fresh air. On the second floor three of the four rooms had fireplaces, while a special electrical heating system was added in the nursery, a long room over the kitchen. There were two metal fire escapes to prevent any fire from spreading.

The area Judge Hare planned for his grandchildren on the third floor contained large walk-in closets, which in the present generation, to be opened, are still in use. It was then transformed into coal bins. In the kitchen a coal range was installed, when the family moved to "Harford" as a year-round home. By then, Truxton had married, Willing was working in Washington and Horace was in the army.
at the same time as the house was soon destroyed by fire. As it had been located in the woods below the main house, it was lucky that the house did not catch fire as well. No doubt this is why the second barn, built in the late 1880's, was located at a distance from the woods and house. It's variety of stonework indicates that it may have been built on the foundations of some other structure, or else added to, over the years. The location must have been more convenient to the pasturage. Situated on a steep hill, it gave access to two levels, the upper level, which accommodated the carriages and the carriage and riding horses, and the lower, which provided the cow stable and storage space for farm equipment. The hay loft was on a floor above the main floor. Not too much later the Hare's automobiles were kept here.

The grounds tell of their owner's interest in nature. Lovely specimens of gum, oak and beach trees were planted or given space to develop. Evergreens already there were nurtured and new ones started. Rhododendron surrounded the house.

Judge Hare planted two long lines of hemlock on either side of the driveway leading to Hare's Lane. In spite of constant grooming, the hedges gradually encroached on the width of the road. Rather than destroy the trees a new road was built to replace the driveway.

Judge Hare built gravel paths through the grounds and enjoyed taking walks on the zig-zag paths through the hilly wooded section which had been left in its natural state.

"Harford's" Future

Following an overwhelming vote for an Open Space bond issue, Radnor Township last year acquired two properties; 100 acres along Darby Creek and the “Harford” estate.

The township Commissioners have not decided upon its permanent use. They have many requests from many Radnor groups, seeking to use it for a golf course, skating rink, art exhibits or theatre but traffic and limitation of use to a few make these unacceptable. At present there are no funds for improvements and their hope is to maintain it as well as the Hares did, to protect it, and to keep it available to anyone in the township, if possible without charge.
SOME RECENT ACCESSIONS

Richard W. Barringer:
- Pamphlet: *This Is the Main Line*, 1955
- Snapshots and clippings on the 250th anniversary of the Radnor Meeting
- Collection of printed matter and exhibits on the Barringer Meteor Crater

John Brooke:
- Magazine: *the Black and White*, Vol. 12, No. 5, 1913
- Miscellaneous clippings.

Mrs. G. W. Case:
- Book: *Godey's Lady's Book*, Jan.-June, 1846
- Furniture: bedroom set made in Philadelphia c. 1840

Mrs. Herbert S. Casey:
- Telephone Book, Philadelphia and Vicinity 1907

Mrs. R. I. Cummin:
- Frank Leslie's Illustrated Historical Register of the Centennial Exposition, 1876
- Carr, *Perils Named and Unnamed*
- Hopkins, *Country Clergy*
- Sipes, *Pennsylvania Railroad Historical and Descriptive*, 1875
- Rhobbin, *The Eighteenth-Century Commonwealthman*
- *Pennsylvania Marriages, Volume II*
- Pamphlets: *Marple's Heritage*, Miscellaneous issues of Quaker History
- Full set of Tredyffrin-Easttown History Club publications.
- China: dinner plate with illustration of Baptist Institute for Christian Workers (South Roberts Road, Radnor Township).
- Miss Elinor Curwen:
  - Germantown Carriage
  - Wheat cradle
  - Sleigh
  - Children's wagon in the form of a small Conestoga Wagon.
- Water color painting of a Radnor bridge c. 1870.
- Francis James Dallatt: reprint of Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike map c. 1790
- Mrs. Henry Ecroyd: Doll house made and furnished in Philadelphia c. 1870
- O. Louis Ehmann, Jr.: inkstand, pens, penwipers.
- Wilson, *Outline of History*, 1872
- *Scholar's Companion*, 1851
- *A Compendious History of Rome*, vol. I, Philadelphia, 1797
- Framed Wallace Nutting pictures (2)
- Miscellaneous newspapers.
- Books on U.S. naval history. (2)
- Edward H. P. Fonefield: photograph of Dillon's Store.
- Pamphlet: *Wayne and St. Davids*
- Mrs. H. Paul Gant: two antique dolls, one a bride doll with trousseau.
- Mrs. William Keller: century old lamp post.
- Herman Lengel: cherry picker iron pot
- Mrs. James S. Maier: pamphlet *Harford* (typescript)
- John L. Mather: Medal presented to Thomas Mather for his stallion "Radnor," 1879
- Miss Isabella Auld McKnight: copy of ease-ment for telephone poles across the Finley property, 1903
- Mrs. H. Paul Gant: two antique dolls, one a bride doll with trousseau.
- Books on U.S. naval history. (2)
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- John L. Mather: Medal presented to Thomas Mather for his stallion "Radnor," 1879
- Miss Isabella Auld McKnight: copy of easement for telephone poles across the Finley property, 1903
- Horace B. Montgomery: Book, *Coxe, Legal Philadelphia*
- Antique hats (3)
- Miss F. Neall Randall: Land's London Lover for Drawing Corks.
- Frederick R. Sayen: photograph of Miss Mary Farrell's School (Wayne), 1890
- Dr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Wentzel: scrapbook of Richardson Harrison Hale.
- Mrs. Robert W. A. Wood: porcelain invalid feeder
- White china fruit bowl
- Antique black candlestick
- Duncan Phyfe table (loan)
- Obituary of Mrs. J. BalBangee Cox
- Scrapbook on the Schultz flying machine papers on the Valley Forge
- Photograph of the G. W. Schultz house

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Murray 8-5618

DELAWARE MARKET HOUSE
116 EAST LANCASTER AVENUE
WAYNE, PA.
Murray 8-2204
EDWARD J. YORKE APOTHECARY

For the historical record – the Yorke Apothecary was opened by Edward J. Yorke September ninth, 1944 at what was then known as 118 Audubon Avenue in Wayne for the sale of drugs and items for health exclusively and has continued to operate in the same professional manner.

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LA 5-3270

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MU 8-7330

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