Headquarters and Museum

THE FINLEY HOUSE
113 WEST BEECH TREE LANE
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

Visitors Cordially Welcome. Telephone MUrray 8-2668.

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

April 30, 1976

As observed in our last report, one of the most significant efforts of the society for the Bicentennial year was the projected renovation of our facilities in the Finley House and some much needed maintenance work on the house itself.

To this end, we conducted a special Bicentennial drive for funds; although we did not achieve our goal we are grateful that we received sufficient contributions to make significant progress in the improvement of our displays and in their reorganization. We are particularly indebted to Mr. Dallett for his expertise and zeal in planning the work and carrying it out. Included in the renovation was the complete cleaning of our very fine dollhouse and its furnishings. In addition, our fine collection of Frost hunting prints was enhanced by the replacement of the mats and cleaning of the frames.

When the work is completed on the first floor, the museum room (to the left of the entrance) will contain information on the history of Radnor. The display cases are being practically rebuilt — lighted, painted blue on the outside and terra cotta on the interior and slanted so as to exhibit the material in an attractive and orderly manner. Information and photos will be placed on the base of the cabinets beneath the glass, while the cases themselves will contain the objects relating to Radnor history. An eighteenth century mantel will be the backdrop for an excellent collection of early Radnor carpenters' tools, while along another wall will be a case of old children's toys, clothes and other memorabilia. The meeting room and the reading room will also contain some artifacts and a small cabinet of personal effects of the Finley family.

The large Shakespearean needlepoint given to the Society by Mrs. Gertrude Ware Case which was on display at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition is now on loan to the Smithsonian Institute until 1977 or 1978 for their use in connection with their special exhibit on that Exposition. After its return it will be placed in its original position in the reading room.

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a publication fund, to which anyone may contribute, for the purpose of putting out books and pamphlets relating to local historical activities. The various publications, as well as the excellent map depicting Radnor as it was in 1776, which was researched by Mrs. Robert I. Cummin and drawn by Mr. Herbert S. Henderson, both of our Board of Directors, are on sale at the headquarters of the Society. These and other publications are listed elsewhere herein.

We continue to furnish speakers for schools and other groups on Radnor history and to answer inquiries about all sorts of subjects relating not only to Radnor but to the entire area. Various other activities and projects of the Society, together with some articles of local interest are found in other pages of the Bulletin.

We are particularly thankful for the loyal support of our friends, members, benefactors, and the community during the past year. Thank you.

DOROTHY H. THERMAN
RADNOR IN THE GAY NINETIES:

Reminiscences of Helen Evans Martin Coane (Mrs. G. Lynn Coane, of Atlantic City, N. J.)
to Francis James Dallett, December, 1975

I will be 90 and going strong. I have and always will adore the Main Line. The happiest
days of my life were wandering around Radnor, St. Davids and Wayne. My home was very
lovely in a setting of 14 acres, woods and a stream. It was sold, torn down and they built
smaller houses on the grounds - as you leave St. Martins Church you come to a fork in the
road and we turned to the right.1

I have a picture of the woods but am sure I gave other pictures to Virginia, (daughter). I
have a large picture of the house, but I am enclosing some of the woods and stream. Those
were the happy days when Father paid the bills and we four children had
confused how many they had - Ruth was the beauty of the family and Mr. Wood scared me
lovely in a setting of 14 acres, woods and a stream; it was sold, torn down and they built
Baldwins, my brother to Haverford and the other two sisters and brother went to Friends
Central.2

I do remember your Grandfather very well as I once drove one of his ponies in the
Devon Horse Show and got the second prize. I also remember Bessie, a rather shy little
girl, and her Mother was more or less of an invalid.3

The Woods were intimate friends of mine and they had so many children I used to get
confused how many they had - Ruth was the beauty of the family and Mr. Wood scared me
to pieces.4

KING OF PRUSSIA ROAD IN HELEN MARTIN COANE'S CHILDHOOD

In this picture, looking East at the houses on the East side of the road, are shown, from the
left, the house of Dr. John Brooke (later W. Barklie Henry's "Alwayne") with the residence
of Moses Paxson behind, William A. Patton's "Crestlinn" (later the Obydke place) prominent
in the center, and David R. Garrison's "Chepstow." Off the picture to the left would
have been Biddulph Road, location of "Woodbarn," Mrs. Coane's girlhood home whose
name was changed to "Geisley" when acquired by A. W. Robinson.

THE MIKADO" AT WAYNE OPERA HOUSE, Gay '90's

Gilbert and Sullivan's THE MIKADO was performed with local amateur talent on the stage
of the Opera House (now the Colonial Building) under the musical direction of English-born
Professor Spiers, mentioned by Helen Martin Coane. Spiers was a member of the faculty of
the William Penn Charter School.

I knew Fritz Sayen very well and also his sister Emily though she and George Schultz
were older than I was.7 I remember the Finleys very well. Nice you have their house for
your headquarters.8 I met Gertrude Ware at one of your meetings that Kitty Wood took
me to, it was the old Walton home.9 I knew Tom very well he never seemed too bright,
but maybe he was; he had a sister Martha.10

In the book they do not mention Dr. Wells who lived in North Wayne and was a won-
derful man and a Doctor.11 He always announced himself in our home by walking in
and playing a Chopin etude or something. He was a fine musician. I remember the old swim-
mog pool in N. Wayne run by a Canizares.12 We skated and ate lots of ginger bread Mrs.
C. made, 5 cents a slice. On Saturday nights they held a carnival and you got dressed up.
We always knew Fatty Gallagher, he was about 250 lbs. They had wonderful shows at the
Opera House, of course Wayne talent. Mrs. Claghorn, Mr. Maguire and Mr. Allen always
acted the leads, we all sat front row balcony.13 I went to the Wayne Episcopal Church but I
also waited on tables when they had strawberry festivals, I think mostly the Methodist
Church on Runnymede Ave. We also had straw rides to Valley Forge. That was a big deal
and of course we had a chaperone, either Mrs. John Wood or Mrs. Hallowell.14 I went to
dances at St. Lukes School, that is where I met Lynn but did not marry him until 1934.15

To go back to Wayne, my brother married Catherine Bard her grandfather was old Mr.
Richard Bard, my other brother married Marion Green whose Uncle John P. Green was
Vice President of the Pennsylvania Railroad. I am wrong Catherine had another grandfa-
ther Mr. Richard Johnson you may have heard of him?16 My parents and brother are bur-
They had wonderful dances at the Saturday Club run by Mrs. Clagborn and Miss Bradshaw. You came at 8 and went home by 10:30. Imagine anything so tame these days. We had Germans they called them and danced the Lancers. The children of today would be bored to death, they go at 12 and get home for breakfast.

I had a very healthy, happy childhood and as a young girl I did everything that was worthwhile even going to Willow Grove for an outing, skating on Fenimore’s dam, sledding on Hart’s hill, sleigh riding in our sled, swimming in the Wayne pool on a hot afternoon, which would bore this generation very much.

I hope I haven’t bored you to tears with this letter but knowing you belong on the Main Line and having known the Dalletts so far back I felt free to ramble on. When I finally pass on at least I can rest with so many people I knew at Old St. Davids, Nina Yeatts, Laura Conrad, Francesca Wood and many others.

Best wishes to you for our Christmas season and let us hope we shall have a happy New Year where the heads of our nation will come to some understanding.

Sincerely yours,

HELEN MARTIN COANE

A PARTY IN WAYNE, SEPTEMBER 1895

This gathering took place at “Craig Mawr,” house of William Henry Sayen whose children are mentioned by Mrs. Coane. Seated left to right are Miss Katherine Watson of “Kinterra,” her mother, Mrs. Richard H. Watson, Mrs. William Henry Sayen and Emily (Sayen) Schultz. Henry Conkle sits on the floor to the right.

NOTES

1 Helen Evans Martin Coane was born on April 25, 1886. She celebrated her 90th birthday last spring.
2 The Martin family house was on Biddulph Road, Radnor.
3 Mrs. Coane was the daughter of Robert Willis Martin, President of the Martin Lampblack Company, Philadelphia, and of Laura Evans Jordan his wife.
4 There were four children in the family, not five: Edith Wayne Martin (who married Dr. George Washington Orton of the University of Pennsylvania), Charles Edwin Martin (who married Catherine Bard), Robert Martin and Helen Evans Martin, the writer. The two sisters alone had issue. Charles attended Friends’ Central School and Robert, the Haverford School.

5 Frank Dallett, of 104 Windermere Avenue, Wayne, his daughter Elizabeth and his first wife, a descendant of the Waynes of Waynesborough, hence a distant cousin of the writer.

6 General John Pennman Wood, of 234 Walnut Avenue, Wayne, and his daughter Ruth (later Mrs. E. Chapman Smith).

7 Frederick R. ("Fritz") Sayen, still living at the age of 91, and Emilie Longstreth Sayen were the children of Henry William Sayen, of Wayne. Emilie married George W. Schultz, of St. Davids, whose Indian collection and local photographs belong to the Radnor Historical Society.

8 Mr. and Mrs. William Harris Finley whose house at 113 West Beech Tree Lane, Wayne, was given to the Society by their daughter, Miss E. Dorothy Finley.

9 Gertrude Ware, later Mrs. Case, and Katharine Schultz Wood (Mrs. Robert W. A. Wood, now Mrs. John W. Leonard), both former members of the Radnor Historical Society board.

10 Walmarthon, St. Davids, now the home of Eastern College, was the estate of Charles S. Walton, father of Thomas England Walton and of Martha Walton Wiedersheim (Mrs. William A. Wiedersheim, II).

11 George Miles Wells, M.D., of 114 Walnut Avenue, Wayne.

12 A. A. H. de Canizares, of Wayne, secretary of the Radnor Republican Club, was manager of the Natatorium, the swimming pool at what is now Willow Avenue, Wayne.

13 George C. Allen, architect, of 406 Woodland Avenue, later of 409 Oak Lane, Wayne is probably intended. "Mrs. Claghorn" is either Mrs. Joseph C. Claghorn or Mrs. Charles E. Claghorn. "Mr. Maguire" is either J. Hunter Maguire or Edward L. Maguire.

14 Mrs. Frederick Fraley Hallowell, of 220 Walnut Avenue, Wayne.

15 G. Lynn Coane was the writer’s second husband. Her first husband was Wilbur Zimmerman, of Atlantic City.

16 The paternal grandfather of Catherine (Bard) Martin was Elliott Bard, of 135 Runnymede Avenue, Wayne; her maternal grandfather was Richards Henry Johnson, of 140 West Wayne Avenue, Wayne, founder of the R. H. Johnson Company.

17 The Armitage School, directed by Miss Harriet E. Armitage, was located in the Louella Mansion, then fronting directly on East Lancaster Avenue.

18 Members of the branch of the Wayne family to which belonged Mrs. Jordan (nee Wayne), the writer’s maternal grandmother, were collateral descendants of General Anthony Wayne. Joseph Wayne, Jr., was president of the Girard National and Philadelphia National Banks.

19 Oscar S. Dillin, as the name was correctly spelled, was the grocer at the “Old Store” on King of Prussia Road, Radnor. Lienhardt & Son, as correctly spelled, was the well-known Wayne bakery at 102 East Lancaster Avenue.

20 Mentioned here are the Misses Helen, Katharine and Marie Jefferis (not Jefferies), daughters of Joseph H. Jefferis, of 226 Windermere Avenue; the family of Joseph A. Ball, sugar refiner, of 214 Windermere Avenue; Clarence and Frank Tolon, sons of Clarence Tolon, of 123 West Wayne Avenue; the family of Waldo M. Claflin, of Upland Way; Miss Mabel Carter, of 206 Windermere Avenue, and the family of William Harry Badger, of 211 Windermere Avenue, all in Wayne.

21 Only one of these families, the Hares, remained active in St. Martin’s Church until recently. Hare’s Lane, opposite the Church, perpetuates the name. The Hare house, Harford, is now called the Creutzberg Center and is part of the township-owned Hare Park.

22 Children of Professor Isidore Henry Bowles Spiers, of 111 North Wayne Avenue, just a few doors above the Opera House.

23 Fenimore’s Dam has been called Walton’s Pond for many years. Hart’s Hill was the hill on Radnor Street Road from Eagle Road to Beech Tree Lane, taking its name from Reginald L. Hart who lived at the latter corner. The “Wayne pool” was the Natatorium on what is now Willow Avenue.

24 These popular young ladies of long ago Wayne were Nina, daughter of John W. Yeatts, corner of Midland Avenue and St. Davids Road; Laura E., daughter of Pierson S. Conrad, of 310 Summit Avenue (later the wife of Alfred Guillou Hare and aunt, incidentally, of "Pete" Conrad the Astronaut), and Francesca Paula Evelyn Wood, who died at sixteen, daughter of Thomas Stewart Wood, of 137 West Wayne Avenue and aunt of Mrs. Theo B. White, wife of a former Director of the Historical Society.
ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

May 18, 1975

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the home of our president, Mrs. Harrison Thereman on Sunday afternoon, May 18. Mrs. Robert H. Johnston of our neighboring Haverford Township Historical Society spoke on the history of The Grange, one of the most interesting historical residences in that township, with particularly fine gardens.

Portions of the house go back to 1682, when one of the first three settlers in the area, Henry Lewis built his home on a five hundred acre tract. He gave his home his native Welsh name of “Maen Coch.” The property passed through various hands until it came into the possession of John Ross in 1782. Mr. Ross, who had been commissioned by the Continental Congress to procure clothes, arms, and powder for the use of the Army, much of which he was never fully paid for, named the establishment The Grange, in honor of the home of the Marquis de La Fayette in France.

After several other owners, the house, with about 100 acres, was purchased by John Ashhurst, under whose ownership extensive repairs and architectural changes were made. The plans for the “improvements” were drawn up by John Carver; we have today the English Gothic residence and outbuildings as they were conceived in 1850.

Although changes have been made over the years, the gardens are substantially the same as they were in 1913 when Benjamin Hoffman purchased the home and made a conscientious effort to restore the gardens to their original form.

October 18, 1975

As a result of Mrs. Johnston’s very kind invitation when she addressed the Society in the Spring we had the privilege of having a guided tour, with a picnic lunch, of The Grange on Saturday, October 11.

It was interesting indeed to see the house which has been so carefully maintained and see in person the beautifully preserved terraces, formal gardens and the magnificent forest areas of the property.

December 8, 1975

The Society met at the Italian American Club of Wayne on Monday evening December 8 to hear a talk by Mr. Andrew Moscia of Wayne on the subject of early Italian residents in our community.

Mr. Moscia, who has been president of the club for a number of years, traced its development from its inception in 1908 bringing out the roles that various members of the group had played in its growth and history. The original charter, on the wall in the main club room, shows that it was first chartered on June 18 of that year. Its original name was the “Societa Italiana Benevolenza Maria SS della Libera of Wayne, Delaware County, Pa.” Many of the founders of the Club had come from a small town of Liberia in Italy, so it was particularly appropriate to incorporate the name of the patron Saint of that town in the name of the Club.

The word “beneficenza” was included in the name because so many of the immigrants arriving from Italy to Wayne needed assistance in adapting their ways to the customs of their new homeland. The Society was formed to render just such aid in the form of legal counsel and advice, in the stimulating of interest in education, in the providing of low cost insurance and, of course, to give them an opportunity for friendly, social activity.

It was actually not until 1920 that the “Italian American Club” as such was formed. This was done by the younger men of the Italian Community for purely social reasons. In addition, in 1924 the Columbus Athletic Club was formed to stimulate interest in athletic events in the area. As interest waned in this activity this organization lost its identity. Then in 1947 the first two organizations merged to form the present club, a viable and active association which continues to function in a variety of ways. This account only touches very briefly on the history of the Italian American Club; the Society is looking forward to having an illustrated article by Mr. Moscia published in the near future in the Bulletin.

TRACING A LATE WOODLAND INDIAN VILLAGE IN DEVON

BY JEANNE DORITY

This article was printed in The Suburban and Wayne Times, issue of April 29, 1976 and is here reprinted with the permission of the author, Professor Carl Saalbach, whose work is described, served on the board of the Radnor Historical Society from 1974-1976. His students excavated the 18th century basement kitchen floor in the Finley House, without, unfortunately, making any finds of significance.

Who but an eccentric would keep his treasure in paper bags? Further, who but an odd fellow would look on two bushels full of stones and chips and some buckets of dirt as treasure?

An anthropologist, of course, hot on the archeological trail of pure golden glimpses into man’s distant past.

Paper bags, the archeologist’s time-honored system of filing small finds, are much in evidence in the workroom of Carl Saalbach, anthropology professor at Eastern College, St. Davids. The bucket of dirt is there, too.

For the past two years, Saalbach has captained digging by his anthropology students in a field on the William Webb farm near Devon. Saalbach also has directed an ongoing dig by Itham Elementary School children at a site near the school.

Like prospectors seeking the mother lode, Saalbach and his students at Devon are zeroing in on what he hopes will be anthropological paydirt, a cache showing the existence of an entire Late Woodland Indian village.

Materials found so far are “probably pre-Delaware Indian,” Saalbach said, and their abundance indicates that an entire village may have been located at the site, perhaps with continuous occupation from about 1500-2000 B.C. to 100 A.D.

Besides, the field in which the digs are going on is a choice place for a village. There is fairly high ground, sheltered, with a creek, the all-important water source, bordering the site.

The more than 100 students who have helped Saalbach dig in the past two years have uncovered many projectile points (arrow and spear heads), some scrapers and knife blades, pottery fragments and charred.
Saalbach and his students did not begin excavating at the spot where the greatest number of objects had been surface-found, the likeliest place for uncovering remains of a settlement.

Instead, they have been working in the northeast corner of the site next to the creek, with test pits along this natural border.

This, for two reasons — to establish the perimeter of the hoped-for settlement, a prescribed practice, and to train students in the techniques of excavation in "less delicate" areas than at the actual village site.

It takes numbers to conduct a proper dig, particularly when tackling an area as large as the present 2 1/2 acre location. The average turnout for a day's digging is about 15 students.

With shovels, trowels, fingertips and soft brushes, they gently work across the surface of a carefully designated patch in a meticulously delineated system of grids. The spaces are divided into quadrants of 10-by-10 foot code-keyed squares around what is believed to be the central village site.

Every object is sifted out at the site, and the sifted soil is often sifted again. The soil itself is saved if it differs from the general type of surrounding soil, hence the boxed bucket of dirt in the workroom.

Everything is minutely recorded — date, square coding, level at which found, descriptions and sketches of the object and its in-situ position, even interval photos of the site in progress.

So the treasures are uncovered. Then comes the equally painstaking task of evaluation, another kind of dig through the accumulated strata of archeo-anthropological knowledge.

Saalbach draws not only from his own expertise, but from research and from the specialized information of fellow scientists, always depending on following the clues his found treasures yield, wherever they lead.

The some 50 artifacts — complete objects — found among the two bushels of fragments, chips and bits of charcoal so far recovered, have enabled Saalbach to establish fairly well the far ranges of the dig's time span.

The sharp triangular arrow heads, for instance, are "archaic," representing the oldest found objects. Other projectiles are from other eras, or "transitional," indicating continuance of use of the site. The mix of periods also is typical of finds on the periphery of settlements and of finds in or just below the "plough line," which, in previously cultivated fields, has disrupted the natural stratum to a depth of about 2½ feet.

The projectile heads, their razor-sharp symmetry showing a very high order of skill, have given up more clues. Besides the more common quartz, they are of such materials as jasper and flint of a type not found around Devon.

For Saalbach, this indicated that the source of the jasper could be a prehistoric jasper quarry near Allentown, more than 50 miles away.

He called on colleague Elwood Wilkins, of Delaware, to determine that the flint in the found arrowheads has one source, Cecil County, Maryland. Wilkins is an acknowledged expert in authenticating this very specific type of flint.

How did the raw materials get from Allentown quarry to Devon: from Cecil County, Maryland, to Devon? The layman speculates — a chain of trade or swaps, a steady supply in exchange for particular goods, regular trips to the quarry, extensive migration? Saalbach, being a scientist, simply will not speculate until there is a solid basis for one explanation over another.

DIGGERS ALL — Carl Saalbach, seated, anthropology professor at Eastern College, points out features of arrow and spear heads gathered at a Devon archeological dig by students under his direction. Looking on are veteran student diggers, from left, Carol Anzelmo, Norristown; Paul Wyher, Rome, N.Y.; Joan Smith, Palmyra, Pa., and Kim Larson, Media. Anthropology majors, all are seniors, except for Miss Smith, who is a junior.

The pottery shards also will give invaluable clues to the life of the Early Woodland Indians.

Saalbach's students had put some of the small fragments out for picture-taking. We picked one up at random; it was the size of a fingernail. We were asking a question at the time; our casual notion was to feel the texture of the faded clay.

We glanced at it and then looked more closely. There, ever so faintly incised on its surface, was a curved line enclosing diagonal strokes, and, next to it, the barest suggestion of a deerlike head.

We felt goosebumps rise on our arms. Someone had spoken in clay and, across three thousand years, we heard.
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1947-1976
A Bicentennial Resume

People are the essential element in any association. It is particularly appropriate in the Bicentennial Year of our nation and at the beginning of the twentieth year of the Radnor Historical Society that we acknowledge with thanks those people who have served as officers and have given their wisdom and guidance to our organization. It is a pleasure to list their names here.

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P. Nicholson Wood, 1956-1960
Mrs. Robert W. A. Wood, 1964-1972
(now Mrs. John W. Leonard, Honorary Member, 1972)

ATTENTION HISTORIANS!

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS
FOR SALE AT THE RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY


"Comfortable Homes in the Suburbs on the Hillsides at Wayne and St. Davids," pictorial poster of 1890. (Reproduction) $3.00


"Rural Homes," Wayne advertising pamphlet of 1890, illustrated. (Facsimile). $5.00

Radnor in the War of the Revolution 1777-1778, by Francis James Dallett (1976). 15 pages, illustrations. $1.00 per copy

17
Bobby Barr: Portrait Of A Gentleman

Wayne persists as a community. The Suburban and Wayne Times on April 1, 1971, published the following article about Wayne of recent years. With the kind permission of that paper, its Editor Daniel N. Ehart, and the writer, the Radnor Historical Society is happy to reprint this tribute to the people of Wayne.

BY HELEN DUFFY

FIFTY YEARS AGO when Bobby Barr made his entrance in Wayne, many tears were shed — tears crying on the inside. Fifty years later, the townspeople rejoice with Bobby as he marks his golden year. He is a living example that the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance, and against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

It was on December 5, 1921, that Bobby was born. His parents, Robert M. Barr, and Katharine Barr lived in a large old home, built in 1892 on Oak lane in Wayne. Bobby's father was a patent attorney with offices in Philadelphia. Bobby's mother, the former Katherine Field, was born in Virginia. She was a graduate nurse, receiving her training at the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia. They were looking forward to their first child with great anticipation.

December 4 was a Sunday. Mr. Barr, no doubt, was waiting silently downstairs smoking his pipe and dreaming the dream most expectant fathers dream — a son, to carry on the family name, to follow in his father's footsteps and become a lawyer. Mrs. Barr, preparing to deliver her child, no doubt would have answered like most mothers, "a boy or girl will be welcome — I just want a fine healthy little child."

AND THEN the time arrived for the great event. When the little guy made his entrance on that snowy day in December, his parents knew he was different. His eyes, his tiny fingers and toes told them not to dream impossible dreams for little lad.

Impossible dreams. no, but possible dreams have materialized for Bobby, with courage, love and acceptance.

In 1971, retardation is discussed openly and this helps parents of retarded children face up to this problem and do something about it. In 1921, this was not true. It was not until 1959, when the Mental Health Act was passed, that retardation was brought into a more humane relationship with other disabilities.

Bobby Barr was a fortunate retarded little boy. His father, deeply saddened, was motivated to work harder so he could provide the material things his son would require over the years. His mother was a tower of strength, we have been told by many people who have played a part in the life of Bobby Barr. Her devotion was tireless but never possessive. She left not a stone unturned trying to develop whatever ability her son might possess, and sought the assistance of anyone who could help him achieve.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

The days of infancy and early childhood require any mother to spend considerable time with her child helping him to develop in body and spirit. Patience is needed and Mrs. Barr was blessed with an abundance of that virtue, plus great wisdom.

She taught Bobby how to dress and feed himself. Many times it would have been simpler to do it herself, but she persevered, as she wanted her child to progress as much as possible. She taught him to be considerate of others and how to perform the little niceties expected of a gentleman. She taught him how to be neat and clean. All of these attributes helped Bobby in later years to be acceptable to the community.
Several residents asked Tony to let Bobby deliver their mail personally. The late Mrs. Milton G. Baker was one who looked forward to greeting Bobby at the Valley Forge Military Academy. Many times the Academy Band would be playing on the field and Bobby kept in step with it. Bobby's speech improved very much during this time. Tony would chide him gently if he couldn't understand him and had him repeat words until they were clear or at least partially so. Tony realized his limitations.

We asked Tony if Bobby could tell time. "Yes, indeed," replied Tony, "and sometimes I wished he couldn't. He had a watch and could identify with numbers. We timed our delivery for each block and he knew where we should be at a certain time. If I stopped to chat with someone, he would go on ahead, but kept his eye on the watch and would call out, "It's late, let's go" — and when Bobby said, "Let's go," he said it with authority.

Neighboring dogs usually followed the postman. We inquired if the dogs ever attacked Bobby. "No, not Bobby — he never had been bitten, but me, I had 39 bites in 40 years. Those were the days when the law permitted, "one bite per year, per family," Tony told us. Fortunately the law was changed later. Now if a dog attacks a mailman, he does not have to deliver that mail again, unless the dog is chained. They pick their mail up at the post office.

MAIL ROUTE HELPER FOR YEARS

From 1937 to 1957, Bobby accompanied Tony on the mail route. He made many new friends. His world was beginning to grow in many directions. His visits to the post office led to visits across the street to the firehouse on South Wayne avenue.

Bobby wanted to be where the action was — and when that alarm went off, Bobby hurried along to help direct the engines. He was a familiar sight at the main intersection of Wayne. The Radnor Police Force were his devoted friends. He always assisted the ladies across the street if they were burdened with bundles or seemed to need help. If you were one of his favorites, you received his special greeting, "HI-YA-HONEE," and then he would give a deep chuckle — a Bobby chuckle, it was one of a kind.

RADNOR HIGH SCHOOL was located next to the firehouse. Although not a pupil at Radnor High, Bobby became very much a part of it. When the football games were held at home, Bobby was in his glory. We asked a former Radnorite if he remembered Bobby Barr: "Do I remember Bobby — he was the envy of all the kids. He sat on the bench with all the big shots, the team, coaches and the good looking cheerleaders."

PAUL TEEL, director of the band, observed the fine sense of rhythm and timing Bobby displayed when the band was playing. He invited Bobby to some of the rehearsals and on occasion let him lead the band. The kids responded enthusiastically. They all liked Bobby and respected him. It was very rare that anyone teased him. Many mornings Bobby would arrive at the high school before 8 a.m. He was always dressed immaculately and wore snazzy sport coats and a jaunty hat.

Jules Prevost was athletic director at that time, and Frank Koniecko assistant. "Bobby was quite a guy and brought out the best in everyone," Mr. Prevost, who is now retired, said. "I remember one day giving the team a real blasted. Bobby was standing there working up a mad too. After I finished, he gave them a second blast, repeating word for word. I can still hear him telling the guys, "Get out there and get going, and no nonsense." The team accepted Bobby's bawling out without a snicker."

FRANK KONIECKO, who taught business subjects and also coached football, basketball and tennis, had this to say about Bobby. "From 1946 to 1958 Bobby would arrive punctually at 2 p.m. and depart at 5 p.m. He performed innumerable services gratuitously. He not only kept Room 202 in perfect order, but also handled such chores as the daily mail, countless errands, checking equipment, etc," Mr. Koniecko went on to say, "during those years he took care of the fieldhouse at North Wayne and assisted in coaching football, basketball and tennis. He was the best assistant coach I ever had. His unaltering spirit for Radnor never wavered. He always spurred the boys on to give their best. Everyone respected Bobby. As a result, we never had a losing season when Bobby was helping in this capacity."

Leading the Radnor Jr. High Band

RADNOR JR. HIGH football team, undefeated in 1958. Can you name them? Three clues — 1st row (at left) Doug Kistler who later played pro basketball for the Knickerbockers; and 1st row (on right) Ted Dean, who later played pro football with the Philadelphia Eagles and the Minnesota Vikings and then there's Frank Koniecko, coach at the top row on the left and BOBBY BARR, his assistant, on the third row end.

Paul Teel recalled the standing ovation Bobby received when he was awarded a Letter for his assistance to Frank Koniecko, who suggested that Bobby receive this letter along with the athletes who did an outstanding job. Everyone was in favor and when he walked up to receive it, the crowd all stood up and applauded. He wore it proudly on a maroon jersey and joined in singing his favorite Radnor song, "Radnor will shine tonight."
When he wasn’t helping to deliver mail or on the athletic field, he would be chatting with the maintenance department of Radnor High. Jake McCarty and many of the bus drivers remember Bobby well. Very frequently Bobby would be directing the school buses and waving them off after they were filled.

During these years, Tony Mann, frequently would take him out to the golf course. He got a big kick wheeling the cart. Frequently they would stop at the Bella Villa Inn for lunch, and the waitress earned that special greeting, “HI-YA-HONEE.”

Bobby was aware that Tony was going to retire from the Post Office in 1957 and he was down-hearted. The last day they delivered the mail was a heartbreaker for both of them, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Barr. The four of them cried together. As Tony Mann related this to us, tears gathered in his eyes as he recalled that day. Bobby was a creature of habit and what would he do now, was the question haunting Tony.

A few days later Tony was having lunch with some friends at the Covered Wagon Inn when he met C.N. “Doc” Agnew, well known Realtor of Wayne. Their conversation dwelled on Bobby. Tony expressed his concern about Bobby going to have too much time on his hands, now that school was not in session and he wouldn’t be assisting with the mail route. Doc Agnew, who had known Bobby since his birth, didn’t hesitate a minute. He told Tony to bring him over to the office in the morning. “I’ll keep him busy doing something,” and thus a new chapter started for Bobby Barr in July, 1957 — he became an employee of C.N. Agnew, Realtor.

BOBBY BECOMES AN OFFICE BOY

DOC AGNEW, born in Wayne, knew the Barrs very well. They were neighbors. Doc, whose real name is Charles, had planned on being a doctor and was seeking his degree at Penn. He found the real estate business so interesting one summer, he changed his plans, but the nickname, “Doc” stayed with him.

C. A. AGNEW AND BOBBY BARR IN THE OFFICE.
created a mythical friend, like many children do. His friend's name was Kevin, and no doubt Kevin helped to fill some of his lonely hours.

"He would tell us about his lunch with Kevin, etc." Doc Agnew recalled an interesting episode about Kevin. "One day Bobby was being a bit stubborn. I called him the child who was familiar with his unseen friend, Kevin, and said to Mrs. Barr, while Bobby listened, 'Mrs. Barr, Bobby isn't here today. Kevin is taking his place now and he is such a nice boy. Not a bit stubborn like Bobby sometimes.' We think we will hire Kevin." Bobby said nothing but went along home. "Mrs. Barr and I were pleased that Kevin had come into the picture," Doc Agnew mused, "it helped many times to accomplish a point we were trying to get across to Bobby."

When Bobby arrived the next morning, he said, 'I have something very important to tell you. Kevin was in an automobile accident and won't be able to come in today.' We all went along with the gag for a few days inquiring about Kevin's condition. Then a few days later he came in and told us, 'Kevin died' and he never replaced him with a new friend."

In 1969, Bobby's mother died. We recall Bobby stopping in at the "Suburban" office, and looking very serious, he said very distinctly, "Mrs. Barr is dead." And the question in everyone's mind was, What will happen to Bobby?

Needless to say, a guardian angel was ever at his side. The angel this time was his special friend, Eleanor Donato (Mrs. Dominic) or "Kit," as everyone calls her. She had met Bobby back in 1950 while having lunch at Rexall Drug Store, one of Bobby's special spots. Bobby is very devoted to her and always greets her with a smiling, "HI-YA-HONEE" and blows her a kiss. Mrs. Donato has been on the staff at Agnew's for 15 years.

Bobby's old friend, Paul Teel, also came to Agnew's after his retirement from Radnor High School. Paul Teel and Doc Agnew both mentioned how kind and considerate Mrs. Donato has always been to Bobby. Now, without his mother, and no relatives in the High School, to take over the care of Bobby, Mrs. Donato took him home with her for a few days.

TEA TIME AT AGNEW'S with Bobby doing the honors. Eleanor Donato, his special friend is served first. Other members of the staff waiting to be served are, Mrs. Barbara McBirney, Jeanne Hannafin, Terri Steele, Casey Steitzer.

until other plans could be made. She was aware that the Church Council For the Exceptional Person conducted a summer camp, Camp Beehive, for retarded children, and also maintains a school, Raphael House. The Council rents a house on the Norbertine Fathers' property, in Paoli, for this purpose.

The Rev. Herbert Carey, a member of the Council, has expressed a dream that individual cottages be built to house individuals who are "exceptional" people like Bobby. The cottages would give a more home-like atmosphere than institutions. House parents could be provided to supervise. There are various degrees of retardation, and many retardees are capable of performing some type of work in the community. To make this dream become a reality, sufficient funds would be required. At this time no fairy God-mother has appeared but hope is paramount.

In the meantime, the school and the camp were in operation. Mrs. Donato explained Bobby's situation to the members of the Council and it was agreed to permit him to live in the house. A couple looks after the house and some member of the school staff drives Bobby to the bus each morning to go to his job at Agnew's.

He lunches daily at Rexall Drug Store, and Kitty and Bob see that Bobby is waited on promptly as he enjoys his food, especially ice cream.

Joe Forrest, who is retired now from Radnor High School, relates that on Bobby's birthday each year, he and the late Marty Gill, would buy three cup cakes and dixie cups of ice cream, and have a little celebration for Bobby. He enjoyed blowing out the candles on the cakes and looked forward to the annual event. His birthday is always celebrated now at Agnew's and he is included in the Christmas party for the staff. We saw several colored pictures of the party and Bobby was very much a part of it.

Bobby, in his golden year has adjusted quite well to his new quarters at Beehive. He has slowed down considerably, as many folks do when they hit 50, but he still arrives at Agnew's promptly every morning.

Bobby returns on the bus in mid-afternoon now and a member of the school staff meets the bus and drives him to Beehive, which is too far back off the highway for him to walk. He has his TV and radio and other of his personal belongings in his room. We are sure his closet is neatly arranged with his clothes on hangers. "Doc" Agnew sees to it that Bobby has the proper attire — they go shopping periodically.

Everyone has always remarked about Bobby's neat appearance. A friend of the Barrs, Adrienne Fischer, (Mrs. Gerard) told us how Bobby would greet them and take their coats and hang them in the hall closet, when they visited his home. He was trained early in good habits.

Another, friend, and neighbor of the Barrs, Peg Cleveland (Mrs. Margaret) who encouraged us to write this story of Bobby and the wonderful people who have made Bobby's life more interesting, recalls her visits to their home vividly. "They were gracious and elegant and showed great warmth and understanding towards their son. Mrs. Barr was a magnificent homemaker. She enjoyed making her own preserves and preparing meals. The Barrs always reminded me of a quotation I read, author unknown, 'Never explain, never complain.'"

The folks in this community have certainly practiced the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and because of it Bobby is still with us and enjoying his golden year.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Bobby Barr died on March 9, 1973 in Phoenixville Nursing Home following a bout with pneumonia. Funeral services were held at the Good Samaritan Church, Paoli. He was interred with his mother and father in Petersburg, Va.
**RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
(A Non-Profit Educational Institution)

**Annual Treasurer's Report**  
April 30, 1976

### REGULAR RECEIPTS

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**TOTAL** $12,600.88

### DISBURSEMENTS

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**TOTAL** $11,694.16

Cash Balance April 30, 1976... $906.72

**TOTAL** $12,600.88

Balance Savings Account 3-4614 $3,967.29
Balance Savings Certificate 335-00004 $15,000.00

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