

What did Ross Borden do when he had to give up playing baseball after 25 years as a star first baseman?

He did what any other normal, red-blooded 55-year-old lover of the game would do—he started playing softball. And played it so well, in fact, he was voted “the most outstanding player of the year” in the Mount Holly City League.

Which should tell you something about how Ross Borden took care of himself.

Ross was born in one of Delanco’s oldest houses, at the corner of Vine and Buttonwood Streets, in 1885 and began playing baseball with the Delanco team in 1912, then switched to Riverside and Roebing of the Burlington County League. At the peak of his career, he played with Eddie Williams’ Atlantic County All-Stars, comprised of some of the best players in the South Jersey-Philadelphia area.

Always in the best of shape, he continued to bowl, golf and shoot billiards until his ninth decade. Entering the Bicentennial year, he still stood erect as a pole, displayed a keen, alert mind and enjoyed conversing with his many friends about “the good old days.”

Baseball was also in David Horn’s blood. A widely known second baseman, he played



NOT EVEN the great Babe Ruth could outdo Delanco’s Dave Horn. When the Sultan of Swat showed up in Delanco, Dave got in a few blows, too.



THE GUNNING CLUB, whose members are shown here about 1910, met for practice near Dora Grab’s farm on Creek Road. The cabin was later donated to the Athletic Association and moved in 1922 to the new ball-

park on Coopertown Road. At far left in the front is Danny Borden, who was state champion in shot-gunning.

professionally for Trenton and Roebling in the Delaware River League and for the New York Ship team of Camden. He had previously played as an amateur with Delanco in the Burlco League.

One of his proudest moments, in fact, came in 1922 when Babe Ruth came to Delanco and played with our team in an exhibition game against the County All-Stars. Not one to be outshone, even by the great Bambino, Horn rifled three successive doubles off the fences.

After his baseball career, he served on the Burlington County League's board of commissioners with distinction.

One of the most noted persons connected with Delanco was Isaac Newton, who was born in Burlington County March 31, 1800, and lived for a time in Delanco, where the Newton family had its roots, commencing with the grant of a large tract of land in 1767 to his ancestor.

Isaac Newton became President Lincoln's first secretary of the Bureau of Agriculture when it was founded in 1862 and held the office until his death, June 19, 1867, in Washington D.C.

Roy Robertson, a Delanco resident, served as county detective from 1954 to 1970, retiring as captain. Prior to this, he served with the Burlington City police department.

Dr. Jonas Edwards, the son of a country doctor, was born in Williamstown, N.J., on Dec. 8, 1881, and spent his youth there.

He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in 1908 and began the practice of dentistry in Riverside that year.

In 1912, he married Miss Helen Briggs, daughter of John H. Briggs, who directed the local Presbyterian Church choir and the local productions of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

Dr. Edwards was a splendid addition to the musical Briggs family for he played the piano, cello, trumpet and mellophone. He also composed music. And all of this stemmed from six piano lessons from his mother.

During his college days, he had worked during the summer months to earn money for his



OLDEST MAN in Delanco is Ed Diggs, who says he was born in Spotts, Va., in 1867. He moved to Delanco in 1905 to work for Dr. Weiler.

education, playing with dance orchestras. For two seasons he played with Talli Morgan's widely known 70-piece orchestra in the Ocean Grove Auditorium.

In later years, Dr. Edwards was the driving force behind the delightful "Kiwani's Follies" given to raise funds for underprivileged children. He had charisma and was much sought after as a toastmaster and song leader at special functions.

He practiced dentistry in Riverside for 50 years and, after that, in his home in Delanco at Second Street and Lilac Lane for another seven years.

Dr. and Mrs. Edwards had three children—Marion Kuhl of Delanco, Joan Walsh of Sherwood Forest, Md., and Jay of Methersfield, Conn., also a dentist. At the time of his death on March 16, 1975, at the age of 93, Dr. Edwards had eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

One of the most notable Bicentennial events was the Liberty Tree Project, sponsored by the Shade Tree Commission. It was held on New Jersey Day, April 17, 1976, and 25 red oak Liberty Trees were planted on selected sites throughout the town.

Among those honored at the time was Ed Diggs, Delanco's oldest resident, who marked his 109th birthday in 1976.

The Zurbrugg Story

An Industrialist Leaves a Legacy in Delanco

THE GREAT industrialist himself, Theophilus J. Zurbrugg, is shown seated at his desk at the watch-case factory in 1904.



Theophilus J. Zurbrugg, a Swiss-born industrialist, left his mark on the riverfront communities of Delanco and Riverside.

Zurbrugg erected a highly successful watch-case factory in Riverside (employing many Delanco residents) and after he decided he had outgrown his home in Riverside, he founded the Zurbrugg Memorial Hospital and established it in his former home.

And finally, he moved to Delanco, where he erected one of the showpieces of its day, a huge mansion facing the river.

The mansion stands on grounds that occupy an entire block facing the Delaware River between Union Avenue and Willow Street. The three-story brick and stone building was designed and erected about 1910 by Hugh B. Miller, a contractor and builder from Edgewater Park. The white granite columns were imported from Italy, the Dutch tiles for the roof also came from abroad. The huge weeping beech was brought in by railroad car. The entrance leads into a wide, spacious hall with a broad, stately staircase.

Zurbrugg and his wife lived in it only a short time before he became ill. He died there in 1912. Mrs. Zurbrugg continued to live there and became president of the board of trustees of the Zurbrugg Hospital in 1915.

After her death in 1923, the mansion was then sold to Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Schwinn, who lived there until his death. His widow then built a smaller home a few blocks away on the riverfront.

In May 1949, the mansion was purchased by the Rev. Carl McIntyre, who converted it to use as the Bible Presbyterian Home. New additions were erected to enlarge its capacity, but in 1976, the building was closed because it could no longer pass the fire code standards for such establishments.

The hospital came about as a result of the desire of Zurbrugg and his wife, a former Red Cross nurse, to show their gratitude in a worthwhile and continuing way. So he made provisions in his will for a hospital.

The original hospital site was in the found-



THE ZURBRUGG mansion as shown in a photograph taken in October 1975. The floors of the mansion are

all parquet and there is a stately staircase to the second floor. Zurbrugg spared no expense in constructing it.

er's former home (demolished in 1937) at Taylor and Franklin Streets in Riverside. Its doors were opened on Feb. 12, 1915, with a staff of four local physicians.

They included Dr. J. George Wagner, a resident of Delanco and a nephew of the founder; Dr. Stuart Maul, Dr. Rocius Downs and Dr. Emma Weeks.

There was a nursing staff of two, the head nurse receiving a salary of \$60 a month. For a private room, the charge was \$15 a week at the first institution, which started with 12 beds, 5 bassinets and a combination operating room and delivery room.

The original section of the present hospital was erected in 1935, raising bed capacity to 38 and nursery accommodations to 15. Through the

years, additions have been made to the original section. In 1975, the hospital's bed capacity was 108, the medical staff numbered 125 and there were 160 nursing personnel, along with 180 other employees in various categories.

Mrs. Florence Wagner, widow of Dr. Wagner, came to Zurbrugg Memorial Hospital as a registered nurse in 1927 and became administrator in 1937. She retired in 1970.

In 1975, the Board of Managers embarked on a 75-bed addition to better serve the health needs of the area. The construction timetable called for occupancy of the new addition by July 1, 1977, with completion of renovations to existing facilities by Dec. 31, 1977.

William E. Link is president of the Board of Managers and Paul J. Sherin is administrator.



ZURBRUGG'S first residence, at the corner of Taylor and Franklin Streets in Riverside, became the first hospital. Later, it was used as quarters for the nursing staff

while the new red brick building on Taylor Street was being built. In 1937, the old home was demolished.



ZURBRUGG HOSPITAL as it appeared in the Bicentennial year.

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Map of Delanco by R. Louis Gallagher Engineering, Inc., Florence, N.J.

A Story of Public Schools of Burlington County, sponsored by the county school boards, teachers, superintendents and freeholders.

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The Bicentennial Book Committee also interviewed many residents and former residents of Delanco in order to elicit names, dates and historical accounts. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of:

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If the editors have neglected to give credit to any person or organization, it is an oversight and we tender our apologies.

It is our earnest wish that all who have contributed to the creation of this Bicentennial jour-

nal, whether acknowledged or not, will share with us in celebrating its publication.

And finally, we are grateful that as our children prepare to inherit the future, we are able to leave them with this legacy of the past.



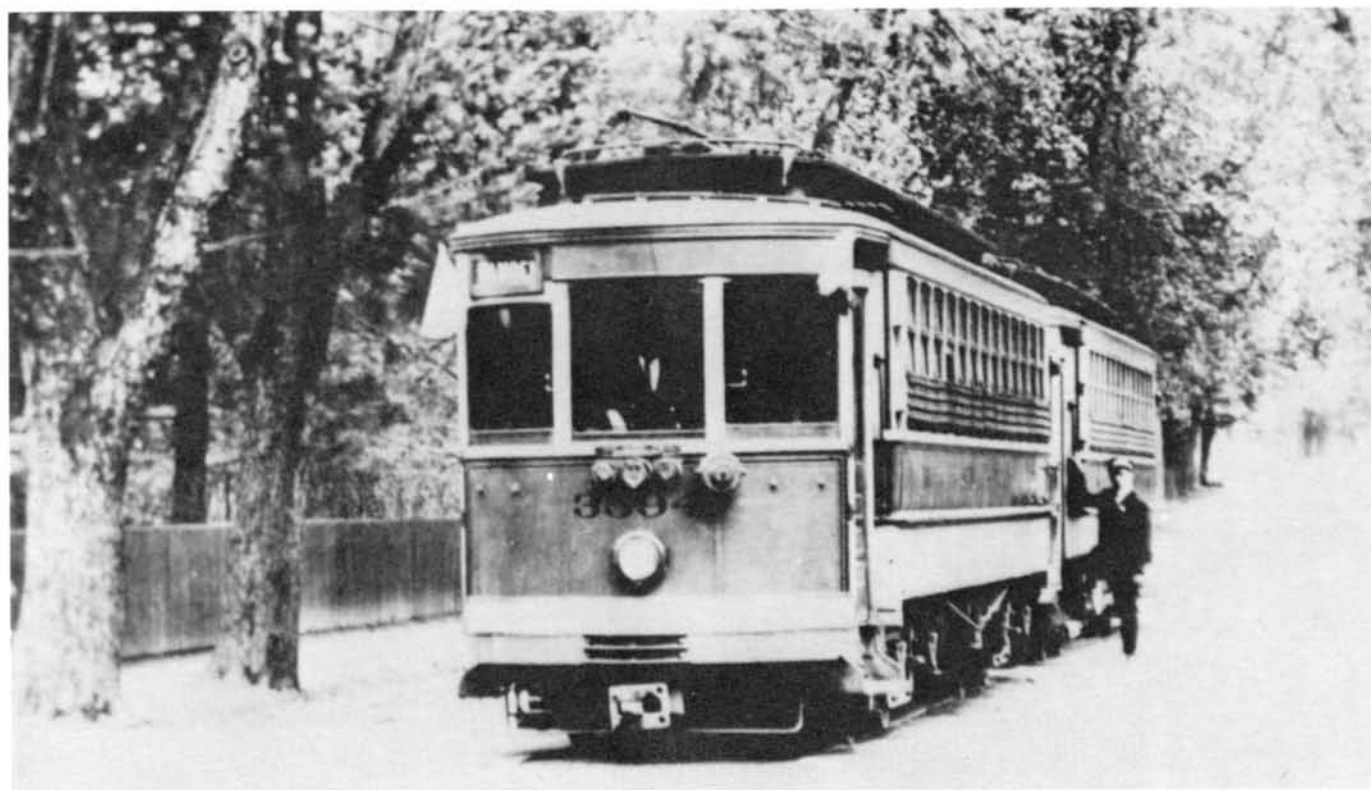
HIRAM TORREY, publisher of the Riverside Press, his wife, car and house on Walter Avenue about 1910.



AN EXCURSION BOAT loading passengers at the wharf located where Collins lumberyard now stands.



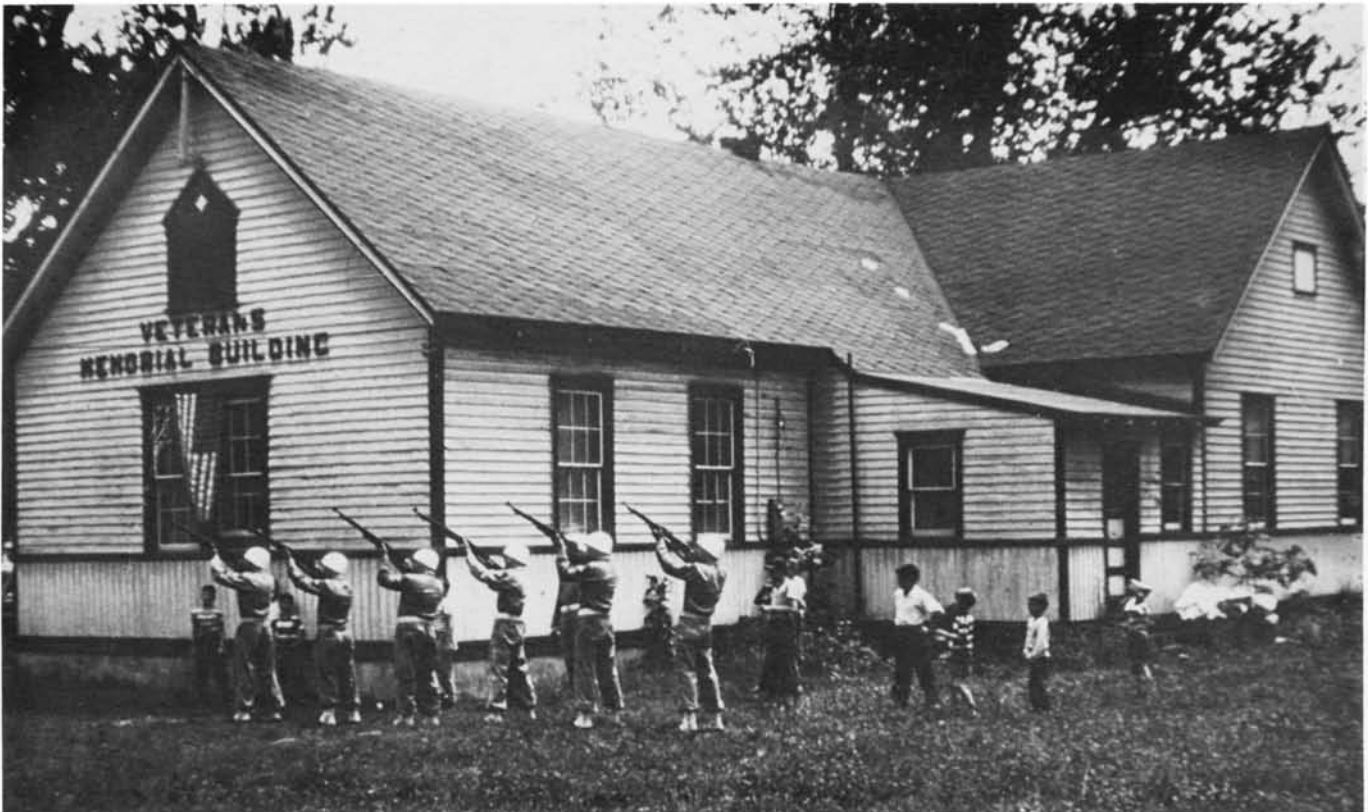
An early vintage car with John Mueller driver and his wife Florrie seated at the open door.



A tandem trolley waiting at the switch in Edgewater Park during World War I.



A Patriotic Order Sons of America banquet held in Faunce's drugstore in Delanco in 1906.



Delanco's first school.