

# Moorestown- Out In The Country

## The 1940s & 1950s Airport Road Area



May this work be a blessing to all those involved and those who read it.

It is a compilation of both first hand knowledges and newspaper extracts. In this time of sprawling suburbanization and modern conveniences the 1940s and 1950s resound a pioneer toughness.

In farmland surroundings, rich and poor people lived and worked side by side knowing the earth, her crop yields, her animals, and their own humanity. Set off the main stream of Moorestown, they lived "Out In The Country."

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An Alphabetical list of the area residents and places-

## **Airport Road-**

The Moorestown Airport opened in 1928 and was located on the Hartford Westfield Road or Westfield Road. The road was renamed Airport Road. When the airport was closed they changed it back to Westfield Road.

Locals would walk or ride their horses to the sandwich counter at the airport for snacks. Dolores Kemp remembers going to a dance in the hangar where one of the dances was the "broom dance."

## **Allen Farm-**



The Allen Farm in 2001

The Allen farm was first called "Sunset Farm," then later it was renamed "Woodedge Farm."

Walter and Chris Allen built a log cabin off Borton Landing Road. It was interesting in that it was all open inside. The bedrooms were on the loft which looked down into the living area. Walter (now deceased) and Chris' children are Dottie and Bob.

When Dottie was young she had a pony named "Teddy," and would go horseback riding with area children such as Eva Yingst.

Dottie Allen writes-

Our farm was bought in 1942, the house built using the Model A Ford and 1938 Buick to raise logs by pulleys in the old oak tree. The green rancher was built in 1969. We huckstered the produce we raised before we went into the chicken business, had two 350 ft. chicken houses and had an egg route along with the produce until the bottom fell out of the chicken business, then we started the kennels in 1956.

The log cabin was built during 1942-43 so there were really no building supplies available which made the log cabin the course of least resistance and delay. It was actually divided into 2 halves on the ground floor as it was originally planned as a barn for the tractors and equipment. When my parents decided that they needed to live there, they continued on to put a second floor on the log cabin. One side was living room the other half downstairs was kitchen and dining room. The upstairs was in a loft style with the greater portion of the living room having a ceiling that went to the roof. Three bedrooms and a bath were upstairs.

I went to school in Virginia and become nationally rated as a riding instructor and came back to the farm to teach riding as I had done in high school. Got married and moved to Maryland for several years so my brother took over the riding school which he continues to this day. I moved back and we worked together for a while and then I took over the boarding kennel when my mother wanted to retire. They lived winters in Boca Raton, Florida for over 20 years until my dad died and then Mom stayed on the farm (in a newer house built in the 60's - Bob and his family live in what was the log cabin. There are still some logs under other surfaces to this day. He has added on and renovated extensively.

I run the boarding facility at present. Today the lane is listed as Allen's Lane although it is being shifted slightly toward Main St for the benefit of the Orleans development that is adding 26 homes on 2 parcels of land that used to be owned by Debbie and John Pew and Al Stickney.

The following is quoted from Allison McGuigan's (daughter of Dottie Allen) Power Point presentation report she gave in high school in 2001 called "The Demise of Moorestown Farms: Who are the farmers? and Why are they selling?" The references to photos are of the Power Point show's slides. Only a few of the photos are shown here.

Woodedge Stables is owned by Christine Allen and her children Bob and Dottie. It is located on the north side of Borton Landing Road, just across from Lockheed Martin. The Allens own 30 acres of land divided by a freshwater stream called Swedes Run. It is true that the Allen family has been given offers to sell the land, but none so far that they have accepted.



Woodedge was purchased by Walt and Chris Allen in 1942 for only \$1,300, which would only be about \$17,000 today. When they purchased it, the land was used for apple orchards and grape vineyards. Up until the late 1950's, the Allens raised pigs, sheep, cattle, peacocks, and had an egg-selling business. At one point, they cared for about 10,000 chickens. Today, the farm is home to both a boarding kennel and a riding school. All available land is used for riding rings, horse pastures, barns, and three private residences.



There are about forty horses on the farm, some used for the riding school and some privately owned. Woodedge sponsors almost twenty horse shows per year, including the well-known Moorestown Horse Show, a fifty-three year old tradition. The Woodedge Stables riding school has over 200 students. In addition to riding and instructing, both Bob and Dottie have bred horses as well. From the kennel has sprouted a dog training business. Qualified instructors teach everything from obedience to agility.

This picture was taken early in 2001. The farm is at the end of a long dirt lane off of Borton Landing. Its northwest side is bordered by a field now zoned as open space, as well as Windrow Clusters, whose border is outlined. In the southeast corner you can see Lockheed Martin. Its north and south sides are bordered by two housing developments- Beth & Mindy and the brand new Wexford Estates.

The program's 2003 update stated that the land adjacent to Woodedge is under contract with Orleans Homebuilders.

## **Black Angus Killed by a Car-**

From The News Chronicle  
September 25, 1958-

**Black Angus Cow is Killed by Auto**

An Aberdeen Angus cow valued at \$800. was killed last week on Airport Road after it walked into the path of an auto.

The animal owned by Robert Brooks, Brooks Orchards, Pages Road, died almost instantly.... The car was going along Airport Road, about 9:20 pm. The driver said he saw the black cow saunter out of an orchard directly into the path of his car. (They said it wasn't the drivers fault)

## **Borton Landing Rd-**

Actually it is Borton's Landing Rd., but in everyday speech and in newspaper articles and ads usually gets shortened to Borton Landing. It was called Borton's Landing Road because it led to the Rancocas Creek where Borton had a landing. John Borton settled at Borton's Landing on the south of the Rancocas in 1682. A "landing" means a wharf where goods were boated to an area such as coal, lime, and lumber before the railroad came and was used instead. In other words the coal and lumber would be "landed."

## Brooks' Orchards Farm-



A J.D. Scott's 1876 atlas map shows the farm owned back then by the Brooks family.

It was on Page Rd. (now Salem Rd.) and Airport Rd. They had a Black Angus cattle pasture. Mr. Brooks had apple orchards on Airport Road. They grew pie apples varieties - red delicious and green. He had a business that prepared the apples for Tasty Kake apple pies. They peeled, cored, and sliced the apples in a building on the property.

(In JD Scott's 1876 Burlington County Atlas the map of Chester Twp. shows that the Brook family owned the land then.)

From the Moorestown News Chronicle

Feb. 27, 1958-

under a photo-

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brooks, of Page Road, Moorestown, set out for a day of skiing at Grindelwald, Switzerland, where they vacationed earlier this month.

From the Moorestown News Chronicle April 24, 1958-

Brooks' Orchards Moorestown will sell 18 head of Angus Heifers at Mount holly Auction May 3. Brooks' Orchards, Page and Airport Road, Moorestown, known for its fine apples, also specializes in raising registered Aberdeen Angus beef cattle.

Robert C. Brooks, owner, is serving as sales manager of the Mount Holly Angus Sale on May 3 at the Mount Holly Auction sponsored by the Burlington County Angus

Association. Mr. Brooks will sell 18 head of his own fine bred heifers, plus other fine Angus stock from other farms in the area.

Mr. Brooks is endeavoring to improve and raise the quality of his own herd. He recently went to Scotland and at the Perth Sides (?) bought a fine bull, which he expects to arrive here along the end of July. Mr. Brooks has owned this very old farm since 1938. He has 275 acres, 110 in orchards and his own storage for 20,000 bushels of apples.

From The News Chronicle

April 1, 1948

Ad-

Apples, Certified U.S. No. 1 Brooks Orchards Airport and Page Roads, Moorestown
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From The News Chronicle, July 15, 1971

Obituary for Robert C. Brooks-

Funeral services held July 9 in Fair Haven, Vt. for former Moorestonian Robert Clexton Brooks, who died July 7 at his home in Benson, Vt. He was 59. He is survived by his widow the former Carol Jennings, and a daughter Leslie.

(Mt Holly Surrogates office has the will file that mentions a daughter Barbara Brooks.)

From The News Chronicle, March 9, 1972

The Moorestown zoning board last Thursday heard a request for permission to operate a summer camp and day school at the old Robert Brooks farm on the Westfield- Salem Road.

## **Brown-**

They lived on Marter Ave. The real estate place is the exact same building, only redecorated.

The residents of the house were:

Edward W. Brown (father)

Naomi May Brown (nee Black, mother.)

Edward S. Brown (son)

Patricia Brown (daughter)

Sandra Brown (daughter)

Susan Brown (daughter)

Kathleen Black (niece.)

and John Black (nephew.)



## Burns-



The Burns house in 2005. It has been doubled in size by a back addition.

Joseph Burns was the brother of Betty Burns Kemp. He was married to Emmanuela (Nellie) Versaggi. They previously lived in New York.

The following is quoted from Bobby Burns (their son) Genealogy of the Burns family which he researched and gave the family the papers-

Joe and Nellie wanted to move their family away from the 'city.' They had visited his sister Betty in Moorestown New Jersey on occasion, and found that they liked the rural area. They initially looked for a home in what was then called Delaware Township, but Nellie found the area to be too rural for her liking as she didn't drive, so they moved the family to Airport Road, now 540 Westfield Rd., Moorestown in 1946 next door to Joe's sister Betty. Joe became a machinist at Edsams in Maple Shade, NJ. Nellie worked and retired from RCA Corp. in Moorestown, where her job was an inspector. Delaware Township is now the very populated Cherry Hill.

The house they bought, for a mere \$1100, was nothing but a run-down 'tenant farmers' house, built in the late 1880s. There was no running water. Water was obtained from a hand pump. There was no bathroom facilities either, an 'outhouse' was used.

There was no heat or electricity. This was supplied by kerosene stoves and kerosene lamps. Joseph set to work, and on his own, stripped the house down to its frame and practically rebuilt the house, adding electricity, indoor plumbing and a coal furnace. The land, 2 1/2 acres, consisted of weeds and scrub trees. This he cleared and planted grass, bushes and trees. He set aside a patch of land to be used as a vegetable garden. Joe had some help from family and friends, but he did the majority of the work by himself. Quite a feat. Everything Joe accomplished was 'self-taught.'

Joseph and Nellie's children are Patricia and Robert (Bob).

## **Calhoun-**

Ed and Ethel Calhoun lived on Marter Avenue and had the following children- Johnny, Jimmy, Bobby, Billy, Alice, Virginia, and Arthur. Ed was in the construction business as a crane and bulldozer operator. Later sons Johnny, Bobby, and Billy went into construction as well. Arthur went into the real estate business. The Calhoun children worked summers for the Aubrey Walton and Charles Collins' farms. -Arthur Calhoun

They didn't have a lot of money. Arthur would telephone Mrs. Kemp and say, "Mrs. Kemp, can I get a ride to the dance with you?" Later Arthur became a "million-aire" in the Real Estate business. Arthur made a pig shaped wooden cutting board for Mrs. Kemp which she used for over 25 years. -Barbara Kemp

## **Cavallo's Gas Station-**

From The News Chronicle  
May 15, 1958-

Joseph Cavallo was issued a permit to build a gasoline service station at Marter Avenue and Main Street at a cost of \$15,000.

## Charles Collins Farm-



Charles Collins lived at 365 Camden Avenue.

Charles A. Collins of Camden Avenue operates four large farms near Moorestown-  
on the Borton Landing Road, Fellowship Road, Tom Brown Road and School Lane  
and the (copy cut off)

(From the Moorestown Chronicle June 12, 1941)

From the July 20, 1950 News Chronicle  
ad-

Peaches for Sale  
Various Varieties  
Charles A. Collins  
Borton Landing Road, Moorestown



From The Moorestown News

August 1, 1945

### Collins Charges Loss of Corn Load to Union

A well-known Moorestown farmer charged Saturday he had suffered complete loss of 194 bushels of corn worth \$436 because a Philadelphia truckers union would not allow it to be unloaded at a Philadelphia commission house.

The owner of the produce, Charles A. Collins, 365 Camden avenue, Moorestown, chairman of the New Jersey AAA committee, said he was forced to take the corn back to his 100-acre farm as a result of the union's demand.

The produce was taken to the establishment of Shay & Biahos, 212 Dock street, Philadelphia Friday, by Ernest Shockley, one of Collins' farmhands on consignment for Al Rotelli & Brothers of Yeadon, Pa.

As Shockley was about to unload the truck, he was told by a representative of Local 929....

(Then Charles Collins attempted to make the delivery himself and was also refused permission.)

From The News Chronicle

January 17, 1974

### Obituary for Charles Collins-

Charles A. Collins of Moorestown, a former member of the State Board of Agriculture and of the Board of Managers of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, died Jan. 13 at the Greenleaf Extension in Moorestown. He was 82.

A retired fruit and vegetable grower, Mr. Collins was a member of the New Jersey Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 17 years, serving as chairman for 10 years. During World War 2, he was chairman of the State War Board of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Other posts he held included....

(several paragraphs of Horticultural positions and then mentions- He was a graduate of Swarthmore College. He had a son Alan of Sawyer, Mich, and a daughter Jean Smock of Almont, Col.)

The obituary didn't seem to mention his wife. Her name was Helen.

# Collins' Field-

(This is a December 2006 addition to the book)

H. Roy Collins, son of Harold L. Collins, learned airplane flying and mechanics in the U.S. Air Force, which was at the time called the US Army Air Corp. He also did some learning how to fly at the Moorestown Airport.

When he got out of the service in 1945, he was an airplane mechanic, and his Dad figured they could farm together and have son Roy do airplane repairs too, and built the hangar and air strip on the farm. Brother Ralph didn't live on the home farm but in Moorestown, just Roy had a house there.

Harold Collins, the father, was a potato farmer but before the war they had apple trees which were taken out after. The farm was mostly on the Mount Laurel side of the highways. Route 38 cut the farm in half when Roy was 5 years old, then the turnpike and 295 went diagonal through it. When 295 came through Roy's house was moved to Ark Rd.

The hangar fire which destroyed Ralph's Funk and Roy's Piper Cub was started by Roy welding something on the Funk airplane.

There was another small airport on Hartford Rd nearby owned by a Italian family, De ---- or something.

(The above information is from H. Roy Collins June 24, 2006.)

## **A Collins' Field Airport Story from Al Stickney-**

Harold Collins' farm was on Route 38. He was a potato farmer. He had two boys and a girl. The boys were Ralph and Roy.

Ralph had a Funk plane and when Al Stickney was in his teen years, he met him through a friend and they took a night time flight in it over Philadelphia. When they returned they didn't have lights on the home runway and it was dark, so they landed prematurely and a wheel (skirts) broke off as they went through some corn field rows landing.

Ralph had the Funk plane and Roy had a Piper Cub plane at the time. The Funk they bought brand new.



Roy is an airplane mechanic. Roy later owned a Funk plane himself, and gave Al Stickney a ride in it

When 295 went through, Roy's house was moved to Ark Road. 295 and the NJ State Turnpike both went through their farmland. The stories are that each time it helped them financially through the sales of the land.

Al Stickney flew out of Collins Field, but when he went on plane rides they were mostly out of the Moorestown Airport. The Marshall cinder brick part was built about 1949- 1950 (within 5 years anyhow of that). Blase Ravikio and his son never did anything with the hangar after the airport closed. Maybe just store vehicles there.

There was also a hangar and air strip in back of the house of Vince DiMassimo on Hartford Rd.

## **The Dance-**

In the 1950s there was a Teen-Agers Dance every Friday at the Community House. Between 200 and 300 teen agers were at each dance. What does this have to do with the teens in this area? A lot, because they went to it.

The name of the weekly dances was "Teen Haven."

## **Walter Daniels Robbed-**

From The Moorestown News

Dec. 3, 1941

Colored Farm Hand Buys Shot Gun and 'Relieves' Fellow Worker of \$57 Hard Earned Savings.

Walter Daniels, colored hand employed on Charles A. Collins' farm, Page's road near Airport road, Moorestown learned the "expensive way" that it just doesn't pay to place too much confidence in new found friends.

Saturday afternoon Daniels boasted to Joseph Williams, also colored who had been working with him but two weeks, that he was saving his money and he showed Williams his \$57 "nest egg."

Later Williams, who had been living in a small hut with Daniels and Joseph Hogan, another Negro farm laborer, told Daniels and Hogan he was going out for a while, but would return about eight o'clock that evening. After extracting promises from them that they would await his return, Williams, said to be a Philadelphian, made his departure.

Williams kept his promise, much to Daniels regret. He returned shortly before eight o'clock and he was toting a loaded shotgun when he put in his appearance.

After "relieving" the thrifty farm hand of his savings, he again departed. But he hasn't been back since. Police believe he purchased the gun from a "hock shop" during his absence.

Earlier in the day Williams had asked Hogan what he did with his money. He reported that he had his boss save it for him. Williams admonished Hogan that it wasn't safe to trust bosses with one's hard earned money, but Hogan stood his

ground and his money was still safe in the hands of his foreman after Williams made off with Daniels' \$57.

Moorestown police are conducting a search for Williams, said to be about 53 years old. He is described as being a short, heavy set Negro. He was employed at Larchmont Farms, Masonville, before obtaining work on the Collins' farm.

## **DeBonaventura's-**

Tony, Vedio, Pop, and Vedio Jr. who should be about 52, 53 now.

The next house on Borton Landing Rd. before Allen lane was owned by an Italian family the DeBonaventura's. They finally moved back to Philly. Their house became a union hall for one of the unions in RCA until it was knocked off its foundation by a pickup truck and totaled and demolished. I believe it is still owned by the union. -Dottie Allen

## **Deed Book 905, Page 257-**

And The Burlington County Trust Company 1940s Subdivision

What do the Test house, Stickney house, Kemp house and some others have in common? All their deed recital sections of their property titles have a common book and page.

The Burlington County Trust Company  
took title to the property on June 19, 1939  
under deed book 905, page 257 at the County Clerk's office in Mount Holly.  
From F. George Furth, Sheriff, Court of Chancery of NJ  
Defendants- Lester Collins (owed \$20,908.81), Ann A. Collins, his wife, Edward P  
Grork, and William Stevenson.

Lester Collins  
took title to the property on February 1915  
under deed book 513, page 286 at the County Clerk's office in Mount Holly.  
Sold by Walter Holmes.  
land to corner to railroad, J.S. Rogers Co., and Pearl Zelley's land.

Walter Holmes

bought the Sarah and Harry Pancoast land in 1904, under deed book 383, page 286, and the Thomas M. Pancoast land in 1905, under deed book 394, page 320.

In brief, the Test house had previously been a Pancoast farm. Thomas Pancoast was married to the daughter of John S. Collins who developed Miami Beach Florida, and the Pancoasts moved there. The farm was later owned by Lester Collins who owned a lot of farms. He apparently lost this one in the depression. Burlington County Trust Company subdivided all the individual houses up for easier selling.

It would appear that Lester Collins lost the Pancoast/ Test farm but not all his nearby lands. Him and his wife Ann A. Collins sold various lots to Vincent Mariani in the 1940s.

## **Dolly's Chevrolet-**

It was where the Victoria Medical Arts building now is at the intersection of Main Street and Borton Landing Road. The name was Thomas Dolly & Sons. It had a triangle shaped garage building there at the corner.

Thomas Dolly and Sons ran their 1949 News Chronicle ads in a comic strip format called "Speedy."

A Feb. 22, 1943 Moorestown newspaper had-

Julia A. Dolly, widow of Thomas Dolly, home is at Borton Landing Road and Main Street.

## **Dudley-**

From The Moorestown News

August 27, 1941-

Obituary for Robert G. Dudley

Robert G. Dudley who operated a farm on Borton Landing Rd, Moorestown for 24 years died. He was born in the house on Bridgeboro Rd. on May 9, 1857. He lived in this section all his life.

Another member of the Dudley family lived on Marter Ave. Possibly this was later the Brown's house.

## **Eastern Union Church-**

It was (is?) on Foster Town Rd. Local kids went there because they picked you up.

## **Eoden the Angus Bull Arrives-**

From The News Chronicle  
August 7, 1958-

under a photo of bull with several people-  
Eoden of Gloagburn, recently imported Scottish-bred Aberdeen Angus bull, gets close attention from admirers. Left to right, Alex Kelly, herd manager; owners Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Brooks, and State Secretary of Agriculture Phillip Alampi. The herd sire arrived at the Brooks farm in Moorestown recently.

### **Champion Bull Comes to Moorestown After Three Months in Quarantine**

A member of one of the most famous families in Scotland arrived in Moorestown recently to make his home.

He is Eoden of Gloagburn, a 17-month old pedigree Aberdeen Angus bull whose family tree includes some notable champions.  
(Several paragraphs omitted)

The new bull will be the herd sire for the 40 brood cows in the Brooks herd which includes 103 registered Angus.

Herd manager Alex F. Kelly, a native of Scotland came to this country last September to take charge of the Brooks herd.

Mr. Brooks has been breeding Aberdeen Angus cattle for 12 years at his Moorestown farm, which includes an extensive apple orchard. He became interested in beef cattle as a means of utilizing by-products of his apple processing business.



## **Ferdinand-**

After about 1948 Larry and Bea Ferdinand, from Philly, put up a modular home (still standing) that now is owed by the Weiss family. It has changed hands many times and Dottie Allen actually owned it for about 4 years living in it with her first husband, Fran Woodward. It was about 7 acres, but a very small house. Ferdinands brought many truckloads of Belgian blocks (given away by Philly to get rid of them) from Philly streets that were being upgraded to concrete and macadam to fill in their low land.- Dottie Allen

## **Fire at the Collins Farm-**

From The News Chronicle  
January 23, 1958-

Firemen from both Moorestown companies made a fast run to the Collins farm on Borton Landing Road near Airport Road and arrived in time Tuesday morning to save a barn believed to have been united from a stove fire. The main house on the farm was gutted by fire several months ago and is being repaired.

## Flying Feather Farm-



The Flying Feather Farm Stand in 2001

The Flying Feather Farm at one time had about 1,400 chickens. Some have thought that the name "Flying Feather" was inspired by the planes of the nearby Moorestown Airport, but the owner actually got the idea from a picture in a magazine. When a tornado went through the farm's chicken house in 1958, the name "Flying Feather" seemed very appropriate!

John and Betty Boenitsch bought the farm in 1947 or 48. He worked for Campbell Soup Co. at the time then left there when the farm got going. The stand opened in the spring of 1955. The tornado went through in 1958, (probably July 14, 1958). Their children are Christine and Sandra.

They mostly grew crops- tomatoes, corn, pumpkins, and sometimes they grew blackberries, grapes, and eggplants. They had chickens for eggs and raised and sold turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas times.

The Flying Feather Farm stand is in 2005 still open and celebrating its 50th year.

The following is quoted from Allison McGuigan's (daughter of Dottie Allen) Power Point presentation report she gave in high school in 2001 called "The Demise of Moorestown Farms: Who are the farmers? and Why are they selling?" The references to photos are of the Power Point show's slides. Only a few of the photos are shown here.

Flying Feather Farm is owned by John and Betty Boenitsch and their children. It is located just down from the high school on the west side of Bridgeboro Road where it intersects Westfield Road. They own roughly 25 acres altogether. It is currently unsold and is functioning as a small produce farm.

This is an aerial view taken in 2001 of the Flying Feather property. The high school parking lot is just barely visible at the bottom of the picture. As you follow Bridgeboro Road north to where it intersects Westfield Road, there is the property. The well-known Flying Feather road stand is just at the corner of the intersection. John and Betty Boenitsch live a few hundred feet south of the stand. The remaining 14 or so acres are located farther east on Westfield and are used as a soybean field.

John Boenitsch had been working for the Campbell's soup corporation in one of their research labs. In the lab, he and fellow co-workers conducted agricultural experiments in order to grow better produce.

When he discovered he had a serious eyesight condition, he knew that he could no longer work in the lab and would have to go into business for himself. He looked for available land to house both his young family and a business. He bought this land in Moorestown in 1947. He lives in the same house today.

The farmer's market road stand was originally opened in 1955. Most of the tomatoes the family grew went to Campbell's, but the leftovers were sold at the road stand.

Flying Feather was mostly a poultry farm at that point, so the Boenitsches sold eggs from their chickens, and sold their homegrown turkeys on holidays. The successful road stand has been twice expanded since.



The farm's green house in 2001

Today, working the farm is still a family business. With help from their children and even grandchildren, the Boenitsches grow tomatoes, peppers, herbs, and cut flowers in their green house.

Their two sheep are just a novelty, kept around to contribute to the farm atmosphere.

In an interview with John's daughter Sandra Loch, she told me some of the challenges faced by her family as farmers. Like the Winners, she expressed how difficult it is to make a living when farm businesses and farm labor are nowhere to be found in this area. The next generation often refuses to inherit the business or sells the business themselves. She, too, is feeling the pressure from developers. She said indignantly, "They think that anything is for sale if the price is right." She concluded that as of yet, they are not ready to sell and she hopes to see her son, who will graduate from Moorestown High in 2005, continue the family business.

## The Golf Ball-



New photo 2020 replacing a poorer image photo  
that was from the Burlington County Times Dec. 7, 2003

It wasn't there in the 1950s but was so novel to the area we should include its mention. The Burlington County Times newspaper in its 50th year article of the RCA/ Lockheed Martin plant seemed to state its completion date as 1964, but a former employee places its start of construction as 1958 and its completion by 1961.

**The Ballistic Missile Early Warning System** "golf ball," stood for years in a cornfield at the corner of Hartford and Centerton roads. In the 1970s it was replaced by an Aegis ship structure.

The following is from Bernie Rieck who claims to have worked on the BMEWS program for the Moorestown golf ball-





Photo- Bernie Rieck

This photo is the only one I have of the "golf ball," taken after the BMEWS program had finished (about 1965). Incidentally, I was involved with the original BMEWS program and worked in the "golf ball" during the summer of 1961. I also spent several months in Thule, Greenland at the BMEWS site, checking out the golf ball installed there.

Here's my life story of that era.-

Jan 1, 1960: Navy petty officer aboard USS Forrestal. Married my sweetheart Elaine Burke (Merchantville HS class of 1958) on this day.

June, 1960: Released from active Navy duty. Went to work for Univac as a technician in the advanced circuits lab. (in Philly). Worked there 6 months.

Jan, 1961: Went to work for RCA Service Co., out in Riverton NJ. Wrote technical manuals for the BMEWS Directional radar (what's inside the golf ball). This radar had been operational for several years before I started work at RCA.

Worked inside the dome for a few months in early 1961 and then shipped up to Thule, Greenland August, Sept, and Oct 1961 to check out the manuals against actual operation. (My first son was born in late August, while I was away.)

I left RCA Service Co. when the BMEWS program was about finished, December 1962.

When he said he "worked inside the dome," that was not when the radar was running. You only went inside the dome for maintenance work, etc... with the radar shut off.



What was inside the radome or "golf ball"-

Although the antenna looks like a UFO or radio wave receiving antenna, it is actually a RADAR set.

The edges of the cone only missed the inside of the radome by a foot or so.

## Hargroves-

Continuing down Borton Landing on the same side as the Allen farm... the next house (still standing) was a brick home owned by the Hargroves. I think that they were originally from Philly and had a son Billy born about '42 and a younger sister. -Dottie Allen

## **Hercher-**

Near the Stow family on Airport Road in a farmhouse set back off the road lived the Herchers. Joe was a son. The grandson of Mr. Hercher was named Howard Meyer and was killed in Vietnam.

## **Hunter-**

The Hunters lived on Airport Road. More tenant homes on Airport Road were torn down. One by the water tower, Mr. Siebke lived there. (Mr. Winner has brick rancher there now.) Two more tenant houses were on Airport Rd just before the Hercher house. I believe the Hunters lived in one. -Doris Stow

**Kemp-**



The Kemp house as it looked when bought.



The Kemp house in 1958.

Arthur Kemp and A. Elizabeth Kemp his wife  
took title on Oct 7, 1944,  
under deed book 977, page 299  
They paid 750 dollars for 2 45/100 acres

The Kemps sold the house  
(grantor) under deed book 1556,  
page 679  
on Jan. 20, 1964

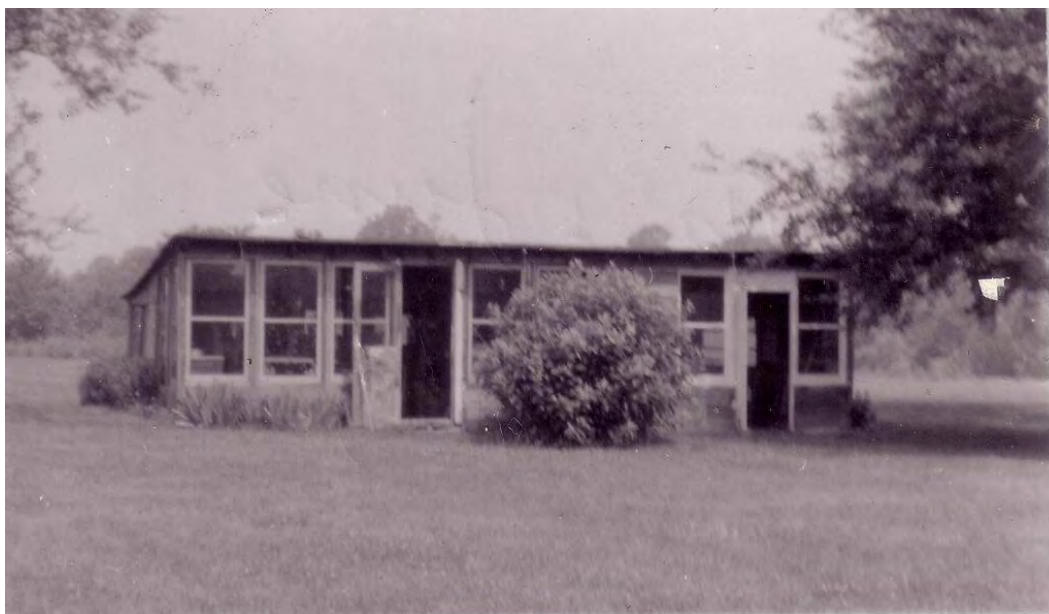
Arthur and Betty Kemp originally lived in Philadelphia but would tenant farm in NJ at Bridgeboro, Cinnaminson, and off Haines Mill Road near what is now Tenby Chase, Delran. Between these farming times Arthur Kemp would say "Let's go back to the city and live", then after a few years there he would say "let's go back to the country and live" and the family joked that they "Wore out the Tacony Palmyra Bridge." When he worked a tenant "share cropper" farm near what is now the Tenby Chase, Delran area, he would bicycle and bus into Moorestown and work on the Depression time works project of making Strawbridge Lake Park out of Hooten's Creek. He would then come home and do the farm work!

Arthur and Betty's first house they owned was on Airport Rd., now 550 Westfield Rd. He didn't farm it commercially but had a garden. There was a chicken house egg selling venture with his son Buddy when Bud returned from WW2. They also grew Peonies which were there when they bought the property. Chicken manure was used as a fertilizer. The house was originally a part of the Test house but was taken off to make a separate farm help house. The Kemp, Burns and Sooy houses were previously all farm worker homes for the Test farm house which was the original farm.

The house came without modern utilities. Arthur Kemp had a heater put in and paid someone to come and put in electric. A bathroom wasn't added until years later. An outhouse was used. Barbara was 3 or 4 years old when the bathroom was put in. It was not placed at a most ideal spot but at one where the least amount of pipe length could run as pipes cost money. Another improvement to the house was adding an "A frame" roof instead of the original flat roof.

Arthur Kemp worked at Edsam Screw Machine Co. in Maple Shade while living there. Betty worked at RCA in the cafeteria. Their children are- Florence (died at 18), Arthur (Buddy), Betty, Dolores (Dee), a 12 year gap then Barbara, Joan.





The Kemp chicken house in 1961

Misc. information-

When Dolores was growing up there, the children she played with were all colored (black), such as the Shockley children.

When Barbara and Joanie first saw the Brooks' Angus cows they thought they were some sort of small buffalo, because they never saw any type of cows except Holsteins.

Betty Kemp (mother) would make homemade root beer. Yeast was used with the other ingredients. The bottles were put out on the lawn in the sun to brew.

Arthur Kemp would see what direction the wind was blowing then burn the weeds off the Peony patch each year. He walked around with a water tank on his back with a wand hose to keep things under control.



Arthur Kemp and Peonies in 1958

## **Linden Street-**

It is a "paper road" and was supposed to go out to Airport Rd through the Test farm. Al Stickney said that he had an old map of it. The Township of Moorestown at one time had a plan of subdividing the Test Farm land up into building lots and Linden Street was going to go through paralleling Borton's Landing Rd.

## **Mariani's Store-**

It was on Main Street just west of Borton Landing Rd. There was a bus stop at the corner. Vincent Mariani of Maple Shade was the owner. Mariani's Store was before this located a block east of Marter Ave. where a gas station later was.



From The Moorestown News-  
Jan. 17, 1940  
ad-

Where Friends Meet  
For  
Everything From A Sandwich To  
A Full Meal  
Vincent Mariani's  
Restaurant  
General Store  
Borton Landing Rd. & Main St.

It was later called or referred to as "Pop's."

Pop's was a mini mart (in today's language) and was where the public service bus turn around was for buses to go back to Camden and Philly. Some buses just stopped there and continued to Mt Holly, but just as many just came there. Pop's didn't have gas, but had sandwiches and food, milk, cigs, etc. -Dottie Allen

## **McCoy Farm-**

The farm and house belonged to Charlie Collins. It was on Borton Landing Rd about halfway between Hartford Rd. and Creek Rd. on the east side of the road. The McCoy house was a white farm house. There was a yellow twin house next to it. They were both tenant houses for Collins. Mr. McCoy worked the farm for Mr. Collins who had tenant farms all down Borton Landing Rd.

In the back of their house was a packing house for apples and peaches. Irene and the other children worked there. The farm was fruit tree orchards. Nothing else. They grew apples and peaches. Another Collins farm on Borton Landing which the McCoys also helped farm had cherry orchards. The McCoys also helped cut asparagus.

The McCoy family was Robert and Viola McCoy and their children Deloris, Ida, Grace, Kathryn, Irene, Chollie, and Curtis. Irene met Arthur (Buddy) Kemp one day when she got off the bus at the bus stop corner and Buddy was waiting there to pick his Dad up. Barbara was also in the car with Buddy.

When Buddy Kemp and Irene McCoy married they moved to Palmyra. Buddy worked for the Fort Dix Railroad at the time so moving to New Egypt brought them closer to his job. Their family lived in New Egypt, NJ for 44 years.



Arthur Kemp and his son Buddy on a tenant farm near what is now Tenby Chase, Delran. Buddy Kemp married Irene McCoy.

## **McNeal-**

Next to Yingst family was the McNeals. That is now the white house at the corner of Borton Landing and Mindy Drive. Al Stickney later bought the house from Ralph McNeal and lived there for a while.

## **Millers-**

They lived in Philadelphia and would come for the summers to stay there. (weekends etc..) The house they stayed in was a one room shack with bunk beds. It had no electricity. They were beer drinkers so Arthur Kemp being one at that time would visit and all the kids would drink sodas. Their son was named Eddie.

Barbara Kemp thought they were so rich because they would come there to stay from Philadelphia and they had a Pierce Arrow car. Well she thought they were rich because they would talk about building their "dream house" on Pages Lane off Borton Landing Rd near the Mule Pond. Mr. Miller would stake out the outline of where the house would be. A cinder block foundation for the house was laid and sat for a long time, but the house wasn't built.

It is funny how the kids thought the Millers were so rich but they never did build the dream house and when Mr. Miller died, Eddie wasn't interested and the family just sold the land. The Millers were a diversion from the boredom of summers around there.

## Moorestown Airport-



A 1949 watercolor by Jean Stickney of Moorestown Airport's Marshall's Flying Service hangar

H. H. Longaker of Moorestown started the Burlington County Aero Club which got off to a "flying start" at its organization meeting on January 30, 1928 at the Moorestown Community House, at which 25 members were enrolled.

Approximately 50 acres on the Hartford Westfield Road on the outskirts of Moorestown was then acquired for the airfield. On Sunday April 1, 1928 the new Moorestown Airport ground was "Christened."

The Burlington County Aero Club had the Dedication Day of the Moorestown Airport on October 13th, 1928. The Aero Club, by then had secured a 50 acre field, erected a large all- metal hangar, and purchased two new Waco 10 Biplanes with Curtis OX-5 motors. They also Incorporated, hired a chief pilot and instructor, trained pilots, and made 1450 passenger hops.

The first Air Mail flight in the history of Moorestown was May 19th, 1938. It flew out of Moorestown Airport.

The Aero Club offered lessons in flying in three membership categories and on weekends short hops over Moorestown were given for a small fee.

The Depression ended the Aero Club and the airfield eventually became a pumpkin field until Les Marshall reopened it and operated it until World War Two. Marshall's wife ran the cafeteria. Marshall called the airport the "Marshall Flying Service."



Photo from Doris Stow Schwering

After the war Marshall was short on funds so his Boss Richard Hineline of the Camden Lime Company became his partner. Together they ran the "GI Bill of Rights Flying School."

In the 1950s the airport was sold to Blase Ravikio. It was thriving at the time. Paul Schirmer operated the place.





The Airport in the 1960s. Photo- Bernie Rieck

Ravikio wanted to improve the airport with a blacktop runway, but with nearby residential development he realized it couldn't be a first class airport. Then the township built its high school right in the path of the airstrip so in the early 1970s Ravikio closed the airport.

It was the second oldest airport in New Jersey.



Photo from Doris Stow Schwering- Airport Lunchroom soon after first opening

## **Morrow-**

Sue Morrow lived on Tom Brown Road. Her sister Lynny was retarded. They had a pool and Sue was on the swim team.

## **The Mule Pond-**

Owned by the Collins family and used for their work mules to drink from. It was in the corner area of land, now owned by Lockheed Martin, near the intersection of Airport and Borton Landing Rd. It wasn't deep or clean for swimming. Ducks would swim there. It could be skated on in winter.

Sometimes there were no mules around there and sometimes there could be about 12 mules and they could be different ones there from ones at another time.

## **Moriuchi Orchards-**



The Moriuchi Farm house in 2005





The Moriuchi barn in 2005

Fred Moriuchi, the son of Tak Moriuchi, lives in the beautiful 1700s brick farm house of the old Moriuchi Orchards. The house is located at 333 Borton Landing Road.

They started there in the early 1960s renting the farm from Charles Collins. The farm was purchased in 1974 from the estate of Charles Collins.

The farm grew apples and peaches.

## **Ollivier-**

They lived on Marter Ave. between Calhoun's and Dudley's. They owned the stationary and Newspaper store "Ollivier's" at 77 E. Main Street, Moorestown.

## **Orchards-**

Brooks Orchards on the Airport Rd area had apples. Collins had apples, peaches and cherries down Borton Landing Road. If you bought a house around the area in the 1940s you might have had to clear the land of a lot of orchard trees! The majority of the local children "helped themselves" to an apple or some cherries and knew where the choice variety fruit trees might be in the midst of many acres of the others.

In the 1960s there was also the Moriuchi Orchards.





TAK Moriuchi apple crate label

## **Out In The Country-**

Even though you were but a mile or so from "town," you were "out in the country." Houses here were mostly farm related. Orchards, horses, cows, chickens, and farm crops came mixed with gravel roads, out houses, tenant farmers, and hard work.

## **Page Road-**

All or part of Salem Road was at the time named Page Road. Barbara Kemp calls it Page's Lane. There is also another road called that in Moorestown. Both have their roots in Thomas Page. At an earlier time there was a schoolhouse on Salem Road called Page's School later renamed Poplar Grove School.

One would note that Moorestown seems oblivious to the fact that Salem Road was named Page Road and that Westfield Road had been named Airport Road. A part of living "Out in the Country" was the feeling of being left out of the Moorestown "In Town" focus.

## **Peach Tree Point-**

"Peach Tree Point" was at the north west corner of Borton Landing and Creek Roads on Creek Road. Molding sand was dug from there and sent to Philadelphia by a company called Hainesport Molding Sand. The Kiesling family lived across from it on Borton Landing Road. (Information from Al Stickney)

## **Rex D. Pearce Nursery-**

on Bridgeboro Road near Moorestown Airport

## Pew Farm-



The following is quoted from Allison McGuigan's (daughter of Dottie Allen) Power Point presentation report she gave in high school in 2001 called "The Demise of Moorestown Farms: Who are the farmers? and Why are they selling?" The references to photos are of the Power Point show's slides. Only a few of the photos are shown here.

The first farm I investigated was the Pew Farm, called Meadowbrook Farm. It was owned by John Pew Jr. and his sons John III and Harold. It was located just north of Hartford Road, at the end of what is now a cul-de-sac called Commonwealth Drive. The Pews owned about 100 acres, which they used for several products. The family owned the farm for fifty years before it was sold to a developer in 1990.

The land was previously owned by Hansel Lippincott. John Jr. procured the farm by public auction in 1940. They grew tomatoes, string beans, and pumpkins, among other vegetables. One of their main clients was the Campbell's soup corporation.

John Jr. concurrently owned a dairy farm in Mt. Holly. In 1965, however, the family decided to move the dairy farm to the land they owned in Moorestown. From 1965 on, the Pew farm was a dairy farm, housing about 350 cattle. This is a picture of John Jr. and wife Barbara with their two grandchildren, taken from a 1981 Philadelphia Inquirer article.



This is an aerial view of what the land currently looks like. The main road is Hartford Road. The Pew farmhouse still exists on the northernmost cul-de-sac, Commonwealth Drive. There remains land north of the house, but you can see that the land has been developed on all other sides. Ten years ago, virtually everything you see in this picture was farmland.

In an interview with John Jr.'s son, John Pew III, he confessed to me that it is difficult to farm in Moorestown. While the town claims they want to slow development, they are doing little to actually encourage farmers to stay, he says. With complaints from neighboring residences and new houses encroaching on their territory, it's easy to see why farmers would sell to developers who are willing to pay high prices. John believes that the main problem faced by Moorestown farmers is that they are not farming among other farmers, but they are farming in the midst of suburban sprawl.

Barbara Pew's daughter, also named Barbara, later became an airline stewardess.



## Phyfe-



The Phyfe house in 2005

James D. Phyfe and Maisie A. Phyfe his wife took title to their property on June 15, 1946 under deed book 1010, page 144 at the County Clerk's office in Mount Holly. They bought the farm from Charles A. Collins. It was located across from the Mule Pond side of Airport Road on Borton Landing Road. Their son, Lawson Phyfe was high school age.

Lawson Phyfe's house had a barn with a rope where "The Barn Swing Story" took place-

The kids were all up in the hay loft of the barn. There was a thick rope hanging from the barn ceiling near the loft. The barn door was open. The kids thought they could swing off the loft and out the barn door on the rope then it would just swing back and they would drop off onto the hay floor.

After dares of who would go first, Barbara Kemp volunteered. She swung off the loft and out the doorway, but to her surprise, when the rope and doorway top met, it whipped her up into the air then she came back down faster! We are not sure, but it is doubtful that anyone else tried it after.

## The RCA area, now Lockheed Martin-

The land was partly Aubrey Walton's farm on Marne Hwy., and partly Charles Collins farm on Borton Landing Road. Also the Wilkins on Hartford Road sold some land to RCA. Aubrey Walton grew asparagus. Mr. Collins had apple, peach, and cherry orchards on Borton Landing Road, and his portion of the RCA area was used for crops and had a pond for work mules to drink from.

The RCA asparagus area was on the Walton farm. Collins, besides corn, did grow some asparagus and also tomatoes and potatoes.

Where Lockheed Martin now stands used to be an asparagus field in the spring and to the west was a corn field in the summer and a pumpkin patch in the fall. A home stood in the middle of where L.M. is today on Borton Landing Rd. A black family lived there. -Dolores Kemp

Charlie Collins owned the property where Lockheed Martin is today and I can remember them farming the asparagus fields across from the farm with a team of mules pulling a wagon while the migrant workers cut the asparagus. -Dottie Allen

From William Kingston's book "Moorestown's Third Century: The Quaker Legacy"-  
RCA purchased 400 acres of land in the triangle formed by Marne Highway and Borton Landing Road. Much of this land had been owned by Aubrey Walton and Charles Collins, both Quaker farmers.

## RCA-



Photo from the Burlington County Times Dec. 7, 2003



From the April 17, 1952 News

Chronicle- RCA Granted Building O.K.

for two interconnected, masonry constructed buildings to house an engineering development unit for radar research for the U.S. army. RCA petitioned the township committee last week for permission to build.

The new establishment to be constructed north of Marne Highway and east of Borton Landing Rd., would presumably bring a staff of some 500 engineers, technicians, and clerical workers to Moorestown.



Photo from the Burlington County Times Dec. 7, 2003

Today the RCA plant has been greatly added onto and has changed names several times. The RCA plant became General Electric in 1986, then Martin Marietta in 1993. Two years later Lockheed purchased Martin Marietta prompting the name to be changed to Lockheed Martin. In the 1970s the "Golf Ball" radar dome system was replaced by the Aegis Weapon System nicknamed the "Cruiser in the Cornfield."



## Salem Road-

This small section of road is a part of the original Salem Road from Burlington to Salem made by the Quakers. It later was renamed the Kings Highway and Moorestown's Main Street was a section of it as well. The area's section of it was for a time called Page Road. This was due to Page's School once being on it.



Part of the Old Salem Road map from the "Moorestown And Her Neighbors" book

Here is a quote from George DeCou's 1929 book "Moorestown And Her Neighbors"-

On the Old Salem Road-

Starting from an old landing on Rancocas Creek on or near the line between the Townships of Chester (now Moorestown) and Delran, from thence the road crossed the farm belonging to the heirs of Paul Heaton, went a little south of the residence of James McElwee (now Fred Peterson) and Enoch Dudley (now Hansel Lippincott) crossed Hartford Road and followed the Road by Page's School House (sometimes called Poplar Grove School House) now a tenant house on the farm, owned by the New Jersey Orchards' Association, to the end of Josiah Pancoast's farm (now owned by Lester Collins) thence on nearly a straight line to the toll gate on the Mount Holly Road, thence its general course was where the road now runs passing through Moorestown.

The neighborhood where the road turns sharply to the west near the Borton Landing Road was known as the North Bend until quite recently.

### **School Bus Driver for the Area-**

Tom Bartello was the school bus driver and also did janitor work. He had a niece named Barbara. The Bartello brothers owned the brick row houses that were on 3rd St in Moorestown, razed about 2004. Barbara lived there.

### **Shockley-**

Black family, 6 or 8, on Airport Rd near Borton Landing Rd. across from Mule Pond in area with Mrs. Weaver.

Ernest Shockley worked for Charles Collins.

### **Siebke-**

Mr. Siebke lived in a tenant home on Airport Road which was torn down. It was near the water tower. (Mr. Winner has a brick rancher there now.)

## Stickney-



Al Stickney's Watch Goat

Stanley E. Stickney and Kate G. Stickney his wife took title to their property on October 5, 1944 (just 2 days before the Kemps) under deed book 977, page 302 at the County Clerk's office in Mount Holly. The land was 3 68/100 acres and in 1947 and 1949 they bought more land.

The Stickneys would come to own various lots off Borton Landing Road mostly between the Allen's farm and the Test's farm. At one time they owned the Miller land and wanted to give it away to the Kemp, Burns, and Soos just so that they wouldn't be taxed for it. They only wanted an easement use of it.

Stanley and Kate's children are Al, Fred, Nancy, and Sue.





Al Stickney in 2005

The Stickneys came from Lenola. Al farmed some with his father Stanley. They grew tomatoes, and sweet corn. The land, when they bought it, came with the orchard trees. They had apples, plums, and two kinds of cherry trees. Ox heart and yellowish cherries. They were covered with poison ivy.

Al would use the tractor and plow various neighbors' vegetable gardens around Easter each year. One time when plowing Mr. Kemp's field the tractor got stuck in a hole which turned out to be an unfilled in old outhouse hole!

Al later bought Ralph McNeal's house and lived there for a while.

## **Stinky The 350 Pound Hog Apprehended-**

From The News Chronicle

November 13, 1958-

350-Pound Boar To Roam No More (Police are Hoping)

A 350-pound boar hog, which police wish never had come to town, will stay in an improvised Moorestown "jail" until its owner can make a secure pen for it.

The roaming of "Stinky" (police nickname); was stopped after a two-hour battle Tuesday morning, and police hope he never visits here again.

"Stinky" caused considerable consternation as police in surrounding towns tried to trap him for several days....

On Tuesday, local police got their chance to outclass their neighboring badge wearers when Mrs. W.H. Allen, Borton Landing Road, called in at 10:30 am, to say that "Stinky" had arrived.

Prepared for the Battle of the Bulge (all 350 pounds of it) Chief Frank T. Walters, Lt. Harold Eibye and Officer David Robertson rushed to the Allen farm. "Stinky" was, phew! still there.

Enlisting the aid of Walter and Mrs. Allen, Charlie Lott, and a couple hundred feet of rope, the valiant upholder of the public domain held their noses and tried to trap and hogtie the hog for two hours.

At one point "Stinky" had one man holding his ears, another on his back, and two hanging onto ropes.

Finally and thankfully, the hog was subdued after about 200 feet of rope was wrapped around him. It took the winch on Lott's tow truck to lift "Stinky" onto a pickup truck in which the hog was transported to the Lawrenceson farm (Green Glen) on North Lenola Road for "incarceration." He'll stay there until his owner Jessie Everett, Philadelphia, gets "Stinky's" pen repaired. The pen is on land in Cinnaminson which Mr. Everett owns.

## The Stone Outbuilding-



Old ice or spring house in 2005

There is a small stone outbuilding in a field on Westfield Road. It was probably an ice house. Some common outbuildings besides stables and barns were ice houses, smoke houses, spring houses, carriage houses, and corn cribs.

Who lived in the farmhouse by Swedes Run stream where only a lonely small stone building stands? -Doris Stow

There was a large yellow house near where that stone barn was. The stone barn was to the right of it. The house was always empty. Barbara and Joan always considered going closer to it but got scared that police would come and see them at it and didn't. Later someone tore down the big yellow house that was always empty. -Barbara Kemp

That stone barn is on the old Benner farm. Before he died, Mr. Benner sold 90 plus acres to the township and the land and barn are now Open Space in perpetuity. The township wanted to tear down the barn but they were persuaded to consider other options. -Moorestown Historical Society

The Benner family owned a lumber business and the farmland on Airport Road. Aubrey Walton grew tomatoes on their land and sold them to the Campbell Soup Company. The Benner son tore down the tenant houses on the land. - Al Stickney

### **Spring Houses-**

Spring houses were small, enclosed one room buildings used before the days of refrigeration to keep food cool. Under the best of circumstances they were built over a spring and the cold water bubbling up would cool the interior. Otherwise a small stream was diverted from a nearby creek and ran through the building. The cold water running through the spring house kept the interior of the enclosed building cool.



## Sooy-



The Sooy house in 2005

George Sooy and Rachael L. Sooy his wife  
took title to their property Sept 13, 1946  
under deed book 1012, page 467 at the County Clerk's office in Mount Holly. They  
lived on the corner of the lane of the Test farm help houses on Airport Road.

## Swanger-

One of the houses on the triangle was Swangers that Perry (Pap) Swanger and H.J.  
Williams lived in. Mrs. Weaver was on the triangle at the same time as the Swangers.  
Charlie Collins brought the family there from Chester to pick beans.

After this, Pap and Joe (sons) came to live with the Allens to help get rid of the apple  
trees. They stayed with them until they went into the Korean war and came back. Pap  
lives in Lewisburg Pa and Joe or Howard J. Williams lives in Ft, Pierce Fl. Swangers had a  
girl about 13 and another son Harry 11 yrs. old.

## Stow-



The Stow house in 2004 moved and enlarged is seen at  
"Table Tops at Lippincott's" open house

The house was one of the original farmhouses of the area. Josiah Lippincott (1769-1859) married Miriam Slim in 1790. In 1818 he purchased 103 acres from Benjamin Hollinshead, executor for the estate of Benjamin Hackney. In 1819, Josiah and his wife built a 5 bay farmhouse on Westfield Rd. Later the Moorestown Airport was across from it.

Joseph and Ginny Stow bought the house and farmland of 27 acres in 1953 from the Fagan family. Joseph and Ginny bought the house because Joseph was an airline pilot and it was near the Moorestown Airport. Their children are Calvin, Doris, and Scott. The two sons became pilots and Doris is a 4 H horse group leader now for 33 years.

They had private horse pastures for the family horses but rented the farm land out to Hartford Road to Mr. Pew to farm. He grew straw. They later sold 12 acres of their land to the Joshire housing developer.

When the 1958 storm (or Hazel in 1954 which also hit the area) came through it destroyed the back half of their horse barn.

Today a nursing home is about where the Stow house was. The old farm house was moved across the street and incorporated into a new larger house.

## Test Farm-

The house was the original farm house for the section of the Kemp, Burns, and Sooy houses. It was mostly a brick house. It had on the grounds an old smoke house which was no longer used and a thick stone foundation of a barn that was long since gone.

W. Roger Test and Flora Test his wife  
took title to their property on December 19, 1941  
under deed book 943, page 33 at the County Clerk's office in Mount Holly.  
They paid \$7000 dollars for 50 55/100 acres.  
The deed mentions a proposed street named "Linden Street."

According to Al Stickney, Roger Test's father's farm was on the road that goes off Airport Road across from the old Airport buildings still there.

The Test family were Quakers. Roger Penn Test and his wife was Flora. Their son Billy was named William Penn Test. Their daughter was Jo Ann Test. The parents, but not the children, talked in "Thees" and "Thous." It sounded "a bit too religious and high society like" to the neighborhood kids, but the Tests were nice people. They would send the neighbors a Christmas card each year in which there was a photo of horses or the like that they took and the card was done up elaborately and to the poorer Kemp family the cards were very impressive. They also had a live in Nanny and in the past Betty Kemp and Nellie Burns did house maid work for them.

The Test farm grew corn and some tomatoes but they were teachers. She? (or he?) I think she taught maybe music at Haddonfield. Their friends who would come to visit were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas. Mr. Thomas taught history, and was a football coach. Mrs. Thomas taught gym, health, and swimming. They both taught at Moorestown public school.

The old barn foundation on their property was used to help make a built in swimming pool. When the cement truck poured the pool, they used the barn foundation for the pool walls. Barbara and Joan Kemp would call daily to go swim in the Test pool. There was not a lot to do at the Kemp house. It was sparse. For swimming times they would in turn do weeding for Mrs. Test. Mrs. Test would watch them swim for an hour. Mrs. Thomas would come over and teach the kids to swim. Later when they joined the swim team at Moorestown High School, to their surprise, Mrs. Thomas was the Swimming Coach! Barbara made the varsity swim team while only in her freshman year in 1957.

Upstairs in the Test house was an apartment rented by Bill Tippet and Marge his wife. After they had a child they moved. Mr. Tippet was an artist who taught students above

the old Police Station (town hall? on Main St) At one time he had an art exhibit at the Moorestown Mall.

From The Moorestown News-

Jan 17, 1940-

Flora Campbell Test

directs musical comedy "In Old Vienna" at Moorestown Friends School auditorium.

The Test farm house was later owned by the Kalmbach family. It has been razed. A housing development is now on the land.

(2010 Note- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas would bicycle over to the Test family's house to visit.)

## **Thomas' Thornewood Farm-**

From The News Chronicle

Nov. 3, 1949

Mrs. Louis A. Thomas of "Thornewood Farm." Airport Road entertained an afternoon tea on Wednesday of this week. Mrs. Thomas, before her marriage was Miss. Grace Martin, of Chicago, and is a widely known artist.

## **Tornado of July 14, 1958-**

From the The News Chronicle July 17, 1958- (some paragraphs only)

Tornado Rips into Homes, Levels Sheds and Rips up Trees Along Mile-Long Stretch of Tom Brown Road

below a photo-

The rubble of a former two-story chicken house on the Flying Feather Farm, Bridgeboro and Tom Brown Roads, leaves a vivid reminder of the tornado. About 1,400 chickens were in the buildings, hundreds of which were buried in the debris. John Boenitsch, Sr., father of the owner left the building minutes before it was hit.

Tornado Hits Moorestown, Rips Houses, Farm Building-

A humming, twisting, violent tornado danced back and forth across a mile long stretch of Tom Brown Road Monday afternoon, uprooting trees, ripping parts off houses and carrying several hundred chickens to eternity.

The twister, striking this area about 3:45 pm after causing havoc in Pennsauken. A tree was uprooted in the MaCaham yard, Frank Webster of Tom Brown Rd had his front porch ripped off.

According to the U.S. Weather Bureau in Trenton the base of the funnel was about 25 feet wide. (Mr. Boenitsch estimated it at 30 to 40 feet.)



Mrs. Joseph S. Wells of Tom Brown Road, said it went between her home and the home of George Holyard without touching them. She said the twister looked like a black cloud of smoke.

Hit hardest was the Flying Feather Farm, Tom Brown and Bridgeboro Roads, owned by John Boenitsch, Jr. About 1,400 chickens were trapped in a two-story building which was knocked flat by the ripping winds. At least several hundred were either carried off by the wind or died under the debris.

An Ad like square says-

## July 1958

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

John Boenitsch, Jr.  
of Flying Feather Farm  
wishes to thank  
Moorestown Firemen  
and all other persons  
who gave their assistance  
in rounding up chickens  
and clearing debris after  
the damage done to his property  
during Monday's severe storm.

## Trash Collection-

There was no trash pick-up for the area. You burned it in a fenced in area.

## Tyson-

Chester J. Tyson Jr. and Charlotte W. Tyson his wife  
took title to their property on September 13, 1948  
under deed book 1051, page 435 at the County Clerk's office in Mount Holly.  
They bought the one acre of land from Joseph W. Horne and it included a one story  
bungalow.

Chester, or "Chet" as he was called, worked for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and  
traveled for his job, even to other countries. He would be away sometimes for a month.  
The Tyson's children are "Buddy", Nan, and Dick, who is a minister today. In 9th grade  
they would be sent to the George School.

(There is today a George School which is a Quaker, coeducational boarding and day



school, for grades nine through twelve, located in Newtown, Pa. This might be the same school which may have been in N.J. back then.)

From the December 14, 1950 News Chronicle-  
Chester J. Tyson Jr.

State Director Farmers Home Administration

The short article referred to storm damages and mentions that loans are available for farmers to rebuild houses in NJ.

## **Villecco Farm-**

The Villecco farm was off Route #38 on the south side, on Walton Lane in Mount Laurel. When 295 came through it didn't take their land but the road going to the house so then you needed to take another route to get there. Today it is just a group of trees and the house and farm is no longer there.

The Villecco farm grew corn, peppers, and sweet potatoes in winter. It was a "truck farm." They didn't deal with Campbell Soup Co. but sold to North Jersey and to hucksters who would take it to stores in Camden to sell. Farms nearby them were Votta on Rt. 38 who farmed like the Villeccos but grew tomatoes and sold to Campbells Soup, and Haines.

Marco and Rose Villecco raised 9 children: Tony, Helen, Vincent, Jean, Nancy, Joseph, Martha (2nd), Dominic, John. Another daughter Martha died when a year old.

One day Betty Kemp went to get the Sunday paper at Mariani's Store for her father and Tony Villecco was eating a piece of pie with a coffee at the counter. This was how they first met each other.

Tony Villecco married Betty Kemp. Tony Villecco worked for the Campbell Soup Co. and him and Betty moved to Camden, NJ. Vincent Villecco opened a Menu Printing Company on the south side of Route 38 down further called Villecco Menus. The business is still run today by his family.

(January 2007 note- According to Vincent Villecco's family at Villecco Menus, the Villecco farm did do business with the Campbell Soup Co.)



A 1961 Kemp family picnic photo shows son-in-law Tony Villecco seated at right.

## Aubrey Walton-



The Aubrey Walton Farm house in 2005

The house directly across from RCA on Marne Highway was owned by Aubrey Walton. In J.D. Scott's 1876 Atlas it is listed as the Mrs. Mary Walton house. Aubrey Walton Jr.'s house was on the hill near the R.R. crossing overpass on Marne Hwy. on the left (RCA) side. It was later moved to Main Street near Dolly's when the land was sold to RCA.

The Waltons farmed the RCA area, which most of was their property, and also the Benner farmland on Airport Road. The asparagus field, where RCA was later built, belonged to the Waltons. The lower wetter land where corn and pumpkins were grown was probably part of the Charles Collins' farm. Collins did grow asparagus too though.

The asparagus rows were spaced 5 feet apart. Mule teams did not work on the asparagus cart. One mule walked down the space between the rows with the cart's wheels straddling the outside of the rows. The workers cut it every day and had it set it out in bunches to be picked up. Wooden boxes were in the carts and were filled by workers and taken to a packing house.

On the Benner's land on Airport Road, the Waltons grew tomatoes for the Campbell Soup Company.

-The above Walton information is from Al Stickney.

Later people to live at the Aubrey Walton house were the Dowlers (sp?), and the Gallaghers.

## **Mrs. Weaver-**

Next to the McNeals and before the Hargroves house was a dirt lane that lead back to a really sweet black woman's house Mrs Weaver whose husband was incapacitated for a long time, so I don't remember him. My mother tells me that Mrs Weaver said that her parents and her husband's parents were slaves and that the Quakers brought them to this area. She lived right by the stream that used to be spring fed but now is mostly fed by water from Lockheed Martin's parking lots. She *previously lived in* a house on the triangle that is Salem, Borton Landing, and Westfield... That house has since been demolished too. -Dottie Allen

She lived on the point of Borton Landing Rd. and the little side road in a two story house near the Shockleys. Both houses are no longer there. She was a black lady who wore a straw hat and denim overalls and flannel shirts and smoked a pipe. She was a very nice lady. She worked for Collins. That is where she lived when I lived at the Kemp house. Later, when Barbara grew up she lived at another house nearby.

-Dolores Kemp

## **Bill Wilkins Farm-**

The farm was on Hartford Road near the Aegis ship. They also owned the Camden Motor Truck Co. and sold GMC trucks. They grew potatoes. His son Bert did the farming, and his son Bill ran the trucking company. -Al Stickney

## **Wing-**

In 1953, Mrs. Constance C. Wing of Borton Landing Rd. became associated with the real estate firm of Mary M. Herbst.

Hilda Wing was valedictorian at Moorestown High School. She had 2 older brothers and a younger sister. The Wings had a pool.



## Winner Farm-



The Winner Farm house in 2001

The following is quoted from Allison McGuigan's (daughter of Dottie Allen) Power Point presentation report she gave in high school in 2001 called "The Demise of Moorestown Farms: Who are the farmers? and Why are they selling?" The references to photos are of the Power Point show's slides. Only a few of the photos are shown here. (2007 Note- Bob Winner was the second generation to run the Winner farm. Actually during the 1940s to 1950s it was started, owned, and run by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Winner, his parents.)

The Winner Farm, called Pleasant Acres is owned by Bob and Sue Winner. It is located on Centerton Road at the corner of Hartford Road. It is just across the way from the flourishing Laurel Creek development, and is bordered on its southeast side by I-295. The Winners own 87 acres, but they are given the ability to farm by the 200 acres they rent from Lockheed Martin and Toll Brothers. The land is currently under contract to be sold to Toll Brothers, but as of yet the sale is not final.

This is an aerial view taken in 2001 of the Winner property. The perpendicular roads are Hartford and Centerton. As you can see the farmhouse and surrounding buildings are on Centerton. To the southeast is I-295. To the northwest, you can see a small glimpse of some Laurel Creek homes. The land was bought by the Winner family in 1949. Before it became

a dairy farm in the 1940's, it used to be a vegetable farm. Today, the Winners own 350 dairy cows, including all of the young calves.



Winner Farm cows in 2001

This is a view of the side of the farm from Centerton. While the view of cattle is aesthetically pleasing, many of the neighbors complain about the unpleasant smell of manure and the noise and dust created by farm equipment.

The sign leading into the farm's driveway reads, "Pleasant Acres Dairy Farm," and "The Winner Family." This is the farmhouse where the Winners live. At some Town Council meetings, town officials discussed preserving the farmhouse amidst the office complex. It was suggested that it become either a meeting center or a bed & breakfast.

Here is the house of their farmhand, Kenny Carlisle. Their house is just behind the Winner's, so it's not a long commute when the work starts at 3 o'clock every morning. Farms require extremely dedicated farmhands. Animals need to be cared for through sickness, blizzards, and extreme heat. Everything needs to be right on schedule when they are fed, when they are milked, and when they are put out to pasture. Cows are creatures of routine.





Winner Farm cows being milked in 2001

The cows line up twice a day to be milked, walk into the milking room, rotate into position, and get hooked up to the milking machines.

This is one of the Winners' farmhands sanitizing and attaching the milk machine. Each day, about 10,000 pounds of milk are exported from Pleasant Acres. This number does not include the milk used to feed calves.

From the farmhouse looking toward Hartford Road, you can see the AEGIS center, looking very out of place amidst grazing cattle. From the same spot looking toward Centerton, you can see the Laurel Creek carriage homes just across the road, dotting the landscape which was once the Moriuchi apple orchards.

In an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Winner, I asked them what challenges are faced by farmers in Moorestown. There is a major conflict of lifestyles between the homeowners of suburbia and the farmers there. The complaints from neighbors are never-ending. The Winners have been reported to both the police and the Board of Health concerning the smell of the cattle. "You get tired of educating people all the time," said Mr. Winner. Mrs. Winner added, "You always feel like you're defending yourself." They say people can't stand slow-moving farming equipment and often try to pass tractors illegally and dangerously when on public roads. With overbearing

regulations, lack of mechanical suppliers, and exhausting neighbors, the life of a farmer is made very difficult.

When I asked Mrs. Winner about the future of Pleasant Acres, she gave me a distressed answer. "The future of the farm is in question," she said, "we are very anxious to retire. Mr. Winner has been getting up at 3:30 in the morning for 32 years and he is very ready to do something else with his life." "We had hoped not to have to farm through another winter." She urges everyone to carefully examine what has transpired between the township and Toll Brothers. Do not believe everything you read or hear. In observing this issue, she says, think about whether the property owners' rights have been preserved. "We just wanted to sell the farm and retire," she said innocently, but then added, "Will your neighbors be allowed to vote on the future of your property?"

The program's 2003 update stated that the Winners were no longer in a contract with Toll Brothers, and that they sold their dairy cows and were retiring.

## **Workman-**

They were on the Hartford Road almost across from the Wilkins Farm. E.O. Workman had a trucking company. His son Bob had the Workman's Bicycle Shop near Ollivier's store on Main Street. -Al Stickney

## **Yingst Farm-**

Dale and Edith Yingst lived on Borton Landing Rd. on the left side after crossing the railroad tracks. Their only child was Eva (adopted). They had at least 2 horses, and a variety of other farm animals. (Their house is gone now). Dale worked for Naval Aviation in Philadelphia. The farm wasn't his occupation but was for spare time ventures.

Dale was a "dreamer" and would try different things to find what would work. The ventures were in spurts. They tried chickens for 5 years, horses for a while, raising calves to sell at auctions.

They grew some crops just for their own use such as tomatoes and corn and grew hay for the horses. It was a 5 acre (500 tree) peach orchard when they bought it.

Eva married Jerry Plevyak and lived in Maple Shade for many years.



# **From The Moorestown Township Directory November 1958**

of which the Moorestown Historical Society owns a copy.

(o) denotes ownership of residence, There is a note that apologizes for inaccuracies (There are some).

## **Airport Road-**

Providencia Martinez 1  
Jaime Rosado 3  
George Sooy (o) 2  
C.L. Slimm 2  
Mrs. Mary J. Simmons 2  
Arthur Kemp 4  
Joseph J. Burns (o) 3  
L. Earl Cunerd (o) 2  
Cecil Adderley 3  
Fred Hercher (o) 1,  
Elton S. Hercher 1  
Augustan A. Mayer 6  
Milton Hunter 4  
Onofrio A. Duvo (o) 4  
Angelo Duva 2  
William Siebke (o) 1  
Joseph W. Stow (o) 5  
Florence Stow 1  
Moorestown Airport  
Airport Lunch Room  
John N. Wigmore (o) 9  
Wigmore Nurseries

## **Borton Landing Road-**

Sam Belluso (o) 3  
Frank Illacqua (o) 4  
Mrs. Eva Royce 3  
Edwin W. Weaver 2

Mrs. Dale Yingst (o) 1  
Sara McNeil 1  
Ralph A. McNeil (o) 3  
G.E. Gullo (o) 3  
James R. Claywell (o) 3  
Miss Nan Stickney (o) 1  
Raymond Goulet (o) 2  
William H. Hargrove 5  
Walter H. Allen (o) 4  
E. Byron Nichols Jr. 2  
W. Roger Test (o) 4  
Charles H. Wing (o) 4  
Chester J. Tyson Jr. (o) 5  
James Carter 2  
James D. Phyfe (o) 2  
Lawson M. Phyfe 2  
Orlo R. Strunk 2  
August Pape 2  
Mrs. Fannie Hancock 1  
Fred J. Johnson 3  
Jerman G. Smith 2  
Albert Brittonham 2  
Elsie Massey 1  
Donald Corsey 1  
Lewis Parrish 8  
James DeBolt 3  
Theo. Krulikowski 4  
Arthur A. Zoerner (o) 6  
Mrs. Mary E. Jones 1  
Clarence Jones (o) 3  
Horace C. Watson (o) 2  
Harry Dreyer 4  
E.D. Aber, Sr. (o) 1  
Robert J. Kiesling (o) 2

## **Bridgeboro Road (Partial)-**

Gordon C. Miller (o) 1  
Kingdom Hall Church  
Harold M Paul (o) 2  
John Boenitsch (o) 4

Flying Feather Farm  
C. Gilbert Frost (o) 2  
Charles A. Frost 1  
Pearce Seed Co.  
George E. Law (o) 4  
Gustav Schoepp (o) 2  
Willard F. Jester (o) 4  
Ira J. Bingham (o) 4  
W.L. Trautman (o) 2  
Leon R. Wack (o) 3  
Maurice P. Klein (o) 6  
Mrs. Alice Urban 1  
Dr. J.T. Zurbrugg (o) 3  
James E. Banks (o) 3  
Mrs. Bertha Gromada (o)  
Frank Singley (o) 3  
Robert Skilton (o) 2  
David H. Davis (o) 5

## **Centerton Road-**

Herbert R. Culp (o) 5  
Albert P. Stevenson (o) 2  
George Shontz 2  
Maurice B. Winner 5  
Elisha Cooper 1  
George Cooper 1  
John Coper 2  
Preston Still 1  
Albert T. Smith 2  
Elizabeth Sordon 1  
William C. Smith (o) 3

## **Creek Road-**

Walter Kulbeck  
Miss Eva M. Griscom 1  
Adelburt H. Kay (o) 2  
Mrs. Margaret Hilbert 1  
Robert D. Kay (o) 5  
John A. Holzinger (o) 4

John M. Liezbinski (o) 2  
Silas Little (o) 6  
Craig L. Whitman (o) 5  
Earl M. Gardner 1  
Horace Formont (o) 4  
Stanley K. Rader (o) 5  
Fred Bux 8  
Richard Haynes (o) 5  
M. Jos. Bonstead (o) 3  
Frank Frazer (o) 3  
Mrs. James Quinlan 3  
Howard Frazer 1  
Twin Oak Farm

## **Hartford Road-**

Charles L. Walton (o) 5  
Irving Echart 2  
William H. Forbour 2  
Edward O. Workman (o) 2  
John Pew Jr., (o) 5  
John Nixson 2  
Vincent DiMassino (o) 5  
Rocco Darcangelo 1  
Donald Emig 2  
James M. Carson (o) 2  
John H. Carson (o) 3  
Eugene Warrick 10  
John A. Berardy (o) 5  
Howard R. Annis 2  
Marvin Green 5  
Levi L. Walton (o) 1

## **Main St. East Partial (Should be Marne Hwy.)-**

628 Fred Ireland (o) 3  
Main Line Mobil Station  
Atlantic Station  
RCA Finance Department  
Moorestown RCA Plant  
Edward Rynex (o) 5



Henry Baumann (o) 2  
S. Normon 3  
Alexander Massa 2  
Mrs. Lidie Bass 1  
William H. Little (o) 6  
Alfred Dohrn 4  
Clarence Stone 4  
Aubrey Walton Jr. (o) 4  
Aubrey Walton Sr., 2  
Edith Roberts 2  
George Opic  
Mrs. Marie Weakling  
Ronald Reddick 4  
Charles Roberts (o) 4

## **Marter Avenue-**

Edward Calhoun (o) 6  
Joseph Cavallo (o) 4  
Mrs. Jos. Covallo, Jr. 3  
230 Edward W. Brown (o) 8  
306 Edward L. Ollivier (o) 3

## **Page Road-**

Robert C. Brooks (o) 3  
Brooks' Orchards  
Edna Robinson 1  
Lester Schoal 6  
Albert M. Shiverly 2  
Joe L. Russel 5  
Craymon Russell 1

## **Tom Brown Road-**

M. Irene Frost (o) 1  
Josephine J. Frost 1  
Charles N. Updike (o) 2  
Joseph B. Kernan (o) 4  
George J. Holroyd (o) 3  
Joseph S. Wells (o) 4

Robert Holley (o) 4  
Read Perkins (o) 4  
Harold N. Payn (o) 5  
John B. Morrow (o) 4  
Mrs. Olive Cart 1  
Walter F. Johnson (o) 5  
David P. Simonton (o) 3

## **A Few Farm Terms-**

### **Truck Farm-**

Many people share the notion that a 'truck farm' is a farm close enough to urban centers that its produce may be transported by truck to the city. However, there is no connection whatever between truck farms and motor transportation. Long before motor trucks were even dreamed of - at least as far back as 1785 - the word 'truck' was used to mean garden vegetables intended for sale in the markets.

We have here an excellent example of the confusion that can develop from homonyms - words which are identical in spelling and pronunciation but very different in meaning. Often, to unravel the complexities, one has to go back to the root of each word. In this case, the 'truck' that is a vehicle for transporting freight comes from the Greek word 'trochos,' meaning 'wheel.' However, 'truck' meaning originally any commodities for sale and, later, garden produce for market comes from an entirely different root, 'troque,' the Old French word for 'barter.'" From "Morris Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins" by William and Mary Morris (HarperCollins, New York, 1977, 1988).

### **Tenant Farmer-**

Most farmers were probably tenant farmers. Farms relied on 2 types of labor. "Hands" who lived in tenant houses on the farm land and part of their pay equation was their rent to stay there. The other help would be seasonal such as pickers which could be from the area or migrants. There were even migrant worker camps in New Jersey.

Tenant farmers sometimes didn't have full use of their homes. The McCoys had a packing house in the back of their house and when the Kemps tenant farmed in Cinnaminson, Dolores Kemp recalls, the basement was used for a packing house for apples.

## **Project Participants-**

Barbara Kemp Weaver Feaster- Kemp, Test, Miller, and other infos, hand drawn map. Dolores Kemp Rendfrey- Kemp, Mrs. Weaver, Shockley, and other infos, hand drawn map.

Irene McCoy Kemp- McCoy Farm, Charles Collins Farms

Betty Kemp Villecco- Villecco Farm

Bob Burns' family genealogy research- Burns family

Dottie Allen- Allen Farm, Mrs. Weaver, Borton Landing Road residents, and other infos.

Chris Allen- Allen Farm

Allison McGuigan, daughter of Dottie Allen- notes and photos from her Power Point presentation report she gave in high school in 2001 called "The Demise of Moorestown Farms: Who are the farmers? and Why are they selling?"- Allen, Flying Feather, Pew, and Winner farms

Doris Stow Schwering- Stow Farm, Moorestown Airport, and other infos.

Eva Yingst Plevyak- Yingst Farm

Christine Boenitsch Vesaki- Flying Feather Farm

Sandra Boenitsch Loch- Flying Feather Farm

Fred Moriuchi- Moriuchi Orchards Farm

Al Stickney- Stickney Farm, Walton Farm, and other infos, hand drawn map

Arthur Calhoun- Calhoun family

Bernie Rieck, formerly of Bridgeboro- The Golf Ball

Tim Brown, son of Ed Brown- Brown family

H. Roy Collins- Harold Collins' farm and Collins' Airfield (2006 addition to book)

Dennis Weaver, son of Barbara Kemp Weaver- Project Coordinator, researcher

## **Other Sources of Information for this Project-**

Moorestown Chronicle newspapers on microfilm at BCC in Pemberton

The News Chronicle newspapers on microfilm at Moorestown Library

Moorestown Township Directory 1958

Table Tops at Lippincotts pamphlet

Moorestown Airport Dedication Day booklet

A newspaper clip scan (probably BCT) of the history of the Moorestown Airport

The Burlington County Times newspaper December 7, 2003- writeup on 50 years of the RCA/ Lockheed Martin Plant with photos of the Golf Ball and such

Deed books at the Burlington County Clerk's office in Mount Holly

## In Closing-

I visited my Mom in July of the summer of 2005 and we started talking about the old "Kemp stories" and how the Airport Road area was called "Out In The Country." My Mom drew a map showing where houses, orchards, the mule pond, etc... was. About a week later my Aunt Dee and me had a similar day over her house. To my surprise upon visiting her I found out that she had drawn a map and written down notes.

My intrigue came from family get-togethers where the Kemp stories were often told. The "Barn Swing" story that is mentioned in this "booklet" is one of them. The most famous one has got to be the "50 Cents Worth of Candy In The Field" story which I will now tell-

The Kemps lived on a tenant farm in Cinnaminson. A relative came to visit and gave Betty and Dolores 25 cents each or 50 cents. They walked to the store and bought 50 cents worth of penny candy and were eating it from the bag on the way home.

As they got close to home it occurred to them "We can't go home and say we spent 50 cents on candy." So, not even thinking of bugs, they buried the candy in a field so that they could return the next day to get it. When they came back the next day, they found that the farmer had plowed the field.

It has been an honor for me to work on this project and to work with all those involved as I, and you upon reading this, are enriched in learning about their lives. The project started in July of 2005 and ended in early December of 2005. With each person contacted along the way I was encouraged by their reaction to the idea. Each has added.

I apologize for any errors that might be in this research project and I also apologize for having left anyone out. It would have been a great lengthy work to contact everyone. A few people that haven't shared information I attempted to contact.  
HAPPY 50 YEARS FLYING FEATHER FARM.

-Dennis Weaver



On December 4, 2005 about 12 copies of this booklet were printed. Various spelling errors and a few mistaken informations were found afterward and corrected and some additional material was added. Two more were then printed and one given to the Moorestown Library. Still there was found about 3 or 4 errors and they have since been corrected.

**The Moorestown Library and the Moorestown Historical Society  
will have a copy of this booklet.**

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## **Now in PDF format for distribution!**

The PDF format of this booklet was made on December 30, 2006, so now more copies, in this more write protected form, can now be distributed without the high printing cost involved. The entire cd of PDFs can be copied and given away but not sold.  
Copyright- Dennis Weaver

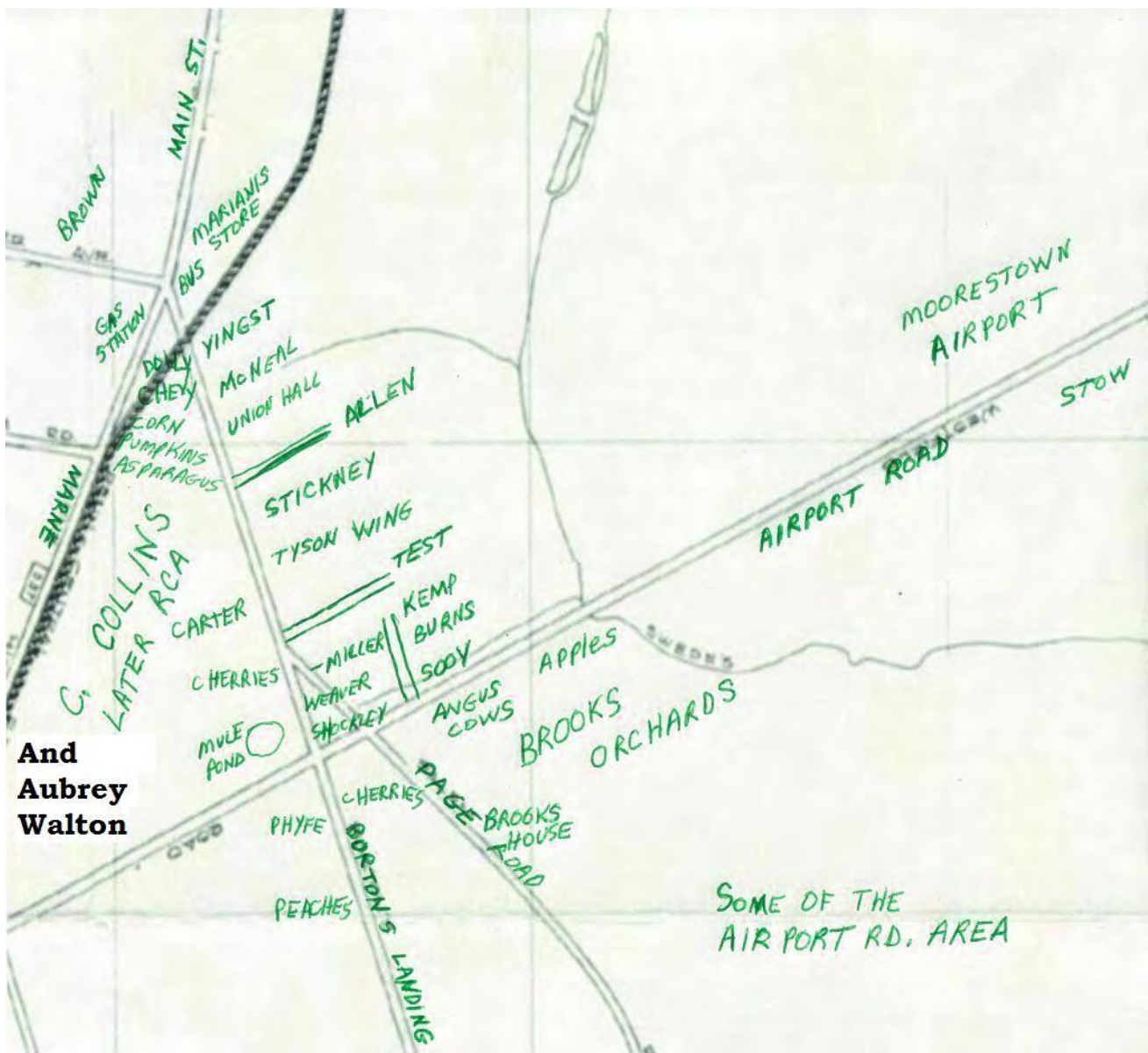
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## **February 2010 Changes-**

On Feb. 11, 2010, I completed a sequel to the "Moorestown- Out In The Country" book, called "Back To The Country." After distributing about 10 copies on cd discs, someone informed me that throughout the book, the word "hangar" was misspelled "hanger." So I decided to edit BOTH projects. Many spelling errors are now corrected. About 3 sentences were changed or added.

Dennis Lee Weaver

Feb. 13, 2010



**And  
Aubrey  
Walton**

SOME OF THE  
AIRPORT RD. AREA



# Air show opened club's new airfield

"Airman met airman, airplane competed with airplane ... and withal the Burlington County public witnessed a two-day aerial spectacle."

—Mount Holly Herald  
Oct. 19, 1928

By Nancy Bowker  
Special to the Times

The great Moorestown Air Meet was held Oct. 13 and 14, 1928, and history was in the making.

The Burlington County Aero Club was dedicating their new Moorestown Airport — the first in the county — with a program of air races and breath-taking stunts.

It was the largest demonstration of its kind and a reported 25,000 people flocked to the airport on Westfield Road. The thrill of flying captivated the hearts and imaginations of many who watched the daring pilots race and soar.

There were airplane races, formation and stunt flying, parachute drops and short airplane rides for the public. At least 50 different airplanes from all over the east coast were on display at the edges of the flying field.

The famous pilot who conquered the Pacific, Martin Jensen, was there. He had flown in his monoplane, the Aloha, from Los Angeles to Hawaii, the previous year.

At the Moorestown Air Meet he gave passengers rides roundtrip to Lakehurst. At Lakehurst, the chief attraction was the German dirigible "Graf Zeppelin," which was a marvel of its time.

Dirigibles were the world's first passenger-service lines, originally built and designed by Count Zeppelin in Germany.

The Mount Holly Herald of Oct. 19, 1928, includes this account of the trip:

"The Aloha's windows presented a marvelous panorama of autumn's pigments unseen by less hardy travelers who clung to the earth. Both ends of the Aloha's route seemed to show a concentrated collection of the motoring world. Masses of shiny black objects dotted the edges of both the Lakehurst airport and its sister field at Moorestown."

The event was, by all standards a flying success. The Burlington County Aero Club, organized January 1928, sprang from its founders' enthusiasm for flying. In the late 1920's, aviation was in its "Golden Age."

Inspired by spectacular flights such as Charles Lindbergh's flight to Paris, the polar expedition of George Wilkins, and the success of the Graf Zeppelin, many were filled with the burning desire to take to the sky in their own chariots of the air.

The new Aero Club, headed by president H.H. Longaker, grew at a rapid



Photos from original 1928 Aero Club program

Aero Club charter officers Roger Gale and William DeR. French, the first club members to fly solo and "buy their own ships."

## COUNTY ALBUM

pace. Membership increased with every meeting.

In February, two women members were welcomed to the club.

By April, the 50-acre airport was acquired. Soon, two WACO-10 biplanes with 8-cylinder, 90 hsp. motors were purchased and a metal hangar was erected. Lt. Ed Pennock was hired as chief pilot and instructor.

Lessons in flying the three membership categories were offered. On weekends, short hops over Moorestown were given for a small fee.

What happened to the Aero Club after such a glorious beginning?

A former flight instructor at the Moorestown Airport, pilot Joe Hettel, recalled: "The Depression came and that was the end of it."

The airfield eventually was overtaken by pumpkins until Les Marshall reopened and operated the airport until World War Two.

Hettel recalled Marshall's wife running the restaurant there. He also had memories of Martin Jensen and the Aloha, noting that Jensen continued to write to him for many years.

Marshall was a crane operator for The Camden Lime Company, owned by the Hineline family. Richard Hineline remembered that Les Marshall was always talking about the airport, which he called the Marshall Flying Service.

After the war, Marshall needed funds to keep the airport going so the Hineline's became partners in the business. Together they ran the GI Bill of

Rights flying school with about 100 flying students enrolled.

Hineline recalled that celebrity Arthur Godfrey landed there one day. He made a phone call to New York and left a dime in the phone booth. Marshall mailed it to him and Godfrey wrote back saying that he finally had met "an honest airport operator."

In the 1950's the airport was sold to the Ravikios.

Blase Ravikio said, "It was a thriving airport at that time. Paul Schirmer operated the place. The airport went on for quite a while. There was a need for it. A lot of people kept their planes there for it was the closest airport to Camden."

Pilot Ed Callahan said, "You had to be a skillful pilot to fly in there. The runaways were short."

Ravikio added: "We wanted to improve it, put in a blacktop strip for landing. But there was a lot of residential development going on. We knew then we couldn't make it a first-class airport."

Then the township built its high school right in the path of the airstrip. Finally in the early 1970s "we just closed it up," Ravikio said. "It was the second oldest airport in New Jersey."

The Moorestown Airport became a thing of the past. Today, homes occupy part of the land. A few old buildings remain as testimony that at one time this ground was a haven for those daring young men and women in their flying machines.

Nancy Bowker is a Moorestown history buff, freelance writer. Special thanks to Joe Hettel, Ed Callahan, Blase Ravikio, Richard Hineline, Allison Yox Deborah Peters and the Moorestown Office of Community Development.





# **Back To The Country**



**A Sequel to  
Moorestown- Out In The Country,  
The 1940s & 1950s Airport Road Area**

Copyright 2010- Dennis Lee Weaver



This report, "Back To The Country" is a sequel to "Moorestown- Out In The Country: The 1940s & 1950s Airport Road Area" booklet. It contains some oral histories and information obtained since the first work, and some that wasn't included, which I thought perhaps should have been. There is also some historical reflections of mine.

-Dennis Lee Weaver,

Feb. 14, 2010

## Airplane Rides Ad from the Moorestown Chronicle-

★ ★ ★ **FLY** In this Giant **Tri-Motor** **AIRLINER** ★ ★ ★  
SEE THE REAL BEAUTY OF BURLINGTON COUNTY FROM THE SKY IN ONE OF AMERICA'S LARGEST TRANSPORTS



**MOORESTOWN AIRPORT**  
**JUNE 27th thru JULY 2nd**  
— COST \$52,600 — METAL CONSTRUCTION — 8,600 POUNDS — THREE  
INDEPENDENT POWER PLANTS! Equipped with all modern conveniences, such  
as lavatory, electric lights, water, heat and hydraulic brakes, to assure luxury and  
comfort. Chief Pilot Capt. H. L. Meeks, a transport pilot with 15 years continuous  
air service and a Government licensed mechanical crew are in command.

**CONROY DRUGS**  
127 West Main St., Moorestown, N. J.  
Telephone 143 for Quick Delivery

**Welcomes the Airliner  
To Make Moorestown  
An Air Center . . .**

**12 MILE  
AIR TOURS**  
**\$1.00**

## Antique Farm Machinery Used-

According to Al Stickney, the Herker family used an old McCormick-Deering Grain Binder on their farm on Airport Road. The daughter, Caroline Herker Mayor died recently.

According to Barbara Kemp, Mr. Test had a corn sheller and would get it out and use it every once in a while. The kids were all to keep a distance from it.

## **Charles Collins Info. from Coles Roberts-**

The Charles Collins' farm(s) was called the Four Winds Farm, as that's a crop duster joke that the wind would blow the spray back at you no matter where you are. The farms were each numbered such as-

One,

Two,

Three,

Four,

Five,

etc...

Besides the ones in Moorestown, he had one on Springdale Road.

His son Allen worked at C.A. Lippincott & Brother, which was at 3rd and Union Streets in Moorestown. (They sold farm and construction machinery such as tractors and corn binders.) Lippincott's would send him on the road to places showing their farm machinery.

Alan Collins was also a race car driver of Indy type cars.

Al Stickney mentioned Alan to me before, saying that he was one of the only people he knew that money didn't change. He said he had plenty of money and didn't need a job, but you could go in Lippincott's and maybe see him sweeping the floor.

## **Deaths-**

Since the making of the "Moorestown- Out In The Country, The 1940s and 1950s Airport Road Area" book, a few years ago, several people have died. Caroline Herker Mayor, Tony Villecco, Arthur Calhoun, and Al Stickney. Through the project I became friends with Al Stickney and sat around his dining room table or over at the stone place "shooting the bull" a bunch of times.



# Erroneous History-

This could denote several things, but I am speaking of wrong conclusions. In Maple Shade there has been a false historical account for decades of the Train Station once being at Stiles Avenue, where the Joseph/ Ben Stiles mansion farmhouse was, and it then being moved to Forklanding Road and renamed "Maple Shade Station" from "Stiles Station."

That makes a lot of sense especially to the "old timers" who remembered the Stiles mansion at Stiles Avenue before it was razed during the Depression.

They were unaware though of how there was, prior to the railroad even being built, a hamlet there called "Stiles Corners" after the several Stiles family farms in the area.

We have this same type of occurrence in the "Moorestown- Out In The Country Area," although I didn't mention it prior.

My Grandfather, Arthur Kemp, lived on Airport Road at the time of the tornado. He still remembered it when most of Moorestown no longer did. He told me over again as a kid how "a tornado went down Bridgeboro Road and made a rut in the road, then turned and went through the Flying Feather Farm chicken house. Nobody ever saw any chickens again, but there was for a while feathers everywhere in the air, so they named the farm Flying Feather Farm." That is about the perfect poetic rendition of things but is filled with errors.

I have heard this wrong story, although less elaborated, from a few other older Moorestown residents who "seen the facts" and "did the math" and that is a way false history gets told.

There is one or two possible errors in "Moorestown- Out In The Country" but more along the lines of one saying "they lived in the white house" and the other saying "No it was the yellow house." And we never know history completely unless all the dirt gets told too, which I have avoided raising. There is a lot about life to salute, which is an underlying current of these texts.

-Dennis

## Golf Ball Article-

If you are interested in the "Golf Ball," there is a good article about it in the July 31, 1969, Moorestown "News Chronicle," on page 12. The Moorestown Library, for one place, should have it on microfilm. You might also enjoy looking up other information on microfilm. The article is a little lengthy to rewrite here.

# The Hangar Fire at Collins' Field-

In "Moorestown- Out In The Country," it was briefly mentioned. The below newspaper article is from a *Maple Shade Progress* of an unknown date-

## Airplanes Burned In Hangar Fire

### Fire At Harold L. Collins' Farm Does \$15,000 Damage

Two airplanes were destroyed in a fire on the farm of Harold L. Collins, on State Highway 38, last Saturday evening. Damage of \$15,000 was reported including the destruction of a quantity of equipment and machinery as well as the airplane hangar.

The planes, both of them two passenger ships, were owned by Ralph M. Collins, who had a Funk, and H. Roy Collins who had a Piper Cub. They were valued at \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

Roy was burned on the right arm and left hand while fighting the blaze before the arrival of firemen, and was taken to Burlington County Hospital, Mt. Holly, by State Trooper M.D. Potash of the Riverton barracks. He was treated and released.

According to the senior Collins the younger men were doing *welding repairs* on one of the planes, setting it ablaze.

As the fire spread rapidly, the two men ran across the highway toward the house shouting loudly. Members of the family heard them call and turned in the alarm while the two men returned to fight the blaze.

Firemen from Masonville, Moorestown, and Fellowship responded and fought the blaze. The flames had spread so fast however, that the place was a total loss.

Collins said that he valued the building at \$7,000 and the machinery and equipment in it at \$3,000.

# Some 1700s and 1800s Historical Houses that were Saved or Lost-

All photos were taken by Dennis Weaver.



## Saved

What I call the "Phyfe House" was saved early on before the start of suburban subdivisions. It was owned by another owner when they were starting to build RCA. The owners at the time and another nearby person didn't sell to RCA. That is why this house remains.

I had a conversation with a recent or current owner there a few years ago. They pointed out what they call "Coffin Doors" on the second floor, back of the house.



## Saved

What I call the "Kemp House" was saved because it was taken off the "Test House" (tore down) either to sell more houses in the post-Depression land sale of the former Lester Collins orchards there, or most probably earlier as a tenant farm worker's house. Arthur Kemp dug out the basement under the house as it didn't have one. This house was part of the John Hollinhead early 1700s house, later Pancoast, and Test, and is of wooden dowel peg and mortise and tenon construction.

## Not Saved-

There was the Brooks Farmhouse, a Lippincott Farmhouse in back of the Moriuchi "Lippincott Farmhouse" which was on the old Salem Road, not the latter Borton's Landing Road, and the John Hollinshead Farmhouse.

These, at least the last two were very old, the John Hollinshead one to be early 1700s. It was a sections built house, parts brick and part frame. The last owners of the house had it torn down saying it would be too costly to repair. This was a time when the Moorestown Appearance Committee was trying to save houses and the Moorestown Historical Society had gotten a Stay of Demolition clause with the Township where people had to wait so many days. Moorestown Historical, if asked by these people would have bent over backwards in efforts to raise the funds to salvage the house, BUT they wanted to do what they did.

Another house that went down later on in 2006 was the Pew Farmhouse. Moorestown Historical found someone to pay the developer, what in my mind was a substantially fair price for it. It was just all about money to the developer and they had to make max. profit I guess and razed it. To me part of the whole "spirit" of Moorestown is the old buildings!



## Saved

What I call the "Lippincott/Stow House" was saved due to the efforts of the Moorestown Historical Society. The house was going to be razed for a senior care facility. The Historical Society asked developer, *Laurel Homes* to move and reuse the house. It was moved across Westfield Road and made into a larger upscale home. The barn from this farmhouse was moved to a property on Main Street, Moorestown by *Paul Canton Custom Homes*.



## Saved

The "Tallman House" was saved due to efforts of the Moorestown Historical Society. It was covered in stucco prior. *Toll Brothers* bought the land and were going to tear it down and the Moorestown Historical Society persuaded them to sell the house on a lot to someone who restored it.





## Saved

Harold Pew's house on/off Westfield Road. This house isn't necessarily a very old house of historical significance, but it is unique in that it has been moved Twice! I think the last place it was prior to its current location was on the Pew farm as a tenant farmer's house.



## Saved

The Stone Outbuilding on the old Benner farmland on Westfield Road. The Township owns the land as "Open Space" and was going to tear it down, but the Moorestown Historical Society persuaded them to reconsider.

There is a few more houses you can consider as "Saved" like the Moriuchi Farmhouse (Still there now), and the Winner Farmhouse, now the Burlington County Agriculture Center, and the Aubrey Walton Farmhouse on Marne highway, now a business. It is so sad several of the best went down. Moorestown Township should also see to preserving what is left as the "Salem Road."

In a related note- The 1754 Asher Woolman brick sections farmhouse on the Rancocas Bypass, near 295 is in need of saving. Too bad this house is not in Moorestown, where the Moorestown Historical Society would help it! The whole Willingboro area was second settled to Burlington and Salem and little remains thanks to the Levitts.

**Visit the Moorestown Historical Society at the Smith - Cadbury Mansion,  
High Street, Moorestown, NJ.**

One of the main items of interest in "Moorestown- Out In The Country," particularly to airplane enthusiasts, was the Moorestown Airport. Also of that area of interest would be the old Central Airport of Camden, NJ. (Really it was in Pennsauken.) Since my mother's sister is Dolores (Kemp) Rendfrey who is related to the Rendfrey family involved in skating rinks, it is an ideal opportunity to tell of how those hangars were used to build the Holiday Skating Center in Delanco.

## How the old Central Airport Hangars in Camden were used to build the Holiday Skating Center in Delanco-

Central Airport, Camden, N. J.







The following information is from a telephone conversation with Ted Rendfrey on Sunday August 30, 2009.

Ted is the son of Ray Rendfrey. Ray died in 1998. Ray had lived on Haines Mill Road. He got involved in going to the Moorestown Airport. He got his pilot's license and would fly with Whitesells. He would do acrobatic things.

He became an airplane mechanic. He worked on planes such as Strawbridge's. A friend was Joe Roberts who lived on Stanwick Avenue.

Ray Rendfrey got a job working at the Central Airport in Camden in the 1930's as an airplane mechanic. He wasn't a skater but his brothers were skaters. He said at the time that "The hangar would make a beautiful roller skating rink."

Ray would take his son Ted flying at Moorestown Airport, and when they flew at night they used kerosene lanterns to mark the runway. They were friends with Joe Roberts and one time missed the runway at 500 HP and steered past into some peach orchards.

The War came and Ray Rendfrey worked at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. After the war, Ray built his first roller skating rink which was in Riverside and it was called the Riverside Roller Drome.

## Central Airport in Camden-

The Central Airport in Camden, N.J. closed in 1957. It didn't have enough room to extend (expand) its runways. It was actually a better airport than the Philadelphia Airport for handling mail quicker. The mail was delivered to it for Philadelphia. (Ted said dates from and to which started early but I didn't get that down.)

From 1957 to around 1960 the hangars were used for small businesses such as a mattress and furniture store. Someone bought it and was planning to put up a GEX Store. This was sort of like a Sam's Club store for Government employees. This was about 1960 and the hangars had to come down to make way for the GEX store. (Now a Kmart is there)

Ray Rendfrey and his partner Frank Dattilio met with the demolition and construction companies. They had a truck which they put RD Wrecking Company written on the side and said they wanted to do it and take the steel to build a skating rink. (Really there was no RD Wrecking Company.) The man in charge of building the GEX store said "Gee that sounds great. I love kids." and gave them a period of 55 days to take the hangars down.

About 1960 Ray Rendfrey, Frank Dattilio, son Ted Rendfrey and a small group of workers started to disassemble the hangars. An interesting thing that happened was a friend of theirs showed up, Terry Middleton, who was still a young man at the time, and climbed to the top of the hangar's roof and did a head stand up there. Ray almost had a stroke!

It was during this time period that the Cherry Hill Mall was being constructed.

Anyhow Ray, Frank, Ted, who was still a teen ager and a few others started dismantling it. The roof was 2 x 6's covered with tar paper. They would later combine both Hangar roofs to make one building- Holiday Skating Center. I didn't ask Ted, but I would think that the way it got its name is because the land he bought off of Rt. 130 on Creek Road is just behind where Holiday Lakes was located.

On land off Rt. 130 they made a large bon fire and burned all the tar paper up! You could not do this today! Police even came by while they were burning it and asked them how it was going and said "good." The huge doors had to come off. They dismantled the building down to a skeleton and hired a crane company to take the steel structures down and to move them. Ted was driving a small tractor which pulled the chimney down, "brick by brick." It stood 50 feet in the air and was near Rt. 130. They then cleaned up the property.



They got the steel, and the man had the buildings down for the store. The hangar parts were laid up for 8 years until Ray and Frank raised enough money to build Holiday Skating Center.

## **Ray's Flying-**

Ray was an aircraft mechanic. He bought a N3N Stearman Double Wing from the Government. It came disassembled in a container when he got it. He would fly it low over the Riverside ballfields for the kids, and do loops over the river. Very interesting because Ray was a quiet man. He had a group of friends who would regularly fly out of the Moorestown Airport.

## **Rendfrey Rinks-**

Ray Rendfrey started with the Riverside Roller Drome, then the Holiday Skating Center. Ray and Frank Dattilio were partners. Frank passed on in 1989 and his family wasn't interested so sold their half of Holiday to Ray's son- Ted Rendfrey. They also had one in Camden.

They opened a skating rink in Cherry Hill, then 3 years later one in Voorhees (Echelon), then 3 years later took over an ice skating rink in N.E. Philadelphia.

Another Rendfrey brother, Fred, according to Dee Rendfrey, had a skating rink at one time in Mt. Holly.

## Positive Outcomes-

Grandmom and Grandpop were very nice people in many ways but as my Mom put it, they were "Halloween challenged." They probably didn't do much of this kind of thing themselves as children. Almost every year with some black stuff on her face and Grandpop's old clothes and a hankerchief on a stick my Mom would be a "bum."

They would trick or treat in town in Moorestown. They would see lots of kids wearing "store bought costumes" and they felt sort of "less then."

So when I was at South Valley School and my Mom heard they had the parade etc.. she made me this outfit "The Computer Teacher of the Future" (Which this photo doesn't do justice to because you must picture the boxes spray painted silver like metal.)

She also made a snowman out of chicken wire covered with paper mache and painted white. Then tufts of crepe paper were glued on. A lampshade with a cardboard rim painted black was the top hat.

This accompanied a few Jaycee Christmas floats in parades in Moorestown and maybe Maple Shade. When the Easter parade came, the snowman got ears put on it and became an Easter Bunny.

Here is a photo taken around 1970 of me as the Christmas gift, my sister Cheryl as a clown, and my Mom, Barbara, in the snowman costume. We had that snowman suit in our attic at S. Church Street, Moorestown for a few years.

-Dennis



**COMPUTER, TEACHER OF THE FUTURE** was third grader Dennis Weaver's choice as students at the South Valley School celebrated Halloween last Thursday.



# The Moorestown Airport Remembered By John Ravikio-

I had a nice talk with John Ravikio at his business, the Ravikio Development Company, at Collins Park across from Strawbridge Lake in Moorestown, on June 26, 2007.

His father Blase Ravikio has died.

Tom Edwards, Herbert Dubois, and Blase Ravikio together purchased the Moorestown Airport from the Camden Lime Co. in August of 1955 for roughly 45,000 dollars. The day they bought it was on Blase's son John's birthday.

Tom Edwards got Blase into the business of building houses. Blase had previously been a dairy farmer. He had about 50 cows. His farm was in the Jobstown area.

The airport, when they bought it contained about 50 acres. 15-16 acres of it are wetland. Paul Schirmer ran the airport for them. A lady named Josey ran the Airport Restaurant.

After the Moorestown High School was built, one run way was closed. Houses were built and another one was closed. Tom Edwards died in 1974 and his family wanted Blase Ravikio to settle and buy his share. John Ravikio became 2/3 owner and Blase 1/3 of all the Moorestown Airport land. By 1977 they closed the Airport. It was the second oldest airport in N.J.

There was a rancher there for Paul Schirmer to live in. Paul Schirmer, after the Moorestown Airport closed, moved to run the Hammonton Airport. Josey's Restaurant building was given to a neighbor and was moved across the street (Westfield Rd.) to become an addition to a house.

The hangar buildings are still there on Westfield Rd.- Soon he must tear down the metal 1928 hangar due to it being so many feet to the county owned road and it has to go. It isn't built with screws but riveted together and has beams measuring 16 x 4 inches. The cinder block hangar could be used for a garage for the home to be built in the near future on that 3 acre lot, but it probably will just be torn down. He lived nearby (John) on a lot with a home he built and his kids used to play in the hangars and he stored trucks etc... there.



## Ravikio Housing Developments-

An early more modestly priced blue collar Blase Ravikio development was built in Mount Holly. Several of the Moorestown, NJ Ravikio developments are Collins Park, Stanwick Glen, and Toll Gate.

Collins Park was the old Pleasant Valley Farm/ Arthur J. Collins Nursery, or at least the last remaining portion thereof. The packing house etc... were torn down and Blase Ravikio built a house on Pleasant Valley Avenue for the Collins'. Arthur J. Collins the Third lives there now.

I got a very nice "Thank You" letter from John Ravikio for giving him a copy of the "Moorestown Out In The Country" book on CD.

-Dennis Weaver

## Deed Showing Ravikio Partners Who Owned the Airport-

**3. Property.** The Property consists of the land and all the buildings and structures on the land in the Township of Moorestown County of Burlington and State of New Jersey. The legal description is:

☒ Please see attached Legal Description annexed hereto and made a part hereof. (Check box if applicable) BEING the same land and premises which became vested in Blase A. Ravikio and Thomas R. Edwards Herbert G. DuBois as Tenants in Common by Deed from Marshall Flying Service, a Corporation of the State of New Jersey dated 8/1/55, recorded 8/3/55 in Deed Book 1841, Page 485.

SAID Thomas R. Edwards died 7/21/67 leaving a Last Will and Testament dated 12/20/62 and probated 8/2/67 in the Office of the Register of Camden County wherein he did, among other things, appoint Elizabeth Jane Edwards the Executrix of his Will.

SAID Elizabeth Jane Edwards, Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Thomas R. Edwards, deceased by Deed dated 12/12/74 and recorded 2/19/75 in Deed Book 1908, Page 350 conveyed the one-third interest of Thomas R. Edwards to John B. Ravikio and Gail M. Ravikio.

SAID Herbert G. DuBois and Elizabeth T. DuBois, his wife, by Deed dated 12/16/74 and recorded 2/19/75 in Deed Book 1908, Page 347 conveyed the one-third interest of Herbert G. DuBois to John B. Ravikio and Gail M. Ravikio.

SAID Blase A Ravikio died on 3/21/96 leaving a Last Will and Testament dated 12/29/94 and probated in the Office of the Surrogate of Burlington County wherein he appointed First Union National Bank (formerly known as First Fidelity Bank), Edna M. Ravikio, John B. Ravikio and Lois M. McGann as the Co-Executors of his Will.

This basically reiterates and makes some things clearer of what John Ravikio stated above. He is essentially correct in stating they bought the airport from the Camden Lime Co. (See "Moorestown- Out In The Country") but on the deed it shows that they incorporated under the name of the "Marshall Flying Service." I would have to check a previous title to see if Les Marshall was in anyway still a co-owner or if just his boss Richard Hineline of the Camden Lime Co. now owned it, and kept the name of the airport as the Marshall Flying Service.

## **Coles Roberts Description of Les Marshall-**

Les Marshall owned the Moorestown Airport.

He had been a fighter and had one too many punches to the head and his head was sort of slanted over (tilted) to the side. (He physically illustrated.)

Les didn't have a pilots' license, but he would fly, and you knew when it was him up there when you saw him flying.

The Moorestown Airport was sold by him to a Company. (Camden Lime)

They kept Les on there as the Vice President. He took care of the grounds and mowed the grass.

## The Old Moorestown Airport Hangars-



# Two Suicides during the Depression-

In "Moorestown- Out In The Country," the question was asked of who lived in the large yellow house, which was tore down, where now only an old stone outbuilding sits in a field on Westfield Road. (a spring house/ ice house, or smoke house)

Nobody could answer the question at the time (oral histories). It was only known that the land later belonged to the Benner family. Maurice Rudderow, a retired dairy farmer of Mount Laurel, now in his 90s, when I brought up the stone building and the house, knew.

He said it was a Dudley family who lived at that house. It was during the Depression. They had a potato farm. He had a whole crop of potatoes planted and they weren't worth much. He had a whole truck load of potatoes ready to take to market. He took a hose and ran it from the exhaust pipe of the truck into the cab and sat in the truck until he died.

He said another suicide around that area happened about the same time. Silas Walton went out in his cornfield and shot himself. The farm was on Centreton Road and later became the Winner Farm. It is now the Burlington County Agriculture Center.

Well, are these stories true? I looked through some newspaper clipping obituary and weddings books at the Moorestown Historical Society and found the accounts. The Dudley suicide obituary doesn't include all the details Maurice Rudderow stated, and the Silas Walton one gives even more graphic details. Maurice's story, though, is that the cornfield where he shot himself was across the street from the house.

Both suicides have been attributed to financial concerns during the Depression. There is a website of NJ Mirror obituaries and weddings which I checked, and John C. Dudley, who killed himself on Oct. 30, 1934, had his first wife die young, and a daughter from his first marriage die at 15 years old, so perhaps there were other factors which contributed to his as well.



## **The Newspaper Clips-**

**Silas Walton,  
October 20, 1930**

**WALTON,-** At Moorestown, NJ, Oct. 20th, Silas, husband of Mary B. Walton. Funeral and interment private.

### **CENTRETON FARMER COMMITS SUICIDE**

Said to have been harassed by business worries, Silas Walton, aged sixty years, a well-known farmer, who resided near Centreton, committed suicide on his farm early on Monday morning.

Walton left the house about six o'clock on Monday morning and when he did not return at seven o'clock his wife instructed Thomas Stafford, a hand, who was about to drive the cows to pasture, to see if he could find her husband and inform him that breakfast was waiting for him. A few minutes later Stafford discovered the body of his employer, with his chest badly torn away from the effects of a double load of shot.

From the position of the body it was ascertained that Walton sat down in a lane leading to the rear of his farm, placed a double-barreled shot gun between his feet and then used a stick to push the trigger, both barrels exploding at one and the same time.

Dr. Stokes, of Moorestown, was called and pronounced the man dead, and he suggested calling Coroner William P. Young, who made an investigation and granted a burial permit.

## **John C. Dudley, October 30, 1934**

**DUDLEY,-** Suddenly, at Moorestown, NJ, Oct. 30, 1934, John C. Dudley, husband of Ethel B. Dudley. Funeral and interment private. Friends may call 4th day evening, home of William Grobler, 78 E. Main st., Moorestown.

### **JOHN C. DUDLEY RITES TO BE HELD TOMORROW**

Moorestown, Oct. 31- Private services will be held tomorrow for John C. Dudley, 65, chairman of the Moorestown township committee, who committed suicide by inhaling exhaust fumes in a garage back of his farmhouse on the Airport road. Friends may call tonight at 78 East Main street.

Dudley, a Republican, had been active in Burlington county politics for many years. He was said to have been depressed by financial worries. he is survived by his widow, Ethel Burr, and a daughter, Ruth. Mrs. Dudley is director of Leisure Time Activities in Burlington County and is conductor of the Moorestown chorus.

## **The Results of the Depression-**

Although not as severe as suicide, the Depression caused many home owners as well as farmers large and small to lose their properties to their mortgage company, bank for an unpaid loan, or to the Township through delinquent taxes. If you took notice, many of the newcomers of the early 1940s in "Moorestown- Out In the Country" came because others lost their land. Whole areas changed hands sometimes during the late 30s and early 40s due to the Depression.

Several people, including Al Stickney and Coles Roberts, spoke words of praise of how hard Tak Moriuchi worked his orchard farms, so I went to personally meet him. I visited Tak and Yuri at Medford Leas on Saturday, November 17, 2007. I had also met them once prior on a visit to the Moorestown Friends meeting house earlier that year. The photo and information below is from my visit with them at Medford leas.

## A Visit with Tak and Yuri Moriuchi-



Takashi Moriuchi goes by the first 3 letters of his name- Tak. His family were farmers in California. They were not involved in orchard fruit farming there, but worked on a "truck farm," which grew vegetables such as melons.

After the United States' entered into World War Two, his family was placed in a Japanese internment camp. It was later through the Washington WRA (War Relocation Authority) and the help of local Quakers that the Moriuchis came to New Jersey about 1942 or 43, actually prior to the end of the war.

The Moriuchi and several other Japanese families came to work on the farm of Lou Barton, a Quaker, in Haddonfield, N.J. The farm was known as the "Clark Farm." The Moriuchis became Quakers after coming there to live.

Tak met his wife Yuri in Philadelphia where she then lived. Lewis Barton helped Tak in getting bank loans to start his own farm on Church Road, Mount Laurel. Tak only lived there 2 years, the last year Yuri was also there. They were not interested in that particular type of farm and later they moved from Church Road to Fellowship Rd., Mt. Laurel near Springdale Rd. in Cherry Hill, renting from Charlie Collins. There they grew strawberries and had apple orchards which were there already. They were one of the largest strawberry growers around. They also rented other farmland.

In the early 1960s they started renting a farm on Borton's Landing Road, Moorestown from Charlie Collins. The apple trees were already there and they grew apples. Peaches were better sellers so they put the peach trees in. They later purchased the farm from the Estate of Charles Collins in 1974. Today, Tak and Yuri's son Fred lives there, and Tak's grandson has a garden plant sale stand nearby.

Lewis W. Barton, Tak Moriuchi, Tom DeCou and several others of the Society of Friends founded the Medford Leas Retirement Community in 1971 which has since grown into a large complex that also includes an arboretum and nature preserve.

According to Maurice Rudderow, Lou Barton got involved in banking and also drain pipes I think for field irrigation. Tak rented the "Springdale Road farm" from Charles Collins and later bought the Borton Landing Rd. farm house and a Walton farm too nearby later. According to Coles Roberts, Tak is the only one who started out with nothing and worked very hard and made it as successful as he did.

## **Mrs. Weaver Stories from Al Stickney-**

Mrs. Weaver's neighbors such as the Stickney family and others would look after her. They would chop piles of fire wood for her. Somebody later complained to the Township about all the unsightly piles of firewood at her house on "the triangle" of Borton Landing and Airport Road. Al Stickney didn't say, but this might have had something to do with her being relocated.

Later when she lived at the other place, the Stickneys bought two hogs and she cared for them (I believe the Stickneys also provided food.), and when it was slaughter time they took the hogs to be butchered. The deal was the meat from one was theirs and one hers.



## The Winner Farm-



Last time I visited the "Winner Farm" was several years ago and it was in an in between period. It was sort of a "sheep farm." Since then it has become the "Burlington County Agriculture Center" with a farmer's market taking place there on weekends over the summer months. I'll have to get out to there this summer!

## Two Farmer Friends-



These two people didn't live in the "Airport Road area." They are two friends of Dennis Weaver's and have added some knowledge to this booklet.

On the left is Maurice Rudderow, a retired dairy farmer of Mount Laurel, and breeder of Mars Haven Holsteins. Mars Haven is the breeder's prefix with the initials of Mars being Maurice Amos Rudderow and Sons.

On the right side is Coles Roberts, a retired apple grower of the Jersey Jerry Farm in Southampton. His family has been in the orchard business for generations! He is related to the Moorestown Airport in that his father Emmor Roberts was a member of the "Burlington County Aero Club" and one of the founders of the airport in 1928.



## Dennis Weaver-



## I won two "Honorable Mentions" at the "2009 Historical Preservation Awards" presented by the Burlington County Board of Freeholders!

### **"Moorestown- Out In The Country, The 1940s & 1950s Airport Road Area"**

It is a short book coordinated by me with oral histories from residents, primarily farmers, and me researching old newspapers on microfilm. My Mother, as well as several of my Aunts and Uncles were involved in the area as well, living with my Grandparents, or nearby, as farmers or tenant farmers. The Moorestown Airport was on what is now Westfield Road.

The other "Honorable Mention" was for a DVD movie slide show created by me for an important Maple Shade Historical Society meeting celebrating the **"200th Anniversary of a 21st Birthday."** It tells the history of the "Collins Lane house," the informal name due to it being a tenant farmer house for John S. Collins, developer of Miami Beach Florida, and his son Lester, for apple orchards. Further back it was owned and rented out by Samuel Burrough of Evesham (even after he died by an Executor of his will) with a portion of the rents of this and another plantation to go to "the building of a

meeting house for the Friends at or near Cropwell School." (2009) This was until August 1808 when Samuel Burrough Jr. turned 21 years old and got all the plantations.

-Dennis Weaver



Dennis Weaver even lived at Airport Road!

I hope you enjoyed both this report "Back To The Country," and "Moorestown- Out In The Country."

Contributors to this project were- Dennis Weaver, Al Stickney, Barbara Kemp, John Ravikio, Ted Rendfrey, Tak and Yuri Moriuchi, Coles Roberts, and Maurice Rudderow.



# **Bob Burns Story Additions-**

Bob Burns emailed me these on February 18, 2010. It may be added to your papers at the end of "Back To The Country," if you wish.

Bob writes-

A couple of additions to your stories-

## **The Airport on Airport Road**

Rides at the airport were \$5 when I was kid, I took a couple of the rides which flew right over our house next to the Kemp house.

Not a very long ride through but it seemed like journey for an 8 year old kid. They would just loop around and then land.

Probably why I joined the Air Force after high school.

## **The Airport in Camden-**

In the early 60's, someone had the bright idea to use the old closed airport for a spur of the moment drag strip.

Word spread throughout the north east about this and hundreds of cars showed up at the old airport.

Things were going well until the police found out what was going on and there was a big police raid on the place. Cars were driving through fences and across fields to get away. There were even people who jumped into *Cooper River*, then a swamp, to get away. Quite an event.

## **Mrs. Weaver-**

Mrs. Weaver was a large old black lady who lived with her husband in an old shack just off of Bortons' Landing road, before moving back to the triangle. I think she wasn't over 5 ft tall and must have weighed about 200 lbs. The house was at the end of a lane which ran beside the Hargrove house, later to become Mary Jane Sooy's house. The house is located just prior to reaching the railroad tracks.

Mrs. Weaver's house had no running water or electricity. Heat and light came from kerosene stoves and lanterns. She was very self-efficient, raising chickens, turkeys and pigs.

A God fearing woman, she was always happy and friendly. As a child, I would love to visit her. She was always nice and always had time to talk to the kids and get them a drink of water.

When in high school, there used to be an annual event where we would collect can goods and turkeys for distribution to the needy. I always made it a point to have Mrs. Weavers name on the list.

I still think of her to this day.

## **Eoden the Angus Bull-**

I worked the Brooks farm for a summer when I was about 16, harvesting alfalfa and general farm work.

It used to be my job to go and get Eoden when it was time for him to make little Eodens.

I would walk out to the back pasture where he was kept, put a rope on him and walk home back to the barn where a beautiful lady cow was waiting.

We had to dig a hole behind the cow because Eoden was a short guy and couldn't get up high enough to do his duty.

The closer I would get to the barn, Eodens head would lift up and he would sniff the air and the faster he would start trotting. By the time I got to the barn, I had all I could do to hold him back. Although he was short, he was strong.

I won't go into detail of what happened once we got there. Quite an experience for a 16 year old kid.

## **The Golf Ball-**

As stated the "Golf Ball" was a ballistic early warning system. When I worked for RCA, in their computer department, we would receive tracing tapes from the "Golf Ball". This tape was approx. 20 miles long and stood about 6 ft. high and was about 4 inches wide.

This large tape, was a magnetic tape that we would then mount on a large tape drive, via a fork lift, and copy down to a 2400 ft. computer tape to run on our computer. Once it was copied down, the data from the tracking, would either be plotted out on a plotter or reported as single line graphs on computer paper.

## **Moriuchi Farm-**

Used to be owned by the Whitman Family. I was friends to Craig Whitman. Actually he was the only kid that lived close so we played together. Craig was a very studious kid, where I wasn't, but he had a neat barn behind the house that was filled with hay bales. That was the greatest place to play.

One day I made the mistake of stepping on a pitch fork which went through my sneakers right through my foot. As no parents were home, I had to ride the mile back to my house on my bike. Mom was not happy. Tetanus shots again.

## **Bartello Bros.-**

The Bartello's also owned the gas station and store at the corner of 537 and Hartford Roads.

## **Possible Errors-**

I am always trying to have historical accuracy in things I am involved with and Bob Burns' additional stories, which are now added, throws a conclusion I made as possibly incorrect. Mrs. Weaver moved back to the triangle. So whether the firewood conclusion I made about the complaint possibly having something to do with her being moved is unknown if it occurred before or after she came back there.

Al Stickney always maintained that the McCoys lived in the yellow house next to the white house and Aunt Irene maintained that they lived in the white house next to the yellow house. I went with Aunt Irene. Al could be correct in that there might have been a change in his time period. ???

The photo of the Kemp house that states that this is how the house looked like when bought is partially incorrect as Arthur Kemp added the front porch.

-Dennis Weaver

