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The RETROSPECT

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Camden County's Oldest Weekly Newspaper

Volume 116, No. 46

Hometown News Since 1902

75¢

Friday, May 15, 2015

Colossal Transformers to be Moved Through Heights, Audubon

by Zach DeRitis

Electric and gas power company PSEG needs to move three 200-ton 500-volt transformers by rail and road to a new switching station in Winslow Township but obstacles in Haddon Heights and Audubon and the integrity of the infrastructure along the proposed route, raise concerns among local officials and those tasked with the job.

Moving the behemoths, each of which approximates the weight of your average blue whale, is no small task. While the transformers themselves

weigh 200 tons apiece, once each is lifted onto a flat bed, they tip the scales at 300 tons. As if that didn't pose challenge enough, each transformer is 17 feet high.

The clearance of the transformers is too high for most highway overpasses which average between 13 and 14 feet high. That means transporting them by rail would appear to be the best solution. However, a major fly in the proverbial ointment came to light when those tasked with the move discovered the

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Oaklyn Council Unveils Solution to Peters Creek Problem

by Zach DeRitis

After searching for a feasible solution to the declining condition of Peters Creek for more than a year, Oaklyn Council members decided that the borough will purchase a machine to remove overgrown plants and algae.

Oaklyn mayor Bob Forbes announced Tuesday that the

borough will use a portion of a New Jersey Department of Transportation grant to purchase an amphibious underwater plant harvesting device. The grant, in total, is worth \$331,000. Of that, \$201,000 will be allocated for road maintenance along Mansion Avenue while the remaining \$130,000

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Seven Decades Later, Previte Connects with Liberator

by Shelly Castorino

Kids dream of superheroes flying through the sky and saving them from the villains below. For 12-year old Mary Taylor Previte and her three siblings held prisoner at the Weihsien Concentration Camp in China during World War II, their dreams came true when seven heroes flew down from the sky.

On August 17, 1945, members of an operation named Mission Duck jumped from a B-24 bomber to liberate prisoners held at the Weihsien concentration camp. "I remember that day," recalls Previte, who is now 82 and lives in Haddonfield. "A B-24 was flying very low and circling the camp. We could see the star on the side of the plane so we knew they were Americans."

One by one, a team of six Americans and one Chinese interpreter, descended from the sky waiting for their parachutes to open. Each was very aware that communications may not have reached all Japanese war supporters and that there may be sharp shooters taking aim at the floating ducks. When the men landed, prisoners from the camp ran out of the front gate to meet them.

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photo by Shelly Castorino

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: Mary Taylor Previte, of Haddonfield, survived a Japanese concentration camp that was liberated by seven men—six Americans and a Chinese interpreter. Almost 20 years ago she sought to personally thank the seven liberators. This year she connected with the seventh man, Eddie Wang of China, right, seen on his 90th birthday.

photo courtesy of Daniel Wang



Parent Questions Student's Arrest at Woodland School

by Taylor Hufner

During Barrington's Monday night board of education meeting a parent, who declined to give her name, wanted clarification from the board on the policies and procedures regarding an incident involving her 13-year-old daughter and another student at Woodland Middle School on April 22.

As a result of the incident, the police were called and the daughter was removed from the

school. Allegedly, the daughter was being bothered by another student. She asked a teacher to intervene, but the teacher was reportedly helping another student. The daughter ended up turning around and striking the other student with a pencil breaking the skin. The mother felt that the principal of Woodland Middle School, along with the teacher in the classroom and the administration didn't follow the correct procedures.

She said that her daughter's IEP (Individual Education Plan), which contains information on a child who is deemed to be a special education student, was not followed. With an IEP, at time of removal, written notification should be given to both the parent and the case manager, but the case manager was never notified of the incident. The mother felt her daughter's

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Seven Decades Later, Previte Finds Seventh Liberator

(Continued from page 1)

"We had so many questions and we wanted to touch them," said Mary. "They were strong and healthy, they had meat on their bones," she recalled.

Living in the concentration camp since the age of nine, Mary had no idea if the war was over or who won.

"These men risked their lives for us, we were total strangers to them but they came to free us," she said, holding back tears. All of the kids in the camp followed the soldiers around with admiration. They brought chewing gum, candy and other treats that no one had seen for years. They taught the kids songs, including "You are my sunshine" and played softball with them while they waited for supplies and departure arrangements for the 1,500-plus prisoners. The kids wanted to know everything about the flying heroes who were gods in their eyes.

When Mary and her siblings were liberated, their

parents were still working in China. The four Taylor children departed Weihsien on the second plane and were reunited with their parents and their new younger sibling. The excitement of leaving did not allow young Mary to properly thank her heroes.

In 1997, Mary was an Assemblywoman in Southern New Jersey. She was asked by her colleagues to present a proclamation to a China Burma India veteran's group in Mt. Laurel. After reading the proclamation, Mary asked if anyone in the audience knew her heroes from her childhood who liberated the concentration camp. Mary recited each of their names, Major Stanley Staiger, Jimmy Moore, Jim Hannon, Sgt. Tad Nagaki, Sgt. Peter Orlich, Ramond Hanchulak and Eddie Wang, a Chinese interpreter.

"That question started a firestorm of interest," said Mary. "One man in the group was an intelligence officer and

was able to provide phone numbers and locations for anyone living in the United States with the same name as the six Americans."

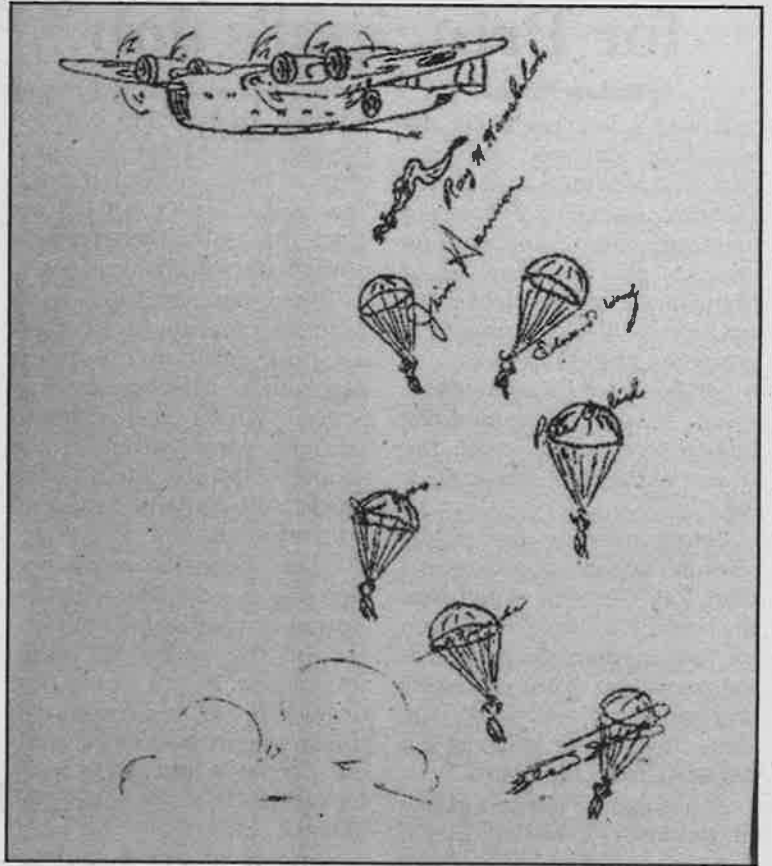
After years of going through the list of names and numbers, Mary was successful in her quest to thank her American heroes. Four of the six were still living and she was able to thank each in person. For the heroes who had passed away before Mary located them, she shared her story of gratitude with the widows of the remaining two Americans.

One widow had a piece of the actual parachute used during Mission Duck. On it was an image of the B-24 bomber and the names of each man who parachuted to the camp. That piece of parachute was photographed and included in a book about memories of Weihsien. The original is at the Smithsonian.

That piece of parachute included the name of Eddie Wang, the Chinese interpreter on the liberation mission. "Finding Eddie Wang in a country with over a billion people is next to impossible," said Mary. "Until one day in 2015, almost 70 years after being liberated from Weihsien, I received an email from a man claiming to be the grandson of Eddie Wang."

Daniel Wang, who is currently living in South Carolina with his wife, was busy fulfilling a promise to his 90-year old grandfather Cheng-Han "Eddie" Wang, who asked Daniel to locate his six comrades from World War II. During Daniel's Internet research, he found many entries on a Weihsien community website and the name of Mary Previte who often asked for information about Eddie Wang. Daniel reached out to the woman seeking information about his grandfather.

"Imagine the surprise to read an email from Daniel Wang, who lives in South Carolina," said Mary. After all of these years, Mary had to be certain she was communicating with the correct Wang. "I asked so many questions, and Daniel was able to confirm the



ANGEL AND PARACHUTES: An internee of Weihsien concentration drew this image of seven rescuers parachuting from The Armored Angel as part of Mission Duck. The internees defied Japanese sentries upon seeing the rescue plane and burst through the camp's gates to greet the liberators.

answers through his grandfather, who is still living in the Guizhou Province in China at the age of 90 -- unbelievable!" she said.

Mary wanted to make certain Eddie was well enough to answer her questions without too much stress. She has friends who are Chinese Americans who happily agreed to sit in on the conference call for Mary to speak to Eddie and help with any language barriers.

On Sunday, May 3, Mary spoke to her seventh hero. "We spoke for over an hour," said Mary. "I cannot believe I found Eddie Wang and he is healthy and living in China. Daniel even sent pictures from Eddie's 90th birthday to me."

Both Eddie and Daniel Wang were surprised to learn that a 12-year old girl in the camp was still looking for every single man in the rescue team. "It must be something so important to her life," said the younger Wang. "I knew

my grandfather was in World War II, but I didn't know many details until I began to contact Mary, as she asked my grandfather a lot of questions through me."

All Daniel knew about his grandfather's experience in the war was that he was in a rescue mission but they didn't fire any shots against the Japanese army. Daniel said he mistakenly thought his grandfather was working with the Flying Tigers.

Since communicating with Mary, Daniel learned the entire story of what his grandfather did before he joined the army and after the war was over. He also became aware of how deeply that rescue mission influenced the former internees in the concentration camp.

With the 70th reunion of Weihsien taking place in August, Mary was asked to write the preface for a book about the concentration camp that will be published and distributed in China. With many of the remaining internees unable to make the trip to China for a reunion, books and websites help the group remain connected.

For Mary, some of the most important life lessons learned took place when she was a child living in China.

Mary's parents were missionaries and the family prayed every morning. Her mother taught the children a singing version of Psalm 91 which says "...if you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go..."

And the heroic angels came through for Mary and her family 70 years ago. Written on the side of that B-24 bomber with the six Americans and Eddie Wang was "the Armored Angel" and all seven have now been accounted for and appropriately thanked for their heroism by that little girl from Weihsien.

RETROSPECT'S Worship Directory

Baptist

Bible for Today Baptist Church

900 Park Ave., Collingswood
856-854-4747
Pastor D.A. Walte, Th.D., Ph.D.
Verse by verse Exposition

Sunday 10 a.m. -
Preaching of
The Book of ROMANS

Sun. 1:30 p.m. -
Discussion of
The Book of ROMANS

Thursday 8 p.m. -
Discussion of The Book of ACTS

Bible Classes: Tues. 4:30pm & Fri. 3pm

Internet Broadcast:
24/7 Romans-Revelation
www.biblefortoday.org

We Use & Defend the
King James Bible

Catholic

St. Joseph the Worker Parish
856-858-1313
Pastor, Rev. Walter A. Norris

St. Vincent Pallotti
Sat. 5 p.m., Sun. 9 & 11 a.m.
Mon.-Sat. 8:30 a.m.
901 Hopkins Rd., Haddon Twp.

St. Aloysius
Sat. 4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m., Mon. 7 p.m.
37 W. Haddon Ave., Oaklyn
Handicap Accessible
www.stjosephtheworker.net

Lutheran

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

325 S. White Horse Pike
Audubon
856-547-8950

Bible Study Weds. 10 am & 7 pm
Adult Forum Sun. 9:15 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Sunday Service 8 & 10:30 am

Child Care Provided

Methodist

Westmont
United Methodist Church
Center St. & Emerald Ave., Westmont
856-854-4916

Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
Small Groups

Young Adults Group
Teen Youth Group (1st Saturdays)
Sunday Nursery Care Provided

Rev. Joshua B. Shuster
Pastor

Presbyterian

This Sunday, May 17
The Rev. Dr. Katherine G. Killebrew

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Presbyterian Church

Fern & Maple Aves. • 854-4523

Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 am

Quaker

Haddonfield Friends Meeting
Friends Ave. & Lake St.
Haddonfield

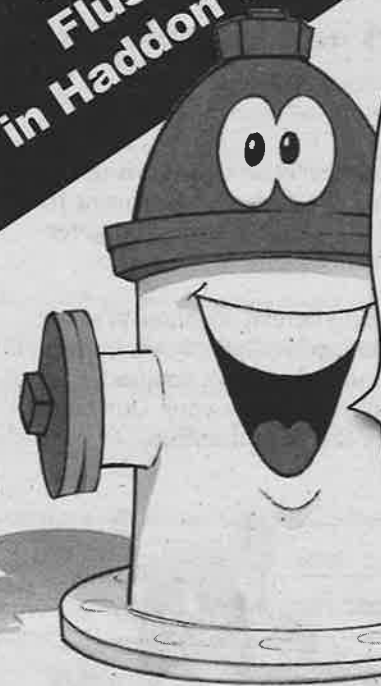
Meeting for Worship
Sundays at 10 a.m.

All Are Welcome
Child Care Provided

(856) 428-6242
www.haddonfieldfriendsmeeting.org



Hydrant Flushing
in Haddon Twp.!



The fire hydrant flushing is scheduled to begin on **Monday, May 18** and will continue until **June 30**. Flushing will be conducted **Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.**

During flushing time, please avoid using dishwashers, washing machines and running hot water.

Any questions, please contact Haddon Township Water Department at 833-6260 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.