



Millbourne Borough Council in Session, 1959

(Photo by: John Connet)



Dawson Martin Yerkes
Justice of the Peace



Paride S. Simone
Burgess



James P. Bennett
Justice of the Peace



Millbourne Police Department, 1959

(Photo by: John Connet)



West from 63rd & Market Street, 1901

(Photo: Courtesy Red Arrow Lines)

HISTORICAL MILLBOURNE

by Ruth W. Havens

It was in 1682, just two hundred and seventy-seven years ago, when Samuel Sellers and his brother George came to America from Derbyshire, England. Samuel was a weaver by trade and George a cooper, and they soon realized the necessity of striking out boldly for themselves.

After making their way to the city of Philadelphia, which was then a cluster of huts along the Delaware River bank, they purchased a 100-acre tract at Market Street and Cobbs Creek in 1690 from William Penn, Governor of Pennsylvania, and acquired an additional 75 acres eight years later.

Cobbs Creek, which forms the boundary between Philadelphia and Delaware County, was in the pioneer days called "Karakung" by the Indians. When William Cobb bought, he renamed the creek after himself — "Cobbs Creek."

From Front Street to the area which later was to become "Millbourne" was a dangerous and difficult road through heavy forests beset by hostile Indians and wild beasts. The two brave brothers spent the first few months in a cave taking turns guarding it at night, while from sunrise till dusk they hewed down the forest and built their first home on the New World soil.

Two years later, having been prosperous in their enterprises of agriculture, cattle raising and a tannery, Samuel married Miss Anne Gibbons.

There were no churches in all this region at that time, the Quakers meeting at one another's log cabins for their simple worship. After their marriage in 1684 at the home of a Friend, they moved to the house he had built with his own hands on the hill top about two miles west of Cobbs Creek.

A short time later, George, contemplating just such a happy move, met death in a most violent and unexpected manner.

He was making his way to a distant sawmill for shingles for his new home when he disappeared, and the most assiduous search failed to discover any trace of him. George had some cows, among them a great favorite with him—the bell-cow, which likewise was greatly attached to him. It was noticed that this cow could scarcely ever be found when it was time for the herd to be brought to shelter, and one night a long search disclosed her circling round and round a certain spot in the



Toll House #1, and Lower Millbourne, 1916 (Photo: Courtesy Red Arrow Lines)

forest. There, just where he had fallen from the blow of a tomahawk, lay George Sellers. He was buried there and the spot later marked the site of the Burd Asylum for Orphans—later called the Burd School for Girls.

In 1757, John Sellers, Grandson of Samuel, erected the first flour mill "Millbourne Mills", the site where Sears, Roebuck & Co. now stands.

The capacity of the mill was then barely five barrels of flour per day, but through the display of business tact, energy and integrity of more than six successive generations of the Sellers family, the business prospered and the mill was enlarged and perfected to an output of no less than a thousand barrels a day. Not only did it supply Philadelphia bakers, but the flour was shipped throughout the eastern and western continents.

It was from this historical background of the Millbourne Mills Co. that the little community which came into being in 1907 inherited the name of "Millbourne" later to become "The Borough of Millbourne."

MILLBOURNE FIFTY YEARS AGO

It was in the very early spring of 1907 and through 1908 on the hill just west of the Millbourne flour mill on West Chester Road that much building was in progress.

Samuel Shoemaker and John L. Fry, builders, were developing a beautiful suburban community of twin houses. Their architecture and workmanship were of quality and when completed the lawns were landscaped and the well-paved streets and sidewalks were lined with trees. It was truly a garden spot and the location offered excellent transportation.

The properties sold almost as fast as completed and many before completion. Soon the homes were occupied by very fine business men and their families and a growing community was established.

The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. had recently completed the subway-elevated line from 69th Street Terminal to the 15th Street subway and later to the Market Street Ferries. They ran 438 trains daily and the fare was five cents.

The station for this new community was called 66th Street and actually we had no 66th Street in this area, so it was after much difficulty and insistence that the Transit Co. recognized us as Millbourne. The first passenger train to stop was on July 1, 1908, and for many years the stop was made on signal only.

Living in our community was Mr. I. H. Knowles, owner of the

World Printing Co. He published a weekly paper, "The Millbourne Observer", which sold for five cents a copy. Many of these are in our possession today, and to him we will be forever grateful for his interesting articles, both historical and current. Each issue from June 1908 to Spring of 1909 published the Millbourne Directory and many of those people listed are still living in Millbourne today, happy to be a part of this Golden Anniversary Celebration.

An interesting article that appeared in October 31, 1908 announces the arrival of Millbourne's first born, Joseph Millbourne Dougherty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Dougherty, 6453 West Chester Road. In the article he is wished a long life and a brilliant career.

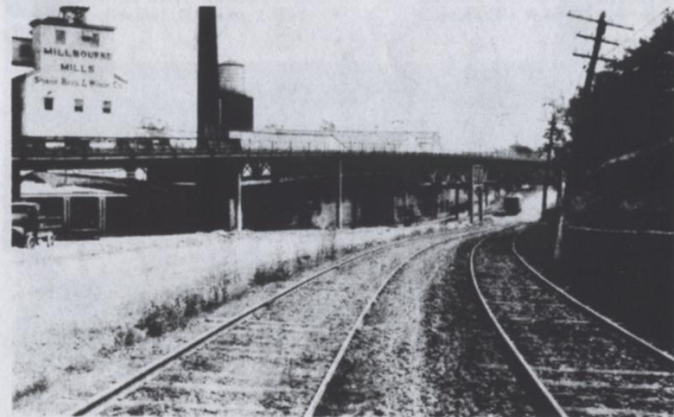
Looking back on these early days, it is noteworthy to review some of the immediate surroundings.

On West Chester Road just west of the flour mill, about halfway up the hill, was No. 1 Toll Gate. It was in that location from 1907 until 1918, when the West Chester Turnpike Co. gave up the road.

To the east of the flour mill on the north side of Market and near 63rd Street, was a rather large gray frame building, a waiting room for passengers using the shuttle car which ran between 63rd Street and Vanleer Bond's Feed Store (now the location of the 69th Street Theater). Prior to the elevated line, this car was the only means of transportation between Upper Darby and Philadelphia. At one end of Bond's Feed Store was the Upper Darby Post Office and in those days we had no mail delivery service. The trolley, in addition to the regular passenger service, carried mail and freight on flats at scheduled times during the day from Bond's loading platform to 63rd and Market Street PRR freight station which serviced the flour mill and also a lumber and coal company located on the banks of Cobbs Creek.

The nearest school to Millbourne was the Keystone School, a two-room red brick building about a quarter of a mile west of Bond's Feed Store. It is now and has been for many years a private residence.

To the west of Sellers Avenue was the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sellers. The large house of English split timber and stucco was surrounded by beautiful old shade trees and a spacious lawn landscaped with formal rose gardens. It is in this particular area that later was developed, with attractive modern duplex apartments, "Millbourne Gardens." The frontage of the Sellers estate on West Chester Road has over a period of years shown a steady growth in business developments with tendencies of expansion.



East, Old Flour Mill and El, 1920
(Now site of Sears-Roebuck & Co.)

(Photo: Courtesy Red Arrow Lines)

Directly opposite Millbourne to the South, was an orphanage, The Burd School for Girls. It was an endowed school founded by Eliza Howard Burd in 1856. Its towering gray stone buildings were of early English Gothic in the form of a Greek cross. Many acres of sloping lawn shaded by rare old trees, orchards and woodland, extended west to Powell Lane. Beyond Powell Lane and west to Garrett Road were only fields, surrounded and separated by split rail fences. It was the grazing land for the cattle owned by Mr. William Jones, the leading dairyman of that era. He lived in the famous old mansion known as "Sellers Hall" situated within a mile of Millbourne, the ground where St. Alice's Church now stands. It was a mighty long distance through fields and over fences when extra milk was needed.

Very early in 1908 it became apparent the necessity of forming the Millbourne Improvement Association, to assure our good people of police protection, street lights, fire protection and equipment for the volunteer firemen, the rubbish and garbage collections. Being surrounded by a very rural area, the Upper Darby Township did not provide these necessities.

After much consideration by our leading and influential citizens, application was made in Media to incorporate the borough.

A court hearing and many months of anxious waiting ensued before Judge Isaac Johnson handed down the decision and the charter was granted October 12, 1909.

From this time until 1927 Millbourne continued to be quite suburban in its surroundings but — the old gave way to the new — the flour mill and the original Sellers' homestead were only a memory, and in the shadows Sears, Roebuck & Co. erected a fine modern retail store.

Three years later the 69th Street business area came into being and grew with a rapidity seldom equalled. Again 69th Street and 63rd Street formed a tie line through Millbourne, but this time it was offices, markets, show rooms and varied forms of business. The old West Chester Road has truly become a Market Street.

We are very grateful to those men of "fifty years ago" who worked so earnestly for the good of our community.

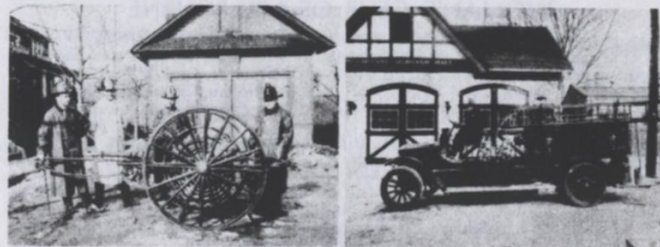
We are equally grateful to the great men and women who have succeeded them for the fifty years we are celebrating today.

May they continue in their great wisdom to function so that future generations will reflect on their fine judgment when the time is right for a "Great Centennial."



East, Lower Millbourne, 1959

(Photo by John Connet)



Hose Cart and Fire House, Early 1900's

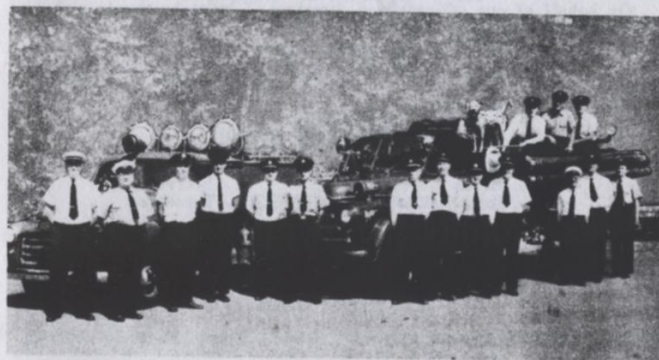
First Mechanized Fire Truck, 1916

MILLBOURNE FIRE COMPANY 1959 EQUIPMENT & OFFICERS

- 1—500 gal. Dodge-American-LaFrance Pumper with 400 gal. Booster and High Pressure Fog.
- 1—150 gal. 2" FZZ Hale Portable Pumper.
- 1—GM-100 Auxiliary Truck.
- Hose—1200 ft. 2 1/2"; 750 ft. 1 1/2"; 300 ft. 1".
- Ladders—1—24 ft.; 1—20 ft. Ext.; 1—12 ft.; 2—10 ft. Wall; 1—10 ft. Roof;
- Extinguishers—5—5 gal. Water; 2—2 1/2 gal. Foam; 2—1 qt. CTC; 2—15 lb. CO2; 1 Smoke Ejector; 1—5 gal., 1—2 lb. Dry Chemical.
- Masks—1 M.S.A. All Service; 2 Scott Air Pak; 1 Emerson Resuscitator and Medical Kit; 1—2 1/2" Fog Nozzle.
- Lights—1—1500 watt Generator; 2—500 watt, 2—250 watt.
- Salvage Covers—Two.

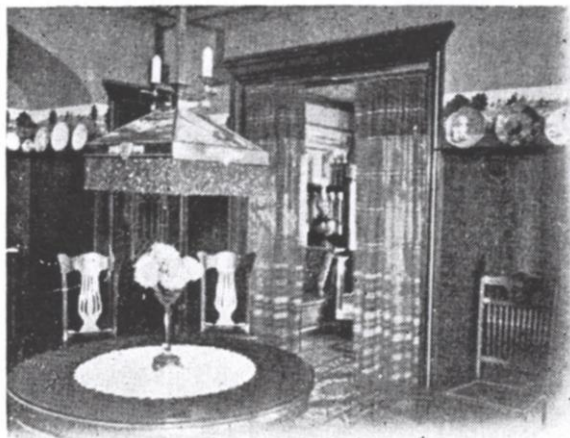
President, Edward C. Dolbey
 Secretary, Leo F. King
 Treasurer, Edward C. W. Mount
 Chief, William T. Cooper
 Ass't. Chief, A. Ciampaglia
 Captain, Charles Pinketti, Sr.
 Captain Fire Police, John Reich

Post Office—Upper Darby
 Telephone—[Fire Only] Flanders 2-4200
 Telephone—[House] Flanders 2-9713



The Millbourne Fire Company, 1959

(Photo by: John Connet)



DINING ROOM

CLINCHING ARGUMENTS

ABOUT

MILLBOURNE

Why this Newest and Most Desirable Suburb of Philadelphia Offers the Best Inducements to You as a Home-seeker, Investor or Both.

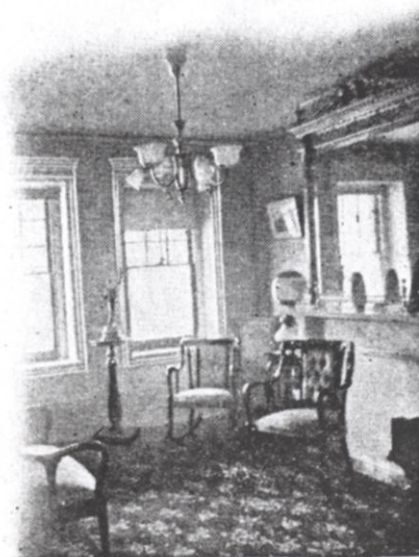
LOCATION Millbourne is situated just one square West of Sixty-third and Market Streets, on the Philadelphia and West Chester Turnpike. It is just beyond the City Line, in the Township of Upper Darby, Delaware County,

and lies between the West Chester Turnpike on the South and the line of the Market Street Elevated Railway on the North.

ACCESSIBILITY Millbourne Station, at Sixty-sixth Street on the Market Street Elevated line, is FIFTEEN MINUTES from City Hall, and only TWENTY-SIX MINUTES from Delaware Ave. The longest walk from any house in Millbourne to 66th St. Station is not over three minutes. 500 TRAINS DAILY. FARE ONLY FIVE CENTS.

SANITATION Millbourne stands on a level with the William Penn Statue on City Hall, which is plainly visible from any upper window. There are no unsightly nuisances—no factories, or other offenses to refined taste in the neighborhood, and restrictions in all deeds make it impossible for there to be any.

SCENERY AND RECREATIONS Millbourne is one the handsomest Suburbs of the Quaker City. Everything is being done to contribute to the health and convenience of the home-seekers of this ideal suburb,



PARLOR

FRONT BEDROOM



LIBRARY

and the work of improvement goes on steadily day by day.

four to five hundred rose bushes, which were planted there at a cost of several thousands of dollars, and which is rated by those who know, as being one of the finest rose gardens in America.

To the South, and extending along the entire frontage on West Chester road, Millbourne overlooks the beautiful Burd Orphanage, which comprises not only many acres of beautiful lawns, but some very fine buildings.

On the West of Millbourne, opposite Sellers Avenue, is the exquisite home of Mr. Howard Sellers, which is known throughout the city and surroundings for its beauty. Almost as a dividing line between Millbourne and the home of Mr. Sellers is the "Sellers Rose Garden," which consists of from

On the North of Millbourne, we have the Market Street Elevated Passenger Railway and just to the North of that the celebrated Cobb's Creek, the dividing line between Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, and to the North of that and forming a sort of background, is one of the most beautiful stretches of rolling woodland that can be seen anywhere in or about the city of Philadelphia and is known to many as "Sellers' Woods." This wonderful tract is about to be acquired by the City (it being across the line and within the city limits), and will soon be converted into one of the most splendid Parks in the country. This Park will be connected with Millbourne by a bridge over Cobb's Creek, and the picturesque ravine. The advantages of having such a beautiful park within a moment's walk from Millbourne are patent to any prospective householder.

CONVENIENCES *Springfield water—the most perfect water in the world*—the same water as is sold in the city of Philadelphia in bottles for six cents per gallon. Here it is to be had in unlimited quantity for general family use.



BEDROOM