

HAPPENING NOW



POCKET WATCH YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK!

Our organization was recently given an opportunity to purchase an E. Howard pocket watch; but why you may ask is that important? This is due to the historic nature of the case of the watch being manufactured at the Keystone Watchcase Company here in town around 1921. The white-gold finished pocket watch is sized #16, comes with a numbered case, and has a 17 jeweled mechanism. The watch itself was made by E. Howard of Boston.

We'd like to thank brothers, Tom and Ed Rust, who are none other than the great-grandsons of Edward Altorfer, the head engraver of Keystone pocket watches, for guiding us in this opportunity to own a piece of history. Ed Rust owns Center City Metals, LLC in Philadelphia and saved this piece from scrap by thinking of us!

A STEP BACK IN TIME

In 1884, Theophilus Zurbrugg began manufacturing watch cases in Philadelphia. Eight years later, he purchased the Pavilion Hotel in Riverside and moved his business to town. According to *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. XXVI, p. 603-604, 1912; in January 1903, Theophilus Zurbrugg "bought from a trustee in bankruptcy the trademarks and good will of The E. Howard Clock Company." It was E. Howard Clock Company's machinery that ran the four clocks in the clock tower until they were later digitalized. Zurbrugg would go on to purchase the Crescent Watch Case Company in 1903 and the business of the American Waltham Watch Company and Bay State of Boston in 1904. Adopting the name Keystone Watch Case Company he merged these watch case companies and the Philadelphia WC Company. He would continue to monopolize the watch case industry by purchasing The American WC Co., Ltd. Toronto, Canada; Elgin WC Company; J. Muhr & Brother; Bates and Bacon; and T. Hagstoz & Co. Theophilus Zurbrugg and his Riverside company became the largest manufacturer of watch cases in the United States employing "1,000 hands and produces 5,000 watch cases daily." [Source: 1904 Twentieth Anniversary Illustrated Souvenir Album]

Our Society now has a piece of the Howard/Zurbrugg connection thanks to the Rust brothers for recovering and saving the timepiece from being melted down for its gold content. Thank you for your continued support in helping us preserve Riverside's history for future generations to enjoy time and time again!



The pocket watch case seen here was made in Riverside; the watch is engraved with "E. Howard Watch Co." who made the timepiece's mechanism.



"PROGRESS" THE EAGLE LANDS A NEW HOME

If your vacations or summer plans have taken you away from town, make sure you catch up with Progress the Eagle in his new home before school and schedules restart!

Moved just before the Memorial Day Ceremony and after years of hiding behind the Business Association's Keystone monument, Vince Malecki, RHSNJ Trustee, made it his mission to find a new perch! Knowing it couldn't be seen from the street by anyone passing by in a car, or even walking along Pavilion Ave. or Lafayette St. many were not aware he was even there! It was then Vince came up with the idea to have it moved to Monument Park located in front of our Museum.

On Tuesday, May 14, 2024 he contacted Riverside Township Administrator, Meghan Jack, with the proposal and asked if she would contact the Riverline to see if it was possible to relocate the Eagle. Within two days, Meghan had gotten back to him and said it was a go provided the Riverline would not need to monetarily aid in the endeavor. Vince said it was all taken care of and there would be no cost to anyone. Vince contacted an old friend, Pete Altadonna, and he graciously offered to do the concrete forming and pouring at no cost.

By Monday, May 20, the ground was prepared and two concrete slabs - each weighing over 300 pounds- were transported to the site by Vince, Tom Rust, Bob Marter, Brad Anderson, and Rob Smith. The Eagle was then moved to its new location and secured by Tom, Rob and Vince. This entire endeavor was accomplished just 5 days after the approval!

MaryAnne Sweeney originally purchased the Eagle in memory of her late husband, John Sweeney, at an auction in 2005 at Palmyra Cove; the Riverline would acquire it in 2007. Neglected by harsh weather and time for over a decade, Progress the Eagle will soon be given a fresh coat of paint and keep the legacy of John Sweeney alive, who gave so much to our community.

A definite must see in Riverside, stop by to say "hi" or give a squawk to Progress today!



Left: A successful group effort lifts Progress to his new perch!

Right: Progress the Eagle is now in the center of town thanks to the generosity of many!



Left: Enjoy a nice view and a visit with us when you're visiting Monument Park!

SHOP LOCAL HISTORY ANYTIME AT:



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LIZETTE'S CORNER



Summers in Lizette's time could be hot, muggy, and uncomfortable due to the modest fashions of the time and lack of modern appliances like air conditioners and fans of today however, that doesn't mean they were without style! Read below to hear of trends that were popular in the summers of the early 1900s and imagine what the folks of Riverside were wearing to stay on trend and cool!

'While white leads as a summer color, the little check and the stripe will follow soon after. White canvas dresses are very pretty and they clean cheaply and easily, even if they do not wash. But if you want something in colors there are lovely plaids in blue and white that are becoming, light and very desirable.

One summer girl is wearing a white plaid gingham, in deep blue and white, with a check or two in light blue. The skirt barely swings clear from the ground, and it is trimmed around the foot with a wide band of blue braid, put on with several rows of white stitching. The belt is a narrow thing in dark blue leather as light as kid; and to it hangs a little blue leather fob with silver mountings and an attachment for a hand bag.' [Source: San Francisco Call, 1902 from <https://www.sewhistorically.com/the-edwardian-summer-girl/>]



A STITCH OF HISTORY HERE AND THERE

We're always looking for a new way to display pieces of our collection so when our President, Brittany Rae, came up with a plan for the t-shirts we have stored away, she knew she asked the right person for help! Thanks to our talented Treasurer, Joanne Kessler Smith, we now have a beautiful new wall hanging made from donations to the Riverside Historical Society through the years (and one of our new ones too!). Thank you also to our members Judy Ruff, Nancy Guarino, Carol Ott, and Past President Alice Smith who helped cut the shirts and choose their placement!

It looks beautiful, ladies!



Joanne Kessler Smith holds a wall hanging made from donated t-shirts through the years!

What would social media look like in early Riverside? Wonder no more! Taken from Riverside newspapers:

June 25th, 1891: Charles Faber has applied for a patent for a gold separator of his own design.

July 14th, 1894: The little rain that fell yesterday caused farmers to rejoice!

August 12th, 1905: It is announced that there will be a crusade against keeping some of the grocery stores open on Sunday.



OPEN HOURS AT THE MUSEUM

Every Thursday from 9am-noon and then again from 1-4pm.
Every second and last Saturday of the month from 1-4pm.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



COMING UP IN & AROUND 08075

SATURDAY, September 14th, 2024 12-5pm

Riverside Car Show @ Uptown Riverside &

Museum open hours @ Riverside Historical Society (3 Franklin St.)

We'll be open for special extended hours during the annual car show! See you there!

WEDNESDAY, September 18th, 2024 7pm

September Meeting of the Riverside Historical Society @ American Legion #146

Join us for a new year of programs and fellowship!

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