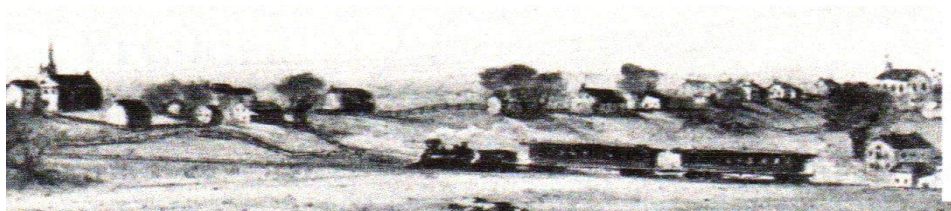


Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



April 2020
Newsletter
4th edition 2019-2020

Major Historical Society Events Postponed

In light of the efforts to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic, the officers and trustees of the Madison Historical Society have decided to cancel two major events with the possibility of rescheduling them in the Fall. The April 21st presentation by David Hannah on “Americans Who Joined the Foreign Legion in 1914 to Fight for France and Civilization” will not be held. In addition the annual dinner meeting scheduled for May 21 is cancelled. Like everyone else, we are disappointed that these actions must be taken, but given the circumstances, the society board believes that this is the rational and responsible thing to do.

Historical Society Officers

President

Susan Simon

Vice President

David Luber

Corresponding Secretary

Herman Huber

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Jim Malcolm

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Emeritus

Newsletter

Doug Simon



Message From President Susan Simon

This is certainly a stressful time and it is our wish that everyone be careful and take good care of themselves. As most of us are confined for long periods of time in our homes, you may be looking for something to do. Well, the historical society has a suggestion. Journal your experiences during the covid-19 pandemic, particularly as they relate to Madison. How is the pandemic impacting you and your family? Are there anecdotes about things in the borough that might be of interest to future generations? When this is all over and if you are so inclined, we would like to include your journals in the society's files. The covid-19 will be talked about long after it is over and Madison's experiences should be part of the story.

Although we have cancelled our programs for this Spring season we are rescheduling for the future. Our website <http://www.madisonnjhistoricalsociety.org/> will continue to be updated with any new developments such as the reopening of our office at the library and the rescheduling of any events.
Stay Safe!



Historic Personal Profiles of Madison

Madison's Soft-Spoken Olympian: JoJo Starbuck



By Herman Huber

"Sports teaches you character, it teaches you to play by the rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose - it teaches you about life."— Billie Jean King

It is a stereotype that many world-class elite athletes are fiercely driven, aggressively competitive, at times cut-throat, mercurial, self-absorbed, and abrasive. But what happens when grace and self-effacement, kindness, and a gentle demeanor rule instead? Can such an athlete survive and win competitions, in addition to hearts and minds? Do "nice guys finish last?"

In the early 1950s, Alicia Jo Starbuck, an adorable toddler in Alabama, couldn't pronounce her name, and called herself "JoJo Buckle." A decade and a half later, as a 16-year-old Californian, and now known to everyone as JoJo Starbuck, she and her pairs ice skating partner, Ken Shelley became the youngest pairs-team Olympians the USA had ever sent to the Games. At these 1968 Winter Games in Grenoble, France, they had a thrilling and starry-eyed experience (Charles de Gaulle walked right past them), and finished in 13th place. Then as a 20-year-old in 1972, she and Ken Shelley again competed at the Winter



JoJo Starbuck at home in Madison

Olympic Games, this time in Sapporo, Japan. Feeling more pressured and no longer quite as starry-eyed in their final appearance, they came in 4th place within a hundredth of a point of a bronze medal. Sports Illustrated magazine predicted them to place 2nd. Some observers suggested that scoring improprieties sadly cost them the bronze.



Starbuck and partner Ken Shelley at age 7. Their first recital together.

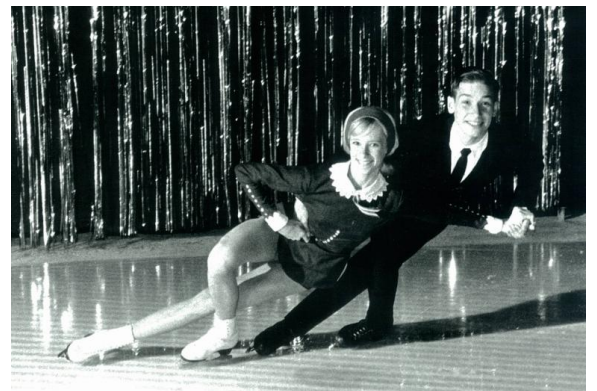
The name JoJo Starbuck was known for far more skating prowess than her Olympic appearances. She and Shelley were US Championship Pairs gold medalists three years in a row, won 2 bronze medals at the World Championships, and in 1994 she and Shelley were inducted into the US Figure Skating Hall of Fame. After the Olympics, she was a star of the Ice Capades, travelling and performing, rather than competing. It was her favorite time.

In 1976, Starbuck married future Hall of Fame Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw, though they eventually divorced in 1983. Since being an NFL wife can be difficult, a "circus of attention," she fostered friendships with a few of the wives of other players,

which was quite helpful.

Fast forward to 1992. Starbuck met a prominent NYC architect at a July 4th party in the apartment formerly owned by George Gershwin, as they looked out at the Tall Ships on the Hudson River. She married Jeffrey Gertler the following year.

Two years later, and pregnant with twins, the president of ABC News suggested that they buy his home in Chatham. However, the realtor also showed them homes in Madison, and they were intrigued. By 1997, they found the home they wanted on Pomeroy Road and have lived there since.



1967 with Shelly at Colorado Springs show



1979 at Madison Square Garden for Olympic fundraiser

What was Starbuck's attraction to Madison? It fondly reminded her of the California town (Downey) in which she grew up, yet with a greater sense of community. She was able to walk to the train station, go get an ice cream, and amble over to the movie theater. She enjoyed hearing the church bells every morning and the train whistles. And loved watching turkeys and the occasional foxes in her yard. She joined the garden club, became a Boy Scouts den leader, taught Sunday school at church, and periodically taught classes in art appreciation at the Kings Road school. Her husband became involved in local politics. As teenagers, her two boys attended the high school, and played sports such as football and pole

vaulting; academically talented, they have become mechanical engineers.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Starbuck has been involved with many charitable and commercial ice skating events; as the creator of special opening programs for the Rink at Rockefeller Plaza, Figure Skating in Harlem, Skating with Olympian John Curry (Tango Tango) on Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera, Skates of Gold, teaching at JoJo's Cool Workout in NYC, and giving lessons at the Codey Arena in West Orange; not to mention her work at Prison Fellowship Ministries at Riker's Island, and Angel Tree Kids. She is highly involved with Ice Dance International, and serves on its board.

Wistfully looking back at her early years, she recalls always jumping and running, a classic tomboy. Her mother was a strong force behind her success. Starbuck and her seven-year-old partner, Shelley, serendipitously were paired and loved skating together. They trained at Zamboni's Ice Rink (yes, THAT Zamboni), where he was enamored of them and gave them special ice time, a major gift. They also had world-class coaching by John Nicks. Looking at pairs ice skating today, she laments some of the changes in scoring, as they have made all the programs look alike.

Not all of Starbuck's endeavors involved competitive skating. You may recall her 1978 commercial for "Cup O' Noodles," where she undoubtedly helped the product to become successful by proclaiming, "It's much more than a soup." She also had a brief role in "New York Stories," directed Francis Ford Coppola, and other movies. There was also an appearance on "The Dating Game" and her 1978 autobiography, "JoJo Starbuck."

Despite an international reputation and storied history, JoJo Starbuck has remained life-long friends with those she competed against and those who helped along the way. Her admiration for and connection with her partner, Ken Shelley remains to this day. Perhaps nice guys don't finish last. And perhaps it is not just serendipity that she has chosen to make her home in the small, unpretentious, good-natured town of Madison for nearly a quarter century, and has never looked back.¹

¹ This article is based on an interview with JoJo Starbuck which took place in her home on January 20, 2020. Additional material was obtained from:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=jojo+Starbuck%2C+wikipedia&oq=jojo+Starbuck%2C+wikipedia&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i17.15753j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>, accessed January 15, 2020.

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0823063/> accessed January 16, 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DR8YIJNv7g> accessed January 22, 2020

<http://www.thisisjersey.us/?p=2817> accessed January 14, 2020.

Bradshaw, JoJo Starbuck, with Ball, Nina. *JoJo Starbuck*. Acton House Publishing, 1978.

<http://jojostarbucks.com/about-us/> accessed January 15, 2020.



1982 Famous Tango-Tango with John Curry for London BBC Special

New Slate of Officers Need to be Voted On

Normally a new slate of officers and trustees for the Historical Society is voted on at the Annual Dinner Meeting. Since event is not being held this May, we have decided to call upon members to cast their votes on the slate via the newsletter in either of two methods.

Method 1: If you receive the newsletter via email, please email your vote for or against the slate at the following email address: historicalsociety@rosenet.org

Method 2: If you receive a hard copy of the newsletter by the U.S. Mail service, please fill out the ballot enclosed in the newsletter and send it to the following address: Madison Historical Society, P.O. Box 148, Madison, 07940. Be sure and put your name on the ballot. If you would rather just email us, you certainly may do so at: historicalsociety@rosenet.org

Please cast your vote no later than April 30, 2020.

The slate of officers for the 2020-2021 year is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Vice President | Dave Luber (For second term) |
| Treasurer | Jim Malcolm (For second term) |
| Historian | Nikolina Uzicanin (For first term) |
| Trustee | Anne Meyer (For second term) |
| Trustee | Howard Craig (For first term) |
| Trustee | Rebecca Fields (For first term) |



From the Office

Written by Johanna Glazewski who handled the Haynes Collection

Nearly two years were recently devoted to indexing and cataloging the Haynes Collection received by the Madison Historical Society in 1995. This collection contains 43 handwritten journal notebooks meticulously describing the around-the-world travel experiences of Ken and Fran from 1975 to 1987; 17 labeled photo albums supplementing the journals; 10 articles/photos from the Madison Eagle; 7 books/plays written by Ken and Fran.

When we hear “Ken Haynes” we think of the *Madison Eagle*, and rightly so. He was associated with the paper from the late 1940’s until 1973 as journalist, publisher and owner. Ken nurtured it through its boom years of growth and aimed to preserve Madison’s history for future generations. He and Fran (always a team) focused on travel and dining for people, “who can’t take time to waste time.” In addition to weekly columns on dining, theater and travel, in the 60s, they addressed emerging social concerns that impacted local and national life. Ken believed, “The hometown newspaper is the community’s textbook.”

Ken also believed that “Every community with a meaningful heritage deserves a definitive history of its past to ensure an aggressive pride in its future.” And so it comes as no surprise that he and Fran continued to travel and write for the Madison Eagle, as the collection evidences, for the materials are mainly from their retirement years.

This commitment is also evidenced in the project Ken undertook in his early retirement to organize the names of every person, along with every major social, political and news story that appeared in the 5,200 issues of the *Madison Eagle* in its first 100 years. He did this with volunteers and the Bicentennial Committee for almost seven years so that a modern history could be written.

In December 12, 1991, Ken’s article, “Personal Books Nourish the Family Tree,” he wrote, “It is quite possible that executors will wonder what to do with this slender shelf of books since the unsung lives we leave behind us are meant to be recyclable.” The Madison Historical Society is fortunate to have received the materials in the collection -- to affirm and support the Haynes’ contributions and to share them with future generations. Indeed, the collection has been and will be recyclable!



Spotlight on History

The Great Mead Hall Fire¹

On Thursday, August 24, 1989, one of Madison's most historic and iconic buildings was swept by a fire so intense that it burned for 23 hours, required 2.3 million gallons of water to extinguish, and involved the deployment of more than 200 fire fighters from Madison and surrounding communities. Drew University was subject to nothing less than a traumatic event. Mead Hall, the university's main administration building was devastated by fire.

Mead Hall was more than just an "administration" building with an expansive office for its president. It had enormous historical importance and architectural distinction having earned places on both state and federal registers of historic sites.

The 1989 fire did considerable damage to the interior of the building and the roof had to be removed by a crane in order to finally extinguish the flames. But due to its design and sturdy construction, the walls remained. A considerable number of valuable works of art and furniture were saved by fast thinking faculty, administrators, and students who rushed into the building and grabbed what they could. The destruction was severe, but not total. Some things survived like the valuable built in mirrors and chandeliers both on the first floor. One valuable painting was saved when a piece of oil-cloth from the ceiling fell over it protecting it from both flame and water.



Fast thinking faculty, administrators, and students rescue valuable items. Her one of two very valuable first floor mirrors is removed.

Mead Hall was the home of the university's computer, fortunately housed in the basement. The computer tapes and paper files did not burn, but were totally waterlogged from the relentless water from the fire hoses. The paper that was retrieved had to be placed in refrigerated trucks to be freeze-dried. The computer tapes were sent to technicians in hopes of salvage. Student employee checks were spread out on the ground in an effort to dry them out in sunlight.

Drew had a substantial insurance policy on the building that would not only cover all damages, but was broad enough to begin an immediate rebuilding and restoration program under the leadership of its new president, former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean. During the process, great care was taken to stay historically true to the building's 19th century roots. The fire had occurred just days before the registration of new students. The computer was destroyed. At a welcoming assembly new students and many of their parents were

concerned about how the fire would impact the registration process. Then interim president Scott McDonald told the assembled parents that there were worse things. Many of them had registered in a similar way with paper and pen when years ago they had enrolled in college.

¹ Discussion of the Mead Hall fire relied heavily on the account offered by John Cunningham in his fine book, *University in the Forest, The Story of Drew University*, Copyright John T. Cunningham, Phoenix Color Corporation, 2002, pp. 342-346.

A Few Interesting Statistics

Madison Population Through the Years

| Colonial Period | Roughly 20 Families |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1880 | 1756 |
| 1900 | 3754 |
| 1920 | 5523 |
| 1950 | 10,417 |
| 1960 | 15,122 |
| 2020 | 16,522 |

32



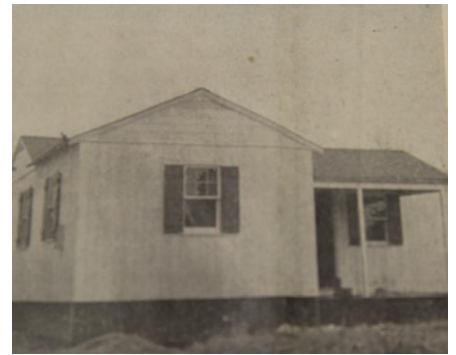
The number of wins out of 36 races for Fashion, William Gibbon's race horse in the mid-1840s. Fashion was one of the all-time great mares in racing history.

\$500,000



The cost for construction of the Hartley Dodge Memorial Building at the time of its 1935 dedication. Equivalent to slightly less than \$10,000,000 in 2020.

20



Number of Veterans Temporary Housing Units built in 1955 on land opposite Lucy D. Anthony School.

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Cost per Unit | \$5200 |
| Monthly Rents | \$35-45 |
| Bedrooms | 2@ |

102



Current memberships in the Madison Historical Society. Actual number of people totals 150.

40-50 inches



Depth of snow in some places in New Jersey during the Great Blizzard of 1947.