



Hunterdon Historical Newsletter

VOL. 19, NO. 3

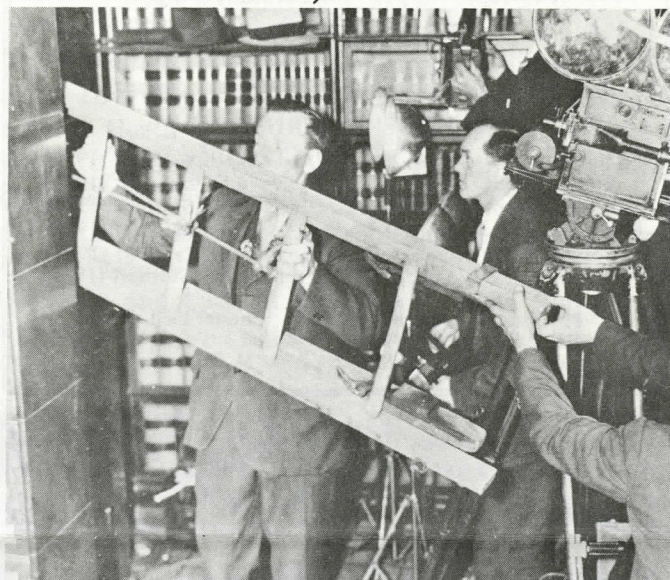
Published by Hunterdon County Historical Society

FALL 1983

Hauptmann Trial Expert To Speak To Us In The Court House Sun., Nov. 20

Relive Hunterdon's moment in the limelight in the very room in which it occurred. Come to the Court House on Main Street in Flemington at 2 p.m. on Sunday, 20 November. Our Fall meeting will feature a program on the Hauptmann-Lindbergh trial. No one is more familiar with the evidence in that case than our speaker, N.J. State Police Detective Cornel Plebani. He is responsible for the security and handling of the huge mass of Lindbergh case evidence now in store-rooms at the West Trenton headquarters. His job also entails assisting with recent litigation of the case and traveling extensively to lecture on its many aspects. In addition, there will be a display of trial memorabilia from the large collection of Mrs. Thelma Kline Miller of Three Bridges, daughter of former deputy sheriff David Kline.

Hunterdon became the center of world attention in January of 1935 for what H.L. Mencken termed "the greatest story since the Resurrection". Much fun was made of the rural character of the area and its more rustic residents. Damon Runyon typed his stories at a desk in the lobby of Flemington's Union Hotel. Gabriel Heater prepared his radio broadcasts up on the second floor while Lowell Thomas did likewise over a restaurant next door. In his spare time Martin Block worked out the concept of radio's first disc jockey program, his Make-Believe Ballroom. Correspondents from the world over, Fannie Hurst, Edna



A ladder, said to have been on the Hopewell estate at the time of the kidnapping, shown being brought into the courtroom by Deputy David Kline on January 8. This is not the noted ladder supposedly fabricated by Hauptmann from floor boards from the attic of his New York home.

Thelma Kline Miller's Collection

Ferber, Dorothy Kilgallen, all the big media names and countless lesser ones along with their legions of aides and technicians were there to swell the ranks of curious onlookers from near and far away.

One object of their attentions, German immigrant Bruno "the machine gunner" Hauptmann, stood

(Continued on page 402)



The Doric House, Society headquarters.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE NOW

Artist Frank Darling's recent drawing (see left) of the Doric House appears on Christmas cards which the Society is selling as a fund-raising project. The cards are printed inside with a holiday greeting and the back has historical information on the Doric House and its builder, Mahlon Fisher.

The cards are available at the Society headquarters, in local shops and by mail. Each packet of 20 cards with matching envelopes sells for \$5. On mail orders please add \$1 postage.

HUNTERDON HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

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Membership Report

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Andrea E. Brown, Frenchtown, NJ
Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Fischer, Glen Gardner, NJ
Mr. & Mrs. David F. Hoff, Stockton, NJ
Dr. & Mrs. William B. Landis, Columbia, PA
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Mrs. Evelyn E. Wyant, Jackson, MI

Mrs. Frederick Stothoff
Membership Secretary



Glimpse a typical tonsorial establishment circa 1890 in the above interior view of Clint. Rittenhouse's barber shop in Flemington. Patrons' names are inscribed on the shaving mugs that line the shelves. One such mug bears the name, W.W. Hawk, a Flemington dentist.

HUNTERDON'S LAST VETERANS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

RICHARD HEATH

"I was born according to information I was given by my family on the 14th day of July in the year 1759. I have no record of the time of my birth and never saw any. My father could not read or write and always told me he had never set down the age of any of his family." So begins Richard Heath's testimony before the Court of Common Pleas in Hunterdon County where he appeared on 14 August 1832 to make his statement in order to obtain pension benefits for his service in the Revolutionary War under Acts of Congress passed 7 June 1832. Heath was then a 73 year old resident of Kingwood Township. He related before the Court his terms of service, locations, etc. "I was called out in the service of the United States as one of the Militia of New Jersey. I lived in the Township of Amwell. . . at my father's house and continued to live there until after the War was over and until I removed into the Township. . . which is now 45 or 46 years. I have lived in Kingwood ever since and still live there.

I was enrolled in the militia in Captain George Ely's Company in Amwell; I first went out in 1775 when I was a little over 16 years of age. . . we marched to New Brunswick and from there to Paulus Hook from there we came in a sloop. . . to Amboy where we encamped and lay the month out. I returned home." He continued his statement, recalling one-month tours at Elizabethtown, Smiths' Farms, Watchung, Bound Brook, Passaic between the Falls and Newark, Pompton, Princeton, several tours at different places along the Millstone and the Raritan. "I was out on one tour under Captain Ely when Washington sent us to take all the flatt bottomed boats about Trenton & along the river (Delaware) and take them up to Easton to keep them out of the way of the British," he related. "I was out under Captain Jacob Gearhart at the time he got shot in the street in Elizabethtown. He was the only man killed in that skirmish. The militia gave way and the British got into the town." Private Heath served other tours under Captains Cornelius Hoppock and John Phillips.

"From the time I first went out to Amboy which was in 1775 when the militia was first called, to the end of the War, I always went out whenever it came to my turn, never missed a tour of duty as my father was a strong Whig and always insisted on my going but my memory has failed so much that it is impossible for

me to state the number of tours I was out, to remember the officers I was with or all the places we were at. However, from the time the War lasted and the continued calls on the Jersey Militia and that part of whom, generally half, and sometimes more than half, were out nearly the whole time from the time the British landed on Long Island after Cornwallis was taken I am satisfied that I served considerably more than two years — but all the old men in our neighborhood with whom I was acquainted who was out with me and could have testified to my service and. . . recollections are dead or removed to places unknown to me."

William R. Robeson, a minister residing in Kingwood Township, gave his statement that he believed Richard Heath was 73 years of age and had been a soldier of the Revolution. Elijah Hummel, another Kingwood Township resident, went before the Court and made his statement, too. During the Revolutionary War he (Hummel) lived with his father in Amwell Township and "was at home part of the time at his father's which was between one and two miles from where Andrew Heath the father of Richard Heath who is now applying for a pension then lived. . ."

About one year after his appearance in Common Pleas Court Richard Heath was issued on 21 August 1833 a Certificate of Pension which was sent to attorney Charles Bartles in Flemington. Heath was granted an annual pension of \$80 commencing 4 March 1831, which he continued to receive until his death in 1849.

A Heath family tradition recounts the story that Andrew, too, was a militiaman. On a hot day in June of 1777 on a march with his company they engaged in a fray with some Tories. Afterwards it is said he drank a quantity of water and buttermilk at a nearby farmhouse and died suddenly a few hours later. His widow, Magdalene, four daughters and three sons, Richard being the youngest, survived him. His real estate is believed to have descended to his eldest son, Andrew, Jr., from whom Richard purchased 105 acres, his homestead farm.

Richard Heath moved to Kingwood Township circa 1787. He had married Catherine, a daughter of William Rittenhouse, and their first child was born in 1782. The family, after moving to Kingwood, attended the Baptist church there. The couple was baptised in the church, according to the Church books in the Historical Society's collections; Richard on 16 September 1787 and "Cattron" on 2 December of the same year. They remained faithful church members until their deaths. "The Lord comes down to his gardain to gether lillys." Catherine Heath died on 10 January 1830 and was buried in the Baptist cemetery at Locktown. A widower until his death on 13 February 1849,

(Continued on page 400)

SIXTEEN PAGES

4,000 Copies

Hunterdon County

Awarded First Prize for General Excellence, Weekly

VOL. CX. No. 33

ESTABLISHED 1825

FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY

Bruno's Lawyers To Continue Fight They Announce

Reilly Proposes to Carry
Appeal to the Higher
Courts.

Jurors Praised by State Staff

Chief Defense Counsel Edward J. Reilly announced last night that the verdict of guilty and sentence to die in the electric chair pronounced on Bruno Richard Hauptmann would not spell the end of his fight for freedom.

Statements from members of the prosecuting staff were laudatory of the courage of the Hunterdon County jury and interpreted the conviction as a move for the security of American home and family life.

"We are going to carry this case to the highest court in the country," Reilly declared. "Altho the jury has reached a verdict on the facts, we feel that there are many errors in the law of the case. We feel that this will result in a reversal of this verdict."

SHAVINGS APEASE THE SUNDAY THROG

SHAVINGS and splinters from the historic window frames of Hunterdon County's century-old Courthouse were carried away as treasures by many of the 4,757 persons, including infants and great-granddaddies, who tramped thru the courtroom between 1 and 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The greatest mob yet to visit the scene of the Hauptmann trial was rewarded by sharing two bushels of the priceless rubbish, left by workmen who installed weather strips in the morning.

For the third successive Sunday, members of Flemington Post No. 159, American Legion, served as guards to keep the line moving and answer the never ceasing and seldom varying stream of questions.

Signs clearly mark all points of interest, but the queries continue, with most frequent repetition, Legionnaires say, of what seems to be the motive of every visitor:

"How can I get to see Hauptmann?"

Wilentz Demands Death Penalty Ac

Council Inquires About Drilling Of Main St. Pavement

Engineer Says Best Method is
to Tunnel From Side, Not
Thru Concrete.

January Relief Bill is High

Complaint was registered at the regular meeting of the Boro Council Monday night against the practice of the New Jersey Northern Gas Company in drilling a series of holes in the concrete pavement of Main Street to detect and repair leaks.

Street Commissioner Charles Walter explained that he had granted permission for the borings after the company protested at the difficulty in locating a break in the main which was again filling the residence of Dr. F. A. Thomas with gas.

Boro Engineer Walter E. Roberts gave his opinion that in practically every instance it would be possible and less detrimental to the concrete to dig from the side and tunnel under the pavement. This, he said, would be more expensive for the

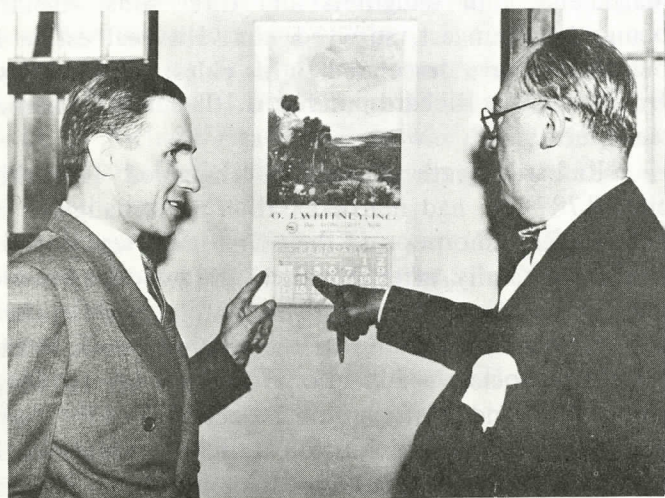
STATE TROOPERS WITH YOU

THERE is nought to enchant the finest state trooper, up by the fact that he is the tallest of the stalwarts of the Flemington County afternoon of last week the center of a circle of young ladies, when duty on the Courthouse.

A dozen autographs were produced from every side grinning sheepishly, their mittens and of with a totally illegible man, draw a picture, clamored one char again the trooper co.

The picturesque and devastating uniform of one young lady pursued by one of the grell dogs who roam the house. "State-man, implored the fair of friendly trooper picture lady and deposited in of his coat, a safe lady of four summers.

The adoring gaze well as of the others ranged from six to followed the "State was to clear a



Defense counsel Edward J. Reilly as he pointed to the 12th of February, telling Hauptmann that would be the date of acquittal. The defense rested at noon.



Looking South on Main Street in Flemington, showing the crowded conditions with the Court House and Hall of Records on the right.

County Democrat

SECTION I

Pages 1 to 8

Newspapers, New Jersey Press Institute, 1934.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1935

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

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POPULAR
GUEST LADIES

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HAUPTMANN SENTENCED TO DIE WEEK OF MARCH 18 FOR LINDBERGH MURDER

GUILTY



**Bronx Carpenter Receives Sentence Without
Flinching; Wife Breaks Down as News
Sinks in; Small Grounds for Appeal**

CROWDS IN STREET TO HEAR VERDICT

At ten minutes of 11 o'clock last night Charles Walton, foreman of the jury which tried Bruno Richard Hauptmann for the murder of Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr., and deliberated nearly 12 hours, rose and solemnly answered the clerk's query as to a verdict. He said:

"GUILTY. WE FIND THE DEFENDANT BRUNO RICHARD HAUPTMANN GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE."

Thus ended another and probably the final chapter in a story of crime that has shaken the conscience of the entire nation.

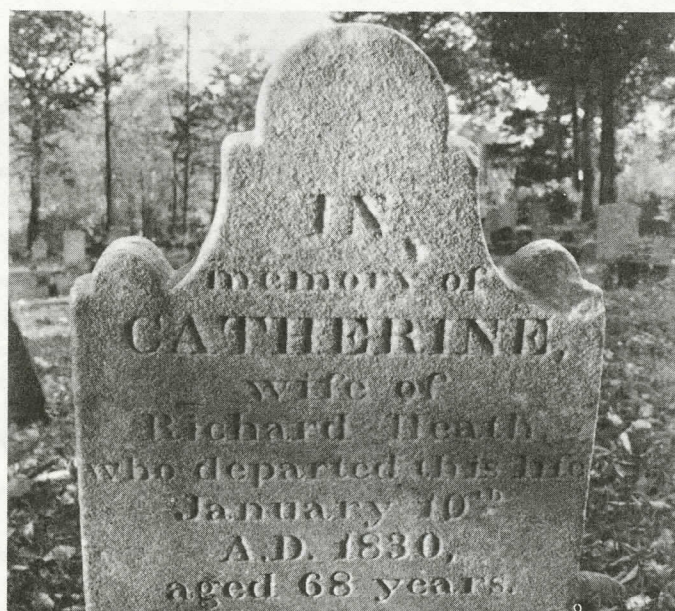


Despite days of cross examination by the Attorney-General, Bruno Richard Hauptmann, alleged Lindbergh kidnapper, and his attorneys Edward J. Reilly (left) and Egbert Rosencrans seem in the best of spirits as Hauptmann prepares to take the stand for redirect examination on 30 January.



Flemington's Union Hotel with members of the jury exercising on the upper porch. The hotel was booked solid.

Photographs from the Inelma Kline Miller Collection



Tombstones marking the grave sites of Richard and Catherine Heath in the Locktown Baptist Cemetery.

(Continued from page 397)

Richard Heath was buried beside the grave of his wife.

Fifteen years before his death, Richard Heath had written his will bequeathing his 105 acre homestead farm in Kingwood Township, which he had bought from Andrew Heath, along with a one acre lot bought from Daniel Rittenhouse, to the couple's son, George, with the provision that George's son, Lewis Andrew, survived his father. A 51 acre lot purchased from John Heath, "lying convenient to be occupied with the homestead farm" was bequeathed to George upon the condition that within two years following his father's death, George pay to the executors of his father's estate \$750.

The couple's son, Peter, was bequeathed "the use, profits and benefits during his natural life" of a 14½ acre parcel of land purchased from Thomas West and on which Peter lived. At Peter's death the lot was bequeathed to his surviving children. The remaining real estate, horses, cattle, livestock, farming utensils, household and kitchen furniture were to be sold and the residue of Richard Heath's estate was divided between sons William, Daniel, Jacob and Benjamin, and daughters Elizabeth, Anna and Rebecca.

George Heath refused to accept his bequest and refused to pay his father's executors \$750. He died the year after his father, without ever accepting the bequest. The disposition of the tract became a case for Orphans Court when Jacob and Daniel Heath petitioned the Court for division of the property. The Court ordered the land sold and the proceeds divided in a manner consistent with Richard Heath's will; One-seventh part each to Jacob Heath, Daniel Heath, the children of Anna, wife of Edward Mason, Benjamin Heath, Rebecca wife of George Van Syckle, the

children of Elizabeth, deceased, wife of Amos Emmons, and William Heath.

THE FAMILY OF RICHARD HEATH

Richard Heath, born 14 July 1759, died 13 February 1849, married circa 1782 Catherine Rittenhouse, born 1762, died 10 January 1830. Their issue:

- i. William Heath, 1782-1841, married Ann Rittenhouse; 3 children
- ii. Andrew Heath, 1784 – probably died young
- iii. Elizabeth Heath, 1787- , married Amos Emmons; 6 children
- iv. Jacob Heath, 1789-1875, married Lavinia Rittenhouse
- v. Daniel Heath, 1791-1878, married Rebecca Sherman
- vi. Peter Heath, 1791-1843, married Susan Reading
- vii. Anna Heath, - , married Edward Mason; 9 children
- viii. Benjamin Heath, 1796- , married Permelia Gordon
- ix. Rebecca Heath, 1799- , married George Van Syckle
- x. George D. Heath, 1802-1850, married Mary R. Heath; 5 children

Bibliography

- Revolutionary War Pension Application File S820, Richard Heath, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
 Docket # 03078, Estate of Richard Heath, Hunterdon County Surrogate's Office, Flemington, N.J.
 Will of Richard Heath, Will Book 8, page 421+, Hunterdon County Surrogate's Office
 Olive Barrick Rowland, *Ancestral Chart and Handbook*, 1935, Richmond, Virginia
 Louise H. Tunison and Althea F. Courtot, *The Heath Family of Hunterdon County, New Jersey*, 1977, Roselle, N.J.

Roxanne K. Carkhuff

Recent Acquisitions

The following items have been added to the Society's collections by donations and purchase.

"Inventory of Readington Township Private Burying Grounds" compiled by Mrs. Norman Stevens, gift of the compiler.

OLD STONES AT OAK SUMMIT by Kenneth V. Myers, 1893, gift from author.

LEGISLATIVE MANUAL OF NEW JERSEY 1983, gift of the Honorable Richard Zimmer.

GUIDE TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, published by National Archives & Records Service, acquired by purchase.

NEW JERSEY 1840 CENSUS INDEX, Ronald V. Jackson and Gary R. Teeple, acquired by purchase.

Exterior and interior views of the barber shop of D. Clinton Rittenhouse and his partner, _____ Boyd, gift of Mrs. Myrtle Sharp Lewis.

Notes on the Philhower family, gift of Shirley Hoffman.

THE STAUFFER, STOVER AND ALLEM FAMILY HISTORY ALSO LEVI AND LOUISA ALLEM'S CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES, by Clinton L. Peterman, 1979, gift from the author.

Political campaign brochures from 1983 elections donated by Susan J. Hoffman, Hunterdon County Surrogate.

Catalog of FLEMINGTON FAIR 15th ANNUAL EXHIBITION, August 19-23, 1924, donated by Stephen Zdepski.

THE RINGO FAMILY HISTORY SERIES, Vol. XI, 1983, given by James J. Ringo.

Typescript and photocopy of 1847-48 journal kept by Dr. Henry Race, family records and other data on the Race and Bird/Burd families donated by Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Meyer.

Xerox copy of an 1809 indenture between Sylvester Bills and his wife Eleanor, of Nottingham Township, Burlington County, and John Beaumont of Solebury Township, Bucks County, for 1+ acre of land in Hunterdon County; given by Mr. Robert Gilmore.



Clint Rittenhouse Barber In Flemington



Dewitt Clinton Rittenhouse's barber shop was located in Flemington at the corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Main Street, "Blackwell Row." The above photograph was taken before February 1898 when a new building occupying the same site was opened by the Flemington National Bank.

Mrs. Myrtle Sharp Lewis, donor of this exterior view of her great uncle's shop, and the interior view on page 396, identified the second barber pictured as Mr. Boyd. Walter J. Boyd, a barber, listed in an 1897 Flemington directory may be the same man. Judging by his attire the third gentleman may have been a railroad employee.

W.S. Buchanan, life, accident and fire insurance agent, also sold bicycles next to the barber shop. Through the window of the restaurant next to Mr. Buchanan's you may see sirloin steak on the Bill of Fare. Want to order one medium rare at the 1897 price?

NOTES and QUERIES

Address correspondence to Genealogical Committee. Listings of ten lines free to members, non-member rate is 25¢ per line.

LOWE, VAN NESS: Desire info re John Lowe & wife Esther Van Ness; their s Peter Arthur Lowe, b. 8 Nov 1879. Is he the John Lowe listed in 1793 Lebanon Twp. militia census? ADD: Mrs. John C. Zeldenrust, 2600 Washington, Two Rivers, WI 54241.

BELLIS, ROCKEFELLER, SCHAMP, WOOLVERTON: Seek corres/w desc/o Adam, Peter & William Bellis/Bollisfeldt, settled in Hunterdon Co 1735/40; Charles Woolverton in Hunterdon 1693-1714; Joost (George) Schamp in Hunterdon 1738. Have special interest in learning who was the father of Mary Bellis, wife of Peter Rockefeller (1711-1787). ADD: Tom Bellis, 2606 S. Troy St., Arlington, VA 22206.

OBJDYKE, PRICE, SEARL: Want anc/o Francis Searl, b 1794, bur Odd Fellows' cemetery, Phila. His s James C. m Martha Obdyke. Also anc/o Catherine Price (1763-1849) bur in plot with Francis. May have been his m-i-l. Des anc/o Sarah A. Deeter, w/o Gershon Palmer Obdyke (1787-1859). ADD: Mrs. Margaret Searle McDonnell, 5130 Greene St., Philadelphia, PA 19144.

PRIGMORE: Need info re Prigmore anc. Daniel Prigmore operated a tavern in Hunterdon Co. 1761; David Prigmore joined church there about that time. ADD: June R. Welch, History Dept., University of Dallas, Irving, TX 75062.

BERGEN, SCHENCK, VAN DUERSEN: Seek info Ann (Nancy) Van Duersen, (1769-1861) m Evert Bergen, Hunt. Co., 1793. Also Arthur Schenck, f/o John A. Schenck, b Hunt. Co. 1808. ADD: Wendy Freborg, 1101 Bonnie View Rd., Hollister, CA 95023.

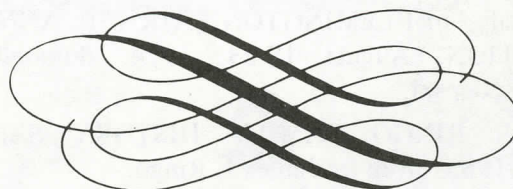
ROSE, STOUT: Enos Rose m Rachel Stout; their d Sarah Ann, b 1814 near Frenchtown, s Andrew Jackson Rose b 11 Oct. 1817 near Frenchtown. Did Enos & Rachel have a d Johanna? Other children? Family started for Illinois in May 1835; Enos d of Cholera on Ohio river boat and was buried on shore somewhere in Indiana. Family continued on to Macoupin Co., IL where Rachel d in 1862 at age 75. Desire information about family. ADD: Mrs. Earl L. Mohr, 8201 Stevens Ave., Bloomington, MI 55420.

(Continued from page 395)

accused by the State of New Jersey for "the crime of the century", the 1932 kidnapping and murder of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr. The child had been taken from his famous father's country estate in the relative wilderness of the Sourland Mountains along the Hunterdon-Mercer border. Hunterdon had geographical jurisdiction but unable to foot the bill, had been forced by state statute to yield the prosecution of the trial to state officials.

Witness by witness, piece by piece, the state built what it considered an absolutely conclusive case. Circumstantial, trumped up, countered the defense. After six weeks, it took the jury only eleven hours to convict. It took the crowd outside even less. While the jury deliberated, the old courthouse had been besieged by chants of "Kill Hauptmann, Kill Hauptmann", punctuated by a stone through a front window. Fourteen months later Bruno went to the chair, proclaiming his innocence to the last.

Guilty or not, acting alone or not, the verdict has been questioned ever since. Just recently, Hauptmann's widow has sued to overturn the findings. And, several individuals have attempted to prove their identity as the real Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., alive today, not the child found dead in 1932. With his finger figuratively on the electrical switch, Governor Harold Hoffman had many doubts but a reprieve would have been most unpopular. Even hard-nosed FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was heard to voice skepticism as to some of the evidence. Come, hear Detective Plebani and render your own verdict.



FALL MEETING
Sunday November 20, 1983
2 p.m.
COURT HOUSE