

NEW JERSEY * Unknown, known, should be known and will be known

I am a New Jersey native. I was born in East Orange, I grew up in Ridgewood, had a business career in Ridgewood, Glen Rock and New Brunswick, I rented three apartments, one in Hawthorne, two in New Brunswick and in 1961, bought a house with my husband, in Franklin Township, Somerset County.

Four years of college in Massachusetts, nine months in each year, I was living out of state. One of my favorite funny memories of my first weeks in Northampton is: how many girls asked me how I could be from New Jersey and speak the way I did...the way They did. E-gad!

I think my reactions, some amused, some angry, began then about the ~~am~~^{am}zing down-putting of New Jersey by non-residents...how little they actually knew about the Garden State.

How many of you are native New Jerseyans? Then you know, I hope, that the State's motto is Liberty and Prosperity, adopted in 1821. The State bird is the eastern goldfinch, approved June 27, 1935. The State flower is the purple violet. The State tree is the red oak, some of which, I hope, grow just down Amwell Road from my house, in Mettler's Woods. I quote from THE WORLD WE LIVE IN, published in 1955 by Time Inc.. This is from a chapter called "The Woods of Home" which is devoted entirely to Mettler's Woods. Quote: "Out of 400,000 square miles of primeval woods that greeted the incredulous eyes of the first Europeans only about 1,600 square miles now remain in unspoiled state."

The horse is the state animal. The New Jersey state animal is the horse.

One such tract survives barely 50 miles from New York City on the rolling piedmont of New Jersey. It is known as Mettler's Woods, and it is this small (65 acres) but truly virgin forest that the pictures on the following pages show." I believe I have read or heard sometime since 1955 that this bit of virgin forest is the only one left. The sentence quoted above could be now edited to read, " One such tract survives ^{The heck with how far it is from NYC!} on the rolling piedmont of New Jersey." PERIOD! ~~Not many people know this.~~ ^{(piedmont means "lying or formed at the base of mountains."} ~~But the wildlife is and has been for me, for the last 42 years, incredibly interesting to watch, thank to that forest preserve...deer, raccoons, groundhogs, rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, ^{skunks} birds of all kinds.~~

The high ridges of the Piedmont Plateau are the PACSADIES

The house I grew up in, was, thanks to my father's excellent choice of land, right on the edge of a valley through which the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook ran. ^{The valley} ~~It~~ was undisturbed except by some walking trails, and on the other side of the brook, a trolley-track which was abandoned during WWII, I think. Anyhow, I was allowed to roam down into the woods, and check out all the plants, and the fish and frogs ~~in~~ the brook. Lady slippers were all over the place ^{could not be picked as they were rare}... related to orchids, I have recently learned. ~~Substitute~~ Poison ivy, poison oak. And purple violets. I didn't know when I was little that they ^{were} ~~are~~ the State flower. And I delight in their spring appearance in the grass on my acre. We have never used ~~weed~~ killers and as a result, the variety of things growing with the grass

remind me always of my roamings in the Ho*Ho-Kus brook valley. And I was tickled to hear ~~that~~ Dr. Bruce Hamilton, of Cook College, ~~recommends~~ mowing one's lawn, without weed killers as it will all look green, no matter what the shape of what's mowed. It is The Garden State, in fact, since so many things grow here. It ranks third, behind Massachusetts and Wisconsin, as a cranberry-producing state. Also ranks second in blueberry production...I don't know who ranks first. As for Jersey tomatoes...here's a story for you. In the fall of 1959, my resident-alien, British subject husband took me to England (and France) for our belated honeymoon. We flew from England to The Isle of Guernsey, and I noticed as we were approaching Guernsey that there were many glass greenhouses. I found out, years later, at some meeting at Cook College, that the tomato specialist whose name I do not remember had gone over to ~~Guernsey~~ ^{after the Channel Islands} to show them how to grow tomatoes (and presumably other things) in cold times. I did not set foot on Jersey, but did see it from aboard the ship we took from Guernsey to France. Incidentally, Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel, learned how to swim in Atlantic Highlands.

New Jersey, in addition to being, I believe, the most densely inhabited state, ~~also ranks as the~~ most highly diversified. Oddly enough, it started out that way. I quote from Richard P. McCormick¹³ 1964 book, NEW JERSEY FROM COLONY TO STATE...1609-1789: "Here, between the Hudson and the Delaware, peoples of many nationalities came together, at times in jarring conflict, but for the most part in peaceful harmony, to lay the foundations of

of a colony whose distinguishing mark was to be its heterogeneity. Unlike New England, where the Puritan townsman typified the whole population, or the South, where the tidewater English planter was equally predominant, New Jersey presented a picture of infinite variety. Its founders spoke many tongues, belonged to many religious denominations, practiced their arts and crafts in many different ways. Each distinctive group had its own contributions to make, and each was to leave a lasting inheritance to future generations."

I am passing around July 22 's New York Times weather report. As you look at it just check out the cities all down the east coast. Note that there are no cities cited for Rhode Island, New Jersey or Delaware, all small states. So, herewith, another quote from McCormick: " New Jersey was the first state to appoint delegates to the Philadelphia convention (to be held in May, 1787)The delegation....played a leading role in the controversy that threatened for several weeks to disrupt the convention. The Virginia delegation had proposed a plan of government that would have accorded the states representation on a basis of population. The small states disliked this arrangement and put forward what became known as the 'New Jersey Plan,' which gave each state equal representation. Ultimately the conflict was resolved by the 'Great Compromise,' whereby each state was given equal weight in the Senate, while the House of Representatives was apportioned according to population."

Wow! Jerseys were way ahead of the other ^{colonists.} ~~colony states.~~

Speaking of weather, (I'm writing this bit on June 23^{the day} after the tornado hit Basking Ridge) ~~David Ludlum's~~ David Ludlum's THE NEW JERSEY WEATHER BOOK, published in 1983 by Rutgers University Press, is a fascinating account of what Jerseys have seen, endured, and got through. One quote from Ludlum: "Rhythmic successions of wet and dry, hot and cold airstreams converge over New Jersey and make up the daily weather whose most notable characteristic is its changeableness. The almost infinite variety of New Jersey's weather year-round was succinctly and imaginatively described by the Reverend Jedidiah Morse, America's foremost geographer during the early days of the Republic: 'The changes of weather are great, and frequently sudden. On the whole, it appears that the climate is a compound of most of the climates of the world. It has the moisture of Ireland in spring; the heat of Africa in Summer; the temperature of Italy in June; the sky of Egypt in autumn; the snow and cold of Norway in winter; the tempests (in a certain degree) of the West Indies, in every season; and the variable winds and weather of Great Britain in every month of the year.'" From GEOGRAPHY MADE EASY, 1800." David Ludlum lived in Princeton until his death in 1997. He also earned a B.A. at Princeton, an M.A. at University of California Berkeley, and a Ph.D. at Princeton.

New Jersey was the only colony/state to have two colleges - Queens College, later to become Rutgers, and the College of New Jersey later to become Princeton College. Which makes me wonder how Metuchen got the nickname Brainy Borough. Surely New Brunswick and Princeton had some brilliant brains? Still have?

The honey bee is the state insect. Whoever set that up
should ^{now} see the airline-beelines all over the state. AND, as of 1999
Newark Airport's passenger traffic outdid ~~JFK~~, LaGuardia and
Philadelphia. How about that for a "small state."

I learned, years ago down in Cape May, that Henry Ford had
raced his first car on the beach with someone he wanted to help
him get into the car business. So he gets the blame for all
the traffic on the turnpike and the parkway. (Only for the traffic
Because, as you will see on this map of Colonial New Jersey, there
were good roads all over the state, obviously some being Indian tra
which later became coach roads, and then our roads. Amwell Road
is an old Indian trail line from the Raritan River to the ~~Delaware~~ ^{Millstone}
River. I often wonder, as I drive up the turnpike, ~~WHAT~~ the
Lenni Lenapes would think, if brought back from 300 years ago,
of what we have done to the meadowlands, to the lands, period!

The horse is the state animal. See what Henry Ford changed!

The state flag displays the official State colors. The
reference librarian at Franklin library got the following out
of her computer. "The State seal is presented in Jersey blue on
a buff background. The colors were chosen by General George
Washington in 1779, after he was headquartered in New Jersey
during the Revolutionary war. These were the military colors
used by the New Jersey troops. The State seal in the center of the
flag contains a horse's head. A helmet showing that New Jersey
governs itself and three plows on a shield referring to the
State's agriculture tradition. The two goddesses represent the
the State motto...Liberty is on the left....holding a staff with

a liberty cap on it and the word liberty underneath her. The goddess on the right is Ceres, goddess of agriculture. She is holding a cornucopia with prosperity written below her." From Hammond's WORLD ATLAS, Classics Edition, published in 1956 is this map of the resources and products of New Jersey... impressive. And an April, 2003 article, for a change, quite pleasant...most of the time the TIMES has what I guess it thinks is a ball with New Joisey, in its New Jersey section.

And I might as well flag Somerset County as one of the very early counties....1688.

The Women's Project of New Jersey, Inc. is a voluntary non-profit orgnaization formed in 1984 to research and publicize the diverse backgrounds and life experiences of New Jersey women throughout the state's history. Volunteer writers, with guidelines produced biographies from 1600-1807, 1808-1865, 1866-1920, and 1921 to present. These writings exist in the Rutgers Library archives, as well as in this book, produced by Syracuse University Press in 1997. Suzanne Lebsock, professor of history and wife of Richard McCormick, ^{son of Richard P. McCormick} now president of Rutgers, writes in her introduction to PAST AND PROMISE: "...New Jersey is a cosmopolitan place, and has been ever since Philadelphia and New York first laid claim to big-city glitter. New Jersey has paid the price for its proximity to two of the country's premier cities, as demonstrated by the unending stream of New Jersey jokes perpetrated chiefly by denizens of New York City's five boroughs. But this book also documents one of the enormous ^{blessings} of New Jersey's

location: its uncommonly rich aggregation of artists, performers and authors. On farms, in towns, or down at the shore - creative people have time and time again found homes in New Jersey that allowed them easy access to metropolitan galleries, concert halls, broadcast studios, and publishers." I don't know who chose Ceres and Liberty to dominate our state seal....Mayhap, Martha Washington because women of New Jersey have been and are highly accomplished.

Geologically, the State of New Jersey is astounding, from the Palisades on down. I quotes from the GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPES OF NEW JERSEY, ¹⁹⁷¹ by Peter E. Wolfe, retired professor of Geology at Rutgers. In his preface he says: "In many respects New Jersey with its location on the eastern edge of the 'drifting' North American continent, is unique for demonstrating the workings of the 'new Geology'. The theories of 'drifting continents,' 'seafloor spreading,' and 'plate tectonics' explain for the first time the opening and closing of the Atlantic Ocean basin; the history of the rock record, the rifting and volcanic activity, the geological structures and some of the landscape features that are present in New Jersey today." He goes on:

"In spite of the small size of the state, the rock record is one of the most complete of any state in the Union. Starting with the oldest Precambrian rocks of the New Jersey Highlands, which are nearly 2 billion years old, the rock record is complete for all of geologic time except for the Carboniferous and Permian periods (225 to 350 million years ago), and these rocks are

present just across the Delaware River in Pennsylvania. The Jurassic Period, which was long considered the missing stratigraphic link in New Jersey, has now been identified in the Newark basin of the Piedmont Lowland Province, as well as in the offshore drilling cores on the New Jersey continental shelf, making the geological record still more complete."

" The Folded Appalachians of Northern New Jersey (Kittatinny Mountain and the Great Valley) and eastern Pennsylvania are 'world classic folded and eroded mountains' that are the result of the continental collision when North America met head on with Africa and Europe as drifting continents. The New Jersey Highlands are the result of an earlier collision....The lava flows of the Watchung Mountains and the intrusive sills of the Palisades represent landscapes formed by volcanism during the Palisades Disturbance. The most recent sediments are present on the low-lying New Jersey Coastal Plain, which was submerged and emerged many times during the Cretaceous and Tertiary Periods.... New Jersey has one of the most complete geologic outdoor laboratories of any university in the country." Further on, he ^{says:} ~~states~~: "In addition to being the source of zinc mineral deposits at Franklin, Sterling and Ogdensburg, the area (Sussex County) is one of the leading mineral collecting localities of the world. More than 230 mineral species and varieties have been identified and an additional 100 minerals, some of which are ill-defined have been reported but not yet validated. Many museums

like the Museum of Natural History in New York and the Rutgers and ~~Princeton~~ University museums and many private collections throughout the world have show pieces of the brilliantly fluorescent franklinite, willemite and other minerals from the mines at Franklin." If you have never been to the Rutgers geology museum, stop by... A number of dinosaur footprints are on display there which were excavated from the Triassic Brunswick Shales of Towaco, Morris County.

Thanks again to the ladies of New Jersey who saved the Palisades!

There are, of course, many nifty gentlemen in New Jersey, one of whom, in February, 2003, made it possible for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra to purchase 30 rare stringed instruments, 24 violins, 2 violas and 4 cellos. The group of instruments will be called the Golden Age Collection, and it positions the NJSO as the only orchestra in the world to procure such a large collection of extraordinary instruments. Jersey shore-area philanthropist Dr. Herbert Axelrod accumulated these 30 pieces over three decades, and very much wanted the NJSO to have the fiddles.

There are zillions of other facts, figures and reasons for admiring New Jersey... but I'll leave those up to the paper-givers of this ^{year's} session of study club.

I do have 3 quotes to end with

- ① Home News - 7-26-02
- ② Pres. McCormick's speech 9-19-03
- ③ NY TIMES Metro - 10-6-03