

Hopewell Valley Historical Society
Box 371, Pennington, NJ 08534
hvhswebsite@gmail.com

Michael A. Thomsen Photographs

2017.32

Extent

45 photographic prints, 8.5x11”

Dates

1927-1959, predominant 1946-1959

Creator

Michael A. Thomsen

Scope and Content

The Thomsen family moved to Pennington, NJ in 1946, when Michael was 4. His father worked at RCA Laboratories in Princeton. He lived in Pennington and attended local schools until he graduated from high school in 1959. In 2017, while living in Mesa, Arizona, Thomsen wrote a childhood memoir titled “‘Pop,’ Sam and the Chief: Memories of Pennington, N.J. At Mid-Twentieth Century.” It details his memories of growing up, with a focus on the town of Pennington and its residents. The collection includes

photographs of Pennington street scenes and buildings taken by Thomsen and his family members that Thomsen then used in his memoir. Subjects include street views, school teams and trips, parades, teachers and classmates, and Pennington Grammar School. Photographs 41 through 45 are not used in the book. The prints were made by Thomsen from his originals and donated to Hopewell Valley Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Contact the Hopewell Valley Historical Society for terms of reproduction.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

The collection is entirely in English.

Citation

Michael A. Thomsen Photographs. 2017.32. Hopewell Valley Historical Society, Pennington, NJ.

Subjects and Genres

Below is a list of subjects and genre types to be found in the collection:

- Auletta, Sam
- Babe Ruth League
- Barksdale, James
- Blazejewski, Arthur
- Borough Hall (Pennington, N.J.)
- Boy Scouts of America. Troop 41 (Pennington, N.J.)
- Campbell, Willard S.
- Central High School (Pennington, N.J.)
- Colvcy's Appliance Store (Pennington, N.J.)
- Conover, Gail
- Coryell, Norman

- Cruse, Russell
- Jacobs Creek Bridge (Pennington, N.J.)
- Fire House (Pennington, N.J.)
- First National Bank of Pennington (Pennington, N.J.)
- First Presbyterian Church (Pennington, N.J.)
- Fletcher, Floyd
- Flury, Jr., Ablett H.
- Flynn's Hardware (Pennington, N.J.)
- Guthrie, William D., 1935-
- Hess, Dale
- Holcombe, Anne McC.
- Hutchinson, T. Coerte
- Jennings Confectionary (Pennington, N.J.)
- Kersey, Peggy
- Krieger, Norman
- Little League Baseball
- Mellott, Paulette
- Nissen, Christina
- Parades
- Pennington (N.J.)
- Pennington Grammar School (Pennington, N.J.)
- Pennington Pharmacy (Pennington, N.J.)
- Pennington Quality Market (Pennington, N.J.)
- Pennington Shoe Shop (Pennington, N.J.)
- Rapp, Janice
- Reading Company
- Ryba, Henry
- Steepy, Thomas Louis, 1941-
- Stevenson, Sally
- Stricker, Mary Lou
- Thomsen, Michael A.

- Thomsen, Rebne
- True, William
- Twin Pines Appliance Store (Pennington, N.J.)
- United States. Civil Air Patrol
- Waldron's Confectionery (Pennington, N.J.)
- Washburn, Carol

Listing of Photographs

1. 25 East Welling Avenue, 1946, Rebne Thomsen, age 10, in yard
2. 25 East Welling Avenue, 1946, Michael Thomsen, age 4, in driveway
3. 25 East Welling Avenue back yard, 1946 (2 copies)
4. 25 East Welling Avenue at completion of construction, 1927
5. Pennington Pharmacy, 2 North Main Street, 1958
6. North Main Street, looking north from Delaware Avenue, 1958
7. Pennington Quality Market and Twin Pines appliance store, North Main Street, 1958
8. Pennington Borough Hall and fire house, Main Street, 1958
9. Colvcy's appliance store and First National Bank of Pennington, North Main Street at Delaware Avenue, 1958
10. North Main Street, looking south toward Delaware Avenue, Presbyterian church steeple in upper right corner
11. Delaware Avenue, looking west from Main Street, 1958
12. Flynn's Hardware, West Delaware Avenue, 1958
13. Plank bridge over Reading railroad, Delaware Avenue, looking east. 1958
14. Sam Auletta's shoe repair shop, 22 South Main Street, 1958 ["Pennington Shoe Shop" visible in store window.]
15. South Main Street looking north from vicinity of AME church, Jennings confectionery at left, 1958
16. Pennington Grammar School, as seen from the playground (from the east), 1951

17. Coach Henry Ryba watches a shot in the air at the Central High gym on Main Street, Spring, 1958
18. Students Mary Lou Stricker and Sally Stevenson clown while selling candy at CHS basketball game, 1958
19. T. Coerte Hutchinson's senior English class at Central High, 1958
20. Anne McC. Holcombe's American history class, 1958
21. Norman Krieger's algebra class, 1958
22. Students Janice Rapp and Gail Conover in Norman Krieger's algebra class, 1958
23. William Guthrie's Physics class, Central High School, 1958
24. Students James Barksdale and Russell Cruse aboard railroad coach, Central High senior trip, 1959
25. Vice-Principal Willard S. Campbell on Central High senior trip with students Thomas Steepy, Dale Hess, Norman Coryell, William True, Arthur Blazejewski, Paulette Mellott, 1959
26. Members of Central High Class of 1959 on senior trip at Fort McHenry
27. Central High Bulldog batter takes a healthy swing, 1958
28. Reading railroad passenger shelter, west platform, near west Franklin Street, 1958
29. Jacobs Creek Bridge, Pennington-Titusville Road, Hopewell Township, 1958
30. Jacobs Creek Bridge, Pennington-Titusville Road, Hopewell Township, 1958
31. Spring snow at 25 East Welling Avenue. 1958
32. 25 East Welling Avenue, early spring snowstorm, 1956
33. 25 East Welling Avenue, back porch viewed from garage with bicycle, 1958
34. Spring snow on Welling Avenue, 1958
35. Backyard fun, 25 East Welling Avenue, Rebne Thomsen (below), Floyd Fletcher (above), 1954
36. Civil Air Patrol ambulance, Memorial Day, 1958
37. Little Leaguers on parade, Memorial Day, 1958
38. Here comes BSA Troop 41, Memorial Day, 1958
39. Miss Pennington, Memorial Day, 1958

40. American Field Service exchange student Christina Nissen (back seat) accompanied by "host sister Carol Washburn, Peggy Kersey and T. Coerte Hutchinson," Memorial Day, 1958
41. Waldron's Confectionery and Presbyterian Church, South Main Street, 1958
42. Cornerstone for Central High School of Hopewell Township laid November 22, 1958. Participating are Board of Education President Ablett H. Flury, Jr. (left) and Student Council President Michael Thomsen (right).
43. Jacobs Creek Bridge, Pennington-Titusville Road, Hopewell Township, 1958
44. Babe Ruth League baseball, Pennington School Field, 1958
45. Passenger shelter, west platform Reading railroad station, 1958

Updated 6.1.2023 by Katie Chase.