

# New Jersey 1969 Garden State



## A SEMI-CENTENNIAL REVIEW

By Joel Samberg

**F**ifty years ago, what happened in New Jersey more or less stayed in New Jersey.

That's not to say that the Garden State lacked news coverage in the national press in 1969, nor was it left out of civic books, TV shows or movies. It's just that so many other things going on from coast-to-coast overshadowed New Jersey.

No state - and nobody in the state - is perfect. But New Jersey seems perfectly willing to stay out of the spotlight when the situation demands it. After all, we have some pretty big headlines of our own from time-to-time that keep us in the national focus: the Hindenburg, "The War of the Worlds," Miss America, Trump casinos, "The Sopranos," "The Real Housewives" and much, much more.

But let's step outside the state borders for a moment: the Woodstock Music and Art Fair became iconic al-

most before the last act left the stage; the surnames Manson, Tate and La Bianca became famous because of a grisly murder spree in California; the town of Chappaquiddick in Massachusetts was put on the map thanks to a careless driver - a famous senator - who caused a deadly accident; and two men walked on the moon.

All that happened in 1969 - and that was also the year in which two of the fastest rising acts in the music world rocked Asbury Park. In 1969, the killing of a 17-year-old girl from Atlantic Highlands helped label a man from Linden as a mass murderer. Also, the mayor of Newark was indicted for bribery in a sewer scandal, and Bell Labs was making discoveries that benefited not just astronomy, but digital video recording, as well.

Since 1969 was exactly a half-century ago - and also one of the most seminal years of the 20th Century - we

thought a little semi-centennial review would be in order.

### Music

Many fans called it a musical night to remember down the Jersey Shore. Led Zeppelin and Joe Cocker gave two concerts on the evening of Aug. 16 at the Convention Hall in Asbury Park. Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, John Paul Jones and John Bonham, all from England, had formed Led Zeppelin just the year before. Cocker had already been touring for more than three years with his own group, the Grease Band. Woodstock had actually started the day before, and Led Zeppelin was invited to play there, but the group's manager turned down the offer. With so many other musical acts on the bill, the manager wasn't convinced the concert would boost the band's exposure. He miscalculated, but it was a crazy, heady time - and nobody's per-

fect. Cocker, however, flew by helicopter to Bethel after the second show in Asbury Park and, with a little help from his fans, made musical history. Tickets for the Asbury Park concert ranged from \$5.50 to \$2.50. The first show was not quite sold out, but the second had standing room only.

### Murder

There were several things that separated Robert Zarinsky from Charles Manson. For one, Manson was a cult leader who compelled his followers to carry out heinous crimes on his behalf, while Zarinsky seemed to work mostly alone. For another, Manson dabbled in the music industry with some notable musicians in swanky California, whereas Zarinsky apparently had no such ambitions. Both, however, share the dubious distinction of being forever labeled in the national archives as mass murderers. A 17-year-old girl

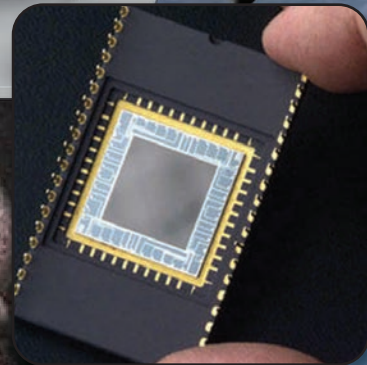
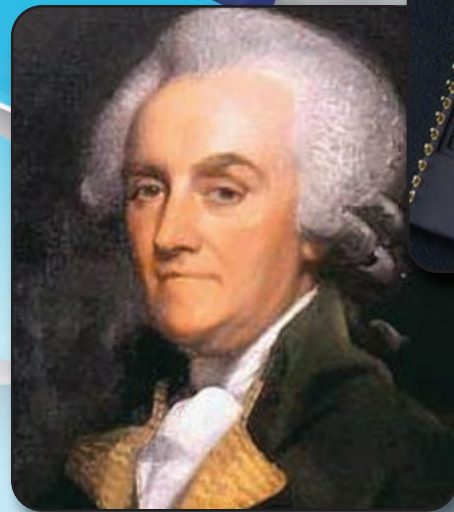
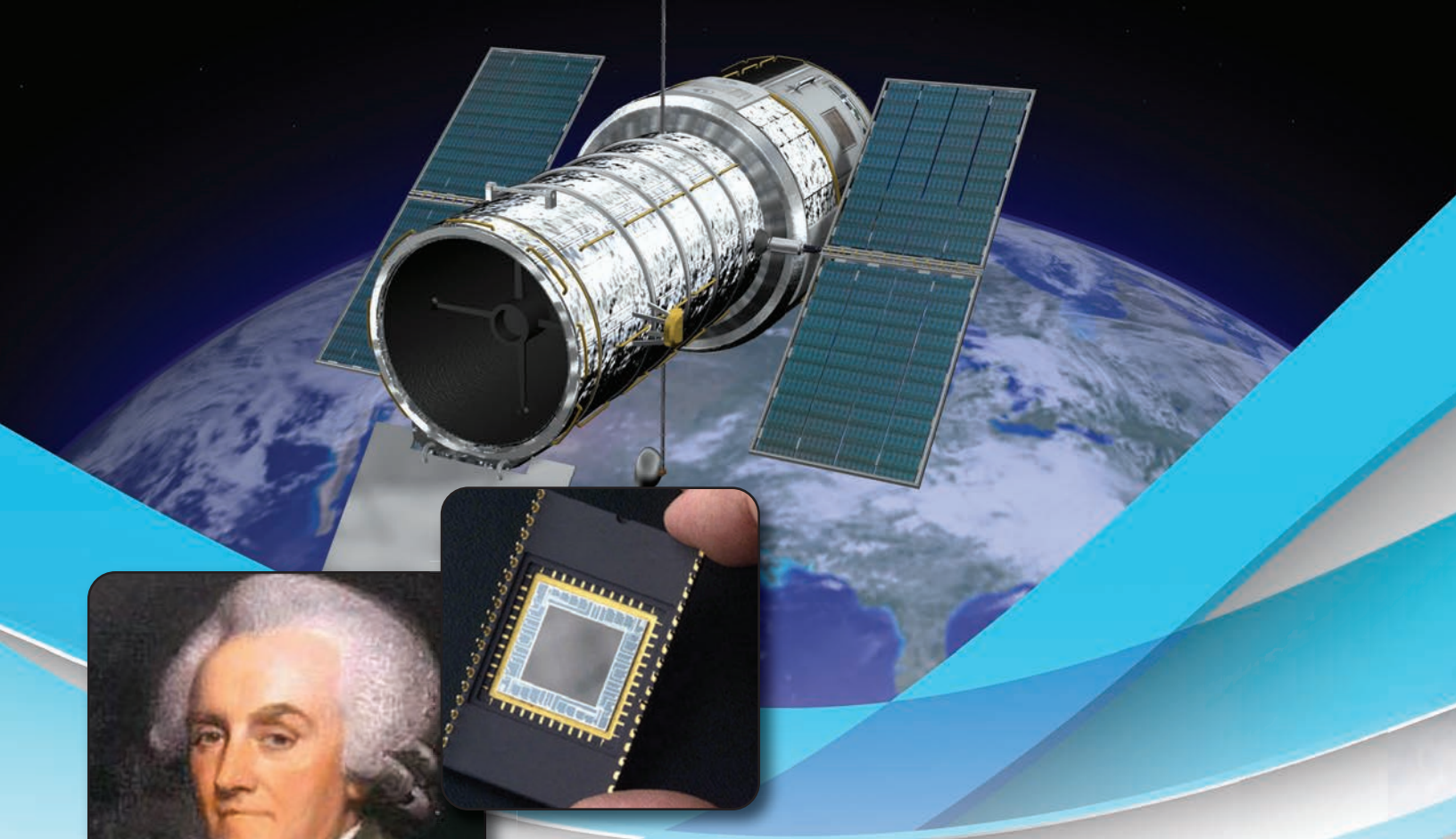
from Atlantic Highlands named Rosemary Calandriello disappeared in October 1969. Press accounts called Zarinsky New Jersey's most notorious killer because Calandriello was not his only victim. In previous and subsequent years he was also suspected of murdering Jane Durruea of Keansburg, Police Officer Charles Bernoskie of Rahway and at least four other women. It was the 1969 crime that provided Zarinsky with yet another distinction: he was the first person in New Jersey to be convicted of murder even though the victim's body was never recovered.

### Politics

Five months after one of the most famous senators in the country caused a fatal accident on Massachusetts' Chappaquiddick Island (which he took 10 hours to report), Newark's Hugh Joseph Addonizio, who had

been the city's mayor since 1962, was indicted by a federal grand jury (along with nine other city officials) for taking kickbacks from contractors which, in total, exceeded a million dollars. Seven months later he was found guilty, and two months after that he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The crime, said the presiding judge, "tore at the very heart of our civilized society and our form of representative government." In 1970 Addonizio lost his bid for reelection. A graduate of Fordham University, he had earned a Silver Star in the army during World War II, where he eventually earned the rank of captain. In 1948 he won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, as a Democrat. He served four years and then, in an attempt to break what he considered to be a corrupt stran-





glehold on Newark held by its then-mayor, Leo P. Carlin, ran for the office - and won. Eight years later, he was gone.

### Science

The world sat the edge of its collective chair on July 16 to watch Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin (who grew up in Montclair) become the first humans to walk on the moon. That may be hard to top, but in a laboratory at AT&T Bell Labs in Murray Hill, two scientists whose names most people probably don't know, Willard Boyle and George E. Smith, huddled around their worktables to put the finishing touches on something that eventually came to be called a charge-coupled device (CCD), which ended up being as important for astronomy and opti-

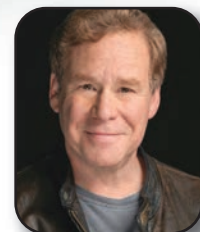
cal electronics as Apollo 11 was for space exploration. A CCD is a device that facilitates the movement of electrical charges so that they can be manipulated and converted for various purposes. The Hubble Space Telescope is dependent on them, as are all digital cameras and many other products. Boyle and Smith were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2009.

Despite being slightly overshadowed 50 years ago, New Jersey has nothing to worry about. Its past was full of progress, the present is marked by the vibrancy of its scientific, educational and cultural communities, and the future holds plenty of promise.

What's more, New Jersey was one of the first colonies on board with the U.S. Constitution (the third to ratify the document, on Dec. 18, 1787). Plus, we have a long list of illustrious leaders, including its first royal governor, William Franklin, who was the illegitimate son of one of our founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin. Of course, what we must also remember is that William

Franklin sided with Great Britain during the American Revolution.

But nobody's perfect.



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