

# Chester Times

Friday, July 2, 1954

## John G. Pew, Sr., Represented The Highest Type of Citizenship

Chester mourns the loss of her first citizen today.

John G. Pew Sr., among whose honors was the name "Mr. Chester," (it could just as easily have been Mr. Delaware County), died yesterday in his 84th year.

Long is the list of achievements and honors Mr. Pew received during his useful life as industrialist and civic leader.

They ranged from the sincere handclasp of one of his employes of the Sun Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co. to the Order Orange Nassau, highest honor bestowed on civilians by the Royal House of Netherlands.

Mr. Pew is principally identified with the Sun Shipyard, to which he came in 1919, as the United States was emerging victorious from the first World War.

He enlarged the yard from five to eight ways. Dry dock and ship repair facilities were added. He branched into the business of supplying heavy industrial equipment to the petroleum industry.

The progress he made was such that during World War II, when the shipyard was an integral factor in the winning of the conflict, Sun Ship became the largest privately-owned shipyard in the world.

As Mr. Pew increased the fortunes of the ship yard he increased, proportionately, the fortunes of the men who worked for him. This in turn enriched the city, which, in itself, might grant him the title, "Mr. Chester."

But it was not for this international significant activity that Mr. Pew was most honored by his fellow citizens. It was his interest in civic organizations which made his name inseparable from that of this city.

It was Mr. Pew who introduced the Community Chest idea to Chester. And under his direction, and the directors who were selected,

trained and inspired by him, this Community Chest has become a model of its kind for the nation.

It is not by accident that the new million-and-a-half dollar Young Men's Christian Association building will be named for Mr. Pew.

Years ago he plunged himself into the affairs of the local "Y" and his name on the board has never been a sinecure. Mr. Pew was, in many ways, the Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Pew was the bulwark between financial disaster and the excellent educational institution Pennsylvania Military College is today. His indomitable drive to keep it the finest of military schools has made it just that.

To list all the activities that have either been called into life, or given renewed chances of survival by Mr. Pew is impossible. Not a man to publicize his accomplishments, there are many known only to members of his family.

And it should not be forgotten that Mr. Pew has left as a legacy to this community this family. For as he withdrew from his favorite activities due to advancing age, his sons have carried on in the Pew tradition.

In the face of the accomplishments, character and leadership of a man of Mr. Pew's calibre, it would not be easy to tarnish his stature by overpraise.

But this would personally trouble Mr. Pew, a humble, religious man, who remembered best that he was once a worker in a pipe shop and not always the industrial executive.

It is fitting, in marking Mr. Pew's death, to quote the closing lines from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar, when Mark Anthony, looking upon Brutus, said:

"His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, 'This was a man!'"