



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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NO. 1

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 5, 1987 at 8:00 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale (Second Floor).

PROGRAM: Allendale's "Celery Farm" Area—Past, Present and Future, will be the subject of a presentation by Allendale resident Stiles Thomas, who is also a charter member of the Allendale Historical Society.

The meeting is, as always, free and open to the public, so please invite your friends and neighbors.

SOCIETY NEWS:

We are pleased to note that an historic preservation ordinance was passed at the May 14, 1987 meeting of the Allendale Mayor and Council. A Historic Landmarks Commission was subsequently appointed by the Mayor; its members are: Charles Vail, Chairman; Pat Wardell; Jeanne Cotz; Stiles Thomas; and Marsha Stoltz. The commission is expected to recommend buildings and other sites to be considered for landmark designation.

Our own Landmark and Preservation Committee, under the leadership of Jack Troast, has compiled a master list from entries on three other "Allendale Old House Lists," including the Girl Scout List in the Library, the Bergen County Historic Sites Survey, and a list in our own files. Members of the committee are now in the process of photographing, and writing a brief architectural and historical description of, each house on their master list.

To raise funds for this committee's work, we will have, at our October 5 meeting, back issues of this newsletter. There will be a box on the front table for donations, and for each \$1 donated, the donor may take two back issues. This is a good opportunity for those who would like some back issues to fill in their collections. (Sorry—not all back issues are available. Some of the earliest issues are out of print.) At future meetings, back issues of the newsletter will be for

sale for 75¢ each. Back issue newsletters are available through the mail at \$1.00 per issue (the additional cost to cover packaging & postage). By mail, please indicate which issue(s) you'd like, and we'll do our best to fulfill requests.

We'd also like to remind members and friends that several Society publications are for sale (and make wonderful gifts):

- our historical map, "Early Days of Allendale," drawn by Claire Tholl (suitable for framing) is \$2.00 (by mail, please add \$2.00 for packaging and postage).
- the booklet "Allendale: the Way We Were," (a souvenir booklet published for Allendale's 80th birthday, containing photos and newspaper items from 1890-1900) is \$2.00 (by mail, please add \$1.00 for packaging and postage).
- our Allendale notepaper (8 notes and 8 envelopes) is \$3.00 (by mail, please add \$1.00 for packaging and postage).

The map, booklet and notepaper can be bought at **The Country Shop** on West Allendale Ave., Allendale. And every sale benefits your Historical Society!

We love to hear from our members near and far, and this newsletter has notes and memories of Allendale from Natalie (Storms) Holeman, Margaret McNelley, and Laura (Barrett) Haviland. We thank them all for writing!

Memories of Allendale...

From **Natalie (Storms) Holeman**, of Stone Harbor, New Jersey:

...The [Storms] house on West Crescent Avenue was built in 1912 when my parents were married. My father was born on Crescent Avenue, one of 8 children (house & well next to Dr. Botta). His brother owned and lived in Pinckney's house before 1924. I believe that was the year it was sold by Andrew and Florence Storms to Harry Pinckney and his wife. I think this house is very old, but I have no records. I remember Mr. P. had all the deeds, maps, etc. years ago and showed me. Everything measured in chains and links!

From **Laura (Barrett) Haviland**, of Little Silver, New Jersey:

...I enjoyed especially reading about the livery stable owned by my father, Alonzo Barrett, and Mrs. Borger's store, across the road from us, and Mr. Braun's hotel across the road on the other side of us.

Sometime in the future I would be interested in reading the history of the Ivers house on Franklin Turnpike. We were told, as children, that my grandfather bought it in the 1800s and that it was a hundred and fifty years old at that time. Learning from clippings I have, there were over a thousand acres with the house.

In someone's recollections a few months ago, it was mentioned that the first airplane flew over Allendale in 1916. However, I was attending the Allendale school, graduating in 1913, when the first airplane flew over the school. The whole student body was let out into the school yard to see it. It flew very low and I remember it clearly.

From **Margaret McNelley**, of Granville, New York: Some Allendale memories:

In 8th grade, when our classmates read orally and came to a difficult word, Mr. Alling [the school principal and 8th grade teacher] would say, "Call it 'steamboat' and go on."

Sometimes while sleighriding on Hillside Avenue, ten sleds would be tied together. I liked to ride and swerve on the last sled. Perry Dexter was a leader.

My mother used to help Mrs. Taylor. Peggy and I would play "hide and seek." We could go from one room to another via an opening between closets. There was lots of room to hide in the big house. [This is the house at 475 Franklin Turnpike—the Fell-Ackerman-Cable-Taylor-Pfister House.] Then there was a fun party at Tiny Anthony's.

At a flower show in Granville, N.Y. I met Mrs. Twitchell who taught on Hillside Avenue. Her husband was a principal in Ramsey. I was having a clock repaired and the gentleman asked if I had a larger model of the clock. "Yes," I said, "when I lived in Allendale, N.J." "Why, I used to visit my aunt, Mrs. Thomas (Parnell's mother) there," said Vaughn Thomas from Hebron, N.Y., now in Florida.

Church suppers and fairs at Epiphany Church were fun times, as well as bowling in the basement. At a picnic in back of the church, Tippy Asten and I were in a 3-legged race.

At least two people I've met in Granville who moved up from New Jersey used to swim at Crestwood Lake. I remember swimming in the pond by the baseball field.

On November 10, 1918 we left school early to parade at the news of the armistice (the early false one). I was allowed to leave at the fire alarm by Mr. Gousset's at the top of the hill on Hillside Avenue. That gong sounded often for fires that crept up from the railroad tracks.

I remember activities at the fire house: movies, card parties, flower shows, carnivals. At my last carnival in 1925, I was with Tippy Asten who had her arm in a sling from the splinter which caused lockjaw (and her death). Also that summer, Mr. Hutchinson and another man tried to beat the train as they drove across the track and were killed.

School memories include assembly programs and our play when the eight of us graduated from 8th grade in Allendale. My teachers were: Grades 1-3, Miss Van Houten; Grade 4, Miss Appert; Grade 5, Miss Haynes; Grade 6, Miss Fuller (now Laurel Fuller Saxton); Grades 7 & 8, Mr. Alling.

[Graduating from the Allendale Public School, on June 16, 1921, with commencement held at Archer Hall, were: Esther Anderson, Gertrude Arlt, Charles Bijou, Elwood Critchley, Margaret McNelley, Grace Slingland, Whyett Van Horn, and Leonard Whittaker.]

From **Pat Wardell**, of Allendale:

I can remember finding and picking tiny wild strawberries that grew on the banks of the brook along West Crescent Avenue between the railroad tracks and the entrance to Crestwood Lake. This must have been about 1950 or so, and although it never occurred to me then, I wonder now if these were remnants of Allendale's days as a great strawberry-producing area. Mallinson's farm had been in this area (Crestwood Lake was developed from Mallinson's Pond) and it seems possible that these tiny berries could very well have been the wild descendants of earlier cultivated berries.

50 Years Ago in *The Ramsey Journal*

• January 28, 1937: "A total of \$225 was collected for the Red Cross flood relief fund by members of Allendale Americal Legion Post in a house-to-house canvass...The Legionnaires were directed by Carl Wehner, and included Jacob Kaplan, K. Booth, Edward Hamilton, E. E. Megnin, Fred Weise, William Winter, Lyman Ceely, Russell Mallinson, R. V. Jones, John Borger, John G. Hubbard, and Grant Alston. Assisting them in the work were several women, including Mrs. Perry Hamilton, Mrs. Bert Capstaff, Mrs. John G. Hubbard, Mrs. Ernest Arlt, Mrs. A. Booth, Mrs. G. Levy, and Mrs. R. V. Jones."

• January 28, 1937: "David Berdan, junior assistant scoutmaster, was in charge of a group of Allendale Boy Scouts on Saturday in a hike into the Ramapo hills of Hohokus Township... Fred L. Savage and George Price and Miss Harriet Austin motored the boys to the foot of the mountain, and Price, Savage and William Osborne called for them on their return. Others on the hike were Norman Farrell, John Kelly, James Hummer, Richard Van Houten, David Kaplan, Robert Osborne, Jack Strangfeld, Martin Hamilton, and Edward Hamilton."

• March 11, 1937: "The Allendale Jinx Club discussed plans for a dance at its meeting Tuesday night at the home of Miss Thelma Pinckney...Those in attendance at the meeting were the Misses Doris Winters, Katherine Dillon, Natalie Storms, May Strangfeld, Helen Stange, Peggy Geismar, Freda Buchl, Madeline Tobler, Gertrude Mackerley, Shirley White, and the hostess."

• June 3, 1937: "Nine girls [of Allendale Scout Troop No. 2] completed their first class first aid requirements after four weeks of training by Mrs. O. E. Esval. They are Marilyn Corcoran, Anita Fisher, Doris Phair, Evelyn Ivers, Madeline Schmidheini, Ruth Jacob, Joan Flandreau and Marie Farrell."

• June 3, 1937: "Miss Florence Pritchett, daughter of Mrs. Mary Pritchett of Franklin Turnpike was shown in a metropolitan rotogravure section on Sunday modeling a dress for home town wear."

• July 1, 1937: "Congressman J. Parnell Thomas will present medals to the following members of the Allendale Police Department pistol team who have qualified as pistol experts, at the dedicatory ceremonies...of the new pistol range to the borough on July 4: Chief William J. Reimer, Officers John O. Forshay, Arthur Reyner, Nelson White, Harold Heidrich and

James Webb, and Councilman Lyman Ceely."

• July 29, 1937: "That the carnival sponsored by the Allendale A's Baseball Club last week on the grounds of the local firehouse went over big, is evidenced by the fact that the management continued it for two additional nights. It is estimated that an average of 200 people attended nightly."

• October 28, 1937: "Scoutmaster Arthur Albert, accompanied by eleven Allendale Boy Scouts [spent the weekend camping at Bear Mountain Park]. They were taken to Ladentown, N.Y. by Troop Committeeman William Buhlman and Mrs. D. M. Colburn, and from there they hiked three miles to the shelter. The group included the following boys: David Kaplan, David Colburn, Frank Rivers, James Hammer, Thomas Fitzgerald, Martin Hamilton and Carlo Vollaro. Before daybreak, Russell and William Sweet, who had hiked in from Beaver Pond one and a half miles away, arrived on the scene and just as breakfast was being prepared two more joined the party: former Junior Scoutmaster David Berdan, who had returned from Rutgers University to spend the weekend, and Edward Hamilton....All hiked back out to the road and were met by Assistant Scoutmaster Ed Strangfeld, Mrs. Colburn and Mrs. Sweet, who brought them home."

• November 11, 1937: "Gildo Job, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Job of W. Crescent Avenue, was recently elected president of the student body at Bergen County Junior College. He also has the distinction of being president of the varsity "B" Club, and captain of the football squad."

• November 11, 1937: "The Allendale Garden Club will hold a winter flower show at the municipal building on Franklin Turnpike on Saturday Nov. 20...Mrs. Percy Doty, president, will be in charge of the show..."

• November 11, 1937: "John Doty of East Orchard Street is a member of the committee for the third annual fine arts show of the Ridgewood Art Association, which is being held in the Pease Memorial Library building, Ridgewood."

• December 30, 1937: "Mr. and Mrs. Fred Koster entertained Mr. and Mrs. Garret Quackenbush, Miss Katherine Quackenbush and Wilfred Paulsen at a Christmas Eve dinner on Friday. For the past twenty-seven years it has been the custom for these two families to spend Christmas Eve together."

• December 30, 1937: "The Misses Mabel and Lillian Knack of Brooklyn, N.Y., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Flood of Middletown, N.Y. and Edward Mahony of Kenvil were guests of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Knack of Hillside Avenue at a dinner party on Christmas Day."

ALLENDALE HOUSES BUILT BEFORE 1940

Compiled by Pat Wardell

Compiler's Note: This "inventory" of pre-1940 Allendale houses has been compiled using information in the Society's files and in my own files. Very few of the houses have been systematically researched, so we know that for most of them, the information is incomplete. We would welcome any additions, corrections, updating, etc. from our readers, and will happily add such information to the Society's files.

Only houses still in existence today are included in this inventory. Houses are generally named for the earliest known owner/occupant. Names associated with a house are not necessarily always owners; some may have been tenants. Also, not all owners actually lived in houses they owned; some houses were leased for rental income. The houses are listed alphabetically by street names; then numerically by house number.

(continued from the April 1987 issue)

66 Brookside Avenue

Ackerson House

Block 1706, Lot 11 (Old Block 15, Lot 5)
(This is a flag lot house with access from Brookside Avenue; it is situated back of the house at 80 Brookside Avenue)

Built about 1898-1905. Possibly Ryerson Ackerson, c. 1898. Milton Ackerson, 1940-1955. Frances Ackerson, c. 1965-66. Lorraine (Ackerson) Guam, c. 1965-66. John R. Hillman, c. 1965-1971. Arthur Petersen, c. 1985-86.

In 1940 this house was described as a 2 story, frame home with a detached garage on 1.70 acres. It had a wood shingle and clapboard exterior, composition shingle roof, and a stone foundation. There were 6 rooms, including 3 bedrooms, and 1 wood and plaster bath.

Ryerson Ackerson was born about 1840 and died February 1925. He was a mason. (He advertised in August 1906 in *The Allendale Methodist Herald*: "Ryerson Ackerson, Contractor, All kinds of Mason Work Neatly Done. Allendale, N.J.") He and his family lived, earlier, at 18 First Street, Allendale. He probably moved into this house in 1898: "Ryerson Ackerson and family are now comfortably located in their new house, having moved the first of the week." (*Bergen County Democrat*, March 4, 1898.) He was elected a Commissioner of Appeals at the Borough's first election held Dec. 4, 1894. He married Rachel --?--, born about 1845, died April 1917. They had children:

- Charles Ackerson, born about 1865 (lived at 106 Mallinson St.)
- Jacob Ackerson, born about 1868.
- Anna Ackerson, born about 1870 (prob.

married Charles Sinell)

• Roland Ackerson, born about 1872 (lived on Brookside Avenue in 1917; lived on Mallinson St. in 1933)

- John Ackerson, born about 1875
- Milton ("Mills") Ackerson, born 1881 (m. Frances Mulray)
- Lucy Ackerson, prob. born after 1880.

Milton ("Mills") Ackerson, the son of Ryerson Ackerson and his wife, Rachel, was born in 1881 and died September 4, 1955. He married, in October 1903, Frances Mulray of Brooklyn. He was a water registrar and general utility man for the Borough, and was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Department. He and his wife had two daughters:

- Mildred Ackerson, born about 1906, died Oct. 6, 1979 (m. William Dahl).
- Lorraine Ackerson, born about 1913 (m. August 1932, Carl L. Guam)

75 Brookside Avenue

Vaillant-Miller House

Block 1705, Lot 16 (Old Block 13, Lot 24)

Built about 1905. Early owners unknown at this writing. Julia and Henry Vaillant, ?-1925. Ralph L. Miller and Ernest W. Miller, 1925-1947. Ernest W. Miller, 1947-1968. David Colburn and Marilyn H. Colburn, 1968-1968. Rolf W. Guthey and Ruth M. Guthey, 1968-(present?).

In 1940 this house was described as a 2 story frame home on a 125' x 150' plot with a clapboard exterior, composition shingle roof, and a stone foundation. It had 5 rooms including 2 bedrooms and one wood & plaster bath

75-A Brookside Avenue

Grofsick House

Block 1705, Lot 15 (Old Block 13, Lot 33)

Built about 1910. Rudolph J. Grofsick and Helen Grofsick, c. 1926 (or earlier)-1944. Michel Pasquier and Edith (Grofsick) Pasquier, 1944-1965. Harold Gundersdorf and Mary A. Gundersdorf, 1965-? Jan Lier, c. 1985-86.

In 1940 this house was described as a 2 story frame home on 1.60+ acres, with a barn, shed and coops. It had a clapboard exterior, composition shingle roof, and a stone foundation. There were 6 rooms, including 3 bedrooms and one wood and plaster bath.

A garage was built in 1948.

Michel Pasquier was born about 1892 in Egypt and came to the United States as a young man, serving in the U. S. Army in World War I. He married Edith Grofsick, daughter of Rudolph

and Helen Grofsick, and came to live in Allendale in the late 1930s. He ran his own perfume firm, the Michel Pasquier Company, in New York City for about 50 years until his death in March 1966. He and his wife had one daughter, Helene Pasquier (m. --?-- Olson).

80 Brookside Avenue

Dunkel House

Block 1706, Lot 1 (Old Block 15, Lot 2)

Built in 1908. August P. Dunkel, c. 1915 (or earlier?)-1942. Herman Lawson and Maria Lawson, 1942-? Gary E. Holden and Wendy Holden, 1986.

In 1940 the house was described as a 2 story frame home with 2 open porches and a garage and shed on a 194' x 100' (average) triangular plot. It had a clapboard exterior (later asbestos shingle), a composition shingle roof, and a stone foundation. There were 6 rooms, including 2 bedrooms and a basin and toilet.

The house was completely "reconditioned" about 1946 and again completely updated in 1979, including new furnace, 220 wiring, 2 baths and kitchen. In 1986 the house was described as having wood siding, a living room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen, den, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths.

August P. Dunkel was living here by 1915 and probably earlier. He and his wife had children (and perhaps others):

- (daughter) --?-- Dunkel (married J. White)
 - Florence Dunkel, born about 1902 (married, April 1921, William Derbyshire)
 - Adeline Dunkel, born about 1903 (married, August 1923, Quentin Stege)
 - Anderson Dunkel, born about 1905
-

121 Brookside Avenue

Hall House

Block 1602, Lot 4 (Old Block 14, Lot 9; later Lot 9A)

Built in 1929. Thomas Hall, by 1940. Wilhelmina Gertrude Haring, 1946-1952. Mina G. Hall, 1952-? Stuhr (?). C. E. Butterfield, ?-present.

In 1940 the house was described as a 2 story frame home on a 62' x 139' plot, with open porches and a garage. It had a wood shingle exterior, composition roof, and a cement block foundation. There were 5 rooms, including a fireplace and 2 bedrooms, and 1 half tile bath. The house was listed for sale in 1987 and the description noted 4 bedrooms, living room with fireplace, dining room, and eat-in kitchen.

200 Brookside Avenue

Griffiths House

Block 1604, Lot 12 (Old Block 5, Lot 88)

Built 1931. Burtis W. Griffiths, 1931-c.1947. Marjorie H. Griffiths, 1947-48. Walter Mueller and Emma B. Mueller, 1948-1962. Mildred V. Hitlin, 1962-?

This house was described in 1940 as a 1-1/2 story frame home with porches and a 2 car garage on a 100' x 150' plot. It had a brick veneer exterior, composition shingle roof, and a concrete block foundation. Its 6 rooms included 2 bedrooms and it had another bedroom on the 2nd floor. It also had one half-tile bath and a lavatory. The basement included a recreation room, a laundry, and a toilet. In 1948 improvements were made to the house and an extension was added to the garage. About 1953 additional property was acquired in the rear of the lot.

Burtis Waldo Griffiths, the son of Joseph Waldo Griffiths and Ella Marie Burtis, was born about 1900. He married, July 1920, Mildred North. *The Ramsey Journal*, on September 3, 1931 reported: "Mr. & Mrs. Burtis W. Griffiths, of Brookside Avenue, took possession of their recently completed bungalow September the 1st."

Burtis W. Griffiths moved, about 1947, to Charlotte, N.C.

214 Brookside Avenue

Kinsky House

Block 1604, Lot 9 (Old Block 5, Lot 89)

Built 1899. Fred Kinsky and Sadie E. Kinsky, by 1910-c.1930. Shown, not labeled, on 1913 Bromley Atlas. Kent (1930s?). Griffiths, 1940. Florence L. Murphy, by 1947-? Patrick J. Brady, c. 1985-86. Richard T. Service and Mary Service, ?-present.

224 Brookside Avenue

Eichen House

Block 1604, Lot 8 (Old Block 5, Lot 90)

Built 1927. Fred Eichen, Jr., by 1940. George DeBlock and Dorothy DeBlock, 1946-1955. Douglas C. Murphy and Harriet S. Murphy, 1955-? Ralph J. Scafuro and Teresa Scafuro, 1958. Donald A. Beddiges and Ann S. Beddiges, ?-1963. Victor R. Coomber and Jean Ann Coomber, 1963-present.

In 1940, this house was described as a 2 story home built of cinder block to peak in attic, with a 2 car garage, on a 100' x 155' plot. It had a stucco exterior, an asbestos roof and a poured concrete foundation. There were 7 rooms, including 4 bedrooms, and 2 half tile baths. It had a fireplace and a finished recreation room in the basement. The kitchen was modernized in 1950.

(series to be continued)

BUSINESSES IN ALLENDALE

Compiled by Pat Wardell

(continued from the April 1987 issue)

Some bits and pieces about some of Allendale's businesses—past and present. We know that this list is incomplete and hope that some of our readers can add information.

Allendale Cleaners & Tailors

This business, run by Hymen Rubin, was in operation at 79 West Allendale Avenue perhaps as early as March, 1938, when the following item appeared in *The Ramsey Journal*: "The bake sale sponsored by the winter group of the Church Aid Society of Archer Memorial M.E. Church, Friday afternoon between the hours of 2 and 5 in the store of the Allendale Cleaners adjoining the A & P was a big success." The business was advertised in 1951 in "Guardians of Your Property and Welfare: Allendale Police," a booklet published by the Allendale Press. In the 1963-64 edition of "Here's Allendale," The Allendale Cleaners and Tailors advertised "Repairing and Remodeling" and "Ladies & Gentlemen's Tailoring Done on Premises."

Allendale Convalescent Home

This business was being conducted at 668 West Crescent Avenue (with a phone number of AL-1-3832) by 1946-47. It was listed in the 1947-48 Bergen-Passaic Telephone Directory.

Allendale Fabric Store

The Allendale Fabric Store was doing business at 83 West Allendale Avenue by 1954, when it advertised in *The Allendale Press*. There was also a branch store in Waldwick, at 8 West Prospect Street.

Allendale Pharmacy

The Allendale Pharmacy began in the Guatelli Building (housing today's Allendale Florist) after Walter Temperlyn retired and closed his drug store at the same location. The Allendale pharmacy, owned and run by Nicholas and Betty DiGruttilla, registered pharmacists, moved, about 1962, to the new A & P shopping center. The store was just north of the A & P; the former pharmacy storefront now houses the Cuisine Emporé business. (The first A & P in the shopping center built about 1962 was in the building that today houses the New Woman Spa and the Dress Barn/Hit or Miss clothing store.) Today the Allendale Pharmacy is conducted in a larger store south of the latest A & P, in the expanded A & P Shopping Center on West Allendale Avenue and DeMercurio Drive.

B & L Grand Store

This store was operating, probably on West Allendale Avenue, by 1938. In November of that year it advertised in *The Ramsey Journal*; B & L Grand Store, Allendale. 5¢ - 10¢ - to \$1.00. Specials: Dish towels, made by Cannon - part linen, 9¢. Pillow Cases, made by Cannon, 4 for \$1.00.

Avenue Printing

This printing business, run by Bob Amarante, was in operation before 1963 at 1 Park Avenue, in the old Ackerman store building. Today the business is located on Franklin Turnpike in Waldwick.

Burtis's Mills (Allendale Mills)

In 1892 Edward E. Burtis bought the former Lydecker's Grist Mill and 30 acres of land on the Hohokus Brook near the intersection of Crescent Avenue and Brookside Avenue—later the site of San Jacinto Swim Club.

Burtis came to Allendale from Rutherford, N.J., and he operated two mills here—both a grist mill and a cider mill, under the name "Allendale Mills." Locally, his business was called "Burtis's Mills."

In its November 2, 1893 issue, *The Ramsey Journal* reported, "Times can't be very bad when a bbl. of the very best flour can be bought for \$4.75. That's what they are selling it for at the Allendale Mill."

Burtis advertised his mill in the November 4, 1894 issue of *The Souvenir*, a newspaper published by the Archer Memorial Methodist Church: "Edward E. Burtis, Proprietor, Allendale Mills (on the Hohokus), Allendale, N.J. Flour, Grain, Hay. Received direct from producer. Specialties: Graham Flour, Buckwheat Flour, Fine Yellow Meal, Combination Chicken Feed and Pure Ground Horse Feed. We carry in stock everything in the line of Horse Feed, Chicken Feed, etc."

In April 1897, Burtis's Mill burned to the ground along with an ice house which had been filled with ice by Mr. Goodyear. Sometime before 1911, the former mill site was sold to Benjamin F. Hutches, Jr., who named his estate "San Jacinto," and who later operated the San Jacinto Swim Club on the Property.

Edward E. Burtis, the son of Daniel Bogert Burtis, was born about 1862 in Brooklyn, N.Y. and died January 31, 1942. He married Ida M. Mains, and they had children: Everett Burtis, Alan M. Burtis, and Ethel Burtis (m. F. B. Pilkington).

Central Garage (Megnin's Garage)

In 1919, George W. Megnin rented for \$15 a

month an old livery stable (formerly run by Christopher J. Smith, and—even earlier—run by Eddie Williams) on Myrtle Avenue. Here he started this garage and, in the early years, taxi service. He installed a 50-gallon Standard Oil barrel, from which gas had to be pumped and then poured by funnel into cars such as Louis Rossner's 1908 two-cylinder Reo, Mayor Gustave Nadler's Reo, Mr. DeHossen's Star Sedan, and Arthur Bull Sullivan's three cars—a Marmon, a Mercer, and a Chandler.

George Megnin's brothers, Gene Megnin and Frank ("Barney") Megnin joined him in operating the garage. To surmount the problem of frequent electrical breakdowns in those early days, the brothers acquired a steamboat generator from an old Hudson River Dayliner and ran it with an automobile engine to keep things going in the garage. Frank Megnin, the youngest of the three brothers, drove the taxi for their taxi service, and from that he got his nickname—after the racing driver Barney Oldfield. "I was known in this area for my heavy foot on the gas pedal," Barney remembered in a 1980 interview for *The Town Journal*. "About the Barney Oldfield stuff—let me tell you a story. One of my steady customers missed his train at Allendale. He jumped back into my taxi and I just put my foot all the way down on the gas and held it there until we got to the Waldwick station—ahead of the train."

Chevron Service Station

This garage at 11 West Allendale Avenue was built in 1949. On August 18, 1949 *The Ramsey Journal* reported, "Excavation is under way for the erection of a three bay automobile service station on the south side of West Allendale Avenue, up near the Franklin Turnpike. The permit was taken out by the Home Fuel Company of Ridgewood." The service station was run as a Chevron station by 1963 by Harry and Dick Nicholas. By 1986 it was being run as a Sunoco station.

Christopher's Sawmill

In 1879 Richard Christopher started a combination sawmill and gristmill in Allendale on the east side of West Crescent Avenue, approximately across from the site of Lydecker's Mill (which was later San Jacinto Swim Club).

Christopher's structure

had two wheels—an overshot wheel for a grist mill, and an undershot wheel for a sawmill, all in one building. Richard Christopher's son, Richard J. Christopher, apparently was helping to run this business by 1906 when he advertised in *The Allendale Methodist Herald*: "Richard J. Christopher, Dealer in Sawed Timber, Fence Post, Kindling Wood, Saw Dust, etc. Truck Poles a specialty. P.O. Box 109. Allendale, N.J." This mill is said to have burned down in 1908.

Christopher's Lumberyard (R. J. Christopher & Son Lumber Co.)

Richard J. Christopher ran a portable sawmill in Allendale beginning about 1908. In 1928 he opened a sawmill further north on West Crescent Avenue, just north of the Erie tracks. He operated this business with his son, J. George Christopher, and it was known as the R. J. Christopher & Son Lumber Company. In 1935 a new lumberyard office and scale house were built at this West Crescent Avenue site.

On July 5, 1930, a large building used as a garage for trucks, owned by Richard J. Christopher, and situated in the rear of George Christopher's residence on Park Avenue, burned to the ground. According to *The Ramsey Journal*, "The Allendale Fire Department responded at once, but the building being dry, burned inside of twenty minutes after the water line was laid...The blaze lighted the sky for fully fifteen minutes and attracted hundreds of cars..The new Mack truck of R. J. Christopher that was in the building, is a total loss, the heat having been so severe as to bend the chassis."

(series to be continued)



The "Old Sawmill" at Allendale shown on this photograph, c. 1905, is thought to have been Christopher's Sawmill.

Allendale Fire Department... Records of Early Calls to Fires (Abstracted)

(continued from the April 1987 issue)

May 16, 1932--1 p.m.-1:30 p.m.; E. Allendale Ave.; Peat woods; S. Fishers, owner and occupant; cause--unknown.

May 17, 1932--3:30 p.m.-4 p.m.; East Allendale Ave.; Peat woods; S. Fishers, owner and occupant; cause unknown.

May 24, 1932--3 p.m.-4:15 p.m.; E. Crescent Ave.; woods; W. Kornhoff & Ray Arlt, owners and occupants; cause--unknown.

June 20, 1932--8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.; Crescent Avenue; truck; Diamond Coal Co., Paterson, N.J., owner; cause--backfire.

July 1, 1932--1:15 a.m.-2:05 a.m.; Homewood Ave.; 2-1/2 story frame and stucco; Iandiorio residence, owner; unoccupied; cause--incendiary; police dept. requested to investigate.

July 4, 1932--9:50 p.m.-10:05 p.m.; Mallinson Street; frame; R. Roswell, owner and occupant; cause--sky rocket, fireworks; no loss on bldg.

September 24, 1932--1 p.m.-1:45 p.m.; Turnpike; Brush; M. E. Higgins, owner and occupant; cause--R.R.; no loss on bldgs.

October 30, 1932--10 p.m.-12:15 p.m.; wood in Waldwick near line; Call for assistance.

November 9, 1932--12:15 a.m.-3 a.m.; Homewood Ave.; empty house (wrecked); Iandiorio, owner; no occupant; cause--house saturated with oil, incendiary; value of bldg.--salvage; loss on bldg--total Building involved when called; confined efforts to surrounding property; reported to police for investigation.

December 8, 1932--1 p.m.-1:15 p.m.; Homewood Ave.; field; E. Ichla, owner; cause--bonfire; no loss on bldgs.

December 15, 1932--4:15 p.m.-5:05 p.m.; Hillside Ave.; residence; C. Strangfeld, owner and occupant; cause--chimney fire; no damage; chimney cleaned by dept.

January 5, 1933--6:30 p.m.-7:10 p.m.; Brookside Ave.; residence; Clinton Rossner, owner and occupant; cause--dirty chimney; no loss on bldgs; chimney cleaned by dept.

January 20, 1933--5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.; Brookside Avenue in Wyckoff; residence; De Mauriac, owner; unoccupied; cause unknown; Called by Wyckoff for assistance; Bldg hopeless; aid useless and impossible without endangering our own coverage.

January 20, 1933--8:55 p.m.-9:20 p.m.; Crescent Ave.; frame residence; Ed Vanderbeck, owner and occupant; cause--dirty chimney; no loss on bldgs or contents; ordered to clean chimney.

February 9, 1933--1 p.m.-1:15 p.m.; Orchard Street; Car in Garage; B. Baumgard, owner and occupant; cause--backfire in car; slight damage.

February 22, 1933--5 p.m.-5:15 p.m.; Brookside Ave.; automobile; Sullivan, owner; backfire in car; slight damage.

February 28, 1933--12:05 a.m.-2:30 a.m.; Mallinson Street; Frame dwelling and garage; Le Baron, owner and occupant; cause--unknown, probably cigarette; saved truck and most of bldg.

March 5, 1933--12:05 p.m.-12:35 p.m.; Hillside Ave.; residence; C. Strangfeld, owner and occupant; chimney fire; chimney cleaned by dept.

(series to be continued)

Allendale Historical Society
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Allendale Historical Society
P.O. Box 294, Allendale, N.J. 07401

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