

## Figures Tell Tales

# Postal Records Show Community History

By EILEEN DECKER

ALLENDALE—The discovery of a batch of old records and books in the basement of the Allendale Post Office disclosed that while figures don't lie they certainly do tell tales—the history of the post office is also the history of the development of Allendale from a small country town to a thriving suburban community.

The Post Office was established here in 1887 and the first postmaster was R.V. Ackerman. Mrs. C. D. Mallinson, Ackerman's daughter, said that she can remember sorting and distributing mail in the general store which adjoined the Ackerman home on W. Allendale Avenue in the area where the firehouse is now located. That was in the days when stores had pot-bellied stoves and cracker barrels.

The site of the second Post Office was in what is now the Allendale Hotel, under the direction of Louis Rossner who became Postmaster in 1889. Rossner received his appointment from John Wanamaker, then Postmaster General.

The Post Office has since occupied various other locations including a portion of the Erie Railroad station, the A & P building, and the Winter Brothers old general store which was recently torn down to make room for the new structure on which bids are now being received.

The figures also disclose other interesting information—covering population increases and of course cost of living increases as well. For instance, the first Post Office boxes rented for seven cents a quarter. Now the price is \$1.20 for the average size. The total receipts for stamps in one month in 1887 was \$18.48 and the average today is \$4,000. And last but not least was the information that in one quarter of that year the sale of special delivery stamps totaled two—at 10 cents each.

One rather tantalizing piece of information disclosed by the old records was that on April 19, 1914, a

## Parents' Night Held by Troop 12

RIDGEWOOD — At the regular meeting of Boy Scout Troop 12 the annual parents night was observed, and about 40 parents and friends attended. The scouts gave demonstrations of their skills in first aid and displayed new tents and camping gear recently acquired by the troop. Awards were presented to Scouts Art Arguedas, Rick Tonetti, and Tom Hall. The new senior patrol leaders are Dan Hazen and Barry Smith.

Troop Committee Chairman Dan Hazen announced that Scoutmaster Frank Keckeissen has been forced to resign due to business commitments. The troop now has Paul Bowman, an experienced Scout and Scout leader, as its new Scoutmaster.

Troop 12 is sponsored by the Travell Home and School Association and meets on Monday evening at 7:30 in the school.

### UNITARIAN CHURCH

113 Cottage Place,  
Ridgewood

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