



*Lee Memorial Library
Allendale, N.J.*

Country Fair Will Aid Library Building Fund

ALLENDALE - An old-fashioned country fair with a two-fold purpose is being planned by the Junior Woman's Club of Allendale for Saturday, Oct. 16 at the Recreation Field in Allendale.

Mrs. Ronald Huse, co-chairman of the Fair, states: "Our main goal in sponsoring this event is to focus attention on the needs of the Allendale Free Public Library and to encourage donations to and raise funds for the Library

Building Fund. As an extra added bonus, we hope to provide good old-fashioned fun as a means of "painless contribution" -- all proceeds from the day's events will benefit the Library's Building Fund."

Plans for the day include a boutique booth (where hand-made items such as hand-painted decorative tins, boxes and salt shakers; knitted purses; felt-on-burlap children's wall hangings; and crewel embroidery, among other things, will be sold), Games (including an old-fashioned "cake walk"), rides, contests with an old-fashioned flavor (tug-o-war, etc.), and the sale of hand-painted pumpkins and personalized balloons.

The day will begin with a parade and end with entertainment, hopefully including an old-fashioned band concert. Members of the Junior club will be dressed in old-fashioned skirts and bonnets and the public is invited to dress in old-fashioned costumes if they desire.

Any organization, group or individual interested in participating in the planning or running of the fair is asked to contact Mrs. Huse, 124 Elbrook Drive, or Mrs. Stephen Moore, 8 Harreton Road, co-chairmen of the Fair. Organizations who have thus far indicated an interest in participating in the Fair

include The Community Arts Association, the Woman's Evening Club of Allendale and the Friends of the Library.

Mrs. Huse pointed out that Allendale for many years has been aware of the need for a larger library building. The current building is literally "packed to the rafters", offers no parking facilities at all, and because of limited grounds the current building cannot be expanded.

Many residents would like to see a future library that would serve as a cultural center for Allendale: one that would offer room for students to sit and study, room for children to browse and discover, and room for senior citizens to relax and enjoy.

The library in Allendale, one of northern Bergen County's first, was begun by the Village Improvement Association in December, 1900. The V.I.A. had been formed in 1887 when Allendale was still a part of Orvil Township, to improve conditions in the tiny community. The V.I.A., under its first and only president, Alberg L. Zabriskie, laid Allendale's first stretch of paved road and was responsible for erecting and maintaining the town's first street lights.

In 1900 the V.I.A. organized a library committee, comprised of five civic-minded ladies, Mrs.

E.W. Sring, Chairman Mrs. Wallace E. Carver Mrs. Stephen Van Houten Mrs. Frank Merrill and Mrs. Frank Drummond, to begin and maintain a lending library for Allendale.

In December, 1900, the Library, housed on the second floor of the school building (now Allendale's Municipal Building) was opened for business. The Ramsey Journal, in its issue of December 14, 1900, reported: "The Allendale Public Library ... was opened last week ... The state has already sent a large case of books from the "traveling library" ... After these are read, they are sent to some other town and a fresh supply sent here ... Non residents may also take books out ..." The population of turn-of-the-century Allendale was 694 when the library, supported entirely by private funds, including membership dues and donations, opened with about 600 volumes.

In 1910, the school found itself in need of a cloak room, so the library made its first of several subsequent moves, to a store owned by John Ackerman. In 1915 its second move took place - this time to the second floor of Allendale's recently constructed fire house, which at that time also doubled as the Borough Hall. In 1919

(Continued on Page 12)