



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

VOL. IV

FEBRUARY 1978

No. 3

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 6, 1978, 8:30 p.m. at Allendale Municipal Building.

PROGRAM: A night of old-time silent film comedies. The following vintage two-reelers will be shown:

THE RINK starring Charlie Chaplin (released in 1916).

The twelve two-reelers made by Chaplin during his year and a half with the Mutual Film Company are among the funniest short films ever made. In THE RINK Charlie is a waiter who spends his spare time at the roller rink. Chaplin's ability as a skater surprised many of his fans, but he had actually perfected his technique in an earlier Fred Karno London Comedians act called, appropriately enough, "Skating." In both this act, and in THE RINK, Chaplin on skates displays both grace and a fiendish skill in falling, and in causing all of the other skaters to fall as well. THE RINK is considered one of Chaplin's best Mutual comedies.



CHAPLIN

LAUREL AND HARDY

The second comedy classic in our program will be Laurel and Hardy in BIG BUSINESS (released in 1929). Some Laurel and Hardy fans consider this to be their best comedy short. In BIG BUSINESS Laurel and Hardy are Christmas tree salesmen in sunny California who become embroiled in a private war with prospective customer Jimmy Finlayson. Innocent mishaps provoke a systematic and orderly retaliation until, in the end, both the boys' truck and Finlayson's house are reduced to rubble. The film was produced by Hal Roach and the house in the film actually belonged to a Roach Studio employee who was very well paid for the destruction.

Come join us for an evening of classic comedy!

NEWS AND VIEWS: Jeanne Cotz and Florence Schenk, co-chairmen of our Oral History Project, are still looking for both volunteers to help interview and people to be interviewed. Let them know if

you would like to help or know of a possible interview subject. Would you like to tell us your memories of an earlier Allendale? If so, don't be shy--please call either Jeanne or

Florence.

Jeanne and Florence have already interviewed long-time Allendale resident William Buhlman, who is also a charter member of our society. We hope to publish some of the reminiscences from these interviews in future newsletters, so that all of our members can enjoy first-hand accounts of days gone by in Allendale.

We would like to call your attention to the upcoming production in Allendale of "THE MIKADO" by the Ridgewood Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company. We are sponsoring this event as a fund-raiser on Saturday, April 8, 1978 at 8:00 p.m. at the Brookside School in Allendale. Tickets are \$3.00 (\$2.00 for students) and may be purchased by using the order form on the back page of this newsletter or by calling 327-4190 or 327-3510. See the final sheet of this newsletter for more information about the pro-

duction.

The proceeds from this event will be used by our society for such projects as improving and adding to our collection and for our publication fund.

Please support your society by planning to attend this performance. And you might consider giving tickets as gifts to friends and relatives.

You can help by becoming a benefactor: contribute \$1.00 or more before March 27 and your name will be listed in the program.

For articles about the performance, about Gilbert and Sullivan, and about the singers and performers, watch for our publicity releases in the local newspapers.

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EARLY ALLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.....by Pat Wardell

The first known school building located in Allendale was built in 1826 and stood at the northwest corner of the intersection of Chestnut Street and Franklin Turnpike. Called the "little old red schoolhouse," this first school was a one-story frame building 16 by 24 feet with desks arranged around the single room together with long, backless benches on which the students sat from 9 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon.

The first Board of Trustees of this school included John G. Ackerman, John G. Ackerson, and Albert A. Garrison. The first teacher was Isaac Demarest. Later teachers in this school included Henry H. Vanderbeck, James Alfred Ackerman (who first attended the school as a student and began teaching there about 1842), John Binder, Garret A. L. Zabriskie, and Mary Geroe.

In 1862 the building was moved to John Wilson's farm where it was subsequently used as a granary.

Allendale's second schoolhouse was built in 1862 at a cost of \$2000. It was located a quarter of a mile from the Allendale Depot on the site of the present Allendale Municipal Building on Franklin Turnpike.

This school was 25 by 35 feet in dimension, was adorned with a belfry and blinds, and was surrounded by shade trees. In 1860, the Trustees of the Allendale School District No. 6, Aaron Ackerman, Peter G. Powell, and William White, had purchased from Peter G. and Maria A. Powell for \$25 the plot on which the school was subsequently erected. In 1876 the enrollment of the school was 80; in February of 1878 the enrollment had reached 87, with an average daily attendance of 62. Among the teachers at this school were James Alfred Ackerman, Joseph Henry Ware (who was Principal in 1894),

Bertha King, Augusta Murdock, and Mr. Van Wagener. In 1887 the school was enlarged at a cost of \$950.

In 1889, the Trustees of Allendale School District No. 55, Charles White, Crynus Quackenbush, and William Atkins, were instructed to divide the district, resulting in separate school districts for Waldwick and Allendale. Allendale residents, spurred by the subsequent decision to build a new school in the Waldwick district, petitioned for the formation of a separate borough. On November 10, 1894, proceedings for the incorporation of the Borough of Allendale were filed and recorded. In November 1896, after a new school had been erected, the old building was sold to Henry J. Appert for \$65 and he used it for storage on his onion and celery farm.

Nearly two years after Allendale Borough was formed from parts of Orvil, Hohokus, and Franklin Townships, ground was broken for the new school building on the same site as the former school-- the site of today's Allendale Municipal Building. (This third school, constructed in 1896, has been greatly altered, its second story removed, and is, in fact, today's Municipal Building on Franklin Turnpike.)*

The new school was built by Stephen Van Blarcom at a cost of \$5500. Begun in June 1896, the school was formally opened with a dedication ceremony held on December 18, 1896.

The original building was about 50 by 60 feet and contained two rooms downstairs and one large room, used as an auditorium, upstairs. There was a pump outdoors, and after parents complained about their children drinking from a "community dipper," all students were required to bring their own collapsible drinking cups to school. Graduation exercises were held first at the school, later at Archer Hall, and still later at the Allendale Fire House.

Early teachers at this school included Miss Murdock, Sadie Salyer, Ella Appert, Alfred Ackerman, John B. Zabriskie, Marie C. Maloney, Mrs. Joseph Ware, Anita Van Houten (later Mrs. Stanley P. Fisher), John J. Ackerman, Adele Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Brinkerhoff, and Willard Alling, who was appointed Principal in 1907, a position he held until his death on November 16, 1940.

Among the early trustees of this school were Stephen Van Houten, C. W. Stocker, William C. Tallman, J. E. Van Horn, J. W. Griffiths, Albert Pulis, and Harry Sherman.

A newspaper report published in June 1900 listed 7 graduates of this school, and remarked that this represented Allendale's largest graduating class up to that date.

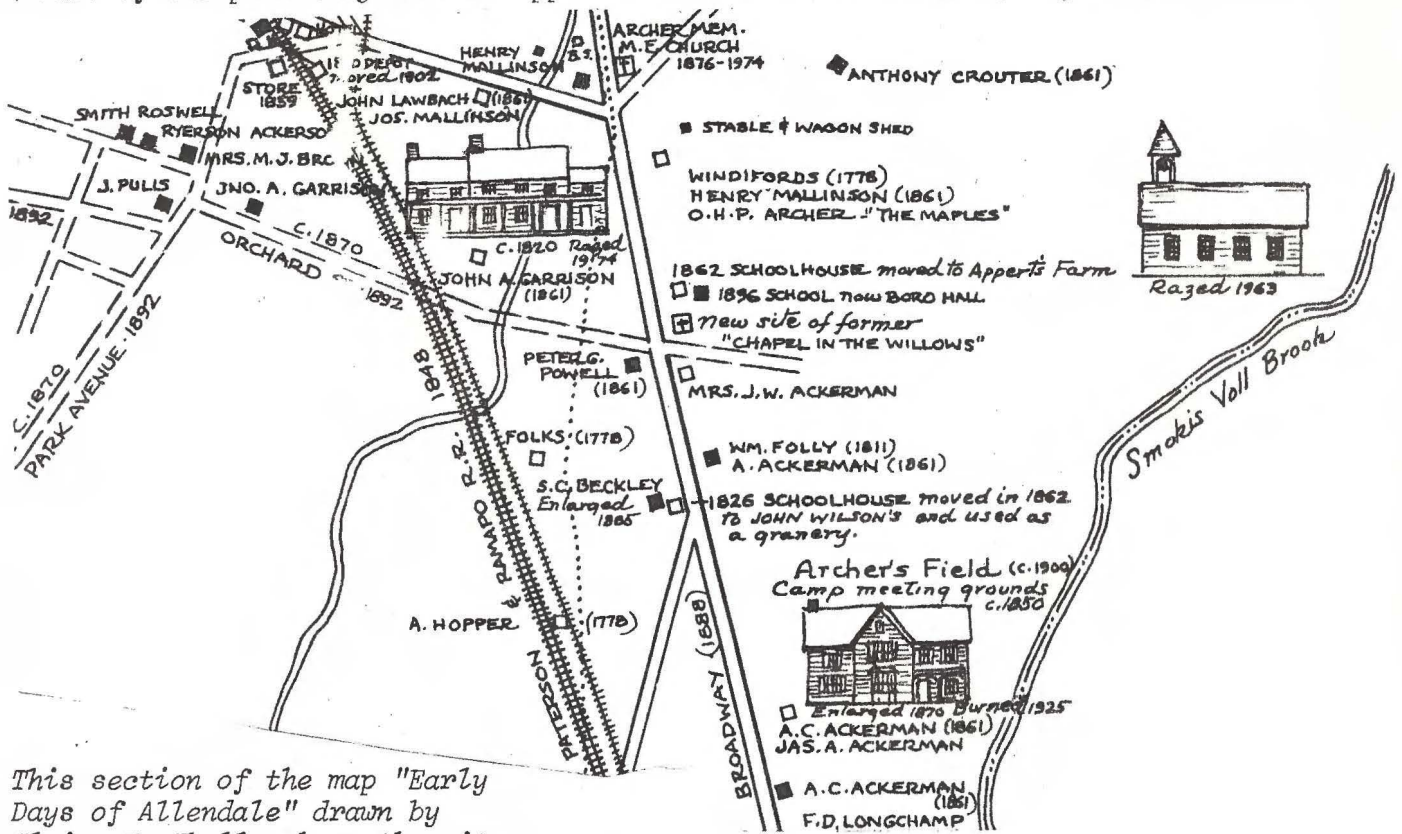
In 1914 an addition to this school was built at a cost of \$24,000.

In November 1927, Edward G. Washburne was elected chairman of a citizen's committee formed to assist school authorities in choosing a site and floor plan for a new school. In January 1928 residents of Allendale voted almost two to one in favor of the selection of the "Anthony property" on Brookside Avenue as the proposed site for the new school, and authorized the expenditure of \$165,000. to purchase land and build and equip the new school.

*This building on Franklin Turnpike will soon be converted into Allendale Police Headquarters, Allendale having purchased the former Episcopal Church building on Crescent Avenue to be converted to house municipal offices and the public library.

The new Allendale Public School (today's Brookside School) opened in 1929 with 225 pupils.

(Part of the preceding article appeared in THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS, August 21, 1975.)



This section of the map "Early Days of Allendale" drawn by Claire K. Tholl, shows the sites of Allendale's early schools.

SCHOOL NOTES THROUGH THE YEARS.....from local newspapers

"...In the little red school-house, near the well known camp ground, a course of lectures, admittance free, has been delivered during the season....The camp ground which has been mentioned is situated about half a mile from the station. It belongs to Mr. A. Ackerman, and is regarded as an excellent place for holding Camp meetings, Pic-nics, and other social gatherings."

---The Paterson Daily Guardian, April 25, 1859

"New School House at Allendale. Allendale is now taking another step in the march of progress and improvement, which has been rapid here of late. This step is nothing less than the erection of a new and commodious school-house, which promises to be one of the best buildings of the kind in this section of Bergen County...."

---The Paterson Daily Guardian, January 7, 1861

"An examination was held at the Allendale school, Alfred Ackerman, teacher, at the end of the term, Feb. 8th. The number

of scholars enrolled is 87, the average daily attendance being 62. Large classes are studying physiology, grammar, arithmetic, general history, etc. In the examination the best in arithmetic were Garret G. Smith and Frederick Doolittle. In algebra, G. G. Smith, A. Zabriskie and others showed great proficiency. Miss Adelia Lydecker excels in map drawing; she draws with great rapidity, and her work is almost as clear and correct as the finer kinds of map engravings."

---Bergen County Democrat, February 22, 1878

"The entertainment held in the Allendale School House on Saturday afternoon by the scholars of the school was a very pleasant and enjoyable affair. Every one of the children who took part in the exercises cannot be too highly complimented on the excellent manner in which they rendered their respective parts. Misses Eva Henion and Lizzie Ackerman recited "A Talk about Heaven" beautifully. The dialogue entitled "The Upstart Clerk" was heartily applauded and richly deserved it. Joseph Christopher made an excellent clerk; Fred. Doolittle a decidedly first-rate visitor at the dry goods establishment; and Bertie Anthony was a veritable old lady customer and caused unbounded merriment. Dannie Anthony recited "The Little Roan Colt" neatly; Charlie Quackenbush told an amusing story "About Boys;" Maude Doolittle described a terrible murder, in which the victim was a mosquito; and Frank and Willie Beckley, in "A Scene in a Courtroom," were all that could be desired. The singing, by the whole school, was nicely done. The affair was under the management of the teacher, Alfred Ackerman."

---Bergen Index, December 6, 1878

"Attendance at the Allendale public school has reduced from 60 to 35 scholars. Cause: Whooping cough, which is raging in this vicinity."

---Bergen Index, February 21, 1879

"Public-spirited citizens have donated enough money so that the teacher can avail himself of the state appropriation for a library. Twenty-two dollars is now available for that purpose, forty dollars having been previously spent for books."

---Hackensack Republican, March 15, 1883

"It is a very great pleasure to announce that at the recent school meeting it was voted to expend \$950 in enlarging our school house. After the building is fully completed, Mr. Ackerman, our able teacher, will have an assistant of special merit."

---Hackensack Republican, March 17, 1887

"The public school is open again. Teacher Van Wagener had the grip, and was confined to his bed for a number of days."

---Bergen County Democrat, January 24, 1890

"Plans for the new school will be decided on this week. Size of building will be about 50 x 60 feet, two stories high, two rooms on each floor, about 24 x 30 feet each. There are to be separate entrances and cloak rooms for the boys and girls."

---Ramsey Journal, April 24, 1896

"Ground has been broken for the new school building."

---Ramsey Journal, July 3, 1896

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN ALLENDALE.....some newspaper excerpts

"Miss Patton's private school, which has enjoyed another successful season, will hold its usual commencement exercises next Friday evening."

---Bergen County Democrat, June 10, 1892

"Miss Patton's Boarding and Day School entered upon its seventh year on Wednesday of last week. The old pupils who have not yet finished the course of studies are nearly all back at their desks and there are more than enough new pupils to fill the places of those who graduated last year. The school is an excellent one and the Principal deserves both credit and encouragement."

---Ramsey Journal, September 29, 1892.

"Miss Bishop has closed her Private School for the season."

---Ramsey Journal, June 14, 1895

Advertisement in program booklet of 1910 Vigilantia B. G. Constanter, Allendale N.J.S.N.J. (Bergen Guards?) dated May 12, 1910: "Miss J. Southwick, Select School."

Advertisement in souvenir program booklet honoring the first anniversary of the Allendale Police Department, 1929: "OAKLEY HALL, Boarding and Day School. Girls 6 to 15 years. Modern methods and equipment. Supervised play and organized sports. Beautiful estate. Ethel V. Bender, Principal, Allendale, N.J."

"The commencement exercises of the Oakley Hall School for Girls on the Franklin Turnpike, were held in the morning of May 31st at 10 o'clock. The graduating class, which consisted of one girl, Miss Mary Kent, marched in to "Pomp and Circumstance" preceded by twenty-seven members of the school dressed in uniform. The Rev. Fred J. G. Kepler pronounced the invocation, after which he addressed the school and awarded medals to seven of the pupils. The Commencement entertainment followed in the afternoon."

---Ramsey Journal, June 13, 1929

New Members

We welcome our new member:

Marie E. O'Neill of Syracuse, N.Y.

Accessions

We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts to the society's collections:

Seven turn-of-the-century post card views of Allendale, Saddle River, and Ramsey, donated by Anne O'Connor Lussow.

Book of handwritten minutes of the Alamac Club, Inc. of Allendale, covering the period of time from March 22, 1926 to October 1, 1928, donated by Daniel Inserra (at the suggestion of Tom Dater; Thank you, Tom.)

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

Membership Categories: (Annual Dues)

Family Membership.....\$5.00
Individual Membership.....\$3.00

Dues are not required, but are voluntary for those members over 65.

Allendale History and Heritage is published four times a year in September, November, February, and April, and is mailed to members of the Allendale Historical Society.

Editor: Pat Wardell

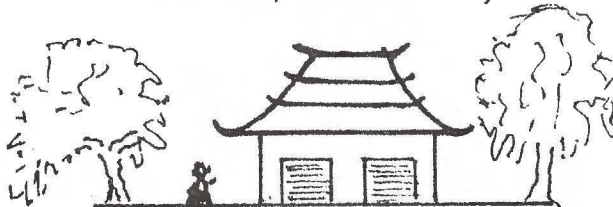
THE MIKADO

comic opera
by
Gilbert & Sullivan
performed
by

THE RIDGEWOOD GILBERT &
SULLIVAN OPERA COMPANY

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1978
8:00 P. M.

Brookside School
Allendale, New Jersey



SPONSORED BY THE ALLENDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
a non-profit organization
established 1974

TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION

The Allendale Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. It is dependent upon your contributions to help defray performance expenses. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Tickets: \$3.00 adults
\$2.00 students

Tickets also at door or call:
327-3510 or 327-4190

BENEFACTORS \$1.00 and up.
Benefactors' names will be listed
in program if contributions are
received by March 27, 1978

TICKET ORDER FORM: The Mikado April 8, 78

Mail check, together with stamped, self-addressed envelope, to: Allendale Historical Society,
P.O. Box 294, Allendale, New Jersey 07401

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

_____ tickets @ \$3.00 adults \$ _____

_____ tickets @ \$2.00 students \$ _____

Contribution by Benefactor \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

THE RIDGEWOOD GILBERT &
SULLIVAN OPERA COMPANY

- ... was established in 1937 by the late Katherine Edson, a singer
- ... consists of 40 volunteers drawn from surrounding communities. Singers, orchestra, scenery and costume makers have delighted audiences for over 40 years.
- ... has presented 10 full productions of the works of Gilbert and Sullivan on a regular schedule
- ... is New Jersey's only permanent Gilbert & Sullivan performance company
- ... is one of the longest running Gilbert & Sullivan opera companies in the country
- ... is a member of the North Jersey Cultural Council
- ... performances may be booked by any organization that wishes to sponsor such an event
- ... For further information, contact The Ridgewood Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company, 975 East Ridgewood Ave., Ridgewood, NJ 07450

FOR THE SHEER JOY OF SINGING

'The Mikado'



or

"The Town of Titipu"

A confection of mock-heroic satire, geniality and authentic English lyricism.

One of the most delightful comic operas or musical spoofs which Gilbert and Sullivan created between 1871 and the end of the century in what can undoubtedly be called the most successful "corroboration" in English theatre history.

The catchy music by Arthur Sullivan and the funny and poignant rhetoric by William S. Gilbert have kept audiences singing and laughing for over a hundred years.