



## ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

VOL. IV

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No. 4

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, May 1, 1978, 8:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE: Because the borough has scheduled May 1 as the day on which municipal offices will be moved from Franklin Turnpike to Crescent Avenue, we will be meeting at the Calvary Lutheran Church, 165 West Crescent Avenue, Allendale.

**PROGRAM:** A slide presentation by Pat Wardell of old views of Allendale. Most of the slides presented will be new ones for us: slides made during the past year from old photographs and other paper memorabilia donated or lent to our Society. "Allendale: 80 Years of Change," will show the growth of Allendale from a farming/resort community before the turn of the century to the commuter town we know today.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** WELL DONE!

We have accomplished our first venture in the field of monetary gain by means of "The Mikado." The results are gratifying financially and artistically. Audience acclaim has been most generous and friends have suggested that we sponsor a future production.

Once again we thank the Ridgewood Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company for the spell of charm it cast over us on the evening of April 8th.

To our members who gave so generously of time and talent we heartily thank you. To those who could have participated, there will be another chance for you to help.

Special recognition is due Lucie Kirylak for her exceptional drive and savoir-faire.

And now, may future fund-raising projects give us as much satisfaction and enjoyment as "The Mikado."

----Marian Strangfeld.

**NEW AND VIEWS:** Our collection, as you all know, has grown continually since the organization of our Society, thanks to the generosity of our members and friends who have donated and lent materials to us. These books, pamphlets, photographs, slides, printed items relating to Allendale, and many one-of-a-kind items, combined in one collection, form an irreplaceable and invaluable resource for the Borough of Allendale

and for local historians, students, and scholars. We are deeply grateful to the directors of the Independence Bank for allowing us to store our collection downstairs in their lower level.

From the very beginning, however, we have wished that our collection could be housed in a place where it would be available to the public: to students, scholars, and to Allendale residents and friends with a curiosity about times

past within our Borough. Almost four years ago we approached the Allendale public library board with the request that our collection be housed at the library where it could be seen and used by Allendale residents. Our request was denied for there simply wasn't an inch of space to spare in the library.

A few months ago, when we became aware of Allendale's purchase of the former Episcopal Church building on Crescent Avenue, and the plans to move both the public library and the borough offices there, we again approached the library board to request that a few feet of space be allocated for this valuable collection of Allendale information.

Much to our astonishment and dismay, we have been turned down again--for lack of space in the new facility. We plan to approach the library board again, to ask its members to reconsider, but you, our members, can help by writing to the library board to urge that room be found for what is a major and invaluable Allendale reference resource and one that should certainly be housed in Allendale's public library.

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The nominating committee, composed of Jeanne Cotz, Dorothy Shuit, and Jennie Stewart, has prepared the following slate of officers and chairmen for 1978-1979:

President: A. Marian Strangfeld  
Vice President: Jeanne Cotz  
Secretary: Dorothy Scholz  
Treasurers: Schuyler and Geneva Keating

Trustee for 2-year term: Ina Hamilton

Trustee for 2-year term: Jack Knapp  
Continuing Trustee: Florence Schenk  
Newsletter Editor: Pat Wardell  
Publicity Chairman: Lucie Kirylak  
Curator-Librarian: Marion Schwack  
Membership Chairman: Annette Baum  
Hospitality Chairman: Volunteer needed

Oral History Project: Jeanne Cotz and Florence Schenk

Additional nominations for any office may be made from the floor, and election of officers and chairmen will take place at

our annual meeting on May 1.

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We are delighted to report that the Society is approximately \$600 wealthier because of the success of our sponsorship of the Ridgewood Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company in "The Mikado."

Although many members and friends helped with the preparations for and the promotion of this presentation, three of our members deserve special recognition: Marian Strangfeld and Eva Schmitt for their organization of the event and their meticulous attention to every detail, and Lucie Kirylak for a superb publicity promotion. All three gave above and beyond the call of duty.

We thank Eva Schmitt and The Country Shop for giving over an entire window for a display promoting "The Mikado." And we thank Jean Stein for her talents in setting up this beautiful and eye-catching display.

To all of our members and friends who made posters beautiful enough to frame, we thank you! (You might be proud to know that the Ridgewood Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company was so impressed with the quality of the posters that they asked for several to keep as samples.)

We are forever in debt to the Ridgewood Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company for a truly superb and thoroughly enjoyable performance--Bravo! to cast and crew alike!

Another very special thanks is due to Girl Scout troupe 49, Senior Scouts, under the leadership of Mrs. McDowell. They handled the sales of orangeade during intermission, donating their time and energy to our Society.

To all who helped, to all who supported us, and to all who bought tickets and attended--we thank you!

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WANTED: William T. Anton, Sr., Numismatist, wants to add to his collection of National Bank Notes issued in Bergen County. If you have--or know of anyone who does have--any of these notes, Mr. Anton would like to purchase them. He can be reached at: P.O. Box 125, North Hackensack Station, River Edge, N.J. 07661. All duplicates obtained through purchase from our membership will be donated to the Society.

MEMORIES OF ALLENDALE LONG AGO.....by William Buhlman

In January 1978, Florence Schenk and Jeanne Cotz, co-chairmen of our Oral History Project, visited with William Buhlman and tape-recorded a delightful conversation with him. We have prepared excerpts from the interview, editing it to change the format from a question-and-answer interview to a narrative format for your enjoyment.

I was born in Galaway Township, Atlantic County, New Jersey on October the fifth, 1900. I don't know what day or hour. I first came to Allendale about 1905 or 1906, I'm not sure which. I went to school in (today's) Municipal Building. It was a two-story, four-room building with an old-fashioned indoor out-house downstairs. Later they closed that up and moved the out-houses outside; one for the boys and one for the girls. I graduated from that school in 1915. I walked to school--if you didn't walk you didn't get anyplace. First and second grades were in one room, third and fourth in another room downstairs, and upstairs was fifth and sixth and seventh and eighth. Originally Allendale had a one-room school, but this school had four rooms. Upstairs was divided by sliding doors so that they could make one big room out of it. That's where they used to hold their graduation ceremonies. Later on they held them in either Archer Hall or the Fire House.

We made our own sports. We played football, baseball, and where Stiles Thomas has his business today--that sidewalk was our official marble round. There were two swimming pools. Out in right field in the present recreation park there was a natural pond thereand that was one pool. And where the stream comes out of Crestwood and crosses Crescent Avenue at that bridge there was a smaller pool called White Bridge; they had a bridge there painted white. It's all gone now. And down in the woods toward Waldwick there was a strip of water maybe a couple of hundred feet long, fifty feet wide we used to call Longrack.

We lived on Mallinson Street which was just a dirt road. In fact, the only road that was paved in those days was the Franklin Turnpike and that was done about 1915 by a fellow by the name of Brackett from Ridgewood. The only houses on Mallinson Street were the old Critchley house up by Memorial Park and that big house down on the intersection. On Park Avenue was the LeBarron house--that house with the kind of bays on each side. As I recall there was nothing south of that. We could walk through the woods and Powell Road was just a dirt path. They used to have turkey shoots there. They shot down clay birds. At the end of Allen Street is where George Voorhis lived. He worked for Winter and Christopher.

If we walked down Orchard Street, on the left hand side the only house was the old Berdan house--the one they tore down--and there was a pond there. The pond was there until a couple of years ago when Thurstons filled it in. The house was the old Garrison homestead, and we used to call the pond Garrison's pond. West Orchard Street was just a dirt road which ended up back in the woods and we used to go back there every year at Christmas and get a collection of Christmas trees for the schoolhouse. Our first Principal I remember was Willard Alling. He came from the coal mine country in Pennsyl-

vania and his stock story was that he used to work as a boy as a breaker boy in a coal mine, which meant that as the coal came out after being crushed, they had to pick out the slate and throw it aside. That's when he was a boy and years later he was still coughing up coal dust.

The man who started the Home Guard was Captain Harry Hand. He worked for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and he was a Captain in the Guard in Brooklyn. He moved out to Allendale and he started the Home Guards. I was too young when it first started, but my two brothers were in it. That happened long before World War One-- I'd say roughly about 1910 or 11 and it went on until just before the war.

The Boy Scouts were started by Mr. Hart in 1917. They met in Archer Hall and they've been going ever since.

As far as sports went, we made our own--we didn't have little league. We had pick-up baseball teams and what is now recreation park--that was started by my brother's generation, oh, years before World War One. I guess it used to be part of the old Yeomans farm. The big house on Allendale Avenue just east of the ball park--that's the old Yeomans house. It was my brother's generation who asked Mr. Yeomans if they could make that field into a baseball diamond, and he said go ahead. Who built the grandstand, I don't know. Before that the baseball diamond used to be in what is now Memorial Park. And there was a grandstand that backed on the Critchley's property. The left fielder stood out on Mallinson Street, the center fielder stood on the junction of Mallinson Street and Brookside Avenue, and the left fielder stood out on Brookside.

That house on the corner of Park and Brookside--the one with the big old barn there--that was owned by a fellow by the name of Pulis and he had a blacksmith shop. There was also a blacksmith shop in that building across from Archer Hall. It used to be a blacksmith shop and cider mill. When we used to come out of school we used to get a drink of fresh cider right out of the press--they'd give it to us.

Up on the junction of the Turnpike and Crescent Avenue where the Webbs live was a gate house. The Turnpike was a toll road and they had a telegraph pole across the road and you had to pay to go past that point. And that house was there until somewhere in the 20's when it burned down. Dot Shuit painted a picture of it from an old photograph and it's hanging in the Municipal Building.

A man by the name of Potter, who was pretty well-to-do, built the house on Crescent Avenue where the Andersons live. He owned a piece of property way back in the woods. He had a son named Marston. They built a cabin back there. And he somehow got to know Colonel Cody and he got Cody up for a weekend and showed him the place, so we renamed that cabin the Cody cabin. And speaking of Buffalo Bill, I can remember when I was a kid about 9 or 10 years old, at the tail end of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show he had a show in Paterson and we all went down to see it. I can still remember him coming out on a white horse with a buckskin suit and his goatee and a big indian throwing up tar balls and he was popping them off with his Sharp's rifle.

Up on Brookside Avenue around the bend there's a bridge and there's a pond on the right hand side going toward Wyckoff. That was called Smith's Pond. That's where I learned to swim. Some of the big guys picked me up and threw me in and either you do or you don't, I'll tell you!

That was the first real swimming pool in town. There was a dam there, but a flood ripped it out.

I'll never forget the big flood (in 1945). It almost took my garage away. You see, where the house sits on Mallinson Street, there was a cliff on the other side and a bend in the brook. When the water came down the brook it hit the cliff and came up toward the garage, but we had a picket fence about fifty feet this side of the brook and that's what stopped the water.

As you come up Crescent Avenue and across the Turnpike to the first street on the right if you look down you see a very old-fashioned house there--that's the old Wilson farm. He used to grow garden crops and take them down to the Paterson market. There were three Wilson boys--George, John, and Robert. They bought a piece of property from Max P. Arlt and they grew strawberries. My brother-in-law Bill Robinson, who used to live in Allendale, came to see me a few days ago and he said when he was a kid he used to come up here to pick strawberries. I can remember picking strawberries on the old Wilson farm.

They say that around the 1900's Allendale was a summer resort. I don't know what they had to offer except tennis and the White Bridge Swimming Pool. Most of those big houses along East Allendale Avenue were boarding houses--that's where people used to come to spend the summer. Not all of them, but some of those houses were.

This whole section was a strawberry section. They used to ship out 15 or 16 carloads of strawberries out of Allendale every day. The buyers or the commission men used to come up and live in the Allendale Hotel. I don't know who owned it first, but I remember a fellow by the name of Val Braun who owned the Allendale Hotel. After the Scholz and Kornhoff places burned down the Allendale Fire Department was started. And Val Braun was the original Chief. Next to the old telephone building on Allendale Avenue a fellow named George Cook--he was a State Senator, I think--owned a house. The house caught on fire and burned down. And he had about 15 tons of coal in the cellar and that burned for about 5 years until it burned out.

Dr. Archer, who lived where the Catholic Church is now, was the official doctor of the New York City Fire Department. And he used to come out in the official New York Fire Department car and he was instrumental in starting Allendale's Fire Department. He used to take part in all the parades.

They built the fire house before the war. Steve Van Houten was the contractor and both my brothers worked on it and the Rev. Jackson did the dedication when they planted the cornerstone--I'm talking about the original fire house.

Winter and Christopher had a grocery store where the post office is now. They sold groceries and it was an old-fashioned general store like you see in these old restored towns where you could get everything from a needle to a locomotive. John Ackerman, or Richard V. Ackerman, John's father, had a grocery store where the print shop is now.

Where the cheese store is, a fellow by the name of Linkroum had a two-story building that was called Linkroum Hall where they used to sell candy and ice cream. And in about 1915, the Guatellis, who had an ice cream store in Ramsey, came down and built a place where the flower shop is now. And they sold ice cream, cigars, and candy and that kind of stuff. After that Temperlyn started a drug store there. Gasparini had a shoe store in the building still there next to the

fire house. Later on when he went out of business a fellow by the name of Pollock had an ice cream store there for maybe a year and then he didn't make enough money so he quit.

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MORE MEMORIES OF ALLENDALE.....by Maytie Sparling  
and William Abbott

Maytie Sparling and William Abbott were interviewed about two years ago by members of the Allendale Bicentennial Committee. What follows are excerpts from that interview.

MAYTIE SPARLING: Street lights shine brighter today than in the late 90's and early 1900's when there were only 13 kerosene lamps--street-lights lighted nightly by J. Morton Southwick, my uncle. He carried a ladder and put the lights on at night, traveling the same route to put them off in the early morning. Later a powerhouse was erected on the George Cook property where electric streetlights were turned on and put off by Mr. Southwick daily.

Our old roads were dirt roads. Later, about 1912, hardtop construction called tarvia was a great improvement. The Turnpike, once called the Albany Post Road, was chartered in 1806 and was state-managed by monies collected at the toll gate at the corner of Crescent Avenue and Franklin Turnpike, tended by Jerry Storms. And good Granny Storms lived there after the toll house was discontinued. She loved the children of the neighborhood to visit her and she questioned them all on the Bible, giving them religious tracts, candy from her former store in the toll gate house and also handmade handkerchiefs.

WILLIAM ABBOTT: I was a member of the Bergen Guards. They were a group of boys--about two dozen--all teenagers, organized by Captain Harry Hand, drilled in marching, handling arms, and fundamental army tactics. They participated in many parades, and disbanded when the U. S. entered World War I. Many of the young men who enlisted found their Bergen Guards experience of great assistance, and some still live in Allendale. Captain Hand deserved a lot of credit for giving his time and energy to molding the boys into a well-trained organization.

MAYTIE SPARLING: Our old railroad station has an interesting history. It was a post office and paper store once managed by Albert Krause and for many years by Michael McDermott, assisted by his family. Flagmen were employed at Park Avenue, handled by Charles Simon, and at Allendale Avenue by Willis Christopher. Gates were lowered by cranks and later automatically.

Appert's Celery Farm was famous over the state. Formerly it had been a peat bog, where peat was mined or cut, and put in burlap bags manufactured in Allendale.

WILLIAM ABBOTT: In Allendale's early days, water came from many types of springs and wells until well into the teens. Residents had wind-mills, bucket walls, and artesian wells with pumps inside the house. Some families had tanks occupying one-half of the attic. Water was

pumped there several times a week and boys were paid by the hour to pump--I was one of those boys.

The old cider mill stood where the Ames Appliance Store is today, opposite Archer Hall, on Franklin Turnpike. Joe Hen Mallinson kept one half of the cider as payment for the pressing of the apples.

MAYTIE SPARLING: North Jersey Rapid Transit Co. was the name of the trolley line that ran through Allendale from 1911 to 1920. It connected with the Hudson River Trolley at Warren Point, Elmwood, and ran to Suffern, New York. At first it ran every 15 minutes, then half-hourly, and finally hourly. In its later years it ran right into Paterson. During World War I there were lady conductors. Often motormen would stop a car in the woods between Allendale and Ramsey to photograph deer and let the passengers view them. Just imagine a bus or train doing that today!

WILLIAM ABBOTT: I remember Allendale's first firehouse. William Dewsnap was the architect. On Saturday nights movies were shown with Miss Lottie Scholz playing the piano. Council meetings were held there and grammar school graduations and other public events took place there.

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FROM OUR MAILBOX:

from Laura (Barrett) Haviland, March 1978.

...In the September issue, you mentioned the many fires which led to the forming of a fire department. There was another fire in 1908 or 1909 which destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cook, and son George, on Allendale Ave. I believe the telephone company used the property for their "new" building. I have a picture of the fire "tire" on Gousset's hill. The class of 1913, of which I was a member, was the first class to hold their graduating exercises in the new firehouse.

I attended the Allendale school from 1905 to 1913 and I remember when each of us was told to bring a folding cup, as mentioned in the September 1977 newsletter. There were many chestnut trees in the woods behind the school yard. My sister Alice, Ruth Hutchinson, and Beatrice Nidd used to play the piano for the kids to march into assembly each morning. I'd like to mention three teachers I remember: my first grade teacher, Miss Freeland, who was rooming at Mr. & Mrs. Wetmores on Allendale Ave., was also my second grade teacher. Third and fourth grade teacher was Miss Carey. Miss Johnson left fifth and sixth grades to become Mrs. John Cook, and of course, Mr. Willard Alling, who taught seventh and eighth grades and was a very good Principal at the same time.

I am so glad that Marston Potter remembers Longrack. It was a small pond only about waist deep, but we kids used our water wings to be sure we wouldn't drown! We fastened a blanket around a few trees, as the pond was in the woods, and changed into our bathing suits "in private."

I remember a lovely and very interesting lady, Miss Edith Cockcroft, who lived with relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Carver and daughter Dorothy, across the road from my Grandpa Ivers. Miss Cockcroft had many talents and among her accomplishments was the art of painting designs on silk fabric, which were beautiful and could be bought in

some shops. One I remember was a brightly colored design on dark silk, arranged so that when making a blouse or dress there would be a design on the front and back too. Some Allendalers may remember her too.

There were other very nice neighbors also; among them were Mr. and Mrs. Drummond and son Frank, and Mrs. Haring and daughters Edna and Mabel. Down the road a piece was the Van Houten family, Mr. and Mrs. Van Houten, Grossmutter, Tillie, Stephen, Anita, Grace, and Georgianna.

I was sorry to read of the death of Mrs. Whiting Anthony, nee Ruth Taylor. Ruth was our "back door" neighbor in 1913 and 1914.

from Lee Kornhoff, December 1977

I read with interest about Longrack and how it got its name. Well, at one time my father, William Kornhoff, owned Longrack and many, many times we went for a swim. I remember his friends asking, "Where can we hang our clothes?" So my father put up a long-long-clothes-rack for them, hence the name of Longrack. Boy, that's thinking fast!

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We wish to express special thanks to those who contributed financially and thus helped to make our first large-scale fund-raiser a resounding success. Reprinted from the program of "The Mikado":

- Allendale Bar and Grill
- Allendale Pharmacy
- Mr. Walter Anderson
- Citizens First National Bank, Allendale
- Country Shop, Allendale
- Berthold Deutschländer, Germany
- Mrs. H. C. Falcke
- First Federal S & L Association, Allendale
- Gene and Syd
- Mr. and Mrs. Earl G. Holmes, Vermont
- Independence Bank of New Jersey, Allendale
- Lucie, Leon and Andrej Kirylak
- Mr. and Mrs. Alfred P. Lange
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas La Vecchio
- Mrs. Anne M. Lussow, Florida
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Megnin
- Mr. and Mrs. William R. Miller
- Mr. and Mrs. Allan C. Morgan
- Dina Sammer
- Mrs. Raymond M. Scholz
- Mr. and Mrs. George W. Schwack
- Mr. and Mrs. Fred S. Sherman
- S. T. Van Houten & Sons, Allendale
- Mrs. Bess N. Trinks
- Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Wardell, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. John D. Webb, Florida

Thank you also to Mr. and Mrs. L. Tappan, whose contribution was received too late for the name to be listed in the program.

New Members

- Ms. Carol Fischer of Allendale
- Richard Megnin & Family of Waldwick
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. Strangfeld of Ramsey
- Mr. & Mrs. Craig Tennant of Allendale

Accessions

Grammar School geography book from 1880, photographs, marriage certificate from 1854, old bills, etc. circa 1900, donated by Russell Mallinson.

Two boxes imprinted with: "Cherry Brand. Darrow & Rudden, successors to Cy. Gousset Co., New York" in which chocolate-covered cherries were once packed, donated by Margaret McNelley.

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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.

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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