



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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NO. 2

NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 1, 1986 at 8:00 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale (Second Floor).

PROGRAM: "Peeking Into Allendale's Past: Images of Yesteryear," a slide talk by Pat Wardell, using slides from the Society's collection. Through the years we have copied on slides old photographs loaned and donated to the Society. Included in this presentation will be pictures from before the turn of century up to the present. Plan to join us for a festive evening at our annual holiday meeting. Refreshments will be served. As always, feel free to bring along interested neighbors and friends!

SOCIETY NEWS:

Looking for holiday gifts? Don't forget that our historical **map**, "Early Days of Allendale" (suitable for framing), the **booklet** "Allendale: the Way We Were," (a souvenir booklet published for Allendale's 80th birthday, containing photos and newspaper items from 1890-1900), and our Allendale **notepaper** are all for sale, and can be purchased at The Country Shop on West Allendale Avenue. And every sale benefits your Historical Society!

One of our members, Betty Hamilton Wheatley of Ho-Ho-Kus, sent us two newspaper clippings of an event in 1938 that put us on the front pages: the robbery of the First National Bank in Allendale. She wrote: "My father, Edward Hamilton, was associated with the bank in Allendale for many years and the enclosed clippings describing 'the great bank robbery' were among his things." We thought our readers might enjoy reading contemporary reports about the robbery, and so we're including those newspaper accounts in this issue, along with a little background information about the bank.

The Society also received, from Lorraine

Strangfeld, a photograph taken in February 1986 of the coal shed/hopper at the Allendale Lumber Yard. This building, the last of its kind in Bergen County, was torn down last spring, so we are very happy to have this photograph.

We are indebted to the Community Arts Association for promoting interest in Allendale's heritage through their project of painting Allendale landmarks. Members of the Arts Association who participated in the project pledged to donate to the Historical Society a percentage of any money received from the sale of their landmark paintings. We have received donations from Marian Husing and William Hannings, Community Arts Association members, and we are most grateful.

The board members of the Society have approved a project suggested by Trustee Marie Kraft: the updating of the hardcover book, "A History of Allendale." The book was compiled by The History Committee of the Allendale Tercentenary Committee, and was published in 1964 to coincide with New Jersey's Tercentenary Celebration. The book has long been out of

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SOCIETY NEWS (continued from p. 1)

print, and is now somewhat outdated. In the more than 20 years since its compilation, Allendale has seen many changes, including two new schools: Hillside School and Northern Highlands Regional High School. This is a long range project, for the compilation and printing of a new, updated book will probably take a couple of years. Marie is investigating the possibility of applying for a grant to help us underwrite the cost of this project.

The "Landmark & Preservation Committee" of the Allendale Historical Society has been formed. The committee held its first meeting on November 6, with the following members present: Robert Rossner, Glen Klui, Helen Thomas, Jack Troast, Bonnie McKenzie, Pat Wardell, and Lowell Brooks. Jack Troast was elected chairman of the group, which set the following goals: (1) As soon as possible, this committee shall prepare a landmarks designation list and landmarks map. (2) This committee shall amend, from time to time, as circumstances warrant, the landmark designation list and landmark map. (3) This committee shall collect and disseminate material on the importance of historic preservation and techniques for achieving same. As can be seen, the first project the committee will undertake is to compile a listing of landmark buildings, houses, sites, etc. in Allendale. The Society, and the committee, would appreciate any written or verbal information; originals, photocopies, or other reproductions of photographs, deeds, maps, contracts, blueprints, permits, tax bills, or any other pertinent documentation that would be helpful in preparing such a list.

THE ALLENDALE BANK ROBBERY OF APRIL 1938

Background material compiled by Pat Wardell
(Photographs from *The Bergen Evening Record*)

The First National Bank of Allendale was organized in 1925 and its charter was awarded on February 11 of that year according to a notation in Herbert Winter's diary. *The Ramsey Journal* of February 26, 1925 reported:

"Dame rumor has now become an established fact...a new bank in Allendale [has been] established...It will be known as The First National Bank of Allendale....The newly elected Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Allendale met on Wednesday evening to complete their organization, and elected for president, Richard J. Christopher; for vice presidents, John H. Ackerman, Perry W. Critchley, Jacob M.

Christopher and Herbert J. Winter; for attorney, Walter R. Hudson; for cashier, Edward Hamilton....The bank will start with a paid in capital of \$50,000, and a surplus of \$25,000. The Board of Directors for the first year are: Richard J. Christopher, John H. Ackerman, Jacob M. Christopher, Perry W. Critchley, Herbert J. Winter, Henry N. Thurston, Malachi E. Higgins, John Yeomans, Frank Berdan, Silas E. Robinson, Walter R. Hudson, Walter W. Weber, and Peter L. Alberse. Garret Winter offered a lot at a very reasonable price to the bank directors for the purpose of building a bank structure instead of renting a store. This site is on the corner of West Allendale Avenue and Maple Street. The directors have appointed a committee to secure an option on the plot."

On June 3, Winter noted in his diary, construction was begun on the bank building. The building was built, according to the Bergen County Historic Sites survey, in the Renaissance Revival style popular in the 1925 era. Only its modest and compact design makes it a less-typical example of contemporary bank buildings, states the survey.

On December 19, 1925, the bank opened for business, and about \$60,000 was deposited on that first day of business. According to an account in *The Ramsey Journal*, "A Federal Reserve official made the statement that \$35,000 or \$40,000, at the outside, would have been a fair average, compared to other bank openings in towns the size of Allendale....Cashier Hamilton seems to have a pleasant smile for everybody and he undoubtedly, both by his ability and personality, will make many friends and customers for the bank."

One of the most startling events in the history of the First National Bank of Allendale occurred on Thursday, April 7, 1938 when five men robbed the Allendale bank. What follows are two contemporary accounts of the crime, one published the day of the robbery by *The Ramsey Journal*, and the other published the following day, Friday, April 8, by *The Bergen Evening Record*.

From *The Ramsey Journal*, Page One, Thursday, April 7, 1938: "BANDITS LOOT ALLENDALE BANK IN DARING HOLD-UP. Force Employees And Customers Into Inner Vault. BANK THIEVES WERE UNMASKED. Haul Is Thought to Have Been About \$10,000—Detachment of F.B.I. Men Seeking Fingerprints—Car Carried N.Y. License—Being Checked Through Ramsey Agency.

Five bandits armed with revolvers and submachine guns looted the First National Bank of Allendale of an undetermined amount at 2:15

this afternoon, after locking the five employees of the bank in the vault.

Present estimates of the bank employees set the loss in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

A detachment of four F.B.I. men under Agent T. J. Donegan of the Newark office was at work seeking fingerprints shortly after the robbery. Other police officers at the scene early this afternoon were Lts. Guidetti and Frazer, of the Prosecutor's office; Chief Lockwood, Investigator Stewart of the Bergen County Police; Chief Voss of the Ramsey Police, and Officers Jack Forshay and James Webb. Chief Reimer was absent from town.

Cashier Edward Hamilton, who was in the front office of the bank as the bandits entered, said that there were either four or six men in the gang.

"The man who took care of me," said Hamilton, "carried a submachine gun, there may have been four or five others who entered with him. He forced me and the other employees of the bank to lie on the floor. Two or three customers who were in the bank were treated in the same manner and relieved of their money.

"The men cleaned out the cash drawer and demanded entrance to the inner vault, where the balance of money is kept. Of course, I was forced to admit them to the vault," Hamilton said.

The 5 employees of the bank, Cashier Edward Hamilton, Miss Blanche Shudy, D. W. Frazer, Alwin Grossman and Franklin Trinkner were locked in the vault.

As the bandits took possession of the bank the employees were warned back from the desks so that they were unable to trip the alarm. Once in the vault they sounded the second alarm which resulted in their release, after the bandits had left.

Two customers who were in the bank, Mrs. Harry Osias, of 333 East Allendale Avenue, and Julian J. Monte, of Franklin Turnpike, Ramsey, were also forced to enter the vault.

Mrs. Osias, although in a highly nervous condition as a result of her experience, fixed the time of the robbery at exactly 2:16. She said that

ALLENDALE BANK EMPLOYEES AID HUNT FOR BANDITS



—Bergen Evening Record Photo.
Edward Hamilton, cashier of the First National Bank of Allendale, is shown above (left) with tellers as they pieced together the story of the robbery in which five bandits stole more than \$10,000 from the bank's vault. With the cashier are (l. to. r.) Franklin Trinkner, David W. Frazer, and Alwyn Grossman.

she had entered the vault to obtain her safe deposit box, and the slip was stamped at that time.

Warned that she would be slugged if she made any outcry, she obeyed the bandits implicitly, and lay down on the floor of the vault, with the employees of the bank.

The leader of the gang, according to Mrs. Osias, was a man between 28 to 35 years, about 5 feet 3 inches. He was unmasked, wore glasses, a soft grey felt hat, a dark coat.

Mrs. Osias said that one man remained at the wheel of the car, the leader of the gang gave instructions to the bank employees and customers and a third removed the money from the drawers.

The police radio alarm described the bandits as two tall and two short men. The car they used was said to be a late model Buick or Oldsmobile, dark blue or black in color. The men were reported to have fled in the direction of Midland Park or Ramsey.

Cashier Hamilton said that the men were very calm and collected and appeared to know exactly what they were doing. Their instructions to the bank employees and customers were carefully and explicitly given. The men spoke roughly, said Hamilton, adding that this may have been adopted as a measure of disguise.



The first bank robbery in Bergen County in 15 months occurred yesterday at the First National Bank of Allendale (above), where a heavily armed gang took more than \$10,000 and escaped.

County and nearby local police were notified as was the Newark office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hamilton said that the activities of the bank were being conducted in portions of the building which had not been entered by the bandits in hopes that the county or federal officers might be able to pick up a fingerprint which would identify the robbers."

From *The Bergen Evening Record*, Friday, April 8, 1938: "BANDITS' LEADER IDENTIFIED BY ALLENDALE BANK STAFF. G-MEN, STATE POLICE JOIN HUNT—LOSS SET AT \$10,500. NEW BILLS LEFT. Detectives Certain They'll Capture Known Gunmen.

An ex-convict recently released from Trenton State Prison is being sought today as leader of the heavily armed bandit gang which took \$10,511.77 from the First National Bank of Allendale in Bergen County's first bank robbery in 15 months.

G-men, County detectives, and local and State police are co-operating in what they are convinced will be a successful search for the five gunmen who quietly looted the Allendale bank yesterday afternoon.

NO PRINTS FOUND. They escaped in a black 1938 Oldsmobile sedan bearing New York plates which witnesses said started with the

designation 1C. Remainder of the license number was not taken down but police are convinced the gang used a stolen car.

The man detectives feel confident they will soon capture is tall, thin, and spectacled. He was released from prison several weeks ago and his rogues' gallery photograph was promptly identified by witnesses of the holdup.

Despite the fact that the gunmen were nervous and appeared hurried in their handling of the robbery, no one was injured and they made a clean getaway.

So far all attempts to get identifiable fingerprints have proved unsuccessful. The bandits were smart enough not to touch a \$600 pile of new bills whose serial numbers would have provided a method of tracing their movements.

Four unmasked men armed with revolvers and one submachinegun looted the bank about 2:15 P.M., yesterday, while a fifth man sat behind the wheel of their car.

Thomas J. Donegan, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New Jersey, and First Assistant Prosecutor William B. Mehler had their stenographers take down statements from each of the bank employees and witnesses.

ROAD SEARCH VAIN. Another conference on the case will be held today.

Meanwhile details led by Chief Henry B. Lockwood of the Prosecutor's office and Chief William J. Reimer of Allendale searched roads and abandoned buildings north of Allendale in an effort to find the gunmen's car or a possible hideaway used by the gang.

The bandits forced employees and customers to lie on the floor while they obtained the vault keys from Cashier Edward Hamilton.

It took the gunmen 10 or 12 minutes to go through the vault and pick up bills from the cages. Their emphatic threats so impressed the five employees and two depositors that none of the seven witnesses made any attempt to turn in the alarm until several minutes after the gang left.

The extra delay gave them sufficient headstart to make them safe from capture on the road.

As in most bank holdups where witnesses are excited, descriptions of the men and details of what happened vary greatly. Three of the bandits were described as being between

25 and 35 years old while one was about 40. All wore soft hats with the brims pulled down over their faces. Beyond those meager facts the witnesses were unable to agree on how they were dressed. Two were listed as tall, two short and one fat.

THEY WANT THE KEY. Of the seven persons who were in the bank at the time, Franklin Trinkner, 27, of Dater Avenue, Saddle River Borough, a teller, probably was in the tightest spot.

Like the others, he did not see the men enter and the first indication he had of their presence was when he heard, "This is a holdup. We don't want to hurt anybody in here so all of you lie down with your faces to the floor."

The bandit was standing nearly opposite Trinkner's window toward the rear of the bank and alternately swung his revolver from Trinkner's direction and that of the third grill, where another clerk, Alwyn Grossmann, had been standing just before the men entered.

The next thing Trinkner knew someone grabbed him, tearing a corner of his clerk's jacket, and commanded, "Get on your feet and come on in the vault." The bandit made him walk ahead at the point of a gun. Inside the vault another man joined them and Trinkner was asked, "Hand over the key to the inner compartment." He referred to the key to the grillwork door that separates the lock-box section of the vault from that which contains the bank's private money and securities.

In the excitement, Trinkner could not remember momentarily who had the key. Then he remembered that Hamilton had it.

"I told them my boss had it and all the while they were getting tougher," Trinkner explained. "They were getting more insistent that I produce the key and I had the sight of their guns in front of me. They didn't believe that I did not have the key. I could hear Mr. Hamilton, too, telling one of the other men in the front that he had the key and I could hear the bandit telling him to shut up. That's when I didn't feel so good."

Julian Monti, tavern owner of Franklin Turnpike, Ramsey, and Mrs. Harry L. Osias, 28, of East Allendale Avenue, Allendale, whose husband is a Brooklyn apartment house builder, both agreed that the men were experienced.

Monti said three of them were well-mannered but the fourth, who covered him, was tough and swore profusely in ordering him to lie down.

The bandits scooped about \$3,000, the day's receipts, from the cash drawer at the front teller's window where Assistant Cashier David W. Frazer was stationed. They even took the

bills and odd change that Monti had just handed over to Frazer.

Mrs. Osias had just been shown to the vault by Grossmann and was in a booth. She heard the orders given by the bandits and in the hope of remaining unnoticed she shut off the light in the booth. One of the bandits saw the light go out and ordered, "Come out of there, I saw you. Go lay down by the other girl or I'll slug you."

The bandits had made their way to the rear of the counter by way of the entrance through the front consultation office to make sure that Grossmann, Trinkner, Frazer and Miss Blanche Shoudy of West Saddle River Road, Saddle River Borough, stenographer and bookkeeper, had all dropped to the floor as ordered.

Hamilton, who was the first in the bank to be approached learned of their arrival when a gun was pressed against the back of his neck and a low voice ordered, "Don't move. This is a hold-up." He was then ordered to lie down.

Hamilton recalled hearing the bandits questioning Trinkner about the key to the vault. He called repeatedly to one of the men standing near him, "Let me in there and I'll open the door for you." His word was finally accepted and he was led in, where he turned the key over to one of the men.

"This man was slightly nervous," Hamilton told investigators. "He dropped the key several times trying to put it in the lock." Once inside, one of the men went to work quickly loading the bags with money and had Hamilton assist him.

Their work done, the men seized the two revolvers owned by the bank and ordered the seven into the vault. They closed the outer grill and assured their captors [sic] that they would not lock them in. They warned them, however, not to move until they had driven off. Hamilton told investigators that one of his men asked whether he should sound the bank alarm from the switch inside the vault. He advised him not to, lest there would be shooting. It was about five minutes later, he said, when he gave the order to ring the alarms and they opened the grilled door and walked out into the empty bank just as surprised J. Morton Southwick, the janitor, walked in the front door.

The sound of the alarm had attracted businessmen and Henry Kahse, employed by the Allendale Water Department at the office of Water Collector W. G. Z. Critchley across the street from the bank, telephoned to Police Headquarters.

Officer James W. Webb, who had moments before been on duty in the business

district, had just entered his office and answered the phone. He raced with the police car the quarter mile from the Municipal Building on Franklin Turnpike to the bank but the bandits car had long since made its getaway.

Before leaving the office, however, Webb sent out a general radio alarm. Later in the afternoon he sent two additional alarms giving further information.

Bank employees related how the bandits almost forgot the bag containing the loose money scooped from the cash drawer of the counter. The men had started for the door when one of them remembered the forgotten bag and sent back for it.

In several minutes Webb at the bank was joined by Bergen County Traffic Police patrolmen in two cars, by Police Chief H. H. Voss of Ramsey and by a delegation from the Prosecutor's staff.

About 20 law enforcement officers of one agency or another were at the bank within an hour. Donegan assigned two of his men, assisted by County agents, to questioning witnesses and showing them pictures of convicts. In business-like manner in another corner of the bank's private offices, a stenographer took exact statements of bank employees while other members of the County and federal staffs searched for fingerprints on every door, counter and object that could have been touched.

James Stewart, fingerprint expert for the Bergen County Police, said he found fingerprints on the bank vault door but was unable to raise them because of grease on the door. A number of prints were photographed elsewhere in the bank, but no report was expected until today's conference.

Although some of their statements were said to be conflicting in parts, a number of persons on the street supplied information to the questioners.

Elwood Marks, of East Crescent Avenue, Allendale, had been in Critchley's office and recalled seeing a car with New York license plates parked in front of the Winter Brothers grocery store next to the bank. A driver sat in the car, wearing a gray slouched hat. Mrs. Marcie Campbell, whose apartment is opposite the bank, described the car but did not notice the license plates. Harold Kiermaier of West Orchard Street, Allendale, and John Mahoney, delicatessen clerk, also supplied information.

Belief that the men had laid their plans carefully in advance was borne out by two who offered information. Frank Smith of Brookside Avenue recalled seeing a car with strangers in it on Tuesday and they drove up to the station and away again at train times, checking arrival and departure of passenger and freight trains. This

was to guard against being blocked by any train that might pull across the grade crossing during their getaway, officers said.

Mrs. Burtis W. Griffiths, of Brookside Avenue, Allendale, said the description of bank employees tallied with those of men she saw watching the bank 7 or 8 months ago.

Smith said one of the trains he saw being timed was an eastbound passenger at 2:15 P.M., which from the time of yesterday's break, would have cleared the crossing shortly before they drove across.

Officer John O. Forshay of Allendale Police was off duty but was called out. Reimer was in attendance at a State Police Chief's Association at Elizabeth and was called immediately. Among the police who responded during the afternoon were also William B. Mehler, first assistant prosecutor; Harty B. Lockwood, chief of prosecutor's detectives; Lieutenant John E. Guidetti, Detective Walter G. Fraser and Investigator Frank DeMuro of the prosecutor's staff; Sergeant Charles LoPresti, Officer Harry Cortwright, Stewart, Arthur Cole and Charles Gentner of the County Police, and two State troopers from the Teaneck barracks.

Donegan brought four men with him and when they left at 6 P.M. he assigned a relief man to remain at the bank to work with Reimer and private bank detectives who arrived later in the evening.

Frazer received rough treatment. He is suffering from arthritis and when ordered to lie down he moved slowly because of the pain in his legs. One of the bandits thought it was an act and shoved him."

The Stagecoach Era in This Vicinity

From *The Ramsey Journal*, April 7, 1899: "HO-HO-KUS--When the carpenters tore down the store end of the Bamber homestead, which is being remodeled, they found 73 old copper one cent pieces, which date from 1803, and a bag containing 57 very old three cent pieces. It was this end of the building that the Bar used to be, when railroads were unknown in Jersey and when coaches were the means of transit, this place used to be a 'Change Horses' Station...where the horses are exchanged for fresh ones so that the coach has little delay as possible. Probably there are very few people living in this place that are aware that this old mansion is nearly two hundred years old."

From a newspaper clipping dated July 13, 1900: "In the early days, before railroads had invaded the northern part of Bergen County, and when the old stage coach still held forth and was the only means of transportation, a portion of road from Allendale to Waldwick was the scene of many highway robberies and daring hold-ups. A thick woods on either side of the road made it an ideal spot for crooks and they plied their trade with success."

BUSINESSES IN ALLENDALE

Compiled by Pat Wardell

(Continued from September 1986 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. What businesses do you remember?

Allendale Dairy Co.

J. J. Slingland, "Dealer in Milk and Cream," was operating the Allendale Dairy Co. by August 1904, when he advertised in *The Allendale Methodist Herald*: "Try our milk and cream--strictly pure. Delivered to any part of Allendale and Waldwick. Alderney and Jersey Cattle."

Allendale Press

The Allendale Press began publication about 1950 with James Edward Martin as its publisher. An ad in the booklet "Guardians of Your Property and Welfare: Allendale Police" (printed in January 1951 by The Allendale Press) advertised "The Allendale Press, Fine Creative Printing, 124 W. Allendale Avenue, Allendale. Allendale 1-3159."

James Edward Martin had been born in Ireland on March 21, 1909, the son of Arthur A. and Lydia Martin. He began his newspaper career as a compositor for the *New York World Telegram* and later worked for *The Bergen Evening Record*, *The Morning Call*, and the *Pompton Lakes Bulletin*. Before moving to Ridgewood in about 1948, the Martins lived in Franklin Lakes, where Mr. Martin was president of the Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Board of Education. James Edward Martin died at the age of 44 in October 1953.

In January 1954, 2-3 months after Martin's death, The Allendale Press Printing Company was run as a four-man partnership, publishing the weekly tabloid *Allendale Press*, "An Independent Family Newspaper." It was edited by George De Young and James Tirone. In June 1955, it was announced in the paper's editorial column that "to permit further growth and expansion, a new corporation [had] been formed." Its title was "The Picture Press, Inc. and the name of the publication was, by then, *The Allendale Picture Press*. On its board of directors were: James Tirone, George De Young, Leonard De Young, and John Sanko. It covered local news in Allendale, Ramsey, Saddle River, and Upper Saddle River. By September 1955, The Picture Press was operating at 93 West Allendale Avenue, "behind Kaplan Cleaners."

Allendale Radio & Gift Shop

This business was in operation at 124 Allendale Avenue by October 1930. An item in the October 9, 1930 *Ramsey Journal* announced: "The ABC Oil Burner Agency have opened a display demonstration at the Allendale Radio and Gift Shop."

Allendale Real Estate & Insurance Agency

This business began in 1936. It was advertised in the 1951 booklet, "Guardians of Your Property and Welfare: Allendale Police": "Allendale Real Estate and Insurance Agency, Frank Berdan--Norman G. Critchley. Listings Wanted. 89 W. Allendale Avenue, Allendale, N.J. Allendale 1-3388."

In its March 17, 1955 issue, *The Ramsey Journal* reported: "The Griffith's Insurance Agency, which has been in the general insurance business in Bergen County for over the past 60 years, has been absorbed by the Allendale Real Estate and Insurance Agency of 31 West Allendale Avenue, Allendale. Final arrangements for the transfer of ownership were completed as of March 1st. Norman G. Critchley, who directs the insurance department of the Allendale Real Estate & Insurance Agency, will now be assisted by Mrs. Evelyn Grossmann, who has managed the Griffith's Agency during recent years. The consolidation of the two oldest insurance agencies in Allendale will provide the most complete insurance services. Mr. Critchley, together with Howard J. Elschner and Hadley Ford, are the owners of the Allendale Real Estate and Insurance Agency, which was established in 1936."

Allendale Sales and Service (Thurston's Garage)

Henry N. Thurston began his automobile garage about 1912 on Franklin Turnpike on the old Mallinson Cider Mill site, opposite Archer Hall. In 1920 he purchased property from Kornhoff & Nadler and by October of that year, according to *The Ramsey Journal*, "the new garage of H. N. Thurston [was] nearing completion. The cobble stone effect of this garage makes it of a very artistic nature." The business still operates today, at 317 Franklin Turnpike, as Allendale Equipment Company. According to the county historic sites survey, the building's cobblestone walls and textured surfaces are examples of the Arts and Crafts building style popular in the early 20th century.

In addition to his garage in Allendale, at various times Henry Thurston apparently operated businesses in Hackensack and

Ridgewood. The Ramsey Journal of March 23, 1916 reported: "Our genial garage manager, Henry Thurston, has experienced a complete success in his new and large establishment in Hackensack," and, on April 13, 1916: "Our genial garage-manager, Henry Thurston, has taken over the agency for Bergen County of the 'Form-a-Truck' Company."

On October 14, 1920, just about the time his new garage was nearing completion, The Ramsey Journal reported: "H. N. Thurston received a carload of Fords last week." By 1929, he was a Chrysler-Plymouth dealer, and that year he advertised in the souvenir booklet commemorating the 1st anniversary of the Allendale Police Department and the Allendale Players' production of "Officer 666": "Allendale Sales and Service. Chrysler and Plymouth Agency. Models of Chrysler and Plymouth on display at all times. Demonstrations cheerfully given. Show Rooms and Service Departments. Franklin Turnpike, Allendale. Phone 3063. 16 Walnut Street, Ridgewood. Phone 3258."

By the mid-1940's, the Thurston garage was also selling McCormick and Deering sprayers and tractors, and servicing and repairing machines for farmers within a 60-mile radius of Allendale. By the early 1940's Henry N. Thurston's sons, Fred and Lewis E. were involved in the company and the business was known as H. N. Thurston & Sons, Inc.

Today's Allendale Equipment Co. sells and services lawn and household equipment.

(series to be continued)

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

(continued from September 1986 issue)

September 30, 1930--10 p.m.-10:30 p.m.; Myrtle Ave.; Chimney fire; residence, J. Bijou, owner & occupant; cause--dirty flue; no damage.

December 26, 1930--1:30 a.m.-3:45 a.m.;

Allendale Historical Society
Officers and Chairmen, 1986-1987

President--Pat Wardell
Vice President--Eva Schmitt
Treasurer--Marge Mowerson
Secretary--Bonnie McKenzie
Trustees--Annette Baum, Marian Strangfeld, Harriett Grosman, Marie Kraft, Jeanne Cotz

Publicity Chairman--Paulette From
Librarian--Shirley Cross
Program Chairman--Harriett Grosman
Newsletter Editor--Pat Wardell

Brookside Avenue; Frame House; resident, De Mauriac, owner & occupant; cause--defective chimney; out of town assistance asked by Wyckoff Chief.

January 21, 1931--12:45 p.m.-1:20 p.m.; Crescent Ave.; Residence roof; Cyril C. Job, owner; L. Bates, occupant; cause--sparks, chimney; Value bldgs. \$2,000.; loss on bldgs. \$100.; no loss on contents.

February 24, 1931--12:00 noon-12:15 p.m.; Allendale Avenue; Garage contents; residence; Mr. Scafuro, owner & occupant; cause--hay, spontaneous combustion; Value of bldgs. \$500.; loss on bldgs., none; loss on contents, \$5.

February 28, 1931--2:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.; Hillside Ave.; Brush, barn and 2 coops; Residence; Mr. McNelly, owner; occupant--empty; cause--spark in brush from road; value of bldgs, \$1,000.; loss on bldgs, \$200.; no contents--no loss on contents.

March 21, 1931--8:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m.; Brookside Ave.; Res. oven; Residence; Mr. Wooley, owner & occupant; cause--overheated stove; value of bldgs, \$7,500; loss on bldgs, none; no loss on contents.

March 27, 1931--3:00 p.m.-3:20 p.m.; Crescent Ave.; Brush; B. F. Hutches, owner and occupant; cause--unknown; no loss.

March 28, 1931--11:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.; Hillside Ave.; False Alarm; Arrest and conviction secured, \$25 fine.

March 21, 1931 (out of sequence? or should this be March 31?)--1:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.; Dale Ave.; Brush; Residence; R. White, owner and occupant; cause--rubbish heap; no damage.

(series to be continued)

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

Membership Categories: (Annual Dues)

Family Membership	\$6.00
Individual Membership	\$4.00

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