

VOL. XIII

**FEBRUARY 1987** 

NO. 3

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, March 2, 1987 at 8:00 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale (Second Floor).

**PROGRAM:** "The Hermitage," a slide program presented by Florence Leon of The Friends of the Hermitage. The meeting is, as always, free and open to the public, so please invite your friends and neighbors.

The Hermitage on North Franklin Turnpike in Ho-Ho-Kus is famous for two distinct time periods. The original building was visited by many important people. George Washington spent 4 days here in 1778, and in 1782 Aaron Burr was married at the house to its occupant, Theodosia Prevost. For this important early history, the Hermitage was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

From 1807 to 1970, the Hermitage was home to four generations of the Rosen-crantz family. Architect William Ranlett was commissioned in 1847 by the family to enlarge the house. He kept three exterior walls of the original 100-year old house, raised the 2nd floor, built a large new wing, and added dormers and verandas. The result was the Gothic Revival house that we see today. An outstanding example of this style, it has been designated a National Landmark.

Today the Hermitage is owned by the State of New Jersey and is operated by the private, non-profit organization, the Friends of the Hermitage.

#### **SOCIETY NEWS:**

Once again it's that time of year when nominations are in order for officers, trustees and chairmen of the Society. Traditionally, it has been difficult to find willing volunteers to fill positions. If you are interested in volunteering to serve in some capacity, please call Pat Wardell (327-0605) or Eva Schmitt (327-5080 daytime at The Country Shop). Requirements are few: we hold 8 meetings a year (4 board meetings and 4 regular meetings open to the public).

We are delighted to publish in this issue of the newsletter a wonderful memory of an Allendale childhood, written for us by Helyn

Anthony Meyer, who now lives in Florida. We know our members, both near and far, thoroughly enjoy reading articles written by other Society members, and we are grateful to Mrs. Meyer for sending us this glimpse into the past. (We also--as always--encourage our other readers with memories of Allendale, local events, places, etc. to write to us for this newsletter.)

The Society's Landmark and Preservation Committee, led by Jack Troast, is well on its way to its first goal--the compilation of an Historic Sites Master List. The Committee is also monitoring the status of the proposed Borough Ordinance for historic preservation.

## METHODISM IN THE VALLEY OF THE SADDLE RIVER

This article appeared in Volume I, Number One of THE SOUVENIR (of the Archer Memorial Church), issued in Allendale on November 5th, 1894. The editor and publisher of this newspaper (which apparently was issued only twice) was the Reverend George F. Dickinson, minister at that time of the church. Ellipses (...) indicate portions that were marred and thus not possible to read. Please note also that the list of pastors of the church (\*) was subsequently corrected in Vol. I, Number Two of The Souvenir dated December 15, 1894. The corrected list was supplied by Rev. J. E. Switzer. We have taken the liberty of substituting the corrected list in this article.

Over a century have the Methodists occupied this part of New Jersey. Their camp and woods meetings, owing to the scarcity of church buildings, the novelty of worshipping in Nature's Cathedrals, together with the deep religious feeling that animated our fathers, made these meetings proverbial for their large following and gospel fervor. These meetings run as far back as the memories of the oldest natives. The church records of what is now known as the New Prospect M. E. Church, begin with the year A.D. 1797. The marriage of James Schearlev to Sarah Philips both of Orange County, (now called Rockland County, N.Y.) and the baptism of Mrs. Rebecca Tebow, April 23, 1797, Rev. J. Fountain, pastor, are among the matters registered....In the early part of this century a house of worship was built in what is now known as Waldwick, almost directly west of the New Prospect M. E. Church and near to the eastern side of the Erie Railroad. Another later on took its place. This is now occupied as a dwelling house. It stands directly north of the present church on the macadamized road. The new

building is of a substantial frame, surmounted with a cupola, in which hangs one of Maneeley's best vibrators. Near by is a commodious parsonage. South of it is a hall for Sunday School. Back of all are newly erected sheds for the accommodation of horses and vehicles.

Rev. John Fountain was its first pastor in 1797, and Rev. Barnabas Matthias, the first Methodist preacher in Haverstraw, was associated with him in the circuit which reached from Haverstraw to Belleville. Rev. Manning Force, Rev. J. Mallinsen and Rev. Geo. Banghart are numbered with its early pastors. From 1854 to 1894 we have a correct record of the pastors of the New Prospect M. E. Church which runs thus\*: Rev. George H. Jones, 1854 to '55; Ambrose Compton, 1855 to '56; W. H. McCormick, 1856 to 57; W. H. Dickerson, 1857 to '59; D. E. Frambes, 1859 to '61; F. Lummis, 1861 to '63; William M. Burroughs, 1863, died April 17, 1864; T. E. Gorden, 1864-65; J. E. Switzer, 1865-68; Walter Chamberlain, 1868-69; R. Johns, 1869-72; S. Parsons, 1872-74; R. B. Collins, 1874-76; J. R. Daniels, 1877-78; A. D. Opdyke, 1878-80; E. Clement, 1881-84; E. V. King, 1884-85; J. E. Gilbert, 1885-86; A. J. Conklin, 1886-91; Jacob Tyndal, 1891-93; Rev. J. A. Piper, the present popular and efficient pastor and preacher came in 1893.

From this church have gone out the Camp Gaw, the Wortendyke, the Little Zion, the Archer Memorial, the Sloatsburg and Sufferns M. E. Churches

The chapel which forms a part of the large building in Allendale, was built when R. B. Collins was pastor. It was found necessary to have better accommodations for the Sunday school and for people who desired to worship according to Methodist usage.

On Sunday, February 17th, 1876, 3 p.m., a Sunday school opening was held in the new room and addresses given by Rev'ds. Jesse S. Gilbert and George F. Dickinson from

1875
Aug 23 Beegen work Ate the
Chapel
109 Days M 250 pr Day 272 50
7 Days th 21.

114.

This bill, hand-written on a piece of ruled paper and dated August 23, 1875, from H. Mallinson to O.H.P. Archer, is for 116 days of work on construction of the Archer Memorial Methodist Church, first used in February 1876 and dedicated in June 1876.

Paterson. The dedicatory services as a church were held June 18, 1876, Bishop E. S. Janes officiating.

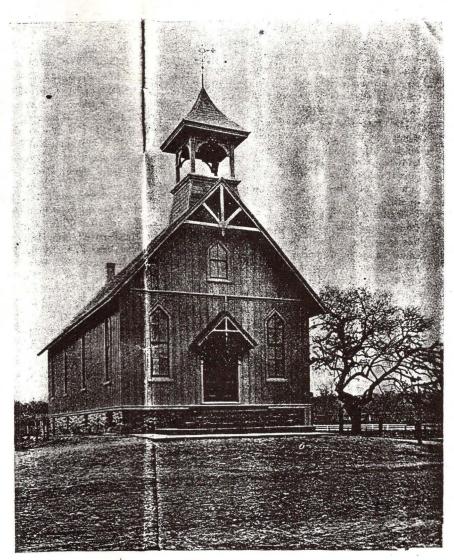
Regular services from this time were held in the chapel by the pastors appointed by the Conference to New Prospect church.

1886 saw a new era in the history of the chapel by its having Rev. W. P. George assigned as its pastor. In the spring of 1890 Rev. T. H. Jacobus took his place. Hon. O. H. P. Archer had concluded to make improvements in the church building, as it was a memorial of his parents, the community needing a more commodious edifice. He went to Conference, stated his design and asked that a suitable minister be sent. Rev. George F. Dickinson was appointed. The work of church building began in June. In October the following notice appeared in the papers and was circulated through the mails and by other means...

THE ARCHER
MEMORIAL METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH at
Allendale, N.J., having been
enlarged and beautified, will be
open for Divine Service
November 5, 1893.

An addition to the original building has been made, 38 feet in length and 52 in width making the whole length of structure 86 feet. Forty-five new pews have been added, affording seatings for 500 persons. The whole room has been newly carpeted and seats cushioned. The wood

work is in mahogany finish with walnut trimmings. The pulpit, platform and altar are made to conform in proportion and finish to the change. Behind the pulpit is a rich perspective. Composite columns of Corinthian and Doric support a dome and arch, which is joined by a keystone dated 1893. Stained windows of new design and mellow hues occupy their appointed places on the sides of the edifice. Three large memorial windows fill places in the South, West and East. Two reflectors of 45 jets each hang from the ceil-



Archer Hall, Allendale, N.J., built 1884 and formally opened in August of that year. This photograph was printed in *The Souvenir*, November 1894, along with the following information: "[This] is a picture of Archer Hall, capable of seating 500 persons, and is substantially built and furnished with all needed articles and rooms for lectures and entertainments. In it is held the Sabbath School and prayer meetings of the church, and most of the meetings of the Building Loan and Improvement Association. Near the Hall are large sheds for horses and carriages. For the photographs from which our illustrations have been electrotyped we are indebted to Dr. Chas. W. Badeau. While an excellent physician, he excels also in the photographic art."

ing and when lit enable the worshipers to read with ease ordinary minion print. Other needed improvements have been made in heating, ventilating, painting, grading and roofing. Nothing has been left undone to make the Lord's house cheerful and comfortable. There will be no money solicited on this occasion to pay off the debt, as there is none. The whole of these expenses have been met by a gentleman, after whose parents the church is named, and who calls it a "Free will memorial offering to the Lord."

## ARCHER MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH--HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST

The following brief listing of highlights of church history is taken from the souvenir booklet printed on the occasion of the church's Seventy-Fifth Anniversary in 1951.

1785-90.....Methodists began to hold meetings

in the groves or camp meetings.

1797.....Records of New Prospect, now Waldwick Church, begin. This is the Mother Church of the area. Its first minister and associates served a circuit stretching from Belleville, N. J. to Haverstraw, New York.

1876.....Feb. 17th, 3 P.M., Archer Chapel, now part of the church building, was opened for Sunday School purposes. Previously Sunday School classes were held in some homes.

1876.....June 18th, The Chapel was dedicated for church services. A preacher, who rode a circuit serving other churches, was assigned to hold services regularly in Allendale.

1886.....First full-time preacher, Rev. W. R. George, assigned to Archer Church. Records begin

to show meetings in Archer Hall.

1893.....Nov. 5th. Enlarged and beautified Archer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church rededicated. The church was debt-free, a gift of Mr. O. H. P. Archer. Cost was \$18,000.00. Present parsonage built. It was owned by the Archer family, who gave it to the church in 1901.

1903.....Electric lighting installed in Hall.

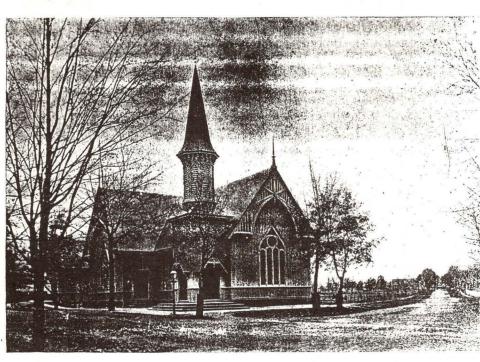


Oliver Hazard Perry Archer

1923.....Present Moeller organ dedicated. Rev. C. C. Woodruff was the minister, Mrs. Gilbert E. Nichols, the organist.

1926.....The Fiftieth Anniversary was celebrated under the leadership of Rev.

J. C. Hofer.



The above photograph of O. H. P. Archer and the photograph at left of Archer Memorial Church are from the November 5th, 1894 issue of *The Souvenir* (Vol. I, No. 1), published by the Archer Church on the occasion of the dedication of the new addition to the chapel building.



# Hobby Club Enjoys Progressive Dinner To Mark Holiday Spirit

Allendale—The Hobby Club celebrated the holiday season with a progressive Christmas party held last Tuesday, Dec. 28th

The Club, which meets every two weeks, is an unusual organization with 12 female vice presidents, whose husbands are the presidents.

The progressive dinner began with cocktails at the homes of Police Chief and Mrs. Robert Wilson and Mr, and Mrs. Evelyn Grossman. A shrimp appetizer

was served at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Lightweiss,

The remainder of the menu was served at these homes: salad, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Grossman; soup, Fire Chief and Mrs. Charles Ritter; appetizer, Mr. and Mrs. Wetterauw; main course (ham, etc.), Mr. and Mrs. Russell Stewart.

Appetizer, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Osborne; cocktails, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Uhlinger; dessert, Mr. and Mrs. John Webb; coffee, Mr. and Mrs. W. Vanderbeek. This clipping from *The Allendale Press* of January 6th, 1955 describes a progressive dinner held by the 12 members of the Hobby Club and their husbands. The club members are shown with their husbands in the photograph.

The Hobby Club was formed by a group of Allendale women whose husbands served in the Allendale Fire Department. The husbands attended Fire Department meetings on Friday nights, so the wives formed their own organization to meet on Friday nights.

In addition to meeting every two weeks, the group also sponsored parties and other events like this progressive dinner, at which husbands were welcome.

Remembering the 20's...In July of 1924, New Jersey State Troopers moved into their new headquarters in the Van Blarcom House, which at that time stood on the northeast corner of Maple and West Allendale Avenue. The July 31, 1924 Ramsey Journal reported this event: "On Monday an important capture of two big truck loads of what was termed high powered beer were taken in at Allendale on Franklin Turnpike. State troopers Walsh and Lange, who were recently stationed at Allendale, were

patrolling Franklin Turnpike, when they noticed two immense trucks with enclosed bodies, such as are used for moving vans....they ordered the drivers to stop....The value of the cargo was said to be at least \$20,000 and consisted of 150 barrels of high powered beer. The two trucks were conveyed to Hackensack, where the drivers were arraigned...and released under \$1000 bail each...The drivers...said they were under orders to deliver their load somewhere in New York City."

### **BUSINESSES IN ALLENDALE**

Compiled by Pat Wardell

(Continued from November 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 Sweet Shop

This business was operating by Feb 1927. when it was advertised in *The Ramsey Journal*: "Allendale Sweet Shoppe now has cards for every occasion. Stationery--School Supplies--Cigars--Cigarettes--Tobacco. Homemade cakes and pies. Lunches and afternoon tea. Phone 3012. E. M. Megnin. Free Delivery." A previous item in The Ramsey Journal had announced that Mrs. Megnin had bought the card

and stationery business of A. Bijou.

On September 24, 1931, Elm Street Corporation and Anna C. Repka (daughter of S. J. Van Blarcom) and her husband, George H. Repka, conveyed (through two deeds) the property at 72 West Allendale Avenue (Block 31, Lot 10) to Minnie Van Sickle. By March 1933 the Van Sickle Shop, advertising "cigars, cigarettes, confectionery fountain service de lux" was in business at 72 West Allendale Avenue, run by M. J. Van Sickle. Its ad in the March 2, 1933 Ramsey Journal announced "a lovely display of plants and flowers at reasonable prices-Potted tulips in bloom, 12 bulbs 85¢; Geraniums, potted, each 20¢; Ivy plants, 15¢, 20¢ and 30¢, Begonia, 20¢.

Other confectionery/soda fountain stores have existed over the years in other locations in Allendale, but it appears that, whoever its proprietor might have been at any given time, the confectionery store at this location seems always to have been known as "the sweet shop."

The store was being run, c. 1955, by Herman and Rose Gordon. On August 21, 1964, the property was deeded from Frances Shaffer and Citizens First National Bank of Ridgewood, Executors of the Last Will and Testament of Minnie J. Van Sickle, deceased, to Herman S. Gordon and Rose Gordon, his wife. The store was advertised in the 1965-66 edition of <u>Here's Allendale</u> as: "Gordon's Allendale Sweet Shop. Luncheon Served--Dolly Madison Ice Cream.

#### Allied Crafts Co.

This business, conducted next to the post office c. 1950-51, was run by William Bispham. He offered custom woodworking, kitchen cabinets, and furniture.

#### Althausen's Delicatessen

C. ("Chris") Althausen and his wife, Elsie, were running their delicatessen in Allendale by 1945. They advertised their business at 81 W. Allendale Avenue (Allendale 1-3065) in January 1951. They offered for sale a selection of frozen foods, groceries, and cold cuts.

#### Andersen's Meat Market

This business was advertised in "Guardians of Your Property and Welfare: Allendale Police" in January 1951: "E. Andersen's Meat Market. Prime Meats--Poultry--Frozen Foods--Fancy Groceries--Larsen's Baking Products. Norske Varer. Scandinavian Varieties. 101 W. Allendale Avenue. Allendale 1-4217. Remember Andersen's. Quality--Cleanliness--Service."

Anderson, C., Automobile Painting.

C. Anderson advertised his business in the Sept. 6, 1920 souvenir program of the Allendale Labor Day Field Day: "C. Anderson. Automobile Painting. Allendale, N.J. Phone 3106,"

Appert's Vegetable & Fruit Market

Edward Appert ran this business for an unknown length of time (perhaps for just one summer), closing it in October 1933. An item in The Ramsey Journal, Oct. 5, 1933 reported: "The vegetable and fruit market of Edward Appert, in the Winter Brothers building, West Allendale Avenue, was closed on Saturday. This business will be greatly missed in the community as Mr. Appert kept a most attractive market."

#### Arnold's Bergen Picture & Framing Co.

This business was advertised in "Guardians of Your Property and Welfare: Allendale Police" in January, 1951: "Fine Pictures Make a House--A Home. Arnold's Bergen Picture & Framing Co. 120 W. Allendale Avenue, Allendale, N.J. Framed Pictures--Picture Framing--Matting. Wholesale. Retail."

Art's Shop

This business was in operation by 1950-51, on West Allendale Avenue, east of the train station. Arthur J. Lutton and Adelaide C. Lutton were the proprietors of this shop which specialized in slip covers, draperies, upholstering, wallpapers, carpeting, and interior decorating. According to an ad in the 1965-66 edition of Here's Allendale, the showroomworkroom was at 93 W. Allendale Avenue.

(series to be continued)

## JUST A FEW MEMORIES OF ALLENDALE IN MY YOUNGER YEARS...by Helyn Anthony Meyer

The winters in Allendale were often very long and cold, with plenty of snow. In the early times they did not plow the roads, so there was always plenty of snow to go sleigh riding. The snow lasted a long time for sleigh riding. A favorite hill was Christopher's hill. It was at the top of Park Avenue. We called it Christopher's hill because the Christopher family lived in a house between the two roads (Crescent and Park Avenues). What fun we always had coasting down the long hill.

A good strong rope on our Flexible Flyer sled was necessary so that we could hook on to the big horse-driven sleighs that the coal, feed, grain and logging owners used in the winter. R. J. Christopher had horse driven logging sleighs on which he carted logs from Saddle River to his saw mill in Allendale. We would wait for an empty sleigh going to Saddle River and hook our sleds on it. We would ride over the hills to Saddle River. Then we would wait for a log-filled sleigh going back to Allendale.

There were a few people who had a horse and a sleigh called a "cutter." Mr. DeMauriac, who lived at the end of Brookside Avenue at the Wyckoff line, had one of those cutters. We would hook on his cutter and have a good ride on

the snowy roads.

There was always plenty of ice skating. We could skate on Mallinson's pond, now called Crestwood, or San Jacinto (Hutches). If the snow covered the ice, we would try to shovel it off.

When the snow melted and warmer weather came, we looked for the first sign of spring, the pussy willows, found in many of the fields in Allendale. Then we had fun finding all the wild flowers. We found many of them in the woods, such as yellow buttercups, white and blue violets, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, dog tooth violets, wild pink azaleas and many others.

In the summer there was swimming at San Jacinto, Smith's pond on Brookside Avenue and Longrack. I learned to swim in that brook. It was down in the woods at the end of Dale

Avenue and New Street.

We picked strawberries at John Appert's farm in Saddle River. John met us at the corner of Franklin Turnpike and Allendale Avenue. He drove us to his farm. We picked strawberries all day during the short season. We were paid two cents a quart. We always ate the largest berries. We tried to pick fifty quarts a day. At the end of

the day we had to walk home from Saddle River.

There were fields of wild huckleberries in Allendale. There were many bushes of them in the fields where the Brookside School was built. The property was owned at that time by the Anthony family. There were also many huckleberry bushes in the fields on Dale Avenue before all the houses were built. How good those fresh huckleberries were when made in a pie! Along the side of the road and in the fields were bushes of blackberries, black caps and elderberries. The elderberries were picked and made into wine.

On Halloween we walked all the way up Hillside Avenue to the big white house at the top of the hill. Mr. Gousset lived there. He was in the candy business in New York. He expected all the children in Allendale to come to his house

for a candy bar.

The big boys delighted in overturning all the outdoor privies at Halloween time. Most all

the houses had one.

In the fall we took an old burlap bag and headed for a long walk to Saddle River to go nutting. There were many nut trees along the roadside in Saddle River. There were many hickory nut and black walnut trees. We took the nuts home and let them dry. Then we took off the covering of the nuts. How good they were when we cracked them open during the winter.

In the fall when the apples were ripe, we stopped at Mallinson's Cider Mill on the Turnpike for a good drink of freshly made cider.

They had movies upstairs in the old firehouse. Of course they were not talkies. Just at the exciting part of a western movie someone, so busy clapping his hands, made one of the wooden folding chairs collapse and down it went with a bang! That happened quite often during the movie. Someone played the piano during the movies. I remember that Ethel Braun was one of the piano players.

Gone--gone are all these things that Mother Nature gave us. Gone--with nothing left but memories of those younger years in

Allendale.

I have gone, also, gone to my home on Longboat Key, Florida.

---Helyn Anthony Meyer, January 1987

ALLENDALE--The Overland Entertainment Club, musicians, soloists, elocutionists, will give an evening entertainment including 6 reels of moving pictures, featuring Chas. Chaplin and other stars. Fireman's Hall, Thursday, April 15. Admission 25 cents; children 15 [cents].

--The Ramsey Journal, April 9, 1915

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

(continued from November 1986 issue)

April 3, 1931--3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.; Crescent Avenue; Brush; Residence; Farley, owner & occupant; cause--unknown; no damage.

April 8, 1931--Funeral; Cy Goussett & E. R. Steele.

April 10, 1931--12:25 p.m.-1:30 p.m.; Turnpike; Brush & barn; residence; Higgins & Doty, owners & occupants; cause--rubbish heap; value of bldgs 2500.00; loss on bldgs 10.00.

April 15, 1931--3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.; Woods at Saddle River; Call for assistance by Saddle River Chief.

April 16, 1931--12:15 p.m.-7:35 p.m.; Crescent Avenue to Hillside Avenue; 2 outbuildings, brush & woods; no occupant; Lutz and owners on Hillside Ave., owners; cause--fire made by R. Road employees; value of bldgs. 100.00; loss on bldgs. 100.00; arrest made; no conviction.

April 23, 1931--11:00 a.m.-12:05 p.m.; Mallinson Street; Brush; Residence; J. Yeomans, owner & occupant; cause--rubbish heap; no damage.

April 28, 1931--12:15 p.m.-12:30 p.m.; Myrtle Ave.; Brush; Residence; A. Vroom, owner & occupant; cause--R.R.; no damage.

May 16, 1931--4:00 p.m.-4:25 p.m.; Oakley Hall; automobile; no damage.

June 25, 1931--Funeral; V. J. Braun.

June 28, 1931--11:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.; Myrtle Avenue; Kitchen, 2 story residence; Mrs. Moore, owner & occupant; poorly installed stove; value

of bldg. 6,000.; loss on bldg. 25.00.

July 4, 1931--11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Myrtle Ave.; roof; residence; J. Conlon, owner & occupant; cause--fireworks thrown on roof; value of bldg. 8,000.; loss on bldg. 25.00.

July 5, 1931--5 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Homewood Avenue; 2-1/2 story residence; no occupant; S. River Bldg. & Loan, owner; cause--apparently incendiary; value of bldg. 12,000.; loss on bldg. 500.00; investigation ordered.

July 1, 1931 (Out of sequence; should this be August 1?)--4 a.m.-6 a.m.; Crescent Place; 2 garages, 1 storage, 1 auto; Ackerson & Brown, owners; cause--spontaneous combustion, bags of lime; value of bldgs 1,000.; loss on bldgs. 1,000.; value contents 50.00; loss on contents 50.00; delayed alarm, fire not discovered.

September 10, 1931--2:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.; Crescent Avenue; Brush; Residence; Wm Lutz, owner & occupant; cause--R.R.; no damage.

October 13, 1931--11:10 a.m.-12:50 p.m.; Woodland Avenue; House bungalow; residence; S. Hover, owner & Occupant; cause-spontaneous combustion; Value of bldgs. 6,000.; loss on bldgs. 500.

October 13, 1931--5:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m.; Trolley Track; Brush; cause--unknown.

October 27, 1931--8:10 a.m.-8:55 a.m.; Mallinson Street; Garage; E. McCarroll, owner & occupant; cause--overturned lamp; value bldg. 1,500.; loss on bldg. 25.00.

October 27, 1931--5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; Trolley Track; brush; cause--unknown; no damage.

October 27, 1931--5:55 p.m.-6:25 p.m.; Ivers Road; brush; cause--unknown; no damage.

(series to be continued)

Allendale Historical Society Officers and Chairmen, 1986-1987

President--Pat Wardell Vice President--Eva Schmitt Treasurer--Marge Mowerson Secretary--Bonnie McKenzie

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