

ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

VOL. 15

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NO. 1

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 3, 1988 at 8:00 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale (second floor).

PROGRAM: "Life and Times in Silk City," a slide lecture presented by the Passaic County Historical Society. This program about the City of Paterson will be illustrated with slides, and will focus on social and industrial movements throughout the city's history.

As always, our meeting is free and open to the public, so please feel free to invite friends and neighbors to attend.

SOCIETY NEWS:

The Ackerman-Rozmus House: All summer long we have watched the progress of the houses being built on the subdivided tract just east of the Revolutionary-era Ackerman-Rozmus House at 70 Franklin Turnpike. We have been in touch with the Allendale Borough Administrator, Harold Marine, and have written to the developer, Mr. Ray Tong of the Fort Lee-based, Min Metals.

Claire Tholl, an Allendale Historical Society member who has long been involved in the preservation of old sandstone houses throughout the county, has also been in touch with both borough officials and Mr. Tong. She has sent drawings and suggestions for incorporating the oldest (stone) portion of the existing house into a new house to be built on the site.

We urge all interested society members to visit the construction site and seek out Mr. Tong to express our concern that both the foundation and the walls of the oldest section of the house be preserved. There is strength in numbers, and if enough of us make our voices heard, this important stone structure may remain.

We have been told by a society member who

viewed the house that these old walls and foundations are structurally sound.

Please make a visit to the site to urge that Allendale's last remaining Revolutionary-era atone house be preserved!

Upcoming Meetings: Mark your calendars now and save the dates for our meetings for the coming year: always 8:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in October, December, March, and May. Some future programs being planned are Marian Snedecor (of David Ackerman Descendants) who will present a program on genealogy and genealogical research (planned for December), and Gardner Watts of Suffern, who may speak on local history and the Ramapo Mountains (planned for March).

Acquisitions and Contributions: The society is very grateful for these recent contributions to its collections:

- Mrs. C. L. Lathrop of New York City donated a Xerox copy of a manuscript "History of Allendale" along with an account of the blizzard of 1888, written in 1938 by her uncle, Henry C. Anthony.

- John Cebak donated a number of Brookside School yearbooks for 1961 to 1977.

ALLENDALE HOUSES BUILT BEFORE 1940

Compiled by Pat Wardell

Compiler's Note: This "inventory" of pre-1940 Allendale houses has been compiled using information in the Society's files and in my own files. Very few of the houses have been systematically researched, so we know that for most of them, the information is incomplete. We would welcome any additions, corrections, updating, etc. from our readers, and will happily add such information to the Society's files.

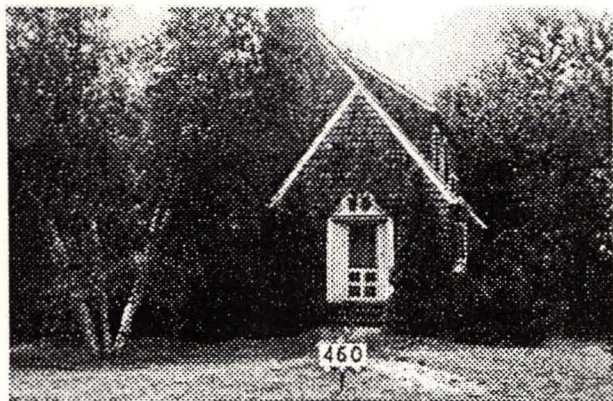
Only houses still in existence today are included in this inventory. Houses are generally named for the earliest known owner/occupant. Names associated with a house are not necessarily always owners; some may have been tenants. Also, not all owners actually lived in houses they owned; some houses were leased for rental income. The houses are listed alphabetically by street names, then numerically by house number.

(continued from the April 1988 issue)

69 Charles Street

Peterson House

Block 406, Lot 25 (Old Block 47, Lot 69)



69 Charles Street, 1940 Borough Tax Appraisal Photo

This house was built about 1930. Frank Cullen and Mae E. Cullen (tenants), c. 1931-35. Waldwick Building & Loan Association, 1940. Albert E. Peterson and Mildred B. Peterson, 1943-?

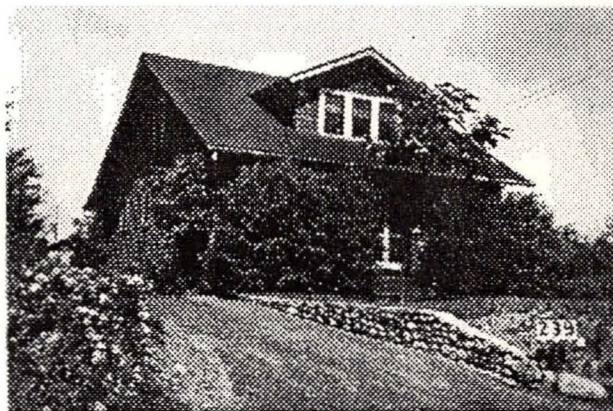
In 1940 this house was described as a 2-story, 1 family, frame dwelling with an open porch, and no outbuildings, on a 100' x 150' plot. It had a wood shingle exterior, a composition shingle roof, and a poured concrete foundation. There were 6 rooms, including 3 bedrooms

and one half tile bath and one half tile lavatory; facilities for laundry in the basement.

50 Chestnut Street

Weise House

Block 2103, Lot 8 & 9 (Old Block 20, Lot 10)



50 Chestnut Street, 1940 Borough Tax Appraisal Photo

Built in 1922. Frd. W. Weise and M. A. Weise, 1940. Michael Beck and Clare Beck, 1946-? Gilbert F. Coyle, c. 1947-48 (tenant). STA Associates in 1986, when the house was offered for sale for \$249,900.

In 1940 this house was described as a 1-1/2 story frame dwelling with an open porch, extension and bay, with a garage, on a 100' x 306' plot. It had a wood shingle exterior (later asbestos siding), a composition shingle roof, and a poured concrete foundation. There were 7 rooms, including 3 bedrooms and one wood and plaster bath.

In 1986, when the house was offered for sale, the realtor's listing described it as being a country Colonial, with aluminum exterior, 4 bedrooms and 2 baths and a full, semi-finished basement.

54 Chestnut Street

Kron House

Block 2103, Lot 7 (Old Block 20, Lot 12)

Built in 1925. John V. Kron and Elizabeth Kron, 1940. F. O. Fayerweather, c. 1985.

In 1940 this house was described as a 1-1/2 story frame dwelling with a sun porch and a garage, on a 50' x 249' plot. It had a clapboard



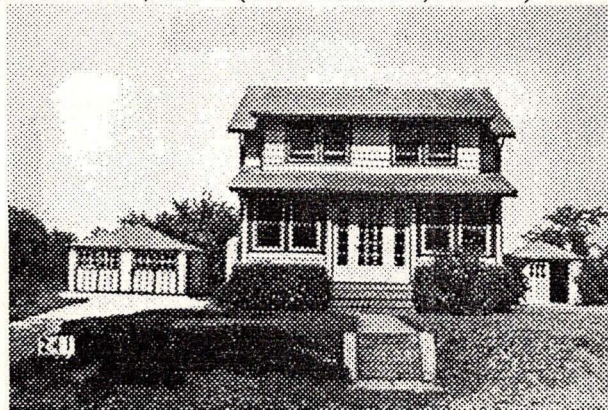
54 Chestnut Street, 1940 Borough Tax Appraisal Photo

exterior, a composition shingle roof and a concrete block foundation. There were 7 rooms including 3 bedrooms and one half-tile bath.

62 Chestnut Street

Dunlop House

Block 2103, Lot 6 (Old Block 20, Lot 12)



62 Chestnut Street, 1940 Borough Tax Appraisal Photo

Built about 1921-22. The lot was sold September 30, 1921 by Malachi E. Higgins and wife to John W. Dunlop and wife of Waldwick. John W Dunlop and Florence Dunlop, 1921-1943. Joseph L. Lichtenberger, 1943-? J. A. Del Buono, c. 1985.

In 1940 this house was described as a 2-1/2 story frame dwelling with a sun porch. There was a garage on the 50' x 210' plot. The exterior of the house was clapboard (JM Siding), the roof composition shingle, and it had a concrete block foundation. There were 6 rooms, 3 bedrooms, and one wood and plaster bath. The house was sold for \$4,200. in 1943, and was improved with a new addition in 1951.

(series to be continued)

From Our Mailbox...

We received a very welcome letter from Walter Herbert Hillman, now living in Payson, Arizona, who writes:

The picture of Fred and Lucy Grossmann's taxi building [printed in our April 1988 issue, p. 6] brought back some very good memories. Fred and Lucy Grossmann were the father and mother of my uncle, Fred Grossman. Florence was the daughter of Maud and Alfred W. Hillman, my grandparents. Walter Raymond Hillman was my father and Florence's brother.

As to the name Grossmann—Ma and Pa Grossmann kept the German spelling of double "n." Their son dropped it when he entered the U.S. Service in the Mexican war. He was wounded in the right hand and had to learn all over to write with his left hand. This was told to me by Uncle Fred.

The Hillman residence was on West Maple Street (Number 128) and, as Grandpa Alfred Hillman told me—as they brought me up—the house was built in 1903 when Maud and Alfred moved out of New York City to raise their children, Walter Raymond and Florence, in Allendale. Grandma and Grandpa lived there till somewhere about the middle of World War II, when Florence and Fred moved them to Dover, N.J., where they lived until their deaths.

My mother still lives in Allendale. She was married to one of Allendale's most beloved men, Barney Megnin, who worked with his brothers, George and Gene Megnin, at the Allendale Central Garage. Mom is still active in the XYZ Club.

The Case of the Missing Millstone...

Some time ago, we were informed by a concerned society member that an old millstone which had been in place at the Recreation Park for many years was suddenly missing. This millstone is said to have come from the old Lydecker's Grist Mill (later Burtis's Mill). In the late 1800s this was still a working mill on the corner of W. Crescent and Brookside Aves. The millpond later became Lake San Jacinto, which was for many years run as a swim club.

No one seems to know who made off with the millstone (no easy task!) but the good news is that it is now in the possession of borough officials, and it will probably soon be placed on the grounds of Boro Hall or the Police Station.

WPA Federal Writer's Project "Allendale and its Firefighters" History of Allendale

In 1938, the booklet "Allendale and its Firefighters" was published. The booklet was sponsored by the Volunteer Fire Department of Allendale and was compiled and illustrated by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration of the State of New Jersey. The booklet was printed by the Ridgewood News Press.

The booklet was divided into two sections. The first was a brief "History of Allendale," and the second was a history of "The Allendale Fire Department."

This booklet had limited distribution in 1938 and copies of it are now quite rare. For this reason, we have decided to reprint it in this and upcoming issues of the newsletter, along with modern footnotes by Pat Wardell.

The unaltered text was written in 1937-38; the footnotes were written in 1988. Photos are from Historical Society files.

(Continued from April 1988 issue)

Among the present families who bear direct descent from other early settlers are the Powells, Zabriskies, Garrisons, Ackermans, Christophers, Anthonys and Quackenbushes.

The Allendale area had no local government until 1798, when it was included in Franklin Township, named for William Franklin, the last Royal Governor of New Jersey and the illegitimate son of the great Benjamin. In 1848 the Allendale locality was transferred to the jurisdiction of Hohokus Township, set off from Franklin. It was later included in Orvil Township, formed in 1885 from Hohokus and Washington Townships. It remained a part of Orvil until separate borough incorporation in 1894.

Townships were generally unwieldy, comprising many square miles of territory with little governmental control. Legislation tended to follow partisan and selfish interests. The result of widespread township misrule was a demand for incorporation of compact settlements.

The immediate cause for the separation of Allendale from Orvil Township was a school controversy that raged throughout northern New Jersey during the years 1890-95. In 1894 J. Willard De Yoe, Orville Township attorney, advised the township committee that it could build a new school wherever it chose. The village of Waldwick, seat of the township government, was selected. Immediately a vigorous protest was made to the township committee. Previously the township had been

divided into school districts, and each district claimed the new school.

Community spirit was especially strong in Allendale, largely because of the work of the Village Improvement Association, a civic body formed in 1887, whose first and only president was A.L. Zabriskie. The V.I.A. had waged a campaign for better school facilities in Allendale ever since its organization. When Waldwick won the new school and Allendale saw little chance of getting additional funds to improve its own school district, the V.I.A. began a campaign for a separate government. Petitions for borough incorporation circulated, and the proposal was approved at the next election. By an Act of the Legislature on November 10, 1894, Allendale was authorized to withdraw from Orvil Township, establish its own school district, and elect a mayor and council.¹

The same action was taken by Upper Saddle River, Lower Saddle River and Ramsey, leaving only Waldwick Village in Orvil Township. The demand for borough government spread to other communities, and the huge townships which formerly had comprised Bergen County were

¹According to documents on file at the Bergen County Courthouse regarding Allendale's incorporation as a borough, on September 17, 1894 a petition was filed for a special election to propose the question of formation of a borough named "The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale." The boundaries of the proposed borough encompassed parts of Orvil, Hohokus and Franklin Townships. Signers of the petition (holders of at least 10% of the taxable property within the proposed borough boundaries) were: R.V. Ackerman, O.H.P. Archer, J.A. Mallinson, William H. Mallinson, Louise Doty, Louis Rossner, Peter D. Rapelje, and Garret G. Smith.

On October 16, 1894, James Van Valen, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Bergen County, ordered that a special election be held at Archer Hall on November 8, 1894 to enable qualified residents to vote for or against incorporation of the borough. Judge Van Valen appointed Alfred E. Ivers Clerk of the Election, and William H. Mallinson and Joseph H. Ware Inspectors of the Election.

On November 8, 1894, Ivers, Mallinson and Ware, Election Officials, reported that 100 ballots were cast for incorporation and 11 votes were cast against.

On November 10, 1894, proceedings for the incorporation of the borough were filed and recorded. Because of the initial wording of the petition, for its early years Allendale was officially named "The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale," and it was not until 1903 that the borough was officially named "The Borough of Allendale."

eventually cut up into 72 municipalities.

Among those active in fighting for Allendale's borough government were Peter D. Rapelje, who was elected first mayor; Charles W. Stocker, Albert L. Zabriskie, Peter Powell, William H. Mallinson, John Garrison and Charles L. Parigot.

One of the first acts of the new borough was the erection in 1895 of a new school on Franklin Turnpike near West Allendale Avenue. This two-story stucco building has been enlarged and renovated several times and now serves as the municipal hall.² It replaced a one-room, crudely built frame district school which was moved to the Appert Farm, Cottage Place. The town's first school had been erected in 1824 at what is now the intersection of Franklin Turnpike and Chestnut Street.

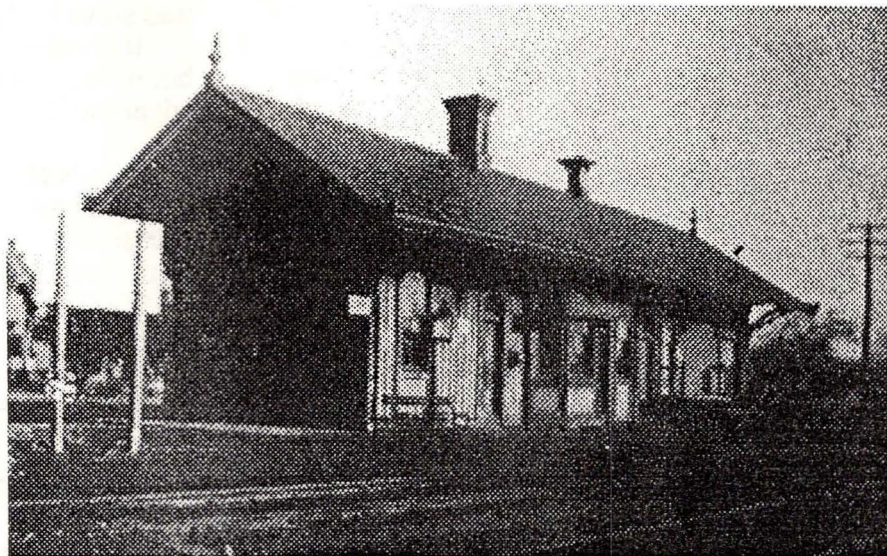


Allendale's schoolhouse, built 1895, in a photo dated c. 1900-1905.

Aside from the building of the new school, little of note occurred in the borough until after the turn of the century. The serenity of life in Allendale at this time is best reflected by the

² The building today, with its second story removed and having undergone several renovations, serves as Allendale's Police Headquarters.

first ordinance passed by the borough council in 1896, which made it "unlawful for any person to ride upon a bicycle on any sidewalk within the



Allendale's railroad station, 1898, on the east side of the tracks

borough of Allendale."

Still a rural hamlet, the borough at that time contained several farms, a general store, a few boarding houses, a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright and carriage-painting plant, a railroad station, and approximately 450 inhabitants. The residents were particularly proud of the railroad station, center of the borough's business life and a busy produce and berry terminal in summer.

Erected in 1870 at a cost of \$3,000, the station originally stood on the east side of the tracks and was moved to its present site on the west side in 1903. It replaced a small station erected by the Erie shortly before the Civil War through the efforts of Joseph Mallinson.³

(to be continued)

³Mallinson recognized the significance the railroad could have for Allendale. It was through his efforts that early trains stopped here at "Allendale Station." He settled in Allendale in 1848 and soon afterward built, apparently at his own expense, the building that served as Allendale's first railroad stationhouse.



BUSINESSES IN ALLENDALE

Compiled by Pat Wardell
(continued from the February 1988 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.

Nelson Hemion's

Nelson Hemion was running some type of retail business in Allendale by July 29, 1915, when *The Ramsey Journal* reported under the heading of Allendale news that "This week several merchants of our town decided to give their clerks a half holiday once each week, and close every Wednesday at noon. John H. Ackerman, Coates & Strunk, J.E. Simpson and Nelson Hemion have already notified their customers of the change in hours."

Henion's Meat Market & Delicatessen

J. O. Henion was running his meat market and delicatessen in Allendale by 1929. In March, 1930 his store, as well as Winter's Grocery Store and the A & P, was robbed. The burglar took from Henion's \$2 or \$3 in cash, a leg of lamb, some canned goods, and butter.

J. O. Henion may have run another store in Ramsey at this time, because his 1929 ad in the souvenir booklet for the Allendale Player's production of "Officer 666" reads, "Compliments of J. O. Henion, Quality Market. Allendale. Ramsey."

Henion's market and delicatessen moved in the fall of 1930 into the newly completed Kornhoff stores on the south side of West Allendale Avenue.

Hilltop Tea Room

Mrs. Rowland C. Turner began running this business in her home at 854 Franklin Turnpike about December 1926. On December 2, 1926, *The Ramsey Journal* reported "Mrs. R. C. Turner's 'Tea Room on the Hill Top' is now open for business. Mrs. Turner is well known as a most excellent caterer. We are sure many will be her guests for tea, frequently."

Some advertised specialties were grilled chicken and steaks, and a 1927 ad suggested, "Try our delicious waffles with pure Vermont

syrup." Group meetings were also held at the tearoom. On August 31, 1927, a charity bridge was held there, and the newspaper reported, "There were ten tables and a delightful luncheon was served at noon."

It is not known when the business ceased, but it was still operating in 1929, when it was advertised in a souvenir program booklet.

Hillman's Hats

On October 19, 1916, an ad appeared in *The Ramsey Journal*: "HATS...Made, Trimmed, Remodeled. Rates Reasonable. Miss F. Hillman, W. Maple Ave., Allendale, P.O. Box 104."

K. Hunt Electric Motor Service

This business was run c. 1963 by K. Hunt, 3 Delta Court, who offered pick up and delivery, repairs on all types of electric motors, portable electric tools, etc.

William Iandiorio, Contractor & Builder

An ad from the 1929 souvenir booklet of the Allendale Player's production of "Officer 666" read: "William Iandiorio. Contractor & Builder. Houses for Sale in Allendale Park Estates."

Ina Claire Beauty Salon

This beauty parlor, at 83 W. Allendale Avenue, was in business c. 1938. In November of that year, the shop advertised a special: "Trim, Shampoo and Fingerwave...\$1."

Ivers, H. B.

H. B. Ivers advertised in *The Parish Messenger of the Church of the Epiphany*, issue of July & August, 1908: "H. B. Ivers, Allendale, N.J. Highest grades of coffee, tea and spices. All orders promptly filled. Telephone 93 L-1."

Pat Job, Excavating Contractor

The August 19, 1954 edition of *The Allendale Press* printed this ad: "When it Takes More than an Amateur...call on Pat Job, Excavating Contractor."

Kaplan's Department Store

This business was in operation by 1938, when, in November, the following special was advertised: "Ladies' House Dresses, Reg. \$1 - sizes 14 to 44...74¢; for sizes 46 to 56, Reg. \$1.25 value...94¢."

Kaplan's Cleaners

J. Kaplan started his tailoring business in 1921, and opened a shop in one of Dr. Pittis's stores (next to Grossman's Taxi office) on West Allendale Avenue in September 1922. He offered "First-class cleaning, dyeing, pressing, repairing."

He advertised in 1929 as "J. Kaplan, Haberdasher." Sometime, probably about 1930, the business moved east to 93 W. Allendale Ave.

By the early 1950s, there were Kaplan Cleaners branches in Ho-Ho-Kus, Waldwick and Ramsey, and by 1963 another store had opened in Saddle River.

Keck's Dry Goods Store

In September 1915 Keck's Dry Goods store opened in one of the stores in the newly completed Guatelli building on the Plaza at the junction of West Allendale and Myrtle Avenues (the building today houses the Allendale Florist). Herbert Winter wrote in his diary on September 24, 1915 "Keck's Dry Goods Store opened in Guatelli's new building and sold the first suit of clothes ever sold in the town."

Henry J. Knack, Contractor and Builder

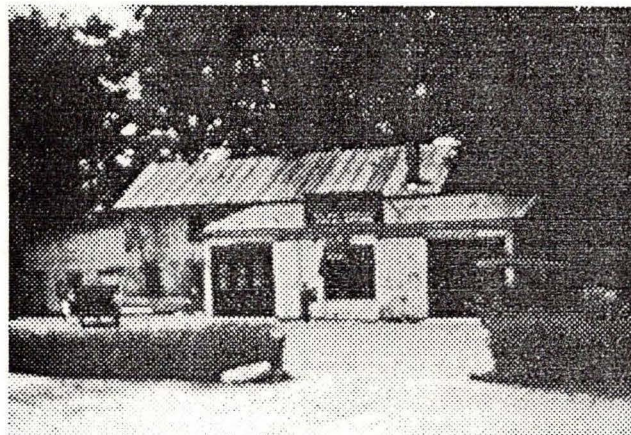
Henry J. Knack was a contractor and builder who was active in Allendale in the early part of this century. He advertised in the program for the Allendale Field Day, on Labor Day, September 6, 1920: "Henry J. Knack. Contractor and Builder. Allendale, N.J. Phone 442-W-2."



Thurston's Allendale Sales & Service, c. 1915; this location was later the site of Knack's Franklin Garage, which opened in 1924. The building at left is the old trim and paint shop, which was moved about 1920.

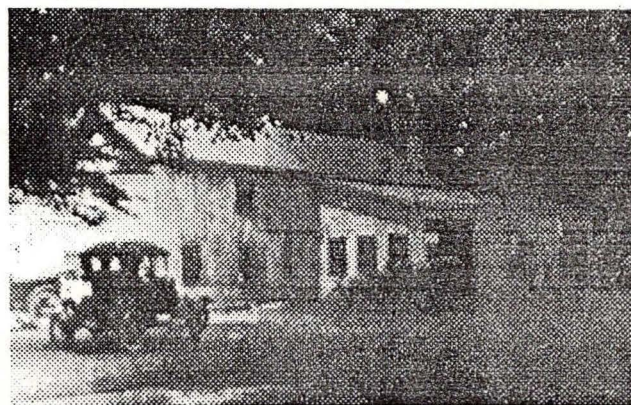
John Knack's Franklin Garage

In the spring of 1924 John Knack opened his Franklin Garage on the Mallinson property in the building opposite Archer Hall. The site had earlier housed a trim and paint shop, a blacksmith shop, a cider mill, and (Thurston's) Allendale Sales and Service. The early trim and paint shop was moved across the creek a short distance south of the present building and was razed in 1920.



Thurston's Allendale Sales & Service, c. 1918. Notice the addition of a 2-bay repair extension at the front of the building. Later Knack's Franklin Garage.

The barn-like building that housed the blacksmith shop and cider mill was later converted to house the service stations. This further renovated building later housed Ames Electrical Appliance Shop (c. 1960s) and today houses the wallpaper and paint business called Four Walls.



Another view of Thurston's Allendale Sales & Service, c. 1918-20. This picture probably was taken shortly before Thurston's moved to its new stone building on Franklin Turnpike, about one block south of this one. In 1924 John Knack opened his Franklin Garage in the above building.

(series to be continued)

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

(continued from the April 1988 issue)

- January 26, 1935--6 p.m.-6 p.m.; Brookside Avenue, Wyckoff; DeMauriac; Call transferred.
- February 1, 1935--11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Saddle River; Catholic Home; Called by S.R. Chief for assistance.
- March 16, 1935--3:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.; Arlton Ave.; Brush; Arlt, owner; cause--unknown; no loss.
- March 17, 1935--12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m.; Park and Crescent; Brush; Jones, owner; cause--rubbish heap; no loss.
- March 18, 1935--1:15 p.m.-1:35 p.m.; West Orchard Street; Brush; Hunt, owner; cause--rubbish heap; no loss.
- March 22, 1935--11:30 a.m.-12:00 noon; Crescent & Turnpike; Brush; C. Gadino; cause--unknown; not needed; no loss.
- March 22, 1935--12:30 p.m.-12:45 p.m.; Turnpike; Brush; Moores, owner; Burning grass, cause; no loss.
- March 27, 1935 [this date is either in error, or out of sequence, as the following entries are for earlier dates]--1:00 a.m.-3 a.m.; New St. & Dale Ave.; unoccupied shack; R. J. Christopher, owner; cause--incendiary; no value, but destroyed; requested police to investigate.
- March 24, 1935--3:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m.; Homewood Ave.; Brush; Muller, owner; cause--unknown; no loss.
- March 25, 1935--2:40 p.m.-3:05 p.m.;

Turnpike; Brush; Bianco, owner; not needed; no loss.

- March 24, 1935--2 p.m.-3 p.m.; Turnpike, Ramsey Line; Brush; Arlt, owner; cause--unknown; no loss.

- March 26, 1935--11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; E. Crescent Avenue; Brusk; Gutstaff, owner; cause--burning field; no loss.

- March 27, 1935--12:50 p.m.-1:15 p.m.; E. Orchard Street; Brush; Pritchett, owner; cause--rubbish pile; no loss.

- March 31, 1935--5:50 p.m.-6:45 p.m.; Hillside Ave.; Brush; Hatnett, owner & occupant; cause--rubbish pile; no loss.

- April 4, 1935--6:20 p.m.-7:20 p.m.; Homewood Ave.; Brush; Rogers, owner; cause--unknown; no loss.

- April 7, 1935--2:35 p.m.-2:55 p.m.; Midwood Ave.; Brush; Terry [Ferry?], owner; cause--rubbish; no loss.

(series to be continued)

Genealogy Programs Planned

The Genealogy Club of the Library of the New Jersey Historical Society has planned the following programs:

- "Research in New York City" (Sat., Oct. 15 at 10 a.m.) and

- "Introduction to Legal Research" (Sat., Nov. 19 at 10 a.m.).

Interested visitors are invited to attend. Programs will be held in the auditorium of the New Jersey Historical Society, 230 Broadway in Newark. For further information call Rosalind Libbey, 201-483-3939.

Allendale Historical Society Officers and Chairmen, 1988-89

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Allendale Historical Society
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Annual Membership Dues: \$5.00 for membership from May through the following April.

The newsletter, **Allendale History and Heritage**, is published four times a year in September, November, February, and April, and mailed to members of the Allendale Historical Society. General meetings of the Society are held at the Allendale Municipal Building on W. Crescent Avenue the first Monday of October, December, March, and May at 8:00 p.m.