

ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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NO. 2

NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 5, 1988 at 8:00 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale (second floor).

PROGRAM: Marion Snedecor of Franklin Lakes, a genealogical librarian, will describe how to search for your ancestors in a program on **"Tracing your Family Roots."**

Marion Snedecor, whose own special interest is in Swedish genealogy, has given numerous programs and seminars on genealogical research. She is a genealogist for the David Ackerman Descendants.

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: On November 8 a group from the Allendale Historical Society, including Claire Tholl, Pat Wardell, Jeanne and Vic Cotz, and David Quackenbush met with Ray Tong, of Min Metals (developers of the subdivided property at 70 Franklin Turnpike) and Jerry Scott of the Borough Engineer's office, at the house.

Armed with sledgehammers and picks, the men removed small areas of the twentieth-century gunite coating from the outside walls of what is the oldest section of the house, exposing a bit of the stone wall of the rectangular-shaped center "core" of the house. The uncovered stone appears to be similar to the stone walls of the Old Stone House (now a museum) on Island Road in Ramsey, which is thought to have been built in the first half of the 18th century.

Without access to the cellar section (where the very thick stone walls and foundation can be seen), passing viewers from the street found it hard to believe that they were looking at a structure from the Revolutionary era or earlier. Through the years the stone portion of the house had been enveloped with additions made at various times in the house's history, completely

hiding exterior evidence of the house's great age.

Min Metals is obligated, as a condition of the variance granted by the Allendale Planning Board, to retain the oldest portion of this house and to incorporate it into the design of a new house to be built at the site.

Before long—perhaps by the time this newsletter is received—Min Metals will tear down the later additions, leaving only the early stone section. We'll watch eagerly to see the fate of Allendale's last stone house.

Allendale once had at least two other stone houses that have been razed: the Smith house on Brookside Avenue, which was torn down c. 1979, and a stone house which stood on the southeast corner of what is now Cottage Place and Franklin Turnpike. It was torn down about 1894 by O.H.P. Archer. This stone house was the topic of an item which appeared in *The Hackensack Republican* of May 24, 1894:

"Mr. Archer contemplates tearing down the old stone house on the turnpike. This is one of the landmarks of the town. Forty years ago this was one of the finest houses in Allendale and was occupied by Dr. Hasbrouck, a physician of local fame."

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 September 1988 issue)

70 Chestnut Street

Kalb House

Block 2103, Lot 5 (Old Block 20, Lot 14)



70 Chestnut Street, 1940 Borough Tax Appraisal Photo

Built about 1926. Martin Kalb and Ida Kalb, 1921-1958. John L. Alsdorf and Ann T. Alsdorf, 1958-present.

This lot was purchase by the Kalbs on September 30, 1921 (Bergen Co. Deeds, Book 1132, p. 254) from Malachi E. Higgins and Mary G. Higgins, his wife.

In 1940 the house was described as a 2 story frame dwelling with open porches and no outbuildings. It had a concrete block foundation,

a composition shingle roof, and a wood shingle exterior. It had 5 rooms, including 2 bedrooms, and one wood and plaster bath.

106 Chestnut Street

Plumhoff House

Block 2101, Lot 3 (Old Block 7, Lot 55)



106 Chestnut Street, 1940 Borough Tax Appraisal Photo

This house was built about 1918 probably for J. Plumhoff. By 1940, the owner of record was the Estate of J. Plumhoff. John F. Plumhoff and Anna Plumhoff, 1950-1954. Alexander Rae and Elizabeth F. Rae, 1954-? Sanford Freeman by c. 1985.

In 1940 this house was described as a 2-story frame dwelling with an open porch and extension on a 10.38 acre plot. Outbuildings included a barn, a coop, garage, hot house and shed. It had a clapboard exterior, a composition shingle roof, and a stone foundation. There were 7 rooms, including 4 bedrooms, but no inside baths.

116 Chestnut Street

Plumhoff House

Block 2101, Lot 2 (Old Block 7, Lot 56)

Built about 1926. John Plumhoff, Jr., 1940. Bernard J. Kelley and Josephine T. Kelley, 1954-present.

In 1940 this house was described as a 2 story frame dwelling with an open porch, extension and bay, on a .56 acre plot. It had a clapboard and shingle exterior, a composition shingle roof,

and a poured concrete foundation. There were 6 rooms, including 3 bedrooms and one wood and plaster bath.



116 Chestnut Street, 1940 Borough Tax Appraisal Photo

1 Cottage Place Appert House

Block 801, Lot 13 (Old Block 53, Lot 150)

Built c. 1908 for Henry J. Appert, who owned it until his death in 1927. His daughter, Ella M. Appert, sold the house on July 1, 1946 to Anna C. Walter and Fred S. Walter. Anna C. Walter, widow, sold this house and plot, including an additional lot, lot 115J, on December 12, 1968 to Clarence M. Berry and his wife, Marilyn J. Berry.

In the July-August 1908 issue of *The Parish Messenger*, published by the Church of the Epiphany, this report appeared: "Mr. Appert's new house, when completed, will prove a very attractive one and improve the appearance of an already pretty location.



1 Cottage Place, Mr. Appert's Residence, on the left, from a postcard view, c. 1910. The building on the right is the house at #3 Cottage Place.

The original Appert residence totally burned in December 1896. Its exact location is unknown, but it must have been near the property at 1 Cottage Place, for contemporary newspaper reports tell of heavy winds threatening to carry the burning embers to nearby properties in the center of town.

From September 1913 to December 25, 1914, Father Patrick F. Pindar of St. Luke's R.C. Church in Ho-Ho-Kus celebrated mass for Allendale Catholics in Henry J. Appert's recreation room on the second floor of the garage to this house.

Henry J. Appert came to America from Switzerland when he was 19. In 1892 he purchased acreage in Allendale on which he established his produce farm. Over the years, he added to the farm by purchasing other, adjoining tracts of land, and he developed the property into the well-known Allendale Produce Gardens. This area of marshy farmland has since been known locally as "the celery farm." Henry J. Appert was a member of the Allendale Board of Education, served two terms on the Borough Council, and was a director of the First National Bank of Ramsey.

The house at 1 Cottage Place was advertised for sale in *The Ridgewood Sunday News*, May 5, 1974: "Horses! Horses! Horses! Wouldn't you rather saddle up in your own corral than drive miles away to groom your horses. Wouldn't you like to have the convenience of living in your own beautiful home next to your loved pets and still be within walking distance of a large shopping center and New York buses and trains. We have all this for you, together with a modern 5 stall barn and an all year round exercise area. In addition there is a 2 car barn and small pond. The beautifully kept Victorian colonial home features 6 bedrooms, 2 baths, a large modern eat-in kitchen, large dining room with huge fireplace and many, many more features. Make your appointment early to see this fabulous ranch for horse lovers. \$129,000."

(series to be continued)



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 September 1988 issue)

For half a century the railroad was an advantage. Then it caused Allendale to lose renown as an apple and strawberry center, since it allowed the New York commission market to deal with produce sections further north. The borough's agricultural status did not decline, however, until about 1900.

Before that the strawberry trade had reached such proportions that it was often called an industry. Old residents still recall when four to six carloads of berries daily rumbled out of town weekdays during the month of June, and when every farmhouse in the borough had its extra room or adjoining cottage for the itinerant berry picker or his family. Farmers planted from one to five acres of the berries and paid pickers one cent a basket. John Osborn, Saddle River resident, was fruit broker for New York markets. During the season Smith Roswell, first ticket agent, did a rushing business for the railroad, shipping hundreds of bushels of apples with the berries and other farm produce.

After the cars had left for Jersey City via Paterson, the berry sellers, pickers and commission agents usually retired to Sherwood and Tallman's Hotel next to the station, where good-natured revelry lasted until early morning. "Charlie" May's general store nearby, which was fitted out with a bar in one corner, was also frequented. Both places are torn down now, but the site of Sherwood and Tallman's is occupied

by the Allendale Hotel, built in the early 1900's.¹

A town character of these times whose name has become legend was John "Griddlegreaser" Van Horn, famous locally for his inventive genius, and remembered as "Allendale's Henry Ford." Van Horn differed from his contemporaries in that his occupational interest was in devising mechanical gadgets rather than in



The Sherwood-Doolittle House in a photo dating from about 1890. This house stood on the site of the present railroad station and was razed sometime about the turn of the century (before the railroad station was moved here in 1903 from its former site on the east side of the tracks). This building may have been the Sherwood & Tallman Hotel (see footnote).

farming for a livelihood. He conducted a blacksmith shop on Franklin Turnpike, and from his anvil and bellows many a worthy contraption is supposed to have taken shape. One old resident has a shotgun made by "Griddlegreaser" which he says is better than any ever turned out by an arms factory. Among his other attributes, Van Horn was qualified to act as lay preacher. More than six feet tall, exceedingly thin, and with long hair falling about his neck, he was long a familiar figure on Allendale streets.

During this period Allendale was a noted summer colony. Nearly every farmhouse along Saddle River Road and Franklin Turnpike had a "Boarders" shingle tacked on its gateposts, and

¹There were, apparently, at least two buildings known as the Allendale Hotel before 1900. The building shown in the photograph above probably was the Sherwood & Tallman Hotel, built in the 1870s. Elias B. Doolittle, a corn merchant, bought the property in 1875. *The Bergen County Democrat* of April 16, 1875 reported: "Mr. Doolittle of Passaic has taken possession of the Sherwood property." Mae L. Doolittle, the daughter of Elias B. Doolittle, married Joseph Henry Mallinson.

vacationists patronized the town. The borough was an ideal vacation spot, offering hiking, fishing, tennis and swimming.



The Powell Farmhouse, which stood on the southeast corner of Powell Road and the Saddle River Road (East Allendale Avenue), one of many Allendale homes which took in summer boarders during the period from about 1880-1910 when Allendale was known as "The Newport of Bergen County." The Powell farmhouse was razed in the 1930s.

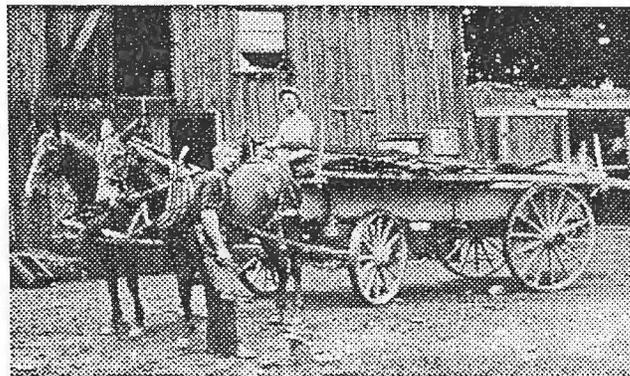
Largely responsible for the summer trade was the Village Improvement Association, Allendale's official civic body until the borough was incorporated. It worked zealously for the town's development independent of the township government. Through its efforts in 1890 the first sidewalk and the first stretch of macadamized road were laid on West Allendale Avenue. About the same time 13 oil street lamps were installed. J. Morton Southwick was employed as lamplighter and he still remembers with a chuckle the day he threatened to terminate the lighting system by collecting the lamps as payment for his services. He still has one of the lamps. The V.I.A. also worked for the building of ten miles of macadamized road in Orvil Township. In 1910-11 the borough issued bonds in the amount of \$25,000 to improve the streets. Most of the borough's roads are now cared for by the county.

The oldest road in Allendale is Franklin Turnpike, first chartered as a toll road in 1806, and once known as the Albany Post Road. Until a few years ago a toll gate stood at the southwest corner of the Turnpike and Crescent Avenue, a reminder of the days when stage-coaches passed through Allendale to northern and New York points. In 1852 the pike was

taken over by the State and its original width of 60 feet was cut to 50. A private enterprise attempted to sell five-foot lots to residents whose homes faced the highway, but met with little success.

Originally the pike followed a route slightly different from that of the present road and ran east across open country to a point near Archer Hall. It then turned west over the property of Joseph Taylor and met the present road beyond Mr. Taylor's barn. A favorite gathering place along the pike was the cider mill of Joseph Henry Mallinson built in 1890. The mill had a large screw press which each week during the season pressed hundreds of bushels of apples into juice for townsmen and nearby farmers.

Before the cider mill was established, its site was occupied jointly as a paint, wheelwright and blacksmith shop, run by Joseph Mallinson, Henry Mallinson and J. J. Pulis. This was also the village dentist parlor, and Henry Mallinson was often called from his bellows to yank out an aching molar.



John J. Pulis (called "Jake") shown at work shoeing a horse in front of the building he shared with Henry and Joseph Mallinson. The photo probably dates from about 1890-95. Pulis was blacksmith, and the Mallinsons ran a paint and wheelwright shop. Later the building was used by Joseph Henry Mallinson, as Mallinson's Cider Mill, and still later, as Thurston's Allendale Sales and Service and John Knack's Franklin Garage. The Pulis surname is also found spelled "Pullis."

Another favorite gathering place was Lydecker's gristmill, erected in 1880 on Hohokus Brook, near West Crescent Avenue. The pool formed by the mill dam is now owned by the San Jacinto Swimming Club. Nearby stood the sawmill of J. M. Christopher, whose sons now conduct a lumber business.

(to be continued)

BUSINESSES IN ALLENDALE

Compiled by Pat Wardell

(continued from the September 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.

Knickerbocker Chocolate House

Mabel McLaughlin (of Bethlehem, Pa.) and Edith Christenson (of Arlington) ran this business by May 1915 in a cottage built in 1908 for Elwood H. Moore, at 755 Franklin Turnpike. The establishment was advertised in *The Ramsey Journal* on May 20, 1915: "Edith Christenson, Mabel McLaughlin. The Little Knickerbocker Chocolate House. Franklin Turnpike. Main road between Suffern and New York. Allendale, N.J."

The business apparently was operated only in the summer (it closed for the season on November 1, 1915).

In December 1917 (reported in *The Ramsey Journal* of January 3, 1918) the cottage was destroyed by fire. The newspaper reported that "The house was well known in this section as the 'Chocolate House.'" A portion of the valuable hand-carved furniture it contained was saved, but all that remained of the building were its walls and chimney.

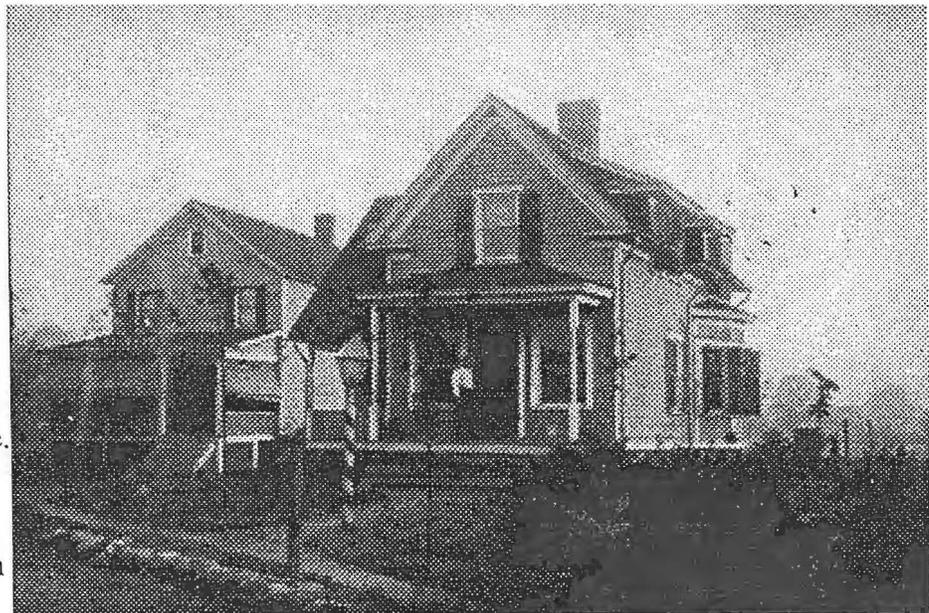
The property was sold in 1919 and the house was rebuilt in 1919 using the walls and chimney that remained from the old cottage.

Kornhoff's Bakery

William F. Kornhoff established his bakery in Allendale about 1901. *The Hackensack Republican* of March 26, 1903 reported that "W. K. Kornhoff is building a residence and bakery near the railroad station which he expects to

occupy by the middle of April." This residence and bakery was located on Myrtle Avenue very near its junction with West Allendale Avenue.

In August 1904 Kornhoff advertised in *The Allendale Methodist Herald*: "Allendale Home-Made Bakery. W. F. Kornhoff, Prop. Goods delivered fresh daily. We cater to all who want quality in Bread, Rolls, Cakes and Pies. Our goods are made from the best the market affords. Try them and you will make no mistake. For indigestion try our Health Bread. Our celebrated Home-made Bread can be obtained from the following first-class grocers: J.H. Ackerman, Allendale. J.G. DeBaun, Saddle River. Agent for Horton's French and American Ice Cream."



Kornhoff's Bakery, left, and Max Scholz's Barber Shop, right, in a photo taken about 1905. In December 1909 both of these buildings burned. The Scholz house was rebuilt on its previous site and still stands today.

In December 1909 the Kornhoff Bakery building burned, and the bakery relocated. About 1929-1930, it moved into one of the stores newly built by Mr. Kornhoff on the south side of West Allendale Avenue

Kornhoff's Real Estate & Development

This business was begun by William F. Kornhoff, who later ran it with his son, Leon Kornhoff. After the elder Kornhoff's death in

1943, Leon Kornhoff ran the business.

William Kornhoff, with Gustave Nadler, was instrumental in developing several sections of Allendale. With his son, Leon, he developed the section known as Cherokee Park Estates, off Franklin Turnpike, and William lived at 55 Cherokee Avenue while Leon lived on Iroquois Avenue. In 1929, the business was advertised as "Kornhoff & Kornhoff, owners and developers of Cherokee Park Estates."

Kraft's Bakery

By 1950, Herman Kraft was operating this bakery, then called "Lehman's Bakery" at 87 West Allendale Avenue. By 1955, the bakery was called "Kraft's Bakery."

In 1963, an advertisement read, "Kraft's Bakery. Homemade Baked Goods. Party Specialties. All Baking Done on Premises."

Kramer's Butcher Store

H. A. Kramer was running this butcher shop, also called the "Plaza Market" by 1927. In November 1927, Kramer's butcher shop and the nearby Melchionna Confectionery Store were broken into. From Kramer's shop, the burglar took the cash remaining in the till, then helped himself to a meal of cold meats.

Kramer sold the business to J. De Graaf of Hawthorne in the fall of 1931.

LeBaron's Moving and Trucking

This business, run by Chester Le Baron, was advertised in the program from Allendale's Field Day, on Labor Day, Sept. 6, 1920: "Chester Le Baron. Local and Long Distance Furniture Moving. Trucking. Allendale, N.J. Tel. 3071-J."

Lehman's Bakery

Lehman's Bakery was doing business by 1950 at 87 W. Allendale Avenue, offering "Fine Baking—Wedding and Party Cakes a Specialty." By 1951, Herman Kraft was the proprietor of the shop, which became "Kraft's Bakery."

S. D. Lewis, Mason Contractor

By 1963, S. D. Lewis was conducting a masonry business from his 101 Homewood Avenue address. He worked in brick, block, stone, and concrete.

Lightweis & Foreit Construction Company

This business advertised in January 1951 in a booklet published by the Allendale Press, "Guardians of your Property and Welfare:

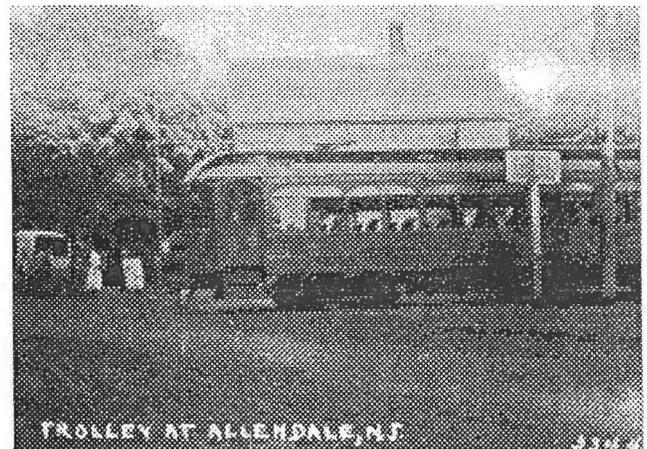
Allendale Police." Their ad read: "Sand—Gravel—Crushed Stone—Top Soil—Bulldozer Service—Fill Dirt Specialists. Lightweis and Foreit Construction Company. Commercial—Asphalt Paving—Residential—Excavating. 35 Oak Street, Allendale, N.J. Tels. Allendale 1-3549—Hackensack 3-0361."

Linkroum's Confectionery

Bert Linkroum ran a confectionery/ice cream parlor in a store on the south side of West Allendale Avenue (later the site of the Allendale Spa) in the early part of the century. The store was opened in May-June 1895 by James Linkroum. *The Ramsey Journal* in its June 7, 1895 issue reported, "J. Linkroum has opened an ice cream saloon in the lower part of the new hall." The business was later run in succession by James E. Webb, Wally Gasparini, George Mensching, Bert Linkroum, Mr. Melchionna, the Halperns, and Mr. and Mrs. Ely Leff.

In 1895, the upstairs of this building was used by the mayor and council for borough meetings and spring elections. They paid an annual rental of \$35. Another 1895 tenant was Dr. Abraham Lydecker, formerly a resident of Ramsey, lately living in Ohio, who proposed to open a drug store in a part of the building.

The original building was moved to 92 Myrtle Avenue about 1921 (where the building, now a residence, still stands), and a new brick building was erected on the old site.



Linkroum's Hall is the building shown behind the trolley car in this photo dating from about 1911-1915.

(series to be continued)

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

(continued from the September 1988 issue)

April 7, 1935--3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.; Turnpike; 2-1/2 story frame residence; Fidelity Trust, owner; E. Biannco, occupant; cause--sparks from chimney; \$1000. loss on bldg.

April 12, 1935--4:15 p.m.-4:50 p.m.; E. Crescent Ave.; 2-1/2 story frame residence; E. Arlt, owner & occupant; cause--fireplace; no loss.

April 19, 1935--12:45 p.m.-12:55 p.m.; Maple St.; Brush; Speicher, owner; cause--rubbish; no loss.

April 23, 1935--2:30 p.m.-3 p.m.; Homewood Ave.; Brush; cause--unknown; no loss.

April 26, 1935--2 p.m.-2:25 p.m.; Oak Street; Chimney; R. J. Christopher, owner; Hanson, occupant; cause--dirty chimney; no loss.

April 26, 1935--11:30 a.m.-12 noon; Allen Street; Brush; P. Asten, occupant; cause--R.R.; no loss.

April 28, 1935--2 p.m.-2:20 p.m.; Crescent Ave.; Brush & woods; W. Lee, owner & occupant; cause--rubbish pile; no loss.

April 28, 1935--3:20 p.m.-5 p.m.; Turnpike; Brush; Higgins, owner & occupant; cause--RR; no loss.

April 28, 1935--2:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Crescent Ave.; Brush; Lutz, owner; Mrs. Lutz, occupant; cause--RR; no loss; train stack, same train.

April 28, 1935--2 p.m.-5 p.m.; Myrtle Ave.; Brush & woods; back of Yeomans; cause--RR; train stack, same train.

May 6, 1935--2:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.; High Street; Brush; Kahse, owner; cause--unknown; no loss.

May 15, 1935--1:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m.; West Crescent Avenue; Brush; W. Hansen, owner; Rest Home; cause--unknown; no loss.

May 20, 1935--10:15 a.m.-10:40 a.m.; E. Allendale Ave.; Brush; Ware, owner; cause--cigarette; no loss; parties arrested.

May 27, 1935--2:30 p.m.-3:05 p.m.; Brookside & Park; Brush; Sullivan, owner; cause--unknown; no loss.

June 10, 1935--8:10 p.m.-8:20 p.m.; Allendale Avenue; Brick apartment; Winter Bros., owner; Webster, occupant; cause--smoking in bed; no loss on bldg.; \$5.00 loss on contents.

September 14, 1935--6:20 p.m.-6:40 p.m.; Turnpike; Truck; Weston Transfer Co., Newburgh, N.Y., owner; cause--backfire; slight damage.

(series to be continued)



Allendale Historical Society Officers and Chairmen, 1988-89

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Vice President: Eva Schmitt
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Secretary: Bonnie McKenzie
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Newsletter Editor: Pat Wardell

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.