

ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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SOCIETY NEWS

If we haven't received your 1993-1994 dues (payable May 1, 1993), you'll find a "second notice" attached to this newsletter. If you have paid your dues and find a second notice attached, please let us know so that we can check our records and correct the mistake. If we don't receive your dues by the end of November, we will assume you no longer wish to receive the newsletter and will drop your name from our mailing list. We're beginning our 20th year, and we are very grateful for your support, both financially and through the nice letters and notes we receive. Special thanks to El Oakley, May F. Lee, Peg Colledge, Ethel Day, Harold Fox, and Doris Albert Berdan for their recent notes.

You may notice a new addition to our masthead: our ISSN number (International Standard Serial Number), which has been assigned, for identification purposes, by the Library of Congress.

We're very grateful to member Joe Pfaff for sending us some additions to the information on some Elmwood Avenue houses for the currently running series in this newsletter on Allendale Houses Built Before 1940. The following homes were described in the February-March 1993 issue of *Allendale History and Heritage*, and Mr. Pfaff has provided this additional information:

100 Elmwood Avenue (Weisbrod House) — Not very long after Martin Husing's death, Helen Husing remarried to a Mr. Noumair, and I believe they lived in this house until she sold the place to Jack and Jeanine Spencer in July of 1968. My wife and I [Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pfaff] bought the property from the Spencers in September of 1969 and are still the owners.

41 Elmwood Ave. (Carrie Ward House) — This house was purchased from the Tuckers by Deidre O'Connor, who in turn sold to Jeanne Painter, present owner.

82 Elmwood Avenue (Hamilton House) — Sold by the Hayes to William and Patricia Henry, present owners.

83 Elmwood Avenue (Creelman House) — This property passed from Mrs. Creelman to one of the local

churches and then to Alan and Audrey Werner, present owners.

114 Elmwood Avenue (Wilbur Ward House) — There were various owners of this house that I cannot recall, but Brian and Stephanie Bushell occupied it for several years before they moved to 13 Colonial Drive in Allendale. The Bushells sold to the present owners, the Appletons.

We apologize to May F. Lee for misspelling her maiden name, which should be May Strangfeld, on the 3rd grade photos in the April May issue.

We're happy to reproduce, in this issue on p. 5 and 6, some tickets to Allendale events that took place in the mid-1920s, which were contributed by Bob and Marjorie Rossner. Many thanks!

Sandra Van Benschoten of Saddle River sent us the photographs of Allendale reproduced on pages 3 and 6. Thank you, Sandy!

We always warmly welcome any articles, photos (especially with total or partial identification), reminiscences, newspaper clippings, and any other items or information on Allendale. You can send items directly to this editor: Pat Wardell, 78 Edgewood Road, Allendale, NJ 07401 (201-327-0605).

Meetings of the borough committee to plan and organize events commemorating the 1994 centennial anniversary of the incorporation of Allendale are held every third Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall. Interested volunteers are welcome.

Our Society continues to operate in an inactive capacity because volunteers to serve as officers are needed. Anyone interested in volunteering for any position should call Pat Wardell at 201-327-0605 for further information.

It is our hope that in or before Allendale's 100th birthday year (1994) a group of enthusiasts will come forward to reorganize the Historical Society. Until then, we muddle along with the publication of this newsletter and thank our members near and far for their continued support.

Which Came First?... The Chicken and the Egg in Allendale

by Pat Wardell

The last third of the 19th century, when Allendale's farmland began to be sold off as smaller homesites, marked the beginning of the end of subsistence and truck farming in Allendale. Up until this point, nearly every head of the household listed in the Federal Censuses was a farmer. From about 1870 on, the farmer in Allendale would be the exception, rather than the rule.

After the hard times of the 1870s, the next period in Allendale's history saw a real estate boom that brought folks from the city (many from Brooklyn), who wanted to enjoy the fresh, unpolluted air and the peaceful and still bucolic life in the country. Many came first as summer residents, and, finding Allendale much to their liking, bought or built their permanent homes here within a few years of their first visit. The heads of many of these new Allendale families commuted by train to work in the city.

Around the turn of the century, the Erie Railroad occasionally published brochures and booklets promoting real estate in the areas served by Erie trains. One such booklet, "Where To Live," by Henry P. Phelps, published by the Passenger Department of the Erie Railroad in 1904, described Allendale — "Allendale is an exceedingly pleasant country village grown up around the station, and composed almost entirely of country homes. Land is not held so high but what a person of moderate income can usually afford to own all he can take care of, and not be obliged to keep a horse to get to and from the railroad. It is a good farming country, and considerable

fruit is raised. It is healthful beyond all question. Roads are excellent, and the scenery is picturesque and pleasing. Allendale is also the station for Saddle River, 1-1/2 miles to the east, in a beautiful valley overlooked by Chestnut Ridge. All about here are farms which for the city man who wants to get back to Nature, and bring up his children in a knowledge of her ways,

1906.

Allendale Borough Tax Bill.

PAGE NO.....

M. James Mc Melley.
 Co The Borough of Allendale, Dr.

..... Acres Assessed.
 Lots Assessed.

Value of Real Estate Assessed,	- - - - -	\$.	900
" Personal Property Assessed,	- - - - -	\$.	50
" Buildings	- - - - -	\$.	
Amount Taxable,	- - - - -	\$.	950

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED, \$2.14 PER \$100.

County	- - - - -	46	\$.	437
County Poor	- - - - -	2	\$.	19
State School	- - - - -	16	\$.	152
Road Tax	- - - - -	44	\$.	418
Borough Purposes	- - - - -	10	\$.	95
Lighting	- - - - -	8	\$.	76
Special School	- - - - -	76	\$.	722
Road Bonds and Interest	- - - - -	10	\$.	95
Poll Tax	- - - - -		\$.	100
Dog Tax	- - - - -		\$.	
Cost and Interest	- - - - -		\$.	139

GRAND TOTAL - - - - - \$ 2114

2273

Now due and payable to me before December 20th, 1906. All taxes remaining unpaid December 20 will be charged interest at the rate of 10 per cent.

RECEIVED PAYMENT,
9/25/07..... *John H. Ackerman* COLLECTOR.

Taxes will be received at my store at Allendale each day except Saturday.
JOHN H. ACKERMAN, COLLECTOR.

P. O. Box 97, Allendale, N. J.

should be investigated."

This was "the country,"² and so those who could afford an acre or two — or more than just a house plot — followed the "country" way of life by planting a vegetable garden and raising a few chickens. The yield was mostly for their own tables, but they sometimes sold the "overabundance" to neighbors.

James McNelley was taxed for 8 acres of land in 1906, and he raised chickens (and sold their eggs) from his Hillside Avenue home and farm, which he called "Edgewood."

There were also commercial chicken farms in Allendale including a "chicken factory" in February 1884 with three incubators in operation. One of them was hatching 100 eggs by electricity. According to *The Bergen County Democrat*, "There is some prejudice against the productions. One man says he will not eat any of them un-natural chickens."

By 1916 Fred J. Crick was raising Rhode Island Reds and S.C.W. Leghorns on his Orchard Poultry Farm on East Crescent Avenue. By May 1916 he had built a new chicken building and run, which made a total of five separate chicken buildings on his farm. The following year he raised over 10,000 incubator chicks.

There were also those well-to-do Allendale residents who raised chickens as a hobby. George Sterling, who was married to a niece of Mr. and Mrs. O. H. P. Archer, spared no expense in the construction of his chicken yards on Allendale Avenue in 1885. That same year, Frank Van Tassell, new to Allendale from Harlem, was a breeder of "high class poultry," with a commodious, well-lighted, and thoroughly ventilated chicken house, and Horace O. Doty also had innovative, large runs for his young stock. Arthur Bull Sullivan moved his family to Allendale about 1911 and began his "Sable Feather Farm" on Franklin Turnpike. He was a breeder, exporter, and importer of S. C. Black Orpington chickens. His farm was known as one of the finest in the state, and he had the cable address of "Sable Sully."

Chickens were extensively raised in Allendale well into the 1940s. When the borough-wide tax reassessment was done in 1940, a large number of the assessed properties included among their outbuildings, "coops."

Many Allendale residents lost chickens on Sunday, July 23, 1945, when, after a week of steady rain, dams in Ramsey at the Ramsey Country Club Estates and in Allendale at Crestwood Lake broke, releasing torrents of water at Allendale. Large areas of the community were flooded, and considerable damage was done to

E G G S

UNSURPASSED FOR THE TABLE

SANITARY FRESH

GUARANTEED

JAMES MCNELLEY

ALLENDALE EDGEWOOD NEW JERSEY

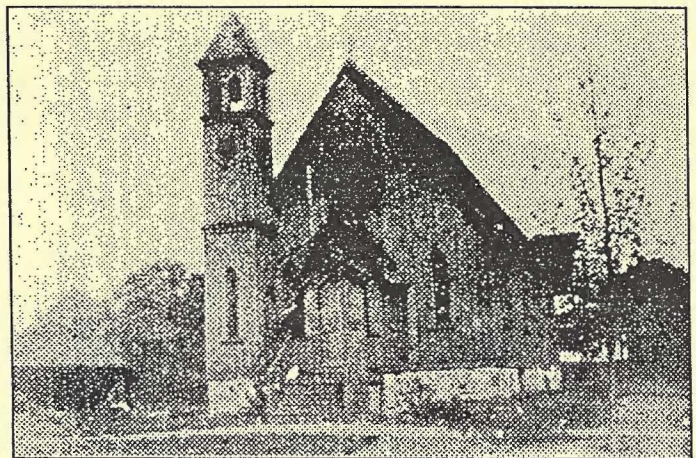
ORDERS BY MAIL WILL RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION

private property and gardens, especially on the west side of the borough, where owners of chickens and livestock reportedly suffered serious losses. ■

Notes:

1. Michael McDermott, a former Erie station agent at Allendale, recalled about 1930, "If you think the [train] engines give off lots of smoke now, you should have stood by the station fifty years ago and watched 'em going through. Why, one of those old combination wood and coal burners, with its huge stack, would pour out enough smoke and cinders to blacken any laundry within 100 yards of the station if the wind was right."

2. City people still considered this area "country" well into the late 1940s. When my in-laws moved to Ramsey about 1946-1947, they raised chickens on their property for meat and eggs for their own table. Many years later, I asked my mother-in-law why they would bother with raising their own chickens, and she said, astonished that I would even ask, "well, this was the country, and that was what you did in the country." (My husband had the disagreeable job of cleaning out the chicken coop.)



Above, the Episcopal Chapel of the Epiphany, date of photo unknown, but probably about 1900, after the chapel building was moved south along Franklin Turnpike in May or early June 1895 from Cottage Place (then Chapel Place) to the northeast corner of Orchard Street and Franklin Turnpike. To the left of the chapel building in the picture can be seen sheds that were probably used to house horses and carriages of parishioners. Behind the chapel is the Doty-Washburne house on West Orchard Street.

Apparently the chapel, when first moved to this new location, was situated on the lot with its entrance facing Franklin Turnpike. It appears as such in both this photo and in a photo showing both the chapel and the new schoolhouse to its north in 1896. Later, the entire chapel building must have been either turned or rebuilt, because by 1907, when the cloister was built, attaching the parish house to the chapel, the entrance to the chapel faced West Orchard Street.

This church building today is the chapel of the Highlands Presbyterian Church.

Photo donated by Sandra Locker Van Benschoten.

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-May 1993 issue)

9 Franklin Turnpike Rumsey House

Block 2003, Lot 1 (Old Block 21, Lot 23)

Year originally built is unknown; rebuilt 1940.

Ida Rumsey and William Rumsey, 1940. Wilbur Ackerman, 1945-1951. Turnpike Tavern, 1951-present.

In 1940 this building was described as a one story frame road stand with a cottage in the rear. It had a 5' x 7' extension, a clapboard exterior, a rubberoid roof, and no foundation. It had two lavatories. The property was sold in 1945 for \$2,500. and by October 1952 there had been alterations, repairs, and modernization to the

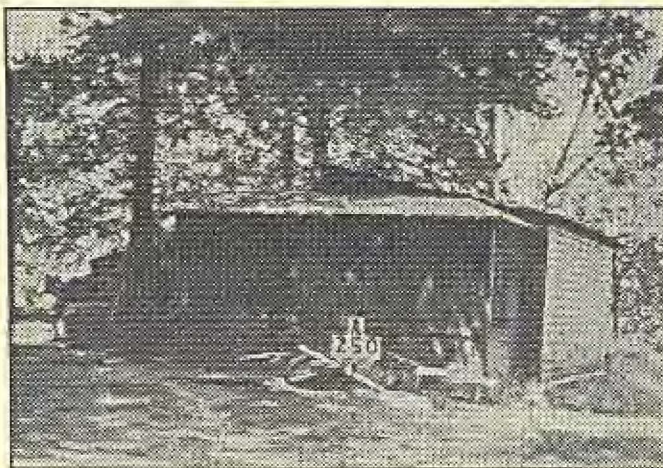


9 Franklin Turnpike, 1940 Tax Appraisal Photo

building, and it was assessed at an additional \$1,000.

The cottage in the rear apparently burned at some point in time; its ruins were still visible in 1992.

Wilbur Ackerman was running Ack's Tea Room by 1929 on these same premises. By the mid-1930s the name of his business was Ack's Tavern. Wilbur



9 Franklin Turnpike, 1940 Tax Appraisal Photo
Cottage in rear, now gone.

Ackerman sold the business in 1951, and after being altered, repaired, and modernized, the business reopened under the name of the Turnpike Tavern. It continues to this day as the Turnpike Tavern.

25 Franklin Turnpike Megnin House

Block 2003, Lot 2 (Old Block 21, Lot 20A)

Built about 1926.

L. S. Megnin, 1940. Robert and Eva McElroy, 1943-1944. Joseph S. Clark and Cecile R. Clark, 1944-1952. Adolph Blum and Mary Blum, 1952-1955. John Moller and Leopoldine Moller, later John Moller, widower, 1955-1969. Donald H. Huizer and Helen Marie Huizer, 1969-?

In 1940 this house was described as a 1-1/2 story frame dwelling on 1.8 acres, with a garage, hen house, and cottage. The house stood on a concrete block foundation, and had a composition shingle roof. It had a wood shingle exterior and an open porch. There were five rooms, including two bedrooms, and one wood and plaster bath.



25 Franklin Turnpike, 1940 Tax Appraisal Photo

By October 1947 the house had been improved by repairs.



45 Franklin Turnpike, 1940 Tax Appraisal Photo

45 Franklin Turnpike Happe House

Block 2003, Lot 4 (Old Block 21, Lot 18A)

Building date unknown; probably first quarter of 20th century. Remodeled in 1936.

William Happe [and Sophie Happe?], 1940.
Salvatore D. Lota and Lillian E. Lota, 1944-1969.
Diana Adams Augello, 1969-?. Edward J. Kitlas Jr. and
JoAnn Kitlas, by 1985 (1985-1986 *Here's Allendale*).

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cullen rented this house about 1938-1941.

In 1940 this house was described as a 2-1/2 story frame dwelling on a 184' x 213' lot. Later 100' frontage was apparently retained by Happe as original lot 18 when this property was sold to Lota. The house had an attached garage and a shed. It had clapboard siding and a composition roof and was built on a stone foundation. The house had a bay and three open porches. There were 6 rooms, including 3 bedrooms, and one wood and plaster bath. There was a fireplace.

62 Franklin Turnpike Smith-Varey-Waibel House

Block 2004, Lot 19.1 (Old Block 22; lot 53)

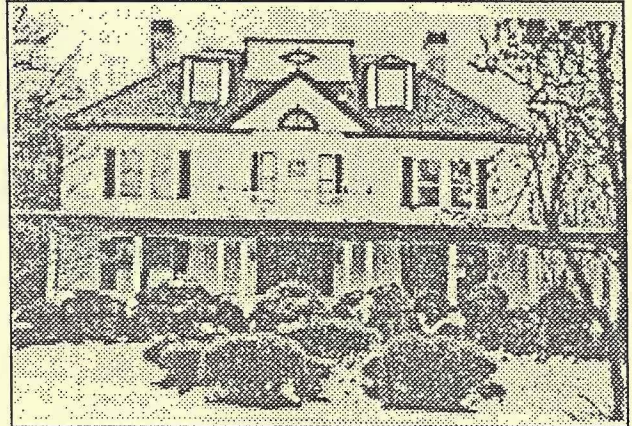
Built 1896 by Theodore Smith. His brother, an architect, designed it.

George Schuster, 1906. John George, about 1909. H. W. Leffer, J. D. Leffer, about 1916-1920. William Varey, about 1920-1940. Carl Waibel and Gwendolyn Varey Waibel, about 1940-about 1935.

The house was described as a superb example of the Eclectic architectural styles of the late 19th century. Strong architectural features included an accentuated front door (bracketed by double columns), pairing windows giving a formal Colonial appearance, a hipped roof with full-width porch and Georgian

symmetry, and roof elaborations including hipped dormers and semi-circular pediment window.

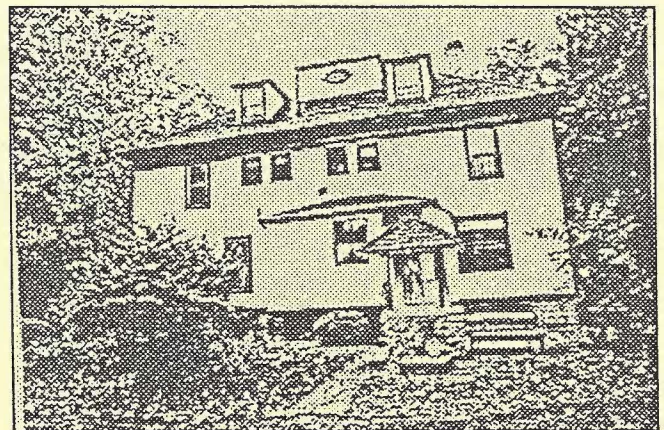
Mrs. Waibel (the daughter of William Varey, who bought the house about 1920), described the house about 1972 as a ten room (plus two rooms in the attic) clapboard house with six fireplaces. The six fireplaces all have wood mantels (2 pine, and 4 oak, one of which is painted). Outbuildings (now gone) included a barn (the original of which was destroyed by fire, then



62 Franklin Turnpike, Photo taken 1986

replaced by building a second barn), and a playhouse built in 1922.

Christian George, son of Mr. and Mrs. John George, was a pianist who, in 1915-1916 played concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



62 Franklin Turnpike, back of house,
photo taken about 1985

Series to be continued next issue

DANCE	
— GIVEN BY THE —	
GUARDIAN ANGEL CLUB	
AT THE ALLENDALE BOROUGH HALL	
Friday May 28th 1926	
STANLEY TODD'S OCESTRA	
ADMISSION 75 C.	REFRESHMENTS

Ticket
donated by
Bob &
Marjorie
Rossner

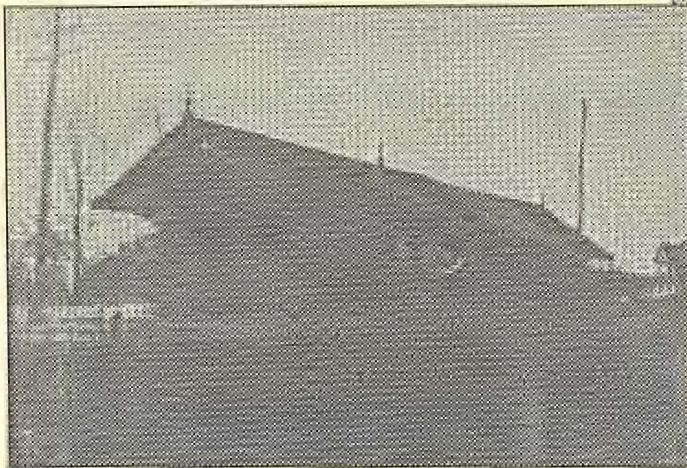
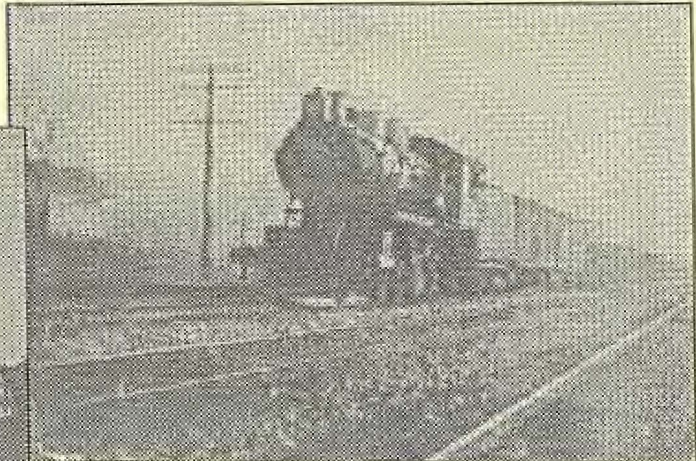


Left, the old Archer Memorial Methodist Church building, on the northeast corner of Franklin Turnpike and Allendale Avenue. The photo was taken at an unknown date (probably around 1910) by a photographer standing about in the center of the intersection of the two streets. To the left of the chapel, Archer Hall (with cupola) can be seen, and north of Archer Hall are sheds for horses and carriages of parishioners.

The original church was built in 1876 and razed about 1973. Archer Hall was built in 1884. Both buildings were built for O.H.P. Archer and he and his wife donated them to the congregation.

Photograph donated by Sandra Locker Van Benschoten.

Right, train at Allendale, unknown date. Below, the Allendale train station, in an undated photo, probably about 1900-1910. Photographs donated by Sandra Locker Van Benschoten.



RADIO SHOW
GIVEN BY
THE ALLENDALE RADIO CLUB
ON
March 23, 1923 7 — 12 p. m.
AT THE BOROUGH HALL, ALLENDALE, N. J.
THIS TICKET ADMITS ONE
Price 28 Cents
(Including war tax)

94

AUTUMN DANCE
BY THE
ALAMAC CLUB
OF ALLENDALE
AT
BORO HALL
ALLENDALE, NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 5, 1924
8.30 P. M.
MUSIC BY BROWNS MELODY BOYS

PRIZE FOX TROT
REFRESHMENTS

TICKETS 75 CENTS

Allendale Borough Hall
Allendale, New Jersey

The ALLENDALE Players
in "Only 38"

MAR. 15 1924

Performance Starts 8:30 P. M. Sharp
No One Seated While the
Curtain Is Up

1920s tickets to Allendale events, donated by Bob and Marjorie Rossner.

The Country Shop

On September 1, 1993, Eva Schmitt retired and another of Allendale's oldest stores closed its doors forever. The Country Shop was a second home to its faithful customers, who knew they could always stop by to visit and chat, and where personal service was always available from Eva and her assistants.

In 1947 the Dexter sisters of Franklin Lakes opened The Country Shop, a womens' apparel store in a storefront on West Allendale Avenue next to what was then the Allendale Police Station (also in a storefront at that time), across the street from the Allendale Hotel. The store offered ladies' clothing and accessories, as well as alterations. In 1950, Mrs. Frances Dick of Millbrook Farms, Franklin Lakes, bought the store and she moved it to 76 West Allendale Avenue to a storefront in the then new Pittis block of stores.

Eva Schmitt bought the business from Mrs. Dick, and on June 20, 1953 she took over the store and continued to run it at 76 West Allendale Avenue until



Eva Schmitt and Jean Stein in The Country Shop

in 1971 she moved the shop to a corner store in the same block (86 West Allendale Avenue).

Because of Eva's store, the northeast corner of West Allendale Avenue and Maple Street came to be called "the fashion corner." Here, in a warm and cozy ambiance under her trademark chandelier, shoppers could sit in parlor-like chairs and select from merchandise often displayed on and in interesting furniture pieces and antiques. Jean Stein's inviting window displays never failed to attract customers and invite comment.

Eva and her Country Shop reached out into the community with fashion shows for clubs and for senior citizens in nursing and convalescent homes. One of these — her 7th annual fashion show for the Allendale Convalescent Center — was featured in the New York Daily News in 1977.

On September 1, when Eva Schmitt retired, The Country Shop ended 46 years of business in Allendale. We'll miss you, Eva! ■

1910 Federal Census Borough of Allendale

Transcribed by Pat Wardell

The following information was taken from a microfilm produced by the National Archives. For additional information on this census in general, refer to the introduction in the issue of February 1992, p. 3.

(continued from April-May 1993 issue)

(Hillside Avenue)

Dwelling #74, Family #78

- [Deligens?], Octave; Head; M; W; age 31 yrs.; Married (1) 5 yrs.; b. France; his father b. France; his mother b. France; immigrated 1907; speaks French; Gardener

- —, Alice; Wife; F; W; age 24 yrs.; Married (1) 5 yrs.; Mother of 1 child, 1 now living; b. France; her father b. France; her mother b. France; immigrated 1907; speaks French

- Moore, William; Boarder; M; W; age 26 yrs.; Single; b. Ireland; his father b. Ireland; his mother b. Ireland; immigrated 1901? (or 1907?); speaks English; Coachman

Dwelling #75, Family #79

- Darrow, Charles H.; Head; M; W; age 63 yrs.; Married (1) 44 yrs.; b. New York; his father b. New York; his mother b. N.Y.; Speaks English; Own income

- —, Margaret; Wife; F; W; age 63 yrs.; Married (1) 44 yrs.; Mother of 4 children, 3 now living; b. New York; her father b. England (Wales); her mother b. England (Wales); Speaks English

- —, Florence; Daughter; F; W; age 23 yrs.; Single; b. N.Y.; her father b. N.Y.; her mother b. N.Y.; Speaks English

Dwelling #76; Family #80

- Hennion, Stephen; Head; M; W; age 68 yrs.; Married (1) 40 yrs.; b. New York; his father b. New York; his mother b. New York; Speaks English; Carpenter, House

- —, Anna; Wife; F; W; age 58 yrs.; Married (1) 40 yrs.; mother of 2 children, 2 now living; b. N.J.; her father b. N.J.; her mother b. N.J.; Speaks English

- Van Dien, Eva Josephine; Daughter; F; W; age 39 yrs.; Widow; mother of 3 children, 2 now living; b. New Jersey; her father b. New York; her mother b. New Jersey; Speaks English

- —, Anna; Granddaughter; F; W; age 19 yrs.; Single; b. New Jersey; her father b. New York; her mother b. New Jersey; Speaks English

- —, Lea; Granddaughter; F; W; age 17 yrs.; Single; b. New Jersey; her father b. New York; her mother b. New Jersey; speaks English

Dwelling #77; Family #81

- Stoddard, Charles F., Jr.; Head; M; W; age 25 yrs.; Married (1) 6 yrs.; b. New York; his father b. At Sea; his mother b. Connecticut; Speaks English; [Painter?]

• —, Clementine F.; Wife; F; W; age 25 yrs.; Married (1) 6 yrs.; mother of 1 child, 1 now living; b. N.Y.; her father b. France; her mother b. N.Y.; Speaks English

• —, Frederick A.; Son; M; W; age 3 yrs; Single; b. New Jersey; his father b. New York; his mother b. New York; Speaks English

Dwelling #78; Family #82

• McNelley, Peter; Head; M; W; age 66 yrs.; Married (1) 4[0] yrs.; b. New York; his father b. Ireland; his mother b. Ireland; Speaks English; Paperhanger, House

• —, Isabella; Wife; F; W; age 62 yrs.; Married (1) 40 yrs.; [mother of 1 child, 1 now living]; b. N.Y.; her

father b. N.Y.; her mother b. N.Y.; Speaks English

• —, James; Son; F; W; age 38 yrs.; Married (1) 4 yrs.; b. New York; his father b. New York; his mother b. New York; Speaks English; Bookkeeper, Fire Ins.

• —, Nell; Daughter in Law; F; W; age 31 yrs.; Married (1) 4 yrs.; mother of 2 children, 1 now living; b. New York; her father b. New York; her mother b. New York; Speaks English

• —, Margaret; Gr. Daughter; F; W; age 2 yrs.; Single; b. New Jersey; her father b. New York; her mother b. New York; Speaks English

(1910 Federal Census to be continued next issue)

Allendale Historical Society
Officers and Chairmen, 1992-93

President: Pat Wardell
Vice President: Eva Scmitt
Treasurer: Marge Mowerson
Secretary: Bonnie McKenzie
Trustees: Annette Baum, Marian Strangfeld, Jeanne Cotz

Committees:
Newsletter Editor: Pat Wardell

Allendale Historical Society
P.O. Box 294, Allendale, NJ 07401

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-October, December, February-March, and April-May, and mailed to members of the Allendale Historical Society. The Society is currently inactive and holds no general meetings. Volunteers for the presidency and other offices are needed to reactivate the Society. Please volunteer.