



"Allendale Hotel - facing what is now commuter's parking lot. Mr. and Mrs. Braun are on veranda." ----Violet W. Straussman.

One of Allendale's first hotels (not counting the many homes which were opened to boarders or rented for summers) was the one built by Herman Tallman of Monsey, N.Y. in 1870. By January of that year the foundation had been laid and building on the hotel was soon to begin. Tallman, with Harvey Sherwood, bought a large parcel of land in the vicinity of Park Avenue in 1871 and began to build a number of residences on the property, resulting in what might be thought of as Allendale's first "building development."

The hotel was, apparently, never totally successful, a fact indicated by the many proprietors, few of whom lasted more than a year or two at the job. Proprietors between 1870 and 1887 included Herman Tallman, Andrew J. Tallman, William Folly, Henry Van Vorst, Cornelius Coe (who moonlighted as a veterinarian) and John D. Naugle. In 1887 the old hotel was torn down; on August 11, 1887 the Hackensack Republican reported, "the old hotel building will soon be a thing of the past. Mr. Naugle's property will be greatly improved by its removal. The building was originally erected by Herman Tallman of Monsey for a hotel, but was never a success, as the inhabitants of Allendale always opposed a hotel in their midst."

So, Allendale was without a hotel, but not for long, because a new one was soon built on the same site, probably within a year or two of the razing of the old one, but certainly by 1892 when Henry J. Mansfield came to Allendale to run the hotel. By 1896 the hotel was being run by Lyman F. Bradley who continued as proprietor until September 1903. After Bradley a man named Bierman conducted the hotel's business until about 1907 when Valentine J. Braun moved to Allendale and took over management of the hotel. He continued to run the hotel until his death in 1931. About 1935 Michael Connelly brought his wife, Maude McKinley Connelly and his five daughters to Allendale and began to run the Allendale Hotel. Upon his death in 1938 his widow, who was known as "Mom" Connelly, continued as proprietor of the hotel. About 1947, when Mrs. Braun, owner of the hotel, died, Mrs. Connelly purchased the Ackerman house at 67 West Allendale Avenue and built onto it what is today's Allendale Bar and Grill (the A B & G.) Mrs. Connelly died about 2 years ago.

About 1964, William J. Dixon, owner of Towne Cleaners, bought the old hotel and renovated it, including lowering the tower and raising the porch roof over the second story on tall columns.

This view shows the "back" of the hotel which faces the railroad tracks. The picture probably dates from about 1910.

----Patricia A. Wardell