



Station Square, Allendale, N. J.

"Beginning of Park Avenue." ---Violet W. Straussman.

If, in 1905-10, you had been standing on the site of today's underpass entrance on the west side of the railroad tracks and looking southwesterly along Park Avenue, this is the view you would have seen. The building on the left is Ackerman's General Store (still barely recognizable today as the Allendale Print Shop); the building on the right is the Gasparini building, perhaps where Vito and Wally Gasparini were conducting a boot and shoe repair shop as early as 1898. The building just southwest of the Gasparini building is no longer standing. This postcard was printed in Germany for "J. H. Ackerman, Allendale, N.J." and was sold in the Ackerman General Store pictured on the card.

The Ackerman General Store was begun in April-May of 1869 by Abraham G. Ackerman, selling groceries, hay, feed, coal, boots and shoes. Abraham G. Ackerman, son of Gilbert and Rachel DeGarmo Ackerman, was born in 1807 and married, in 1831, Catherine Vanderbeek. They lived in the old Ackerman homestead (still standing today) at 116 West Crescent Avenue. One of their children was Richard Vanderbeek Ackerman, born September 1837. Richard married, in November 1861, Caroline Ackerman, and by 1873 he had taken over the operation of the General Store. In 1878 he built an addition to the store and in 1885 he assumed the position of postmaster, conducting the post office's part-time business in a corner of the store. By 1897, Allendale had telephone service, and according to the directory issued that year by the Ridgewood Central Office, Allendale's one and only telephone was a pay station in Ackerman's General Store. In 1903 a fire broke out in the store, resulting in the damage of many borough records which had been stored in the building. Soon after this fire Richard V. Ackerman, in failing health, retired and turned the business over to his son, John H. Ackerman. Richard V. Ackerman died on 12 March 1904. John Henry Ackerman, his son, had been born in 1871 and married, in November 1891, Jennie A. Hemion. John H. continued the business as a general store for a time, but by 1941 he was running it as a coal and fuel oil business. In about 1954 he retired and moved to Florida. John H. Ackerman died in February 1957.

----Patricia A. Wardell