

"Juncture of W. Allendale Ave. & Park Ave. continuation before underpass. Small house in back was Melchionna's Ice Cream Parlor. House was moved to street opening off Myrtle Ave. opposite Megnin's garage. This picture of more recent vintage than others." --Violet W. Straussman.

This postcard was printed in Germany and published by Guatelli Bros., Ramsey and Allendale, N.J., and probably dates from about 1915-1920. The view shows the trolley stopped at Melchionna's Confectionery Store (about where today's Allendale Butcher Shoppe is located) as seen from the Braun Building ("Flatiron" building which today houses the Stiles Thomas Agency).

The first surveys for the North Jersey Rapid Transit Company were made in 1908 and by 1910, the trolley was running through Ridgewood to Ho-Ho-Kus. By October 1910 the trolley line had reached Waldwick and the running time from Waldwick to Paterson was 20 minutes; the fare, 15 cents. By early 1911 the line had been completed through to Suffern. Allendale's trolley station was a three-sided wooden structure with a bench, located near Melchionna's Ice Cream Parlor. Unfortunately, the Trolley Company was doomed almost from its very beginning, first by a series of accidents from which the Company never recovered, and later by the inauguration of bus routes throughout the area. Public Service Company took over the line in 1926 and on January 1, 1929, the line ceased to run. Public Service Co. retained the property of the right-of-way for their high tension transmission line to feed power to that part of Northern New Jersey, but the trolley track was shipped to the U.S.S.R. for use on the Trans-Siberian Railway.

About 1894-1895 James Linkroum built the building shown on the postcard and opened up an ice cream parlor. The upper portion of the building was used as something of a "town hall" and for a time, Borough Council Meetings were held in this hall. In 1903 the first Masses of what later became the Catholic Church of the Guardian Angel were said in this hall.

In 1904 the business was taken over by James E. Webb, followed in succession by Wally Gasparini, George Mensching, Bert Linkroum, and, in 1916, by Eugene Melchionna. About 1921, Melchionna moved the two buildings on the property back by the trolley station (nearer the railroad tracks) in order to make room for the excavation and building of a new brick building to house the store. Storms and Vanderbeck built the new brick building (which today houses the Allendale Butcher Shoppe) and the two original buildings were removed to Myrtle Avenue where in 1955 they were occupied by the families of John Hennessy and A. Kwasnicki.

-----Patricia A. Wardell

