

Your historical supplement to



Serving Orvil Township
(Now Allendale, Saddle River
& Upper Saddle River)

The ORVIL ORACLE

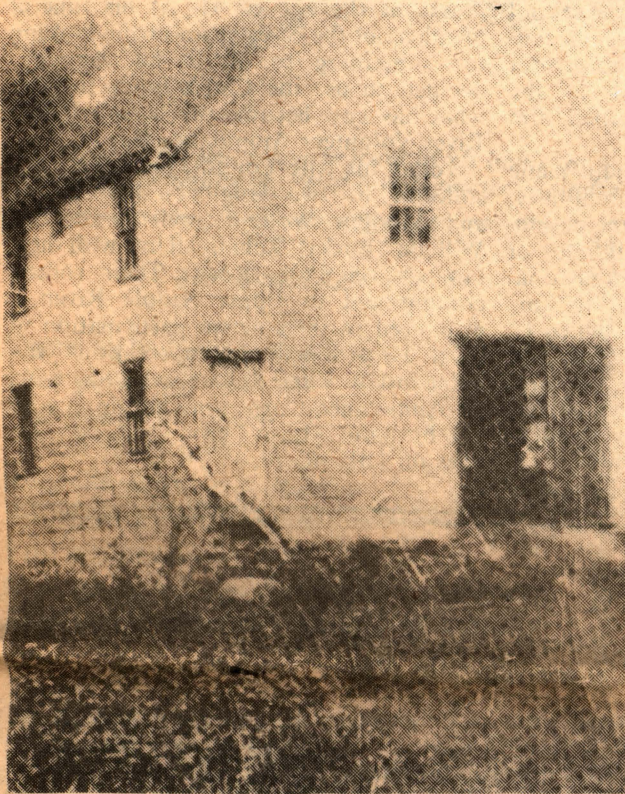
Vol. 6 No. 11

Entered as Second Class at Saddle River, N.J. 07458

\$1.00 Yearly; 2c Single Copy

Thursday, 1894-ish

Boroughs Vote Independence from Orvil Twp.



The Walthery wheelwright shop on the corner of Old Stone Church and West Saddle River roads where the first U.S.R. town elections were held.

Dec. 20, 1894 - With the establishment of the new governing bodies through the elections of the past two weeks, the newly independent boroughs of Allendale, Saddle River and Upper Saddle River have taken the final step in drawing away from the Township of Orvil.

Results are as follows:
Allendale - Election held Dec. 4.

Mayor: Peter D. Rapelje

Councilmen: George Hatch, Cornelius Quackenbush, H.O. Doty, Walter Dewsnap, Charles L. Parigot and Edward E. Burtis.

Saddle River - Election held Dec. 8.

Mayor: Bernard Oblenis
Councilmen: G.A. Ackerman, A.Z. Winter, Frank Blackledge, W.W. Packer, John G. Esler and Frederick Demarest.

Upper Saddle River - Election held Dec. 18.

Mayor: James D. Carlough
Councilmen: Peter D. Bush, Jacob H. Zabriskie, Samuel J. Debaun, Jacob Banta, George Osborn and James Hennion.

The election of the new borough governments follows the November referendums in all three towns wherein the voters overwhelmingly approved that they be incorporated as boroughs, independent of Orvil Township. Results of the Allendale vote taken on Nov. 8 were 100 for, 11 against. Saddle River voters cast 56 for, 6 against on Nov. 19 and Upper Saddle River on Nov. 20 voted 46 to 4 in favor of becoming a borough.

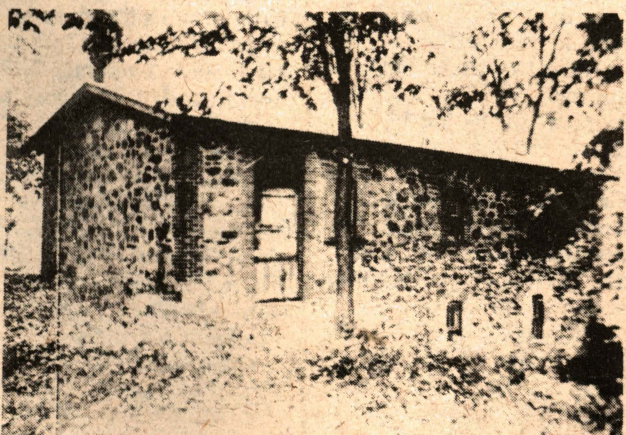
Agitation for the formation of the new boroughs came as a result of the state legislature's passage of the Township School Law earlier this year. Local taxpayers were angered by the provision that the law not only set up smaller districts but that as part of the Township, they would be responsible for past and future debts of all districts on a pro rata basis. The law, however, exempted boroughs, towns, villages and cities, and local civic groups moved to take advantage of the Faulkner Act of April 5, 1878 which sets forth the provisions for establishing a borough.



Feds Put Halt to Duffy's Jersey Lightening

UPPER SADDLE RIVER- Duffy's Distillery was closed this week after a collision with Federal operatives, apparently over a discrepancy in the payment of revenue taxes. Duffy's, located on Hillside Avenue, on the northern boundary of Upper Saddle River, is operated by outside interests and has been one of the largest ventures in the Valley.

The handsome old stone mill was built in 1838 and in mid-century was Joe Post's saw and turning mill. It came into its prime, however, when Duffy's took it over some years ago. Young Cornelius Berdan, who lives on the West Road just north of the Borough Hall, has



Grist mill built in 1838 which became Duffy's Distillery and is now the Bouregy residence.

attested to the scores of wagons of apples and other fruit that pass by his farm in the fall on the way to Duffy's to be made into jugs of Jersey lightning.

And one old-timer swears that from the coils of Duffy's "drips as golden and authoritative a mountain dew as ever went in its fat stone jug to enliven a

country funeral." In addition to the local farm trade, Duffy's has been shipping its product to a reverent metropolitan market.

Purposely selected because of its location right on the New York-New Jersey border, Duffy's has for years successfully avoided the state revenue agents. Whenever the New York agents made an appearance, they always found Duffy's supplies of applejack stored on the New Jersey side. Of course, the New Jersey agents always found it on the New York side of the property. In truth there's been many a dispute over just where that old boundary line is. Boundaries aside, however, Uncle Sam has proven too

big a foe for the clever distillers, and it seems that now the future of Duffy's and its golden elixir hangs in the balance.

*Footnote: Duffy's was permanently closed by the

Federal agents, after which the mill and surrounding property were taken over as a real estate venture. The mill was remodeled into a residence and is now the lovely home of the Bouregy family.

As 20th Century Nears Business Centers on Mills

As the 20th Century approaches it is claimed by many that the United States is reaching the pinnacle of her glory at home and abroad. Truly never before have so many enjoyed so much as our industrial progress continues to provide greater and greater largess to all. In the wake of this rapid expansion, it is incredible

to imagine that there are towns that are untouched by it - and yet right here in New Jersey there are places that are very much as they were 100 years ago.

One such place is Saddle River which was described in the 1876 atlas as "most charmingly situated in a delightful valley watered by

(Continued on page 11)

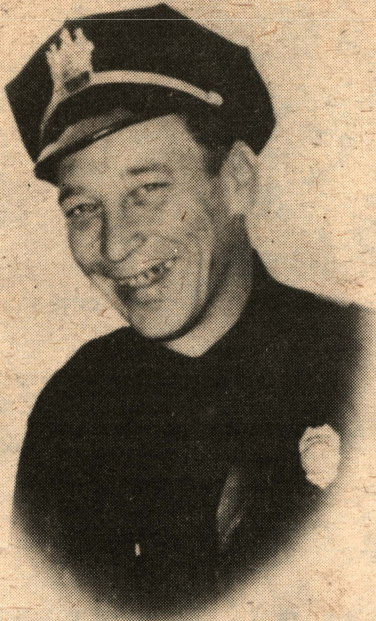
William Rehain: U.S.R. First Chief Marshal

UPPER SADDLE RIVER—In January of 1948 Mayor Carl S. Deans appointed William DeWitt Rehain the first chief marshal of the Borough. Prior to that time the town fathers didn't feel that the Upper Borough, as it was called, needed a full-time paid law enforcement officer.

The newly created position was unanimously confirmed by the Council as was the appointment of Marshal William Kimble.

The new chief marshal was on 24 hour call, seven days a week. Immediately after the appointment was announced Chief Rehain equipped the family car with a radio that made it possible for the calls coming into his home phone, the police number, to be dispatched to him while he was on road patrol. The only car expense he asked the town to pay was for gasoline.

Upper Saddle River had no police headquarters; thus the chief's home served as his office and his supply depot. Police calls came to the Rehain residence at all hours and so his wife, Loretta, as well as his children Joan, Marilyn and Bucky served as in-house police dispatchers.



Chief Marshal William DeWitt Rehain

Family Affair

"Actually my father's position became a family affair," says Joan Rehain Fabris. "I still remember being all dressed up and ready to go out on a date when my father insisted I stay home to wait for the calls. I stayed home," says Joan.

She also recalled, as a child, racing down the stairs when a fire call was phoned in; the Rehain child who made it downstairs first got to ring the fire siren which was also hooked up in the Rehain household.

On a daily basis marshals dealt with motor vehicle accidents, emergency first aid, burglars, rapists and juvenile delinquents - no different from today's police work. There were, however, a few

strikingly different aspects of the community that the police had to deal with even as late as the 1940s.

During the summer months Upper Saddle River's population rose substantially with an influx of vacationers from the city. Traffic on Route 17, the main route to the Catskills, was heavy between June and August. Car accidents and drownings increased proportionally for the Borough.

William Rehain, named Bucky as in buckshot ("because I was round and little" said Bucky) by his father, remembers driving with his father and his grandmother in the back seat when a call came over the radio dispatching the chief

to the scene of an accident on Route 17. "Within moments we reversed our direction and sped to the scene. I still remember by grandmother holding on to the seat. He let me sound the siren and then he shouted, 'Here we go Buckshot.' I felt just great when I was on a call with him."

During Chief Rehain's tenure, the still-rural borough had less stringent leash laws than it does today; as a consequence the dog pound under the chief's jurisdiction, was continually filled with strayed and lost dogs. The family members recall feeding and watering the impounded animals along with their own since the pound was located on their Lake Road residence.

Today the Borough police force numbers 15 men; 5 police cars and has an extensive array of electronic equipment. Of necessity, the chief of such a department must spend a large portion of his time administrating, rather than enforcing the laws.

Devoted to Children

William Rehain, police chief in a different era, was highly visible to the residents. As the only full-time policeman he was responsible for crossing the school children on West Saddle River Road. During Christmas every year he gave a party, at his own expense, for all the children, who affectionately called him "Chiefy Boy."

Over the years, William Rehain made other contributions to the community, most significantly in the area of recreation. Upper Saddle River had no ball fields or tennis courts; the prime recreational activities were hunting and fishing. Through the Sportsman's Club which he helped to found, three local ponds were stocked with trout every spring. The only fishermen who could fish those waters had to be under 14 years old. In his backyard he raised pheasants which he allowed the young hunters to shoot at the beginning of

the hunting season. He organized the town's first swimming meet.

Bucky Rehain recalls how important proficiency in swimming and diving was to his father. "Perhaps I was seven or eight that summer at Anona Park I can't be sure. Anyway, I was afraid to go off the diving board at Anona Park. I would walk to the end of the board and then turn around. My father came by the park while on duty and insisted I go off the diving board. I refused. My mother told him not to make me do something he wouldn't do. "That does it," he said turning to his friend Norm Yeomans as he handed him his pistol and his belt. Together we went off the board; me in my bathing suit and my father in his uniform."

Knew Everyone

Long time residents of the community say he knew most of the youngsters by name, recognized the cars of locals and knew who was the master or mistress of the Borough's stray dogs.

William Rehain died in 1953 after a long illness at the age of 41. At his funeral members of the Sportsman's Club looking for something to do in his memory, decided to use the Club's funds to start what has now become the Upper Saddle River Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Today his wife Loretta, the town's tax collector, his two daughters, Joan Fabris and Marilyn Wolf, as well as his son William "Bucky" Rehain all live with their families on Lake Road. Their rooted commitment to Upper Saddle River is evidenced in their active participation in local government and recreation. His sister-in-law Kitty Rehain, who had been an Ambulance Corps founder along with her husband Milton, now deceased, also lives on Lake Road.

by Ruth Skovron

POLICE BLOTTER

Allendale

Before it was abolished by the Borough Council in 1939, an earlier Allendale Police Department seemed to have chalked up a "police blotter" of its own during its 11-year existence.

Old newspaper stories and statements by opponents refer to it as inefficient and scandal-ridden. Its Chief, William Reimer, was accused of being embroiled in the then reigning political machine in the Borough. There were also accusations that the chief directed the sale of so-called "courtesy cards" to unwilling subscribers, notably truckers who

traveled through the town and who discovered that the cards were a necessity to avoid police harassment. Mr. Reimer was also serving as the active secretary of the State Police Chiefs Association at the same time that he was supposed to be a full time police chief.

The matter came to a head on March 14, 1939 when Mayor Louis A. Keidel, who had recently been elected to office on an independent ticket, proposed the elimination of the police department entirely. Citing that it was unnecessary for the small

population at the time and that it was excessive in cost--22 cents of every dollar spent by Allendale for local government goes for the police, he said--Mayor Keidel advocated going back to the marshal system which had been used prior to 1928. The resolution was, of course, vigorously opposed by the Police and their supporters and led to stormy Council sessions. But at length the abolition was passed by a 4-3 vote, with the Mayor himself casting the tie-breaker.

Following the action, the Police Chiefs Association took up the cause of Chief Reimer by filing an appeal in State Supreme Court. But the Court upheld the Borough on the issue.

The marshal system was used for the next 20 years until the formation of the present Police Department in 1959 under Chief Robert Wilson.

Members of today's force report, however, that the men on the former force apparently got in a few "last licks" before they departed. All the police records for those years have disappeared. All the furnishings were removed. Motorcycles, all guns, a machine gun, an enormous bronze double door, even the jail was gone from the premises. Although it would probably be impossible to prove, one officer said that there's suspicion that a back security door on the present-day Soup and Sub restaurant is the old jail door. If so, it's the only piece of old police property which has ever surfaced.

Upper Saddle River

The weird nighttime screams of "Jersey Wampus" will be heard no more. Last week at the request of Chief William Rehain, Harold Pitman, deputy game warden, tracked and killed a gray striped wildcat. The menacing creature was dubbed "Jersey Wampus" by local residents.

Using lanterns and dogs, Mr. Pitman and a companion pursued their quarry for more than three long dark hours. Finally Mr. Pitman brought down the feline with one blast from his single-barrelled shotgun.

The cat, whose errie screams disturbed the sleep of many residents, was also a marauder in local chicken coops. Soon the chief reports, the wildcat will be mounted and displayed for all to see. Good marksmanship, Harold Pitman!

Hard to believe but still another deer has been hit by a car on Route 17. The latest victim was turned over to the State Fish and Game Commission. If deer killing on Route 17 continues there won't be a deer left when the hunting season begins.

In the dog pound, located behind the chief's house, there are four keen beales without any identification. A good opportunity for anyone wanting some hunting hounds.

Some broken front teeth were a clue in a recent arrest. Three men who have burglarized homes in this borough, as well as surrounding towns, were apprehended by the sleuthing efforts of Chief Rehain

along with local lawmen from nearby towns.

The trail to their arrest began with a lamp stolen from an Upper Saddle River home that turned up in a Ridgewood antique shop. The shop owner described to police the man who had brought in the lamp as having several broken front teeth. Matching the shopowner's

physical description to other clues, the police arrested the broken-toothed criminal in a local tavern.

editor's note: This police blotter is based upon old newspaper accounts and the police reports as published in the Upper Saddle River News: A Monthly "Town Meeting" in Print.

EDITORIAL

The hometown newspaper has long been a proud tradition as a source of bringing local news to local residents.

In our immediate area, the earliest record we've uncovered of such a periodical was "The Landscape," a small paper started in 1881 in Saddle River. Its editor and publisher was a gentleman named A. P. Smith, who is said to have been a freed slave. He lived in a tenant house on East Allendale Avenue, from which he produced his paper as well as doing job printing.

In what was apparently his first issue, he announced that his paper was for private circulation only, a sort of letter to his friends. He described his own recovery from a year's illness in an editorial to his first readers, and told them that "what is left of life, we dedicate to God and humanity." The paper will be issued occasionally he said, and will be enlarged when circumstances require.

Reprints of old articles reveal that Mr. Smith reported on social, church and political news, printed poetry by local authors, commented on the seasonal weather changes with admirable eloquence, and, at times, expressed his opinion on issues of the day. There's one case when he demurred from strictly local news when he carried the story of the assassination of President Garfield.

His paper must have met with success. An early masthead stating: "Our paper is intended for private circulation only. No copies for sale at any price" was changed. In his September issue in 1887, the masthead stated that it had become a monthly publication and was entered as Second Class Mail at the Saddle River Post Office. Subscriptions were 50 cents per year and advertisements were listed as 75 cents an inch for each insertion.

A. P. Smith died on Dec. 5, 1901, and "The Landscape" apparently died with him.

Subsequent small hometown papers have appeared since in this area and The Town Journal is proud to be one of them.

Dear Friends . . .

It is with extreme pleasure and pride that the staff of **The Town Journal** invites all residents of our lovely Orville Township to peruse our pages. We are taking the liberty of sending a free copy to our friends and neighbors at this time to celebrate the holiday commemorating the birthday of our heritage, deserving of special and appropriate attention.

We would urge our gentle readers to forget their chores and concerns and through these pages go back in time to an era past, when the pace was slower, the front porch caught the cooling breezes in the valley and the catalytic converter was unknown and unneeded.

It is our earnest hope that you will enjoy this product of our labour, and that those of you who do not regularly receive all the news of your community will give serious thought to sending in a subscription. We will be happy to oblige by putting your name on our mailing list immediately.

We would hasten to add that were it not for the cooperation and help of the following persons and organizations, this special supplement would have died aborning:

The Allendale, Saddle River and Upper Saddle River Borough Halls, and Historical Societies; Mayor Duncan Cameron, Pat Bierbrier and Dorothy Ware for access to the Saddle River Archives; Clair Tholl, area historian; Pat Wardell; Marion Strangfeld; Loretta Rehain; Norman Yeomans; Martin Potter; Bob Thurston and Eva Schmitt. Our most sincere and humble thanks.

Traveling Around The Valley



Will Packer in his one-seater in front of his home (now the Coach House). Packer's business was originally the "Old Trip Hammer" foundry begun by David Ackerman.

The Good Old Days

Those were the good old days,
 With perky Tin Lizzies
 And one-hoss shays.
 A bucket of oats
 Would last for ten miles
 And for two-bits of gas
 You could ride in style.
 It must have been fun to ride in a surrey
 That is, if you really weren't in a hurry.

No gas lines, no flags,
 No odds or evens.
 Just crank up Old Liz
 Or hitch up Old Dobbin.
 But here we are with the family car
 Afraid to travel very far.
 No gas for vacations,
 No gas for shopping,
 The chaos doesn't show signs of stopping.

For days of yore, you may want to pine;
 As for me, I guess, I'll just - get - in - line.

C. Hurley

AIR-RIDE AUTO
 For Service that Makes Your Car Last...
 Complete Automotive & Diagnostic Service
RE-INSPECTION CENTER
 Automatic Transmissions
 Air Conditioning - Emissions
 Bodywork - Towing
327-0754
 75 S. Franklin Tpk., Ramsey



CARDO'S BIKE SHOP
 93 W. Allendale Ave.
 Allendale
825-0952



Louis Capel sports an early moped on Allendale Avenue in Allendale.



Mr. Malony harvesting hay in the field across from Villa Marie Claire in Saddle River.

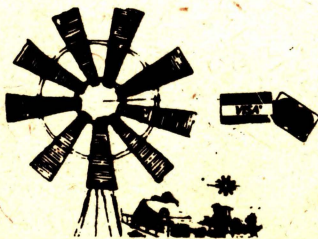
Creative Gardens

Did You Like It Then?



Or Do You Like It Now?

From farm and mill to lawn and garden shop, the historic property at Creative Gardens has served the community. With antique tools and accents, Creative Gardens maintains its old-time flavor while keeping pace with the beauty of our suburban area.



CREATIVE GARDENS

409 E. Saddle River Rd., Upper Saddle River, N. J.
 Tel. 327-5224



David A. Blauvelt of Saddle River doffs his hat to the ladies as they go off for a leisurely drive in a fringed surrey.