

July 19, 1984

In the February 1977 and April 1978 Newsletter you printed some of my memories. Having lived in Allendale from 1900, the year I was born, until 1915 I still have many more.

On the chance that I may be boring some people I would like to mention a few of my Allendale friends. They are Grace Hubbard (Goetschius), the Hutchinson girls, Ruth, Dorothy and Maryann, Ruth Bloomer, Saddle River Ruth Taylor also Allendale Ruth Taylor (Anthony) who was a friend and neighbor, Frank Drummond, Leon Karnhoff, Bob and Kenneth Fisher, Naupie Roland (Sparkling) Ruth Neekins, Hazel and Mahlon Wetmore, Bee Nidd, Raymond Schultz, Marie Regnier, Eileen Seerey, May Bee Priddy, Georgiana Van Houten.

My sister, Mildred, and I had many good times playing in Grace's barn on Crescent Avenue and exploring the Woods and brook behind it.

One of my best friends was Eileen Seerey. I had lots of good times at her house, spending some nights with her and her mother and Aunt Geerje. We played with her cousin Ward Thomas when he came to visit. Something I can't forget is the time Eileen's brother Parnell, who was a great tease, closed the door of their ice house when Eileen, my sister, Mildred, and I were in it. We had gone in and down a ladder, as there was noise in it at the time. When Parnell closed the door there was total darkness

2 Mildred and I were scared stiff. Eileen managed to find the ladder and climbed up and opened the door. Parnell, of course, had disappeared. Mildred says she has had claustrophobia ever since.

It was so nice to read Dorothy Karmhoff's tribute to her father, Mr. Alling. He was a good friend of my father, Lon Barrett, and he and his wife and Dorothy visited my folks after we moved to Red Bank.

If you will bear with me I would like to repeat part of my memories from 1912. It was customary for the eighth grade students to take their state examinations before the lower grades did. They were on their own then, to get ready for graduation. One of their activities was carving their initials in the belfry above the second floor of the school on Franklin Turnpike. There were five kids, I believe, in the class of 1912. While doing their carving, my sister, Alice, accidentally stepped between the beams and her foot broke through the ceiling of the room below. It was Miss Carey's room where my sister, Mildred's, class was taking their final examinations. Plaster fell on some of the desks and the two classes in the room were so disrupted that it was necessary to have a new set of tests sent and taken later. Mr. Alling, our teacher and principal, was so angry that he expelled all five students. They showed up every day and sat on the fence in front of the school begging to come back. Finally Mr. Alling broke down and permitted them to graduate but refused to have his picture taken with them.

Laura Barrett Haviland