

Get to know your town.....A capsule history of Allendale  
(continued)

Haven't you always harbored a secret ambition to travel in society's circles and own a home in Newport? Say no more---wish granted. According to a newspaper article of the time, Allendale around the turn of the century, boasted of being the "Newport of Bergen County". We did, indeed, have quite a reputation as an elegant resort area. The Hackensack newspaper carried such items as "In Allendale, the Powell House is full of select New York people and exceedingly well kept. The Lennox is doing fairly well and bids fair to rank with the best. Mr. & Mrs. Moody and Mr. & Mrs. Brinkerhoff of New York are among the recent arrivals at Hotel Windsor." Several of the large homes on East Allendale Avenue were hotels or boarding houses when Allendale was a resort area.

Somewhere around the turn of the century a library was formed in Allendale. During these early years, the library was open only during the summer, to accomodate the visitors who came to vacation "in the country". The Woman's Club began a library on the second floor of the firehouse, but it wasn't until April 7, 1919 that the Library Association was formed. In November of 1923, the Library Association was incorporated and plans were formulated for a building to be erected on property which had been purchased from William Wallinson in January 1923. An open house was held at the completed library building on the southwest corner of Allendale Avenue and Franklin Turnpike on December 1, 1926. The library at last had a permanent home. Fifteen years later, Mr. & Mrs. William C. Lee donated an addition (the Mary K. Lee Room) which was completed in November 1941.

From 1910 until 1929 a trolley line ran through Allendale. It was the North Jersey Rapid Transit Company and it ran from Paterson to Suffern. The ride was considered quite an outing for youngsters. With the coming of the automobile, however, it outgrew its usefulness and was discontinued. The tracks were removed in 1929, sold to the Russian government and sent to Siberia. The trackbed is still visible, though overgrown in many places.

Although there is no known pre-Revolutionary building standing in Allendale, we have our share of "oldies": the O.H.P. Archer home on Franklin Turnpike (now the property of the Guardian Angel Church), 475 Franklin Turnpike--the Cable house (now home of Mrs. Rose Pfister) which has an interesting history; Col. Joseph Warner Allen, for whom Allendale was named, stayed at this house while surveying the railroad, and there is a legend that a Frenchman lived in a stone dwelling on this site at a very early date (in 1860 Stephen Cable purchased the property and dug up a box of coins dated before 1700), 555 Franklin Turnpike was originally a Quackenbush home, built about 1810 (now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ardia), 215 Franklin Turnpike, which according to a map of 1876 belonged to S. C. Beckley (this house has an underground tunnel in the basement), 330 Hillside Avenue--the Christopher house (now owned by L. Moffitt) and many, many more!