

## THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II — 1930-1945 —

From 1930 until after the second World War, a local sign of the effects of the nation's Great Depression and huge unemployment numbers, was the number of mortgages defaulted, and the number of local houses owned by banks and building and loan associations which had repossessed them. There are still Allendale residents who can remember, as children, playing in the big old deserted houses (some along East Allendale Avenue) that became "white elephants" at this time, and were temporarily abandoned by owners who simply could not afford their maintenance.

In 1931 thirty families in Allendale were receiving aid. Economies in heating and lighting public buildings, including Allendale's churches, were in effect during this decade. In October 1932 Archer Memorial Methodist Church officials decreed that fuel should be conserved by letting the fire in the heater for the hall go out after Sunday School and not be started again until the following Saturday night. The fire in the furnace in the basement of the hall was to remain lit, to prevent water pipes from freezing and because these rooms were used for meetings during the week. As late as 1938 groups such as the girl scouts were meeting in private homes because of the lack of heat in the churches and public buildings in which they had formerly met.<sup>1</sup>

By 1934 the Allendale Unemployed Recovery Association, Inc. had been formed and was meeting weekly at the Allendale Municipal Building.

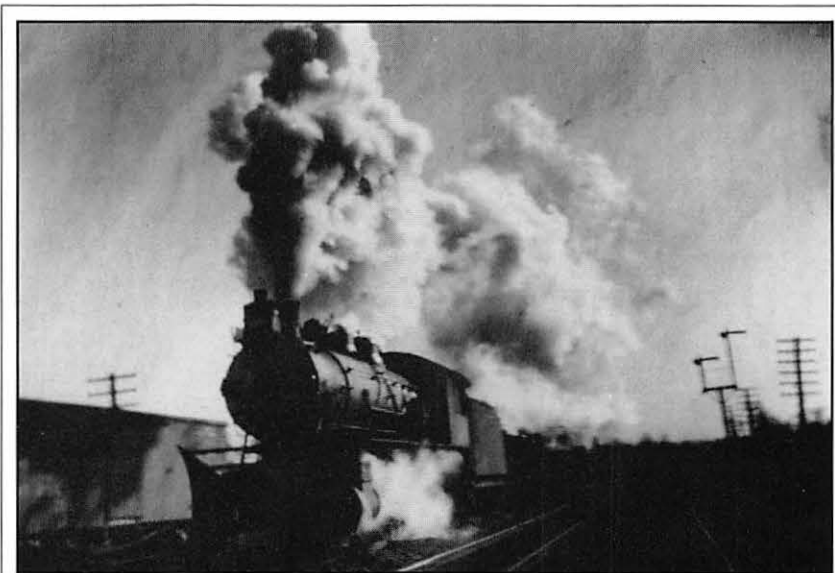
A number of Allendale residents were among the many who fell into despair during this terrible Great Depression and committed suicide. One of Allendale's suicides was long-time resident George W. Parigot, who in December 1930 shot himself in his apartment in the home of Carrie Switzer, with whom he boarded, on East Allendale Avenue.

Some even came to Allendale from out of town to commit suicide — two Allendale men, William

Ackerson and Edward Hilbert, hunting with their dogs in the dense woods on the Lee estate west of the intersection of Crescent and Park Avenues near San Jacinto in October 1932, came upon the body of an unidentified man who had hung himself from a tree. He had taken off his jacket, with a gold horseshoe stickpin in the lapel and hung that on a nearby tree.<sup>2</sup>

In 1930 there were 1,730 people living in Allendale; by the time the 1940 Federal Census was taken, there was a population of 2,051.

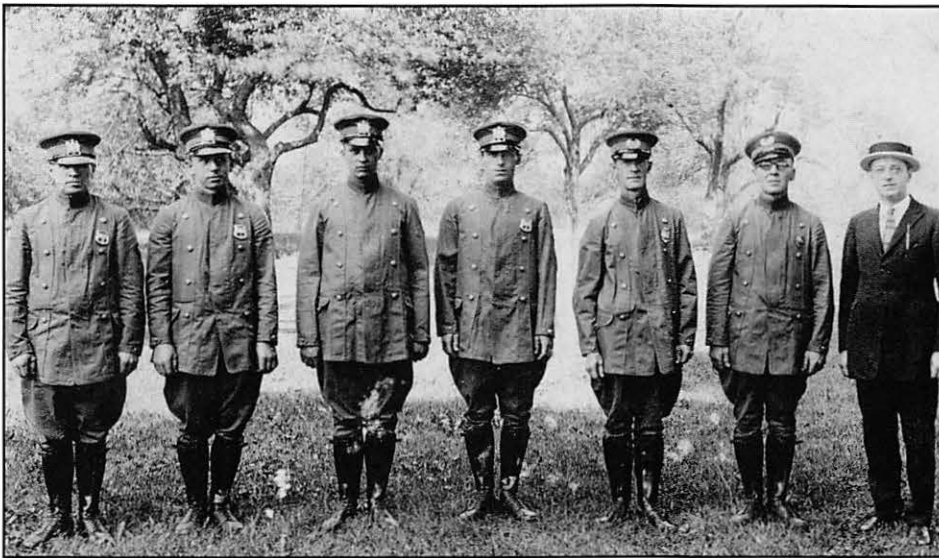
In 1931 the Erie Railroad offices were moved to Cleveland, Ohio. Many Allendale residents worked



*An Erie steam locomotive arriving at Allendale Station.*

for the Erie, and some of them moved to Cleveland and its suburbs. Among those Erie employees and their families who moved west to Ohio at this time were Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo A. Abbott, Mr. H. Holdrum, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Horack, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Mowerson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson, Miss Lottie Scholz, and Edgar Austin.<sup>3</sup>

By 1933, through the Roosevelt administration's New Deal and its agencies created to battle the unemployment of the Depression, some Allendale residents were working in jobs in the so-called



*Allendale Police Department, about 1931. Shown, left to right, are: Benjamin Boungard?, W. Johnson, Nelson Simon, unidentified officer, Milton Ackerson, Wesley MacKeeby, and Malachi E. Higgins (Mayor of Allendale, 1931-1934).*

Richard Mullaney, an Allendale infantile paralysis victim. His case was reported to be light, but there was concern because there were four other pre-school-aged children in the family. At this meeting, the Board considered the possibility of closing the school, but decided to take other precautions, instead. They directed that the school's general assembly in the morning would be discontinued and efforts should be made to avoid having the children congregate in groups.<sup>4</sup>

During the summer recreation season, the Allendale Board of Health also periodically tested the water in the borough swim-

ming pool at Recreation Park. In 1933, the pool was cleaned out at least twice by volunteers and the Allendale Fire Department, after the water was found impure for bathing.<sup>5</sup>

As late as 1942, a few homes in Allendale still had no indoor plumbing. In February 1942 Allendale Sanitary Inspector John O. Forshay was ordered by the Allendale Board of Health "to make a survey of the borough to locate existing privies." Allendale had recently passed a plumbing code that required all outhouses to be replaced by indoor sanitary facilities by June 1, 1942.<sup>6</sup>

Allendale's Police Department, established in 1927, was headquartered by the 1930s in a storefront at 126 West Allendale Avenue. The department was disbanded in 1939 as an austerity move under Mayor Louis A. Keidel. Among the men serving on the Allendale Police Force during this era before it was disbanded in 1939 were William J. Reimer (Chief), James Haulenbeek, Milton Ackerson, John O. Forshay, Wesley MacKeeby, Arthur Reyner, Nelson Simon, G. Nelson White, Benjamin Boungard, W. Johnson, Harold Heidrich, and James Webb.

Many thought politics played a part in the decision to disband the police force, as there was no love lost between Mayor Keidel and Chief of Police William J. Reimer. But, as a financial consideration in these tight times, marshalls were appointed on a year-to-year basis, and there was no requirement to provide pension or retirement plans, which civil service departments did require.

Reimer and the Police Chief's Association fought the abolishment of the Allendale Police Department

"alphabet agencies." In December 1933 Louis Cappel, Jr. was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and was stationed at Nitrate, Alabama. By Feb 1939 two other Allendale boys, George Chattaway and Roland Kennedy, had joined the CCC. (Roland Kennedy was later killed in the Pacific in World War II.)

In the summer of 1936 two athletic instructors for Allendale had been hired through the Works Progress Administration (WPA) thanks to the efforts of Frank A. Farrell, local chairman of leisure outdoor activities for the WPA. Instructors Eleanor Toomey (later Mrs. Sylvester Collyer) and William Strangfeld planned and ran swimming, first aid, and life-saving courses for young people of Allendale. A youth softball team was also organized.

As early as 1931 other Allendale residents had been given day work building and maintaining roads and clearing snow from roads and sidewalks.

### BOROUGH AFFAIRS AND SERVICES

The Allendale Board of Health, among other responsibilities, kept surveillance over various infectious diseases. One of these was infantile paralysis, or polio.

In September 1933 a special meeting of the Board of Health was held in the municipal building, to consider two cases of contagious disease in the Borough. Board members at that time were president Harry I Hand, William R. Lawrence, Eugene Staegemann, Mrs. James Webb, Mrs. William Preston Astin, and Robert E. Phair.

One of the cases under discussion was that of

in the courts, but they were unsuccessful. Keidel had been elected in 1939 as a candidate of the Independent Voters League, and in 1943, the League published a booklet, "Lest We Forget What Happened in Allendale," in which the changeover from Police Department to marshal system was cited as saving the borough \$6,500 per year.

On April 20, 1939 Allendale's new marshal system went into effect. The new marshalls appointed by the Mayor and Council were William J. Reimer, Milton Ackerson, George Nelson White, Jacob Kaplan, Edwin Grossman, Fred Van Horn, J. Frank Roualt, and Fred Grossman, who also served as desk marshal, on 24-hr. call. Chief Marshal by October 1939 was John O. Forshay, and by 1943, Thomas Brady was Chief Marshal (a few years later, he served on the borough council and was Allendale's police commissioner). In 1943 the gasoline shortage had forced Fred Grossman to close his taxi business after 27 years in Allendale. He moved to Dover, N.J. to do war work in the Picatinny Arsenal, and resigned his post as desk marshal. In April 1943 Andrew Dillon was appointed Allendale's new desk marshal. In March 1943 Kenneth M. Booth was appointed as an Allendale marshal and in that same year Robert Wilson was appointed a marshal. In February 1944 Harold Brown was made an Allendale marshal. By 1945, Leonard Baum had been named Allendale's Chief Marshal.<sup>7, 8, 9</sup>

As early as 1923, there was interest in establishing an ambulance corps to serve the northern part of Bergen County. In January 1923, Bergen County Under Sheriff George P. Nimmo (an Allendale resident) proposed the purchase of an ambulance to serve the towns of Ramsey, Allendale, Waldwick, and the Saddle River Valley. In a letter to the Allendale Borough Council, he proposed that the ambulance be "stationed in the fire house in Allendale and telephone connections made with adjoining municipalities so that they might avail themselves of the services of such."

Apparently no action was taken on his proposal, for it was not until fifteen years later, in 1937, that an Ambulance Corps was organized in Allendale.

In May 1937, Dr. F. R. Kanning arranged, through the Hackensack Hospital, for the delivery of a used ambulance (a 1926 Reo) to be used by Allendale's newly forming volunteer Ambulance

Corps. The ambulance was purchased from the hospital for \$1 and was delivered on June 10, 1937. John P. Doehling, chairman of the Committee of Public Safety, called a meeting on June 30 for Allendale men interested in operating and maintaining the vehicle. Present at that first meeting were Archie Farrell, Nelson White, Paul O'Connor, Cyril Dargue, Gus Sohne, Harold Heidrich, John L. Winters, James Kievit, John P. Doehling, Henry Kahse, Fred Van Horn, Lyman Ceely, Jacob Kaplan, George Wilson (who acted as secretary) and Carl Wehner. With an advisory board consisting of Dr. F. R. Kanning and Dr. Harry Lampa (both of Allendale) and Dr. James Campbell (of Ramsey), the name of the Allendale Ambulance Corps was approved. The following officers were elected: Carl Wehner, president; Nelson White, vice-president; Henry Kahse, secretary-treasurer; and Paul D. O'Connor, captain. Many of the first men in the Ambulance Corps had been members of the Fire Department's First Aid Squad. Allendale's Ambulance Corps was the first in northwest Bergen County.

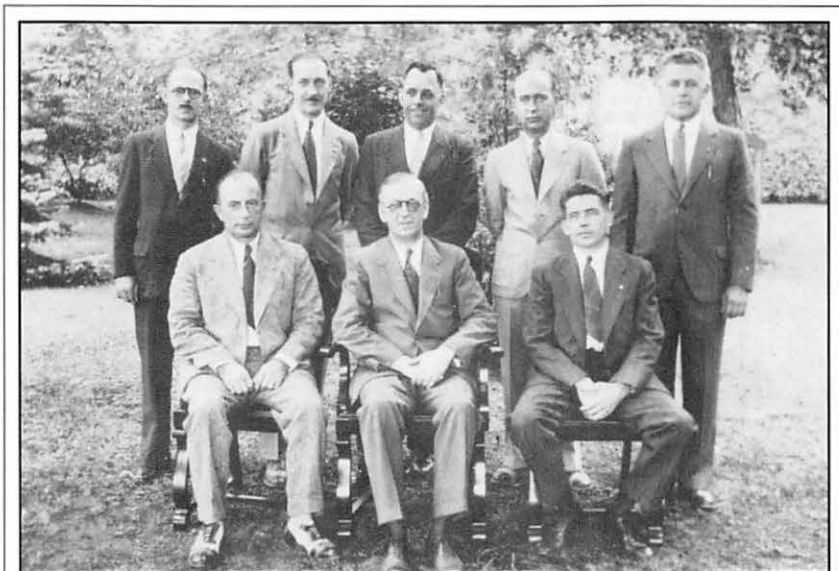
The by-laws were approved and fees were set for transporting non-residents to hospitals (residents were granted local use of the ambulance free of charge). Captain Paul O'Connor held first aid classes for the volunteers, who purchased their own uniforms, and the Corps joined the New Jersey State First Aid Council.

From August 1, 1937 to January 1, 1938 the new Ambulance Corps answered about 21 calls. In its early years, the corps served the towns of Allendale, Waldwick, Ramsey, Franklin Lakes, Saddle River,



*Allendale Firemen posing at the Fire House, in a photograph probably taken in the early 1940s before a parade. Just barely visible, at the far right of the photo, beyond the Fire House, is the recently built Ambulance Corps building.*





*Allendale Mayor and Council in the early 1930s. Standing, rear, left to right: Raymond Arlt, Harry Minners, Leslie Rudolph, Kenneth Burger, John Hubbard. Seated, front: Frank Berdan, Malachi E. Higgins (Mayor), and Eugene Megnin.*

Upper Saddle River, Ho-Ho-Kus, and the area of Route 2 (later Route 17) from Route 4 north to the New York State line.

By 1939, two Lieutenants had been appointed to assist Captain Paul O'Connor. They were Nelson White and William Strangfeld, who was an American Red Cross instructor. The advisory board then included, in addition to the original two doctors (Kanning and Campbell), Dr. H. M. Lampa (an Allendale dentist), Dr. Harry Archer (of the New York City Fire Department), Dr. Selig J. Ross (of Allendale), Dr. Vernon Hawes (of Ramsey), and Dr. S. E. Robinson (of Waldwick). Additional members of the board were Allendale Councilmen Lyman Ceely and George Albert, Corps president Carl Wehner, Corps vice-president Nelson White, Corps secretary F. A. Farrell, Corps treasurer Charles Bijou, and Corps Lieutenant William Strangfeld. Additional Corps members in 1939 were Harold Ryan, Henry Kahse, Jacob Kaplan, James Kievit, George Price, Walter Christie, J. Winters, Gus Sohne, Lawrence Scafuro, and Harold Kiermaier.

By 1939 the need to replace the original ambulance (that 1926 Reo that had, by 1939, more than 85,000 miles on it) became apparent, and with it, the need for a building to house the ambulance. Funds to purchase a new ambulance were raised through various civic groups and Corps-sponsored card parties, carnivals, and through private donations.

In October 1939, a dedication service for the new ambulance was held at the Allendale Recreation Park, with Dr. Harry Archer, honorary medical officer

of the New York City Fire Department, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Archer had been of invaluable assistance in advising the Corps in the selection of the new ambulance.

One year later, on October 20, 1940, dedication ceremonies were held for the newly-built Ambulance Corps Building located near the Fire House. Speakers at this ceremony included former Mayor of Allendale Kenneth Fisher (under whose administration the Corps was formed), George Christopher (chairman of the building committee), and Corps president Carl T. Wehner.<sup>10</sup>

Other members of the Allendale Ambulance Corps in the early 1940s included Kenneth Booth, Thomas Brady, J. George Christopher, Edwin Grosman, Alwyn Grossmann, Harold Kiermeier, and Walter Rumsey.

Mayors of Allendale from 1930 to 1945 were J. Parnell Thomas (1927-1930), Malachi E. Higgins (1931-1934), Kenneth V. Fisher (1935-1938), Louis A. Keidel (1939-1942), Lyman Ceely (1943-1944), and J. George Christopher (1945-1946).

Members of the Allendale Council during this period included George Albert, Frank Berdan, John Borger, Thomas Brady, Kenneth Burger, Lyman Ceely, J. M. Christopher, Martin P. Doehling, Herbert Flandreau, Fred Hoerschgen, John G. Hubbard, C. J. Korndorfer, John H. Lothian, Russell Mallinson, Eugene Megnin, Harry Minners, Albert Ostertag, Maude Grey Pittis, Norwood Potter, Leslie A. Rudolph, and William Spiegelberger.

Allendale Borough Clerks during this era included David M. Colburn, Harry I. Hand, George M. Wilson and Michael Mantell.

## UTILITIES

By March 1930, ground was broken for a central office of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company. The site was on West Allendale Avenue, where the Cook home had burned to the ground in January 1913. The two story brick building, when completed would house new equipment to serve the telephone needs of Allendale and Saddle River. In November 1930 the building was officially opened and Mayor J. Parnell Thomas made the first telephone call through the new switchboard to William J. Reimer, Allendale Police Chief. At this time there were about 800 telephones in Saddle River and Allendale combined.<sup>11</sup>

After about 16 years of obtaining water pumped



from Ramsey, the Borough of Allendale built its own water supply plant in 1930 under the administration of Mayor J. Parnell Thomas.<sup>12</sup>

### BUSINESSES AND THE BUSINESS SECTION

Beginning in the 1800s, shoppers from Allendale had traveled to Paterson to make purchases in the large department stores, including Meyer Brothers (established in 1879) and Quackenbush's. Until the age of improved roads, automobiles and buses, Paterson was the closest large city to Allendale and the easiest to get to, by train, trolley, and wagon. Some traveled to Hackensack to shop, especially after Route 2 connected Route 4 (and Hackensack) with Ramsey in the mid-1930s. Sears Roebuck and Company opened its store on Main Street in Hackensack in October 1932, and it was promoted as the largest department store in Bergen County.

During the 1930s, the Allendale Council granted retail distribution liquor licenses to Walter Temperlyn, Inc., Winter Brothers, Inc., The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (the A & P), and I. Yachnin's United Cigar Store. Retail consumption licenses were granted to Mrs. Lucy L. Braun and, later, Michael Connelly and Maude Connelly (for the Allendale Hotel); Mrs. Mary Job (Job's Crescent Inn); and Wilbur Ackerman (Ack's Tavern).

In late September 1935 fire destroyed four buildings at the Allendale Produce Gardens, Arthur Appert's farm. Among the structures burned was a building that had formerly been the old Allendale schoolhouse. It had been moved to the farm in 1896. Other items lost in the fire were 200,000 feet of celery bleaching paper, ten 50-gallon barrels of paraffin oil, barrels of insecticide, rolls of tar paper, celery cratings, 14,000 yards of muslin for stretching over the rows of celery for bleaching pur-

poses, and packing straw.<sup>13</sup>

Arthur Appert continued the Allendale Produce Gardens (known locally as "the celery farm") until 1943 when he retired and sold the property and business to McBride, Inc. of Paterson. Later a small area of the farm land was purchased by Victor Scafuro, where he established the Aquarium Supply Company, a fish hatchery and aquarium business. The area is



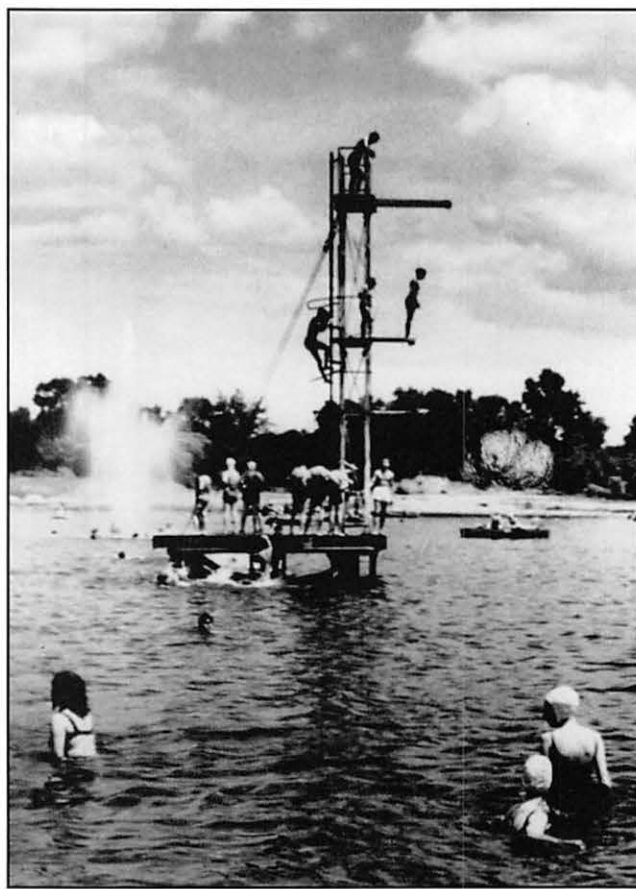
*Above, the Allendale business section, looking northeast from a point about in front of the Braun Building (Flatiron Building) in May 1931.*

*Below, the same view on September 26, 1932 after the original Winter Building had been moved to High Street, and the new Winter Building was erected on the site.*



now Meadow Lane.<sup>14</sup>

Crestwood Swim Club continued to attract people from all over northern New Jersey and southern New York state. In early 1931, additional acreage for a picnic grove, at the north end of the lake, adjacent to the Erie railroad tracks, was acquired. On this property was an old house, to be used as an office,



*Two views of Crestwood Lake, probably in the 1930s.*

and barns. A newspaper report in June 1932 announced, "More than 3,000 people visited Crestwood Lake on Sunday." Additional acreage was purchased, and the lake itself was increased in size over the years, from four to approximately ten acres. Slides, swings, showers, lockers, lavatories, a picnic grove, filtering systems, rafts, a diving tower, a softball court, see-saws, and refreshment stands were added. In 1930 a miniature golf course was built at Crestwood (but soon dismantled by order of the borough, because a zoning ordinance had been violated). A dance pavilion was built in 1937. In the mid-1930s, Crestwood sponsored swimming and water polo teams and held competitions at the swim club. The water polo competitions were held in the evening (special spotlights were installed). Crestwood team members included lifeguards Frank Alberta, Dick Greene, and Chris Smith, Jr. At one time, Mrs. Corsin, the first mother to swim the English Channel was Supervisor, for three years, of the lifeguards at Crestwood.<sup>15, 16</sup>

Soon after he and his wife bought the former Nadler home at 70 Franklin Turnpike (the old Ackerman Revolutionary War-era homestead) about May 1927, Thomas Leonard McHeffey started a nursery

on the site. McHeffey was also a CPA in New York City.

In September 1931, J. De Graaf, of Hawthorne, opened a meat market as a successor to H. A. Kramer's Plaza Market. De Graaf had been with the Portland Market in Ridgewood, and at his Allendale butcher shop he carried a full line of meat and poultry as well as fish on Thursdays and Fridays.<sup>17</sup>

On September 24, 1931, Elm Street Corporation and Anna C. and George H. Repka (Anna was the daughter of S. J. Van Blarcom) sold the new building and property at 72 West Allendale Avenue to Minnie Van Sickle. By March 1933 the Van Sickle sweet shop, advertising "cigars, cigarettes, confectionery fountain service de lux" was in business at this location. The store's ad in the March 2, 1933 *Ramsey Journal* announced "a lovely display of plants and flowers at reasonable prices — Potted tulips in bloom, 12 bulbs 85¢; Geraniums, potted, each 20¢; Ivy plants, 15¢, 20¢ and 30¢, Begonia, 20¢." The building, in addition to the downstairs store, had apartments upstairs. By 1934 there was a woman's exchange at the shop.<sup>18, 19</sup>

Winter Brothers grocery and general store moved to a new building in 1931. The building was erected on the site of the old Winter Building that had housed, among other businesses, Thomas Brown's

“New York Store” (1896-1897), Mrs. Borger’s Dry Goods Store (from about 1903 until 1914), and Mrs. O. O. Clark’s Dry Goods Store (opened in 1916). This old building was moved to High Street, where it became a dwelling house.

For at least one summer, in 1933, Edward Appert set up a vegetable and fruit market in the Winter Brothers building. Many Allendale residents still remember Herb and Bill Winters’ bookkeeping system — two nails on the barn door to hold bills and notes, one for “they owe us” and one for “we owe them.”

McLeod’s Department Store, opened in 1926, moved in August 1936 into a store on the north side of West Allendale Avenue. In 1940 the McLeod family moved to Ramsey, where they ran a hardware and linoleum store at 7 Main Street.<sup>20</sup>

About 1931 Samuel Dolsky bought the confectionery business of Eugene Melchionna. This was located on West Allendale Avenue near the Braun Building (the “Flatiron Building”). In June 1932 Dolsky sold the business to Israel Yachnin, who ran it as “The Allendale Spa.”<sup>21</sup>

By about 1932-1934 Clinton Rossner and Cyril Job were running a bar and restaurant at the Steer Inn location in the old Higgins-O’Neill house at 168 West Crescent Avenue. By 1934 the restaurant was called The Crescent Terrace Inn. It offered beer on draught, dancing every Saturday night, and facilities for banquets and club dinners.<sup>22</sup>

By December 1932 the Blue Churn Dairy Kitchen at 89 West Allendale Avenue was being run by Lemuel J. Webster. In 1938 Christel (“Chris”) Althausen was the proprietor of the business, which later became the Allendale Delicatessen. By 1945 the business was located at 81 West Allendale Avenue and Chris and Elsie Althausen sold homemade items, groceries, and sliced meats (“cold cuts”). By 1951 they offered a selection of frozen foods.<sup>23, 24, 25</sup>

Allendale’s Board of Trade dissolved at some point before May 1935 when the new Allendale Chamber of Commerce was organized. In early May a tentative constitution was accepted for this group of merchants, professional and business people of Allendale, 38 of whom attended the first meeting on May 6, 1935. Officers chosen were Burtis W. Griffiths, president; George W. Megnin, vice-president; Edward Hamilton, treasurer; and G. Albert Hill, secretary. L. E. Rossner and C. J. Korndorfer were elected as

members of the executive committee. Chairman of the retail group was J. Kaplan, and Charles R. Sweet was chosen chairman of the professional group. Membership was open to any Allendale resident or person conducting a business in Allendale. Among the first projects discussed at this meeting were mosquito control, a drive against tent caterpillars, and the placement of a directional sign on Franklin Turnpike, pointing to the business district of the borough. Those present at this organizational meeting were Manley Ackerman, George Albert, William Preston Asten, Jr., Werner Baarck, Valentine Christian, J. M. Christopher, R. J. Christopher, Michael Connelly, W. G. Z. Critchley, J. P. Doehling, Mayor Kenneth V. Fisher, Edith and Ethel Fitzgerald, George T. Forster, Burtis W. Griffiths, Alwyn Grossmann, M. E. Higgins, G. Albert Hill, A. W. Hillman, Jacob Kaplan, C. J. Korndorfer, William Marsh, George W. Megnin, William Osborne, Henry Paulsen, L. E. Rossner, Erhardt Scherb, Everett A. Straut, Frank Strohmer, Roy F. Strong, Charles R. Sweet, Patsy Taddeo, Edgar Varick, F. A. Van Sickle, James E. Webb, Herbert J. Winter, John Winters, and I. Yachnin.<sup>26</sup>

In 1935 a new lumberyard office and a scale house were built on the West Crescent Avenue site of R. J. Christopher & Son’s Lumber Company.<sup>27</sup>

By 1936 or earlier, Allendale’s first woman real estate broker (and one of Bergen County’s earliest women brokers) was selling real estate in the area. Mary Elizabeth Morris Cullen, trading as Mae E.



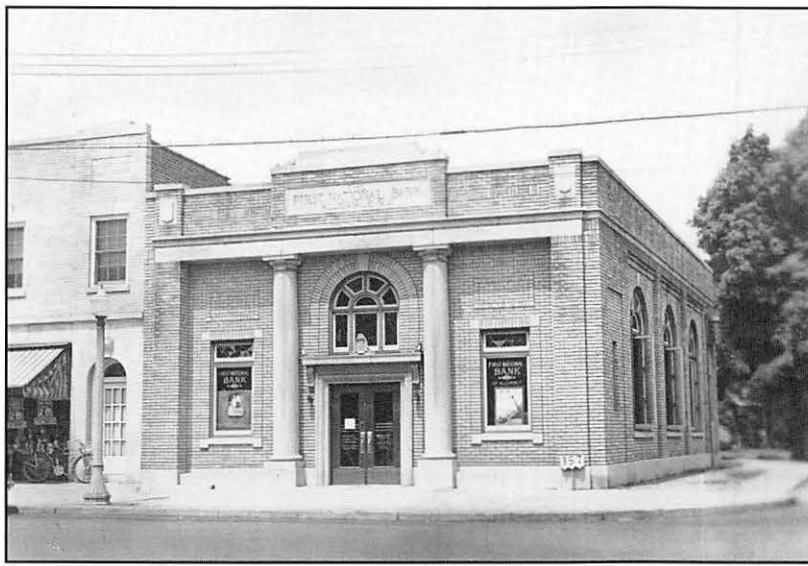
*For more than 50 years this building on West Allendale Avenue was the home of the Allendale Sweet Shop. The store is shown here in a 1940 photograph, before the Pittis block of stores to its west was built. At the time this photo was taken, S. J. Ross, M.D. had an office upstairs.*





Above, *Thurston's Allendale Sales and Service (then an Esso gas station) on Franklin Turnpike, in 1940.*

Below, *the First National Bank of Allendale, in 1940.*



Cullen, maintained an office in her rented homes in Allendale before building a home at 194 West Allendale Avenue in the early 1940s. She graduated from Phillips Business College and had ten years of business training with Robert Heath, who was at one time Bergen County Sheriff. Her husband, Frank Cullen, maintained his Cullen's Green Thumb Nursery in a greenhouse built in the rear of their West Allendale Avenue home.

The Allendale Cleaners & Tailors, at 79 West Allendale Avenue was in business by March 1938 next to the A & P. The shop was run by Hymen Rubin (who was still its proprietor, at the same location, in 1967 and probably later).

By 1938 the Ina Claire Beauty Salon was in busi-

ness at 83 West Allendale Avenue. In November that year the shop advertised a special: "Trim, Shampoo and Fingerwave, \$1."<sup>28</sup>

Sometime during the 1930s, Robert J. Curley, at 477 Hillside Avenue, Allendale, was editing *The Argus*, a newspaper which had been established in 1924 by Allen Kistler. In December 1932 the paper's address was 587 Brookside Avenue and its editor and publisher was G. Albert Hill with Mary Osborn Hill as associate editor. By 1938, the newspaper was being edited and published each Thursday by George Albert Hill of Dale Avenue. *The Argus* was later taken over by the Ridgewood News Publishing Company.

By the late 1930s, Henry N. Thurston's sons, Fred Thurston and Lewis E. Thurston, were helping him manage the Allendale Sales and Service business on Franklin Turnpike and it acquired the name H. N. Thurston & Sons. In 1939 a two-story stone addition was constructed on the existing building. The garage in those years was an Esso gasoline station, and the Thurstons continued to do business as car (Chrysler-Plymouth since 1929 or earlier) and farm equipment dealers.<sup>29, 30</sup>

Valentine J. Braun, who had owned the Allendale Hotel since 1905, died in June 1931. His wife Lucy continued the hotel and bar. About 1935, Michael Connelly, his wife Maude (known affectionately by all as "Mom" Connelly), and their five daughters came to Allendale from Passaic to manage the hotel. Connelly operated the Allendale Hotel until his death in April

1938, when his wife took over the management of the business.<sup>31</sup>

The First National Bank of Allendale had opened for business on December 19, 1925. The building was described in the brochure published by the bank as a fireproof structure of face brick with limestone trimming, 35 feet wide and 55 feet long, with a 20-foot ceiling. The York Safe and Lock Company vault had an inside measurement of 7'4" high by 8' wide by 12' deep. The vault's floor area was 96 square feet and its capacity was 710 cubic feet. The walls, floor, and ceiling of the vault were constructed of heavy concrete and were further safeguarded by an electric protection device with a burglar alarm. Various other security devices were installed, including grilles, bolts

and locks, and a “duplex electric vault alarm and daylight protective system” to guard against hold-ups.

Despite all of this, on April 7, 1938, at 2:16 p.m., four unmasked men with revolvers and submachine guns robbed the First National Bank of Allendale of \$10,511.77 in cash. The thieves forced Cashier Edward Hamilton, other bank employees and bank customers, at gunpoint, to lie down on the floor while they cleaned out cash drawers and the vault. The bank employees, Cashier Hamilton, Blanche Shoudy, David W. Frazer, Alwyn Grossman, and Franklin Trinkner, as well as two customers, Mrs. Harry Osias and Julian J. Monte, were locked in the vault. The thieves then joined a fifth man parked outside in front of Winter Brothers store, and made their getaway in a black 1938 Oldsmobile with a New York license plate.

Inside the vault of the bank, the captives managed to trigger an alarm and release themselves from the vault. They walked out into the empty bank just as a surprised J. Morton Southwick, the bank janitor, walked in the front door. The bank alarm caught the attention of Henry Kahse, an Allendale Water Department employee who happened to be across the street at the office of water collector W. G. Z. Critchley. He telephoned the Allendale police and officers Jack Forshay and James Webb rushed to the scene.

Later that day four F.B.I. men from the Newark office arrived on the scene to join the local police in the investigation of the crime. The leader of the bandit gang was identified by witnesses of the holdup as an ex-convict recently released from Trenton State Prison.<sup>32, 33, 34</sup>

Howard Uhlinger, a clerk in Winter Brothers store, next door just west of the bank, was questioned by authorities about hearing a gun fired during the holdup. Yes, he had heard a bang, he said, but at the time he thought it was just another can exploding in the store. (Sometimes, when restocking shelves, older cans of food got pushed to the rear of the shelves and would, as they aged, explode from time to time.)

In 1939 C. R. Van Dine opened the Allendale Auto Parts Co. on Franklin Turnpike across from Archer Hall.

Jean Cullen and Connie Connelly opened their gift store, The Gay Shop (named, Jean says, “in a more innocent era,” when the word had not yet assumed today’s connotations) on West Allendale Avenue about spring of 1945. The first store they were in was located about where the Super Cellars



*The Gay Shop's first prize Christmas window display, 1946.*

Liquor Store is today. The business was later moved to a storefront building on West Allendale Avenue across from the Allendale Hotel. Jean, now Mrs. George Stein, remembers that store well, because it had no heat. She also remembers the kindness of other storeowners to a struggling beginner. “Walter Temperlyn,” she says, “always sold boxed Christmas cards. But the year I opened, he didn’t sell any boxed Christmas cards — just so I could get a start selling them. He also sent his wife in to the store and she bought the most expensive item I carried.” About a year after the store opened, Jean bought out her partner and continued the business herself.

Other businesses in operation in Allendale during this era were the National Grocery Store on West Allendale Avenue (by 1933), the Nutshell Antique Shop (on Franklin Turnpike by 1935), Sunny Rest Convalescent Home at 816 West Crescent Avenue (run by Rose Zella Burnett by 1940), the B & L Grand Store, the Marcus Five & Ten Cent Store (by 1945), and Kaplan’s Department Store (by 1938).

Tradespeople active in Allendale between 1931 and 1945 included George Price (Allendale News Service, offering home delivery of newspapers, by 1932), Kenneth Mowerson’s milk delivery business (started in 1931), and George Bates (taxi service, by 1932).

As late as 1945 a few small produce farms still thrived in Allendale along with a few dairy farms. One dairy was the Brookview Dairy owned by Jan C. Galencamp on Forest Road, which had 13 Geurnsey, Jersey, or Holstein cows. The dairy served 50 families in Allendale and 100 in Hohokus Township (Mahwah). It was started in 1937. Also in operation from about 1916 until about 1950 was the Woodlawn Dairy Farm run by Fred Rogers on Boroline Road.<sup>35</sup>

Physicians in Allendale between 1930 and 1945 included Dr. William Fielding (who was in Allendale in the 1920s and lived on Park Avenue by 1931), Dr. Selig J. Ross (who about 1937 opened an office upstairs from the Allendale Sweet Shoppe at 72 West Allendale Avenue), and Dr. F. R. Kanning (who opened his Allendale practice in early 1934, first in a Melchionna apartment on West Allendale Avenue and later above Winter Brothers Store.) Dr. Kanning was the Allendale School Physician for 50 years, from 1936 to 1986.

Dentists included Dr. Harry M. Lampa (whose office was in his home at 54 Homewood Avenue) and Dr. Bernard N. Zeilengold, who opened a dental practice at 81 West Allendale Avenue in November 1938.

## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Allendale Boy Scout Troop 59 continued during this period under the following scoutmasters: George R. Price (1930-1931), Frederick L. Savage (1931-1932), Harry M. Lampa (1932-1933), George R. Price (1933-1934), Elwood T. Critchley (1934-1936), Arthur B. Albert (1936-1941), and William B. Buhlman (1941-1946). Buhlman had been, as a boy in 1917, a charter member of the troop, and would continue to serve as scoutmaster for many years. He was honored in 1959 by the scout council, when he was presented with scouting's highest honor, the Silver Beaver Award. Frederick Savage, by 1938 was called "the daddy of scouting" in

Allendale. He organized and was the leader of the Pioneers of the Open Road, which included boys too young to be eligible to join the Boy Scouts. He was familiarly known to the boys down through the years as "Uncle Fred."

Other scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters during this period included John J. Kelly, Victor McLean, Edward Strangfeld, Edward Hamilton and David Berdan. Boy Scout Committee members included J. Berkeley Hunter, William Early, Dr. Harry M. Lampa, G. Albert Hill, F. Farrell, Burtis W. Griffiths, Dr. Frederick R. Kanning, and John G. Hubbard.

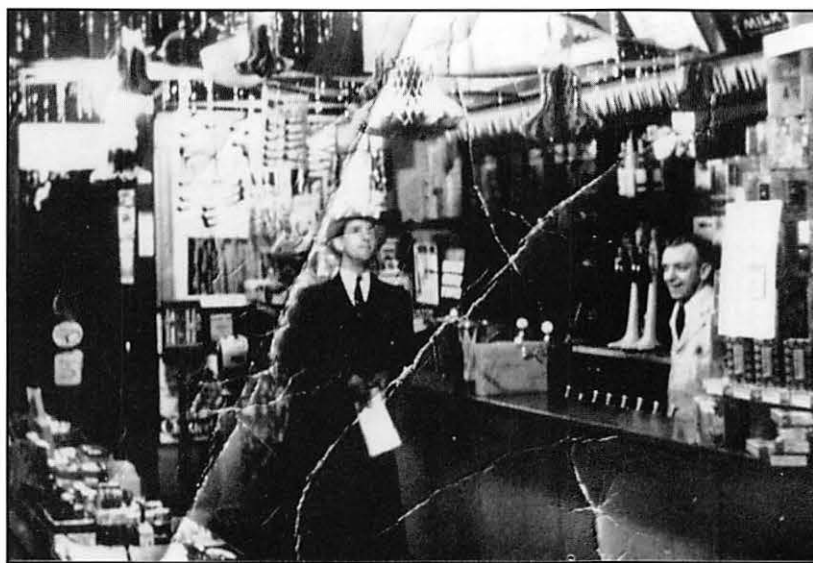
Cubmasters between 1930 and 1945 were Fred Hasenbalg, Harold Brown, and Harvey Beswick. Cub Scout chairmen included Charles Williams. Among Cub Scout Den Mothers were Mrs. C. A. Boissevain, Mrs. Anita Heuser, Mrs. Harvey Beswick, Mrs. Charles Hennessey, Mrs. B. Weideman, Mrs. Fred Hasenbalg, and Barbara Tiedeman.<sup>36</sup>

Boy Scout activities included hiking (to the Ramapo hills, Bear Mountain in Palisades Interstate Park, Beaver Pond, and Jackie Jones Tower), camping, and excursions, such as one to West Point to see a football game. Scouts also held rallies with competitions at which skills such as knot-tying, firemaking, and the use of Morse code and signal semaphore code were exhibited. In December 1937, Allendale Boy Scout Troop 59 was honored to have as its guest at its annual father-son dinner at Archer Hall, 88-year-old Daniel C. Beard of Suffern, NY,

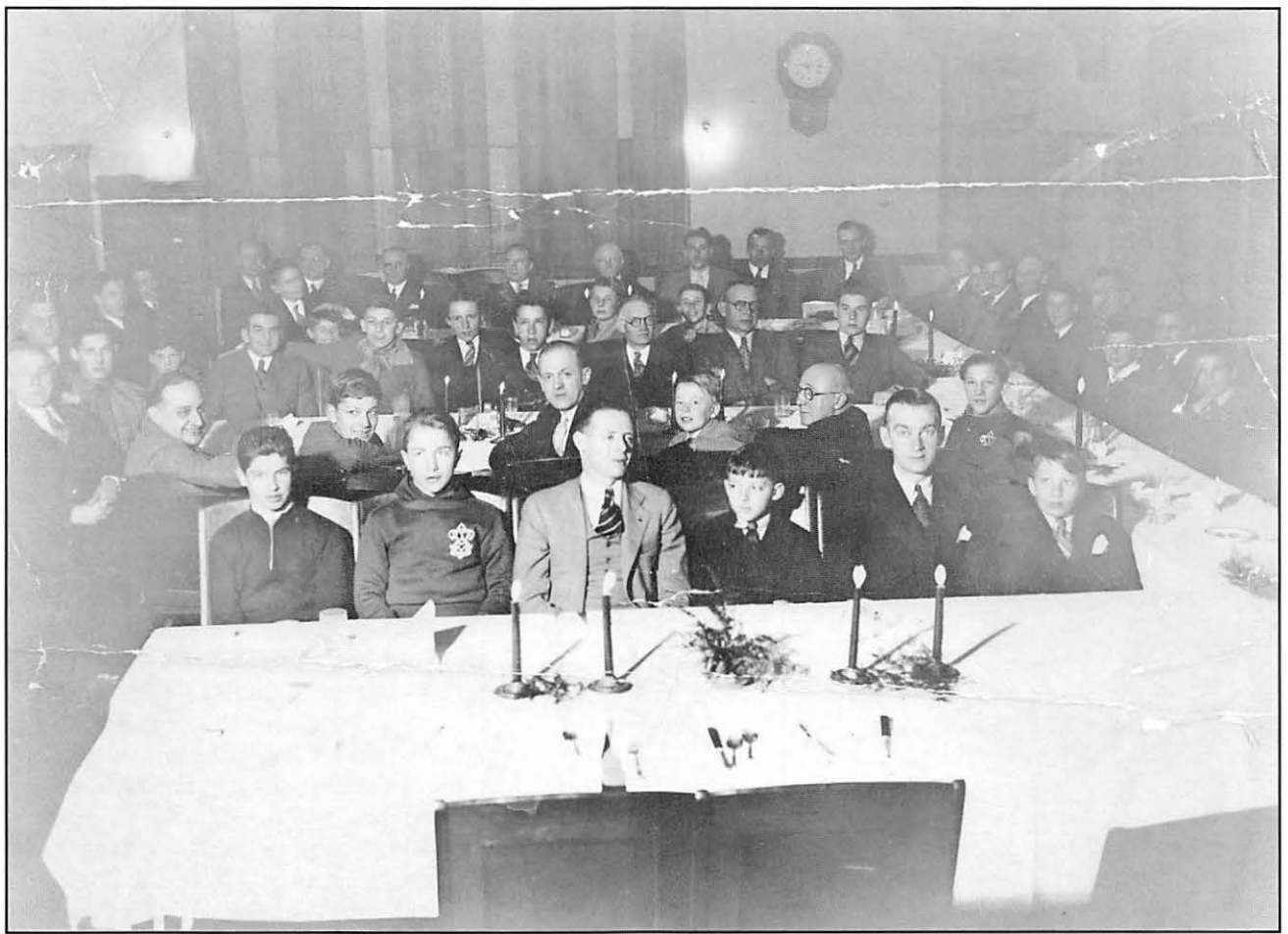


*Above, F. M. Grossmann's Taxi Service on West Allendale Avenue, across from the Allendale Hotel, in 1940.*

*Below, interior of Temperlyn's Drug Store with George Price behind the counter.*







*Boy Scout Annual Banquet, in the Parish House of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany February 6, 1934. Front row, left to right: William Lightbody, Edward Berger, Carl Wehner, Robert Wehner, Archie Farrell, and Norman Farrell. Second row: George Albert, Robert Phair, Sr., William Phair, George Wehner, Lawrence Kroll, unidentified man, and Wink Booth. Third row, Arthur Albert, unidentified person, Manley Ackerman, Carl Voorhis, David Berdan, and four unidentified people. Fourth row: Unidentified person, Parnell Thomas, Stiles Thomas, Christopher Smith, and Joseph (Luzzy) Cappel. Fifth row: Martin Doehling, unidentified person, Rev. Von Glahn, J. Parnell Thomas, Frank Berdan, Sr., unidentified person, Dr. Harry Lampa, George Price, and an unidentified person. On the right side, left to right: Robert Phair, Jr., unidentified person, Frank Berdan, Jr., James E. Webb, John D. Webb, Edward Hamilton, Edward Hamilton, Jr., Pasko Job, Benjamin Job, Cyril Job?.*

National Scout Commissioner.

In 1938 the Archer Memorial Methodist Church took on the sponsorship of Troup 59. In 1940, under the leadership of Scoutmaster Arthur Albert, the scouts of Troup 59 camped for a week at the New York World's Fair as a part of the composite Boy Scout Troup and later that year attended ceremonies at the Fair in observance of the ninetieth birthday of National Scout Commissioner Daniel Beard.

The Allendale Garden Club continued to hold flower shows and exhibits and to offer potted plants for sale each spring. They also landscaped various public areas of Allendale, including the gardens at the railroad station, the plantings at the Allendale Library, and the early Municipal Building, paying for

materials and providing plants and labor. Club member George Etesse drew up the original plans for the landscaping of the area around the train station. The club also provided shade trees, planted annually in the town.

Among those active in the Allendale Garden Club between 1931 and 1945 were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bellows, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Berdan, John W. Doty, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Doty, George Etesse, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Flanagan, Mr. and Mrs. John Gasko, Mrs. Edward Jones, Louis R. Jones, Miss Helen King, Mrs. Gabriele Middernacht, Mrs. A. H. Northrup, Mr. and Mrs. Michel Pasquier, Mrs. Samuel Pritchett, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Quackenbush, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Roberts, Miss Maytie Rowland, Edward W. Russell, Mr. and

Mrs. Samuel E. Staines, Mrs. Charles Russell Sweet, and Mrs. Robert Wilson.

In 1930 four Allendale Garden Club members entered the American Gladiola Society show with an exhibit containing 1,500 spikes, in competition with the displays of commercial growers. Mrs. Frank Berdan, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Doty, and John Doty earned blue and silver medals for their winning exhibit.

An Allendale Girl Scout troop was organized in 1932 under the leadership of Louise Megnin. The organizing Girl Scout committee included Mrs. H. Webster, Mrs. Frank Berdan, Mrs. Ernest Craze, Mrs. George T. Winne, and Mrs. William Lightbody. Among the first patrol leaders and assistants for the troop were Rose Dugan, Hazel Lightbody, Hazel Rudolph, Esther Yachnin, May Strangfeld, Marjorie Anderson, Viola Rossner, Jean Megnin, Julia Spiegelberger, and Helen LeBarron. Scouts included, in addition to the

patrol leaders and assistants, Margaret Finley, Thelma Pinckney, Natalie Storms, Peggy Geismar, and Shirley White.<sup>37</sup>

Other Allendale Girl Scout leaders, captains, and committee members in this era included Mrs. Raymond P. Arlt, Mrs. Albert L. Capstaff, Mrs. F. A. Farrell, Mrs. Herbert W. Flandreau, Mrs. Charles M. Gaston, Mrs. William Hanson, Mrs. Ray V. Jones, Mrs. Louis Kort, Mrs. Robert A. Phair, Mayrose Schmidheini, Mrs. Fred Thurston, and Mrs. Charles Williams. Among the activities of the girl scouts was the annual mother-daughter banquet at which badges were awarded. In May 1938 the banquet was held in the Parish House of the Church of the Epiphany.

The local unit of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) held meetings at members' homes and at Archer Hall. Among Allendale members were Mrs. John Ackerman, Mrs. Blanche Chapman, Mrs. Ernest Craze, Mrs. Katherine Greer, Mrs. Alfred W. Hillman, Mrs. Charles Hone, Mrs. James Hubbard, Mrs. M. Hutches, Mrs. Robert Nimmo, Mrs. Maude G. Pittis, Miss Gussie Pownall, Mrs. John W. Rudolph, Mrs. J. J. Storms (a long-time president of the Allendale unit), and Mrs. George Winne.

For many years in the early part of this century, and into the 1920s, holiday celebrations in Allendale had been organized by groups of private individuals, sometimes soliciting funds from the general population, and usually putting on celebrations and events that were open to the Allendale public. Beginning about 1923 a more formalized group was appointed by the Allendale Mayor and Council, and given the responsibility of planning a 4th of July celebration for the entire community. The Mayor and Council continued for some years to appoint members to this group, which by 1926 was known by the name "The Holiday Observers."

In 1932 The Holiday Observers were Willard Alling, Caspar J. Korndorfer, W. G. Z. Critchley, John G. Hubbard, Fred C. Cotta, Harry Doolittle, Russell Mallinson, Herbert Flandreau, William Kastenhuber, Clifford C. West, L. Berkeley Hunter, Dr. Harry M. Lampa, and Frederick Weise.

Later members of the group during this era included Frank Berdan, Charles Bijou, Harry L. Bogardus,



*Above, Park Avenue railroad crossing in 1937. The view is looking southeast from the tower of the old Fire House.*

*Below, the Park Avenue railroad crossing in 1937. The view is looking southwest from about the front of the Allendale Spa.*



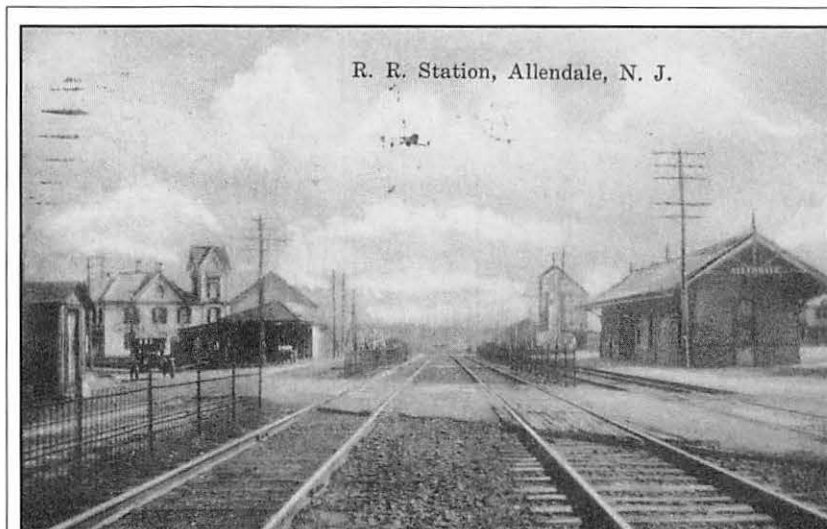
Kenneth Booth, R. Bradley, Harold Brown, Lyman Ceely, Elwood Critchley, Norman Critchley, Sylvester Collyer, Cyril Dargue, Paul Dodge, J. P. Doehling, Howard Elschner, Archie Farrell, George T. Forster, Frank Davis, Frank A. Farrell, Sydney J. Geismar, Gordon Graham, Burtis W. Griffiths, Ralph Grossmann, Joseph Hampson, William B. Hanson, Harold Heidrich, Charles Hennessey, Malachi E. Higgins, Al Hill, Roger Hobbis, Henry Kahse, James Kievit, S. Lawrence, Jack Mander, Louis Marcus, John McAndrew, L. R. McPeek, Arthur Morgan, Edward Morgan, Paul O'Connor, Norwood Potter, J. Frank Roualt, Victor Scafuro, John B. Schockert, David Shannon, William Spiegelberger, Charles Russell Sweet, Howard Swing, Gilbert Turner, Robert Turner, R. L. Unser, Edgar Varick, Charles R. Vollaro, William Wallace III, Robert Wasmer, Charles Webb, Carl T. Wehner and George Wehner, Jr.

In 1935 Edgar F. Varick and Burtis W. Griffiths drafted a proposed constitution and by-laws for the Holiday Observers. These were submitted for approval to the Allendale Mayor and Council in September of that year.

Shirley White Cross remembered that in the 1930s every Fourth of July after the fireworks there was a block dance in the middle of the business section, where the town clock now stands.

The July 4, 1940 celebration planned and sponsored by the Holiday Observers at Allendale's Recreation Park was typical of the yearly Independence Day events planned by the organization. The day included a county-wide drum and bugle corps competition, co-sponsored by the American Legion Post 204, with the competition directed by Harvie A. Davis. Also planned were morning games, races, and athletic events (including a horse shoe pitching exhibition by former New Jersey state champion Joe Pugliese of Paterson), a baseball game between Allendale and the Englewood Leos, and a fireworks display in the evening. Other Independence Day celebrations during the period from 1931 to 1945 included a block dance with music provided by a ten-piece orchestra, horse trick riding and roping demonstrations (in 1938), aerial acrobatics by the Nelson Air Service (in 1933), and a motorcade and motor show, with autos, motorboats, airplanes, tractors, and motorcycles on display (in 1939).

Among other events sponsored by the Holiday Observers were annual Halloween parties (begun in 1936) at the Fire House and later at the Brookside



*Above, the West Allendale Avenue railroad crossing and the Allendale Train Station, looking south along the railroad tracks, about 1918.*

School, the lighting of the Allendale Borough Christmas Tree, and an annual community Christmas party at the Allendale school. On February 22, 1932, in observance of the George Washington Bicentennial Celebration, the Observers sponsored a pageant on the life of Washington.<sup>38</sup>

The Allendale Auxiliary of the Hackensack Hospital met in the mid-1930s in the Fire House/Borough Hall. In May 1933 members of the group made about 30 dozen hospital dressings under the direction of their president, Nellie Archer. Members of the group in the 1930s included Mrs. Henry C. Anthony, Mrs. David M. Colburn, Mrs. O. E. Esval, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Fisher, Miss Edith Fitzgerald, Mrs. Walter Frere, Mrs. Frederick B. Gordon, Mrs. Fred Hoerschgen, Mrs. Frederick R. Kanning, Mrs. C. J. Korndorfer, Miss Sadie Mallinson, Mrs. John Mowerson, Mrs. George Nimmo, Mrs. Alfred W. Roberts, Mrs. Charles Smith, Mrs. J. J. Storms, Mrs. Joseph Vernon, and Mrs. James E. Webb.<sup>39</sup>

Both Republican and Democratic Clubs were active in Allendale. By May 1937 the Tri-Borough Democratic Club covered Allendale, Saddle River, and Upper Saddle River.

The Allendale Woman's Club continued to support the Allendale Library, and sponsored other activities including an annual outdoor Christmas decorating contest.

Members of the Allendale Woman's Club between 1930 and 1945 included Mrs. Henry C. Anthony, Mrs. Elizabeth Berdan, Mrs. Florence Bohr, Mrs. E. Kenneth Burger, Mrs. Rose Burnett, Mrs. David Colburn, Mrs. William G. Z. Critchley, Mrs. William Cunningham, Mrs. Percy S. Doty, Mrs. Talbot B. Dunn, Mrs. F. A. Farrell, Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, Mrs.





*Central Garage on Myrtle Avenue, then an Esso gasoline station, in 1940.*

Stanley P. Fisher, Mrs. William Forbes, Mrs. Hadley C. Ford, Mrs. George Forster, Mrs. Frederick Frambach, Mrs. Walter Frere, Mrs. Charles M. Gaston, Mrs. B. Perry Hamilton, Mrs. A. W. Hewitt, Miss Grace Hover, Mrs. J. Berkeley Hunter, Mrs. James W. Jackson, Mrs. William J. Kastenbuber, Mrs. Robert Kindred, Mrs. C. J. Korndorfer, Mrs. William Lightbody, Mrs. Michael Mantell, Mrs. Maude Grey Pittis, Mrs. George Price, Mrs. William Savoye, Mrs. William Schneider, Mrs. H. K. Schoenheiter, Mrs. Harold Scott, Mrs. James Secor, Mrs. I. Smith, Mrs. William Spiegelberger, Mrs. Clarence Springstead, Mrs. Eugene Staegemann, Mrs. William Tackaberry, Mrs. W. C. Talman, Mrs. J. A. Tienken, Mrs. S. T. Van Houten, Sr., Mrs. F. A. Van Sickle, Miss Katherine Wenzel, Mrs. C. M. Williams, Mrs. Frank Winters, and Mrs. A. L. Zabriskie.

On May 11, 1933 a meeting to organize a Junior Woman's Club of Allendale was held at the home of Mrs. Clarence E. Springstead of Hillside Avenue. In May another meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Mowerson, and the following officers of the club were elected: Mrs. Norman Critchley, president; Miss Grace Moelhausen, vice-president; Mrs. David W. Frazer, recording secretary; Mrs. James Secor, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. John H. Knack, treasurer. Mrs. Clarence S. Springstead was appointed chairman of a committee to draw up a constitution and by-laws. Other chairmen appointed were Mrs. George Christopher, hospitality, and Mrs. G. Albert, publicity. Others present at the organizational meeting were Mrs. Hunter, Miss Edith Growsick, Mrs. Evelyn Simpson, Mrs. H. Hitlin, Miss Violet Winters, and Mrs. Daniel Hartnett, all of Allendale; Mrs. Burritt Lawlin of Wyckoff; Mrs. Edward Brower, of Saddle River; and Miss Ruth Schuellein, of Ridgewood.<sup>40, 41</sup>

Additional members of the Junior Woman's Club during this era included Mrs. Marvin Aiken, Mrs. Werner Baarck, Mrs. Margaret Bates, Mrs. Elmer Bush, Mrs. Albert Capstaff, Miss Shirley Chapman, Mrs. Olin Christopher, Mrs. Elwood Critchley, Mrs. David Colburn, Mrs. Cyril Dargue, Mrs. Perry Dexter, Mrs. Thomas Eagleson, Mrs. Howard Elschner, Mrs. John Gasko, Mrs. Edward Gass, Mrs. Edwin Grosman, Mrs. Joseph Hampson, Mrs. William B. Hanson, Miss Dorothy Hicks, Mrs. G. Albert Hill, Mrs. Earl Israel, Mrs. Russell Johnson, Mrs. Ray V. Jones, Mrs. John H. Knack, Miss Grace Moelhausen, Mrs. Ralph Moore, Mrs. Harold Osborne, Mrs. Harry Osias, Mrs. George Price, Mrs. Selig J. Ross, Mrs. Walter Rumsey, Mrs.

Anthony Scafuro, Miss Louise Schockert, Mrs. A. Sohne, Mrs. Bert Strong, Jr., Mrs. Fred Thurston, Mrs. Evelyn Varick, Mrs. Wilbur Vanderbeek, Mrs. George Wehner, Jr., Miss Shirley White, Mrs. Robert Wilson, and Miss Violet Winters.

A group of Allendale Camp Fire Girls existed by 1934, when the leader was Mrs. Helen B. Christian. Members included Doris Albert, Doris Rudolph, Albertina Christian, Aileen Carpenter, Dorothy DeGraw, and Beulah Ten Eyck (of Waldwick).

In 1932 the American Legion Post 204's rifle team, captained by John Hubbard and Arthur Reyner, took second place in national competition. The team took the state and county championships in the years 1931-1933. The American Legion Post 204 Rifle and Pistol Club officers in 1934 were John G. Hubbard, John P. Doehling, George Price, Douglas Campbell Brown, and Lyman Ceely.<sup>42</sup>

In 1936 the recently-organized Rod & Gun Club (organized in 1934) elected John B. Schockert president; Arthur A. Reyner, vice-president; Harold E. Heidrick, secretary; John L. Winters, treasurer; and Henry Forshay, sergeant at arms. The club had members from four counties and its membership grew from 41 to 877. Other local members included John O. Forshay, Herbert Winters, and Norwood C. Potter. In 1936 the club erected two bird shelters in Allendale, one on the East Crescent Avenue farm of Kurt Getzlaff and one on the Blackmore property on Hillside Avenue. In 1937 the club offered a \$2 bounty for every red or grey fox killed within the club's territory.

A girls' club, called the Allendale Jinx Club, was planning a dance in March 1937. Its members included Thelma Pinckney, Doris Winters, Katherine Dillon, Natalie Storms, May Strangfeld, Helen Stange, Peggy

Geismar, Freda Buchi, Madeline Tobler, Dorothy Hicks, Gertrude Mackerley, and Shirley White. In April 1938 the club's annual dance, "Maytime Swing Dance" was held at the Allendale Fire House. Music was provided by a 10-piece band called the "Totowegians" (Allendale resident Fred Hasenbalg played in this band).<sup>43</sup>

In 1939-40, the members of American Legion Post 204 converted the old schoolhouse building on Franklin Turnpike into a Legion Community House. The building had not been used for school purposes since 1929, when Brookside School was opened. During the 1930s, the building had been used as a Borough Hall, but economic measures had caused Mayor Louis A. Keidel and his Borough Council to move their meetings to the Fire House in February 1939. At that time, it had been announced that the building would remain open for meetings of other groups, but that each organization using it would have to furnish its own heat, light, and janitor service.

The building was dedicated as the Legion Community House in June 1940. By that year, an Auxiliary to the American Legion Post 204 had been formed. Mrs. Dorothy Winters served as its president for a number of years. Many social events were held in the building in its days as a Legion Community House, including dances, wedding receptions, and all-night turkey dinners held every new year's eve.<sup>44</sup>

Among its accomplishments during the years from 1931 to 1945, the Post arranged parades and held memorial services for Allendale soldiers at Memorial Park on Memorial Day each year, gave annual citizenship awards at Brookside School graduations, made contributions toward the Bergen Pines pool fund and other worthy causes, and sent gift boxes to soldiers in VA hospitals. During World War II, Commander Ernest Arlt proposed sending playing cards to the soldiers overseas. This idea was approved by the state and national legion organizations, and by the time the war ended, 2,781,000 decks of cards had been sent overseas, and the project received high praise from the military.

Among others active in the American Legion Post 204 during this era were Grant Alston, Harold Bayles, Kenneth Booth, John Borger, Sherwood Butscher (of Upper Saddle River), Lyman Ceely, Dennis Clifford, John Fox, Edward Hamilton, John G. Hubbard, Jacob Kaplan, Charles Koman (of Ramsey), Arthur Levy, Russell Mallinson, John J. McNally, E. E. Megnin, Paul D. O'Connor, Jr., William J. Tackaberry,

Charles Vollaro, Carl T. Wehner, Frederick Weise, and William L. Winters.

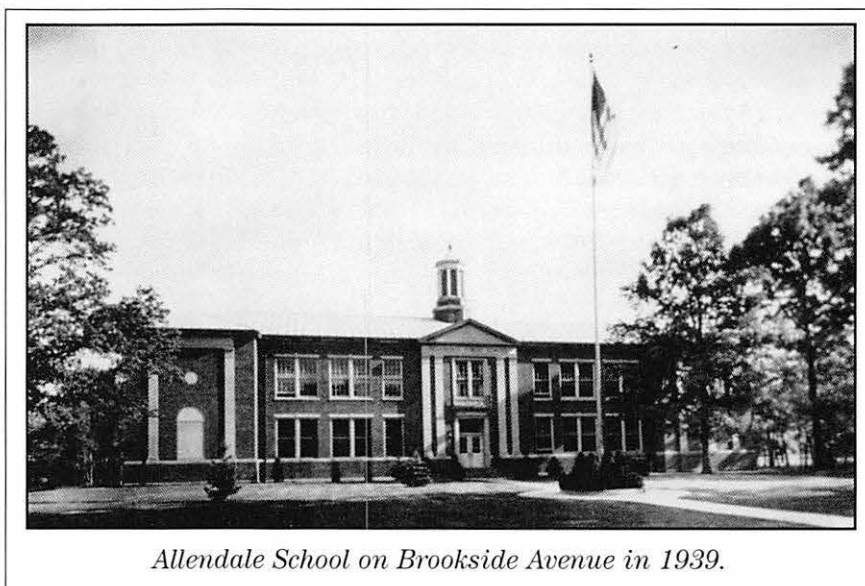
Those women active in the Allendale American Legion Post 204 Auxiliary during this period included Mrs. J. H. Ackerman, Mrs. Grant Alston, Mrs. Henry C. Anthony, Mrs. Ernest W. Arlt, Mrs. Harold Bayles, Mrs. Sherwood Butscher, Mrs. Dennis Clifford, Mrs. H. W. Flandreau, Mrs. Charles Gaston, Mrs. Burtis Griffiths, Mrs. John G. Hubbard, Mrs. Charles Ivers (later Mrs. Garret Tallman), Mrs. Jacob Kaplan, Mrs. F. Kent, Mrs. Arthur Levy, Mrs. Russell Mallinson, Mrs. Arthur Mohan, Mrs. Christian Otto, Mrs. Oscar Peinecke, Mrs. John Phillips, Mrs. Arthur Reyner, Mrs. Lester Richardson, Mrs. Albert Sheridan, Mrs. Mary Spicher, Mrs. William Tackaberry, Mrs. Mary Voorhis, Mrs. Carl Wehner, and Mrs. William Winter.

Because of the war and in the interests of national defense, the Allendale Holiday Observers decided at its reorganization meeting at the Fire House in January 1941 to abandon its fireworks display, traditionally a part of the Fourth of July celebration. President Charles Vollaro promised, however, that this would not affect the rest of the planned program.<sup>45</sup>

### ALLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Among those serving on the Allendale Board of Education between 1930 and 1945 were George Albert, Mrs. David Colburn, Mrs. Harry Doolittle, Mrs. B. Perry Hamilton, Harry I. Hand, Mrs. Elias W. Hoppen, Martha Hubbard, Miss Mary Hubbard, Gil C. Job, Ray V. Jones, Edward R. Kent, Dr. Harry M. Lampa, and Alfred Roberts.

Willard Alling and Paul D. O'Connor were principals of the school during these years. Teachers included Miss Helyn W. Anthony (later Mrs. C. Kern



*Allendale School on Brookside Avenue in 1939.*



*Allendale School graduating class, 1931. Front row, left to right: Adele Woolley, Catherine Novakowski, Ethel Cappel, Willard Alling (Principal), Gertrude Robinson (teacher), Mayrose Schmidheini, Dancy Pritchett, and Virginia Van Horn. Second row from front: William Hunter, Lois Carpenter, Betty Horack, Norma Dillon, Dorothy Sneden, Marie Quackenbush, Betty Appert, and Willis Dunkel. Third row: Frank Berdan, Robert Owen, Fred Price, Bernard Ichla, Samuel Alsdorf, James Forshay, Stuart Billhardt, and Ted Blackmore. Top row, in back: Robert Trinks, Robert Dillon, and Robert West. The class graduated in the school auditorium on June 11, 1931.*

Meyer), Mrs. Harriet Austin, Mrs. Evangeline Craze, Miss Dorothy Gust, Miss Marian B. Hasbrouck, Miss Laura E. Hastings, Mrs. Willetta R. LaRoe, Kenneth MacRae, Mrs. Mildred C. Maloney, Miss Mary G. Miller (later Mrs. Mary Smithey), Miss Inez Norman, Mrs. Grace A. Peinecke, Miss Gertrude Robinson (later Mrs. Gertrude R. Etesse), Miss Eleanor P. Scannell, Louise Swartz (later Mrs. Banta), and Miss Martha A. Veyner (later Mrs. Russell Ackerman and still later Mrs. Sydney Geismar).

During the Depression years, a kitchen and lunchroom area was set up in a room near the gymnasium and hot lunches were served to students. When this makeshift room became too small for the numbers of students who began to stay for lunch, tables and

benches were set up in the gymnasium, which was used as a lunchroom between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day until 1957 when a new cafeteria was built.

In November 1934, the PTA, which had been started in 1930, disbanded because of the lack of interest shown by Allendale parents, due, it was thought, to the difficult times caused by the depression. Among the parents who had been active in the Parent Teacher Association were Mrs. E. R. Kent, Mrs. Louise Banta, Mrs. Eugene Staegemann, Mrs. Edward Hamilton, Mrs. Frank Berdan, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Fisher.

The Parent Teacher Association was reorganized in November 1937. Among the 85 people involved at this reorganization meeting were those elected offi-



cers: Mrs. Abram Harris, Mrs. T. Roger Hobbis, Mrs. Edmond Etesse, Mrs. Stanley Fisher, Mrs. William Forbes, and Clarence Springstead. Others, serving as chairpeople, were Mrs. B. Perry Hamilton, Mrs. D. M. Colburn, Mrs. O. E. Esval, Mrs. Carl Wehner, Russell Sweet, and Mrs. William Lightbody.<sup>46</sup>

By the late 1930s, the Allendale Public School was publishing a student magazine, "Brookside Ripples."

In October 1935 a project to remodel and equip a room at the School for the domestic sciences, was approved by the Works Progress Administration, which was to provide more than two thirds of the money needed to create the room.

American Legion Post 204 organized a junior

patrol system at the Allendale Public School in 1940.

On November 26, 1941, with Representative J. Parnell Thomas as a guest speaker, three commemorative plaques were unveiled at the Allendale School. The plaques honored Willard Alling, principal of the school from 1907 until his death in 1940; Harry I. Hand, long-time member of the Board of Education, and president at the time of his death; and school custodian Christian Buhlman who served as janitor for many years prior to his death. Congressman Thomas had been a student at the school under Willard Alling, and at the time Hand and Buhlman were serving the school. Funds for the plaques had been raised by donations under a committee com-



*Allendale School graduating class, 1932. Front row, left to right: Norma Kemp, Natalie Storms, Catherine Janson, Margaret Finlay, unidentified girl, Willard Alling (Principal), Elizabeth Donahue, Marion Cappel, and Shirley White. Second row: Norma Drew, Betty Buchholtz, Dorothy DeGraw, Doris Winters, Grace Williams, May Strangfeld, and Gertrude Robinson Etesse (teacher). Third row: John Webb, Louis Caputi, Ray McKee, Carl Voorhis, Martin Doehling, John Carpenter, and Robert Lutz. Fourth row: Rudolph Scherb, unidentified boy, Norman McLeod, Ray Neufeld, Raymond West, and Vincent Kramer. Fifth row: Oaksman Smiley, Earle Bogardus, Clinton Rossner, and Augustus Sohne. The class graduated in the school auditorium on June 16, 1932. The photograph was taken by Schuyler Carteret Lee.*

posed of Mrs. S. T. Van Houten, Jr., Mrs. Stanley P. Fisher, and Principal Paul D. O'Connor.

### ENTERTAINMENT

The 1930s was the decade of the card party in Allendale. Card-playing groups had been informally organized and meeting in Allendale by the early 1900s, but never before had so many groups met so often to play cards. They played bridge, euchre, 500, and pinochle. Every week there were dozens of foursomes (and multiples of foursomes) meeting to play cards, sometimes just for a social pastime, and other times to raise funds for various causes sponsored by Allendale organizations. Some of the card players met regularly, including groups such as the Social Eight Bridge Club, the Saturday Night Bridge Club, the Allendale Bridge Club, the Just a Bridge Club, and the Crescent Bridge Club. Other card parties were single events sponsored as fundraisers; and still others were part of ongoing competitive tournaments.

1932 marked the bicentennial celebration of George Washington's birthday, and Allendale's various clubs and organizations presented a series of commemorative programs and events from February through Thanksgiving of that year. The Holiday Observers kicked off the celebrations by presenting, on Monday evening, February 22nd, at 8 p.m. in the Allendale Public School auditorium, a program including a pageant, in 12 episodes, on the life of George Washington.

On the pageant committee were Willard Alling,

Grace M. Gordon, Edward Higgins, John Wenzel, Maude Feldman, Irene Hunter, Harry I. Hand, Caroline Storms, and Harold Bayless. The minuet was coached by Lorraine Fisher, and costumes were by Fred J. Wüstl.

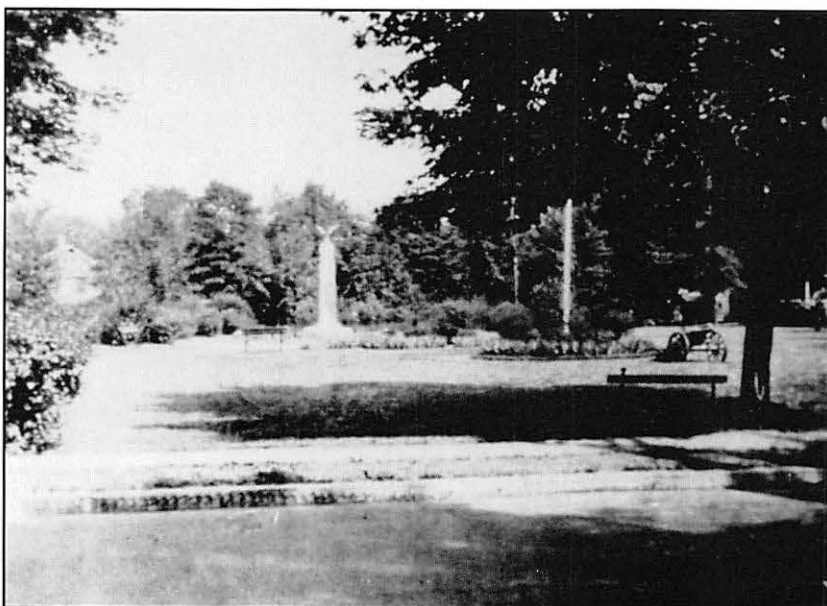
Appearing in the pageant were David M. Colburn, David Colburn, Jr., Stewart Billhardt, Martha Billhardt, John Doty, Elwood Critchley, Marion Simonson, Wilma Abbott, Patricia Peardon\*, William Anderson, Mary Higgins, J. Berkeley Hunter, Edith Rahmer, Hazel Lightbody, Dorothy Alling, Mrs. Frambach, Sadie Semlear, Katherine Quackenbush, Evelyn Simpson, Clifford C. West, Russell Mallinson, Beatrice Springstead, Harriet Higgins, Mildred Kraemer, Margery Mowerson, Elsi Rossner, Violet Winter, William Kastenhuber, Fred Weiss, Ethel Forshay, Laura Hubbard, Ethel Mallinson, Anne Geismar, Beth Lightbody, Henrietta Talman, Margery Forster, Edna Ackerman, Florence Forbes, Marguerite Farrell, Margery Griffiths, Tilda Linke, Jessie Whittaker, Edward Kent, Harold Bayless, John G. Hubbard, Charles Koman, J. M. Christopher, Billie Asten, Clara Flandreau, Herbert Flandreau, John Taylor, and Dr. C. H. Von Glahn.<sup>47</sup>

In July 1937, the Allendale A's Baseball Club sponsored a fund-raising carnival on the grounds of the Fire House. It was so successful that it was held over for two additional nights. It was estimated that an average of 200 people attended nightly.<sup>48</sup>

### PARKS AND RECREATION

By the fall of 1934, the old grandstand at Recreation Park, which had been built in 1915, was declared unsafe and was ordered torn down. In the spring of 1935 a new grandstand was constructed with money raised by public contributions and a donation from the Allendale Borough Council. Engineer Valentine Christian drew up the plans, and James Webb and Harry Pinckney supervised the construction. Costs jumped during the construction, and in March 1936

\* Patricia Peardon, the original Judy Graves of Broadway's "Junior Miss," was one of two former Allendale residents whose photographs appeared on the cover of Life magazine. The other was May Strangfeld, a World War II nurse. Another former Allendale resident whose picture often appeared in magazines and newspapers was Florence Pritchett, a model who dated future President John F. Kennedy about 1947.



*Memorial Park, 1929.*

Councilman William Spiegelberger, chairman of parks, and Elwood Critchley, representing the Allendale A's baseball club (Critchley was then its manager), appealed to the public for contributions to pay an outstanding debt of \$275.<sup>49</sup>

Other semi-pro baseball teams active here in the early 1930s were the Allendale Browns and the Allendale Blue Sox. The Allendale Blue Sox asked permission of the Mayor and Council to use the recreation park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. In 1934 Anthony Scafuro was manager of the Blue Sox. George Wilson was managing the Allendale Browns baseball team in 1932 and the team had new cream-colored uniforms trimmed with dark green, with a scroll letter "A" on the shirts. The uniforms were modeled after those worn by the Philadelphia Athletics.

Walter Herbert Hillman remembered semi-pro baseball in Allendale during the 1930s and 1940s. "There were two teams," he recalled, "the A's and the B's. One experience I remember — the A's put a well-known ball player on their team. He wasn't found out until he hit a homer over the score board. His name? Babe Ruth. On another weekend, in the stands was Two-Ton Tony Galento, his wife, and his boy, One-Ton. The Scafuro boys always tried to have a surprise for those at the games. Also, as players, the Caputi boys could always be counted on."

Babe Ruth visited friends in Allendale, among them, Dr. Harry Lampa, a dentist who lived on Homewood Avenue. Babe Ruth also enjoyed stopping in at the Allendale Hotel, where, when it was nearly time to close, he would go into the kitchen and cook.<sup>50</sup>

The Allendale A's were managed by George Wilson in 1933, and by Ellie Critchley in 1934. The Allendale Browns had Edgar Austin as their manager in 1930. The Blue Sox team manager in 1934 was Anthony P. Scafuro.

Louis Caputi remembered that at some time in the late 1930s or early 1940s the Allendale B's changed their name to the Allendale A's because the second-hand uniforms they bought happened to have A's on them. He remembered other local semipro teams of that time, including the Waldwick Outlaws and the Darlington Athletic Club.<sup>51</sup>

Players on the Allendale A's in 1936 included Joe Job, Bob Ibsen, Kenneth Sullivan, Harry Bogardus, Gil Job, Pep Dexter, Eddie Brinker, Ellie Critchley, Dick Steele, Norm Critchley, Bob Brinker, Jackie Slothus (N.J. state championship pitcher), Dick Ibsen, George McQuillan, Jucksy Miller and Hal Miller. The bat boy that year was Gene Caputi.

Some of the baseball clubs the Allendale A's played included the Wonder Bakers of Paterson, the New York Crusaders, Buck Wingo's Hoboken Club, the Jersey City Colored Athletics, Chuck Jamieson's

Red Sox, the Glen Rock Athletic Club, the Howard Beach Athletic Association (from Queens, NY), the Lincoln Stars of Closter, the Midland Park Hoffmans, and the Wyckoff Brookside (The Brookside Park Athletic Club).

By the mid-1930s, the Allendale Fire Department had a softball team that played at the baseball field at Allendale's Recreation Park. Players included Ralph Grossmann, Harold Osborne, Joe Caputi, John Knack, Henry Kahse, Kenneth Booth, Elwood Critchley, and Norman Critchley. Among the groups they played against were firemen and police teams from Campgaw, Waldwick, Suffern, NY, and Tallman, NY.

In the fall of 1934 a football team, the Allendale Rams, was active, with George Wilson as its manager. They played at the Allendale Recreation Park.

### TRANSPORTATION AND ROADS

In 1931 the long-awaited Hudson River bridge was completed, bringing more automotive traffic to North Jersey. An Act incorporating the North River Bridge Company had been approved in July 1890, but the Panic of 1893, litigation by landowners, railroad interests, and the Great War — World War I — all intervened and held up work on the proposed suspension bridge. The bridge was finally completed and was dedicated, as the George Washington Bridge, on October 24, 1931. The next day, on the first day it was open to general traffic — October 25 — 56,000 cars crossed the span. The bridge brought with it an increase in Bergen County land values, and inaugurated another building boom in the county in spite of the Depression.

During the early 1930s Route 2 (later called Route 17) was planned and was in use by the mid-1930s, from Route 4 to Ramsey, and later to the New York state line. Many Allendale men worked on building the road, and were paid fifty cents an hour. Route 2 was open to Ramsey by 1935.

There were many cars in use by 1931 in spite of economic hard times (humorist Will Rogers claimed that we would be "the first nation in the history of the world to go to the poor house in an automobile.") These days we tend to take for granted the safety features inherent in the design and manufacture of cars, but (not counting traffic accidents) cars were not always as safe as they are today. By the 1920s the Allendale Fire Department was often called out, within the borough and later also on Route 2, for vehicle fires caused by backfiring. Cars often burst into flames, some from short circuits in wiring, some from leaky gas lines, some from faulty ignitions, and some from other causes, and frequently such blazes totally destroyed the vehicle.

Many roads in Allendale during this period were



still unpaved. In 1933 residents of East Orchard Street complained about the assessed value of their homes claiming that “the street was only a dirt road and should not be assessed the same as improved streets.” In July 1937 eleven dirt streets in the borough were given a top dressing of a mixture of tar and oil. The streets treated were New Street, Oak Street, Cottage Place, Maple Street, Heights Road, Walnut Place, East Orchard Street, Elm Street, Station Plaza, Lake Street, and Chestnut Street.<sup>52</sup>

In 1938 and 1939, in connection with grade crossing elimination work which had been in the planning stages since the early 1930s, the roadbeds at the Erie Railroad crossings at West Crescent Avenue, West Orchard Street, and at West Allendale Avenue and Park Avenue (at the station) were closed, and two of them were altered before being reopened to traffic.

Until that time, the roads had crossed directly over the railroad tracks, resulting over the years in many accidents at these crossing points. In December 1932, for example, Leslie Rudolph and his passengers, Mrs. Rudolph and Warren H. Hantsch narrowly escaped being struck by a 9:40 a.m. Erie mail express. Approaching the crossing from the west, Mr. Rudolph, the driver of the car, misinterpreted the signal of the gateman at the north crossing (West Allendale Avenue) at the Allendale station. When he saw the Erie Flyer, Mr. Rudolph swerved and for about thirty feet the train and the car were abreast of each other — about three feet apart. The car then swerved to the right, hit a guy wire from a light pole, and stopped. Witnesses claimed it was a miracle that the car did not skid into the train on the icy pavement.<sup>53</sup>

With increasing automotive traffic, elimination of these direct crossings became more and more necessary. At the station, the Park Avenue and West Allendale Avenue roads were closed off to traffic permanently, and because this move caused cars traveling those roads to detour by a longer route, there was at the time, some opposition. Today, we’re accustomed to going around the long way, and even have a shortcut through DeMercurio Drive since the sixties, but in the late 1930s, with these road closings, the town was, in effect, cut in two. The distinction still stands today, when services such as trash and recyclable pickups follow two schedules — one for homes east of the railroad tracks, and one for homes west of the tracks.

After preliminary work of moving electric and telephone poles was done in the fall of 1938, construction of two temporary Erie Railroad by-passes around the grade crossing elimination work at West Orchard Street and West Crescent Avenue was started in January 1939.<sup>54</sup>

A new length of road was built from West Allendale Avenue to Park Avenue in front of the Fire House, and a concrete underground walkway was built under the tracks for the use of commuters and the public on foot.

The new crossings at West Crescent Avenue and West Orchard Street were achieved by making excavation cuts, regrading the roadbeds and building overpasses for the railroad tracks. The work was done under the supervision of the Erie Railroad, the W.P.A., and public utility commissioners.<sup>55</sup>

In the mid-1940s, Allendale was served by two bus lines, the Red Bus Line, and Public Service Buses. Both ran from Ramsey and Allendale to Paterson. The trip, with frequent stops, took about 40 minutes and the fare was 20¢.<sup>56</sup>

## WORLD WAR II

The effects of the war were felt everywhere. Rationing affected not only private citizens, but the borough as well. The Allendale rationing board in May 1942 issued certificates for the purchasing of tires to seven individuals, one business, and to the Allendale



*World War II first draft registration in Allendale, October 16, 1940.*

Water Department.

Allendale had a local organization of civilian aircraft spotters, Observation Post No. 236. They, as well as any interested citizens, were invited to attend a meeting on June 30, 1942 in the auditorium of the Allendale Public School. Men from the First Fighter Command, U. S. Army Air Corps were to discuss and demonstrate what occurred when civilian spotters sent in an "Army Flash."

Scrap rubber was being collected and turned in to area garages. So was iron and steel, and Allendale by December 1942 had the distinction of being the first community in New Jersey to reach its per capita quota set in the nationwide general salvage drive. Allendale's 2,000 residents had collected 103 tons of iron and steel scrap (ten pounds per person, one pound more than the per capita quota). Allendale's total, the Bergen-Passaic chairman announced, would probably reach 150 tons by December 31, when the collections of paper and other salvage items were added to the iron and steel total. Burtis W. Griffiths was the salvage chairman for Allendale.

Other neighboring communities were collecting salvage, too, and the Ramsey Theatre held a special "Scrap Matinee" with its movie on Saturday, October 17th, for the purpose of collecting metal scrap.<sup>57</sup>

Allendale's June War Bond Sale in 1943, totaling \$18,938.75, more than doubled the 1942 sales figure of \$7,585. District 1 War Bond Drive chairman Burtis Griffiths attributed the increase largely to the efforts of Allendale's William C. Lee, a retired New York City banker.<sup>58</sup>

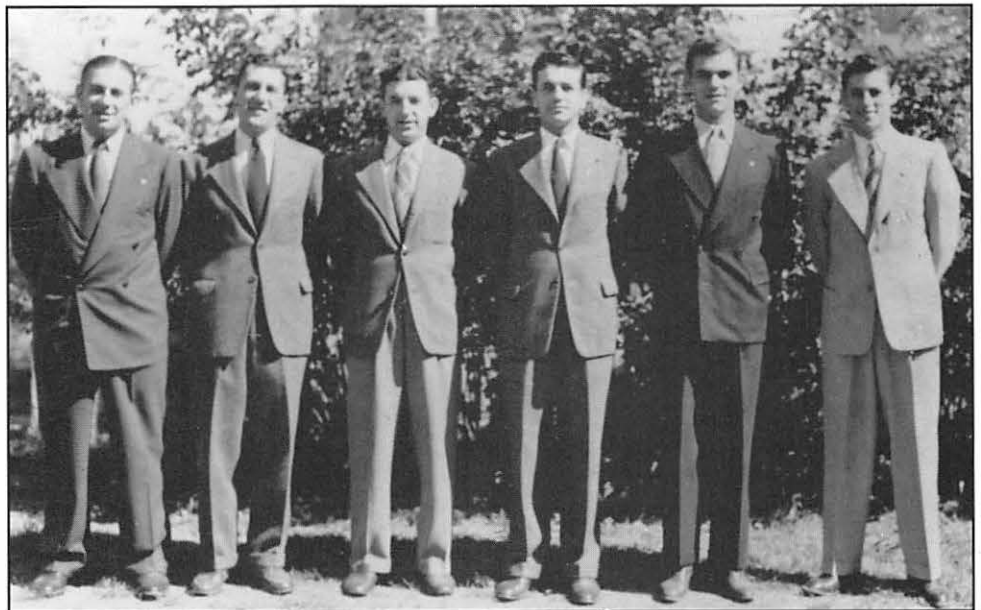
Edith Atkinson Webb remembered riding a bicycle to choir practice at Archer Church during the war, when gasoline was scarce and was rationed.<sup>59</sup>

In April 1943 scenes of Allendale appeared in a movie news reel, the News of the Day Newsreel. One scene showed Mayor Lyman A. Ceely buying the first War Bond in the Second War Loan Drive. Others in the scene were Burtis W. Griffiths, War Bond chairman for the section, Charles R. Vollaro, Thomas Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fitzpatrick and Mr. and Mrs. Louis

Caputi. The Fitzpatricks and the Caputis each had six sons in the armed forces. Both mothers were shown at the Fitzpatrick home on Park Avenue, urging theatergoers to buy bonds. By June 1944, when their daughter Phyllis joined the Nurse Cadet Corps, the Caputis had seven children in the armed services.<sup>60, 61</sup>

Mrs. Edward Jones, a member of the Allendale Garden Club, served as chairman of the Allendale Victory Garden Committee. Assistant chairman was George Price and zone leaders included Mr. and Mrs. Percy Doty, Mrs. Raymond S. Haythorne, Mrs. Frank Winters, Mrs. Louis Jones, Roy Quackenbush, A. W. Roberts, Mrs. Frank Berdan, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Staines, Clarence Rogers, Sr., Mrs. George LeValley, Mrs. Charles Beaver, and Paul O'Connor. Allendale residents were asked to share extra garden space with those who wished to plant a garden but had no space.<sup>62</sup>

The Holiday Observers in July 1942 appointed a group of men to serve on a committee to work toward the construction of a World War II Honor Roll. This was to list all of the Allendale residents serving in the United States armed forces. By September, after



*Allendale's six Caputi brothers fought in World War II. They are shown in the picture above. From left to right, in the photo from the 1940s are Thomas, Vito, Joseph, Louis, Eugene, and Alfred. In June 1944, their sister Phyllis joined the Nurse Cadet Corps, bringing the number of Caputi siblings serving in the war to seven.*

considering several proposals, an arrangement designed by Werner J. Baarck, assisted by Raymond S. Haythorne, was adopted. Among those on the Honor Roll Committee were Howard Elschner, William G. Z. Critchley, Fred Hasenbalg, Elwood Critchley, Harvey Beswick, and Harry Bogardus.<sup>63</sup>

The Honor Roll was to be placed on the vacant



*World War II Honor Roll dedication, October 1942.*

northeast corner of Maple Avenue and Allendale Avenue, in the center of the business section. Dr. Godfrey Pittis, owner of the vacant lot, had agreed to allow the committee to use the location. Drawings of the Honor Roll were displayed in a store window in the business section. The Allendale Garden Club was to assist with the landscaping.

The unveiling and dedication of the large wooden sign, painted white, was held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 18, 1942. It was attended by Gold Star Mothers, the families of Allendale's 98 men in service, scout groups, and various local civic organizations as well as the general public. Speakers at the dedication were Allendale Mayor Louis A. Keidel, Allendale Draft Board Chairman Charles V. Bacon, and Major John G. Hubbard of Washington, D.C., formerly of Allendale. The Ramsey High School band played.<sup>64, 65</sup>

On Tuesday, August 14 1945, Allendale hailed V-J Day by repeated blasts of the fire siren at 7 o'clock in the evening. Residents congregated in the business section of town and welcomed the victory over Japan with all the noisemakers they could find. Showers of paper were tossed at passing cars, and firecrackers and colored flares were found and set off. The bells of both the Archer Memorial Methodist Church and The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany rang out, and cars and people joined the fire truck in an impromptu parade through borough streets. The post office was closed for the next two days (although incoming and outgoing mail was handled) and the bank closed on Wednesday in celebration.<sup>66</sup>

By the time the armistice was signed on November 11, Allendale had lost eight of its sons. John J. Fox died in the United States in September 1941, Harold W. Scott, Jr. died in the Middle East in

August 1942, David L. Ceely died in the European area in December 1943, Eugene A. Ivers died in the South Pacific in April 1944, Bruce S. MacIntyre died in Belgium in December 1944, Edward J. Hamilton died in the Phillipines in February 1945, Charles A. Yeomans died in the Pacific in March 1945, and John A. V. Sawyer died in Florida in August 1945.

### ALLENDALE POST OFFICE

In 1936 Louise Kelly was appointed acting postmaster of Allendale, succeeding William G. Z. Critchley, and the post office was moved to 100 West Allendale Avenue (next to Winter Brothers store). John J. Kelly was postmaster in 1938, and Frank Archibald Farrell was appointed in 1942.<sup>67</sup>

Among the clerks working at the post office in the 1930s were Harold F. Critchley, William Anderson, and Edith Fitzgerald.

### ALLENDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the 1930s, the Allendale Public Library struggled through the Great Depression, suffering a drop in library membership dues and donations and increasingly feeling the lack of space in its compact building.

Among those on the library's board during these years were Frank Berdan, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Sylvester Buechner, E. Kenneth Burger, Mrs. Fannie E. Carver, Mrs. David M. Colburn, William G. Z. Critchley, Mrs. David W. Frazer, Malachi E. Higgins, Miss Mary A. Hubbard, Mrs. Edwin W. Hurd, Mrs. James W. Jackson, Ray V. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Lee, Robert S. McNeil, Miss Grace Moellhausen, Frederick L. Savage, Mrs. W. C. Talman, Congressman J. Parnell Thomas, Edward G. Washburne, and Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Zabriskie.

At the Allendale Library Association's meeting on February 3, 1930, a discussion took place regarding the circulating library in Temperlyn's store, but it was agreed, finally, that the store's library was weak competition with the Association's library.

On March 2, 1931 H. E. Sylvester Buechner presented a framed panel on which the names of the people who had contributed to the fund for the library building or grounds were inscribed. The names had been hand-lettered by his daughter, Miss



Eugenia Buechner.

At the Association's meeting in December 1931 it was noted that there were then two circulating libraries in local stores, and that a school library had been established in the Allendale Public School.

In June 1941 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Lee came to the rescue of the library by offering to renovate the existing building and donate the addition of a wing.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee had been closely involved with the library for many years. Mr. Lee served for over 31 years, first as a trustee, later as vice-president and treasurer, and finally as president of the Allendale Library Association. His wife, Mary K. Lee, served as Allendale's volunteer librarian for over 33 years.

By November 1941 the renovations and the new wing were completed.<sup>68</sup>

In March 1944, the Allendale Library Association minutes show, the building committee reported that as they could secure no coal, a load of wood was provided to keep the furnace going.

## CHURCHES

### *Episcopal Church of the Epiphany*

Rectors and Vicars of the church during this period included the Rev. Karl E. Warmeling, the Rev. William L. Griffith, Jr., the Rev. Duane Weevil, the Rev. Robert J. Sudlow, and the Rev. Edwin S. Carson (1944-1952).

Church groups active during this period were the Twelfthnighters Club and the Epic Club.

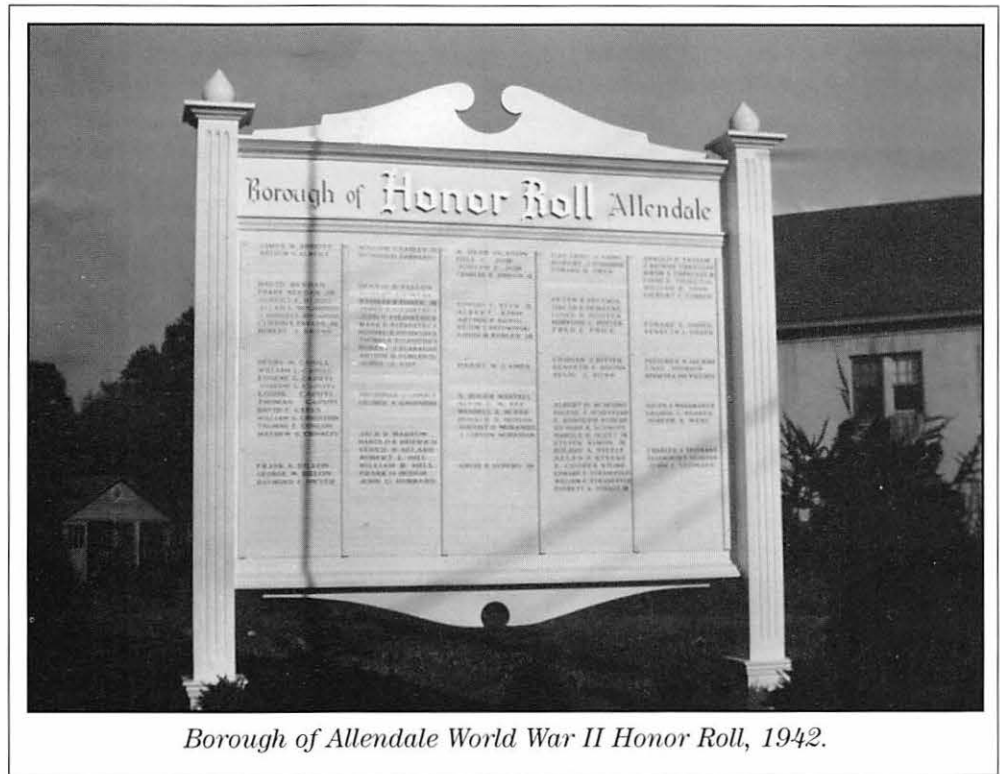
### *Archer Memorial Methodist Church*

In 1936 the Rev. George F. Storey succeeded Dr. Christopher Von Glahn as pastor of the Archer Memorial Methodist Church, and he was succeeded in 1939 by the Rev. Herbert Sawyer.

In 1935 the Church Aid Society put on a Tom Thumb Wedding as a fund-raiser. Other Tom Thumb Weddings were held in 1939 and in the late 1940s.

In October 1936 the church celebrated its 60th anniversary with Jubilee Services.

In 1937 a gas stove replaced the coal range in the



*Borough of Allendale World War II Honor Roll, 1942.*

kitchen of Archer Hall. In the early 1940s the carriage sheds on the north side of Archer Hall were removed, and a picnic grove with fireplace was created on the site of today's parking lot.

The church's 65th anniversary was celebrated with services and special events, including an anniversary dinner, from October 19 to October 23, 1941.

In January 1945, in the face of a coal shortage and to conserve fuel, the church building was closed and services were held at Archer Hall until March 1.<sup>69</sup>

### *Guardian Angel Roman Catholic Church*

On March 31, 1931 the mission was incorporated. The Rev. Patrick Pindar of St. Luke's in Ho-Ho-Kus was administrator and secretary-treasurer, and two Allendale residents, Malachi E. Higgins and John F. Donahue, were lay trustees.<sup>70</sup>

In June 1932 a new entrance had been erected on the Guardian Angel chapel on Maple Street. That same year the chapel was painted.<sup>71</sup>

The Rev. Joseph E. Price was pastor of the church in July 1945.

## FIRES AND THE ALLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

On July 5, 1931, fire broke out in a home built by William Iandorio in 1929 on Homewood Avenue, part of the Allendale Park Estates. Previously, the house had been partially destroyed by a gas explosion.

In January 1933 the Allendale Fire Department



*The Archer Church "Tom Thumb Wedding" held by the Church Aid Society on November 2, 1934 in the school auditorium. Left to right, seated, front row: -?- Woodruff, Beverly Simon, Patsy Lampa, Barbara Stanyou, Geraldine*

*McCarroll, Phyllis Arlt, Mary Jo Knack Barbara Becker, Ethel Winter, Jane Geismar, Jane Lawlin, William Becker, Robert Simpson, Harry Doolittle, Walter Arlt, Barbara Hampson, Peggy Ann Baarck, Anna Clara Tice, Jane Farley, Edwin*

joined the Wyckoff and Hohokus Township departments to fight a blaze in the 130-year-old, 20-room former residence of the late E. A. de Mauriac, on the 32-acre estate which stood on Brookside Avenue in Wyckoff, about 500 feet west of the border of Allendale. Guy deMauriac, who lived in the gatehouse to the estate, summoned the firemen, but by the time they arrived the building was completely enveloped in flames and not even one piece of the valuable antique furniture could be saved. The building, valued at \$55,000 and the furniture, valued at \$7,000 were totally destroyed.

In June 1933 the Allendale firemen saved the unoccupied old toll gate house on the south corner of the intersection of Crescent Avenue and Franklin Turnpike from burning to the ground. A motorist passing by the building, part of the Storms estate, shortly after 11 p.m. saw the flames and alerted Katherine Quackenbush, who was returning home from the Allendale School's class night. An addition on the building was burned to the ground, but the main house, although damaged by water, was saved. The fire was believed to have been caused by vandals.

The frame toll house building was said to have been erected in 1801 and was subsequently used as a toll stop on the Franklin Turnpike (also known as the New Prospect-N. Goshen Highway). Its last owner had been Mrs. Ellen Storms, who used it as a part-time residence and ran a small grocery and confectionery business there. The house then went through a period as a rental home and had most recently been vacant and the target of repeated acts of vandalism. After the fire, the Rev. Dr. C. H. von Glahn, pastor of

the Archer Memorial Church, along with the local newspaper, spearheaded an effort to form a local organization or historical society to purchase and preserve the tollhouse as a museum. There was not enough interest in such a project during these hard times, and this effort failed.

On September 5, firemen responded to another fire at the house and this time the damage to the house was beyond repair. After several additional vandalism threats on the house were averted, in November the building was declared unsafe, condemned, and was razed.

In December 1938 fire destroyed the unoccupied home on the southeast corner of West Crescent Avenue and Brookside Avenue, probably built in the late 1860s by the Anthony family when they came to Allendale. The house was owned in 1938 by Miss Esther Adair, who probably acquired it in the early 1930s from the Walsh family. Arson was suspected because of gasoline soaked walls and a partially filled five-gallon gasoline can found in the burning house.<sup>72, 73</sup>

The Allendale Fire Chief during this period was George W. Megnin, who was Allendale's Chief from 1922-1945.

In 1938 a booklet, "Allendale and its Fire Fighters," was published. It was sponsored by the Volunteer Fire Department of Allendale, and compiled and illustrated by the Federal Writer's Project of the Works Progress Administration, State of New Jersey. The Allendale Fire Department officers in 1938, as listed in the booklet, were: George W. Megnin, chief; W. G. Z. Critchley, assistant chief; E. E. Megnin, captain; C. T. Wehner,



*Grosman, Robert Secor, Doris Jones, Hope Dodge. Standing, second row: Marilyn Arlt, Jane Forshay, Shirley Hover, Florence Clifford, Grace Hover, Joan Wilson. Standing, rear: Marilyn Corcoran, Keith Douglas, Allan Grenz, Daniel*

*Hamilton, Norman Winter, Stewart Wilson, Nedwyn Dietz, William Sweet, Donald Roswell, Herbert Flandreau, Bud Van Houten, Frank Doolittle, Jessie Mohan, Ruth Dodge, Mary Dillon, Mary Buchholtz, and James Colburn.*

lieutenant; William Dewsnap, president; A. L. Zabriskie, vice president; W. G. Z. Critchley, secretary; and George Wehner, Jr., treasurer. Life members in 1938 were John Yeomans and A. L. Zabriskie. Honorary chiefs in 1938 were Dr. Harry M. Archer, William Dewsnap, and Samuel C. Brower.

The active members of the Allendale Fire Department in 1938 were: William V. Ackerman, Milton Ackerson, John Alsdorf, Werner Baarck, Charles Bijou, Samuel C. Brower, Joseph Caputi, Elwood T. Critchley, Norman G. Critchley, William G. Z. Critchley, John O. Forshay, Archibald Gamble, David Garrabrant, George Gasparini, Vito Gasparini, Alwyn Grossmann, Edwin Grosman, F. M. Grossman, Ralph Grossmann, Louis Hoffman, Joseph Job, William Johnson, Henry Kahse, Jacob D. Kaplan, John H. Knack, William Laverty, E. E. Megnin, Frank L. Megnin, George W. Megnin, Pierre Megnin, Harold Osborne, William Pownall 3rd, William J. Reimer, Everett A. Straut, Walter Temperlyn, Robert Turner, Fred Van Horn, Edward Varick, Carl T. Wehner, George Wehner, Jr., Robert D. Wilson, John Winter, Jr., J. L. Winters, and G. Nelson White.

Associate members in 1938 were Wilbur Ackerman, Grant Alston, Henry J. Appert, Harry Bogardus, Kenneth Booth, Albert L. Capstaff, Lyman Ceely, R. J. Christopher, William Dewsnap, Perry Dexter, J. P. Doehling, Thomas Farley, F. A. Farrell, K. V. Fisher, Malachi E. Higgins, Robert Hill, William Hill, J. G. Hubbard, Cyril Job, Fred Koster, Harry M. Lampa, Russell Mallinson, E. P. Megnin, R. C. Moore, William Osborne, C. A. Quackenbush, H. J. Rose, J. Frank

Roualt, Walter Rumsey, H. A. Ryan, Max Scholz, J. M. Southwick, W. J. Spiegelberger, C. R. Sweet, Pasquale Taddeo, J. P. Thomas, J. W. Vanderbeek, Robert Wasmer, J. W. Webb, L. J. Webster, Bruce Wellington, G. M. Wilson, H. J. Winter, and W. L. Winter.

### THE FLOOD OF 1945

After a week of steady rain, on Sunday, July 23, 1945 dams in Ramsey at the Ramsey Country Club Estates and in Allendale at Crestwood Lake broke, releasing torrents of water at Allendale. Considerable damage was done to private property and gardens on the west side of the borough, and owners of chickens and livestock suffered serious losses.

The water washed out and undermined 200 feet of westbound railroad track at West Crescent Avenue, near Christopher's Lumber Yard, leaving a ten-foot deep gully. The track was left suspended in mid-air by the washout. Although passenger service was diverted to freight tracks, and in spite of track maintenance crews working steadily round-the-clock, train service did not return to normal until Tuesday.

Water swept down West Crescent, West Allendale, and Myrtle Avenues, and the business district of Allendale was flooded (the water in this section was waist-deep at one point). Water, washed-out earth and debris poured into the West Crescent Avenue Erie underpass roadway, filling and blocking it to a height of about ten feet, and burying a car driven by G. Heinzelman of Waldwick that had been passing through. The driver escaped uninjured. Kenneth

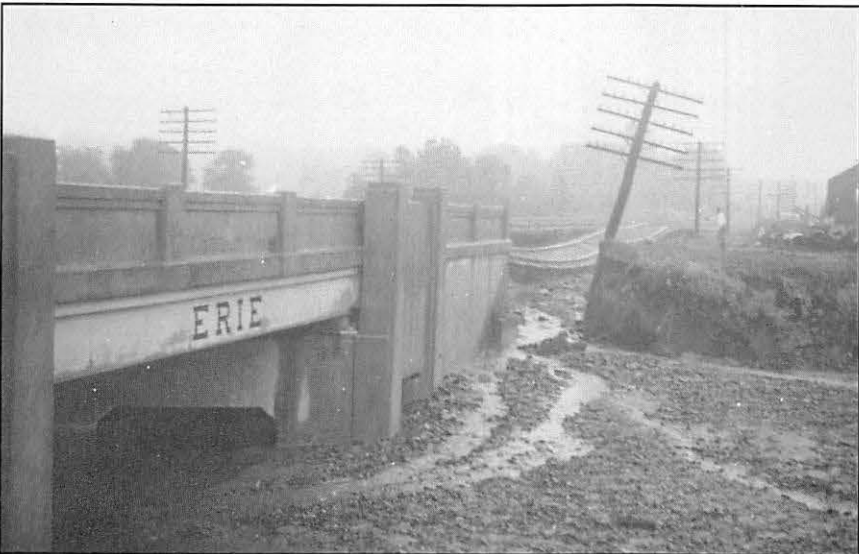




*Above, looking south along West Crescent Avenue at the Erie underpass during the July 1945 flood.*

*Below, looking west at washed out earth and debris in Erie underpass on West Crescent Avenue after the flood.*

*Bottom, looking west at washed out railroad tracks near the Erie West Crescent Avenue underpass. Christopher's Lumberyard is on the right.*



Booth, responding to an alarm call, escaped from his stalled car in the roaring flood sweeping down West Allendale Avenue and had to wade to safety (the car was moved under its own power the following day). The West Crescent Avenue underpass was not cleared by county road department workers until Wednesday.

Recreation Park was completely inundated when Crestwood Lake's retaining wall let go, pouring millions of gallons of water down West Crescent and West Allendale Avenue.

On the east side of the borough, The acreage of the Allendale Produce Gardens (the celery farm) was entirely covered with water, and looked like a large lake. The entire crop at the farm was lost.

The county bridge on Brookside Avenue was destroyed, along with the roadbed and the iron guard rail. This road had to be closed for some time, awaiting repair of the roadway and bridge. Families had to be evacuated from their homes in the low section of Park Avenue (some homes had over a foot of water on their lower floors). Eight members of the Alsdorf family were taken out of their home by boats.

The flooding occurred throughout a 6-mile wide belt extending 20 miles south of Spring Valley, N.Y. to Little Falls, N.J. causing damage in three counties (Bergen and Passaic in New Jersey, and Rockland in New York).

The flood was reported extensively in local papers and made New York City papers as well. Stiles Thomas, in the service and stationed in France at the time, remembers reading about the flood in *Stars and Stripes*.<sup>74, 75, 76</sup>



*Looking north from railroad tracks on top of the West Crescent Avenue Erie underpass at State troopers investigating flood damage.*



*Looking south from railroad tracks on top of the West Crescent Avenue Erie underpass before flood waters subsided, at automobile caught in the torrent of water.*



*Looking west from top of West Crescent Avenue overpass.*



*Above and below, flooded Allendale business section.*



**THE  
JULY 23, 1945  
ALLENDALE FLOOD**



Above, Allendale Fire Department, about 1945. Front row, left to right: Martin Wetterauw, Wilbur Vanderbeek, Ed Grosman, Walter Rumsey, Charlie Ritter. Second row: Russell Stewart, Harold Brown, Kurt Getzloff, Frank Occhipinti, John Webb. Third row: Elwood Critchley, Bob Wilson, Ralph Grossmann, Howard Uhlinger. Top row: Everett Straut?, Neils Knudsen, unidentified fireman, Bob Osborne.



Left, The Allendale business section, looking west along West Allendale Avenue, in 1938.