

This book, chronicling 100 years of Midland Park history, has been a labor of love and cooperation by the entire community. Begun in 1993 as a project of the

Centennial Committee, it developed as scores of residents and former residents sent in photographs and precious mementos and penned or recorded reminiscences to share not only with their contemporaries but also with future generations.

We hope to have captured among these pages the spirit and vitality that make Midland Park unique – the strong Dutch heritage, a sense of family, a superb work ethic, committed volunteers, responsible citizens, and enlightened leadership at all levels of government and in civic organizations.

We are grateful to Joanne Cotz and George Cooke for getting the ball rolling, to the Centennial Committee for providing the impetus and funding for such an ambitious undertaking, to the Midland Park Mayor and Council – past and present – for their encouragement and financial backing, to the Midland Park Historical Society and the Midland Park Memorial Library for making available their research and resources, to the talented writers who took time from their busy schedules to research and prepare this manuscript, and to the hundreds of people who combed through their attics and searched their memories to contribute material.

A special word of appreciation to John Baumgartner of Rocket Graphics, whose expertise, patience and guidance were invaluable in bringing this project to fruition.

May you enjoy and appreciate the rich history of our town as much as we have in compiling it.

Ester Vierheilig, Editor

Norma Bardzell

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Barbara Wostbrock

Foreward

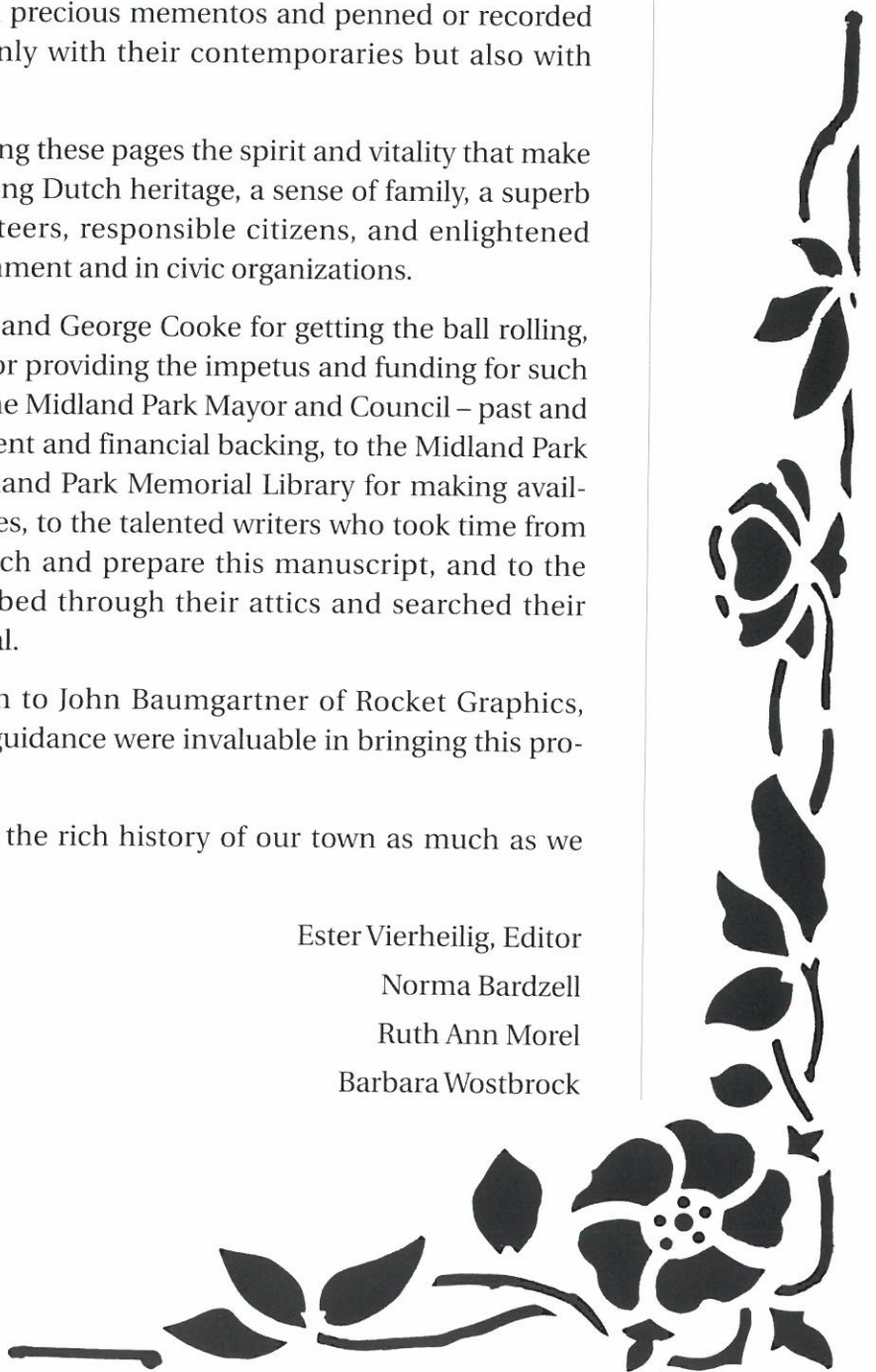
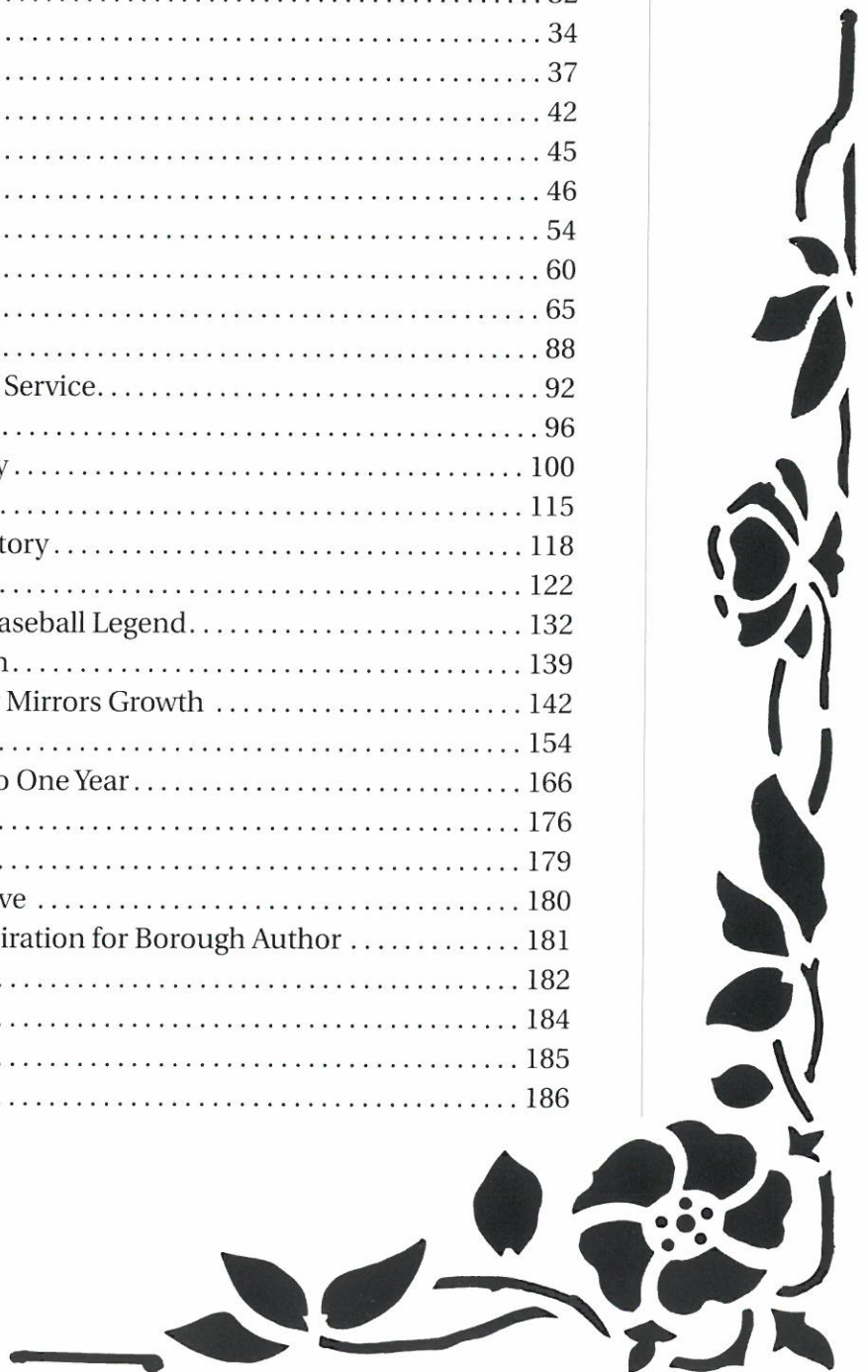


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Midland Park

Past & Present

by George W. Cooke

Native Americans Were Here First

Native Americans were here before anyone else. Perhaps 3,000 or 4,000 Delaware Indians lived in New Jersey. They called themselves the Lenni Lenape, and were called the Delawares by the English colonists after Lord De La Warr. The Lenni Lenape, or Delawares, belonged to the Algonquin language family, which includes many other groups such as the Mohicans, the Chippewa, and the Cheyenne. The Sicomac Trail, from the Delaware River to the Atlantic, ran through Wyckoff, and Indians undoubtedly camped, hunted, and hiked through Midland Park and all surrounding areas.

The Lenni Lenape were a gentle, peace-loving people who did not understand land ownership. They considered the land to be like sunshine, to be shared by all. It was easy for the European colonists to persuade the native people to sign legal agreements they did not understand, but which meant they could ultimately be driven from the state. The colonists disrupted native culture with destructive quantities of alcohol, brought successive epidemics of deadly smallpox, and gradually destroyed native hunting grounds. Many years of misunderstandings led

ultimately to murder, massacre, and war between colonists and Indians, as the Dutch, Swedes, English, and French formed short-lived alliances with the natives and against each other.

The once gentle and contented Lenni Lenape, who tended their patches of corn, fished, hunted, and bothered no one, now became more warlike in their struggle to survive, as the woods were chopped down and their fertile lands and streams were taken over by European farmers and their herds. They tried valiantly to defend themselves against violent crime, armed attacks, alcoholism, European diseases, and Christian proselytizing, so that they could preserve traditional ways and their own faith, but nothing worked.

Where Have the Native People Gone?

Most of the Delawares retreated farther and farther into the unsettled lands of the West. A reservation was set up at Brotherton, New Jersey in 1758 for the small group of Indians who had



not already moved West. This remnant left for upper New York State in 1802, and then moved on to northern Wisconsin. The

main body of the Delawares was pushed steadily westward through Pennsylvania to Ohio and Illinois, and then on to Missouri and Kansas. After many years in Kansas, they were finally moved to Oklahoma by the Federal Government in 1867. A few others ended up in Canada, Texas, and other scattered locations.

Identifiable Delaware groups have continued to exist in distant regions down to the present time, but none remains in Midland Park.

Midland Park had Dutch settlers and a flour mill before the Revolutionary War. The present Lozier House on Goffle Road was near the site of a busy mill. The Lozier family is said to have immigrated from Belgium in 1668.

Flour Mills and Farmlands

The farm in Midland Park consisted of 104 acres when Cornelius John Lozier, a miller from Hackensack, traded his farm there with Mr. Banta of Goffle Road. Mr. Banta had trouble with Tories raiding his crops. Banta also agreed to serve the two army terms for the Lozier sons, so that they would be exempt from active service in the war against the British.



The Baldwin House on Lake Street was the site of another grist mill, established about 1720.



This old view of Godwin Avenue shows the block between Prospect Street and Paterson Avenue.

Every Corner & Crossroad Had a Name

It was the custom in early America to name landmarks. A person might live near the Three Corners or Lydekers Mills, or Crystal Lake without being a citizen or taxpayer of these areas. The named places were not towns in a legal or political sense. The names were simply convenient geographical designations for the local population. And so it was with Midland Park and Wortendyke. In about 1825, Mr. Spykaboer built eight houses along West Glen Avenue and sold them to Dutch immigrants. This area was called Spykerboertown.

Godwinville, named after Abraham Godwin, a Revolutionary War hero, included Ridgewood, Glen Rock, and Midland Park. Ridgewood took its name in 1866, and Ridgewood Township, with 500 inhabitants, was administered by five committee members as of 1876. Property taxes were assessed in those days, and it is likely that a principal motive for the formation of breakaway towns such as Midland Park was to escape taxes as well as to assert local autonomy.

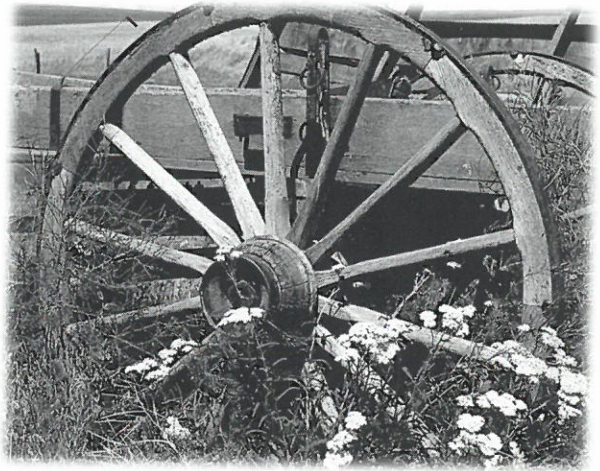
In small villages with strong family structures and firm religious beliefs, where everyone knew everyone else, crime and security were not a large problem. Education was inexpensive: a teacher or two in a small building, perhaps a single constable, volunteer firemen, self-help in place of social services. Long before Midland Park had any local government, it was a community within the larger political unit of a township.

In 1890, the population in this area was rapidly expanding, and 40 houses were built locally in that year in the greater Ridgewood area (including Midland Park and Glen Rock). The population of what was then Ridgewood was 2,500 people.

The Rush to Form New Boroughs

The actual incorporation of Midland Park in 1894 marked its legal separation from Ridgewood and was greeted with much enthusiasm. But in the larger sense, Midland Park continued to be what it had always been, a small village on a hill, supported by a mixed economy of farming and textiles, but with strong connections to Ridgewood and the surrounding villages, as well as Paterson and New York.

It would be more accurate to note that the incorporation of Midland Park was greeted with enthusiasm by some and with dismay by others. Ridgewood also lost Glen Rock, and dropping these territories from its tax base was a cause for concern because of questions as to whether the newly formed towns were escaping from their share of previous debts incurred by Ridgewood.



You could rent a house in the area for \$15 to \$18 a month, or buy a nice one for \$3,000, perhaps with an acre or two of land and a barn thrown in. Or you could always buy a 40-acre farm for \$2,500 and

Fine House & Lot: \$3,000

build

your own home. It was claimed that a basic small home for a workingman could be built for \$400 to \$500. Some people preferred the New York fashion of living in a boarding house.

The Banta Hotel in Midland Park was installing a pool table as its latest refinement. Charles Blom was reported about to open a saloon in Wortendyke. The Jermyn Coal yard in Midland Park, operated by John H. Post, promised to provide good clean fuel of the highest quality.

Post's Park Grocery

—AND—

JERMYN

COAL

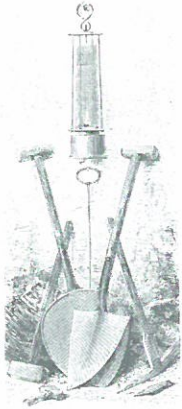
YARD,

MIDLAND PARK, N. J.

Fancy and Staple Groceries, Boots, Shoes,
Hay, Grain and Coal.

C. B. CROUTER

The Great Crash of 1893

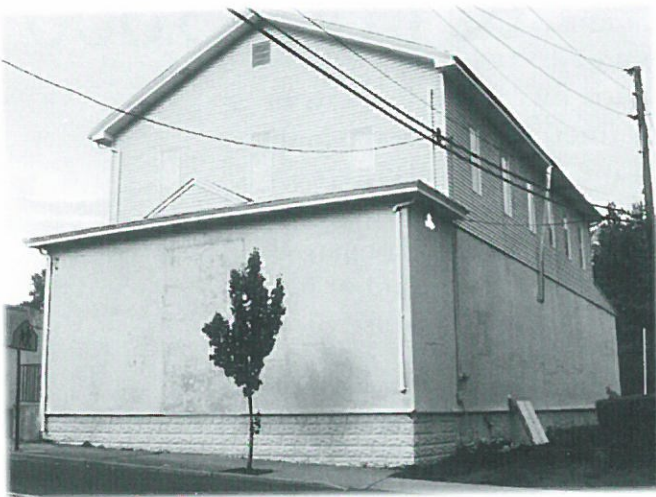


Some lucky folks headed for the great Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Others were wondering where their next meal would come from. Mr. Hangerveld resumed work at his mill with a 25 percent reduction in wages, and several of his workmen left in protest. The Morrow Bros. mill closed

indefinitely in Midland Park in 1893, and the Rosencrantz Mill in Undercliff (now Ho-Ho-Kus) shut down for the winter. According to a local paper, three wagonloads of Holland people from Rev. Haan's congregation enjoyed a picnic at Franklin Lakes.

On September 14, 1894, Ridgewood residents met at the opera house on what is now Wilsey Square to take some action to limit the damage caused their township by the new Winton Village Act, a state law passed in 1891. This new law permitted the incorporation of villages within townships. Ridgewood had already lost a large piece of its territory on the south to the new village of Glen Rock and a small piece of its land on the west side to the new village of Midland Park. But now several additional villages were proposed, and alarmed citizens met to change Ridgewood's status from that of a township to a village and so save what was left of it. They also hoped to retain some taxpayers to help shoulder the burden of civic indebtedness they had incurred in building an expensive new school.

It was on a Tuesday evening in September 1894 that an enthusiastic group met at Columbia Hall in Midland Park to nominate its new town officers. The new slate was large and impressive for such a small new village. They were as follows:



The former Columbia Hall on Godwin Avenue across from Friendly's originally had a recessed entrance.

William Morrow, *Mayor*
 E.M. Krech, *Collector*
 James J. Terhune, *Assessor*
 J.R. Carlough, *Freeholder (each new village was allowed a freeholder)*
 G.A. Hurley, *Commissioner of Appeals*
 S.B. Brokaw, *Commissioner of Appeals*
 William White, *Commissioner of Appeals*
 C.V. Nimwegan, *Constable*
 H.T. Laurence, *Councilman (3 years)*
 John Kossman, *Councilman (3 years)*
 Marcus Young, *Councilman (3 years)*
 James Smith, *Councilman (2 years)*
 C.N. Tillotson, *Councilman (1 year)*

The new villagers were not concerned that their changed status would result in high taxes, as villages were restrained by state law from passing local taxes higher than 7-1/2 mills. It seemed at the time that the creation of dozens of new villages was a very good idea. Local manufacturers might gain greater control over restrictions placed on their operations as well as low tax rates. No one could foresee the changes that would occur in the next century.

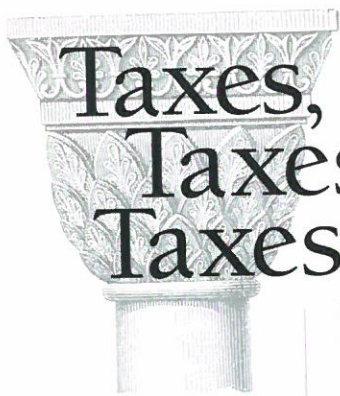


According to the late William Gannon, this home was built on Godwin Avenue around 1832. Pictured is his grandmother, his cousin and his cousin's dog. The photo is believed to be circa 1895.

No one gave any thought to the inability of these tiny villages to cope with a host of state regulations mandating costly services, nor did anyone anticipate the problem of the duplication of services, and the resulting taxes. How could they have anticipated the growth in a bewildering array of federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances that a century later would cast in doubt the wisdom of the village system?

Small-Town America— Only a Memory

Yet, local control provides many advantages to the residents. Dedicated volunteer emergency workers know every street, every house, and have personal knowledge of many residents. They serve because they care deeply about their community and the people who live in it. Local newspapers often carry thank-you letters attesting to this spirit of personal concern from those who have benefited from emergency service.



And yet, for most of the people of Midland Park and other east coast villages, local autonomy is worth all the taxes they pay. Furthermore, it has yet to be proven that merging and consolidating the villages will reduce taxes or ensure better services. Those who retire are often forced to leave the villages for cheaper housing elsewhere because of the heavy tax burden. It is no longer the custom to build a wing onto your house for the grandparents. It isn't even legal to do so in most cases, because of zoning laws. Those whose children have graduated from public school often move away as well to escape the high taxes.

The continuity of the community is broken by the tax problem as well as by changes in family structure and by geographical mobility of families, but no immediate solutions appear on the horizon.

**Pot Roast
10¢ a Pound**

If you had been living in 1894, you would know that a good pot roast would cost you 10 to 12 cents a pound, soda crackers were 5 cents a pound, and granulated sugar was 7 pounds for 32 cents. If you went shopping in Paterson, and everyone did in those days, you could order a pair of custom-made pants for only \$5 from Cohen &

Saperstein, Tailors, or they would make you a suit for \$20.

Electric light poles could be seen in some neighborhoods, and macadam roads were becoming a common sight. You could even buy a private telephone set that would carry your voice up to 1,000 feet. Portrait photos were available for \$5 a dozen in New York City. And as for travel, there were 62 trains daily on the Erie Railroad. A commuter ticket to New York City was \$6.85 a month. Post cards were a penny. A subscription to the Ridgewood News was \$1 a year.

LOOK FOR

DAVID H. SWIN'S

Travelling • Meat • Market.

EVERY DAY IN

WORTENDYKE,
MIDLAND PARK,
RIDGEWOOD and
UNDERCLIFF

WITH MEATS IN THEIR SEASON.

Ho! all Ye Lovers of

GOOD MILK.

Mr. George Terwilliger supplies the people of Wortendyke, Midland Park, and the surrounding country with Milk of the purest and best quality.

**Six Days
Shalt Thou
Labor**

In 1894, people worked long hours, six days a week, and most went to church twice on Sunday, for several hours at a time. Child labor was universal, and abuse of children by factory managers was not unheard of. Burglary and robbery were fairly common, and burglar alarms were available for insecure homeowners. Tramps and itinerant troublemakers were a worry. Due to frequent robberies, messengers for the National Express Co. in Wortendyke were armed with Smith and Wesson pistols just before Midland Park incorporated.

Before women chose or were forced into salaried jobs and careers, they provided vital services to the family. Across the country, women washed on Monday, ironed on Tuesday, mended on Wednesday, did odd jobs on Thursday, cleaned on Friday, baked on Saturday, and cooked for company on Sunday. When labor-

saving electrical devices were few, or not yet invented, this often meant pumping, carrying and heating wash water, paring laundry soap chips from a bar of laundry soap, laundering with a washboard, carrying clothes to the line and hanging them up to dry outside, folding and ironing them when dry with an iron heated on the stove top. Baking the week's bread meant mixing, kneading, waiting for dough to rise, forming loaves in greased metal pans, baking in an oven heated by a wood fire, waiting for bread to cool, wrapping it for storage, and later slicing the loaves at the table. Baking the week's bread took most of a day.


Before supermarkets, many women bought food supplies, consisting of a bag of flour, some sugar and coffee, salt, and spices, no more often than once a month. Everything else was produced at home by a single pair of hands. The housewife's work was simply incredible. Even when she sat down for a few moments she would patch, sew, knit, or shell peas or peel fruit. She canned and preserved the winter's food. This might include canned beef, and a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, jams, and jellies. She probably knew how to pickle beets, vegetables, possibly eggs, and ferment sauerkraut. Women often filled jars with the dried kernels of sweet corn and dried fruits and herbs. Nothing was wasted.

Large families with ten or more children were common. Frequent pregnancy and childbearing complicated the housewife's heavy workload. Children were welcome to help with the unceasing labors of the household. Often children went to work in the mills at very tender ages, or began to learn the household skills that required years of apprenticeship to mother.

The Housewife Was a Skilled Professional

BEFORE SUPERMARKETS, MANY WOMEN BOUGHT FOOD SUPPLIES NO MORE OFTEN THAN ONCE A MONTH. EVERYTHING ELSE WAS PRODUCED AT HOME BY A SINGLE PAIR OF HANDS.

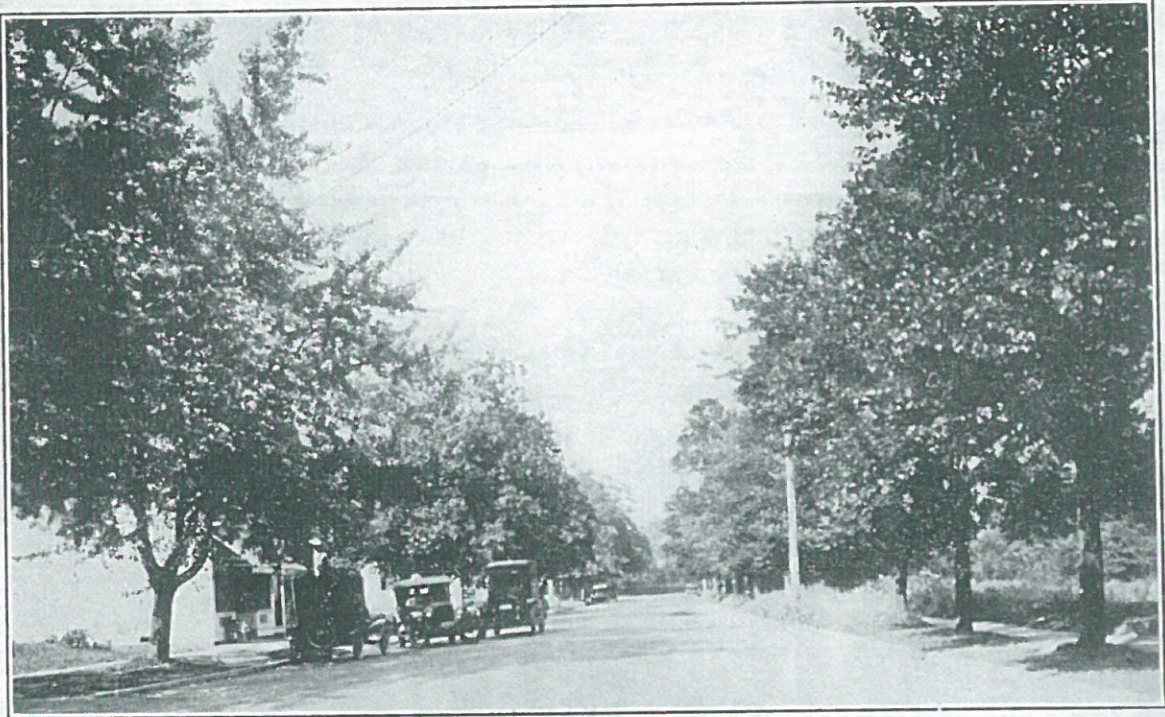




Housewives often made children's clothes, as well as their own, from bolts of cloth with a foot-treadle sewing machine, or entirely by hand with needle and thread. They made patchwork quilts and rag rugs. They tatted delicate doilies for the fern stand or as antimacassars. They knitted warm stockings and scarves, and fashioned curtains and drapes. They treated the sick with skill. Many a housewife sat up all night soothing and encouraging a child or parent, healing them with love and good nursing care.

Many housewives planted, hoed, and weeded kitchen gardens, tended the chickens, milked the family cow, and churned the cream into butter. The household acre or two was a food factory. All of the farms and many of the large lots in Midland Park have now been subdivided, and the gardens and chicken runs have become lawns, landscapes, cul-de-sacs, and even a school. Many families had a horse and stable, and the housewife also knew how to harness a horse and drive a team.

A housewife did not run an electric vacuum sweeper or cook a frozen dinner in the microwave oven, but she possessed a vast store of knowledge and skill essential to a family's survival. She might sell or barter her surplus eggs, butter, cream, or fruits and vegetables to help out with the family budget. Many housewives also played the piano or organ, sang, entertained the family, taught games, introduced the children to reading, to the Bible, family prayers, and inspired families to be honest, hard working, kind, generous, and community-minded. Wives often kept the family accounts and figured out how bills were to be paid, putting money aside for emergencies.



1138

MAIN STREET, WORTENDYKE, N. J.

Pub. by McNeill & Muttar.

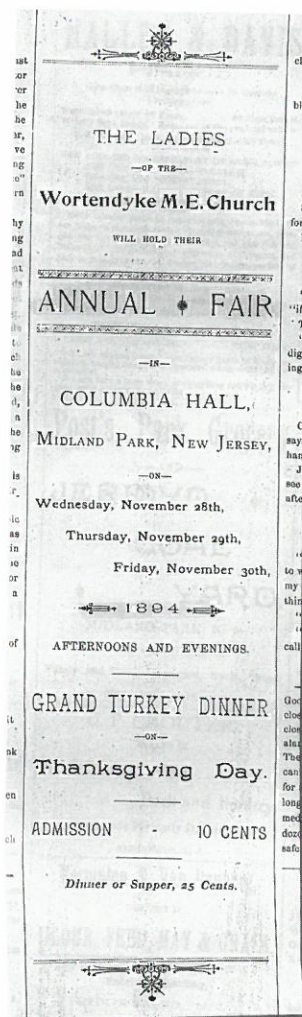
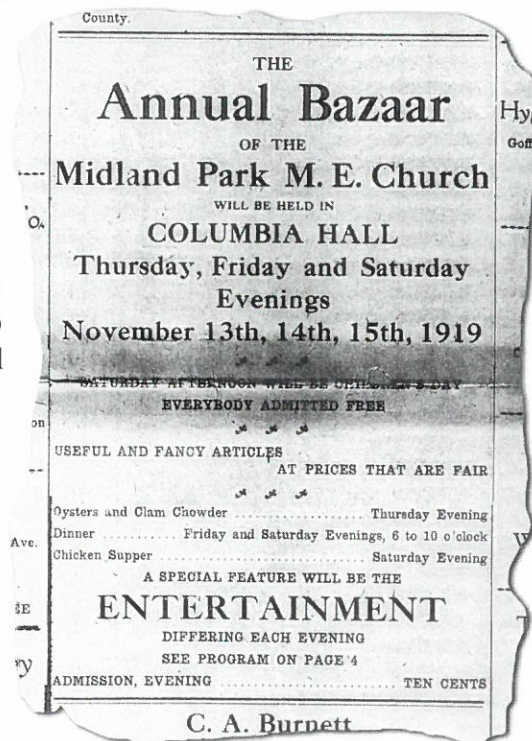
Nevertheless, there were plenty of good times. Labor Day was a great holiday occasion, with excursions, picnics, and bicycle races. Horse racing, although frowned upon by some, was popular. In this area there were camera clubs, riding clubs, and tennis clubs, and the Midland Park Athletic Club (baseball) was active before 1894.

Yes, There Were Plenty of Good Times

Plays were frequently offered in the local opera houses. In 1894, for example, residents could journey to the Ridgewood Opera House for a benefit performance of the *Pirates of Penzance*. Seats were only 50 cents each, and the performance was sponsored by Mt. Carmel Church.

The Crystal Lake Hotel in Ho-Ho-Kus was a popular summer resort, although the lake has disappeared. Picnics and excursions were popular summer diversions on this quiet hill, in the brilliant sunshine and pure air, an area filled with blossoming orchards, clear streams, ponds, and woods. In winter, there was sledding and ice skating. In fact, this whole area was a summer resort for New Yorkers who built summer homes here or boarded for the summer.

When the people of Midland Park made ice cream as a summer treat in 1894, you can be sure they used large amounts of heavy cream from the local dairies and plenty of fresh egg yolks from the many chicken yards scattered about the village. After all, a person needed a substantial amount of surplus body weight in order to endure the cold winters and provide reserves against wasting illnesses.



Dr. Tobias' Venetian Liniment

Of course, many fine medications were available in 1894 to ward off sickness. Dr. Tobias' Venetian Liniment was only one drug out of many that would cure just about any human ill. Some popular elixirs were even guaranteed to contain no mercury. They usually had enough alcohol in them to make folks feel pretty good. In 1894, regular ads appeared in the local papers announcing that all types of cancer could be cured, even the most advanced forms, thanks to new chemical treatments available at a much advertised medical institute in Paterson.



The former Schumacher Mill

Textile Mills Brought Immigrants

Most of the towns around Midland Park were long involved in the textile trades. The Rosencrantz Cotton Mills were located close by in Waldwick. A woolen mill was operated in Paramus. Midland Park was part of a textile region where large numbers of trained workers, suppliers, and managerial know-how could easily be found. Paterson was home to dozens of textile mills and thousands of textile workers, and Midland Park had close and convenient connections with this great industrial center.

The Midland Park school opened on September 10, 1894, with a principal and three teachers. Prof. Ackerman moved the academic department downstairs to Miss Burr's former room, and Miss Heath of Hackensack was in

charge of the Primary Department, Miss Meyer of Room 3, and Miss Congler in charge of the Intermediate Department. The maximum teacher's salary was \$480 a year. High school students went to Ridgewood and then to Pompton Lakes. There were a number of private schools in Paterson and other towns for those who preferred and could afford that kind of education.

Public & Private Schools in 1894

An Era of Art & Invention

When Midland Park became a borough, exciting changes were overtaking the American continent.

Many from this area had traveled to Chicago to see the wonders of the World's Fair in 1893. The Gibson girls and Gibson men, depicted by the popular illustrator Charles Dana Gibson, indicated a new level of sophistication for the nation and for those living in this area in particular.

A great new interest in art greeted the works of Frederic Remington, Maxfield Parrish, Howard Pyle, and other American artists of distinction. The people of the United States were beginning to read books by American authors, as well as those of Europeans. The 1890s saw a great outpouring of wonderful literature by Mark Twain, William Dean Howells, Bret Harte, and Sarah Orne Jewett and Edith Wharton.

Theatres flourished with great actors – Sarah Bernhardt, Ethel Barrymore, and Joseph Jefferson from Saddle River. Opera houses and modest theatres were to be found in most towns in this area.

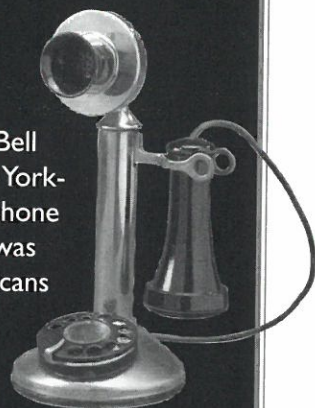
Popular American music came into its own when Midland Park was newly formed. Stephen Foster started a new musical movement that culminated with Al

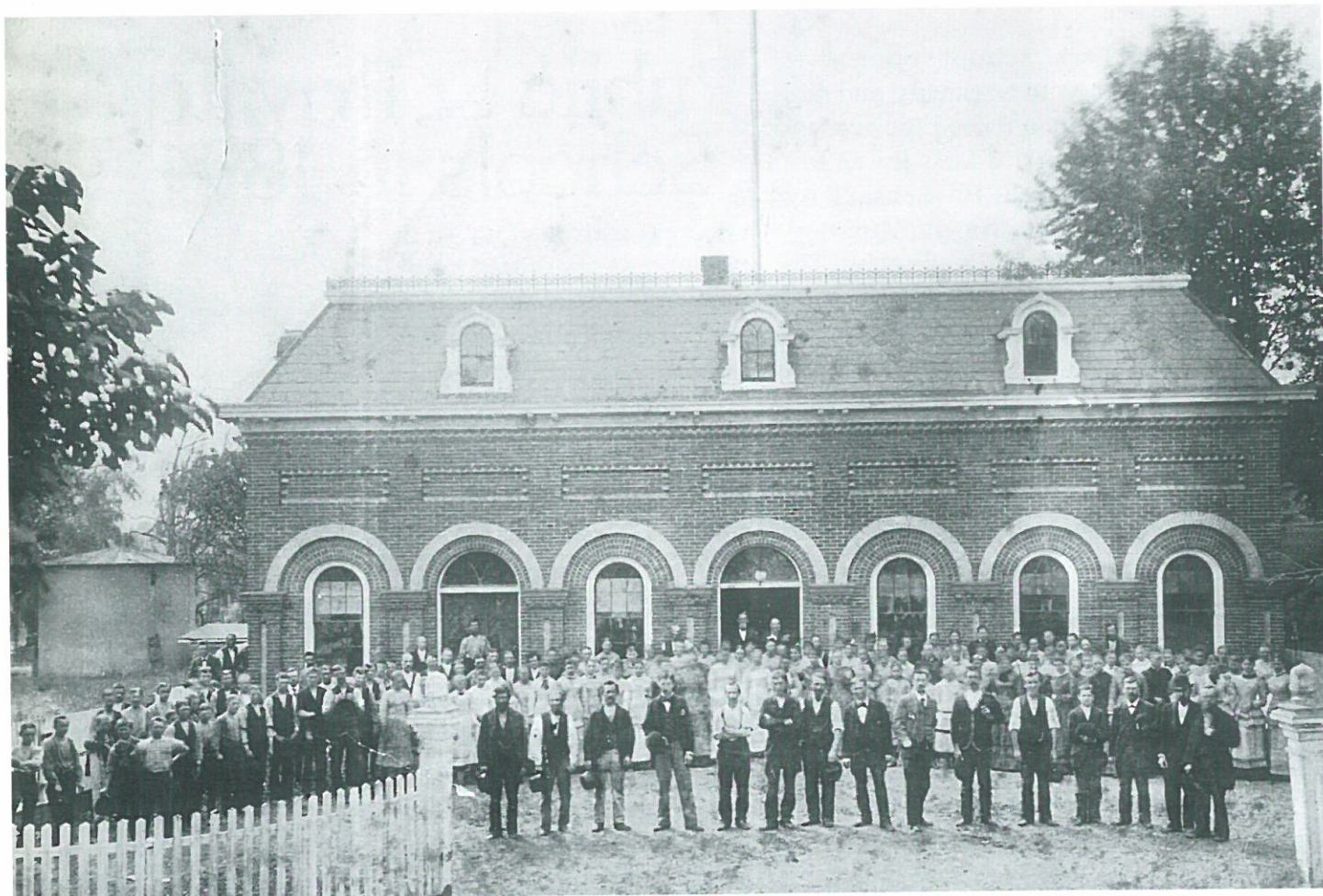
Jolson and Tin Pan Alley. Popular music and musicals became an important new art form in our country. The minstrel shows at Columbia Hall in Midland Park were typical of the age of popular songs. Classical music also flourished, and great European and American opera singers toured the country. John Philip Sousa was the popular bandleader and composer for the United States Marine Band.

Alexander Graham Bell opened his New York-to-Chicago telephone line in 1893. The modern bicycle was developed, and thousands of Americans took to their wheels. The bicycle became a popular and convenient form of transportation in this area as well as a sport for many. Bicycle races were also very popular.

William McKinley was elected president in 1896, defeating William Jennings Bryan. In 1898, the United States went to war against Spain and acquired Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam.

In 1898, the Gold Rush in Alaska filled the headlines. Women's Suffrage had only begun in 1894.





The original Granite Linen Mill building

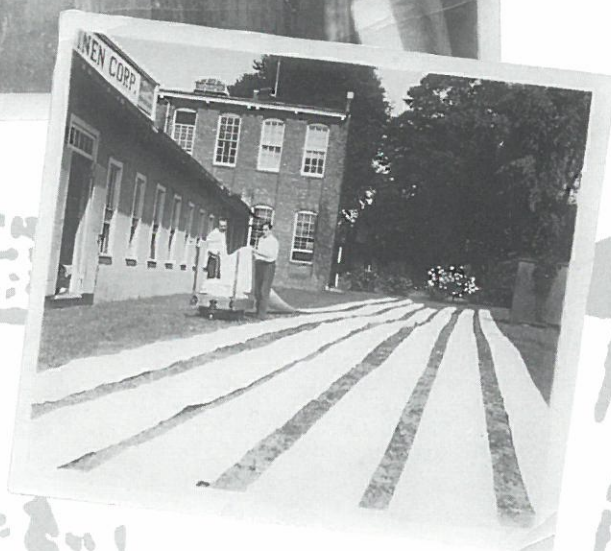
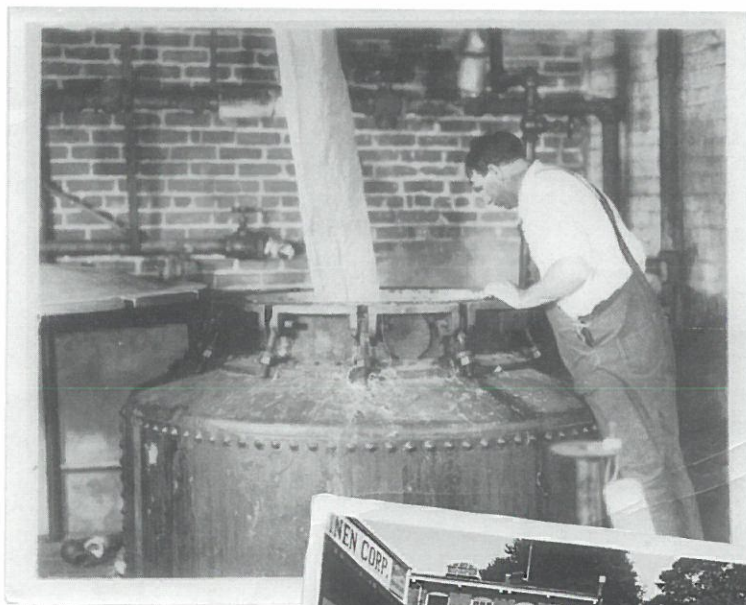
Apple Orchards and Gypsy Encampments

In 1900, apple orchards grew on both sides of the main street in Midland Park. Gypsies in covered wagons sometimes camped near the present post office, although their main campgrounds were farther along Goffle Road near the present Hess gas station.

There were dairy farms in the town, such as the Brock Dairy on Vreeland Avenue, Blom's Dairy on Prospect Street and at least another at the top of Irving Street. The Van Blarcom farm at Goffle and Godwin was known for its fine strawberries. The butcher shops along Godwin Avenue obtained ice for their wares from the ice house behind the drugstore.

By 1905, the first two street lights had been installed. Water mains began to be laid in the early 1900s. The fire department was started in 1909, too late to save the Granite Linen Company, which had burned in 1905. The first regular police patrol began with one policeman in 1914.

Located in the textile mill area, in the shadow of the great industrial city of Paterson, Midland Park generated jobs with as many as 8 or 10 fabric mills.



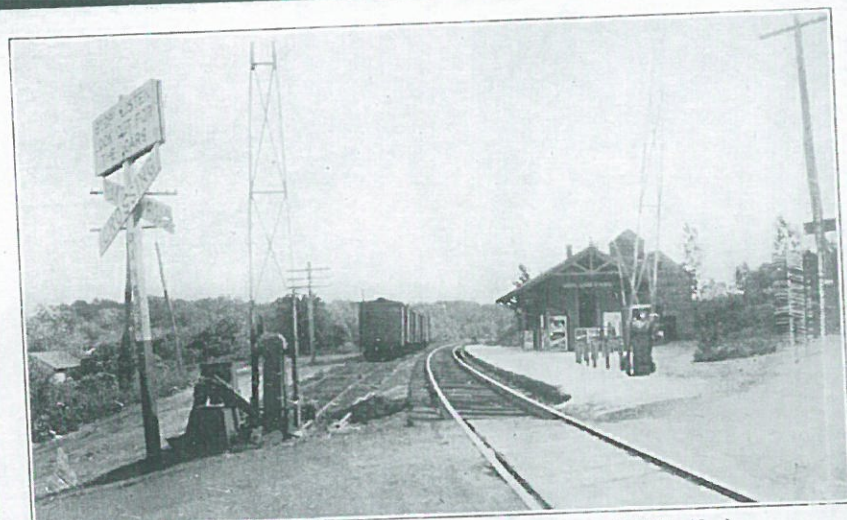
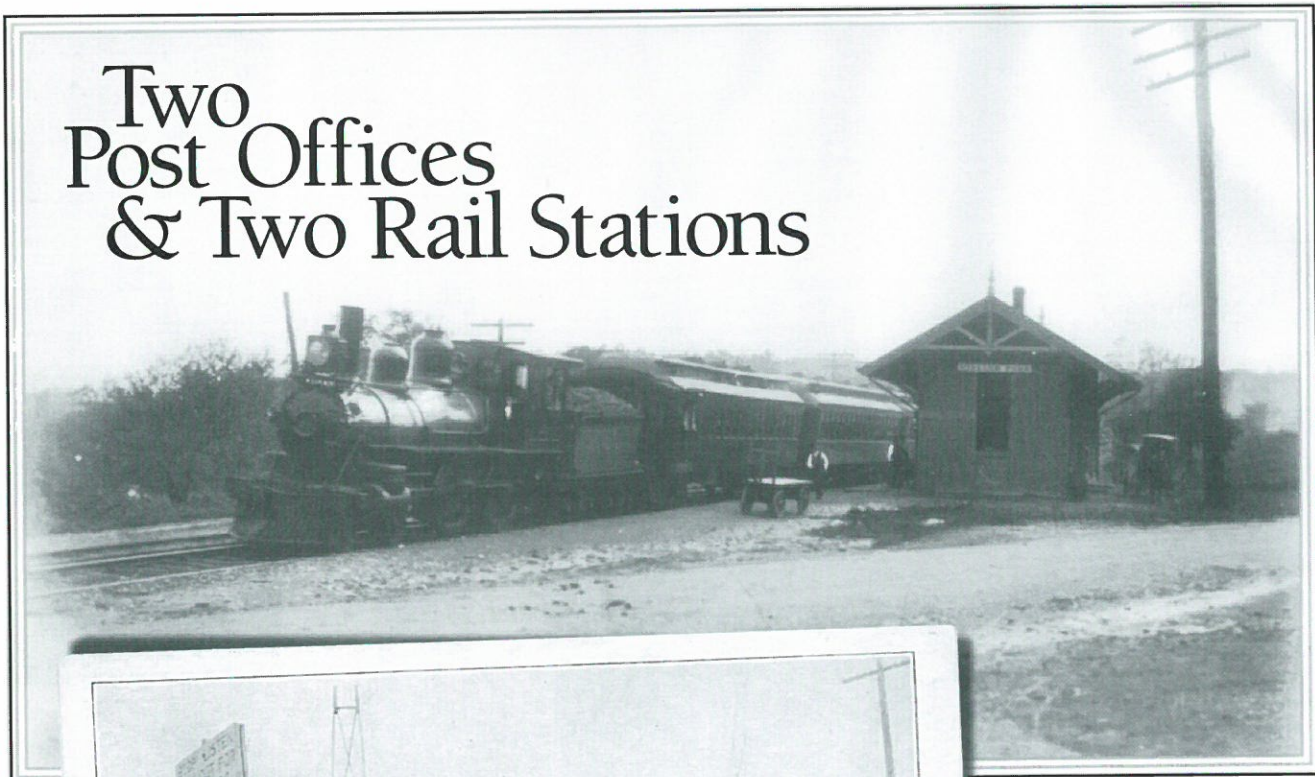
LOCATED IN THE
TEXTILE MILL
AREA, IN THE
SHADOW OF
THE GREAT
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OF PATERSON,
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GENERATED
JOBS WITH AS
MANY AS 8 OR
10 FABRIC
MILLS.

One of the many names for this area was Little Holland, and local Dutch carpenters worked for construction companies that built most of the houses in nearby towns. Dutch carpenters have always been esteemed for the high quality of their workmanship.

Although people moved to Midland Park to find work close to home, others commuted to New York or other communities. The busy railroad provided employment for many. Many local workers supplemented their mill wages with vegetables from the kitchen garden, eggs and poultry from the backyard flock, milk and butter from the brindle cow, and berries and fruits from apple and cherry trees. Home-grown foods were salted, smoked, pickled, and canned for winter use.

People were more self-sufficient then than now. A trip to the market for a bag of flour was occasionally a necessity for home-baked bread, but householders did not have any supermarkets stocked with fresh, canned, and frozen foods from around the world.

Two Post Offices & Two Rail Stations



1128

ERIE RAILROAD STATION AT MIDLAND PARK, N. J.

Pub. by McNell & Mott.

Little Midland Park had two post offices and two railroad stations after the merger of Wortendyke and Midland Park. This redundancy pleased the residents just fine. In the days before there were two or more automobiles at every home, people wanted to be within easy walking distance of the train and the mail.

(No. 12.)

Post Office Department,

APPOINTMENT OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, *Feb 12*, 18*73*

Sir:

Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for a new post office at *Midland Park*, County of *Bergen*, State of *New Jersey* at which you are recommended for postmaster, he requires that the blanks in the following statement be filled, and the questions carefully and correctly answered, verified by your signature, certified by a neighboring postmaster, and returned to this Department, addressed to me. The contractor should be informed of this application; and if the site of the proposed office be off the mail route, you will forward his certificate as to the practicability of supplying it, and also as to the increase of distance. If the proposed office is not on any route now under contract, it can only be established as a "Special Office," to be supplied without expense to Department other than net proceeds.

Be careful to designate the post offices by their true official names; and answer the subjoined

Several authors lived in Midland Park. Mary G. Farrell Knapp (d.1971) wrote children's books, such as her *Peter the Great*. One of her poems "Christian Prayer," was set to music and sung in local churches. Although she lived here for 45 years, she was born in Ireland and was a Roman Catholic.

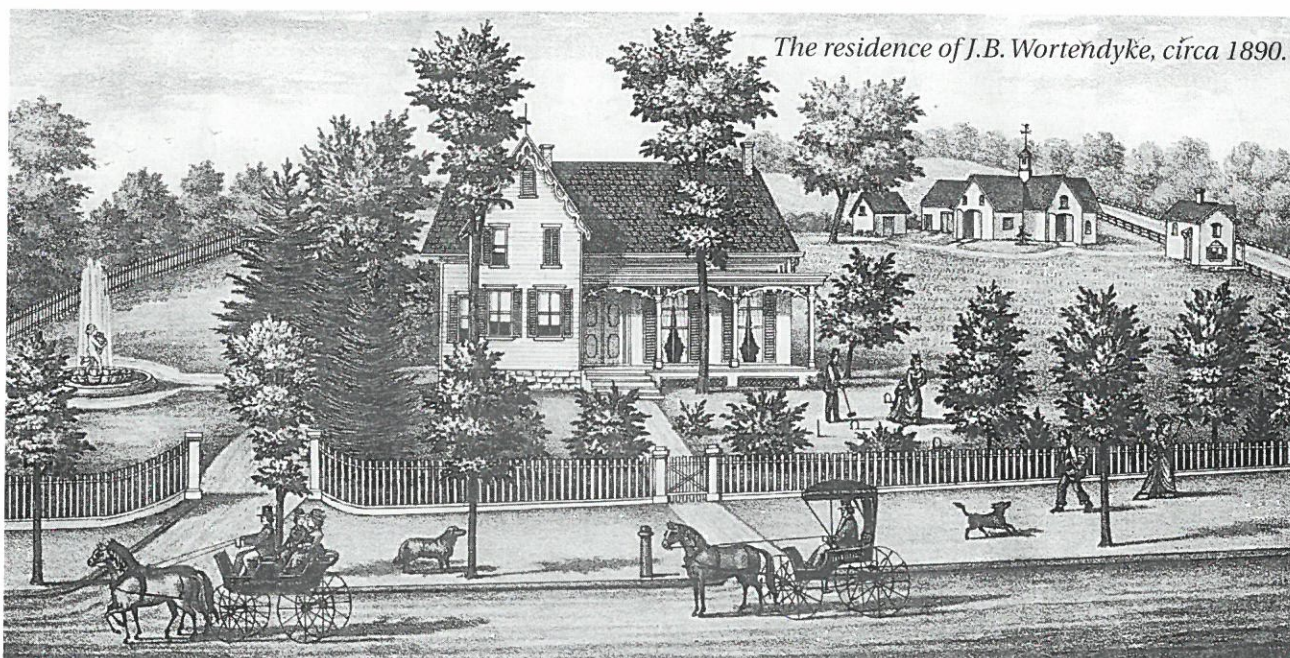
Local Authors

Jeanette Struchen of Midland Park wrote children's books for a well-known publisher (Franklin Watts). She wrote biographies of Pope John XXIII and Joan of Arc, among others. She was also a Methodist minister and wrote two books of prayers. These are *Prayers to Pray Without Really Trying* (Lippincott, 1967) and *Prayers to Pray Wherever You Are* (Lippincott, 1969).

Midland Park was never an isolated country village. It grew up on the periphery of New York City and Paterson, and always had close connections with them. Its people were far more cosmopolitan and diverse than is often supposed. Although Midland Park was a haven for large numbers of recent Dutch immigrants, it was also home to many other nationalities and faiths.

A Cosmopolitan, Multi-ethnic Town

The pioneering Loziers are believed to have been Belgian and Norman French. The early Wostbrock Mill was founded by a German family. Roman Catholics and Jews have long been residents. The Catholic Church and school are major religious establishments in Midland Park. Today, the town has residents of many other national and ethnic backgrounds: African-American, Albanian, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Indian, Russian, and many more. Many religious faiths are represented: Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, and probably a sprinkling of Moslems, Sikhs, Hindus, Bahai, and others. Yet, the popular perception of Midland Park by outsiders is that of a close-knit Dutch Protestant community.



The residence of J.B. Wortendyke, circa 1890.

A Touch of Dutch Still Remains

Evidence of Dutch roots can still be found today in Midland Park. Dutch Heritage Day is held every year at the Midland Park Public Library in an effort to maintain a connection to the culture of those who founded the borough and did so much to develop the community during its first century.

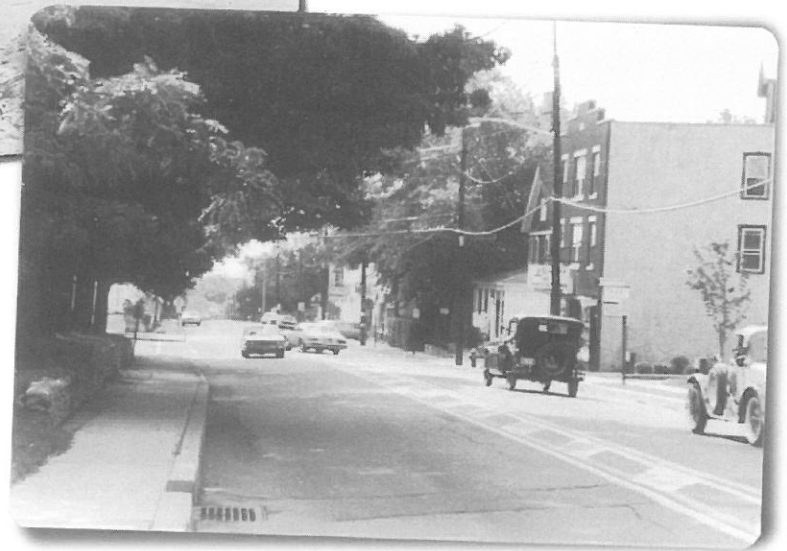


Midland Park Today

Midland Park today is an attractive suburban town of green lawns and tree-lined paved streets and paved drives. Many of the older houses have been extensively remodeled and modernized. Many new houses have been built on new streets that cut through former vegetable gardens and wooded plots, and some circles of houses have cleverly been fitted into cul-de-sacs. We have a number of apartment houses and two-family homes.

Houses have been enlarged with raised second stories and new family rooms. Fireplaces have been added, and finished basements have replaced root cellars. There is at least one color television set in every house, and often several. Many families have one or several personal computers, often with modem connections to the Internet and other electronic networks.

Decks and patios have been added to many homes, along with backyard swimming pools, gas and electric grills, cellular telephones, dish antennas, and outdoor lighting, all accompanied by a tangle of overhead wires lining the streets. Garage doors are opened electrically by remote control; lights come on automatically; houses are air conditioned in summer and well heated in winter. Furnaces today are not fired with coal, but with gas or oil.



Two views of Godwin Avenue near Franklin Avenue looking towards the New York skyline.

The woodstove in the kitchen is no more. The summer kitchen and backyard privy are gone, as well, and few people can even remember those trips down the icy path to the out-house in winter.

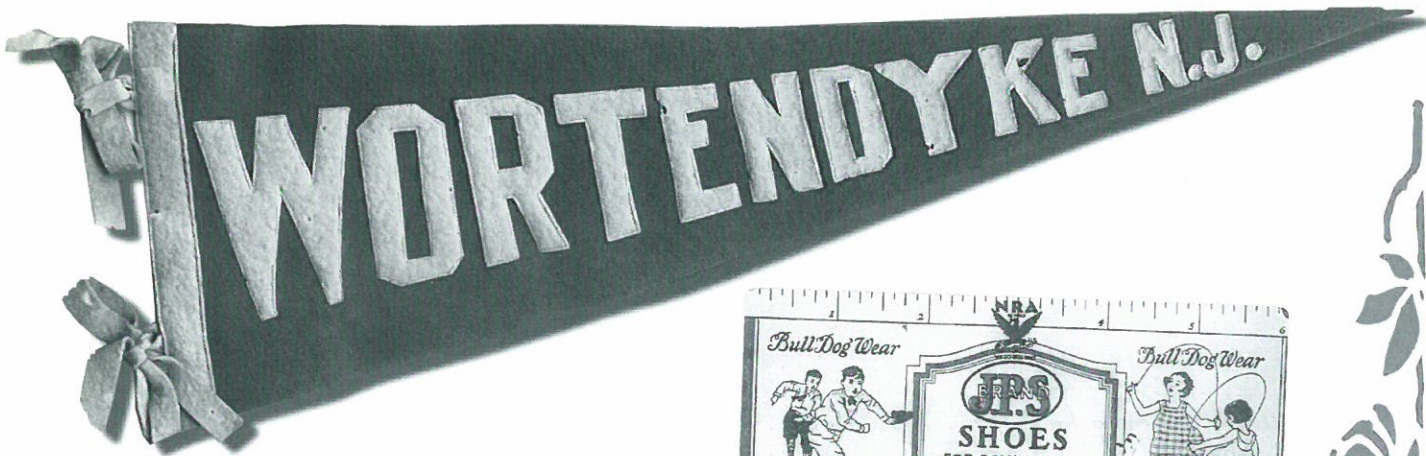
Boys and men no longer build biceps and pecs by pumping wash water.

Today they go to gyms with fancy machines that simulate work. Fireplaces are now primarily ornamental and not for preventing frostbite or for cooking. If you see a washboard it will

be in an antiques store or worked into someone's home decor. Laundry soap is no longer sold in those familiar, strong-smelling brown bars, ready to be pared into flakes.



A summer kitchen behind the Cronk homestead on Hill Street.



The undated photo at the left shows the borough's old "welcome wagon" near the blacksmith's shop on Godwin Avenue. The building seen at the left is the back of Columbia Hall.

Things Forgotten

There are no cow pastures, dairies, chicken yards, strawberry fields or cherry orchards left in Midland Park. The emphasis today is not on food production, but on ornamentation. Many lots are extensively landscaped with native and imported shrubs and trees, requiring the services of horticultural specialists. Often the blooming flowerbeds contain new types of plants that residents would not have recognized in 1894.

Lawns are well maintained. In many cases landscapers have taken over the grass-mowing tasks once assigned to young boys eager to earn spending money.

The town's residents have forgotten how to milk cows and make their own clothes. They no longer crank churns, gather eggs, or store potatoes, apples, and cabbages in root cellars for the winter. Except for a backyard tomato or two, the entire food supply of the town comes from supermarkets, shipped in fresh and frozen from many parts of the world.

Midland Park is proud of its very deep rock wells which help supply the Ridgewood Water Company, our local utility, with pure water. Water has become a precious commodity as Midland Park and the suburbs around it continue to grow. Lawns and shrubs demand more and more water, as do frequent bathing, car washes, and water-gulping industrial processes.

Washing machines and dishwashers use large amounts of the precious fluid, not to mention the many swimming pools in the borough. Lawn watering is often regulated in summer.

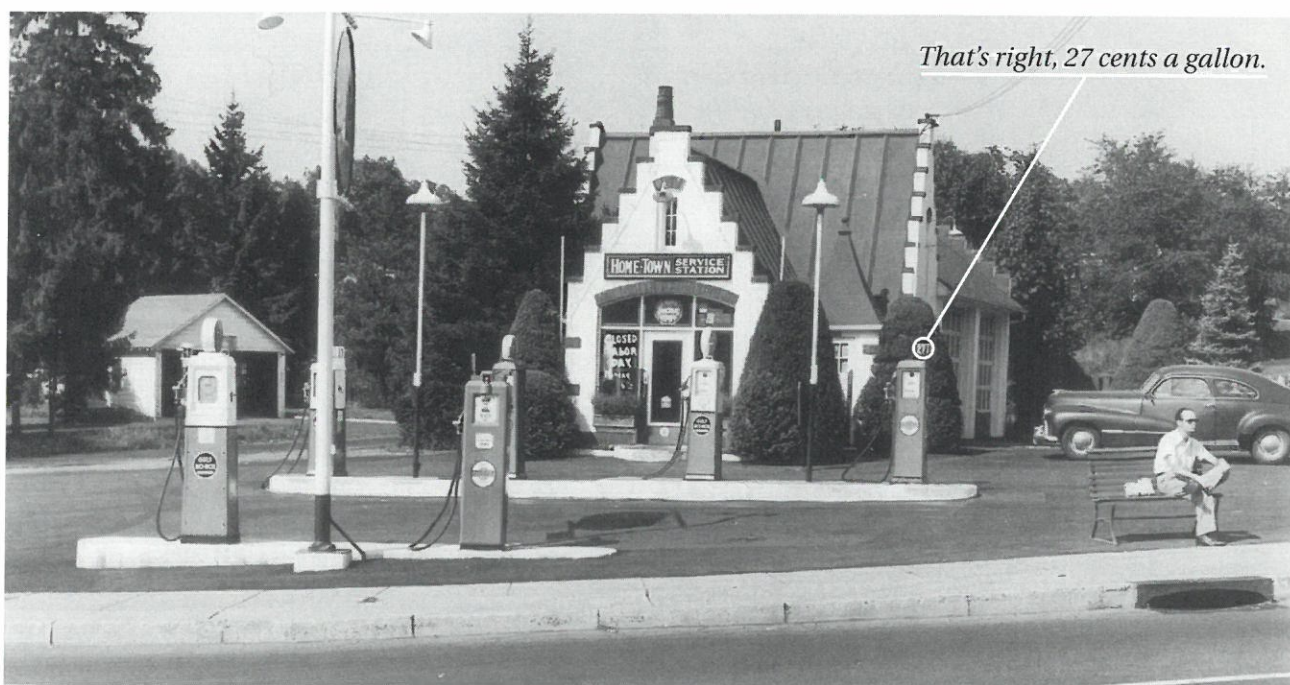
Neighbors are no longer highly dependent upon each other. A family's friends, place of worship, and shopping may be located in another town, far from home. The automobile has transformed village life and liberated families from neighborhoods. A Midland Park resident may work in New York or Newark, shop in Paramus, and spend summer weekends in the Poconos or Long Beach Island. Many families own several cars or recreational vehicles. Husband, wife, and children frequently drive their own vehicles, often simultaneously and in different directions.

Family life has changed quite dramatically. There are few quiet evenings at home with the family these days, as families get involved in community and recreational activities. Front porches and stoops are no longer evening social centers.

Most children in Midland Park graduate from high school and go on to college. The local textile mill as a place of employment has given way to the multi-national corporation, the chain store, and the franchise.

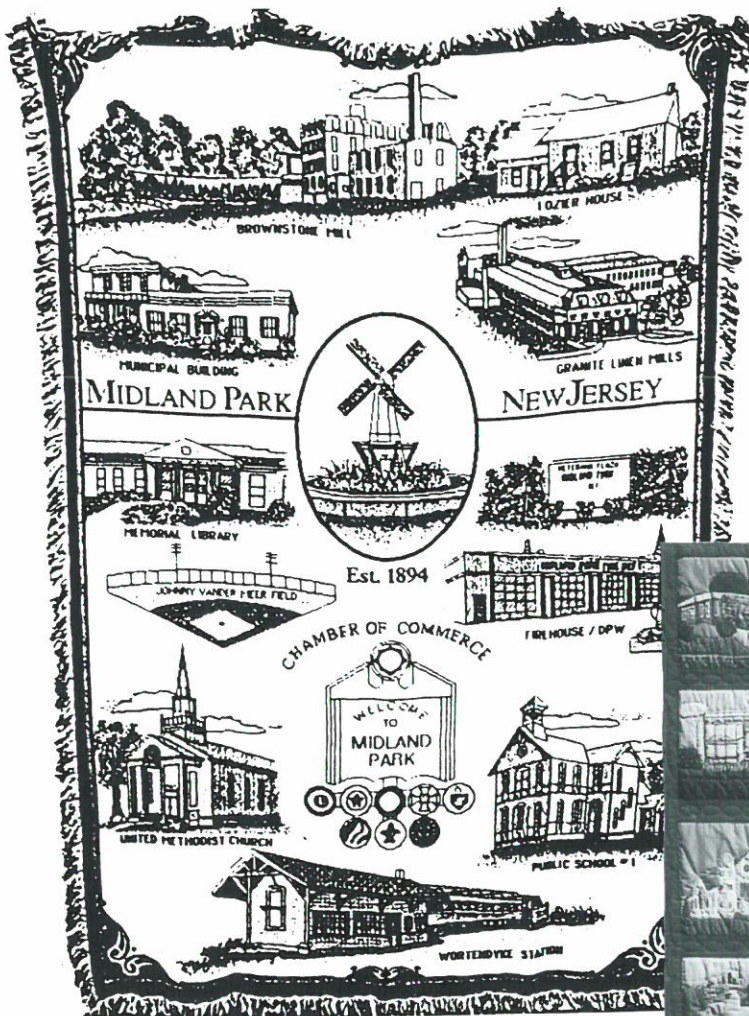
Many former residents have retired and moved south to seek cheaper living quarters and milder winter climate. Still, Midland Park is said to have one of the largest percentages of older people of any town in the county, and the regional senior citizen center is located in a former church.

The Neighborhood



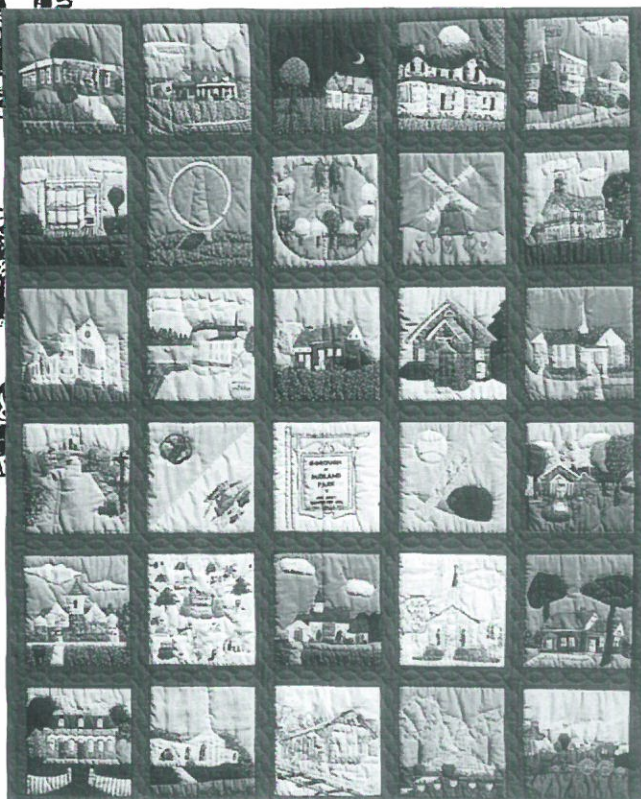
That's right, 27 cents a gallon.

This Gulf station at the corner of Godwin Avenue and Goffle Road was razed to make way for road widening and a more modern gas station.



This afghan, commissioned by the Midland Park Chamber of Commerce in 1996, depicts sites of significance in the town's history. It was designed by Ester Vierheilig and Barbara Wostbrock.

The quilt pictured at the right was a project of the Midland Park Historical Society in commemoration of the national bicentennial in 1976.



A Great Place to Live

Midland Park continues to be one of the most desirable residential areas in the United States. This is a town of beautiful homes and gardens, with tree-shaded streets and a prosperous, well-tended look. It is an upscale community, home now, as it always has been, to many exceptional achievers in business, education, and the arts. It is the kind of town where high aspirations are encouraged and become realities. The fact is that Midland Park is a great place to live.

Among the Midland Park residents who have gained prominence from outside the borough's borders throughout its history, Midland Park is proud to count New Jersey State Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn, only the second native son to gain such prominence (Isaac Wortendyke was elected to the Senate in 1880). The lifelong resident was serving as Midland Park's mayor when he was tapped to seek the Republican nomination for the state Senate, where he served from 1967 until his unexpected death while vacationing in Maine in 1985. He was unanimously elected Republican Minority Leader by his Senate peers in 1977.

During his 18 years in the Senate, Hagedorn championed the cause of mental health patients, veterans and senior citizens. From his seat as member and chairman of the Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare Committee, he fought for improved conditions in mental institutions, for the establishment of community mental health centers and for the creation of the Department of Human Services separate from the Department of Corrections. He was largely credited with the phasing out of the state inheritance tax, which was driving residents, particularly senior citizens, out of state.

At home, Hagedorn always maintained an open-door policy, often answering his own phone at his home/office on Vreeland

Avenue. He was always willing to lend his support to local humanitarian causes or to constituents' individual concerns or problems with the bureaucracy. The Midland Park

"Love Fund," which he helped

found, is dedicated to his memory. A devoted family man, the Senator consistently refused speaking engagements on Sundays so that he could spend at least one day with his family.

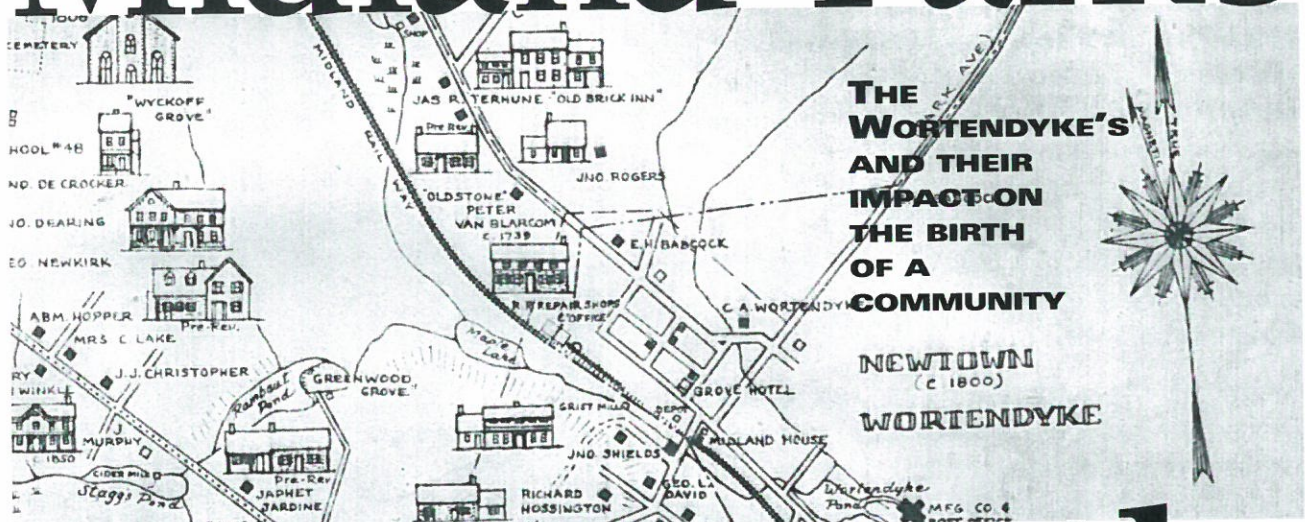
The Midland Park Town Hall/Library Complex was dedicated to his memory as well, and was renamed the Garrett W. Hagedorn Municipal Complex on Memorial Day, 1986.

Statesman from the Borough



*State Senator
and former
Mayor Garrett
W. Hagedorn*

Midland Park's



First Family

By Ester Vierheilig



The stern countenance (left) is that of Abram Wortendyke, father of Cornelius A., circa 1857. Pictured below is the home built by Cornelius in 1870 as a wedding gift to his son. It was demolished to make way for the Baldin Drive development.



The pioneer Wortendyke family played a prominent role in the founding of Midland Park and in the life of the community for over a century.

Cornelius Wortendyke, a farmer of Dutch descent, moved to this area from Pascack in 1796. He purchased 37 1/2 acres of land along Newtown Road in Franklin Township, Bergen County, from Egbert Van Zile, and in 1800 he purchased an additional 131 acres from Walter Rutherford. On this acreage he founded the hamlet of Newtown, which later was known as Wortendyke and was to grow into the Midland Park of today. His original home was on land opposite De Mund Lane.

Wortendyke saw great potential in utilizing the waters of the Wagaraw Brook for industrial purposes. Thus he established a small wool carding and fulling mill in 1812, first in his house and then in the vicinity of what is now ITT Marlow on Godwin Avenue. In 1816 he was joined in partnership with John Morrow, Jr., who, with his two brothers, had been sent to America by his father, John Morrow, Sr., to establish textile mills. Their father owned and operated mills in Dublin, Ireland.

The business grew and prospered under three generations of Wortendykes: Cornelius, his son Abram, and Abram's son, Cornelius A. The mill was converted to a cotton mill in 1832 and later still, a silk mill was added.

The Wortendyke Mill was the lifeline of the community, which was developed to a great extent, as a company town. Workers for the mill were recruited mostly from Holland, but also from England and Germany. Great care was taken to hire only men who intended to settle here. The company paid for the trip, supplied a house near the mill and each week deducted a portion of the employee's wages to pay off the house.

When the Wortendyke Manufacturing Company declared bankruptcy in 1884, it employed 500 workers and owned 100 houses in town. Many other houses had already been paid off through the years.

Also concerned with the social well-being of his workers, Cornelius A. Wortendyke built a pavilion in the Central and Greenwood Avenues area, which was used for dances, plays, shows, roller skating, etc.

The family's involvement did not end with the mill, however. Abram Wortendyke was responsible for the establishment of our first post office and also served on the Bergen County Board of Freeholders. His son Cornelius A. brought in the telephone by underwriting

(continued on page 31)



*Mrs. Abram
Wortendyke,
circa 1832.*



*The first post
office was locat-
ed on the corner
of Goffle Road
and Wyckoff Ave.*

New York Aug 22nd 1857

My Dear Will,
I cannot help but
think of you My Dear. often I have
wished you loved me as I do you
you have said you loved me and I
believe you do with my Heart ~.

Although Abram Wortendyke possessed a stern demeanor and was regarded as a shrewd businessman for his time, he was capable of some very tender emotions, as expressed in the many letters he wrote to his wife Matilda. Some samples are offered here.

New York March 16th 1857

Dear Matilda

I have the pleasure of writing to you my
Dear I have seen you day by day and seen those smiling
lips oh how pleasing to me my dear Matilda I suppose
you see me every day on the Ice Wagon dearest

My pen is poor; The ocean is wide;
My ink is pale: The sea is deep;
My love from you: And in your arms;
I shall never fail I hope to sleep.

Your true love

Abram D. Wortendyke

Forget me not Forget me not

211 West 19th St -

write to me my dear

(continued from page 29)

the cost of erecting all the poles from the Paterson office to his mill. He brought the railroad to Wortendyke in 1867 when he obtained the original charter for

the N.J. Western Railroad Co. and became its first president. When this company merged with the N.J. Hudson and Delaware and Sussex Valley Railroad, resulting in the N.J. Midland Railway Co. (now the New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad), Cornelius A. also became its president. It is from this railroad company that Midland Park gets its name.

A man of creativeness as well as vision and foresight, Cornelius A. obtained several patents for his inventions, including one for making continuous wicks for candles which gained him an international reputation. His brother, John Blauvelt, invented and patented the first method for making string from paper instead of hemp (mill in Richmond, Virginia).

Isaac Wortendyke, another brother, was more interested in scholarly pursuits than in the family business. He graduated with honors from Rutgers College and became principal of the Claverack Academy in New York. He then began the study of law, was admitted to the New York Bar in 1851, and served as Bergen County Surrogate from 1868 to 1878. In 1880 Isaac was elected to the New Jersey Senate from Bergen County.

Isaac's son, Robert H. Wortendyke, went into the insurance, real estate and loan business, first in Hackensack and then in Ridgewood. He was Midland Park's first elected mayor and also served on the Board of Education and as postmaster.

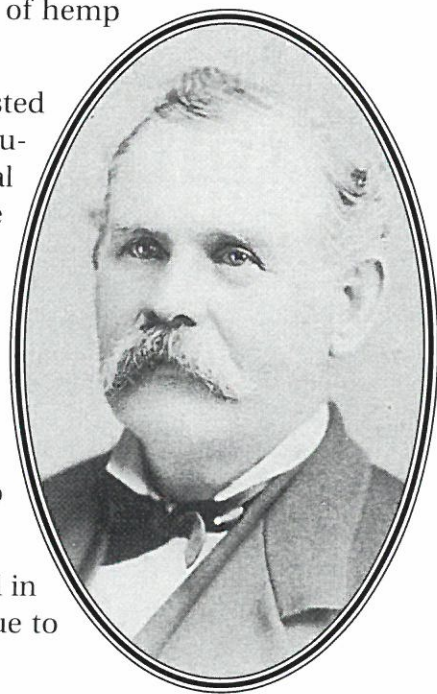
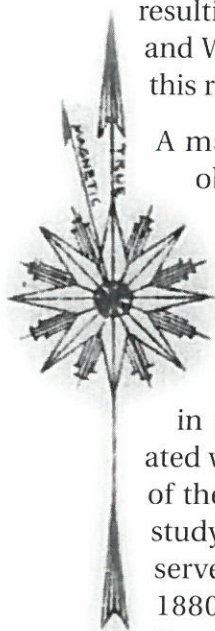
Robert H. Wortendyke's residence on Godwin Avenue was moved in the early 1950s to the corner of Rea Avenue near Franklin Avenue to make way for the original Midland Park Shopping Center.

At her death in 1967, Marion L. Wortendyke, Robert H.'s daughter, was the last descendant bearing the Wortendyke name still living in Midland Park. The Rea Avenue house was occupied by her niece and nephew, Shirley and John Addy, until their death in the 1990s.

Isaac's daughter, Florence, married Charles I.E. Mastin, who founded LaFavorite Rubber Manufacturing Co. on Wagaraw Road in Hawthorne. Among his many patents, Mastin invented and patented a ventilated raincoat and later patented rubber devices for railroad brakes.

(continued on page 32)

Midland Park's First Family



Isaac
Wortendyke

Midland Park's First Family

(continued from page 31)

A lasting reminder of the Wortendyke family's influence is the Northwestern section of town which unofficially bears their name. In earlier days, the area from the Methodist Church and cemetery, northward to include the Cedar Hill area of Wyckoff, was considered a separate municipality, since it had its own post office on Central Avenue and railroad station (now an art studio and gallery).

Officially, Cornelius Wortendyke's Newtown was named Godwinville in 1829 and renamed Wortendyke in 1871 until the town's incorporation as the Borough of Midland Park in 1894.

The Morrow Family

In 1812 John Morrow, Jr. bought two mills at the southern end of Goffle Road and added another mill which he operated with his brother, William. That area became known as Morrow's Mills and formed the nucleus of one part of what became Hawthorne. John Morrow, Jr. died in 1855 and his son, Cornelius Wortendyke Morrow, continued the business until 1875.

John Morrow, Jr. married Wortendyke's daughter, Sophia. One of their daughters, Alicia, married Francis Moore, who ran a hotel for Irish immigrants in downtown Paterson. Alicia Morrow Moore was the great grandmother of three sisters who are Midland Park residents today. They are Sara Starrs, Elizabeth Starrs McGovern and Eleanor Starrs Wierdo.

They live in two homes on East Summit Avenue.

Alicia Morrow Moore's daughter, Ellen, married William Morrison, who was superintendent of one of the "shops" of Rogers Locomotive Works, later Cooke's. When the sisters were children, their grandmother would tell them about the long trips her family took in a wagon with iron wheels over the "full length of rocky Goffle Road" to visit her relatives.

William and Ellen Morrison's daughter, Anne, married Joseph Starrs, and they lived in Paterson. After the death of Joseph, Anne and two of her daughters moved to Midland Park, and she lived here until her death in 1969. She often said that she had come to the "place of her forbears". Incidentally, she was born one month before the centennial of our nation. Children born that year were called "Centennial Babies".

The three sisters, all in their eighties, are keen and active, keeping up their homes and gardens in order to be a credit to their community.

– based on Miss Shirley Addy's research
of the Wortendyke Family

When I was about four years old, and just learning to sew, my grandfather sold his house to Aunt Nan. Miss Anna Van Dusen was just beautiful to my young eyes.

She had been traveling around the United States with her cousin for six months; therefore, she had four large steamer trunks filled with the most gorgeous evening gowns, beautiful dinner clothes, delightful afternoon dresses and negligees, but nothing to wear in the country.

On rare occasions she would invite me up to her bedroom and open a trunk and show me one of those marvelous gowns. Then maybe she would give me a little piece of material or net with bugles on it to make a dress for my penny doll. Of course, the dress had a train – that was the style in those days.

After three years we moved nearer the Midland Park school. We still kept in touch with Aunt Nan over the following years.

The Pictorial Review had Dolly Dingle dolls to be cut out. These paper dolls were traced or copied. Their dresses were provided. I drew copies of my own dresses for them, as well. I also drew additional dresses for the doll of the month. Comparing the paper dolls I drew with other girls' drawings helped me to improve my technique. The Ladies Home Journal also had a page of adult and children paper dolls.

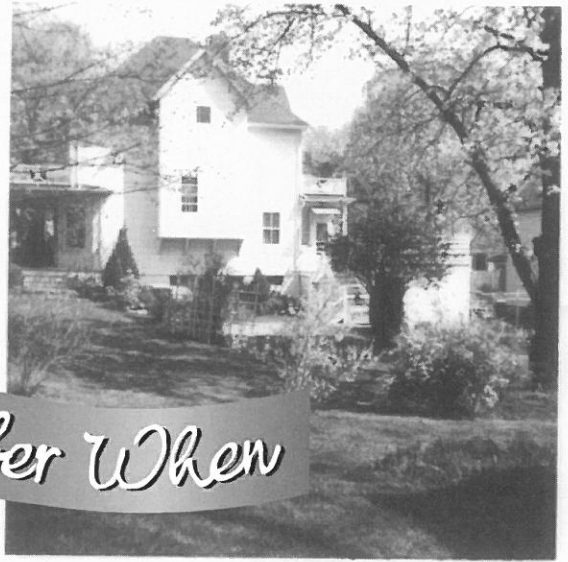
Although I liked my paper dolls I spent many happy hours sewing for my dolls. With them I could design, cut a pattern, if necessary, cut the material, sew and see the finished garment as I had planned.

It wasn't until I was working in New York City that I did go to McDowell's School of Design. First, I took a course in Draping. Then the designing course, at night after work. These were the first real instructions in drawing that I had received. My other drawings were all self-taught.

Here you learned to draw from live models. Your designs were encouraged being shown on the best of your model drawings. Some were for blouses, some dresses, negligees and others for evening clothes.

My drawings I have given to the Hermitage.

-a reminiscence by Shirley Addy, November, 1983



The Robert H. Wortendyke house became the home of Shirley and John Addy after it was moved to its present location on Rea Avenue in 1953.

Mill Town Days



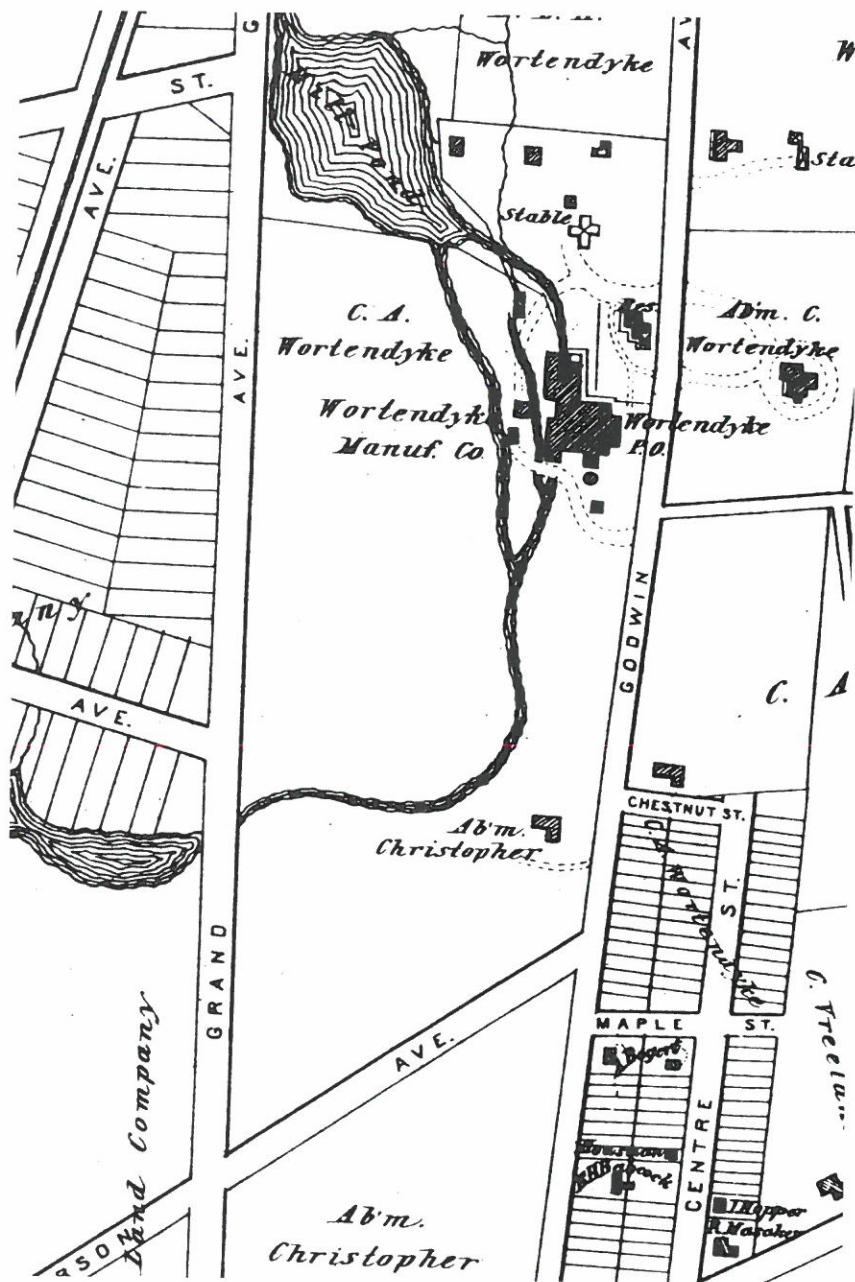
Industry came to Midland Park in 1812, when Cornelius Wortendyke opened his woolen mill in what was then called Newtown. At first, the mill was used for wool carding, “meeting the demands of the country trade.” Farmers would bring rough wool to the mill and have it prepared for spinning or have it finished as woolen cloth.



C. A. WORTENDYKE



The Schumacher Mill on Faner Road produced fabrics that graced the White House from the days of Teddy Roosevelt through the term of John F Kennedy.



Pictured below, the Granite Linen Mill, which stood on the site of the former Wortendyke Mill.

Mills & Other Establishments

Midland Park's Business Landscape a Century Ago

- ✧ **Wortendyke Mill**, later the **Granite Linen Mill**, present site of ITT/Marlow Pumps on Godwin Avenue
- ✧ **Faner's Mill**, a stocking mill, and **Schumacher's Mill**, manufacturer of fine decorating fabrics, Faner Road
- ✧ **Bartson's Mill**, manufacturer of upholstery fabrics, Rubble Street
- ✧ **Morrow Mill**, located at end of Morrow Road near the pond
- ✧ **Hengeveld Mill**, located on Paterson Avenue (about #140)
- ✧ **Binz Mill/Montabert Mill**, manufacturers of woven labels and emblems, located at 177 Paterson Avenue
- ✧ **Wostbrock Mill**, hand-loom embroiderers, occupies the old Brownstone/Lydecker Mill on Paterson Avenue
- ✧ **Columbia Silk Weaving Mill/Schofield**, located on the site of former Town & Country Restaurant, Godwin Avenue (now a medical building)
- ✧ **De Gray Mill**, located on Lake Avenue, now the site of a pumping station
- ✧ **Two handkerchief embroidery mills**, one run by a Mr. Kornet in the vicinity of 545 Godwin Avenue and another near 213 Glen Avenue
- ✧ **Richard Start**, hand-loom embroiderer, located on East Center Street
- ✧ **Blacksmith Shop**, rear of Peter Bakker's Hardware, current site of the Highland school playground
- ✧ **Terhune's Blacksmith Shop**, located at about 170 Godwin Avenue
- ✧ **Railroad turntable and repair shop**, located west of the Wortendyke railroad station
- ✧ **Dance Pavilion**, located on the site of the telephone company building on Greenwood Avenue
- ✧ **Murphy's Saloon**, Newtown Road at the railroad tracks (present location of Acqua Pools)
- ✧ **Columbia Hall**, located at 200 Godwin Avenue

Work in the Mills

Winifred Belanus De Witte and Florence Belanus Vanderbush
as told to Jewel Belanus Snyder

Winifred Belanus was born in Midland Park in 1910 and started work in the Granite Linen Mill when she was 14 years old, along with other girls. Win's job was to pull loose threads from finished goods. The mill had both large and small looms for weaving the cloths and towels. They were known as jacquard weavers because of the intricate patterns they wove on jacquard looms. The children were fun-loving and the forelady told them that if they produced well in the morning they could fool around in the afternoon. However, they worked very hard when called for.

Barney Vander Snow was the manager. His brother-in-law, Henry Sluyter, was the former mayor of Midland Park, from 1930 to 1938. Mrs. Vander Snow and Mrs. Sluyter were sisters to Mr. Diephuis, and all of them lived next to each other on Vreeland Avenue, which in those days went only as far as Hill Street where there was a large orchard between the Smith and Wakenbach homes. Before Vreeland Avenue was paved with asphalt it had a hard surface made of sheets of red rock.

One Sunday my grandfather was walking with a friend to church when Grandpa mentioned how beautiful the cherry blossoms were. The friend replied, "I don't speak of such things on Sunday."

At age 15, Win worked in the Binz Mill, located on the corner of Sicomac and Paterson Avenues. She was a quill winder and she hated that job. She eventually quit because for two years in a row her boss promised her a day off to attend the Grocer's Association excursion and picnic at Asbury Park, and then he changed his mind at the last minute.

When she was 20, Win worked at Faner's Mill on Faner Road. The company manufactured stockings. Win earned \$15 a week as a learner, but soon earned as much as \$24 a week. The girls made the tops of the stockings and were called "toppers." The men put on the stocking feet and they were known as "knitters."

The Schofield Mill was located at the corner of Rea and Godwin avenues. Silk was woven there. My Aunt Trina and Aunt Tillie worked in that mill around 1917. They were silk weavers. When Aunt Tillie was about to be married, Mr.

(continued on page 38)

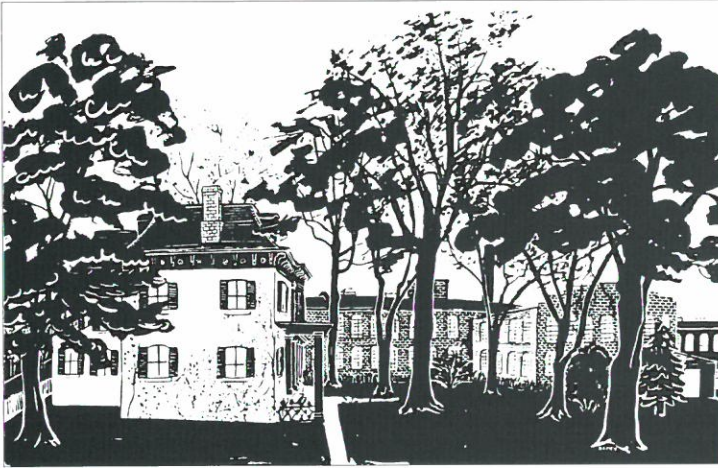
I Remember When

Work in the Mills

(continued from page 37)

Schofield gave her the fabric for the dress. Her sister Trina sewed many, many beads on it and it turned out beautifully.

Before Aunt Till came to the Schofield Mill she had worked at a silk mill in Waldwick. She hated her job so much that she prayed the mill would burn down, and it did, not long after. Both Till and Trina graduated from the Midland Park school that burned down on January 5, 1924.



*Illustration of
Granite Linen
Mill, 1948*

I remember that in 1924 Mr. Richard Start owned a little factory in his backyard on Center Street where he embroidered handkerchiefs. The Wostbrock Mills also produced embroidery.

Between jobs in the textile mills, Win worked in my uncle's store on Franklin Avenue, across the street from Decker's barber shop. After gas lines were installed under most of the streets, my uncle opened a shop where he sold gas stoves. In those days all the ditches were dug by hand by Italian immigrant laborers. The laborers lived in tiny shanties located near the Belanus home on Hill Street.

After working in the stove store, Win had a job in the Park Store, now Peter Jeffer's law office. This store was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Winters and sold notions, fabrics, jewelry and some men's clothing. One time a man came in to see some trousers and said he would accompany Win downstairs to check the stock, but in reality he tried to kiss her. She was 20 years old and earned \$16 a week. Mrs. Winters' sister, a maiden lady named Ann Jorgenson, also worked in the store. Their parents owned the pig farm on Crescent Avenue in Wyckoff.

I Remember When

Before the Park Store was built, Louis Eisenstein owned a large clothing store on that location. One day in 1909 the store caught fire and burned. Horse-drawn fire wagons came from as far away as Paterson. Firemen could commandeer a horse to pull the fire wagons, but many times the firemen pulled them. The town's first ladder truck was purchased in 1909, and Mr. Eisenstein was a member of the fire department.

When Frederic Schumacher first opened the doors of his own business in 1889, he had one ambition: to give this country the finest drapery and upholstery fabrics obtainable.

In those days fine silk brocades, damasks, tapestries and velvets had to be imported in order to maintain a high standard of quality. Importing, however, meant long delays in delivery.

Mr. Schumacher dreamed of owning his own mill which would enable him to create fine fabrics for stock, as well as for special orders, and give faster delivery than we were getting from foreign manufacturers.

This dream was realized in 1895 when he bought a mill located at One Van Houten St., Paterson, New Jersey, where we occupied the three top floors of what was known as the Waverly Mill -- part of the fabulous S.U.M. industrial empire, the Society of Useful Manufacturing, started by Alexander Hamilton to attract industry to that area.

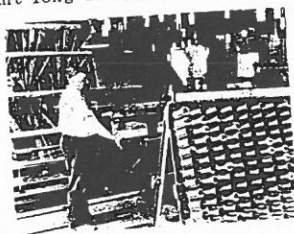
A miniature canal, one of a series in colorful Paterson, ran in front of the building and powered the fabric looms. F. Schumacher & Co. began to grow and despite a disastrous fire in 1905 which completely gutted the top floor, it had 2 employees and 20 looms in 1940.

In order to expand, F.S. moved quarters in 1940 to 430 Madison Avenue with facilities all on one floor. There we installed additional looms and during World War II we ran the looms 24 hours a day in an all-out war effort, increasing the number of employees from 20 to 70.

We moved to our present address, Midland Park, New Jersey, in 1950, where the installation of more modern machinery placed in a position to give Schumacher's customers better service.

F. S. & Co. is still after many years one of the very few tributors of drapery and upholstery fabrics to own and control its own mill.

Our Special Order Department has proved time and again our mill can make the finest fabrics in the world. Our mill



WARPING

MADE BY
GRANITE TEXTILE
MILLS, INC.
MIDLAND PARK, N.J.

*A dish towel woven at
the Granite Textile Mills*

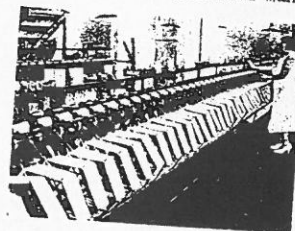
made special order fabrics for the governments of the United States, Spain and Peru, just to name a few. When the renovation of the White House in Theodore Roosevelt's administration was undertaken, Stanford White chose fabrics made at our mill.

The fabrics have become a sort of tradition with the White House. They have been called for and supplied from Teddy's term right down to Dwight Eisenhower's, and we hope they will be called for many times again in the future.

The mill is managed by D. Vernon Jones, who has 31 years of service; Bob Low, assistant manager, 10 years; Gene Gallaway, secretary, 12 years and 30 employees. R. Curt Hasenclever presently is Director in charge of all operations at the mill. Mr. Hasenclever succeeds Otto Hausmann, who has been appointed Manager, Metropolitan Sales.

There are 45 looms and related equipment. Some of the more interesting machines are the automatic knotting machine for tying the warp into the looms; automatic winders to wind filling yarns without supervisory attention.

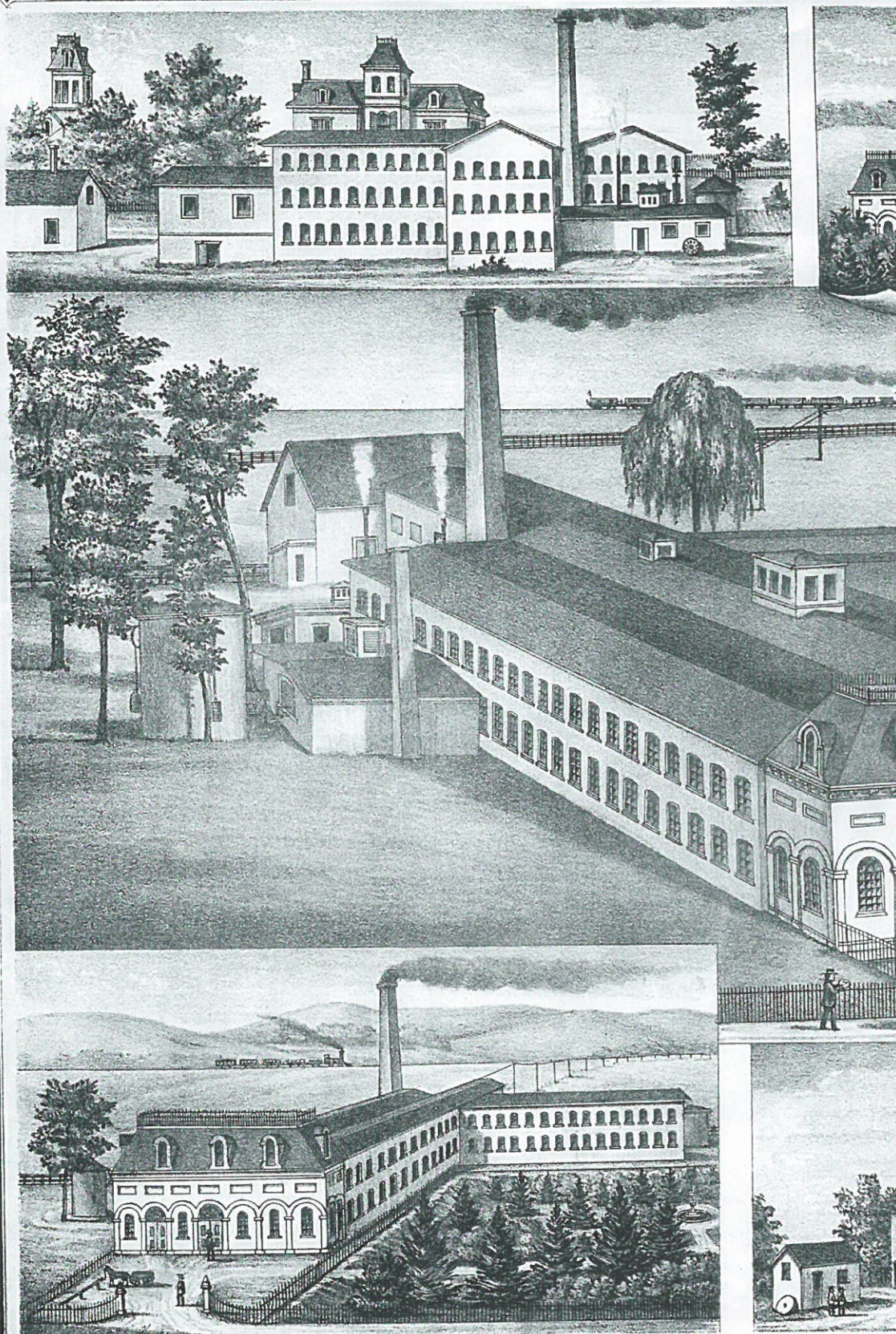
The automatic looms change empty to full packages in shuttles without stopping the loom. The loom, however, will stop when an end breaks in the warp or when the filling breaks in the shuttle. Use of automatic electric and hydraulic lifting devices enables one man operation in many cases and saves manpower.



WINDING

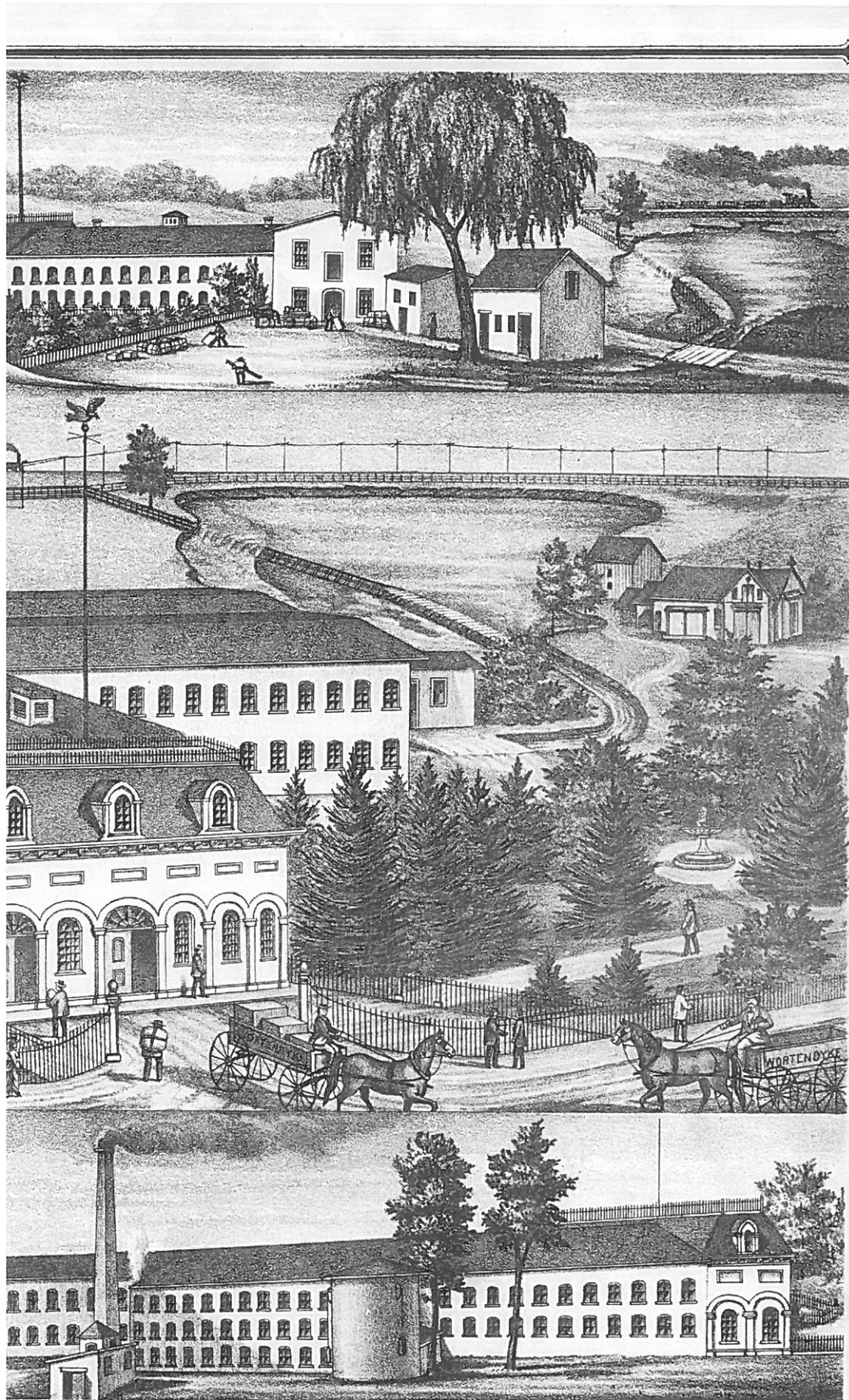
Excerpts from a history of the Schumacher Mill, published in the April 1958 issue of Swatches, a magazine by and for employees of the company.

"The industrial revolution was well under way when Cornelius A. Wortendyke succeeded his father as head of the mill in 1875. Cornelius A. Wortendyke, like his grandfather, was a man of vision and daring. He enlarged the cotton mill and added a silk mill, taking over the Granite Textile Mill, which had opened in 1848 for the purpose of manufacturing lamp wicks. The Wortendyke mills were enlarged several times and the mills were one of the major employers of the area."



C. A. WORTENDYKE, PRESIDENT.
 A. C. WORTENDYKE, SECRETARY.

COTTON & SILK WORKS OF THE WORTENDY
 WORTEND



"Some of the workers were imported from Holland. Mr. Wortendyke assured the workers that he would provide living quarters for them if they agreed to make the journey to the New World to work in his mill... But his concern with his imported workers did not end there. He built a large hall in the wooded section off Central and Greenwood Avenues. Plays were staged here and medicine shows and Wild West shows presented."

—from Midland Park Through the Years, 1964

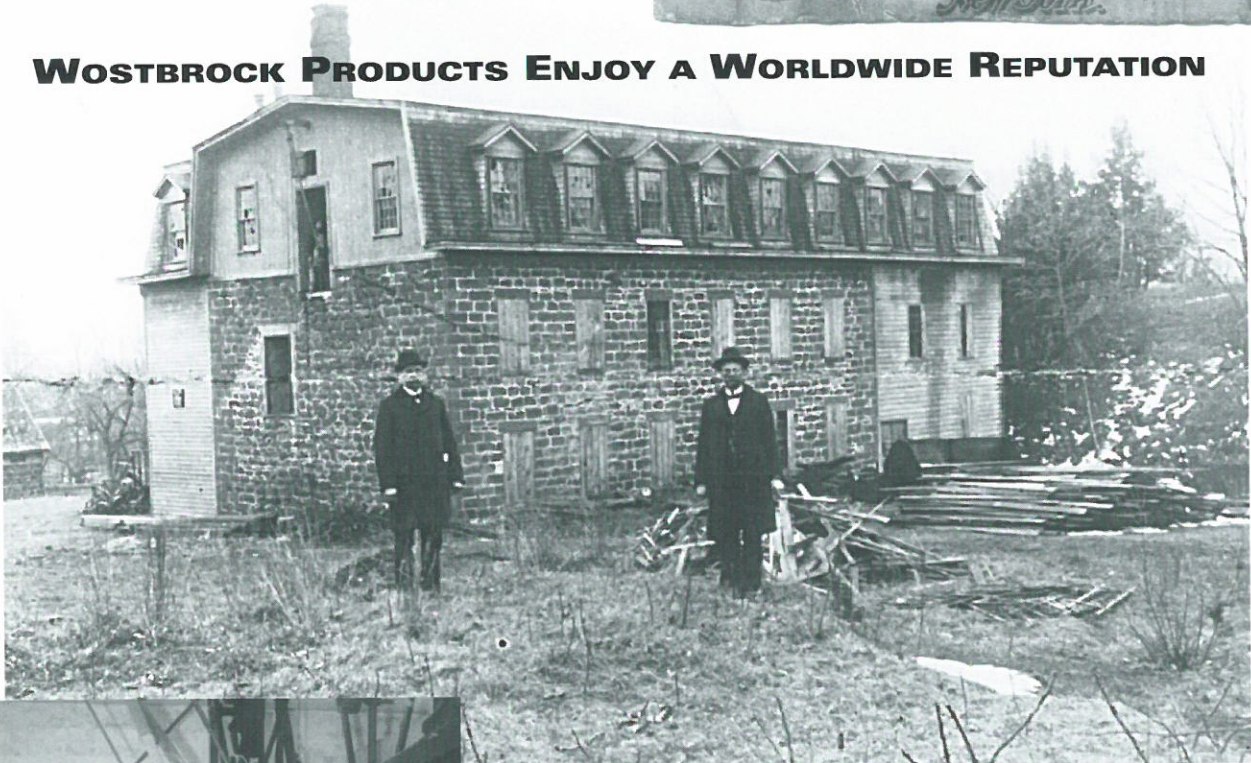
MANUFACTURING COMPANY.
KE, N. J.

ESTABLISHED 1832.
INCORPORATED 1871.

The Last Mill



WOSTBROCK PRODUCTS ENJOY A WORLDWIDE REPUTATION



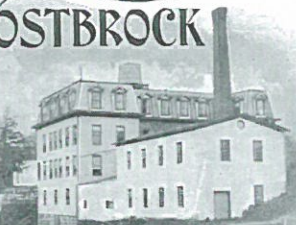
Pictured above is the original Brownstone Mill building, purchased by the Wostbrock family in 1895. In the foreground are Mr. Wostbrock and Mr. Heffenstein. At the left, Henry "Bud" Wostbrock mans the embroidery machine as he produces the borough's centennial pillows (foreground).

Mill Telephone, 800 Ridgewood, N. J.
N. Y. Office Telephone, 1988 Franklin

Salesroom, 80 Franklin St., New York

HENRY J. WOSTBROCK

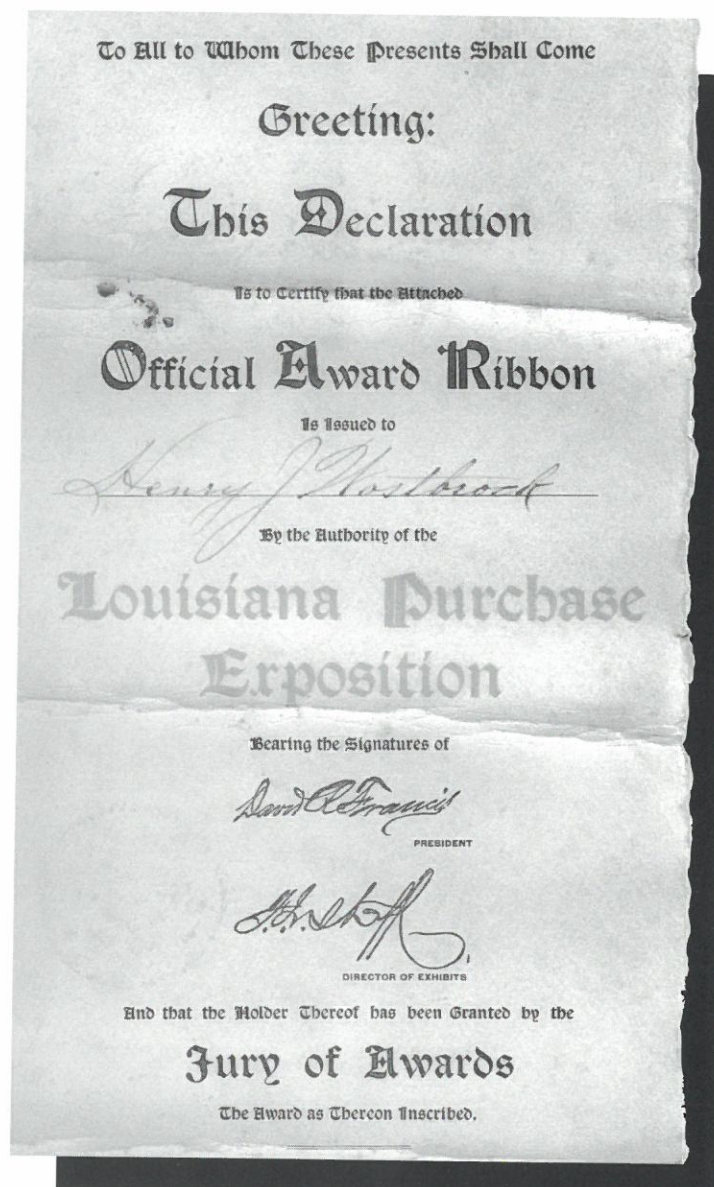
MIDLAND PARK
N. J.



PLAIN AND
EMBROIDERED - FLANNELS
INFANTS WEAR



At left and below,
some early samples of
Wostbrock embroidery.



The certificate above attests to the quality crafts-
manship of Wostbrock embroidery products.



A newspaper clipping recounts a 1975 fire at the mill.

General Assembly



STATE HOUSE, TRENTON

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

By Assemblymen RUSSO and FELICE

WHEREAS, The Wostbrock Mill, a complex in the Borough of Park in Bergen County, is commended as a unique of a continuing operation and an innovative reuse of Industrial Age factory; and, WHEREAS, Originally constructed in 1826 as a cotton mill by Abraham Finer, that first mill building now houses antique shops in historic setting; and, the area of the complex, built circa 1905, was a cotton mill by Henry Wostbrock and still a hosiery mill by the Wostbrock Company, turning out labels and handkerchiefs on hand in Switzerland; and, the complex was undertaken with unique architecture listing on both the National and State Registers; now, therefore, the members of the State of New Jersey: do hereby commend the Wostbrock Mill for the treasures of the State and for the respect and, and, an authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Clerk, be transmitted to Gertrude Wostbrock.



Rear view of the Brownstone Mill before the 1975 fire.

A Lifetime at the Loom

The Lydecker Brownstone Mill was built in 1826. I, Johanna Lauwe Storms of Wyckoff started working at the mill in 1931 at age 16 during summer vacations from high school. After graduating in 1932 I went to work in the Ridgewood 5 and 10 for about two years and then came back to the mill to work for Walter C. Wostbrock, son of the original founder of the hand loom embroidery business in Midland Park.

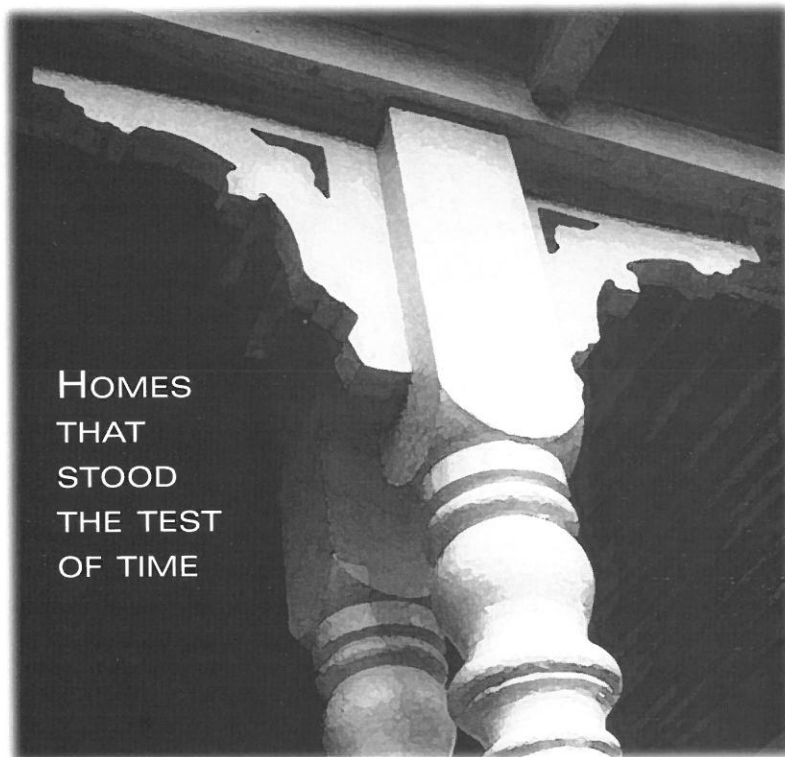
I earned \$7 a week. By 1941 the minimum textile wage was 37.5 cents an hour. I also worked at the 5 and 10 on Saturdays, making \$2.40 for the 12 hour day from 9 to 9. When I came to work, I worked with Walter although Walter's father was still running a loom. At this time there were 12 looms. It took a stitcher – always a man – and two spanners – female – to operate the loom. These machines were assisted by water power until mid 1965. There was no time for coffee breaks. Your snack was eaten standing by your frame.

In the early Wostbrock years, (the 1900s) the main product the mill embroidered was

wool flannel to be used as petticoats and curtains. During the years I worked here, we embroidered men's initial handkerchiefs, ties, ladies' underwear, blouses, children's snowsuits, bonnets and dresses. Much of the work was done for houses like Christian Dior, Warnaco, Sulka, Kate Greenaway, and Eden Toys. Fur coat labels for Scassi, Saks, and Neiman Marcus, just to name a few, were also embroidered.

Since 1965 we have been embroidering Boy Scout neckerchiefs for troops and lodges all over the world. One of our neckerchiefs was made for and went into space with Space Lab 3 in 1985. In the early 1970s the sale of antiques was started at the mill. Today the mill is occupied by 20 antique shops while only one embroidery machine remains still in operation. When Walter retired in 1974, his nephew, Henry J. Wostbrock (Bud), purchased the business. Today I am still working for Bud and with his mother, Gertrude Neill, on the one remaining loom. It is 67 years since I first worked here at the mill.

I Remember When



Historic & Homes Districts

By Ester Vierheilig

Finely-crafted items generally stand the test of time, sometimes becoming more enchanting as the years pass. Midland Park's historical homes are no exception. Five of the best-known - and arguably most attractive - borough buildings constructed before 1800 are the Lozier House, the Baldwin House, the Babcock-Van Iderstine House (also known as the Meyers-Masker House), the Wortendyke-De Mund House, and the Van Zeyl House.

Perhaps the most familiar of these homes is the **Lozier House**. Located at the corner of Goffle Road and Paterson Avenue, this Dutch Colonial is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Lozier House is believed to have been built before 1750. It was traded by Mr. Banta to Cornelius Lozier in 1775.

The house appeared on the Indian Wagaraw Trail and the Erskine-Dewitt Map of 1780. Its likeness also appears in Midland Park High School's Memorial Hall. Local artist Ethlyn Woodlock painted the mural in 1976 for the borough's Bicentennial float.

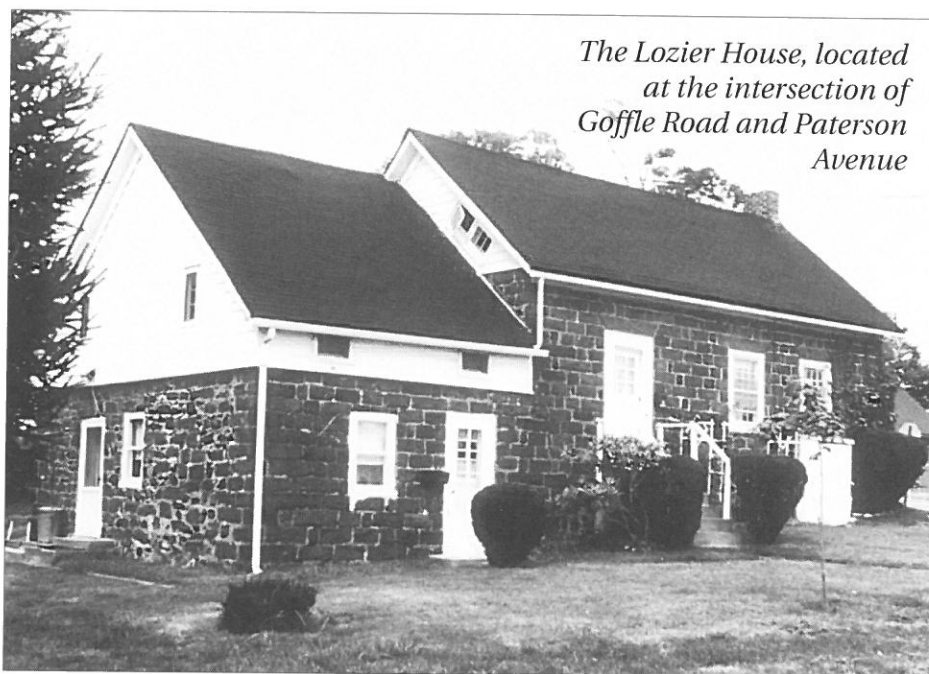
A grist mill was once located south of the property. Lozier's Mill, as it was originally known, was later called Lydecker's Mill after the property was transferred to Garret Lydecker. The stone mill, which is now located north of the house, was built in 1826 by Abraham Van Riper.

In honor of America's Bicentennial in 1976, a millstone from the Lozier House property was transformed into a sundial. The donation of the grinding stone came from the Wostbrock family. The Bicentennial monument now stands between the municipal building and the library.

The **Babcock-Van Iderstine House**, located at 179 Park Ave., also appears on a 200+-year-old map. This map, drawn in 1767-68, identifies the stately Dutch Colonial and its location on a 244-acre lot.

(continued on page 49)

Lozier



The Lozier House, located at the intersection of Goffle Road and Paterson Avenue

House



According to local folklore, the Babcock-Van Iderstine House also served as a prison for Hessian soldiers during the American Revolution. A narrow closet in the basement is said to have been the containment area.

Babcock-Van Iderstine House



(continued from page 47)

Andrew Bell of Perth Amboy was the first known owner of the property. Bell later sold 39 acres of his property to a Thomas Myers. The Masker family owned the property from 1823-54, and constructed the large Victorian addition to the home during those years.

Abram C. Wortendyke is also listed among the owners of the home. Wortendyke eventually sold the property to Edward H. Babcock in 1869. Babcock was the grandfather of Helen Wortendyke Babcock-Van Iderstine, who owned the house until her death at age 83. Her family name has given the property its present name. Helen Van Iderstine was also the granddaughter of Cornelius A. Wortendyke, owner of the Wortendyke Manufacturing Company and first president of the New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad.

In addition to its intrinsic value, the Babcock-Van Iderstine House is also known as a haven for church services, which were held in the home's dining room circa 1775. According to local folklore, the Babcock-Van Iderstine House also served as a prison for Hessian soldiers during the American Revolution. A narrow closet in the basement is said to have been the containment area.

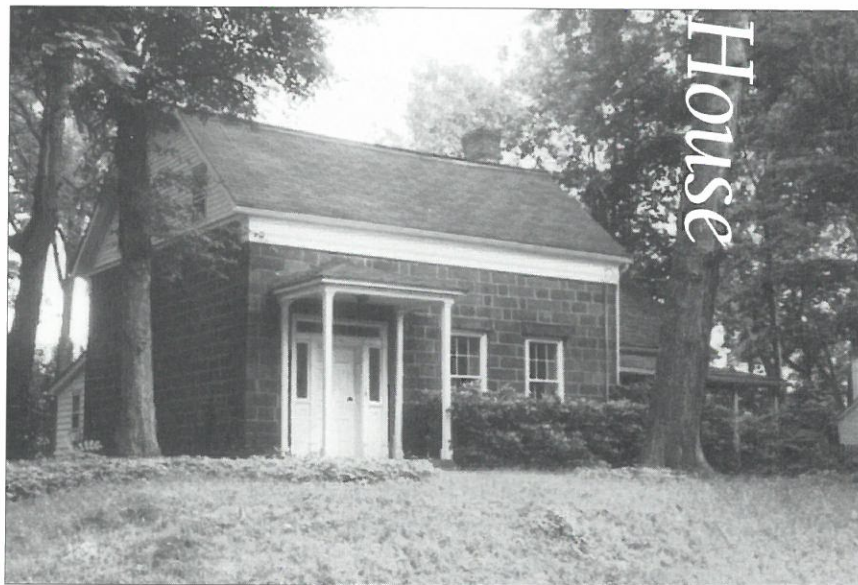
Legend has it that the ghost of one of those soldiers can be heard walking up the stairs of the house. However, that claim was laid to rest in the 1970s, when the Cotz family purchased the house. The Cotzes have not reported any other-worldly disturbances.

Sixty Lake Avenue is the site of yet another of the borough's historical homes: the **Baldwin House**. Although some records show the home was built in 1838, it is believed that the original portion of the Baldwin House may have been constructed as early as 1740, with an addition in 1820.

The 1964 publication "Midland Park Through the Years" indicates that the Baldwin family settled here in 1720. The booklet also states that "although little

(continued on page 50)

Baldwin House



The Baldwin House, which is believed to have been constructed circa 1740.



DeMund House

(continued from page 49)

is known about them [the Baldwins], they were believed to have been among the wealthy families because the ruins of a grist mill can be seen near the old house. The mill was used to grind wheat for the Dutch farmers long before the Revolution, and invariably the owner of a mill had a large, well-built home.”

One of the Baldwins, David, was an inventor. When he lived in his family’s home during the mid 1800s and early 1900s, David Baldwin used the old mill as a laboratory. There, he put his talents to productive use. Baldwin rigged up an alarm which indicated when an uninvited “guest” had set foot on the property – most likely to fish in the family’s pond.

In 1975, the Baldwin House made headlines when it was in danger of being razed in favor of a garden apartment complex. These plans met with organized opposition from a number of historical societies, and the Baldwin House’s neighbors.

The following year, Robert Miller of Wyckoff purchased the gambrel-roofed stone home from Edith Jacobs, and restored the building to its original appearance. Miller based his decision to purchase the home on the findings of Loring McMillen, a historical architecture expert, who concluded that the house was constructed approximately 30 years before the American Revolution.

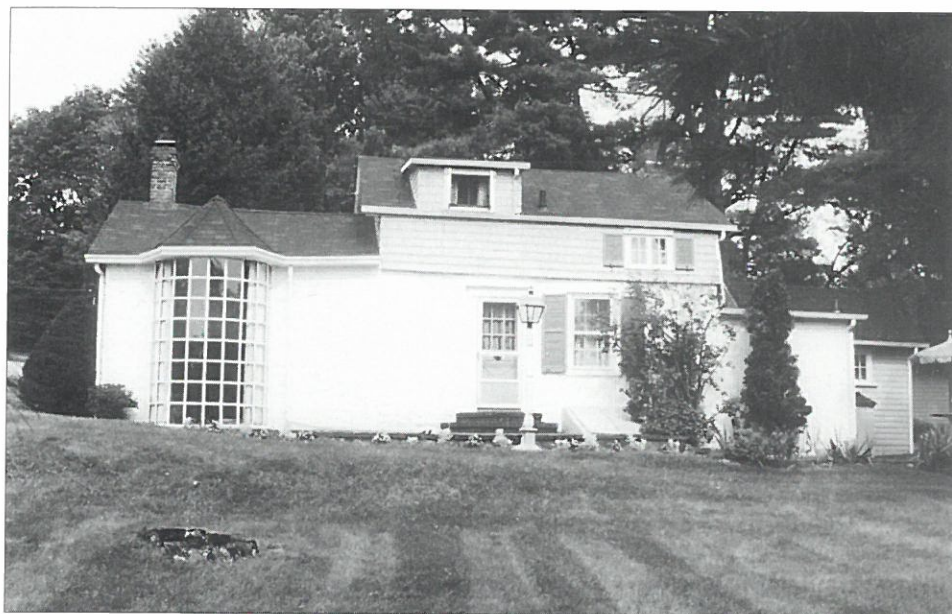
The house at 714 Godwin Avenue takes its name from the **Van Zeyl** family (also spelled Van Zeyle or Van Zile). Johannis Van Zeyl is thought to have built the home in 1736, making it the oldest stone house standing in the borough.

The original section of the house is that farthest from the road. There, Van Zeyl constructed a small one-room, two bay structure with a gable roof.

Over the years, the building has been altered many times. One of the later additions, which is visible to passers-by, was a Victorian tower which was converted to a window in the 1950s.

The **Wortendyke-De Mund House**, a brownstone and fieldstone structure, is located at 10 De Mund Lane. The oldest part of the house is a two-room farmhouse which was built in 1797, most likely by one of the Wortendykes. Victorian era and 20th Century additions have been made to the house,

(continued on page 52)



House

Van Zeyl

This Dutch Colonial house at 330 Godwin Avenue is believed to have been built in the mid-1800s by Cornelius Wortendyke for one of his daughters. It was later purchased by the Englishman family, who lost it during The Depression. A daughter, Emma "Queenie" Bush, and her husband bought it back, and Queenie lived in the house until she was in her nineties. Residents will remember her sitting on the porch almost daily in nice weather, as she watched the traffic go by and received friends who came to visit. The house was purchased by Dr. Jacqueline Vierheilig in 1997.



(continued from page 50)

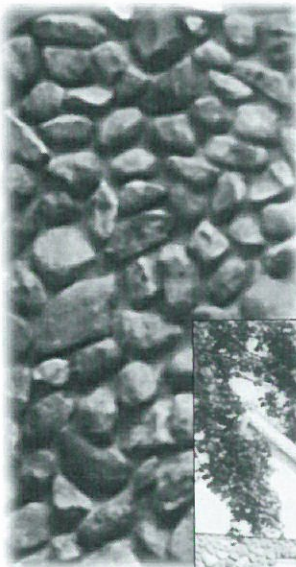
which currently has 11 rooms. Original ceiling beams are still exposed in the living room.

Midland Park's historical districts include developments which were built by the Wortendyke family for their mill employees. The Wortendykes recruited workers from Holland and paid for their passage and homes. In return, the mill hands had their wages garnished until the original expenses had been repaid.

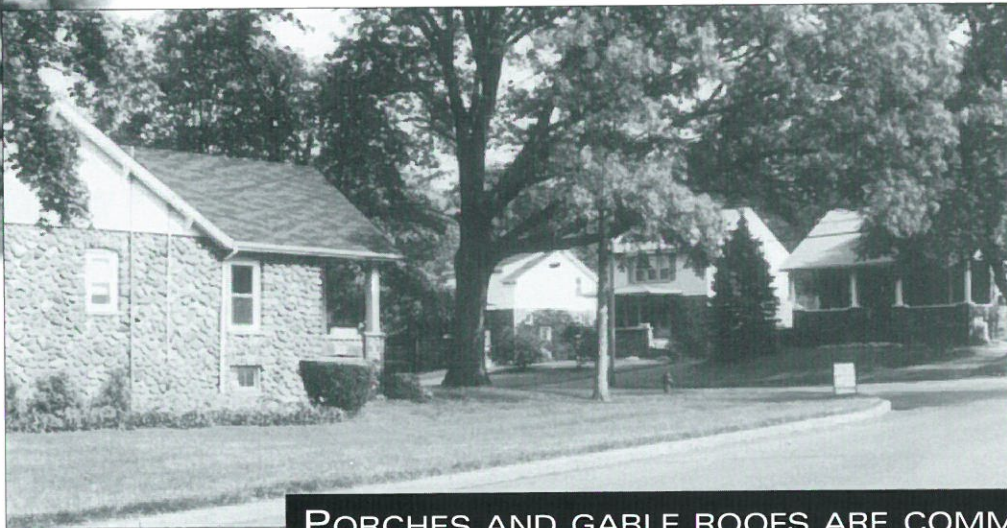


One such historical district encompasses Center Street and Godwin Avenue. This area is characterized by modestly-sized, single family houses built in the Downingsque style. That architectural style was named for A.J. Downing, and was used from the mid- to late-1800s. Although simple, Downingsque homes are picturesque due to their varying roof shapes and decorative accents.

This simplified Downingsque style can also be seen in the Madison Avenue/Clinton Avenue area. The houses in this part of town are characterized by scalloped vergeboard trim and semi-circular windows.



The **Faner Road District** is comprised of seven cobblestone and shingle houses constructed between 1924 and the early 1930s. Porches and gable roofs are common features of these homes, which were built under the influence of the American Arts and Crafts movement. Unlike the other clusters of homes built by the Wortendykes, these houses are believed to have been sold privately, rather than to employees of the nearby hosiery mill. The 1928 mill building was later used by fabric manufacturer E. Schumacher until 1989.



*Fieldstone homes
in the Faner Road
district.*

**PORCHES AND GABLE ROOFS ARE COMMON
FEATURES OF THESE HOMES, WHICH WERE
BUILT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE
AMERICAN ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT.**



Background photo shows a section of the Brownstone Mill.



*The original
DeMund
house*



This sundial, which is adjacent to Borough Hall, includes an original millstone from the Brownstone-Lydecker Mill donated by the Wostbrock family. Designed by Bicentennial Committee co-chairman Ted Vandervliet, the sundial was dedicated in 1976 as part of the borough's Bicentennial celebration.





Colonial Pines

Situated within a half hour's motor ride over the George Washington Bridge from New York City, adjoining Ridgewood, one of Bergen County's most exclusive suburbs, is "Colonial Pines" with its sixteen columns.

It is surrounded by expansive terraced lawns and shaded by health giving pines. Leaving the terraces, one mounts the steps leading to the broad colonial porch over which is a balcony surrounded by an iron railing.

On entering the wide hall opening into the two drawing rooms, a music room and a dining room, one is confronted with a broad stairway leading up to six bedrooms, two bathrooms and the third floor with three bedrooms, bath and center hall.

In the rear of the dining room on the first floor is a fully equipped all-tiled modern kitchen. Through the adjoining room one leaves the side of the house by another colonial porch and porte-cochere with its nine columns. Two large garages accommodating seven cars and a barn adjoin the circular drive.

This mansion, situated on three acres, offers itself either as a private home to the most exclusive taste or gives every facility for a complete sanatorium.

-Realtor's description of Colonial Pines, undated

A by-gone but not forgotten landmark in our town was Colonial Pines, a beautiful mansion and estate on Godwin Avenue. The estate was owned by Henry Wostbrock Sr., a former mayor of Midland Park and a Bergen County Freeholder.

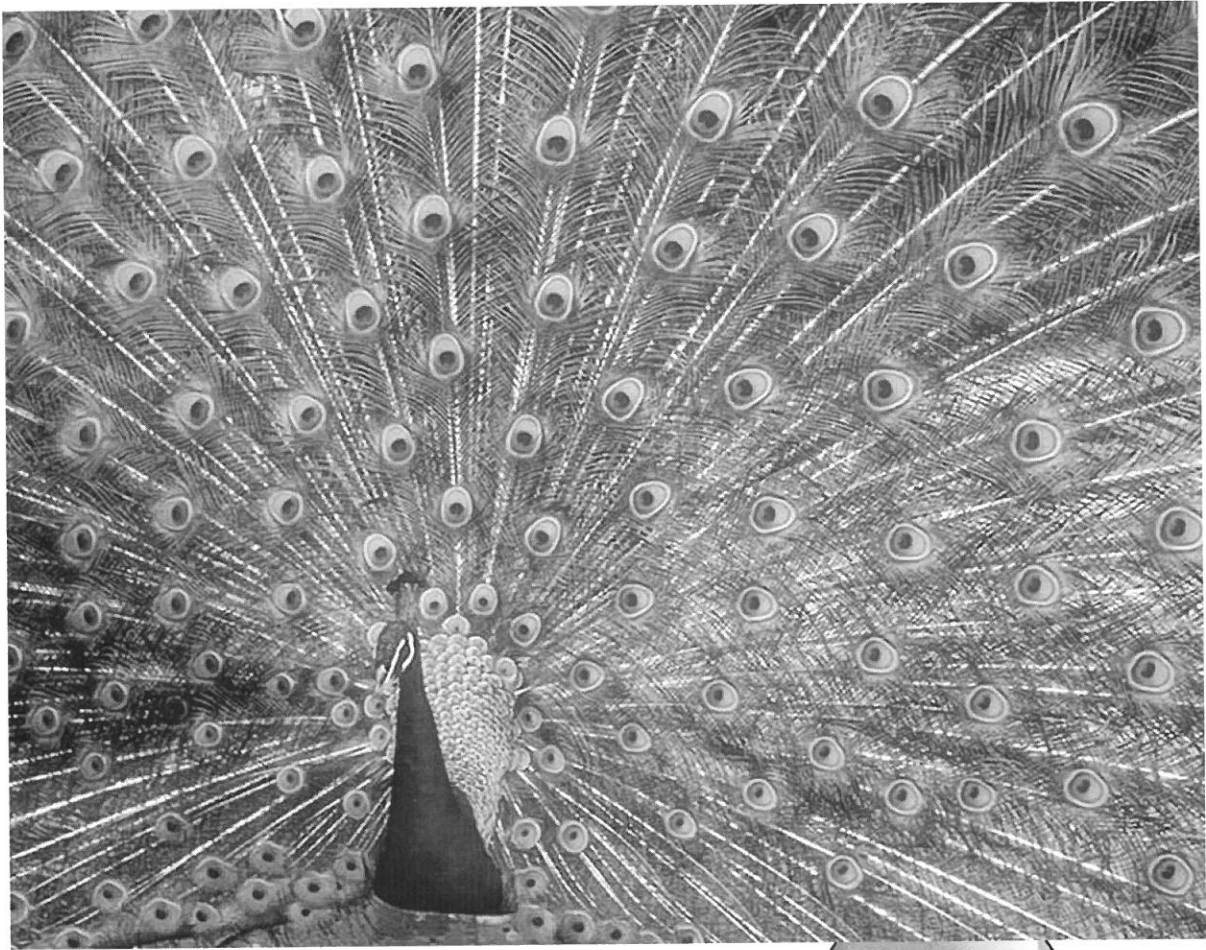
Mr. Wostbrock built Colonial Pines in the form of a Georgian home, with state-ly columns framing the front entrance. The grounds were a perfect setting for the stately mansion. Meticulously landscaped, the estate boasted a large brook with a tiny island in the center. There were golden pheasants and a peacock strutting through the gardens.

Three windmills were on the property and added to the picturesque setting. In time, three wells supplied water for the home, and in an era when sanitary facilities were primitive, the Colonial Pines mansion had a bathroom and a shower.

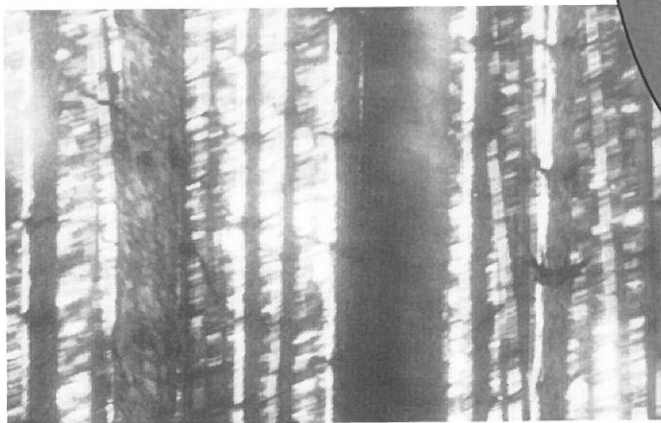
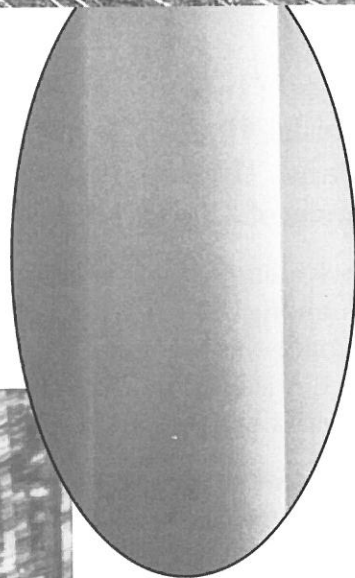
Everything about the home was on a grand scale, from the graceful stairway in the front hall to the dining room that could seat 24 and the tiled kitchen where the meals were prepared. Colonial Pines belonged to another era and the structure was razed in 1959 to make way for a supermarket.

-from Midland Park Through the Years, 1964

THE GROUNDS WERE A
PERFECT SETTING FOR
THE STATELY MANSION
... THE ESTATE BOASTED
A LARGE BROOK WITH A
TINY ISLAND IN THE
CENTER. THERE WERE
GOLDEN PHEASANTS
AND A PEACOCK
STRUTTING THROUGH
THE GARDENS.



Colonial Pines



Peacock as Weathervane

The front of the property on Godwin Ave, some 400 feet, had four stone pillars one on each end and two in the center with the driveway in between. On the right side going in, there was an island with running water as there was a spring-fed brook running through the yard on the Erie Avenue side. Purple irises were planted all around the island.

When we had snow in winter, my brother Fred made a snowplow and pulled it with the mill truck and plowed the driveway all around the house. There was a terrace up near the front of the house and we would ski all the way down to the end of the lawn. We did that with our sleighs also...

We had pheasants with a run near the grape arbor. Our peacock would put up its tail and gather the chickens together when they ate. You could tell what the weather would be by the way the peacock roosted on the barn roof. He would get to the top of the roof and look around, and if he faced the east, it would rain...

We had two small Japanese spaniels – Toki and Yassi. One cold day Yassi was forgotten on the upstairs porch and he froze stiff as a board. We thought Yassi was a goner, but mother would not let us bury him. She lay Yassi on a pillow, put a sweater over him and after some time she said that Yassi had moved an eye. Sure enough, Yassi lived...

On the third floor, or attic, is where I crawled through a window, leading up to the roof. From there I would fly my kite. Later I put a pulley up on the eaves so that I could pull my kite up and let it fly over the trees.

-reminiscences of Walter Wostbrock

I Remember When

Pineapple Layer Cake

In those days (the 1920s), families that had cooks and maids would ring a bell for anything that was needed at mealtime, but my Uncle Henry had a button on the floor by his feet which he pressed for a call to the kitchen. When he pressed it three times, George, the cook and waiter, would come in with another bottle of Piels beer for him.

George Newport, the cook, was a native of Barbados of the West Indies, and sometimes after his day's work was finished, he would ask either Fred or me to drive him down to Ridgewood, where some of his family lived. For doing this for him, he at times would bake us a nice pineapple layer cake. He also made good homemade ice cream.

(continued on page 58)

(continued from page 57)

Uncle Henry and Aunt Lizzie entertained quite often with some very nice dinner parties for family get-togethers and at times for friends and business associates. One of their friends was a very gracious Italian lady named Anita, who was a wonderful violinist. She would play with my cousin Henrietta as accompanist. Uncle Henry really liked music very much and always enjoyed their playing.

Some other friends that I can remember who were their guests were the Bamfords, who owned a large silk mill in Paterson; the Denners; and the Dumonts. Mr. Dumont was Uncle Henry's lawyer, and he had two young sons, John and Wayne. Wayne also became a lawyer and was a New Jersey State Senator for many years, retiring just recently.

Uncle Henry was president of the Midland Park School Board when I was a pupil there. Then he served two terms as Mayor of Midland Park. Later on he was the director of the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders. He was a real statesman.

Uncle Henry lived at Colonial Pines until his death in 1935. His daughter Charlotte and his wife predeceased him.

-reminiscences of Herman Kleindienst,
whose mother was Anna Wostbrock,
Henry Wostbrock's sister

Colonial Pines

In my early teens I took piano lessons from a daughter, Henrietta. I can remember walking up the winding driveway, daydreaming that I was approaching the entrance to a southern mansion where a liveried doorman would be waiting to announce my entrance. However, my bubble soon burst when I met my teacher, knowing that I had skipped a few practice sessions that week.

-Jenette Smith, *The Sunday News*, April 7, 1991



I Remember When

*At right, one of the ponies that
were kept as pets at Colonial Pines.*



*Minnie Wostbrock
Donholt House on
Godwin Avenue
(now Wendy's)*



*Pictured at the left is Walter
Wostbrock at home.*

*The house below, now located on Erie Avenue,
was moved to make way for Colonial Pines.*





ur **Grossmama**

A Remembrance of
Mary Wallis Wostbrock

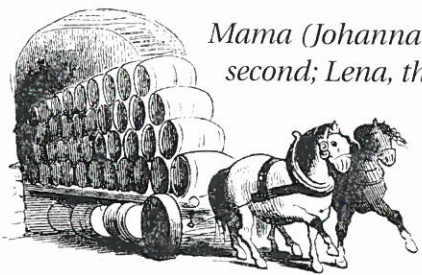
*M*ary Wallis Wostbrock, our Grossmama, was born February 7, 1837 of German and Scottish descent. She married Herman Henry Wostbrock. On July 28, 1865, shortly after the Civil War, they left Konigrecih, Hanover, Germany, and sailed to North America. Grossmama was 26 years old; her husband was 23 years old.

The voyage took six weeks. Grossmama had made her own feather bedding, feathers she plucked from geese on her brother's farm. Her parents died early, so she was raised by an older married brother. On the voyage they also brought their own food. I have the butter crock Grossmama brought over with her.

The description of Grosspapa taken from his passport reads as follows: speech-German, height 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, teeth-healthy, beard-red-dish blonde, oval face.

They landed in Hoboken and lived in Union Hill on Lewis Street, where our dear Mother was born on October 12, 1865.

Grosspapa worked at Peter's Brewery in Union Hill. Later they purchased a three-family house on the corner of Hudson Avenue and Blum Street with a cow stable in the rear. After school, Uncle August would have to walk the cow to Weehawken, three blocks, so the cow could graze on the empty lots. Upon his return, Grossmama would feel the cow's stomach, and if she felt it needed more food, he had to go back again.



Mama (Johanna Marie Elisa) was the first child; Henry J., the second; Lena, the third; Minnie, the fourth; and August, who was to become a Midland Park tax collector, the fifth. One day Grosspapa was unloading the brewery wagon when he suffered a heart attack which proved fatal. He was extremely young, perhaps 40 or even younger.

Mama and Uncle Henry immediately left school and started working. Mama did sewing and later became a sewing machine teacher for the Domestic Sewing Machine Company. Uncle Henry worked in the embroidery business. Grossmama sewed "Kittels" (white jackets) for the brewery men, receiving \$5.00 for each one.

When Uncle Henry married Aunt Lizzie, they moved upstairs on the third floor of Grossmama's house, where Charlotte was born. On Sundays, they would take rides in a horse-drawn buggy in the summer

(continued on the following page)



AFTER SCHOOL, UNCLE AUGUST WOULD HAVE TO WALK THE COW TO WEEHAWKEN, THREE BLOCKS, SO THE COW COULD GRAZE ON THE EMPTY LOTS. UPON HIS RETURN, GROSSMAMA WOULD FEEL THE COW'S STOMACH, AND IF SHE FELT IT NEEDED MORE FOOD, HE HAD TO GO BACK AGAIN.



ur Grossmama

and a sleigh in the winter. Later, Uncle Henry purchased a car; there were only two cars in Union Hill at that time. The huge, bright, glaring lights were called "Devil's Eyes."

Uncle Henry soon found an ideal location for his embroidery factory in Midland Park – the old "Brownstone Mill," which was erected in 1826 and was operated by water power. It was purchased in 1895 by Henry Wostbrock, Sr., who later became mayor of Midland Park and a Bergen County Freeholder.

On February 10, 1898, Mama married Gustav Kleindienst, and he bought Grossmama's three-family house in Union Hill. Papa built Grossmama a new house in Midland Park on the site of present-day Wendy's Restaurant. Every Monday he and his carpenters walked to Homestead (three miles) and took the Susquehanna train to Midland Park. Uncle Henry ordered the lumber and building materials. They all ate at Aunt Lizzie's. The plumbing was done by Charles Donholt, who married Aunt Minnie Wostbrock 15 years later (and, incidentally, Aunt Lena married Christian Rohlff, who also worked in the Brownstone Mill.)

When the house was completed, there was the problem of getting Grossmama's cow to Midland Park, a distance of 25 miles, so Papa volunteered to walk the cow. It took two days; the first night he stayed in Passaic in the house he owned, where he milked the cow and continued his journey on the second day. The cow suffered no after-effects from the 25 mile hike – and neither did Papa!



By Grossmama's words and deeds, she made it clear that her true goals were anchored in Christ. She demonstrated her own example of loving service to Him, the true meaning of Christianity at work. And the one thing that displeased Grossmama was that there was no Lutheran Church near her. On Sundays she and the other members of the family would travel by train to Paterson or Maywood to attend divine service.

At the request of Grossmama, a survey of the area was made. The first Lutheran service was held on January 3, 1905 at the Christian Reformed Church in Midland Park. On January 20, 1907, a declaration of intent to organize a Lutheran congregation was adopted. In 1910, Pastor Gurscke, formerly of West Hoboken, served the congregation for one year. On December 17, 1911, Pastor Ottmann was installed, and served until his retirement in 1951. The organization of this church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ridgewood, represents the

tangible evidence of prayer, love and sacrifice. After all these years, her memory still lingers on and her works do follow her. A plaque to this effect hangs in the present Ridgewood church on Linwood Avenue.

Herman, Marie, Alice and Henry were all born in the three-family house at 200 Blum Street, Union Hill. Papa built our new house, 129 Hudson Avenue, where the cow stable originally stood. Arthur, Gustav and Anna were born at 129 Hudson Avenue, Union Hill. Our parents lived there until 1925 when Papa retired and our family moved to Midland Park in order to be near Grossmama.

Our Grossmama's pride and joy was her garden, in which she worked every day, with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays. Her wooden shoes stood outside the kitchen door, and the first thing each morning she would step into them and do her planting and hoeing. Well do I remember, during summer vacations, getting up early with Herman and Alice to pick a row of weeds before the sun came up and breakfast was served.

Saturdays were spent preparing for the Lord's Day. It was so festive, smelling the bread, the yeast coffee cake, the apple cake and other goodies baking in the old-fashioned black stove in the kitchen. Then also the two chickens had to be killed and dressed for the Sunday dinner.

All summer, fresh vegetables graced the table and in the winter, the canned ones were on the table from the garden. Grossmama worked in the garden until she was 92, when at that time, she came across a hornets' nest and was badly stung as the hornets were all in her clothing. She lay critically ill for six weeks, and a day and night nurse had to be engaged. But God spared our Grossmama for another seven years. As a result of this experience, Grossmama never suffered any more pain in her knees, which previously had caused her considerable discomfort.

On March 22, 1937, at the age of 99, Grossmama passed away. She called Aunt Minnie (who had throughout the years cared for her) at 11:00 p.m. and said: "Jetzt geh ich in die Ewigkeit" (now I am going into Eternity) and prayed continuously. Uncle Charlie hastened to get Uncle August; when they returned at 11:30 p.m., Grossmama was still breathing but was unconscious. She died at 12 midnight. At 20 minutes to one that morning, I heard loud knocking. (I was at Mama's at the time.) It was Uncle August; he had tried for 15 minutes to awaken us. He remarked, "Mama just went Home."

Those joyful vacations, Christmas holidays, all spent with Grossmama, are cherished memories, never to be forgotten. She has been my image all these years!

-Reminiscence by Marie J. Will, niece of Henry J. Wostbrock, Sr., July, 1971

I Remember When

HER WOODEN SHOES STOOD OUTSIDE THE KITCHEN DOOR, AND THE FIRST THING EACH MORNING SHE WOULD STEP INTO THEM AND DO HER PLANTING AND HOEING.



Miss Ridgway's class, 1908, Midland Park Public School

Our *E*ducational *H*eritage

*compiled by
Barbara Wostbrock*



Miss Hall's class, including Principal C. W. Oley, 1908, Midland Park Public School

Education and schools have been close to the hearts of our people since the earliest days of our community. Before there were any public schools in the area, teaching and learning took place in homes, private schools, academies, and in church schools, as well as by private tutors. The Schoolhouse Museum in Ridgewood marks the site of a former church school established in 1780. The earliest written record we have concerning local education is found in a 25-year lease granted by Cornelius Wortendyke for a plot of land he owned. The lease was dated September 1, 1811, and named Isaac Blauvelt, Jacob Quackenbush and "others of Newtown Trustees."

Our Educational Heritage

The erection of a schoolhouse on this property was the first of its kind in our town. It was located near the site of the present Methodist Church. From what we know of conditions in those days, it can be assumed that the school curriculum was simple, the learning by rote, and the discipline severe.

It is interesting to note that Isaac Wortendyke, who was born in Midland Park in 1823, was tutored by U.S. Congressman Jacob R. Wortendyke (Democrat, elected 1856). Isaac graduated first in his class from Rutgers, became a school teacher, and then principal of the Claverack Academy in New York. Isaac later became a prominent attorney and New Jersey State Senator (elected 1880). Other early Midland Park residents were also highly educated, far beyond what you might expect from a small rural community.

Teachers Taught in Dutch and English

The early wooden schoolhouse was destroyed by fire in 1822. A new school made of brownstone was built in the area of the Goffle Road water pumping station across the brook from the Lydecker Mills, a grist mill located on the corner of Paterson Avenue and Goffle Road.

Teachers taught in Dutch and English, and this school was used until 1859, when a small brick schoolhouse was built on Godwin Avenue, one-half block north of the intersection of Vreeland and Godwin avenues. This new brick building was known as the Public Schoolhouse, District No. 46, Franklin Township. The first teacher was Henry Westervelt, succeeded in order by Tunis Crum, Isaac Sturr, Richard Elsworth, Asabel Abbott, John Turner, Rev. Matthew Millinson, Amos Howland, and Asa W. Roth.

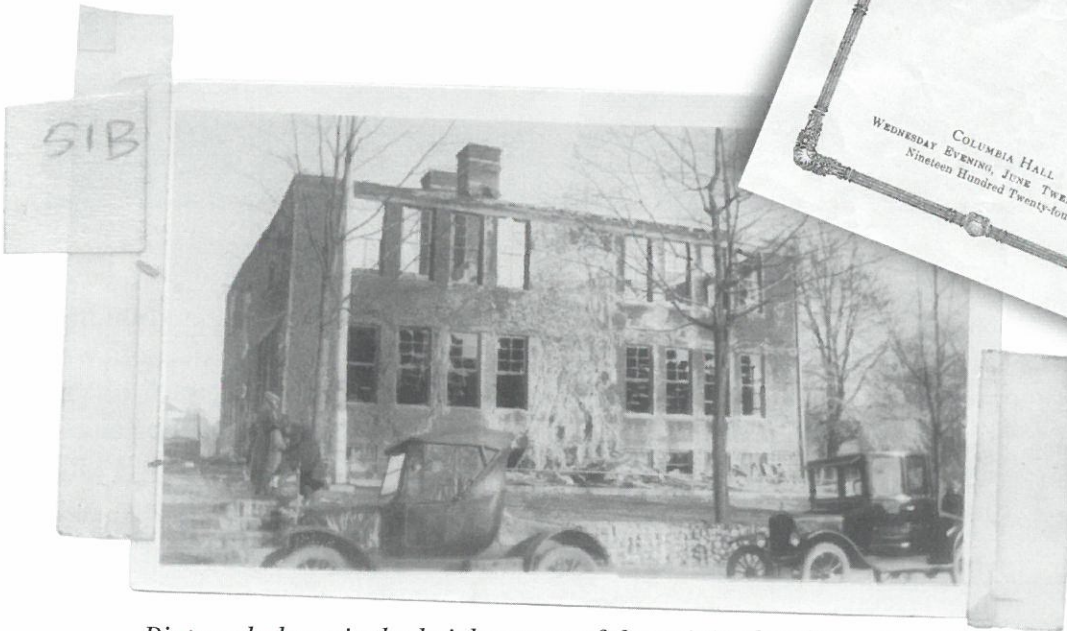
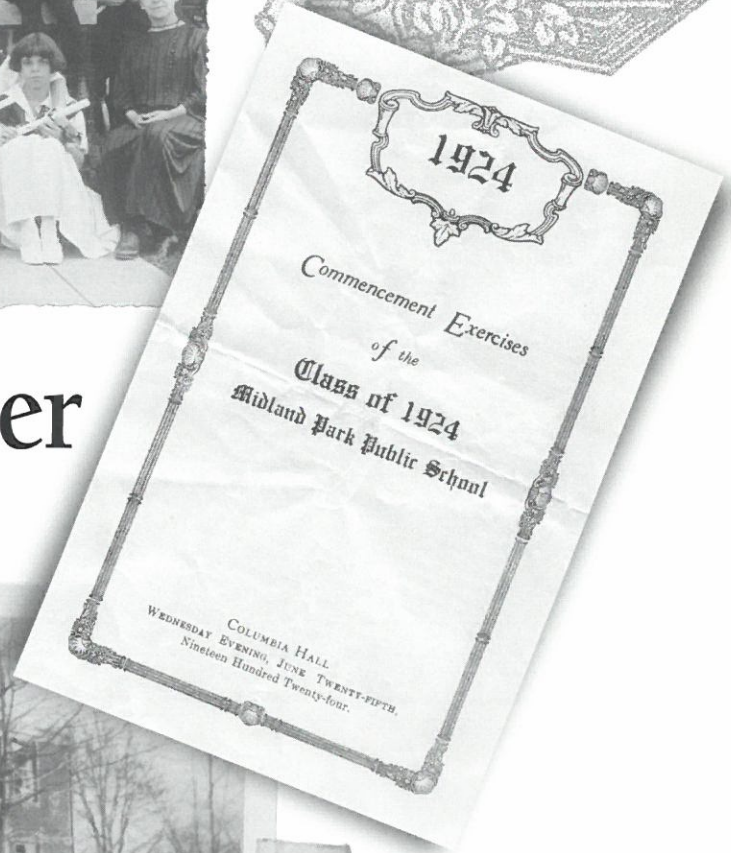
Between 1829 and 1846, the schools in the area were governed and supervised by township school committees, who had authority to create school districts, and employ and license teachers. A township superintendent was appointed in 1846, and each township was required to impose local taxes to match the money it received from the State School Fund. During this period, teachers were supposed to be examined and licensed by two county examiners who were appointed by the County Board of Freeholders. Bergen County was divided into districts supervised by town superintendents until 1866.

In those days, students from what is now Midland Park and the Wortendyke area were included in the district known as Franklin Institute No. 1. Before Midland Park was incorporated as a borough in 1894, it was included in Franklin Township, which had seven schools. Midland Park's school, built in

(continued on page 68)



A Year to Remember



Pictured above is the brick annex of the original public school that was destroyed by fire in January of 1924.



Cornerstone Laying Ceremonies

Friday, May 30th., 1924, 10:30 A. M.



Midland Park Public School, circa 1893

(continued from page 66)

1866, was the largest in the township. It was a two-story wooden building with four classrooms and it accommodated 206 children. This school was located on the corner of Franklin and Godwin Avenues, where the Midland Park Memorial Library now stands. The building was estimated to be worth \$6,500. The school was used until January 5, 1924 when it burned to the ground in a fierce blaze.

In 1867, the school laws were revised with the idea of organizing a state school system. The office of county superintendent was created as a first step toward state control of supervision. John Terhune, a former principal of the local school, became the fourth county superintendent in 1866. Mr. Terhune was very active and successful in promoting school libraries. Libraries were established in virtually every school under his supervision. He prepared the first Bergen County course of study and improved the system of eighth grade examinations. Students graduating from the eighth grade were awarded a county diploma.

When Midland Park incorporated as a Borough in 1894, the school system came under the control of the first Midland Park Board of Education. This board met for the first time on September 12, 1894. The members of that first school board were John R. Carlough, president; George W. Holt, district clerk; Stephen Wynkoop, D.L. Wortendyke, William Morrow, John Chapman and Jacob Leenas.

Public Education Has Modest Beginnings

A special election was held to appropriate the following funds: \$427.78 for teachers' salaries, \$200 for a janitor, \$100 for coal, \$100 for books, \$50 for heater repair, \$70 for other repairs and incidentals, and \$20 for a clerk's salary. Of 50 ballots cast, 46 were in the affirmative.

An election held in 1895 resulted in the following board members: Robert H. Wortendyke, I.W. Gannon, Stephen Wynkoop, D.C. Wortendyke, Robert V. Lewis, Marcus Young, Hugh T. Lawrence and George Holt. The teaching staff received the following salaries for the year: G.W. Weynant, \$750; Carrie Halstedt, \$475; E. Hengeveld, \$400; and Grace Cook, \$350.

Mr. Weynant's appointment ended the term of John Ackerman as principal. In August 1895, the salary for the janitor, Louis Carlough, was set at \$200 a year. Mr. Weynant continued as principal until 1898, when the board appointed G.H. Osborn at a salary of \$750 a year. It was agreed that if there was a surplus in the State Appropriation at the end of the year, the principal's salary would be raised to \$800.

Several well-known figures in the civic life of the community began service on the school board in March of 1901. These included Henry J. Wostbrock, president; Henry Sluyter, John Cronk, Garret Klopman, Samuel Van Blarcom, Edward M. Krech, Edward Van Splinter, Robert V. Lewis, and George Holt. Miss Virginia M. Evans received an appointment as a teacher at the 1901 board meeting, and she continued to teach until 1933. G.H. Osborn resigned as principal and Charles W. Oley became his successor at a salary of \$950 a year.

From 1903 until 1905 several attempts were made to seek voter approval for an addition of two rooms to the four-room frame structure and the erection



This oak and glass voting box was used for elections before the advent of voting machines.

At a regular Meeting of the Board of Edu held at the school house on June 16th 1904 the following Members where present H. J. Wostbrock John S. Payne Henry Sluyte Garret Klopman Chas. B. Williams John Cronk Minutes of previous Meeting approved as read Teachers Com. report they have engaged Miss Pack from Rochester as Kindergarten Teacher at a salary of \$75.00 per Year.

(continued on page 70)

Public Education Has Modest Beginnings

(continued from page 69)

of a brick annex beside the wooden building. On May 10, 1905, by a margin of 43 to 34, the voters gave approval to the construction of a brick annex to cost \$8,000. An extension to the annex was build in 1908 at a cost of \$6,341. The wooden building of 1866 and the brick annex of 1908 housed the school system until January 5, 1924, the date of the great fire that destroyed them.

Garret (Pop) Van Dyke was appointed the school janitor in May 1907. His starting salary was \$42.50 per month. He served in the frame building, the brick annex, the Highland Avenue School and the Godwin School until 1956.

In April 1917, Charles Oley resigned as principal after more than 15 years of service in the borough schools. Abel Rose was appointed as Mr. Oley's successor at a salary of \$1200 annually.

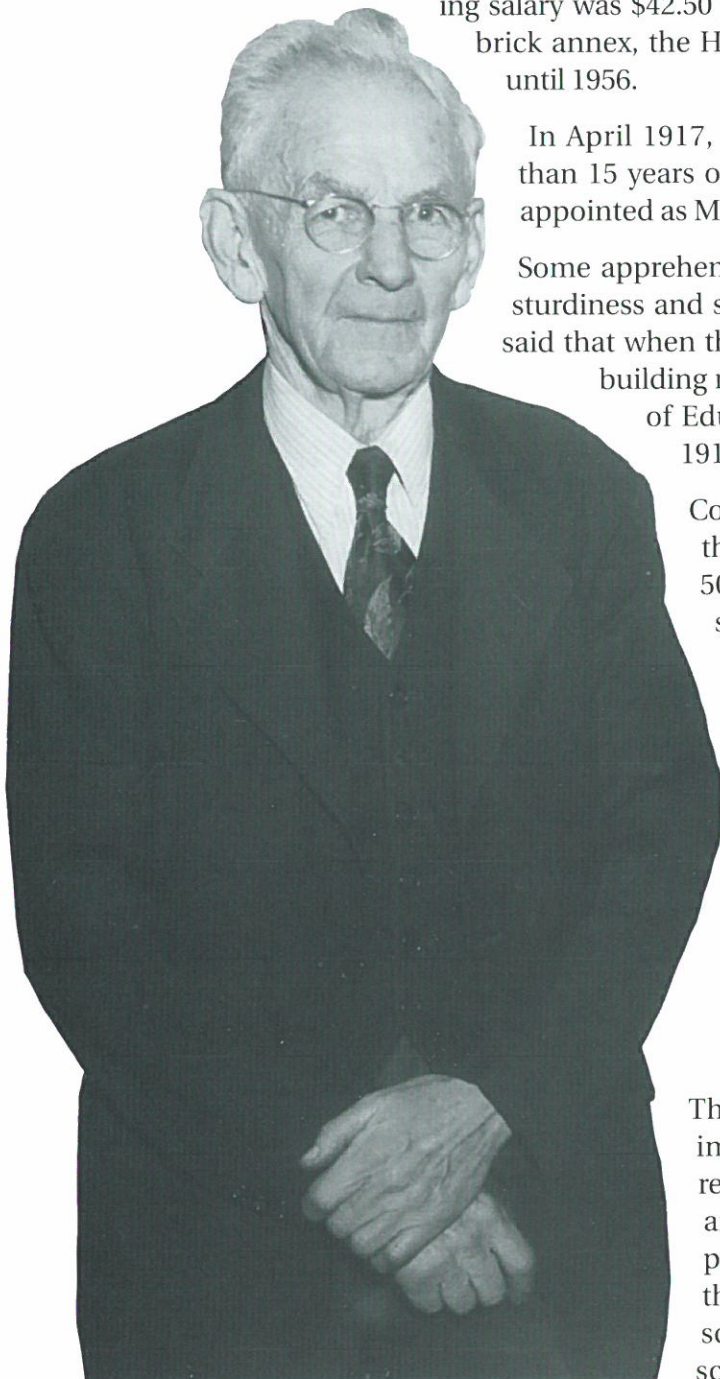
Some apprehension was expressed in February 1918 about the sturdiness and safety of the original frame building. It has been said that when the winds blew, school was canceled because the building rocked. An examination by the State Department of Education indicated no cause for alarm. The year 1918 also saw the establishment of a dental clinic.

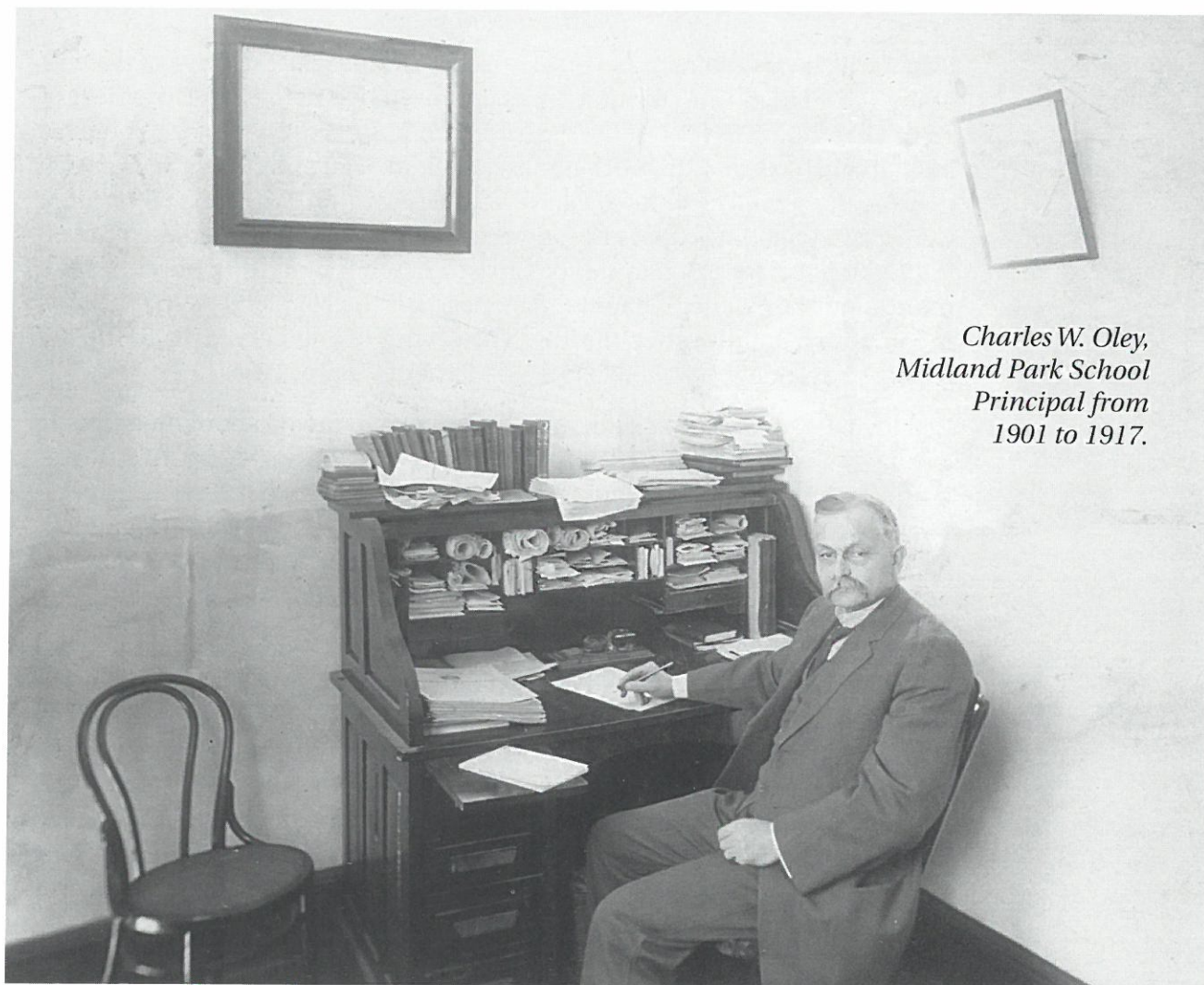
Concern continued to be shown about the safety of the facilities. In 1921, the enrollment was nearing 500. Leland F. Reynolds was the principal with a staff of 11 teachers. Consideration was given to building a new school. After a conference with the Borough Attorney, the first step was to be the selection of a site.

Custodian Garret "Pop" Van Dyke

Voters First Reject, Then Approve New School

The proposal for a new school was given further impetus in February 1922, when the matter was referred to the county superintendent of schools. An architect, William Fanning of Paterson, prepared preliminary plans, one for a 10-room addition to the present building and another for an 18-room school on a new site. The proposition for a new school appeared on the agenda at almost every





*Charles W. Oley,
Midland Park School
Principal from
1901 to 1917.*

board meeting. In July of 1922, resolutions were introduced to hold a school election the following month. In these resolutions it was set forth that the money needed for the purchase of land, the construction of a fireproof building with auditorium, and for school furniture and equipment would be \$260,000. The resolutions authorized the board to purchase a plot of land – cost not to exceed \$8,400 – running from East Center Street to Highland Avenue.

Approximately 200 citizens participated in the election; 127 were against the purchase of the land. On the request for authority to build a new school building, 59 approved and 136 were opposed. In a second election in October of 1922, the expansion plan was rejected by the voters for a second time, with 166 votes against and 67 for school construction. An advisory Committee of about 25 citizens was formed in April of 1923. Three plans were submitted:

1. An addition to the brick building constructed in 1905.
2. Two small schools in the eastern and western sections of town.
3. The erection on a new site of a 20-room building of fireproof construction without an auditorium.

(continued on page 72)

(continued from page 71)

Plan 3 which was estimated to involve a cost of \$166,680, exclusive of the cost of the site, grading, and furniture, was approved by 218 to 85 in December of 1923. On January 5, 1924, a fire destroyed both the old wooden schoolhouse built about 1866, and the brick annexes built in 1905 and 1908. The borough now had no school facilities at all. Nevertheless, within two weeks all children were again attending classes in various locations. These included the Wyckoff Public School, the Midland Park Christian School, all the church school rooms and the Council Chamber. The need for the Highland Avenue School made construction move rapidly. The laying of the cornerstone for the Highland Avenue School took place on Memorial Day of 1924.

Construction of an auditorium, in an open area in the center of the building was begun in September 1926 and completed in the spring of 1927. It was used for the first time for the presentation of the operetta, *Peter Rabbit*, on May 19, 1927. The completed school contained 19 rooms, an office, a medical room, and an auditorium. The basement contained open areas, some of which were set aside for playroom facilities.

In 1926, part of the basement was made into home economics and manual training quarters. Even though most of the costs for this renovation would be paid for by state aid, the proposal for the work was rejected by the voters the first time. The proposition was resubmitted to a vote later that same year and passed by 182 to 50. A junior high school system (through grade 9) was established in 1930. This was done in order to conform to a system adopted at Ridgewood High School, our receiving district for high school students until 1935. Midland Park high school students then went to Pompton Lakes High School. They took the Susquehanna train from either the Midland Park or Wortendyke station.

OOOPS
Pardon Us



Until 1932, in addition to local exams, state examinations were given in Midland Park schools in geography and hygiene in the seventh grade, and in arithmetic, spelling, English and history in the eighth grade. In 1932, standardized achievement tests were given twice a year. The junior high school schedule was changed from five periods a day of 65 minutes each to seven periods of 50 minutes each. The reporting system was changed from ten reports a year to six reports. The grading system on report cards was changed from the numerical system to letters of the alphabet.

State Tests Student Achievement

Principal Richard M. Hartman retired in June 1948, after 24 years of service. The board of education named Mr. Charles H. Taylor to take his place starting in September 1948.

By 1950, our town experienced rapid growth with the construction of 358 new housing units. The growing post-war population caused an upsurge in school enrollment to 763 pupils in grades K-9. Additional facilities were needed, and the Godwin School was built on a site on East Center Street across from the playing fields behind the Highland Avenue School building.

Student Enrollment Surges in the '50s

The first six-room section of this building, completed in September 1952, failed to satisfy the growing need for space and, in September 1953, construction was started on a five-room addition. The addition was ready in September 1954. It now contained 11 classrooms and a small administrative office. The first, second, and third grades were housed in this building. Kindergarten and grades four through nine were housed in the Highland school. Pupil enrollment was now 992.

John Orr, a junior high school mathematics teacher, was appointed principal for the Highland Avenue School. The following year Mrs. Elsie S. Talbot was named Teacher-in-Charge of the Godwin School after 25 years as an elementary teacher. In September 1957, Mrs. Talbot was named principal. Mr. Orr resigned in June of 1957, and Eber L. Christie was appointed Teacher-in-Charge. After two years he received the appointment as principal of the Highland Avenue School. At the time of his appointment, Mr. Christie had been a member of the elementary school staff for seven years. Dr. Taylor was then the superintendent of schools.

**BY 1950, THE TOWN
EXPERIENCED RAPID
GROWTH WITH THE
CONSTRUCTION OF
358 HOUSING UNITS.**

(continued on page 74)



Midland Park's 1948 faculty and staff: first row, from the left, Gertrude Hedding, Elsie Smith Talbot, Ruth Ward Van Omen, Agnes Volker, Mary Miller Smithey, and Mildred Schleicher; second row, Jeannette Sochon, Helen Ryerson Perrett, Edith Morris, Alice Armstrong, Pauline Zeedyke Hinshaw, and Doris Bruce; third row, Avonelle Wooley Maggio, Myrtle Field Davidson, Priscilla Thomson Bohley, Marie Deach, and Doris Everett; fourth row, Elizabeth Skinner Henion, Virginia Brucato, Bernard Bokma, Jean D. Payne, and Phyllis Fortuin Vander Els; fifth row, Marinus VandeLinde, Garret Van Dyke, Floyd Hoffman, and Richard Hartman; back row, Henry Voorman and Dow Rich

(continued from page 73)

Students Once Attended Pompton Lakes H.S.

In May of 1954, Midland Park received notice from the Pompton Lakes Board of Education that the population growth in Pompton Lakes made it impossible to accept high school pupils from our town, effective as of June 1957. Dr. Felix McCormick, an educational consultant from Columbia University, was hired to study our needs.

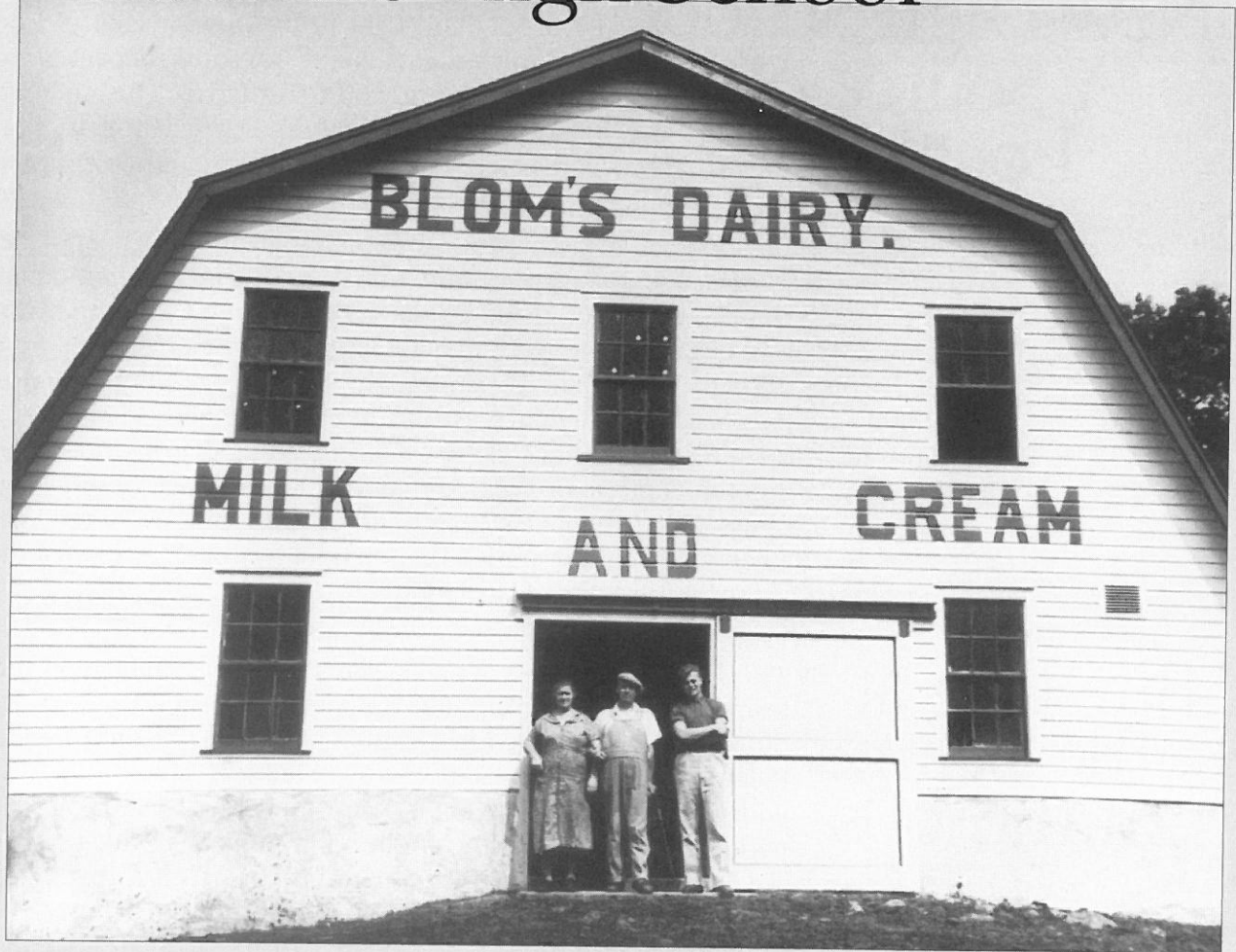
As a result of the comprehensive educational study, the local board requested permission of the State Department of Education and the Division of Local Government to authorize a referendum on a bond issue of \$1,400,000 for the purpose of constructing a junior-senior high school. Permission was granted on December 1, 1954. The referendum was passed on June 2, 1955. Ground was broken in the fall of 1955.

The school opened in September 1957, with 484 students in grades 7-11, including tuition pupils in grades 9, 10, and 11 from Waldwick and the 9th grade from Wanaque. The Wanaque students attended for the 1957-1958 school year. Waldwick students attended through the 1964-1965 school year.

Ervin A. Arbo, the first principal of the Midland Park Junior-Senior High School, assumed the position in July 1956, a year before the school was opened. He assisted in developing the curriculum, and equipping and staffing the new school for grades 7-12.

(continued on page 76)

Before the High School



A Brief History of Blom's Dairy

by Simon Blom, 1991

My great uncle Aike Blom came to America in 1927 and lived at 74 Hill Street, Midland Park. His wife, two sons and two daughters joined him in 1929. In that same year they started a dairy farm on Hill Street. In 1933 they bought the existing farm on Prospect Street and replaced the small barn in 1937. This barn still exists today and is now owned by the Midland Park Board of Education, of which, coincidentally, I am a member.

I Remember When

Blom's Dairy at this point (the late 1930s) had about 60 cows and they owned most of the land adjacent to their property. The property where the Midland Park High School and athletic fields are located today was part of Blom's Dairy. In the early 1950s, the Bloms sold all their property, with the exception of the house and one-half acre, to the Midland Park Board of Education.

New High School - A Source of Local Pride

(continued from page 74)

The Midland Park Junior-Senior High School was built on a 22.2 acre site on Prospect Street between Sunset Avenue and Crest Drive. This area was previously occupied by Blom's Dairy. The dairy barn was converted into storage, maintenance area and garage space for school vehicles.

The new school was an attractive one-story building with 32 academic and special classrooms, a library, gymnasium, music, industrial and home making area, a double cafeteria, three guidance offices, and administrative offices. In June of 1962 a foreign language laboratory was installed. From September 1961 to June 1963, the junior-senior high school operated on double sessions because of the increase of students from both Midland Park and the sending districts. Waldwick, the major sending district, opened its own high school in September 1963. Midland Park went back to single sessions in the 1964-1965 school year. In January of 1961, and every ten years after, the Midland Park Junior-Senior High School has been evaluated and accredited by the Middle States Association.

Bursting at the Seams in the '60s

By 1962, both elementary schools were being utilized beyond their desirable capacity rating, and six additional kindergarten sections had to be housed in temporary quarters at the Christian Reformed Church. Population growth led to a referendum on an addition to the Godwin School at a total cost of \$300,000. The referendum passed in May 1963, and ground was broken for the addition in December 1963. The addition would consist of three kindergarten classrooms, two primary classrooms, and an all-purpose room.

In October of 1963, the school system had 950 pupils in grades K-6, another 315 pupils in grades 7-9, and 304 pupils in grades 10-12. All of these 1,569 students were from Midland Park. There were another 254 students in grades 11-12 from Waldwick. The total school population was 1,923. In the early '70s, student population necessitated split sessions once again.

Sharp Declines in School Enrollment in the '80s

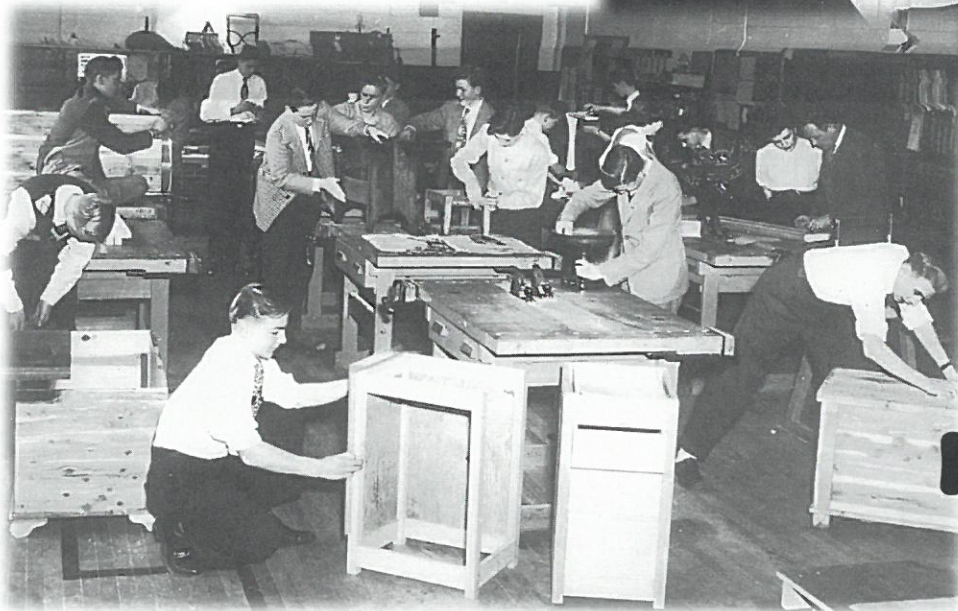
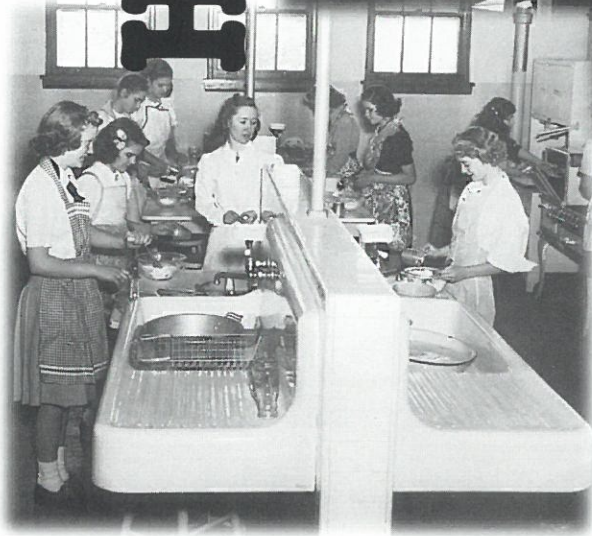
In 1983 and 1984, under the direction of Superintendent Arthur Fugelsoe, an Ad Hoc Committee on School Reorganization spent months studying earlier consultants' reports, population projections, and various proposals for greater efficiency in the schools. Some members of the Committee agreed that the high school should be closed and the school merged with Waldwick or Allendale. Others felt very strongly that home rule was paramount in ensuring the best possible education. In the end, the majority of the Committee recommended to the Board of Education that the seventh grade be moved to the high school to increase the declining high school population, and this was done. Proposals to sell the Godwin School and close the high school were turned down, but part of the Godwin School was rented out to a private, state-certified day-care center, one of the first in the area.

(continued on page 78)

Home Ec



Sewing



Shop

Classes pictured are circa 1947-48.

Midland Park Public School
cafeteria, 1952



(continued from page 76)

Mixed Enrollments in the '90s

In 1995, Midland Park had three schools. Grades K-2 met in the Godwin School, grades 3-6 at the Highland School, and grades 7-12 were housed at the Midland Park High School. The 1995 enrollment for the district was 1073, including 79 students from Ho-Ho-Kus and 50 full-time Secondary Hearing Impaired (SHIP) Pupils. The SHIP program began operating in Midland Park in 1977. Hearing impaired students attending the school were drawn not only from Bergen County, but from the counties of Essex, Passaic, Union, and Hudson. Jim Newman was the director of SHIP from 1981 until 1994, when he became director of Special Services for the Midland Park school district. Ho-Ho-Kus students have been part of the school since 1974. The sending/receiving relationship will end in 1999.

The School of Today

Education today is valued as never before, and Midland Park residents want their children to be well prepared for demanding occupational and college requirements. Midland Park high school students have won many high academic awards, including National Merit Scholarships and the nation's most competitive student

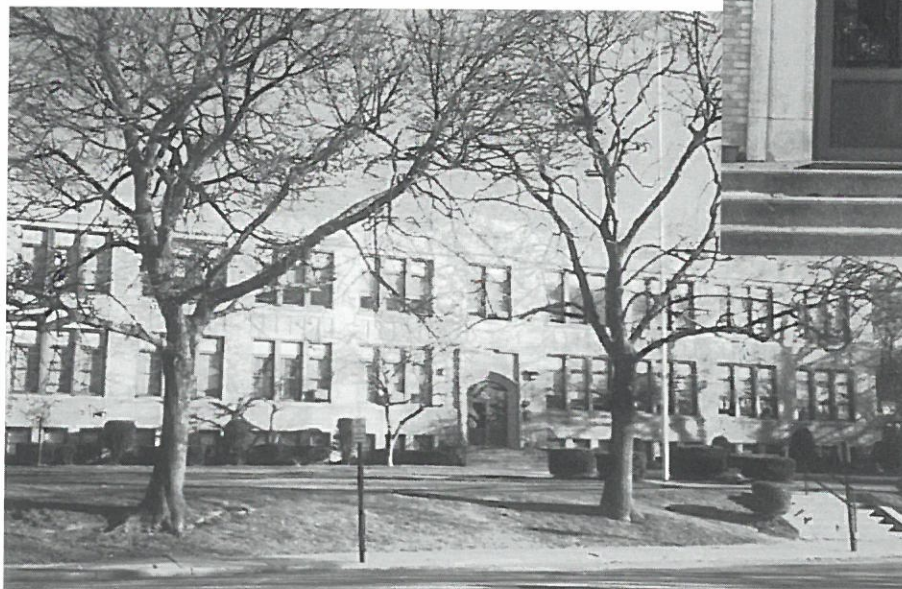
science distinction, the Westinghouse Science Award in 1988. Students from Midland Park have continued their education to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, accountants, computer experts, and entrepreneurs. They also pursue many other types of responsible careers.

Under the leadership of August C. DePreker, the current superintendent, the schools provide a strong background for student success and foster the establishment of mutual trust between the student and educator. Professional development with educators in the district, county, and state is thorough and ongoing. The faculty is bolstered by strong community ties, values, and commitments.

Our elementary schools provide us with many unique opportunities. The K-2 students at the Godwin School focuses on early childhood development. Students are offered band (2-6), gifted and talented programs (K-6), art, physical education, music, thinking skills and computer skills. The professional staff is multi-talented and is committed to student development through innovative programs. These advantages make our district a successful, progressive, and imaginative center of learning.

The Midland Park High School graduates are prepared to continue their education in college, post-secondary training, or by immediately entering the workplace. The curriculum is evaluated and updated regularly following an interdisciplinary approach. Higher-order thinking skills are emphasized in order to help students become good decision makers. In 1994, about 76 percent of our high school graduates planned to attend institutions of higher learning.

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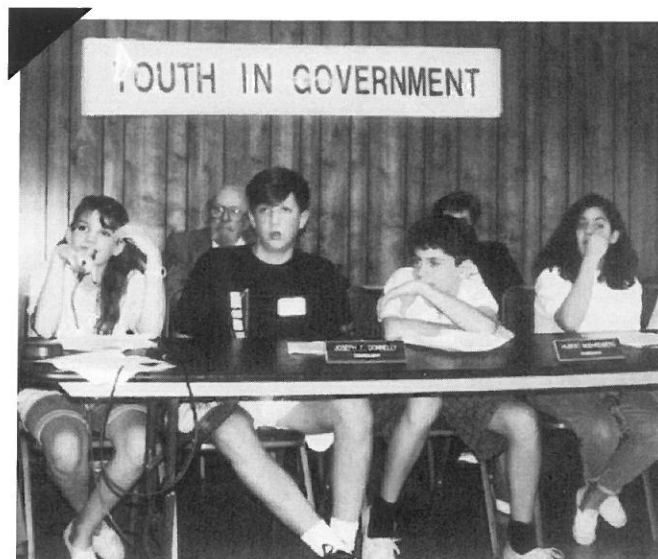


Above, the Highland Avenue School proudly displays its "Blue Ribbon." The school, at left, which opened in 1924, was updated with new windows in the 1970s.

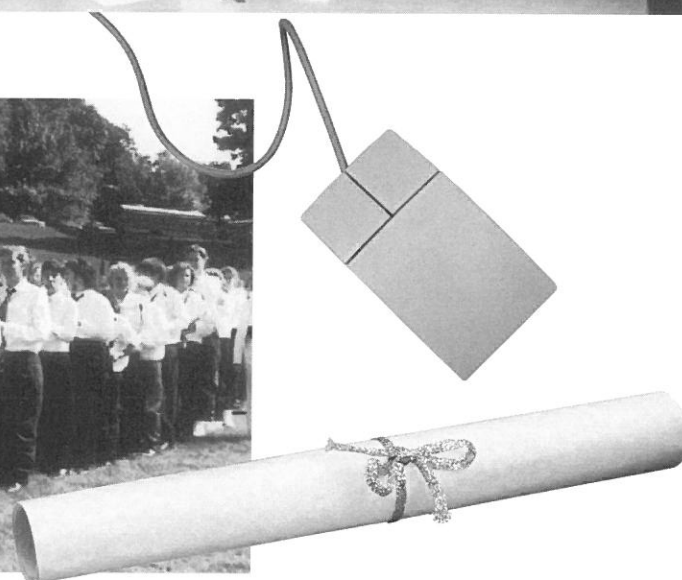
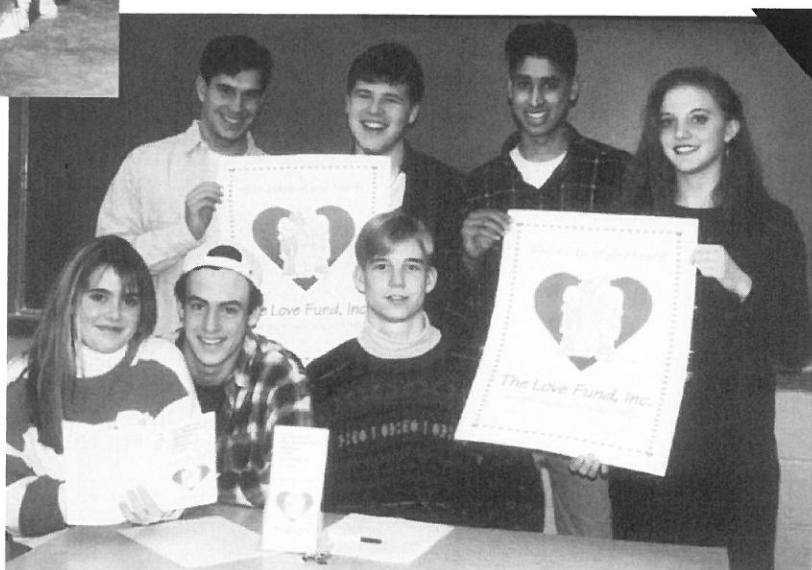


WELCOME TO PANTHER COUNTRY





The Changing Face of Education



In the Footlights



PROGRAM

"America"

Christian Band and Audience

Magic!

In 1989 a number of individuals interested in music and theater banded together to form Midland Park Magic! The group stages musical productions with proceeds going toward college scholarships for graduating seniors of MPHS. Directed by Layne Williams, the shows have featured original adaptations of Broadway musicals and musical reviews performed by talented individuals.

Junior Order of United

"The Star Spangled Banner"

Midland Park Christian Band

Address

Rev. A. Von Sch

Laying of the Cornerstone

Franklin S.

assiste

Nathan Wells, John Cronk, Barney

Theodore Chamberlain, Ad

Band

Midland Park Christian



Scenes from school and community musicals (clockwise from upper left) MPHS production of 1776, Midland Park Magic, MPHS production of Godspell, and Midland Park Magic.



(continued from page 79)

The year 1997-98 proved to be a year of accolades and rewards for the Midland Park school system. The Godwin/Highland campus was awarded the most prestigious recognition by being honored as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This was coupled with Midland Park High School receiving special recognition as the number one high school in the state of New Jersey for its respective district factor group. The school system is proud of these honors and recognizes the support the community continues to provide the children of Midland Park.

The district is also excited by the development of the partnership with the Bergen County Special Services School District. We are now recognized as the one school in New Jersey to afford hearing impaired youngsters a variety of instructional configurations. This partnership is responsible for the addition to the Godwin school facility.

The public schools' offerings are enriched by the contributions of the various support groups. They include: the Midland Park P.T.A., the Midland Park High School Home and School Association, the Athletic Boosters Club, the Music Parents Association and the Graduation Ball Committee. These active volunteers put in countless hours working with staff, students and the community at large.

Recognizing that education is a life-long process, an adult education program was begun in 1967 under the direction of Joseph Tardio. The Midland Park Adult School grew from its initial offering of 48

courses into one of the state's largest adult schools. Headed by Thomas Antonucci for the past 18 years, the program offers almost 300 courses to several thousand adult learners. In 1972, the evening school was renamed the Midland Park-

Adult Education - A Life-Long Process

Midland Park Superintendents

| Year | Superintendent |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1957-60 | Dr. Charles Taylor |
| 1961-64 | Robert Grove |
| 1964-65 | No appointment |
| 1965-71 | James Pugh |
| 1971-74 | George Fehr |
| 1974-78 | Donald Deep |
| 1978-84 | Arthur Fugelsoe |
| 1984-12/90 | Roger McEnnis |
| 1990-present | August DePreker |

Waldwick Continuing Education Program. The relationship with Waldwick ended in 1993, and the school is now known as the Midland Park Continuing Education. Through the years it has been directed by six dedicated educators: 1967, Joseph Tardio; 1968-70, Stanley W. Wollock; 1970-75, John Siensen; 1976-78, James Morganti; and 1979-present, Thomas Antonucci.



Midland Park Christian School

The desire to provide a solid Christian education based on biblical principles became a reality in 1911 with the construction of the Midland Park Christian School on Maltbie Avenue.

The first school was built mostly with volunteer labor. The two-story building had four rooms and opened with an enrollment of 65 students in grades K-8. The first principal was Henry J. Bruinsma, and the children were taught by Mr. Garret Dykstra and Mr. Wassenar.

The Midland Park Christian Reformed Church and school were closely related in the early years, and all church groups worked diligently to provide financial assistance and encouragement to the school. Although the language of instruction was English, Dutch was taught until 1917. Tuition was 25 cents per week for each child. By 1939 the maximum a family would pay was \$2.50 per week.

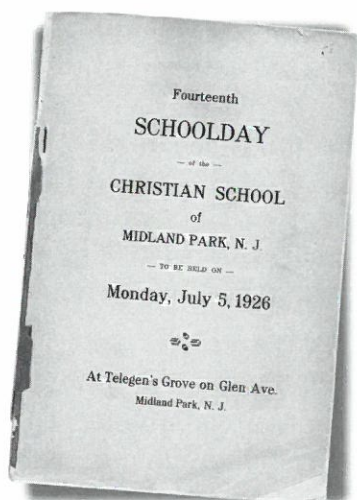
Much progress was made in the first 20 years. Enrollment and staff were increased. Sewing classes were added under the supervision of the Ladies Aid Society, and the district school nurse supervised health education.

Until 1950, when the school became part of the Eastern Christian School Association, the Board of Directors of the local school were all residents of Midland Park. Membership in the Eastern Christian School Association resulted in some changes in the system. Initially the school taught students in kindergarten through eighth grade. After joining the Eastern Christian School Association, the Midland Park school offered classes in kindergarten through sixth grade, while students in seventh and eighth grades attended the junior high school in Prospect Park, and then went on to high school in North Haledon.



By the time the Midland Park school celebrated the first 50 years of operation, enrollment had climbed to 250 students in grades K-6. By 1965 the school was bursting at the seams and the need for a larger school had become urgent. The school on Maltbie Avenue was sold and a new twelve-room school was built on Baldin Drive. During the construction period students attended classes in the Irving Park and Christian Reformed churches. The new school was dedicated on October 19, 1966.

The original school on Maltbie Avenue was razed to make way for an apartment complex.



In 1987 a new west wing with seven additional classrooms was added. This addition included a large kindergarten, a special education classroom, music and art rooms, and three classrooms. The Eastern Christian School now served children in kindergarten through fifth grade. The sixth graders joined

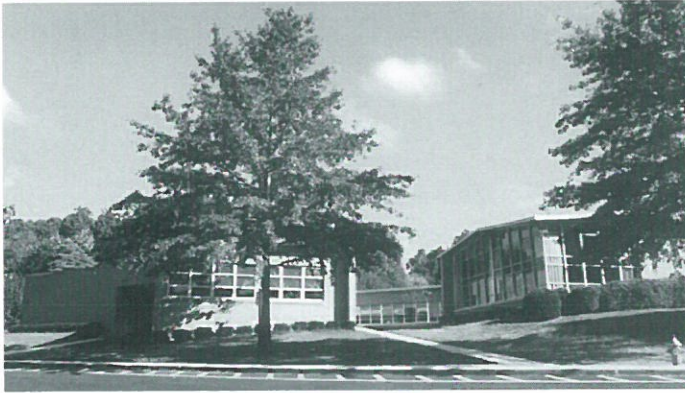
Principal David Vander Goot spent the day on the school roof on a challenge from the students.

the seventh and eighth graders in the Prospect Park school. Pre-K classes were now offered at the Faith Community Christian Reformed Church.

Since 1994 Eastern Christian Elementary School has been under the principalship of David Vander Goot. Enrollment has increased to 400 students with the addition of pre-school classes for three- and four-year olds and a transitional kindergarten class for five-year olds.



(continued on page 86)



(continued from page 85)

New to Eastern Christian Elementary School in recent years is a comprehensive computer curriculum for grades 1-4 under a joint partnership with Futurekids, one of the largest school computer companies. Also added in the last few years is a gifted and talented program called Horizons that works with students in grades 1-4 in a "pull-out" program format.

As Eastern Christian Elementary School approaches the year 2000, its staff of dedicated teachers continues to strive to meet all the needs of the children that have been entrusted to it through a comprehensive, quality, Christ-centered education.

Nativity School & St. Thomas More Interparochial School

The Roman Catholic School of the Nativity had modest beginnings. The first classes at Nativity were conducted in Pius X Hall beginning in September of 1957. Rev. William F. Sheehan, pastor of the church, hired Ms. Brigitte Sys, trained in

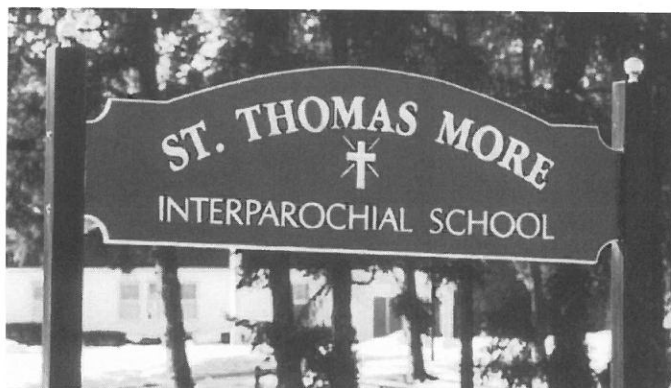
Belgium, to teach the original class of 44 first graders. Her background enabled her to offer a full curriculum of basic conversational French and to train the children to sing Christmas carols in Dutch.

Father Sheehan pursued more ambitious plans. He received permission from his Archbishop to erect a building containing four classrooms, with corresponding outdoor classrooms, a cafeteria and an auditorium that could also be used for church services.

The school was opened in September 1958 with a teaching staff composed of Sisters of St. Dominic from Caldwell. Sister M. Rita Joseph O.P. was the principal of the school. The first three Dominican Sisters moved into the convent that had been built with materials donated by Fred Hoffman of Midland Park Lumber. The school's enrollment soon grew to 175 children in grades one through four. By 1959 the fifth grade had to be taught in the balcony of Nativity Church. In 1960 the cafeteria was divided to provide classrooms for the seventh and eighth grades.

The Rev. Francis J. Ballinger, the second pastor, completed a large new addition to the school in 1963. This addition included seven classrooms, two offices, an all-purpose hall also used as a gym, and a kitchen. By 1972-1973, the Sisters of St. Dominic decided they could no longer staff Nativity School. Monsignor Patrick McGrath, the new pastor arrived in 1971, and persuaded

the order to provide a principal through June 1975. Although the school enrollment began to dwindle over the years, the parish voted to keep the school open. Under Sister Margaret Hurley, principal, the school expanded again to include a kindergarten and a preschool. The future looked rosy. However, as the years flew by, enrollment in several parish schools in this area declined. The Archbishop of the Newark Diocese, which includes Midland Park, implemented a plan to combine several parish schools. The schools of the Church of the Nativity in Midland Park, St. Luke's in Ho-Ho-Kus, and Guardian Angel of Allendale merged and Saint Thomas More was born on July 1, 1990.



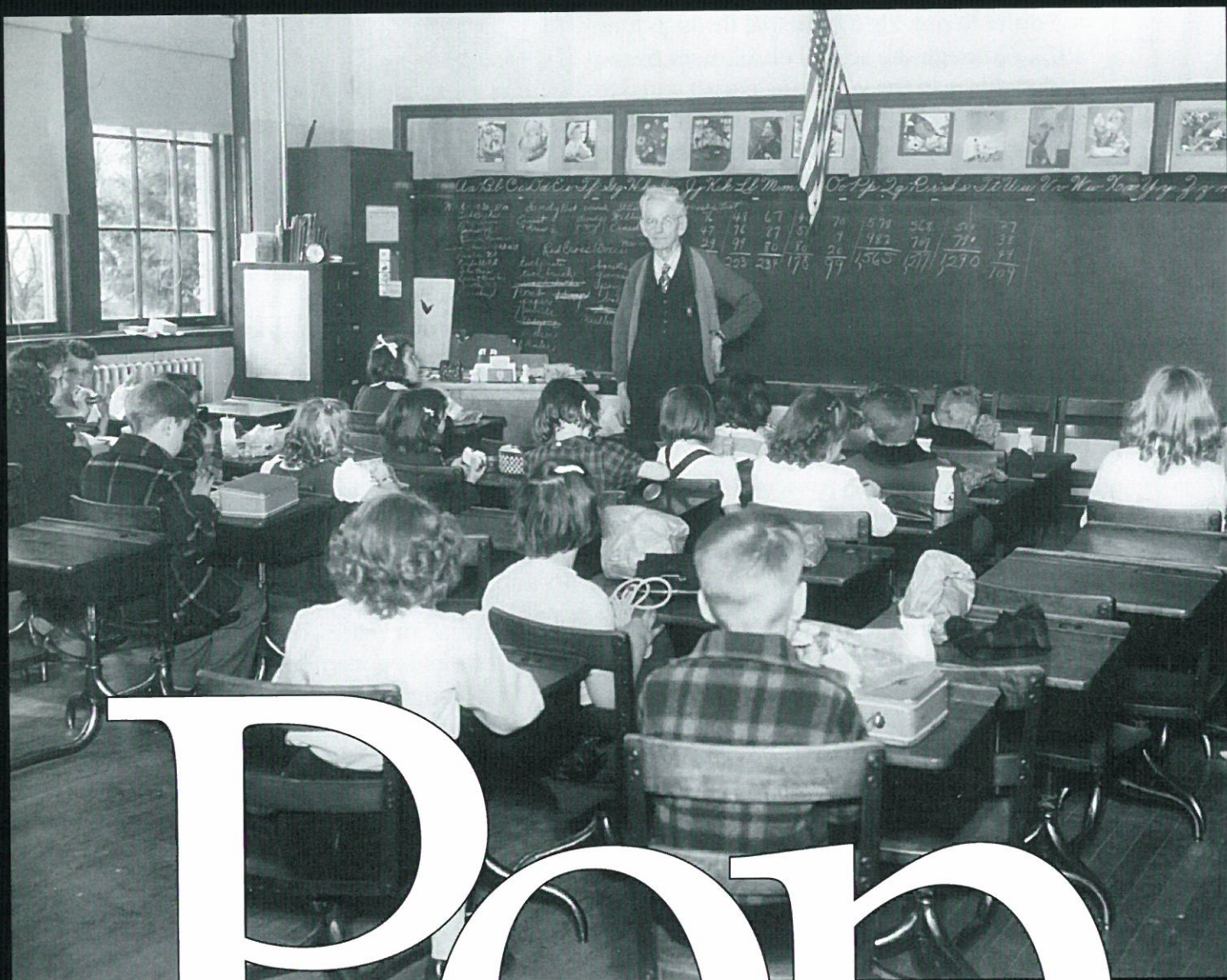
St. Thomas More Interparochial School was established in Midland Park as the regional Roman Catholic elementary institution to serve the educational needs of students from the surrounding communities. Its staff and programs were developed from the consolidation of Nativity and St. Luke's schools.

St. Thomas More is committed to the development of Christian values, basic skills, and a positive self-image for its students. The school is governed by the pastors of its three co-sponsoring parishes. These religious leaders work in cooperation with the administrative staff, the faculty, and the representative parent and community organizations. It is funded primarily by tuition, parish subsidies and fundraising efforts.

Mrs. Alice Hobbs presently serves as principal of St. Thomas More, and the school's enrollment has continued to grow with 230 students from eight neighboring towns presently enrolled. The school recently established a new computer lab and also developed a state-of-the-art playground facility through a fundraising campaign.

In addition to the public and private schools in Midland Park, a number of children from this community have attended private schools operated by Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic organizations outside the town. Many institutions around Bergen County offer the residents of Midland Park additional instruction in the cultural and linguistic traditions of Asian and European people. The many cultural groups represented in today's Midland Park are a source of strength and diversity.

Many Traditions- Many Educational Choices



POP

"This is My Life"

Several of the citizens of our small town have asked me lately to write a short story as custodian of the public school, living with children for nearly half a century. We have yet with us two board members who were at the meeting when I was appointed. They are Adolph Schleicher and Henry Sluyter, both ex-mayors of our town. Mr. Sluyter came at midnight to let me know that I was appointed as school custodian, but I was fast asleep, so Mrs. Van Dyke took the message. I went to school on Monday morning, May 7, 1907. It was a beautiful spring day. All around me was beginning to show signs of green. The melody of the birds echoed through the tree tops. It was new life in nature and a new job.

I walked in the basement of the new brick building, which, when finished, would be eight classrooms. Only two rooms were finished and the other six would be completed as they were needed.

But what is the noise in the boiler room? It was none other than Professor C.W. Oley, the principal of the school. A man that was

respected and loved by both children and parents, he was there early in the morning to get the fires ready for the day. We went to the old wooden building with a small lantern and a dugout was cut in the rear of the castle's foundation. Here we found a steam boiler that leaked like a sieve. I picked up two pails and went to the old iron pump and filled it up by way of a funnel.

It did not take long before the fires were roaring. A trip through the old building showed that it was of wood with 14-foot ceilings that had been stained brown and made the rooms very dark. One room had a small wall lamp, for tonight was the election of the board members and the appropriation of school funds for a ballot box, which was no bigger than my hat. When the wind blew very hard the now grandfathers and great-grandfathers would get seasick on dry land. Some of the ceilings were stippled with spit balls that put some light and cheer to the classroom on dark days. Maybe this was the beginning of fluorescent lighting.

The district of the school territory as it now is, is but a core of the widespread territory of the early days. It extended north of Glen Avenue up North Monroe Street as far as the Halcomb estate, that has now turned to dust; from there across Prospect Street up Cedar Hill Avenue; from there to Lauwee Pond south to the County Line. It also took in west of the Erie Railroad.

We had no phones then so all truant work had to be done on a bicycle. That meant 15 or 20 visits each month for truancies and also to get substitute teachers when a regular teacher was absent.

We had no doctor or nurse in Midland Park, so Mrs. Van Dyke and myself made the best of it. If the case of lice was beyond me, I would send him to my home and my better half would take care of him by spreading a sheet on the floor and one around her and have the child sit on the floor. A can of kerosene,

Garrett "Pop" Van Dyke was a custodian in Midland Park Schools for nearly 50 years, beginning in 1907. He was a much loved local figure for generations of children.

I Remember When

These reminiscences by Pop Van Dyke were dictated to Joyce Karen Ackerman in 1954.

a fine comb and a good head-wash were used. Of course, this would only be done where a mother had passed away or was very ill.

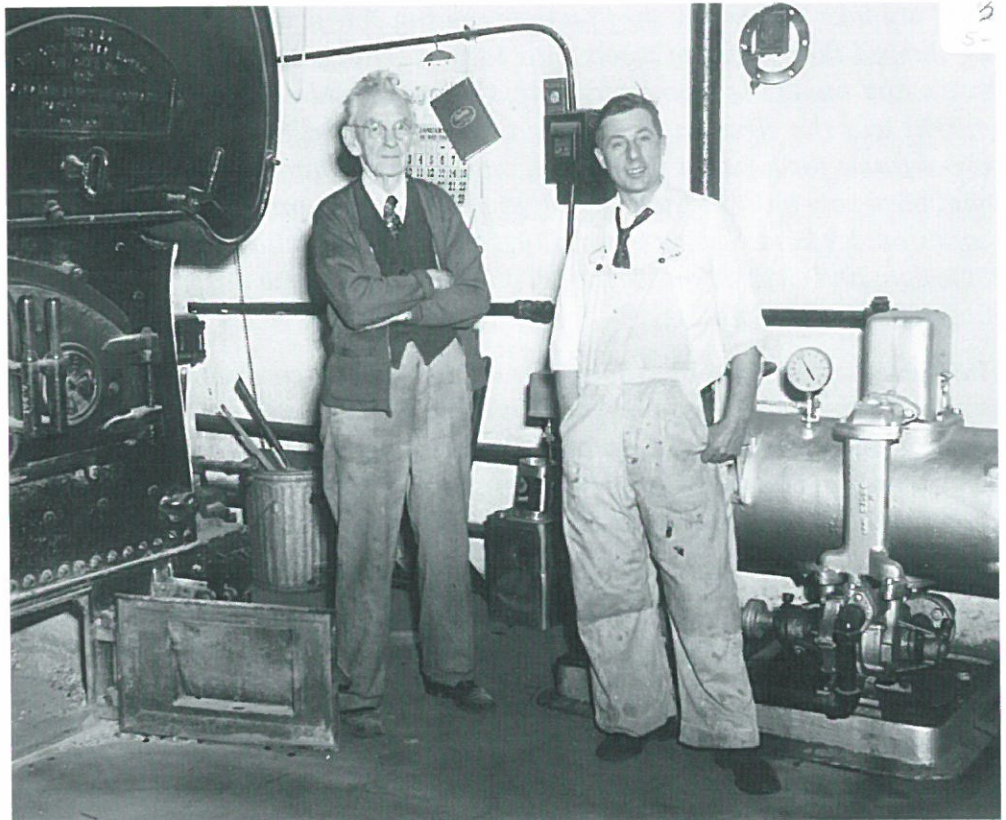
Soon after a Red Cross nurse got in touch with the school and made an appointment to give a demonstration for emergency, but she wanted a "practice patient" to work on. I took it up with Mrs. Van Dyke and she decided she would take our little son. So the nurse worked on him as if he had a broken arm or leg.

I Remember When

I had some old time remedies copied from my childhood days. One bitter cold winter morning a little girl walked to school from Monroe Street and she was petrified with the cold. I took her in with the help of a teacher and then ran across the street to an old time friend. I asked the lady for a hot cup of strong coffee. We had the little girl sip the coffee up to the last drop.

We had an epidemic of measles and as they broke out the teacher sent them home. I remember one boy could not give birth to the freckles so I remember how Mother treated them. When I had the measles she tucked me under and kept me very warm, so I gave it a thought. I asked the teacher if I could take care of the boy. The teacher gave me the okay. I took a small chair and set it on a heating register in the corridor. I told the boy to stay put. About a half hour

"Pop" Van Dyke, pictured in the furnace room with his assistant Marinus, "Rin," Vande Linde



later a man on a bicycle came up the street and walked into the school. It was none other than the beloved and highly respected Dr. Joseph Payne. He said, "I hear you have measles in school. What is wrong with the boy on the chair?" I said, "He is getting the measles but I can't break them out." Doc said that he might be getting them, but what he had then was really prickly heat.

The principal asked me if I would like to be an attendance officer. What that meant, I did not know. "Well," he said, "If children don't come to school, you have to find out the reason." He said that I would have to go to all the swimming holes that I was acquainted with looking for the children. Do you remember Hoffman's Hill on your way to school from Lauwee Pond? Do you remember Wostbrock's ravine with its cooling stream?

...I did not like this kind of work for sometimes it caused friction. The people of this town had large families and were too poor to hire help and so the oldest one of the children would help out. As time went on, I adjusted myself to this kind of work.

They had been sending the boys and girls at the age of 14 years to work in the silk and cotton mills. It was very difficult as they were people I knew and had grown up with and had no choice in the matter... But as everything changed for the better, so did attendance work.

...Do you remember the Monday morning when the boys were called in the

AS THE ENGINEER PULLED THE STARTING SIGNAL, MOTHERS WERE IN TEARS AND SWEETHEARTS WERE PASSING KISSES TO EACH OTHER.

First World War for service? They lined up in front of the old school building. Professor C.W. Oley went into the school and dismissed the pupils to march the boys to the

Ridgewood train station for the 10 o'clock train. As the engineer pulled the starting signal, mothers were in tears and sweethearts were passing kisses to each other. When the train was out of sight, we journeyed back to school.

Did they all come back? If I remember well there were five absentees on Armistice Day. I remember ringing the old school bell at five in the morning to give the people of our town the glad news of peace.



Wostbrock's ravine with its cooling stream

The tribute to Pop seen below is from the program of a testimonial dinner given for him by the residents of Midland Park in 1947.

A TRIBUTE TO GARRET VAN DYKE

Scatter thus your seeds of kindness
All enriching as you go —
Leave them. Trust the Harvest Giver;
He will make each seed to grow.
So until the happy end —
Your life shall never lack a friend.

The Borough Improvement Association established Midland Park's first library in the Highland School in the 1920s. That library was destroyed in a fire on January 5, 1924.

Laura Young is credited with the push for another borough-based library. Young, a member of the first Woman's

Library Nears Seven Decades of Service

by Jennifer Crusco Kossak

Club (established 1929) and chairwoman of the Civics Committee, brought her case to the borough council and Midland Park's churches.

Young's efforts received a boost from State Librarian Sarah Byrd Askew, who traveled to Midland Park from Trenton

to advise borough residents how to form a Library Association. Askew recommended that a decisive action be taken immediately.

At Askew's suggestion, Fred Woelfle was named chairman of the committee in charge of by-laws. Other committee members were: Jacob Geroe, Joseph Obecný, R.M. Hartman, and Clara Mastin. Young was temporary chairwoman of the association. Mrs. Moore was acting secretary.

Askew advised the fledgeling group that the state would send books to Midland Park if the borough could muster 25 library members, each of whom would contribute \$1. State services would be provided free of charge, Askew said, if the local library were incorporated.

Midland Park
New Jersey

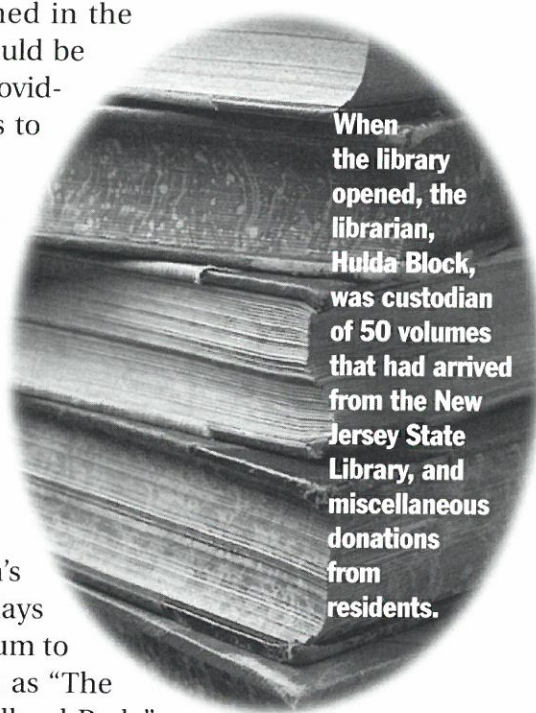
On Askew's recommendation, the library was established in the Highland School in September of 1930. While a library could be established anywhere, her philosophy was that a school provided an ideal location since pupils would have ready access to the books and information they needed.

When the library opened, librarian Hulda Block was custodian of 50 volumes that had arrived from the New Jersey State Library, and miscellaneous donations from residents. The Library Association began a door-to-door fund raising campaign to bolster the borough council's support of \$100 per year. The Woman's Club sponsored annual "book showers" to add to the library's collection. The club also raised funds through plays, card parties, and Halloween celebrations.

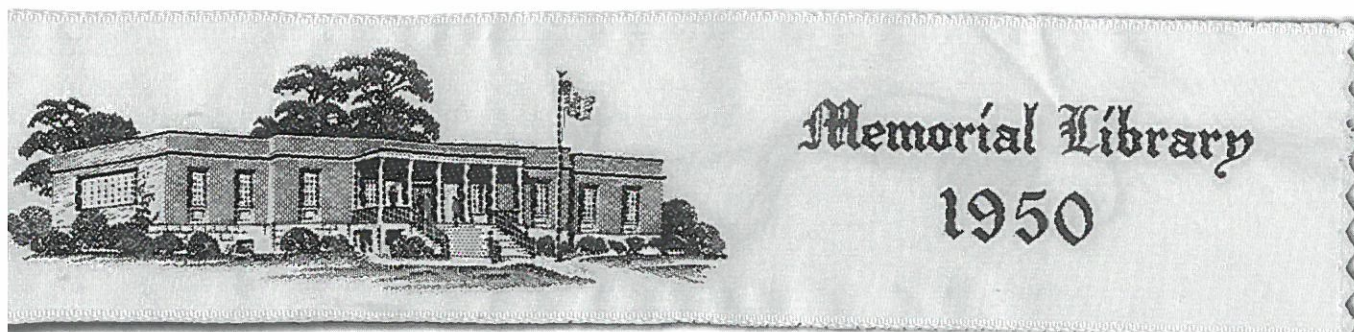
On October 29, 1937, the Midland Park Junior Woman's Club held a benefit Halloween masquerade dance. A few days later, on Nov. 2, 1937, borough voters approved a referendum to incorporate the library. The library board became known as "The Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Midland Park." Sebastian Gaeta prepared the certificate of incorporation which was filed and recorded on January 18, 1938 by New Jersey Secretary of State Thomas A. Mathis. Mr. Gaeta maintained his interest in the library and in recent years has donated several items from his extensive Americana collection to the Midland Park Library.

Trustees included: Edith K. Jackson, secretary; Anna Longson; Amy W. Coggeshall, president; Joseph Obecný; and Edward Moore, treasurer. Ex officio members included Mayor Dorrance Talbot and Richard M. Hartman, supervising principal of the public schools.

The 1938 budget included rent paid to the library's new storefront home at 220 Godwin Avenue. The library remained at that location until 1950, when



When the library opened, the librarian, Hulda Block, was custodian of 50 volumes that had arrived from the New Jersey State Library, and miscellaneous donations from residents.





Sebastian Gaeta presents librarian Evelyn Sehr a plaque accompanying the Shakespeare artifacts he donated to the library in memory of his Midland Park friends while he was the Midland Park borough attorney.



Library Nears Seven Decades of Service

the cornerstone was laid for the Midland Park Memorial Library at the present location

at the intersection of Godwin and Franklin avenues. In 1963, the library expanded to include a children's wing, and the Adele McKim wing was added in 1981. Its basement area was finished as an Eagle Scout project in 1988.

On November 23, 1997, Library Director Evelyn Sehr welcomed the community to an Open House in celebration of 60 years of municipally funded library services.

The library was automated a decade ago, and reciprocal borrowing began among Bergen County libraries under the auspices of the Bergen County Cooperative Library System. The library offers patrons access to the Internet, and lends videos, tapes, and CDs.

At present, the library is being renovated to include access to the community room, barrier-free elements and an elevator. Funds were provided through a Community Development grant.

Before the Library...

There's little information about this scene other than that it was taken from Highland School some time in the 1940s.

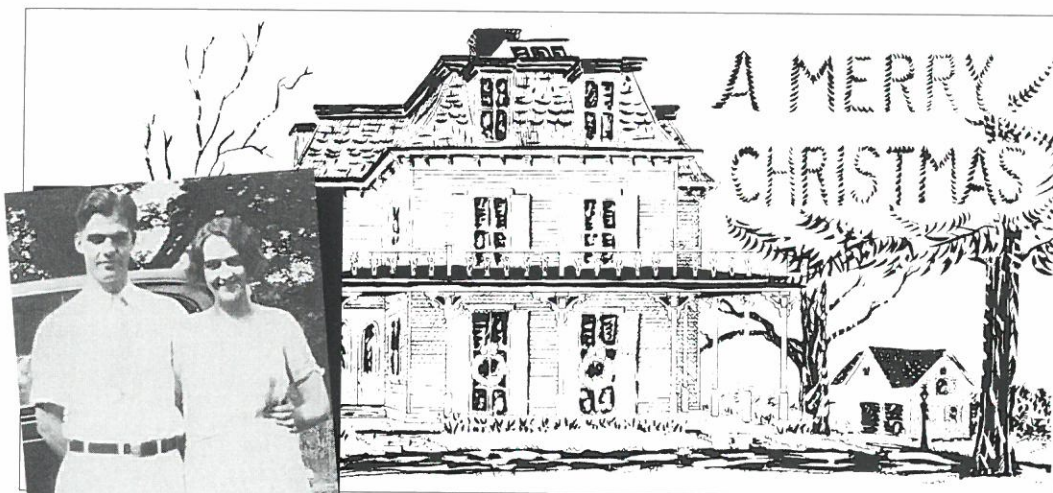


Sinter Klaas pays an annual visit to children at the library, accompanied by his helper, Black Pete.

Where Borough was Home Dreams to Noted Took Surrealist Root Painter & Collector

*"Liberty Belles"
depicts, from
the left, Marion
Dean Hurd,
Woodlock's
mother; Mary
Ann Woodlock
Johnston, her
daughter; and
the artist.*





This ink drawing of the O'Hara house graced the Woodlock's Christmas card one year.

Ethelyn Hurd and Paul Woodlock, 1929

Ethelyn Hurd Woodlock first showed interest in drawing at the age of six. Throughout the years she continued to paint under a number of teachers, even after she graduated from Copley School of Commercial Art in Boston.

She began by designing greeting cards and wallpaper. Later she restored antiques and clock faces, built doll houses and miniature rooms and made the furnishings for them.

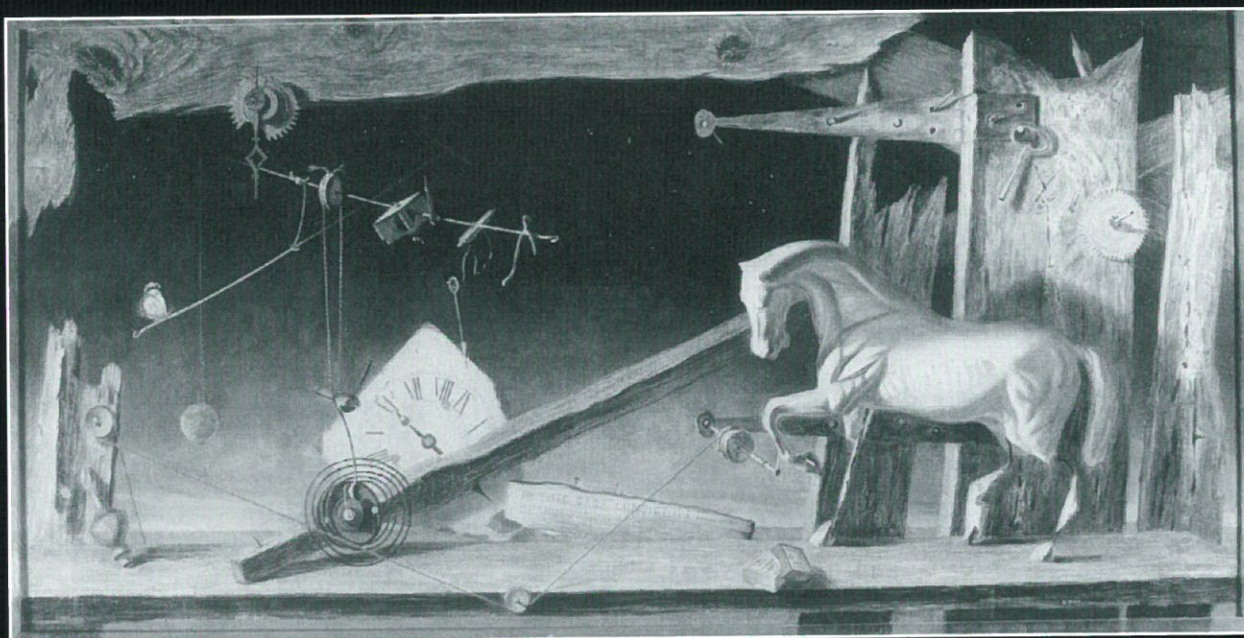
Mrs. Woodlock moved into the Victorian era O'Hara house in Midland Park in 1954 because it had an artist's studio on the third floor. Many times she would hold an open house tour to benefit local organizations. Everyone enjoyed the tours and seeing her paintings, antiques, doll houses and large shell collection.

Many area school classes and Scout groups came to see the extensive shell and nature collection, always leaving with many memories and a bag of shells that Mrs. Woodlock had collected. She was a noted authority on sea shells and did volunteer work at the Museum of Natural History in New York City in their conchology department. In 1995 she was present at the opening of the Bailey-Matthews shell museum on Sanibel Island, Florida.

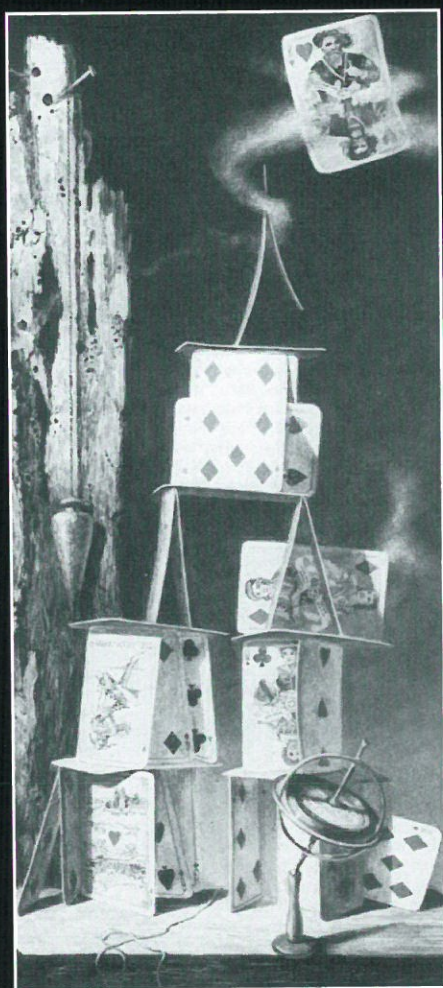
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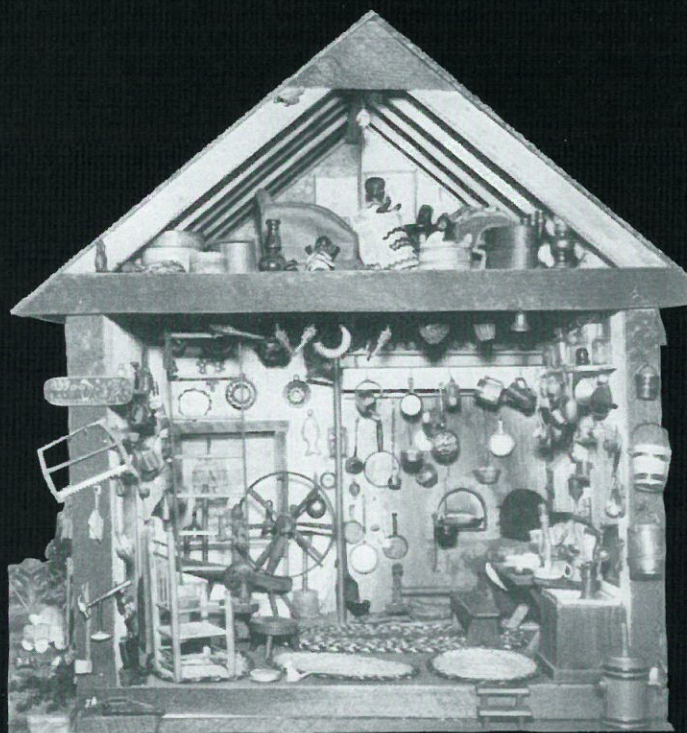
Woodlock's first greeting card design was done for a Boston engraving company.



ANAMOLY AT 0600, casein-oil on panel, 1959.



KARTEN SCHLOSS, casein-oil on paper, 1959.



COOK HOUSE, miniature made from pine backings on antique picture frames.

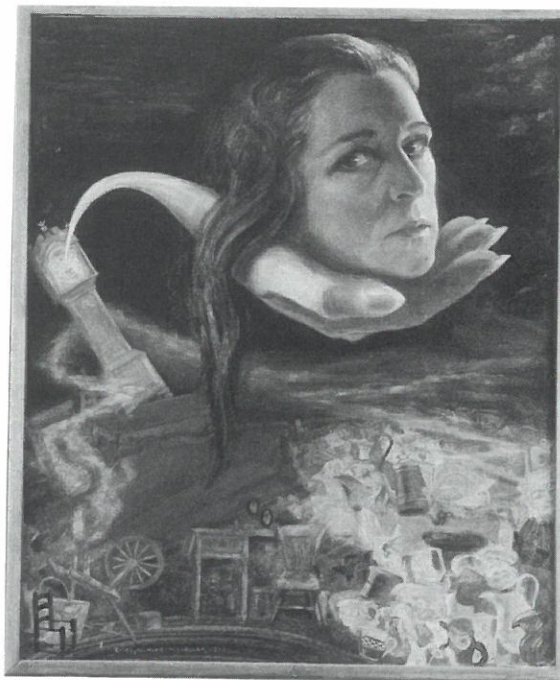
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In the art world she taught herself the techniques of different artists by painting self portraits-painting herself as she imagined other artists would have painted her. She became noted for her *trompe l'oeil* compositions and portrait paintings. She was commissioned to paint a number of portraits of the founders at Valley Hospital in Ridgewood. She was listed in *Who's Who in American Art* in 1962 and in 1964.

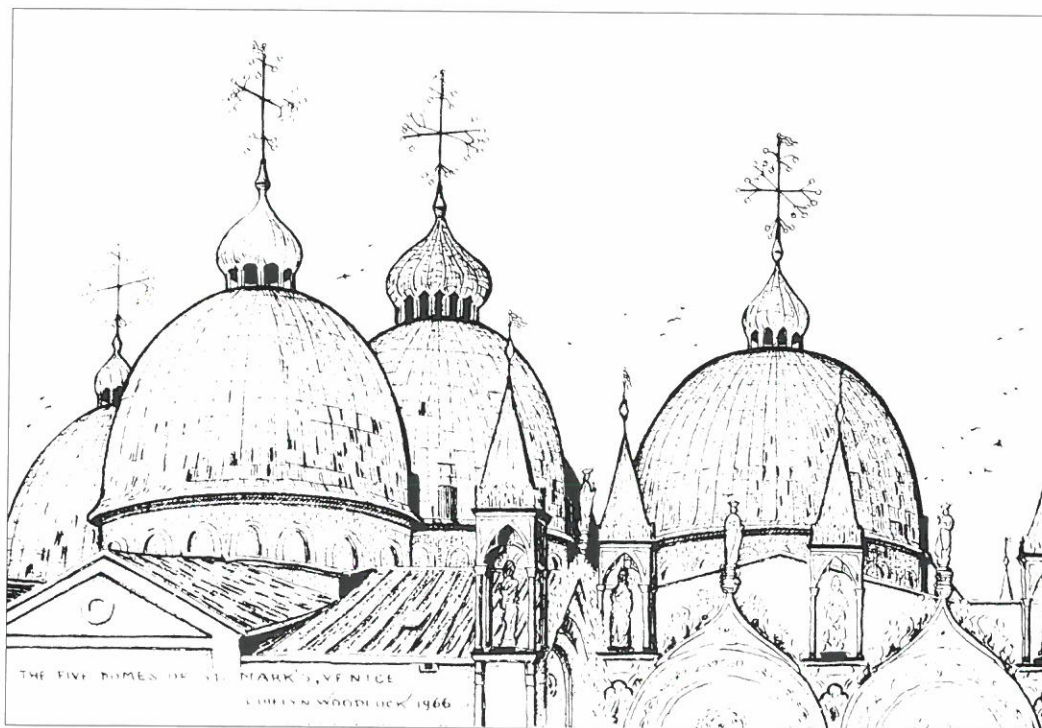
Throughout the years Mrs. Woodlock won many awards and had paintings hung in many prominent places. Five of her paintings have been accepted for the permanent collection at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.

In 1992, four paintings were selected by the museum to represent fine American women artists and to be displayed at the United States Pavillion at the Seville (Spain) Expo 1992. One of those paintings was titled "Please Forward" by Ethelyn Hurd Woodlock. The museum has also hung her large painting titled "Gemini to Gabriel" which is on the cover of her book, *Dreams Have Wings*.

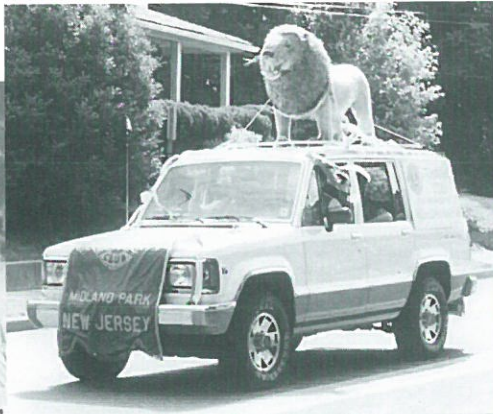
In 1979 Mrs. Woodlock moved to Largo, Florida. Today, at the age of ninety, she is still active in her many interests, still painting, making new shell displays for competition and giving house tours.



MIND OUT OF TIME OVER MATTER, self portrait, oil on wallboard, 1959.



FIVE DOMES OF ST. MARK'S, VENICE, ink, 1966.



Cornerstones of



by Jennifer Crusco Kossak

Midland Park is a special town because of its volunteers. These committed individuals are the cornerstone of any solid community. Without those who give so freely of their valuable time, the com-



The Midland Park Fire Department and Band, July 4, 1914

the Community

munity would be less safe, less vibrant, and much less interesting. The police department, although not a volunteer entity, has also been instrumental in enhancing the quality of life in the Borough of Midland Park.



Cornerstones of the Community

Ambulance Corps

The Midland Park Ambulance Corps traces its origins to the World War II era. When the volunteers first met in March of 1942, the group was dubbed the Midland Park First-Aid Unit. That first session was held under the guidance of council members H. Connelly, Richard Reynen, and Raymond Winters. The organization was later renamed the Community Ambulance Corps. The goal of the organization was to provide residents with first-aid and ambulance service. Calls are now handled through the emergency dispatching service.

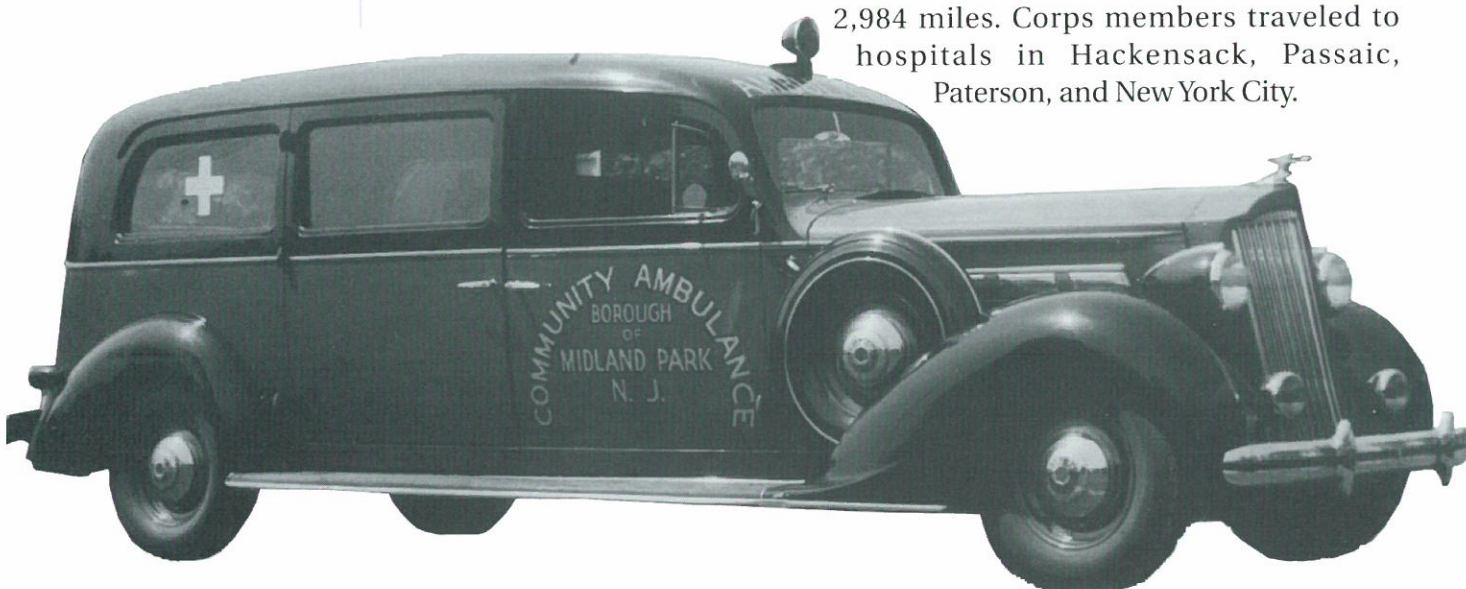
The corps, which has historically benefited from the community's donations of funds and time, received a critical boost from Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Mastin, who presented the corps with its first ambulance. An early equipment list included a resuscitator, traction splints, flexible stretchers, and first aid supplies.

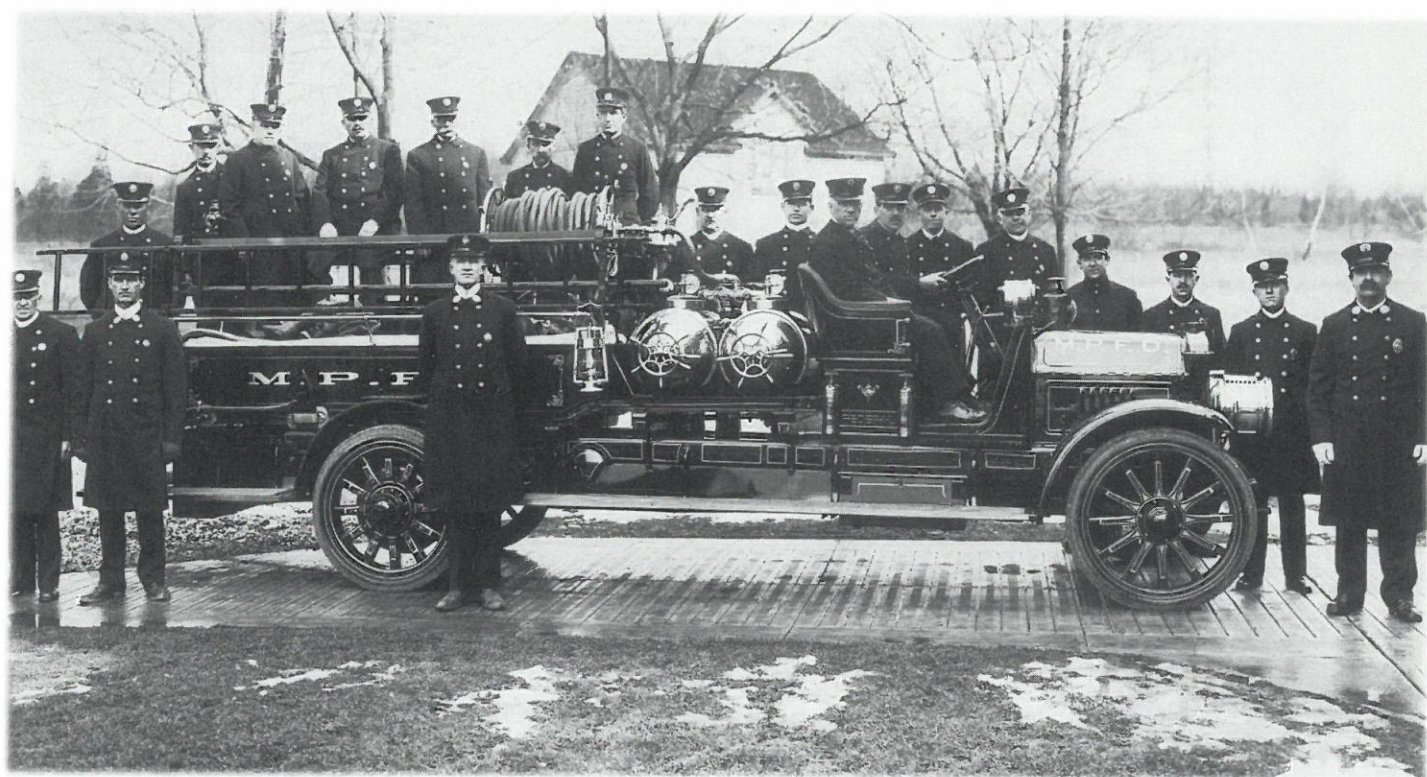
THE CORPS RECEIVED
A CRITICAL BOOST
WHEN MR. AND MRS.
THEODORE MASTIN
DONATED THE FIRST
AMBULANCE – THE
1939 PACKARD
PICTURED BELOW.

Peter Nauta also assisted the corps with free laundry service. Nauta undertook the job of laundering the linen used frequently at the time.

By the spring of 1942, Mayor Peter D. Westerhoff formed a volunteer committee to prepare the articles of incorporation for the corps. That committee, which became known as the Community Ambulance Trustees, included Irene Raynen, James De Korte, H. Connelly, and Dora Greene. The chairman was Rev. John T. Holwerda. Each trustee served a two-year term. Mayor Westerhoff entered the U.S. service in 1944. Warren T. Brewer was named acting mayor.

Between June, 1942 and June, 1944, the corps answered 178 calls, covering 2,984 miles. Corps members traveled to hospitals in Hackensack, Passaic, Paterson, and New York City.





In addition to its emergency work, the corps teamed up with the Midland Park Chapter of the American Red Cross to transport and set up hospital beds which the Red Cross lent to borough residents.

The corps has its own building on Pleasant Avenue and two state-of-the-art rigs, which are updated periodically. Fund drives are held once a year. The organization remains an independent entity, although it receives a generous contribution from the municipality every year.

Fire Department

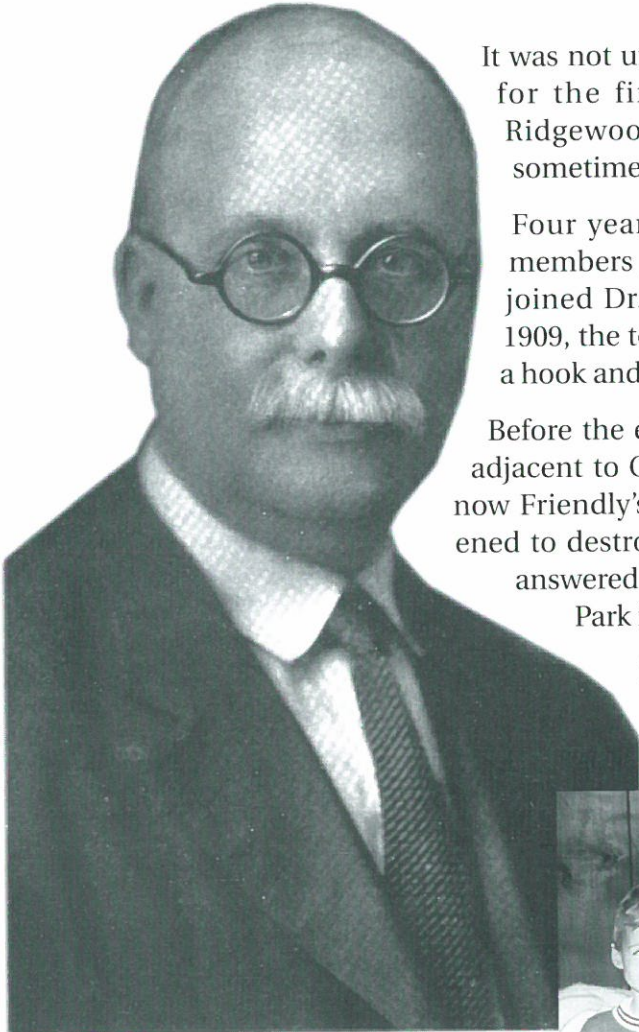
Like the mythical phoenix, the Midland Park Fire Department arose from the ashes of one of the borough's greatest disasters. In 1905, the Granite Linen Company (at the site of the ITT building) was completely destroyed by fire. The building's fate appeared sealed early, since the only available fire apparatus was housed in Ridgewood. By the time the Ridgewood firefighters arrived at the scene, the flames had already done a good deal of damage.

The borough's government took action, enacting an ordinance in November of 1905 "to provide for the extinguishment of fires." In December of that year, council members Coggershall and Christopher, and resident Dr. Joseph Payne, were appointed to a committee. The committee was to look into the matter of organizing a volunteer fire department

(continued on page 104)

*The Midland Park
Fire Department,
1919*

(continued from page 103)



Dr. Joseph Payne, the driving force behind the organization of the Fire Department, served as the first Chief. His home/office was located on Godwin Avenue in the building next to the present post office.

It was not until 1909, however, that the membership drive for the first fire company began. In the interim, Ridgewood continued to fight fires in Midland Park, sometimes for a fee.

Four years after the ordinance was drafted, council members John Packer, Henry Gunther, and John Cronk joined Dr. Payne in the membership drive. By July of 1909, the town had advertised for bids for a hose reel and a hook and ladder.

Before the equipment arrived, a fire started in a building adjacent to Columbia Hall, which was across from what is now Friendly's on Godwin Avenue. Once again, fire threatened to destroy a borough landmark. Paterson's firefighters answered the call, making the seven-mile trip to Midland Park in a "comparatively" short time.

Rose Terhune provided the borough with its first "firehouse." Her Franklin Avenue barn housed Midland Park's fire fighting equipment – a two



Breakfast with Santa is sponsored annually by the Fire Company Women's Auxiliary.



Firehouse /DPW complex, designed by local architect Albert Vierheilig, was dedicated in 1979.



wheel, hand-drawn hose reel and a horse-drawn hook and ladder truck. The borough paid Mrs. Terhune \$9 a month for storage privileges. The horses were kept nearby at Jessie Decker's barn, also on Franklin Avenue.

Today, the fire department remains staffed by dedicated volunteers. The department's equipment is among the best available. In addition to the fire alarms audible to the general public, fire fighters carry personal pagers that alert them to report for duty.

An integral part of the fire department is the Midland Park Fire Company Woman's Auxiliary, which supports firemen in firemen's homes, contributes to local causes, funds scholarships and serves food to firemen during fires.

Cornerstones of the Community

Police Department

The development of a community greatly depends on citizens' ability to go about their daily business without undue concern about safety. From the outset, Midland Park has sought to protect its residents, beginning with foot patrols. Today, the department's patrol cars are equipped with the latest crime-fighting technology.

A series of 1905 burglaries led to a request for foot patrols by a group of marshals. The early part of the century also brought complaints regarding the sale of "hard cider," and the more serious issue of a 1908 double murder. The Prosecutor's detectives apprehended a suspect in the stabbing deaths of two Italian cobblers, but the murders could not be solved.

Although the borough had an organized system of law enforcement from its inception, the police department as we now know it was not permanently established until 1917. During the Depression of the 1930s, the borough had four police officers, each of whom earned the wage of \$1,300 a year.

The 1960s brought a new manual of official Rules and Regulations. The technology of the day included thorough radio coverage and a teletype printer that linked the borough with other area departments.

The department currently consists of 13 officers, including Police Chief Thomas Monarque. The 13th officer was added in 1997, under the auspices of a federal grant.

Seven patrol cars, five marked and one unmarked, are available to cruise the borough's streets. A four-wheel drive vehicle was recently added to bolster the department's emergency response. Several Bergen County police departments purchased the popular four-wheel drive vehicles after a record snowfall a few years ago. Dispatching of all emergency services is done by

(continued on page 106)

THE EARLY PART OF THE CENTURY ALSO BROUGHT COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE SALE OF "HARD CIDER," AND THE MORE SERIOUS ISSUE OF A 1908 DOUBLE MURDER.

Cornerstones of the Community

(continued from page 105)

the Wyckoff Police Department under an inter-local services agreement between the two neighboring communities.

The police department benefits from the latest recording equipment and computer links. Officers are able to obtain information on stolen vehicles and wanted persons quickly without leaving the patrol car.

Bergen County provides Midland Park with a training facility, the Police and Fire Academy in Mahwah, and specialty services. Those services include crime scene processing, the K-9 unit, and a special weapons team. Weapons practice and training is done at the Waldwick firing range.

In addition to receiving training at the Police and Fire Academy, Midland Park's officers also teach there. Chief Monarque teaches a course on domestic violence response. He also teaches a criminal justice course at Bergen Community College in Paramus.

The borough's police officers specialize in various areas including accident reconstruction, crime prevention, Breathalyzer operation (in driving while

*Pictured below are
members of the
Police Department
with the Mayor
and Borough
Council, 1919.*





MIDLAND PARK'S DARE PROGRAM, COORDINATED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, REACHES OUT TO LOCAL YOUNGSTERS WITH EVENTS THAT ARE BOTH EDUCATIONAL AND FUN.

intoxicated cases), and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program (D.A.R.E.) for local students.

Midland Park has never had a high incidence of serious crime, but the police department has always been there to respond to citizens' calls.

Boy Scouts

Scouting has been a tradition in Midland Park since March 29, 1921, when Boy Scout Troop 1 was chartered. Trinity Reformed Church, which sponsored the troop, opened its social rooms to Scouting activities. The troop also made use of a camp in Darlington Farms, Mahwah. Troop 1 later became Troop 51 when the North Bergen County Council was organized.

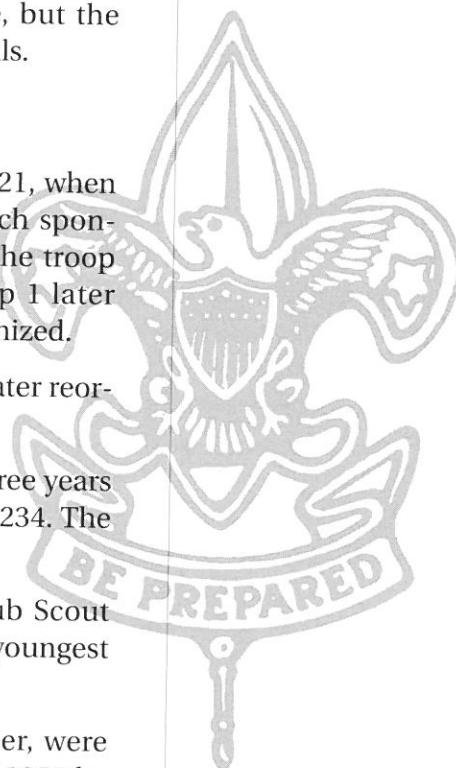
The group's charter lapsed during World War II, 1941-45, and was later reorganized as Troop 134.

In 1955, Troop 251 was organized by the Church of the Nativity. Three years later, the Irving Park Christian Reformed Church organized Troop 234. The Methodist Church organized Troop 157 in November of 1960.

The Parent Teacher Association organized the borough's first Cub Scout Pack (#51) in 1943. As the name implies, the Cub Scouts are the youngest members of the Scouting organizations.

Explorer Posts 134 and 234, which included boys age 14 and older, were formed in 1955 and 1961. Post 134 was organized in November of 1955 by Trinity Reformed Church. The Irving Park Christian Reformed Church

(continued on page 109)





Pictured above is Boy Scout Troop I, July 4, 1925; while at the right, Scouts led the parade in 1920 as a group of young borough men marched to the train station in Ridgewood to depart for service in World War I.



Collecting food for the needy is a yearly event for the Boy Scouts.



Scouts plant geraniums at Veterans Plaza in time for Memorial Day observances.



(continued from page 107)

organized Post 234 in December of 1961. An Emergency Services Explorer Post, sponsored by the Midland Park Police Department, is now active and assists the police and fire departments in emergencies.



Pictured above, a group of Girl Scouts decorate Christmas trees throughout town.

service so they can become happy and resourceful citizens. The Girl Scouts in Midland Park work hard and are successful at fulfilling that purpose by providing services such as food, blood and baby bundle drives. They play an active role in the borough's holiday celebrations each year by participating in the tree lighting ceremony, helping with the holiday decorations and caroling. They also perform community services such as visiting local residents and nursing home facilities to share a song and a smile.

The Girl Scouts proudly display their patriotism by marching in the Memorial Day Parade and carrying the Colors in the mayor and council's annual reorganization meeting. They have visited the library, borough hall, the police department and local businesses to explore the town in which they are proud to live.

Since 1987, nineteen girls have earned their Gold Award, the highest award given in Girl Scouting.

Valley Hospital Auxiliary

Members of the Midland Park Branch of the Valley Hospital Auxiliary volunteer at the hospital to man Kurth Cottage, the hospital coffee shop, or to work in other areas. The group also raises funds to contribute to the hospital's building fund or to purchase needed equipment.

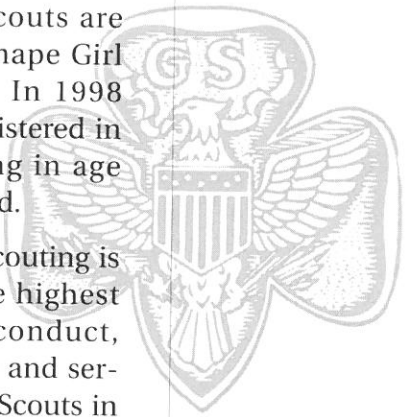
(continued from page 111)

Cornerstones of the Community

Girl Scouts

Midland Park Girl Scouts are part of the Lenni Lenape Girl Scout Council, Inc. In 1998 there are 171 girls registered in Girl Scouting ranging in age from five to 18 years old.

The purpose of Girl Scouting is to inspire girls to the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, leadership and ser-



Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts join forces, above, for the annual spring planting throughout the borough.



Lions canvas door to door during their Broom Sale.



Wyckoff-Midland Park Rotary members pitched in on beautification efforts at Veterans Plaza , particularly the restoration of the World War I artillery piece. The cannon was recently refurbished and was rededicated on Memorial Day, 1998.



(continued from page 109)

Lions Club

Chartered on April 24, 1951, the Midland Park Lions Club is a service organization mainly dedicated toward projects for the blind. Members include local business people who have a concern for those who need financial or moral support in time of crisis. The club holds dinner meetings twice a month at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

At the beginning of each year, the club mails out its "eyesight" fund raising letters. For the last 40 years, the club has been responsible for a cabin at Camp Marcella in Green Pond, NJ. The camp is a retreat for blind children. About six years ago, the club constructed a replacement cabin.

John Olthuis, who owned J.H. Olthuis Funeral Home on Godwin Avenue until his retirement in 1996, is the club's last living charter member.

In recent years, the club joined forces with the Glen Rock Lions Club and offers scholarships and other programs to citizens of Glen Rock as well as of Midland Park..

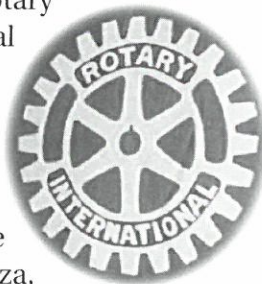
Cornerstones of the Community

FOR THE LAST 40 YEARS, THE LIONS HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR A CABIN AT CAMP MARCELLA, A RETREAT FOR BLIND CHILDREN.

Wyckoff-Midland Park Rotary Club

A 40-year tradition of service to the community began on March 17, 1959 when the Wyckoff/Midland Park Rotary received its charter from Rotary International, after having met for several months as a provisional club at The Ho-Ho-Kus Inn.

Over the years the club has been very active in two of Rotary International's primary objectives – community service and international service. Starting with the club's first project, the commuter bus station in Wortendyke Plaza, to their most recent, the restoration of the World War I field artillery piece in the same plaza, club members have rolled up their sleeves and gotten directly involved in aiding many groups in Midland Park and Wyckoff.

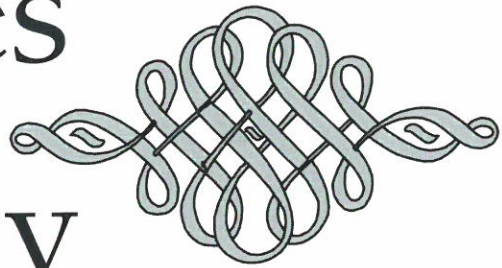


The Rotary has long been a contributor to educational endeavors, having awarded tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships to local students, including four \$2,500 scholarships each year. In 1997, the Rotary donated about \$38,000 via scholarships and other charitable contributions.

On the international level, the local club hosted its fourth "Gift of Life" child. That's a program whereby the club pays for open heart surgery for young children who are unable to get the medical care they need in their own country. This year's child was a three-year old from the Ukraine.

(continued on page 115)

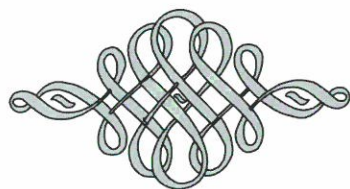
Cornerstones of the Community



The Midland Park Police Department: first row from the left, Ptl. Cinnella, Ptl. Powderly, Chief Monarque, Ptl. Kasbarian, and Ptl. Wendelaar; second row, Lt. Casson, Ptl. Whalen, Ptl. Vandenberg, Ptl. Maas, Sgt. Veenstra, Sgt. Klingen, and Ptl. Marra. (Not pictured: Ptl. Van Vliet.)



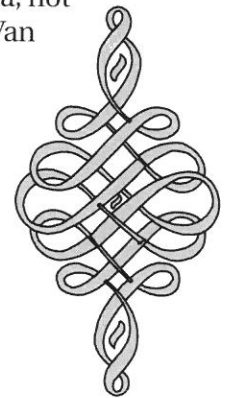
Chief Monarque as Elvis in the Ridgewood Fourth of July parade.



The Midland Park Ambulance Corps: first row from the left, Kathy VanderWeert, Ginny Veenstra, Arlene Scott, and Pat Duffy; second row, Ron Fuhr, Fred Fox, Ron Houtsma, Bernie Vandenberg, Bob Hazen, Ken Veenstra, and Pete Thomas; third row, Alan Kooreman, Glen Biswurm, Doug Siegers, Mike Anzalone, Dave Wiseman, Alison Bush and Beth Abma Fylstra. Not pictured are Kevin Veenstra, Linda Ten Kate, Sandy Strange, Kevin Biswurm, Julia Fuhr, Rich Kroitsch, and Jim Garner.



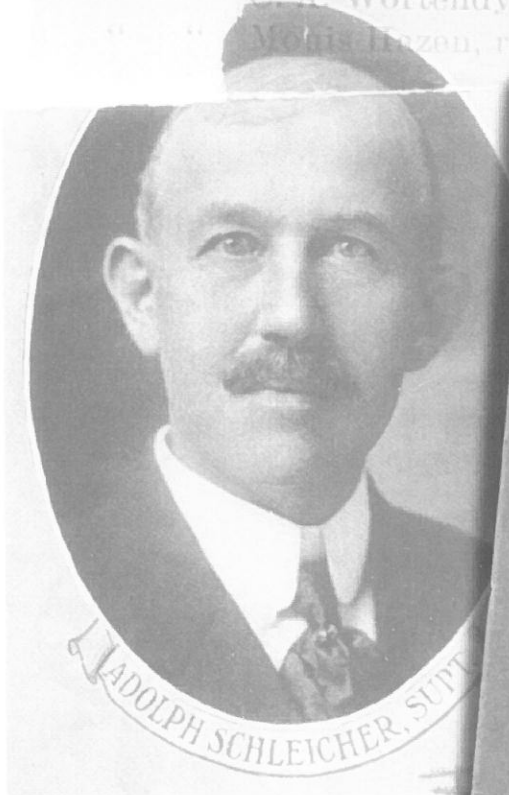
The Midland Park Fire Department: Front row, from left: Sam Schaper, John Gibbons, Jeff Allyn, Chris Englishman, Joe Kunz, Scott Amantea, John Miller, Ray McCombs. Middle row: Pete Hook, Ed Hollema, Sr., Dan Bardzell, Norm Meyers, Scott Pruiksma, not identified, Chris Van Ry, Dan Fisher, Frank Miller, Terry McGraw, Wayne Swezey, Al Van Houten, Sr. Third row: Gerry Tansey, Todd Comer, Bill DeWitte, Jordan Jeffer, Mark Berninger, Jody York, Pete Jeffer and Jamie Englishman.



Borough Expenses.

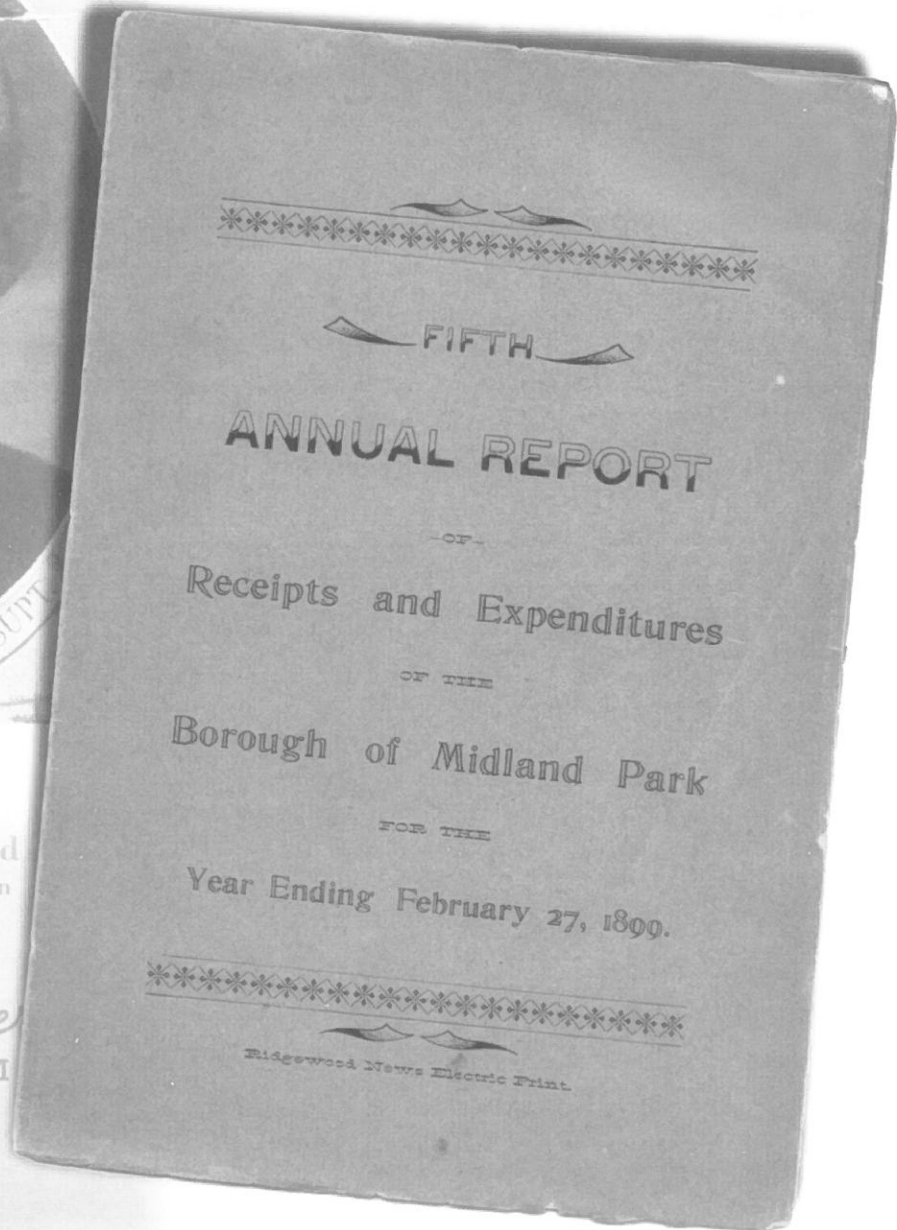
1899.

| | | |
|----------|---|--------|
| Feb. 27, | F. Van Dyke, for chickens killed by dogs..... | \$8 00 |
| Mch. 20, | Wm. B. Morrow, sundries..... | 6 50 |
| " " | Wm. B. Morrow, salary..... | 25 00 |
| " " | Frank Shuart, services at polls | 3 00 |
| " " | John M. Marr " " | 3 00 |
| " " | C. A. Wortendyke " " | 3 00 |
| " " | Monis Hazen, road work..... | 12 25 |



Borough of Midland
County of Bergen
New Jersey

Fiftieth Annive
PROGRAM
1894-1944



(continued from page 111)

A mayor and council form of government has been in place in Midland Park since the borough was incorporated in 1894. William Morrow, the borough's first mayor, came from a family of the earliest area industrialists.

The council's membership included Hugh T. Lawrence and John Klopman, each of whom served three years. Tunis Smith and Marcus Young were appointed to two-year terms. Garret Klopman and Charles N. Tillotson were to serve one-year terms.

Thomas Holt, an avid supporter of incorporation, served as borough clerk for 13 years. Edward M. Krech was named tax collector. Judge Cornelius Doremus executed the borough's legal work for a fee of \$50 per year. James Terhune, the first assessor, relinquished his duties after a year. He was succeeded by Will Holt.

Mayor Morrow hosted the governing body's first meeting at his home near the Christian Reformed Church. Subsequent meetings were held at Columbia Hall. The rental charge for the meeting room was \$100 per year.

The governing body's first ordinance involved the licensing of auctioneers, hawkers, peddlers, junk dealers, and circuses. License fees were \$2.50 for those on foot, \$5 for those with one horse, and \$10 for those with two horses.

In contrast to the complexity of 20th century finances, the borough's March, 1895 financial statement included receipts of \$275, disbursements of \$147, and cash on hand totaling \$128.

In 1895, Robert H. Wortendyke became the first regularly-elected mayor. He was succeeded by Monmouth B. Wilson, and was later reelected in 1901 to serve until 1907.

Hooker Coggershall served from 1908 until 1911, and was succeeded by Henry J. Wostbrock, Sr., who served from 1912 through 1915. His son, Henry J. Wostbrock Jr. was mayor from 1948 through 1951. Other mayors during the first half of the century included Adolph Schleicher, 1916-23; Henry Gunther, 1924-25; Dr. Joseph Payne, 1926-29; Henry Sluyter, 1930-38; and Dorrance Talbot, 1938-41. Dr. Peter D. Westerhoff Sr. became mayor in 1942

(continued on page 116)

Leaders in Government During the First Century

THE GOVERNING BODY'S FIRST ORDINANCE INVOLVED THE LICENSING OF AUCTIONEERS, HAWKERS, PEDDLERS, JUNK DEALERS, AND CIRCUSES

Leaders in Government During the First Century

(continued from page 115)

and resigned after a year to enter military service during World War II. Warren T. Brewer took over as acting mayor until the election of James F. Vance (1944-45), followed by Harry Hoitsma, 1945-48. Peter Passaro followed Henry Wostbrock Jr. and served from 1952 until April, 1957, when he was elected to the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders. John Vanderbush filled out his term and was succeeded by Garrett W. Hagedorn, who served from 1958 until his election to the New Jersey Senate in 1967. Cornelius (Case) Pontier served from 1968 through 1971.

The borough's longest serving mayor was Robert J. Hamilton, who served from 1972 through 1983. J. William Van Dyke was mayor from 1984 through 1987 and became a Bergen County freeholder in 1986, a position he still holds. Faith Walker, the borough's first woman mayor, served from 1988 through 1995. The current mayor, Ester Vierheilig, took office on Jan. 1, 1996.

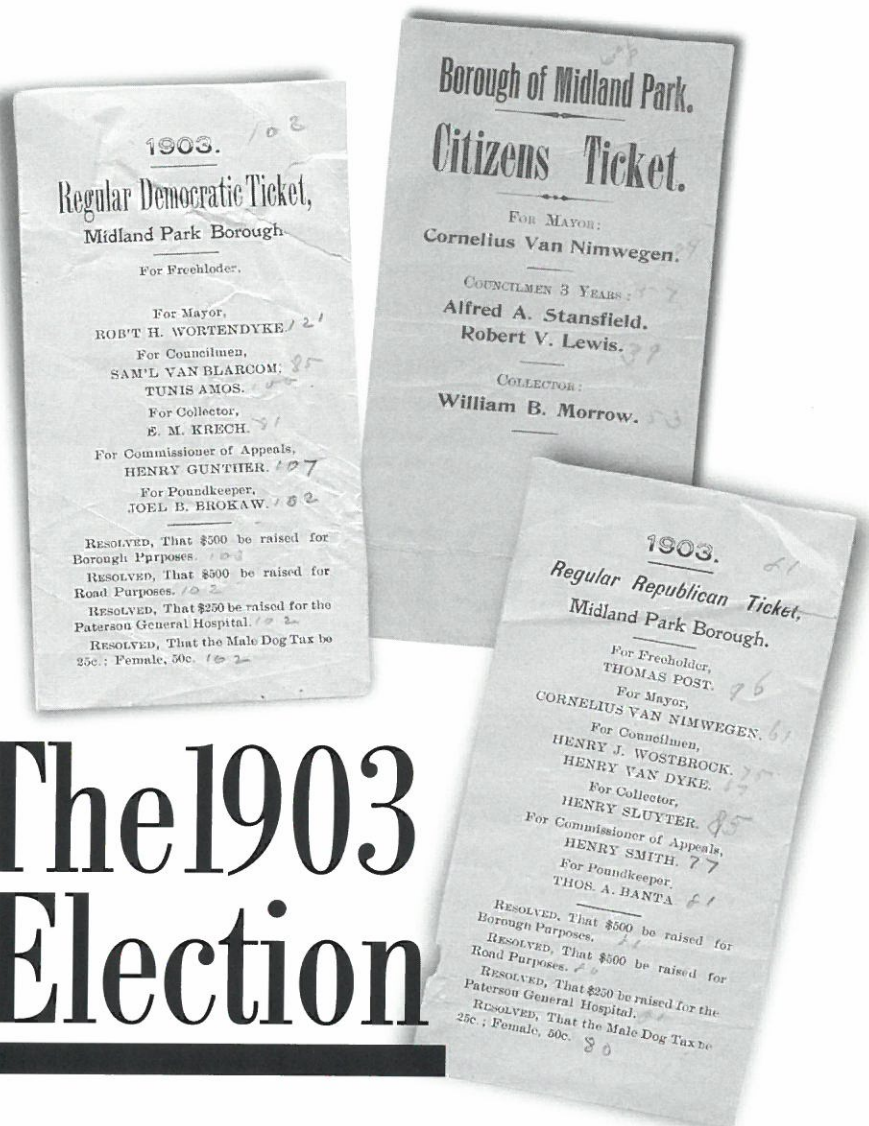
Currently serving on the borough council are: John Keeley, council president; Mark Braunius, Michael Duffy, Bernard Holst, Patrick (Bud) O'Hagan, and Betty Sullivan.



Political Clubs

Midland Park residents have always shown a great interest in politics and have maintained an active involvement not only at the local level but at the county level and occasionally at the state level as well. There are two Republican clubs, the United Republican Club, organized in 1952, and the Midland Park Republican Club, organized in 1988. In addition, the Midland Park Republican Women, Inc., founded in 1961, works closely with the United Republican Club to promote the principles of Republicanism and to get out the vote during elections. The Midland Park Democratic Club, incorporated in 1929, works to promote the two-party system of government.

The 1903 Election



The 1998 Mayor and Council: seated from the left, Councilman Patrick O'Hagan, Mayor Ester Vierheilig, and Borough Administrator Michelle Dugan; and standing, Council members Bernard Holst, Mark Braunius, John Keeley, Betty Sullivan and Michael Duffy.

by Charles E.
Ryan, Esq.

Midland Park has had a decidedly patriotic history. Any review of the numbers of Midland Park citizens who served in the two World Wars, Korea and Vietnam reflects this. More tragically, the number of Midland Park servicemen who died for their country during war time is sadly out of proportion to the population of our small town.

In particular, the loss of some eight young men from Midland Park in the Vietnam War, the greatest per capita loss of any community in the nation during that war, spurred then Mayor Cornelius Pontier to call for a resolution

Veterans Mark Our

of the Borough Council asking President Richard Nixon to exempt young men from Midland Park from having to serve in Vietnam for the rest of that war effort.

Two of the most active and generous civic organizations in Midland Park are the Hugh E. Connelly Memorial American Legion Post 130 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7086. These two veterans' posts pull together each year to form the Memorial Day Committee which organizes and presents this

AMERICAN LEGION POST
130 AND VETERANS OF
FOREIGN WARS POST 7086
PULL TOGETHER EACH YEAR
TO FORM THE MEMORIAL
DAY COMMITTEE.

most significant town-wide annual observance. On Memorial Day, which Midland Park celebrates on the Saturday closest to the actual Memorial Day date each year, the borough government sponsors early morning ceremonies at the monument behind the high school, followed by a full parade and Memorial Day services at Veterans Plaza, located immediately in front of the Wortendyke Station.

After the services at Veterans Plaza each year there is a picnic at the Fire House to which all of the public and parade participants are invited. VFW members, VFW Women Auxiliary members, American Legion members, and American Legion Women Auxiliary members handle all of the arrangements for these parades, services and picnics each year. More than a thousand citizens observe the parade, hundreds come to Veterans Plaza to hear the services and speakers, and some five hundred adults and children attend the Memorial Day picnic at the Fire House each year.

American Legion Post 130 was founded in 1943 and all of its original officers were veterans of World War I. They included Hugh E. Connelly, Commander; Harry J. Roche, Adjutant; Peter DePow, Vice-Commander; Martin

(continued on page 120)

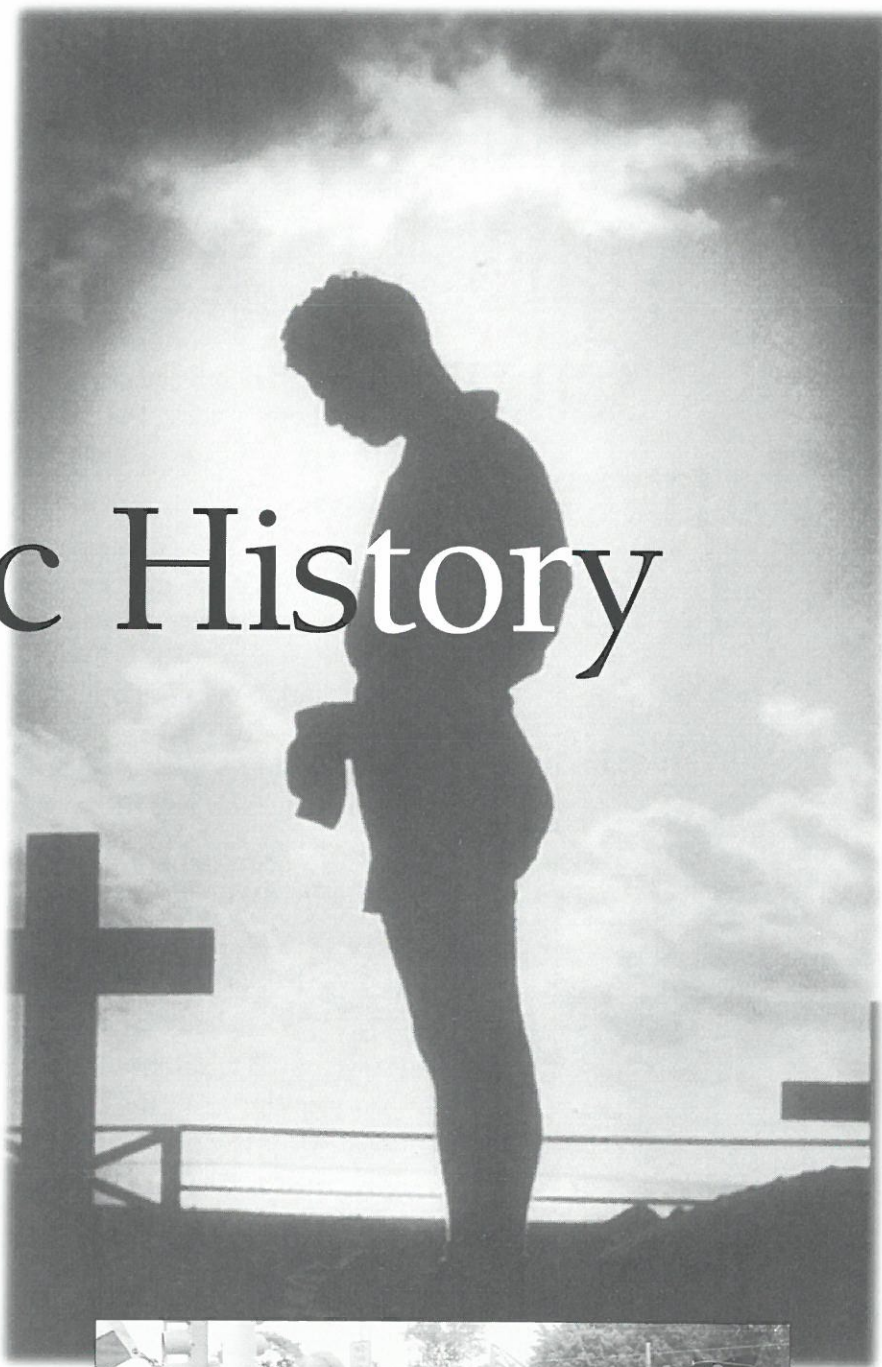
**Tragically, the
number of
Midland Park
servicemen
who died for
their country**

Patriotic History

**during war time
is sadly out of
proportion to
the population
of our town.**



*Ray McCombs, Mayor J. William
Van Dyke and American Legion
commander Fred Barbaro raise
POW/MIA flag.*



Veterans Mark Our Patriotic History



(continued from page 118)

Spyckaboer, Sergeant at Arms; Alexander McLeoud, Historian; George LeFleur, Chaplain; George A. Smyth, Service Officer; and William Anderson, Finance Officer.

The Post prospered and built a Post Home, sponsored Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, placed flags on veterans' graves, provided concerts, ran salvage drives and collected gifts for World War II Armed Forces personnel as well as establishing a milk fund during that war for the under-nourished.

The Post had as one of its initial speakers, Sergeant Russell Streelman, a U.S. Marine Veteran who was wounded at Guadalcanal. The next year, in 1944, Captain J.F. Donnelly, who had spent 44 years at sea, was the guest speaker and related his experiences in the Normandy Invasion. Captain Donnelly later established the initial building fund which led to the construction of the present Post Home on Faner Road. That Post Home was completed in August 1955 and was built totally by volunteer labor from the Legion and the community.

Since 1972 the Post has officially been designated the Hugh E. Connelly Memorial Post 130. It was in that year that its first Commander, Hugh E. Connelly, died. His inspiration and leadership brought about the extraordinary step of changing the Post's name.

From that inspirational leader have come many more. In the '80s, Commander Fred Barbaro served three terms as Commander, exhibiting the kind of organizational skills, leadership and courage as have become traditional at Post 130 through the years. Barbaro was a key person in bringing about the renovation of Veteran's Plaza in the Wortendyke Section of Midland Park.

The Midland Park American Legion held its 50th Anniversary celebration with a dinner dance in April of 1993. It looks forward to another 50 years as a center for community action, education and socialization.

The Midland Park VFW was founded on March 19, 1960. Among its fifty-six charter members were Pierre Blair, Harold Brown, Stanley Chadwick, Robert Clifford, Peter Damsma, David Hinnes, Robert Livingston, Thomas McKim, Robert Rohl, and Robert Terhune. Shortly thereafter, the Post amended its original charter and merged with Wyckoff VFW Post 6761 becoming the Midland Park – Wyckoff VFW Post 7086. Then in 1991, the Oakland VFW members joined the Midland Park – Wyckoff Post.

The VFW Post Home on Woodside Avenue has over the past three decades become an integral part of the Midland Park community due to the plethora of community events held there, both by the VFW Post and its Women's Auxiliary as well as by dozens of other community organizations.

VFW Post 7086 has sponsored a number of Midland Park recreation teams including being a charter sponsor for the Midland Park girls' softball league, sponsoring soccer teams for over fifteen years and sponsoring an adult male softball team. For the past dozen years, the VFW Post has been closely associated with the Boy Scout and Cub Scout programs in our area including sponsorship of Wyckoff Troop 89, Bergen Council.

The Midland Park VFW not only co-sponsors Midland Park's traditional Memorial Day Parade, services and picnic along with the American Legion through the Joint Veteran's Memorial Day Committee, but the VFW also participates in Wyckoff's Annual Memorial Day Parade services and picnic.



American Legion Post 130 leaders.

Americanism Essay Contest, which promotes writing skills on the part of talented grade school and high school students each year.

In 1985, the Midland Park – Wyckoff VFW obtained the coveted Life Membership Charter, which makes the Post's Charter permanent. The Charter of Post 7086 can never be revoked. This was a significant achievement by a relatively small VFW post. VFW Post 7086 celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 1985.

American Legion Post 130 Auxiliary leaders.



Combined American Legion, VFW color guard.

Among its many valuable civic activities, the Midland Park – Wyckoff VFW Post 7086 is particularly proud of its Annual Scholarship Awards to college-bound high school students and its sponsorship of the Annual



The Sporting Life



The Wortendyke Athletic Club team, circa 1928.



*The 1925
Junior Order
U.A.M. team*

In sports, baseball has been one of the most prominent leisure activities in Midland Park throughout the borough's history. It started as an organized program with the Wortendyke Athletic Club team of 1896, which was one of the best in the area. Among the players were Garrett Terhune, Hank Raub, Tommy Raub, George Carlough, Joe Shackleton, Frank Brokaw, Marty Shakleton, Garrett Mulder, Henry Mulder, Henry Terhune, Arthur Bogart, Dave Vreeland, George Krech, Bill Gerber and Joe Carroll.

In the 1905-07 era, the team was called the Wortendyke Field Club. The 1907 team won the suburban league title.

In the 1920s, the Junior Order had a team that played at the site of the Highland Avenue School and later across the street from the Granite Linen Mill in the rear of Theodore Mastin's home. Players then included Albert "Dutch" Mulder, Duke Dienema, Ted Lewis, the Brokaw Brothers, Tom Junta, Jake Junta, Cotty Junta, Hank Mulder and William Junta.

The Midland Park Rangers were organized in the 1930s, and their most famous player was Johnny Vander Meer (see page 132). Other players included Dick Jeffer, Gil Jeffer, Garry Jeffer, Dirk Offringa, Al Hazen, Mart Vander Meer, Johnny Osenga, Garry Hagedorn, Jerry Andorio, Herb Rader, Ossie Bender, Eddie Blom, Gerry Knyfd, Jim Ten Kate, Art Hagedorn and Jack Epple.

(continued on page 124)

**MIDLAND PARK'S LOVE
AFFAIR WITH BASEBALL
BEGAN WITH THE FORMA-
TION OF THE WORTENDYKE
ATHLETIC CLUB IN 1896.**

The Sporting Life

(continued from page 123)

About the same time the Midland Park Athletic Club was formed. Dr. Joseph Payne offered his barn as a meeting place, and a committee of local men acted as advisors. The members played football, baseball, basketball and enjoyed such clubroom games as billiards and ping pong.

The Glen Athletic Club, Inc. was formed about 1932 for social and athletic activities. At its height the organization was composed of about 60 members. The club's activities included a bowling league and the Glen A.C. Rangers baseball team. The club, which had an auxiliary to assist the men's group, disbanded in 1962.

The Midland Park Rangers were reorganized in 1954, with Dick Jeffer serving as manager from 1954 to 1961. They won the Passaic County League championship in 1957 and 1958 and the North Jersey League in 1959 and 1960. The team finished second in the North Jersey League in 1961 and disbanded the next season.

A Brief History of the Midland Park Rangers

(from a 1957 baseball program)

"We must turn back the calendar to the year 1928 when a group of young boys in a local church banded together and organized a baseball team. They played other teams in this area with much success and as they ventured from the local scene and competition grew keener, young men outside the church group were brought into play. This was about the time the name "Rangers" was chosen for the team.

"The manager of the original Rangers was Garry Hazen, Sr., who was an outstanding ball player of his day. He is still an active participant in such sports as bowling and golf and is a regular rooter at the games of the present Rangers each week...

"With the turn of world events and the coming of World War II, the team gradually disbanded and was no longer active. In 1954, Dick Jeffer reactivated the Rangers with new players. However, many of the names didn't change as these fellows are the sons of a number of the members of the original team.

"Last year, the Glen Athletic Club voted to give Dick Jeffer assistance in sponsoring the team, and this year they undertook the responsibility of outfitting the team with new uniforms and equipment."



The 1929 Midland Park boys baseball team, pictured with Mr Hartman, elementary school principal.

At right, the Wortendyke Athletic Club team, circa 1925.



The 1933 Midland Park Athletic Club semi-pro football team that played at the Owls Oval in Wyckoff.



The Midland Park Rangers in the early 1950s – front row, from the left, Bob Henne, Albie Morel, Dick Jeffer, Jr., Dave Vanderbush and Jerry Vander Maas; and standing, Al Vanderbush, Sr., unidentified player, Bob Kooistra, Al Vanderbush, Ed Lodema, Harp Junta, Bob Jeffer, and Dick Jeffer, Sr.



Longtime local baseball legends – Dick Jeffer, left, pictured with life-long friend Johnny Vander Meer.



Recreation Programs

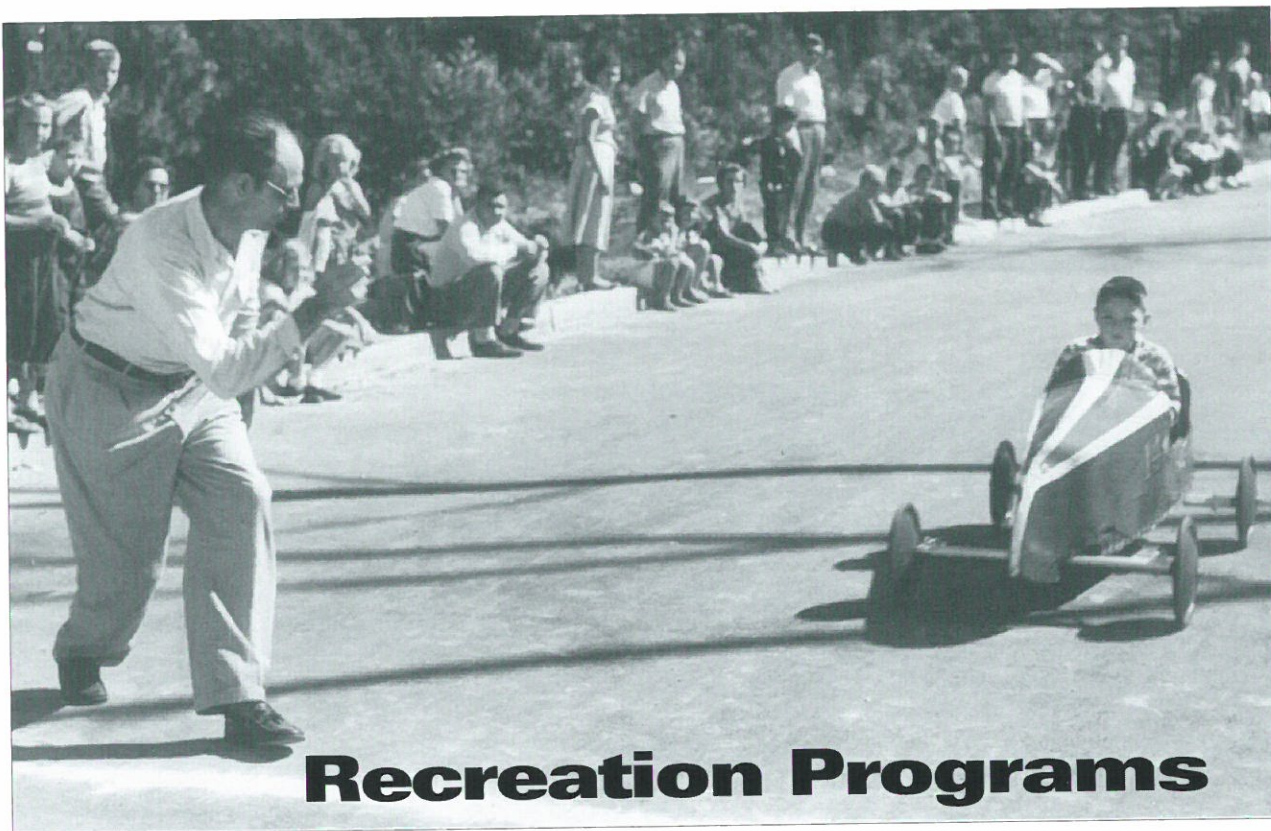


Midland Park offers its residents a variety of recreational opportunities appropriate for all ages: pre-K through adult. Activities include those run by the board of recreation and those organized by the borough's various recreational sports organizations. The Midland Park Continuing Education Program, one of the largest in the state, runs an ambitious schedule year-round.

Midland Park now employs a part-time recreation director and runs a well-received summer program. In the summer of 1998 the borough teamed up with the Wyckoff Family YMCA to administer its summer program locally and provide swimming instruction at Spring Lake Park in Wyckoff.

The borough hosts recreational activities at Wortendyke Park, at Vander Meer Field and in public school facilities. The Municipal Alliance Committee sponsors substance-free social events for teens on a regular basis.

(continued on the following page)



Recreation Programs

The Recreation Barn off Dairy Street has long been a popular center of activity. The Barn is home to the Little League Football stand, is used for basketball and other recreational activities, and serves as an evening gathering place for young people under the supervision of Dave Lancaster.

The board of recreation, in conjunction with other local organizations, sponsors a Halloween Parade and Costume Contest, Santa's coming to town and an outdoor tree lighting and sing along in December, an egg hunt for Easter, Olympic Day in June and an outdoor picnic at the end of the summer.



Thanks to its volunteer sports organizations, young people have available to them in-town and traveling team programs in football, cheerleading, soccer, baseball, softball, basketball and tennis. In addition, a high participation level in the public schools' sports programs assures that young people have available to them activities that suit their interests.

Senior citizens can attend the Northwest Bergen Senior Citizen Center, which is run by Bergen County in a converted church on Center Street. The center provides a nutritionally-balanced lunch program, health clinics and counseling, a variety of recreational activities, and opportunities for seniors to interact with each other and share interests. In addition, the Midland Park Senior Group, Inc. meets bi-monthly for fellowship and organizes bus trips to places of interest in the tri-state area on a regular basis.



SENIOR CITIZENS
ENJOY DIVERSIFIED
ACTIVITIES BOTH AT
THE COUNTY SENIOR
CENTER AND AT
LOCAL CHURCHES.



Play Ball – scenes from the borough's annual Baseball Parade



Senior Awards ceremony sponsored by the Baseball Association.

Young athletes enjoy the food at the Booster Club's breakfast, which kicks off the fall sports season.



PAGES AND ADS FROM A 1915 DANCE PROGRAM
HELD BY THE WORTENDYKE FIELD CLUB.

ORDER OF DANCING
FIRST PART

- 1 One-Step
- 2 Waltz
- 3 One-Step
- 4 Nantucket
- 5 Fox Trot
- 6 One-Step
- 7 Waltz
- 8 One-Step
- 9 Nantucket
- 10 One-Step
- 11 Fox Trot
- 12 Waltz

GARRET ENGLISHMEN
Travling Meat Market



GLEN Ave Midland Park, N.J.

PROGRAM
GRAND BALL

GIVEN BY

WORTENDYKE FIELD CLUB

AT

COLUMBIA HALL, MIDLAND PARK

ON

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 16TH, 1915

J. J. TERHUNE
& SON

BLACKSMITHING

Horse Shoeing,
General Jobbing
and Rubber Tiring.

Godwin Avhnue
MIDLAND PARK.

Indian Motor Cycles
AND IVER-JOHNSON BICYCLES

FOR BUISNESS OR PLEASURE

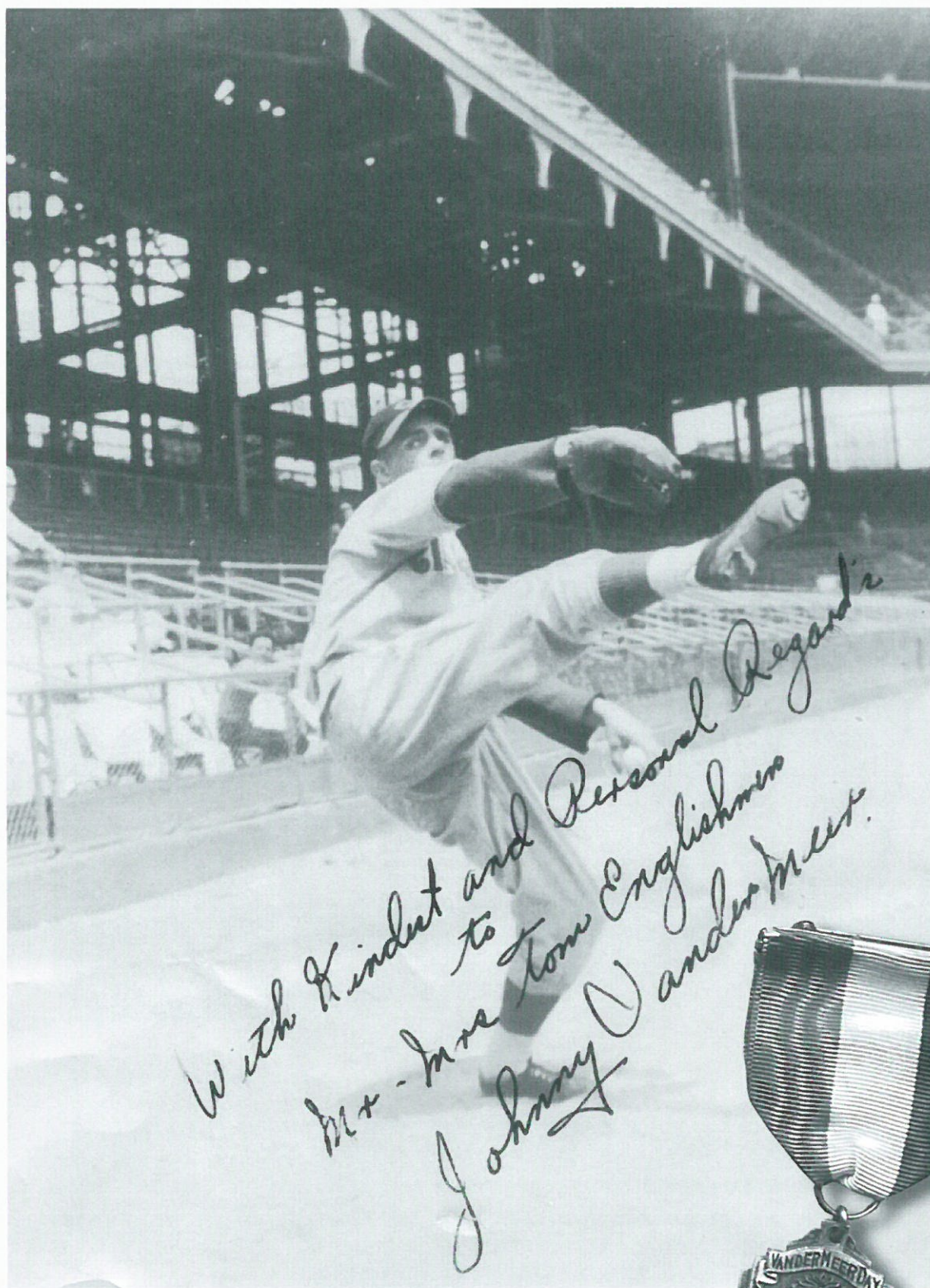
FISK BICYCLES TIRES OR REACH'S
BASEBALL & SPORTING GOODS

GIVE US A CALL

JOHN STEELE
226 GODWIN AVE
MIDLAND PARK, N. J.

J. H. OLTHUIS
UNDERTAKER

& EMBALMER
Coaches & chairs to hire
for all Occasions
Midland Park, N. J.
Phone 698-J Ridgewood



With kindest and Personal Regards
to
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Englishman
Johnny VanderMeer.



A Home-Grown Baseball Legend

*A Look Back at
Johnny Vander
Meer Day*
by Brian Farrell

Hidden beneath the aura of owning one of major league baseball's loftiest achievements, the home-spun delivery that had never left Johnny Vander Meer came to the surface that glorious Sunday of April 28, 1996 in his hometown of Midland Park.

In a way, the only man to pitch two consecutive no-hitters in the big leagues owned Midland Park. Moving to the small town at the age of one and leaving it at the age of 30, Johnny Vander Meer is easily the most celebrated personality to have ever emerged from, as he called it, "the Park."

That afternoon, the young and old came out to pay tribute to the baseball legend, as the Johnny Vander Meer permanent exhibit was unveiled at the Midland Park Library. A sterling oak and glass case, expertly crafted by local carpenter Frank Nydam, now contains most of Vander Meer's prized memorabilia.



The dedication had a packed, shoulder-to-shoulder gallery of people, clutching baseballs and photos of Vander Meer, waiting for him to autograph. For over an hour and a half, he happily and patiently signed his name and posed for pictures.

Later, he stood there, answering questions from the media. Soft-spoken, with the voice of an era gone by, Vander Meer gave some insight into what it was like that Friday evening of June 15, 1938 at Brooklyn's Ebbets Field. It was the first night game in the history of the major leagues and the 23-year old rookie left-hander for the Cincinnati Reds was on the threshold of making baseball history after having no-hit Casey Stengel's Boston club four days earlier.

"They had about 1,200 people from the Park there, and they were sitting behind the dugout," Vander Meer recalled. "They even gave me a watch before the game. I thought about this, that when somebody gives you a night, you're usually in the shower by about the third inning. That's pretty much the normal routine."

He was asked what was going through his head during the game.

"Let's put it this way. How the heck could you be in Brooklyn and something didn't go through your head? Brooklyn was a real good ball town."

(continued on page 134)

*"How the
heck could
you be in
Brooklyn
and some-
thing didn't
go through
your head.
Brooklyn
was a real
good ball
town."*

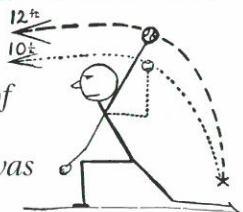
IT NEVER happened before. Christy Mathewson, Cy Young, Dizzy Dean or Lefty Gomez never pitched two hitless, run-less games in succession, but Johnny Van der Meer did it. Twenty-three years of age and his first full season in the majors. We analyze his style, compare him with Hubbell and Feller. We tell you how he changed it to pitch his pair of epoch making games.

FORTY thousand fans sat breathless in the semi-darkness of the stands as Dutch Johnny Van der Meer wound up to pitch the last ball in his dazzling, second in succession, no hit, no run game.

The flood lights blazed down from the tall towers around Ebbetts Field as he faced Durocher the last Brooklyn batsman who slowly waved a menacing bat. That was all that stood between Johnny and a new world's record. It was the ninth inning; two out, two strikes, two balls. Everything might depend upon the next ball pitched. A record never equalled in all the big leagues in fifty years of baseball was just within reach.

Young Van der Meer of the Cincinnati Reds just five days before had won fame enough for any big league man, when he pitched a hitless shutout game against the Boston Bees in his own home town. That was a game! Only twenty-eight men faced him. They went out, one, two, three in eight of nine innings. There had only been ten other "no hit, no run" games in fifty years of big league baseball. But now on June 15th, 1938, the first night game of the big leagues at Brooklyn, the young New Jersey Dutchman stood to do the unprecedented and pitched two in succession. Four pitchers had two such perfect games to their credit. Christy Mathewson was one and the famous Cy Young was another. Young

The article above is from the May 1939 issue of Boys' Life magazine. It included a lengthy account of Vander Meer's two no-hitters, as well as a detailed anatomical analysis of Johnny's fast ball. The drawing at the right was based on his delivery.



A Home-Grown Baseball Legend

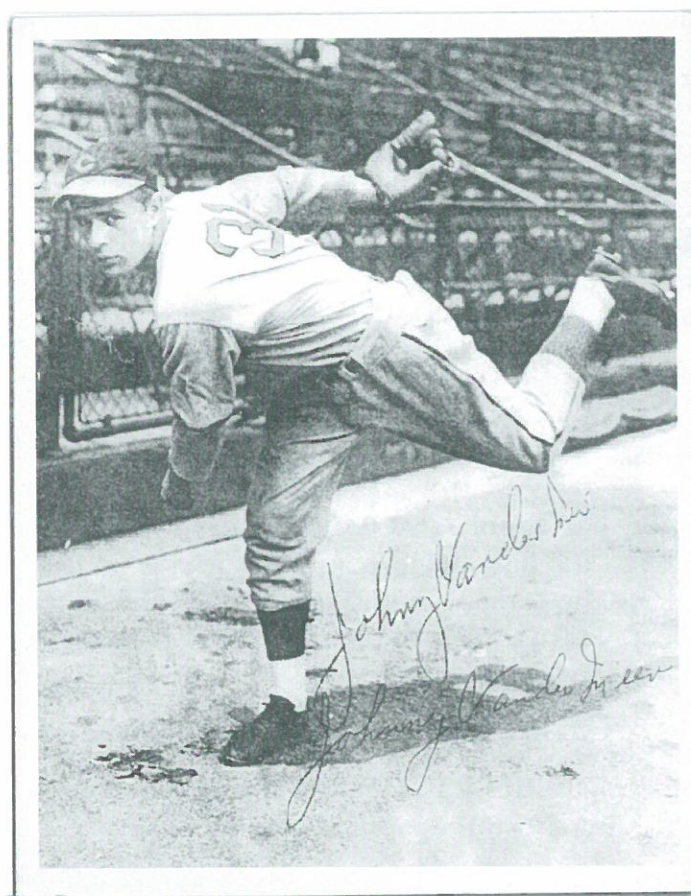
(continued from page 133)

Vander Meer entered the ninth inning with his no-hitter and shutout still intact. He walked the bases full and, with two out, was facing Leo Durocher.

"I was trying a little bit too hard," he said. "I was trying to throw the ball harder than I could throw it."

Durocher had two strikes on him, when Vander Meer apparently struck him out. "The umpire apologized to me later, saying that he missed the pitch," Vander Meer said. "I don't know if he would have said that if Durocher got a base hit."

On the next pitch, though, Durocher flied out to center to end the game, and Vander Meer carved out a place in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown,





The 1930 Midland Park Rangers – standing from the left, Garry Hazen, manager; Austin Bender, 3b; Dick Jeffer, of; Gil Jeffer, ss; Jake Osenga, umpire; Ed Blom, 2b; Al Hazen, c; John Hagedorn, scorekeeper; Mart Vander Meer, c; John Osenga, Sr., coach; and front row from the left, John Osenga, Jr., 1b; Art Hagedorn, p; Garry Mulder, bat-boy; Jim Ten Kate, of; Johnny Vander Meer, p; and Ryer Beekman, p.

New York. Although he is not a member, he has his own spot in the museum's no-hitters display.

Vander Meer's career in the big leagues was interrupted by a two-year (1944-45) stint in the Navy in World War II. At age 38, he concluded his 13-year major league career with the Chicago Cubs in 1951. But Vander Meer fondly remembers his roots in baseball and the Midland Park Rangers, a semi-pro team he pitched for in 1930, 1931 and 1932 before he was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers to a pro contract. It took him five years before he reached the big leagues.

With the Rangers, Vander Meer received 30 cents an inning for his work. His first two seasons with Cincinnati, he got \$500 a month. He said the top salary in the major leagues in the late '30s and early '40s was about \$30,000 a year.

On May 1, 1976, the Borough of Midland Park dedicated the Dairy Street field to Vander Meer on opening day of the Little League baseball season. Vandy, as he was called, was there and threw out the first pitch to start the season. That same year, with the assistance of Vander Meer, the Midland Park

With the Rangers, Vander Meer received 30 cents an inning.

His first two seasons with Cincinnati, he got \$500 a month.

(continued on page 136)

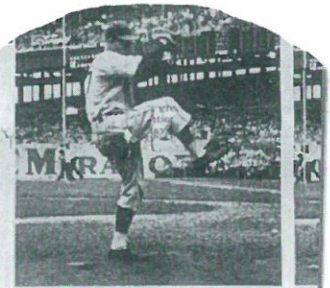
VANTASTIC!

ler Meer pitches 2d straight no-hitter

Newspaper clippings marking Vander Meer's unparalleled accomplishment, including, at the right, the August 1938 article that appeared in The Saturday Evening Post, an excerpt of which appears on the facing page.

TWO
GAMES
DON'T MAKE
A PITCHER

By Johnny Vander Meer



Warming Up, Cincinnati's Rookie Pitcher—

'Double No-Hit' Vander Meer Clicked on Midland Park Rangers During 1930's in Semi-pro Ball

A Home-Grown Baseball Legend

(continued from page 135)

Baseball Association established the Johnny Vander Meer Scholarship Award, which has been given annually to a Midland Park resident graduating from high school who played varsity baseball his senior year. It started as a \$300 grant, but has since increased in monetary value. Each year, Vander Meer would make a contribution to the scholarship.

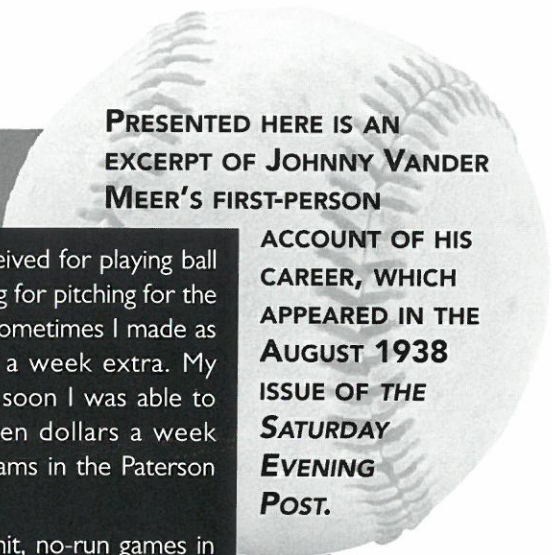
Home, they say, is where the heart is, and Johnny Vander Meer's heart will always be in his beloved Midland Park...

As that April afternoon in 1996 was drawing to a close, Vander Meer, still looking chipper in his red blazer, white shirt, black tie and white sweater, was saying goodbye to several of his long-time friends, saying he would try to see them the next day before he flew back to Tampa on Tuesday. He was staying, as he always did

when he visited Midland Park, at the home of Dick Jeffer, his best friend and former Ranger teammate.

That was Johnny Vander Meer's last official trip to Midland Park. In October, 1997 he died in his Tampa home at the age of 82.

Home, they say, is where the heart is, and Johnny Vander Meer's heart will always be in his beloved Midland Park, the town he placed in the limelight 59 years ago and a town that always cherished having the pleasure of his company.



PRESENTED HERE IS AN
EXCERPT OF JOHNNY VANDER
MEER'S FIRST-PERSON

ACCOUNT OF HIS
CAREER, WHICH
APPEARED IN THE
AUGUST 1938
ISSUE OF THE
SATURDAY
EVENING
POST.

Baseball was in my blood early, I guess. I remember I won a spelling bee when I was in the first grade at school and my prize was a baseball. I was about six then, and in the next few years I devoted all of my spare time to playing baseball. There was a vacant lot near our house, and I played with boys larger than myself. I usually played first base, but one day they needed a pitcher and I volunteered.

They never made a hit off me. I walked them all. I could throw hard in those days, but I was terribly wild.

I graduated from the eighth grade in the spring of 1928, and planned to enter high school that fall, but one day in the middle of August a stabbing pain struck me in the side. I was fourteen then and weighed about 100 pounds.

The family physician rushed me to St. Joseph's Hospital, in Paterson, when an examination revealed my appendix had ruptured and that I had peritonitis.

It was all a nightmare to me, but I later learned the physicians had told my parents, "If he can live until we can localize the infection, he has a chance, but it's a slim chance."

After about two weeks they operated on me. Through those hot August days when I lay almost rigid on a hospital cot I didn't know whether I'd ever see another baseball game, much less play in one.

I was in the hospital eight weeks altogether, and another five weeks recovering. It was six months before I was completely well again. Instead of returning to school, I went to work as an engraver at the United Piece Dye Works in Hawthorne, near Paterson. I worked and played ball during the next three years. I made \$18.50 a week for the first two years on my job, and then was raised to \$22.50.

The first money I received for playing ball was thirty cents an inning for pitching for the Midland Park Rangers. Sometimes I made as much as three dollars a week extra. My pitching improved, and soon I was able to make as much as fifteen dollars a week pitching for semi-pro teams in the Paterson vicinity.

I had pitched five no-hit, no-run games in the summer of 1932 in semi-pro games around Paterson. I pitched one for the Vaughans, of Paterson, an eight-inning affair that I didn't even win. It ended in a 0-0 tie because of darkness. I pitched three for the Midland Park Rangers, winning them all. The other one I pitched and won for the Prospect Park Prospects, a seven-inning twilight game.

I don't want to raise any animosity among those who claim to have discovered me, but Fred Pridmore, of Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, an oil salesman who was an avid baseball fan and who had major league connections, was the first to believe enough in me to try to get me a tryout.

Pridmore was sold on my possibilities and he got me a three-day tryout with the Giants in late September, 1932. I reported to the Polo Grounds at ten o'clock on a Saturday morning, expecting to see Bill Terry, my boyhood hero, who had succeeded John McGraw as manager of the Giants that season. Terry wasn't there. I worked out and nobody paid much attention to me.

Later I dressed and sat in the left-field stands and watched the Giants play the Cardinals and began to wonder.

Sunday I sat in church, still wondering.

I didn't wonder on Monday. I went to work at my old job at the United Piece Dye Works, in Paterson, at \$22.50 a week.



A Tribute to Johnny Vander Meer

When Johnny first went on the mound,
We knew him as a Ranger
He took his place as Pitcher
And cast aside all danger.
He played his game with best intent.
And his colleagues knew what his pitching meant.

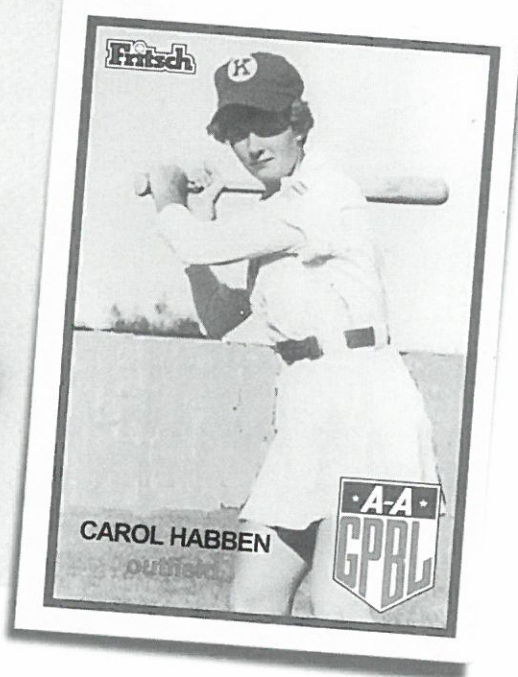
Born of Christian parents, God sought to make them glad
By showing them that miracles
Could be brought out through their lad.
So one day Johnny traveled, his title to defend
Not knowing where his path might lead,
Or where his path might end.

But God's watchful eye was on him
And gave him strength and aim,
To pitch for Cincinnati, two No-Hit No-Run games.
So now in our fair nation, far and near,
The name resounds with Johnny Vander Meer.
But no one knows, although they shout and cheer
How proud we are, that Johnny came from here.
And when he can return to us,
A willing hand will lend,
To greet him as a hero, a
Husky lad, an everlasting friend.

Jessie L. Englishman
July 7, 1938



Hall of Famer Carol Habben, left, in her days with the Rockford Peaches, and below, a baseball card commemorating her days as one of the Kalamazoo Lassies' "Home Run Twins." Her steal of home in the 1954 championship game was one of the highlights of her career.



In a League of Her Own



The Story of Midland Park's Other Major Leaguer

(text begins on the following page)

In a League of Her Own

Carol Habben was born in Paterson on May 15, 1933. She was raised in Midland Park, attended the Highland School, graduating as a freshman in 1949. She then went on to Pompton Lakes High School, graduating in 1952.

While in high school Carol was nominated and elected to the post of "Mayor for a Day." She served her day as the mayor of Midland Park. A recommendation Carol made to the Council at that time took 20 years to be fulfilled – posting a stop sign at the intersection of Princeton and Van Blarcom Avenues.

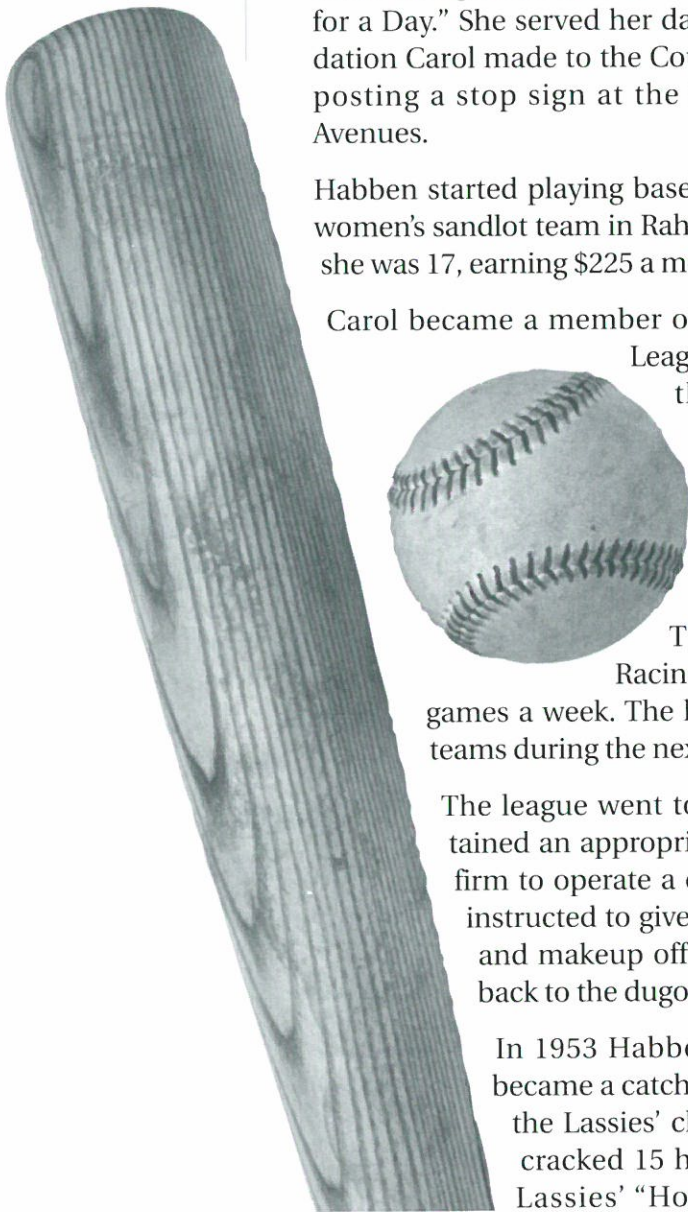
Habben started playing baseball while still in high school. She played for a women's sandlot team in Rahway and signed her major league contract when she was 17, earning \$225 a month (not including meals).

Carol became a member of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) in 1951, playing as centerfielder for the Rockford Peaches in Peoria, Illinois. The Peaches were one of the four original teams in the league, which was started by Phillip Wrigley in 1943 in response to the difficulties the major and minor leagues were experiencing during the war.

The teams – the Peaches, Kenosha Comets, Racine Belles and South Bend Blue Sox – played eight games a week. The league was a quick success and expanded to 10 teams during the next five years.

The league went to great lengths to insure that its players maintained an appropriately feminine image. Wrigley hired a cosmetics firm to operate a charm school for the players, and coaches were instructed to give tips on etiquette. Players wore skirts, high heels and makeup off the field. It's said that a batter was once called back to the dugout because she had forgotten to apply lipstick.

In 1953 Habben was traded to the Kalamazoo Lassies. She became a catcher for the Lassies, and her batting average during the Lassies' championship season of 1954 was .276. She also cracked 15 homers that year and was known as one of the Lassies' "Home Run Twins" along with teammate Chris



Ballingall. Carol scored the winning run in the last game of the season by stealing homeplate to win the championship.

Sadly, 1954 was the last year of the league, which saw attendance fall off as the men's league returned to prominence via the new medium of television.

After the league disbanded, Carol played amateur baseball for a number of years, after which she went on to become an umpire. She attained the status of Triple A Umpire, working both men's and women's games.

In 1955 Carol went to work for Merck and Co., first as an order taker and then rising to the position of senior credit manager. She worked for Merck for 37 years before poor health forced her to retire in 1992. Carol was also a member of the Paramus Women's Golf League and did volunteer work at the West Milford Animal Shelter.

In 1988 the All-Americans were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. This was an extremely proud moment in Carol's life. The movie *A League of Their Own* was based on the early years of the All-Americans. It made Carol a celebrity. Along with other members of the league who lived in New Jersey, she traveled to various high schools and spoke to the young women about their dreams and of her own accomplishments.

Carol passed away in January of 1997 at Valley Hospital in Ridgewood after a long illness. She was 63.

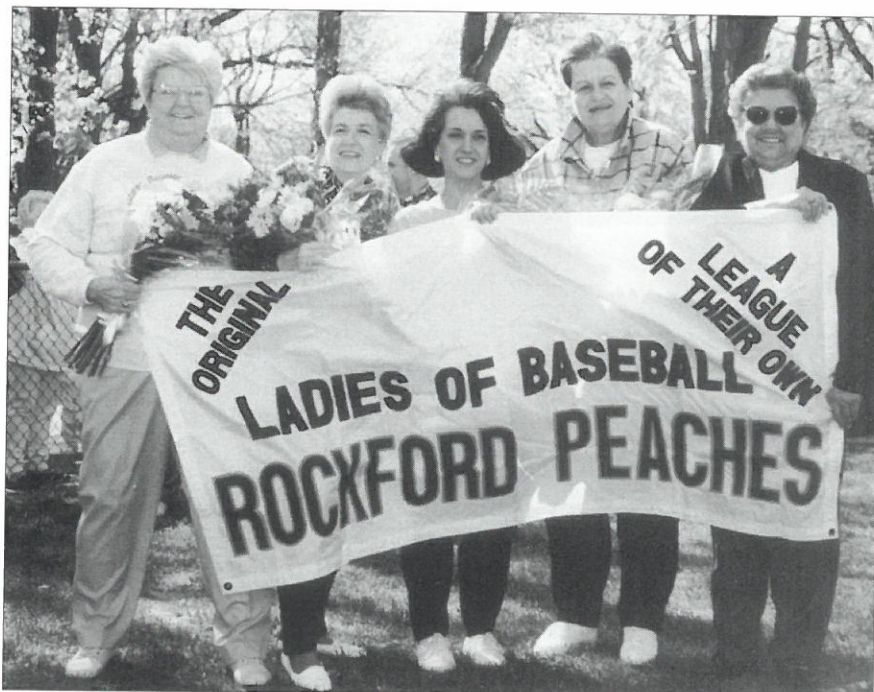
Carol Habben was a pioneer of her time, being just one of 545 women who played professional baseball. The AAGPBL was the only women's league in the world to play professional baseball. This fact is still true in 1998.

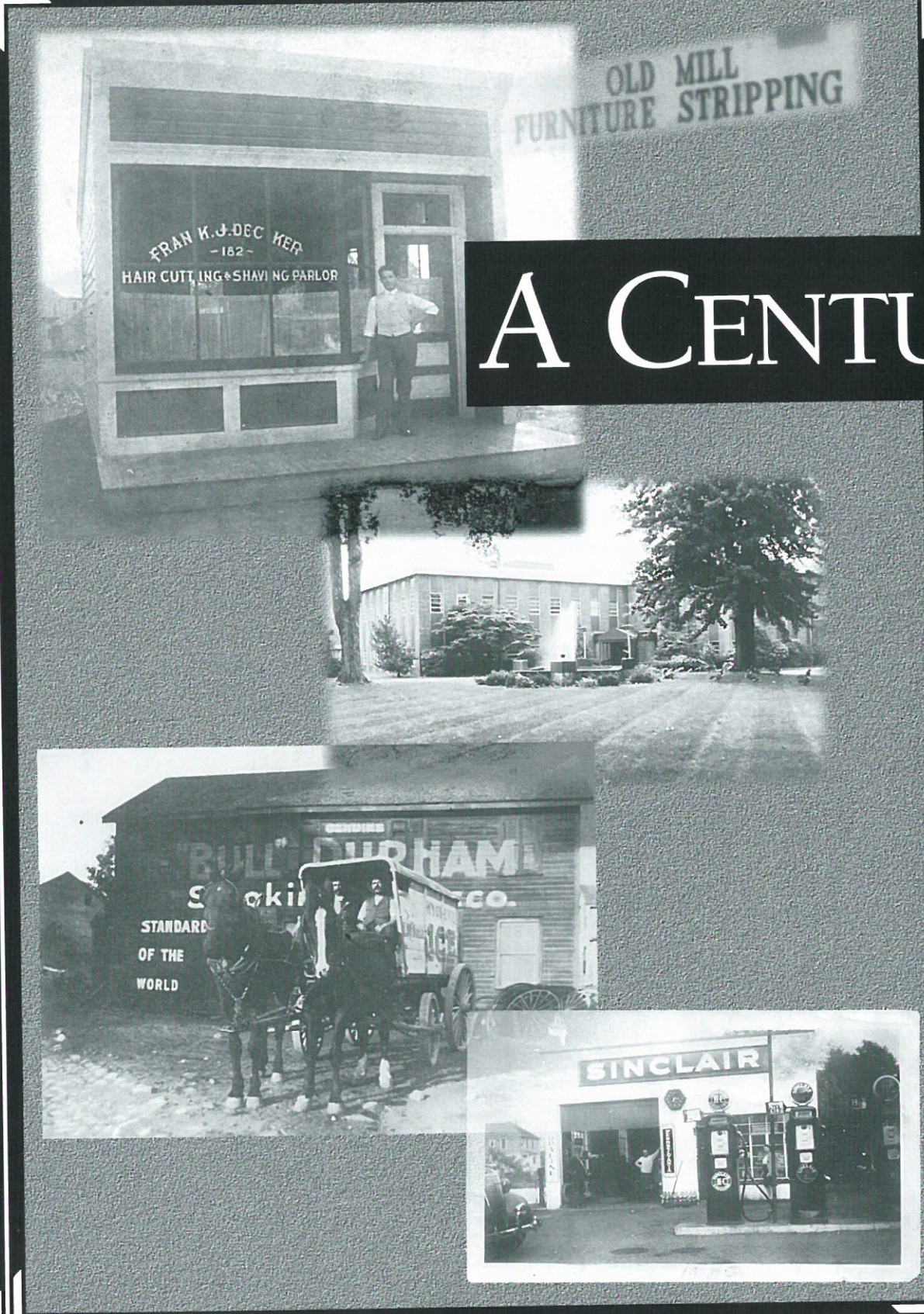
Family, friends and teammates of Carol Habben gathered in spring of 1998 for the dedication of a Midland Park field in Carol's name.

Pictured from the left are former player Jane Moffet, Carol's sister Jane Ianuzzi, Carol's niece Sharon Giro, and Rockford Peaches teammates Jean Ventura-Manina and Joan Berger-Knebl.

© Kelly Birdseye

**CAROL SPORTED A .276
BATTING AVERAGE AND HIT
15 HOME RUNS DURING
KALAMAZOO'S LEAGUE
CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON
IN 1954.**





A CENTURY

The doublewide sidewalk that ends abruptly at the front of the house on Franklin and Rea Avenues is the only clue that the Zeedykes store at the site once provided for nearby residents staples and offered penny candy for the children.

Story by
Florence
Kooistra

OF BUSINESS:

Diversity Mirrors Growth

At the crest of the hill on Erie Avenue, living quarters next to the sidewalk remain the telltale sign of the Hagedorn grocery store which served the community, providing delivery service, for many years.

Longtime residents know of other grocery stores scattered throughout the borough, stores which, over time, remain only fond memories – Ten Kate's at Paterson and Cross avenues; Ottens' at Glen Avenue and Prospect Street, transformed into living quarters; Vander Weert's Market at Godwin and South Rea avenues, razed to make room for supermarket parking; Streelman's Grocery and DeVries' Meat Market, both on Godwin Avenue, found new tenants, as did Murphy's alongside the railroad tracks in Wortendyke, once a saloon and then a delicatessen whose cats were fed well after Miss Murphy sliced cold cuts for customers. Only the Country Corner Store (now Park Wood Deli) at Glen and Erie avenues continues as a small neighborhood grocer.

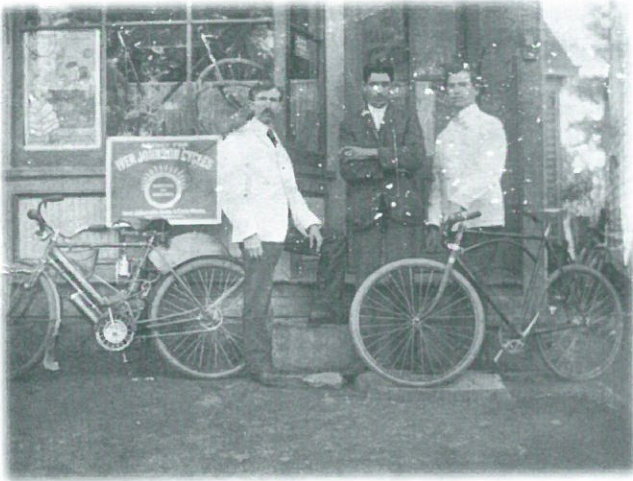
New-found mobility with the automobile and the advent of the supermarket changed the necessity for neighborhood stores to which housewives could walk or send their children. Refrigerators and freezers replaced the icebox, making daily trips to the store unnecessary. In time, the ice man, the milk, bakery and fruit and vegetable delivery services found that they were no longer needed. The Dykstra and Blom dairy farms provided land for the junior senior high school and the recreation fields.

(continued on page 144)

A CENTURY OF BUSINESS

(continued from page 143)

The state Legislature's act in 1894 which enabled Midland Park, along with other towns, to organize as a borough, found a community with a strong textile industry already in place.



Some 80 years earlier, the oldest family-owned business started when Cornelius Wortendyke opened his woolen mill in what was then called Newtown. The mill, on Godwin Avenue, became known familiarly as the Granite Linen Mill which wove silk and linen scarves.

The Brownstone Mill on Paterson Avenue was built in 1820 by the Van Riper family. Henry Wostbrock and Herman Helffenstein purchased the property in 1895 and used Swiss hand loom machines which were run by water power supplied by the Wagaraw Brook

ravine and waterfall. Some of the work is carried on today by family members who embroider Boy Scout neckerchiefs and recently embroidered the Centennial pillows bearing the town's logo.

Among other textile mills were the Faner Hosiery Mill on Faner Road; Barton's Mill on Rubble Street; a mill on the site of Montabert's on Paterson Avenue that made and dyed blankets; the Morrow Mill at the end of Morrow Road, the Hengeveld Mill on Paterson Avenue, the Columbia Silk Weaving Mill on Godwin Avenue, the De Gray Mill on Lake Avenue, and several handkerchief mills: one on Godwin Avenue, another on Glen Avenue and a third on East Center Street.

In 1950, the Faner Road Mill became home to the F. Schumacher Company which produced a fine flowered silk fabric for the Blue Room in the White House. It also made fab-

rics for the New York City Governor's Room and for the United States Senate and House Galleries of the Capitol. The company held the sole license for providing Williamsburg Restoration fabrics. As the years passed and the developing borough adopted zoning laws, the mill, surrounded by homes

Wortendyke, N. J. Aug 9 1921

Deliver to Mr. *Ed. Hopper*

Address *Wortendyke*

From **WORTENDYKE COAL AND SUPPLY CO., INC.**
SUCCESSION TO
JAMES G. HOPPER

COAL AND MASON'S MATERIALS

2000 lbs. *best* Coal, \$ *12.80*

Delivered by *Thru* Weighed by *Spaw*

Tel. Ridgewood 1591-R Received Payment *Spaw*

Diversity Mirrors Growth

Fire Destroys Candy Factory

The Goelitz Confectionery Co., famous throughout the country for its “Goelitz candy corn - worth crowing for” opened a mill at Godwin and Rea Avenues in 1940. The company, started in 1896, was headquartered in Chicago. The Midland Park plant was its only other facility.

At 3:10 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon in September, 1949, neighbors heard a sound of a muffled explosion. As billows of black smoke began to rise over the area, the longest fire in the history of the Midland Park Fire Department had begun.

The description, detailed in the department’s 75th anniversary journal, noted that 22 employees survived the explosion of hot sugar, escaping with their lives.

The fire, fed by vats of hot liquid sugar and raw candy ingredients in storage, demanded as much water as possible. Assistance was provided by departments from Ridgewood, Wyckoff, Waldwick and Hawthorne. The fire continued into the night, with airborne embers carried as far east as Monroe Street, Ridgewood.

By Sunday morning the fire was under control but not out. On Wednesday morning, three and a half days later, the last piece of department apparatus returned to headquarters.

The mill was not rebuilt.

The site became the home of the Town and Country Diner, and when the diner closed and was razed in 1983, it became the home of today’s medical office building.

The fire, fed by vats of hot liquid sugar and raw candy ingredients, demanded as much water as possible.



which match its cobblestone construction, was unable to expand. After some 40 years, it ceased operations there in December, 1989.

Kuiken Bros. Co. Inc. on Lake Avenue now owns the former Midland Park Lumber Company which had been incorporated 70 years ago, in 1926, as the Midland Park Coal and Lumber Company. When the sale of coal was discontinued, the name was changed. It was owned for many years by the late Fred Hoffman, who boasted it was among the largest retail lumber companies in the state.

E.G. Montabert has been manufacturing millinery and clothing labels since the early 1930s. The small block building at Paterson and Sicomac avenues, which serves as the firm’s design and pattern-making facility, is where the

(continued on page 146)

A CENTURY OF BUSINESS

(continued from the preceding page)

Montabert family business was housed. During World War II, Montabert made ribbons and bands for the Navy and chevrons for Army uniforms. Flags made by the company were sewed on the uniforms of astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin when they made their moon landing in

FLAGS MADE BY F.G. MONTABERT WERE SEWED ON THE UNIFORMS OF ASTRONAUTS NEIL ARMSTRONG AND EDWIN "BUZZ" ALDRIN WHEN THEY MADE THEIR MOON LANDING IN 1969.

1969. Today, 67 years after its founding, the firm, headed by the third generation of the family, provides labels for such well-known names as Calvin Klein, Nike, Levi, Wal Mart and DKNY, among others.

Marlow Pumps, started by Alfred S. Marlow Sr. in 1924, came to Midland Park in 1929 when its first building was constructed on Greenwood Avenue. In 1955, the company, then a subsidiary of Bell & Gossett Company of Morton Grove, IL, and later, part of ITT, acquired the Granite Textile Mill for its administration building.

In 1956, Marlow opened Midland Products Company on Greenwood Avenue. He was a leading authority on self-priming centrifugal pumps. Marlow pumps were known and used worldwide.



The original Montabert building on the corner of Sicomac and Paterson avenues.

The ITT/Marlow building on Godwin Avenue, originally the Granite Textile Mill.



Diversity Mirrors Growth

The borough was an attractive area to early businessmen because the town offered a reasonably priced source of water power and was located along the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad. Goods produced in the town's mills could easily be transported to nearby markets.

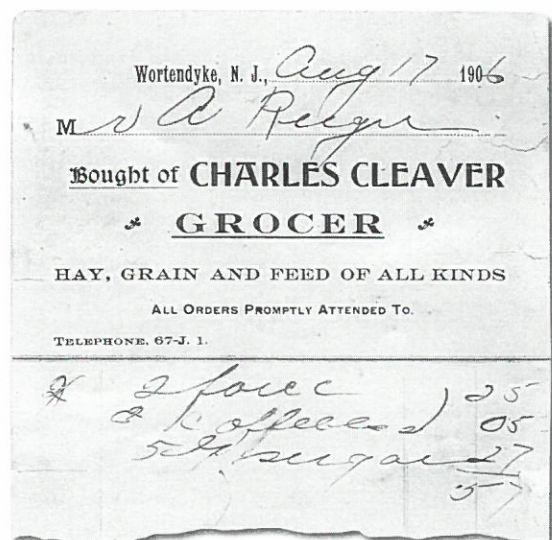
The J.H. Olthuis Funeral Home was the second oldest family business in the borough. Jacob H. Olthuis opened the business on Godwin Avenue in 1912. He was joined by his son, John, in 1936. The J.H. Olthuis Funeral Home remained in the family for more than 80 years, until 1996 when it was purchased by the Wyckoff-based Vander Plaat Funeral Home.

In 1924, Peter Bakker opened a store at Prospect Street and Highland Avenue which sold paint, glass, electrical supplies and hardware to support his family of nine children. When he was no longer able to manage the store because of physical difficulties, half of it was purchased by his son, Jacob. In time, Peter's health returned, and with "nothing to do," he started the sale of linoleum from the store. Jacob recalled recently that before World War II the store had built up a sizable inventory, and when the war made it difficult to stock many things, the inventory kept the business going. Peter Bakker Hardware was a fixture in the borough for 63 years until it closed in 1987. The store and adjacent Bakker homestead were razed for a new bank/office building – the Azarian Building.

Also gone from the landscape is Black Millwork and Lumber Co. Inc. on Lake Avenue. A wholesale millwork distributor organized in 1938, the firm developed a window unit called "The Storm King" which was manufactured and assembled in Midland Park. The firm moved from Midland Park to Allendale some years ago. The site is now the home of the A&P Food Market which has maintained a presence in the borough for more than six decades.



This building at the corner of Godwin and Franklin avenues housed McNeill's drug store for many years and now houses H. Rubin Opticians.



(continued on page 149)

A CENTURY OF BUSINESS

Turkish Towels Made in the Borough

George Holt built and operated a mill near the old Baldwin homestead on Lake Avenue for the production of Turkish towels invented in England by his father, Samuel Holt, and brought to this country in about 1857, according to the 50th anniversary edition of the *Midland Park Press*.

The first towels were made on hand looms and later on six power looms imported from England and operated in a small plant on Mill Street, Paterson. After a fire in that mill, the towels were made in a mill on Straight Street, Paterson, for 28 years.

In later years the Holt brothers – George, Thomas and Will – entered the silk industry and operated their own mill on Godwin and Rea avenues. After their partnership dissolved, George went on to produce Turkish towels.

The name Turkish towel was given, not because of large shipments sent from England to Turkey, but because of the loop idea which came from Turkey. It had its origin in a rough loose cloth which was worn by the Turkish women of leisure, who picked odd loops here and there by hand in a very crude form.

The Holts held key positions in the borough: Thomas was the first borough clerk; Will, at one time was borough assessor; and George was the first district clerk. Two of the Holt brothers, Will and George, were important members of a community band that had a part in the Sound Money parade at the time of the presidential candidacy of William Jennings Bryant.

At the time of World War I, there was another band of which George Holt was leader. This band led the first contingent of draftees in a parade to Ridgewood where they boarded a train for their destination.

Remember these stores?

The borough was once the home of Van Dyk's Cycle Shop (between the present town hall and library), Vander Mey's Shoes, McNeill's Drug Store, M.B. Domp's Confectioners, De Graaf's Confectionery, Terwilliger's Country Club Ice Cream, Brucato's Shoes, Mondelli's variety store, Lou Miller the tailor, Gans Cleaners, Matthew Okkema Beverages, Garossa's Confectioners, Kamp's Bakery, G.J. Decker's barber shop, Holst Hardware, Van Kampen's Bakery, Glen Ross Ice Cream.

Diversity Mirrors Growth



(continued from page 147)

Through the years Midland Park has been home to many self-employed tradesmen – carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, masons – who earned a reputation as honest and efficient workers. It was said that if you wanted some work done, get someone from Midland Park.

Shopping centers replaced the little neighborhood stores, making it possible for residents to purchase almost anything they might need within the borough. Six banks also have offices in Midland Park.

Today, Midland Park offers a suburban lifestyle to those whose careers take them to cities in the tri-state area for their livelihood as well as those who work in industry and in retail business locally and in neighboring towns.

Midland Park Chamber of Commerce

The Midland Park Chamber of Commerce, organized in 1956, is comprised of representatives from business, industry and professions; men and women who voluntarily devote their time, expertise and financial support to promote the well-being of Midland Park and its business community. The chamber holds “Meet and Greet” networking breakfast meetings monthly, publishes a membership directory, and sponsors the Halloween window painting contest, town beautification projects, the “Welcome to Midland Park” bag for new residents, sale days and holiday programs. Additionally, the chamber awards two college scholarships annually and offers special discount rates on local and long distance service. For the last few years, the chamber has also been purchasing lighted figures to display on the municipal lawn for the holidays.

*Original
Midland Park
Shopping
Center, corner
of Godwin
Avenue and
Goffle Road,
1952.*

TRAVELLING SALESMEN

Reminiscences
by Jewel
Snyder, 1995

Cornelius Miedema carried his huge cloth bag going on foot making the rounds from house to house on a regular basis. He would come into the home and sit down with the bag between his legs. He would then take every item out of the bag and in Dutch asked, "how do you like this?" His sales were mostly in cash, but he did have a few customers "on the book."

One day, Winnie Belanus De Witte recalls Mr. Miedema came with his bag filled only with baby bonnets. This was quite interesting as there weren't any babies left in the Belanus household at that time. Win really enjoyed the day he came because she wondered what surprises that bag held.



There was another gentleman also making the rounds, although the Belanus home was not one of his stops. Since he called all of his customers "Madam," that is what he was called too. Once in a while he would leave his bag overnight at one of his

stops; however, he discontinued that after a youngster broke into his bag, damaged a lot of the merchandise and tore up his paperwork.

Mr. Streelman did his selling from a horse and wagon. He would stop on the street in the area of a few homes and all the housewives would come out to make their purchases. He would drop down the backboard of the wagon and put his "yard goods" on display so the choices could be made. Going out to the wagon was a neighborhood event as it gave the ladies an opportunity to socialize and exchange the latest news.

GOING OUT TO THE WAGON WAS A NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT AS IT GAVE THE LADIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SOCIALIZE AND EXCHANGE THE LATEST NEWS.

Johnny Burnett was the traveling butcher. He also went door to door. In order to display the meats he, too, put down the tailgate. He would make the cuts right on the wagon. The popular cuts were chuck roast, referred to as "a piecie meat" and pork chops.

Henry De Boer was one of several men who delivered ice door to door. When the ice man came, part of the fun was to run out and see if there were any small pieces to take and suck on. This was a real summertime treat. Once in a while, if we could, it was daring to use the ice pick and cut off your very own piece of ice.

With Mr. Zeedyk it was a different story. He owned a grocery store on the corner of Rea and Franklin avenues. One day he would come and pick up the order and next day he would deliver it. Once, after a complaint about an order, Mr. Zeedyk then and there said, "I'm sorry, but you'd better find a new store as I'm not coming any more." After that the shopping was done at Blom's store, which was closer, but they didn't pick up or deliver. However, they did have the best supply of penny candy, so the kids didn't mind going to the store.

There was also the junk man. He rode up and down the street with his horse and wagon, which had a string of bells across the back so we would hear him coming. I guess he was an early day garbage man.

Much later we had the Lambrecht man in his very small truck selling butter and eggs, the Dugan Bakery truck, and also Mr. Van De Meer selling his bakery products. Added to that were several milk men making the rounds.



I Remember When

The band consisted mostly of men who attended the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church and practiced regularly at the Christian School on Maltbie Avenue. Most of

these men had no formal musical training but practice they did. A Mr. De Graaf was their leader, and Matthew Belanus was the president. They had handsome uniforms which they wore when parading on holidays and for special concerts. The parades would begin at the Christian School, travel down to Godwin and up to Dairy Street, where a picnic was usually held at the Telegen farm.

The Belanus family was well represented with Matt, Gar and Charles, along with their brothers-in-law Sam De Vries and Mart Westhouse. Charles always had the starring role when he played the piccolo solo in "Stars and Stripes Forever." Some of the other members were John Bush, Cap Offringa, two Dykhouse brothers, Fred Streelman, Neil Hayunga and Gus Tulner.

During the memorial service for President Harding, in the Midland Park Reformed Church, Sam De Vries was honored to play "Taps." He performed outdoors but was heard indoors through the open windows. This was a combined service with members of the Methodist, Reformed, and Episcopal congregations in attendance.



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THE BAND

HOLLYWOOD CALLS

(continued from page 151)

In 1939 a movie titled "Elmer Goes to Hollywood" was produced, featuring students attending the Highland Avenue School and starring a young man in a high hat as Elmer and his young lady friend. Mr. Hartman, the principal, also had a prominent role. At the end all of the students are seen leaving the school along with the teachers and "Pop" Van Dyke, the custodian.

I Remember When

In order to pay for the production costs and perhaps make some money for the producers, many of the local merchants are shown in front of their places of business. Along with them, men who had businesses outside of Midland Park, such as Veenstra & De Haan Coal Company in Paterson and Belanus Fuel in Ridgewood, were included as well. I assume today these would be called commercials.

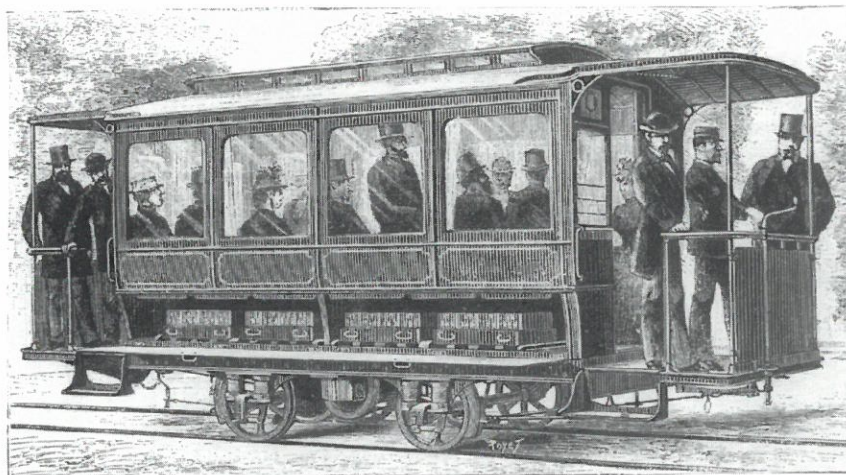
Most of the film was shot during the winter as much snow can be seen on the ground, and when we see "Elmer" leave to go to Hollywood, he runs through the snow on the fields across the street from the school. The scene of Elmer not only kissing his girlfriend a fond farewell but also all the girls in the same class is really a treat. I believe this film is in the Library's artifacts department.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORIES

The installation of the gas lines was an important event in town. The ditches were dug by hand by Italian immigrants. These men resided in small shanties on the property in the rear of the Klopman home on Erie Avenue. These buildings, all with a smoke stack, were not much larger than "outside Johns." Mike, one of the workers, stayed in the area for quite some time. He became well known to the community. When he spoke of his family at home in Italy, tears would come to his eyes. My grandmother would on occasion send over a pot of soup for the men to share.

Because of the installation of the gas lines, the purchase of a stove was the next move. Martin Westhouse, a local plumber, opened a small shop on Franklin Avenue, across from the barber shop. There he sold his gas stoves and Win De Witte worked for a time as a salesgirl. Mr. and Mrs. Englishman, a prominent family living on Erie Avenue, were one of the first customers.

The one means of transportation from Midland Park to Paterson was the trolley whose track ended on Godwin Avenue between Cottage and Maltbie avenues. Many times it only went as far as Rock Road, and on most occasions Gus Roman was there with his jitney bus to drive the people the rest of the way home. This was a much used trolley since the nearest Dutch community in the area was Prospect Park. Unless you had a horse and buggy, this was the way to go. Many romances thrived between the young people of these two towns. If you missed the last trolley at night, it was a long walk home.



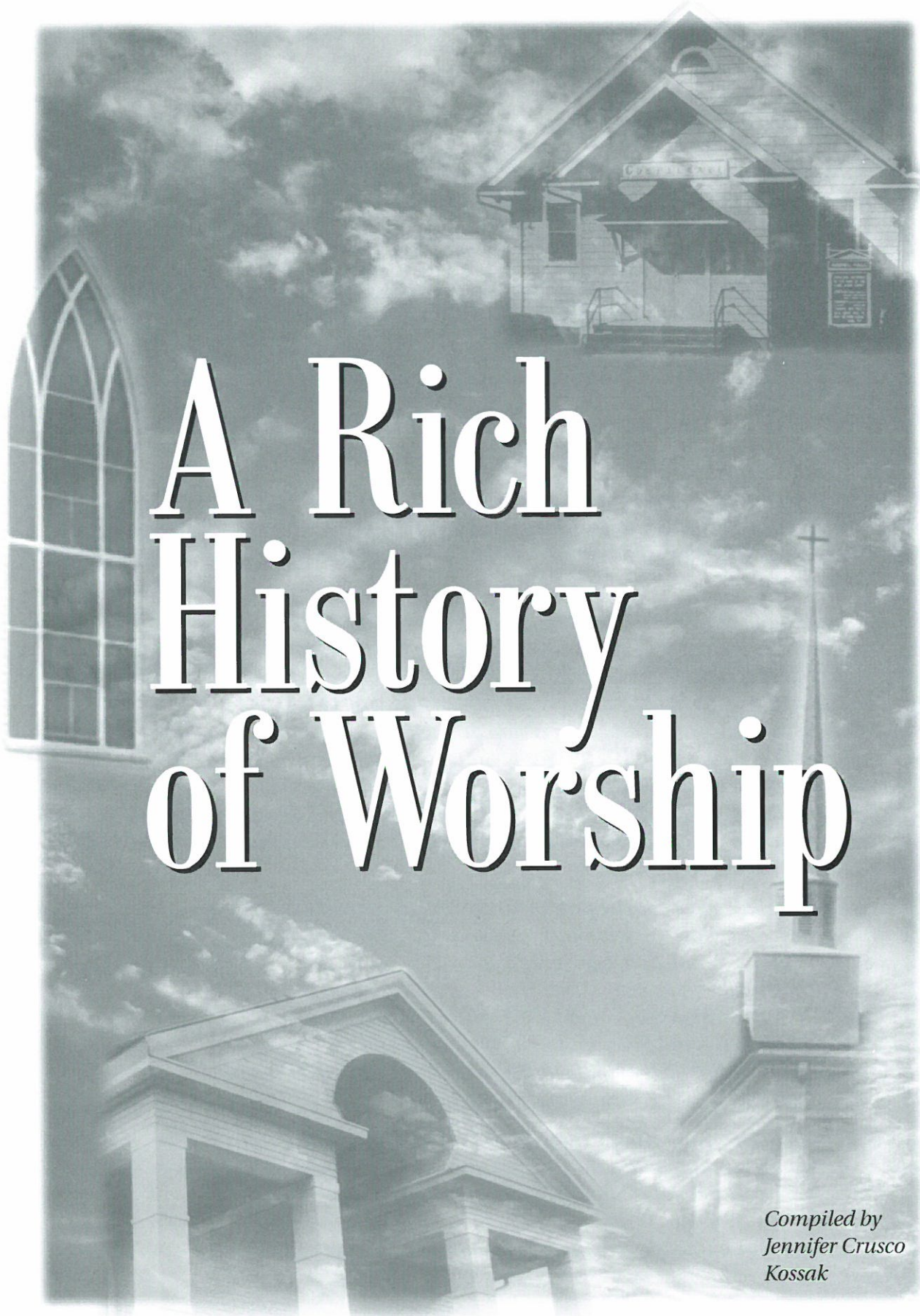
There were always stops at Woolworth's, Meyer Brothers, Quackenbush's, The Mart...the junk shops on lower Main Street, and then a stop at The Paradise for an ice cream soda or sundae.

Much later we had the "gray bus," more commonly known as the "Oakland" bus. On Saturday afternoons our mothers would board that bus for their weekly shopping trip to Paterson. There were always stops at Woolworth's, Meyer Brothers, Quackenbush's, The Mart, The Junior Shop (for children's clothes), the junk shops on Lower Main Street, and then a stop at The Paradise for an ice cream soda or sundae. Before boarding the bus a final stop would be made at the vegetable markets on Washington Street. There was also the Public Service bus which went to Paterson via Ridgewood. I recall they had beautiful leather seats with high arm rests which you had to slide over to get into the seats but, oh, were they comfortable after a long shopping trip.

Two large fires are recalled. The first, in 1913, involved a large clothing store in the area between Columbia Hall and Peter Jeffer's law office (formerly the Park Store). This store was owned by a Mr. Louis Eisenstein. One day the store caught fire. Fire wagons came from as far away as Paterson. Firemen could commandeer a horse to pull the fire wagons, but many times the firemen had to pull them. The horses were foaming at the mouth when they arrived at the fire after such a long trek.

I Remember When

I do not know the date of the fire in the school located at the corner of Franklin and Godwin avenues, but I do remember viewing the fire from a window in our home on Vreeland Avenue. It was a very windy night and some of the embers blew all the way to Cottage Street and landed on an overall in the back of a truck and burned it very badly. The library is now situated at that location.



A Rich History of Worship

*Compiled by
Jennifer Crusco
Kossak*

Throughout history, Midland Park residents have overcome various adversities in their efforts to worship in their own ways. Churches were destroyed by fire; congregations debated over religious practices, and many struggled with the question of using English, rather than the Dutch language spoken by most of the early inhabitants. Often called “a town of churches,” Midland Park is notable for having a high concentration of houses of worship in its one square mile area. Given the residents’ steadfast determination in following a chosen path, regardless of the obstacles, it is not surprising that Midland Park has continued to support its variety of churches through the years.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

497 Godwin Avenue

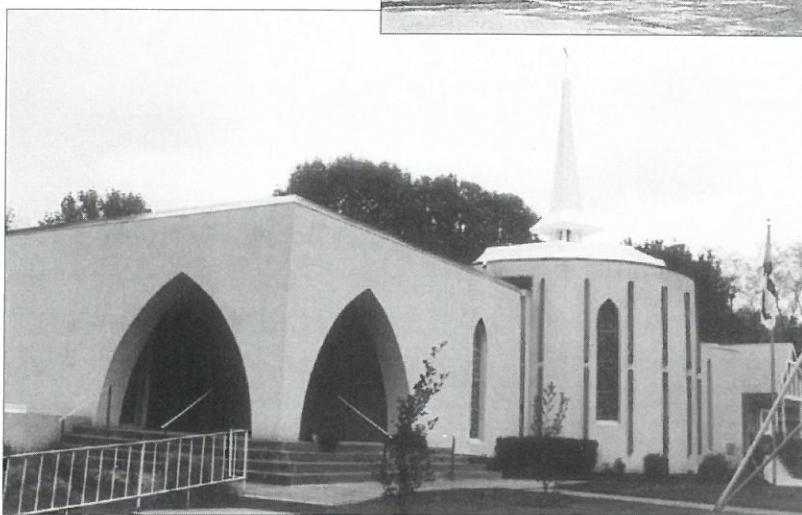
Built on the site of the former Christ Chapel, the Church of the Good Shepherd was most recently redesigned in 1963. The Episcopal church had its start in 1908 under the leadership of the superintendent of the Granite Linen Mill (later ITT Marlow), and the Rev. L.E. Learned of Christ Church in Ridgewood. The small congregation met in private homes until a chapel was constructed at the present site on land donated by the mill. The building was dedicated as Christ Chapel on October 3, 1909 by Bishop E.S. Lines. The Rev. F.J. Buttery then took over as the first vicar.

The original parish house, which was once a stable, was donated to Christ Chapel by the Wortendyke Field and Stream Club. The building was pulled across the fields from its foundation near the railroad tracks and relocated near the chapel. When the local school burned in 1924, the church provided classrooms in this new addition.

The new parish hall, built in 1958, was designed by noted architect Karl Kemm Loven of Glen Rock.

Five years later, the new church building was completed with designs from the architectural firm of Tischler and Comerro. Comerro, who was a member of the church, invited the congregation to participate in the planning process. The result was the contemporary-style structure with Gothic arches and French stained glass windows.

Pictured below is the former Christ Chapel, which was razed to make way for the new church.



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A Rich History of Worship

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When the new church was completed, the building was rededicated as the Church of the Good Shepherd. The church became an independent parish. An original oil painting, "The Good Shepherd" by award-winning artist Christine "Trella" Koczwara, who grew up in Midland Park, hangs near the inside of the entrance doors.

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

315 Prospect Street

Without a Catholic church in the community, Midland Park's Catholics for many years attended Mass at St. Luke's in Ho-Ho-Kus, Mount Carmel

Church in Ridgewood, or St. Elizabeth's in Wyckoff. In the 1950s, this would change. On May 5, 1952, the Archdiocese of Newark purchased the Klaas Bokma farm, a 15-acre parcel that included a house, barn, chicken coop, corn crib, and various other structures. Rev. Joseph Curry is credited with being the driving force behind the land acquisition for the "Mission of the Holy Child."



Since the existing buildings on the Bokma farm property were not suitable for Mass, the congregation used the public library for a \$10 per week rental fee.

In January of 1953 the mission was designated as the Parish of Nativity. The following year, Rev. William Sheehan became pastor, and the barn on the former farm was remodeled to

serve as a church building. The barn was transformed into a rustic chapel which was dedicated on June 26, 1954. The chapel was later ravaged by fire and was reconstructed in the 1970s, first as the school library, and then back into a chapel for weekday Masses. A recent capital campaign raised the funds to expand the rectory, enclose the church vestibule and make other renovations to the church buildings.

The first classes of Nativity School were taught by the Sisters of St. Dominic in Pope Pius X Hall, the converted chicken coop of the original farm. A convent was built adjacent to the rectory to serve as the teachers' residence. In the 1960s, when the classrooms could no longer accommodate the enrollment, a

new school and church were built. The first class graduated in June, 1963. Today, the church is home to St. Thomas More School, a regional school which serves 225 students in grades K-8.

When the convent was no longer needed, it was converted into the rectory. In 1976, the former rectory became the residence of the Vicar of Bergen County, Bishop Robert Garner, until his retirement in 1995. Today the rectory is undergoing extensive improvements, and the "bishop's house" will be converted into meeting rooms.

From its beginnings with just 35 families, Church of the Nativity is now home to approximately 1,500 families from eight towns.

FAITH REFORMED CHURCH

95 Prospect Street

The history of Midland Park's Faith Reformed Church consists of the collective history of the Trinity Reformed Church and the First Reformed Church, which merged under the leadership of Rev. John Verhoog (1974-81) in 1978.

Part of that history (the roots of the First Reformed Church) dates to 1868, when a group of Dutchmen held services twice a month in the Ho-Ho-Kus School. (At that time, Ho-Ho-Kus' school was the now-demolished building on East Franklin Turnpike which served as the Ho-Ho-Kus Borough Hall until the early 1990s.) As more families arrived from Holland, the congregation sought a pastor who could hold regular Sunday services. Rev. L.G. Jongeneel was the first regular pastor. He joined the congregation in 1871 and continued for 18 months.



On September 25, 1872, the church organized with the churches in the Classis of Paramus, taking the name of the Holland Reformed Church of Ho-Ho-Kus. On July 7, 1881, the church moved into its own building in the Wortendyke section of Midland Park. The group had been renamed the First Holland Reformed Church of Wortendyke. Two years later, the search for a pastor ended with the Rev. John Smit.

Spring of 1892 brought upheaval within the church as the Rev. Enno R. Haan convinced the Consistory and a large part of the church's membership to

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A Rich History of Worship

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secede from the church. Only 20 families remained, but they were a determined crew. A delegation from the Classis met with the remaining families on July 19, 1892. A new Consistory was elected, and, by August 7, they were installed in the Old Ho-Ho-Kus Church. Through the efforts of Judge John Hopper and the Classis, the church property was given to the small group on Nov. 30. The following month, F.G. Dekker was called to become the minister. He was officially installed on July 21, 1896 and served for one year.

During the 1898 ministry of Rev. D.C. Ruigh, the Sunday School was reorganized, and English sermons were said once a month. Rev. K.J. Dykema, who began serving the church in 1908, tried to change the dual-language instruction received by the children. Although the children were taught in English and spoke English in school, they received catechetical instructions in Dutch. Rev. Dykema's efforts created dissent, and no solution came during his tenure.

A compromise on the "Language Question" came in 1922. Under Rev. Pool, the congregation heard a morning service preached in English and an afternoon service preached in Dutch.

A COMPROMISE ON THE "LANGUAGE QUESTION" CAME IN 1922 WHEN THE CONGREGATION HEARD A MORNING SERVICE PREACHED IN ENGLISH AND AN AFTERNOON SERVICE PREACHED IN DUTCH.

In the 1930s, the church was enlarged. The Choral Society and Helping Hand Society were organized, and a Daily Vacation Bible School was initiated. A church bulletin was produced, and a new organ was installed. Societies, families, and individuals donated stained glass windows. Through the years, the church has also had an active Junior

Choir, Couples' Club, and Young People's Societies.

Between 1938 and 1951, the church's first missionaries, the Schuits and the Beekmans, were sent to Africa and Mexico, respectively. Today, foreign and domestic mission programs remain a priority at Faith Reformed Church. During the tenure of Rev. Van Oostenburg (1953-56) the church became known as First Reformed Church of Midland Park.

Trinity Reformed Church was founded in 1904 by 57 members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Godwinville. The church was organized by the Classis, which was represented by the Church Extension Committee. The committee included Rev. John Whitehead, who became the church's first pastor (1905-18); Rev. J. A. Van Neste, who had been pastor of the Reformed Church of Ridgewood; and J.W. Pippin, pastor of the First Holland Reformed Church of Wortendyke.

When the First Reformed Church merged with Trinity Reformed Church, the name Faith Reformed Church was selected. The new church building was

dedicated on January 27, 1980. First Reformed's building on Center Street, with its beautiful stained glass window, was sold to the County of Bergen to be used as the Northwest Bergen Regional Senior Citizen Center. Trinity's cobblesone building on Godwin Avenue was sold to the Church of God.

GOSPEL HALL

61 Prospect Street

In 1929, the Gospel Hall of Midland Park was built at its present location at 61 Prospect Street. After years of Bible meetings held in several locations, Gospel Hall finally had a permanent home. Tent-based Bible meetings had been held in Ridgewood, Westwood, Emerson, Butler, Boonton, Fair Lawn, and Hawthorne. It was in Midland Park where the Bible meetings attracted the most interest. Increasing attendance at the weekly Bible readings soon indicated the congregation's need for a building. The group rented two buildings until Gospel Hall was constructed.



The congregation is one of a large number of similar groups found worldwide who hold the historic Christian doctrines. Although there is no central body, the congregations maintain fellowship with each other and send out foreign and domestic missionaries.

IN KEEPING WITH ITS BEGINNINGS, GOSPEL HALL SPONSORS PERIODIC TENT BIBLE MEETINGS. BIBLE CONFERENCES AND CHILDREN'S MEETINGS ARE HELD YEARLY.

In keeping with its beginnings, Gospel Hall sponsors periodic tent Bible meetings. Bible conferences and children's meetings are held yearly. Attendees come from throughout the Northwest Bergen area.

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

50 Orchard Street

Grace Fellowship Church came to Midland Park in 1996 when the growing congregation of the Wayne church merged with Berean Bible Church, whose membership at the Orchard Street facility had decreased from its peak in the

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A Rich History of Worship

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1980s. The two congregations worship jointly and have continued and expanded the active Hispanic ministry begun by Berean in 1989.

Grace Fellowship started as a radio ministry, broadcasting a weekly program, "Grace for Today," over WMCA 570 AM at 10:05 a.m. Sunday mornings. Due to the radio broadcasts, the congregation comes from the metropolitan area. To better serve them, weekly Bible studies are held evenings and Saturday afternoons in Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island, in addition to the worship services and other programs at the Midland Park church.

Berean Bible Church's rich history dates back to 1924 in Paterson, when sev-

eral local residents saw the need for a non-denominational Bible church that could minister to people from various religious backgrounds.

In 1929, the 25-member congregation purchased a building formerly known as the Holland Y. By 1945, the Prospect Park parsonage was sold, and a Waldwick home was purchased for the pastor's use. Another home in Hawthorne, which later served as the parsonage, was sold in 1971. In 1970, the church bought the property on Orchard Street in Midland Park. Until the present church was constructed,

Sunday services were held in the American Legion Hall on Faner Road.

During the 1980s, the church grew in membership, and an addition was built to allow seating for 120-140 worshipers, a fellowship hall in the basement, and more Sunday school rooms.

In the 1990s, the church opened the "Clothing Closet," a ministry to supply clothes at a nominal cost to the church's El Salvadoran attendees. Proceeds benefit a food fund.

As more Hispanics joined the congregation, evening Bible study sessions were conducted in Spanish, and programs were added to serve their social, civic and spiritual needs. An extensive volunteer corps works with adults to teach them English and help them adapt to the American culture. An after-school program helps children with literacy problems and with their homework, and plans are in the works to start a daycare center. On Sunday mornings, Hispanic children are paired with American "surrogate parents," who watch over them during services in English. Church members share in



the planting and tending of a community vegetable garden on the church property. Everybody works, and everybody shares in the summer bounty.

IRVING-PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

218 Irving Street

Once part of the original Midland Park Christian Reformed Church, Irving-Park Christian Reformed Church was established on February 24, 1955 to relieve overcrowding in the Godwin Avenue church. In the years following World War II, the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church was the only established CRC in the area. As the church and its officials had more and more difficulty accommodating the increasing membership, a poll was taken to determine how many families would wish to form a “daughter congregation.” More than 50 families responded.

This offshoot group moved into the Midland Park Memorial Library, where it met for two years until a new church was constructed on Irving Street. On December 21, 1956, the colonial-style church was dedicated to the service of God. The congregation took on the name Irving-Park, which refers to the church’s location on a parcel



that stretches from Irving Street to Park Avenue. Three years later, the church purchased a lot on Irving Street, where a parsonage was to be constructed. In February, 1960, the church’s second pastor, Rev. Allan Bultman, became its first resident.

By the 1960s, the Irving-Park Church had constructed a six-classroom addition to the church. Membership had already expanded to 500. In May of 1987, another addition was built at the rear of the church. This space is used for education, pastoral counseling, administration, fellowship activities, and community outreach.

The congregation, which has been active in evangelism, has supported missionaries in the United States, and in various areas of the world, including Nigeria and Jamaica.

By 1998 membership had dwindled to 50 families, and the church’s elders looked to merge with another congregation and find a new tenant for the church building.

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A Rich History of Worship

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MIDLAND PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Godwin Avenue

Originally part of a Reformed congregation formed in Ho-Ho-Kus in 1872, the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church was officially organized in June 1892. For a time, the congregation was known as the Reformed Church of Wortendyke. Rev. Enno Haan, who had been a missionary in Java, began his service at the Wortendyke Church in 1890. In 1892, Rev. Haan announced that he could not stay in the Reformed Church. The congregation's members voted 80-1 to join the Christian Reformed Church.



At the time, the congregation consisted of 83 families, or about 200 members. Its members had no property and no church building, until March of 1893, when they constructed a 72' by 22' church for \$435. The building was destroyed by fire soon afterward, leaving the congregation to worship in the public school. A new church and a parsonage were constructed the following year. In 1908, the third church building was dedicated. This church

remains the modern house of worship, which has been made barrier-free in recent years. A 1962 addition houses classrooms, a nursery, meeting rooms, and all-purpose room with a stage, recreational facilities, and a pastor's study. The classrooms have been used by the Eastern Christian School Association for elementary school students and by the public schools to relieve overcrowding in the early 1960s.

The congregation, which recently totaled over 300 families, is still heavily Dutch, but includes families from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Interestingly, in 1923, Rev. R.L. Haan, son of the church's first minister, assisted Rev. Hoekstra with the "Americanization" process. Rev. Haan led the church during its transition from Dutch to English services.

Over the years, the church organized three other churches in the area: Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church, established in 1942; Calvin Christian Reformed Church, founded in Wyckoff in 1946; and Irving Park Christian Reformed Church, organized in 1955. In 1990, Calvin Christian

Reformed Church merged with Bethel Christian Reformed Church to form Cedar Hill Christian Reformed Church.

The church has a history of supporting missions world wide. For 38 years, the church supported missionary nurse Anita Vissia. Vissia returned to Midland Park to tell of her work in leper colonies in Nigeria. In the maternity unit she established there, Vissia delivered more than 5,000 babies as a certified midwife.

During 1992, the congregation celebrated its centennial, centered around the theme "Great is thy faithfulness."

MIDLAND PARK CHURCH OF GOD

400 Godwin Avenue

In the early 1950s, a group of German immigrants living in Union City began holding religious services in a private home. Many of these immigrants had lost the majority of their material possessions after World War II, and were attempting to make a new life in America.

As the congregation grew, the group pooled its resources and purchased a house, where they met for the next eight years. In 1962, the group constructed its first church.

In December, 1979, the congregation found its present location at 400 Godwin Avenue in Midland Park, the former location of the Trinity Reformed Church (now Faith Reformed). Until 1992, services were conducted in German and in English, with the German services simultaneously interpreted into English. Services are presently conducted in English.

In 1996, Midland Park Church of God welcomed a new leader, Pastor Lloyd Vorderstrasse. A native of Nebraska, Pastor Vorderstrasse spent 17 years living in Germany. He recently reported that the church has 65 Sunday visitors. The church choir is well known for its "Christmas Cantata."

(continued on the following page)



*Church of God
before extensive
remodeling.*

**MANY OF THE IMMIGRANTS
HAD LOST THE MAJORITY OF
THEIR MATERIAL POSSESSIONS
AFTER WORLD WAR II AND
WERE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE
A NEW LIFE IN AMERICA.**

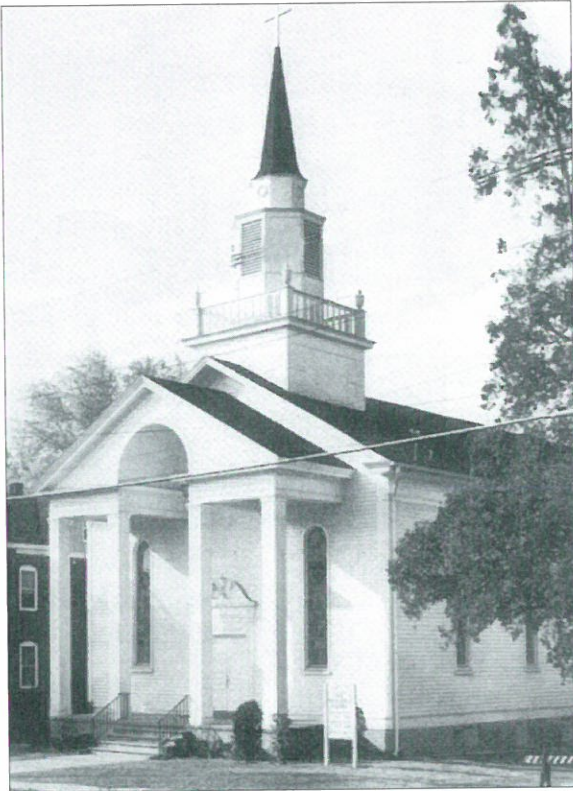
A Rich History of Worship

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The United Methodist Church, formally established in Godwinville in 1802, is believed to be the earliest church founded in modern-day Midland Park. Bergen County's Methodist crusade included the founding of a Methodist Society in Waldwick, then known as New Prospect. In 1802, a small Christian congregation began meeting in a Godwinville general store, and became part of the Methodist Society's New Prospect Circuit.

A decade after the group was established, the store was remodeled to better accommodate meetings. In 1842, a fire destroyed the building, leaving the congregation to build a new log structure on the site now marked by the John Marr mausoleum.



The year 1866 brought a meeting in the office of C. Wortendyke at which those present agreed to build a church contingent upon the collection of \$3,000. The new building measured 42 by 65 and held 300 to 500 worshippers.

When the public school burned in 1924, the church opened its doors to the local school children. The Sunday School rooms were then used for PTA meetings.

In 1929, the congregation had anticipated relocating the church, but by 1950, the decision was to rebuild. Three years later, in 1953, the reconstruction began. Services were held at the Highland Avenue School auditorium until the church reopened on Aug. 1, 1954. The installation of the steeple drew the local press, which took a photographic record of workman John Mennema placing an 80-pound, eight-foot cross on the top of the steeple. The event drew a crowd of 200.

A new bell was installed in the belfry in 1960. This unique addition to the church was from the disbanded U.S. Navy ship, the U.S.S. Chimango. U.S. Representative William Widnall helped secure the bell for the church's use.

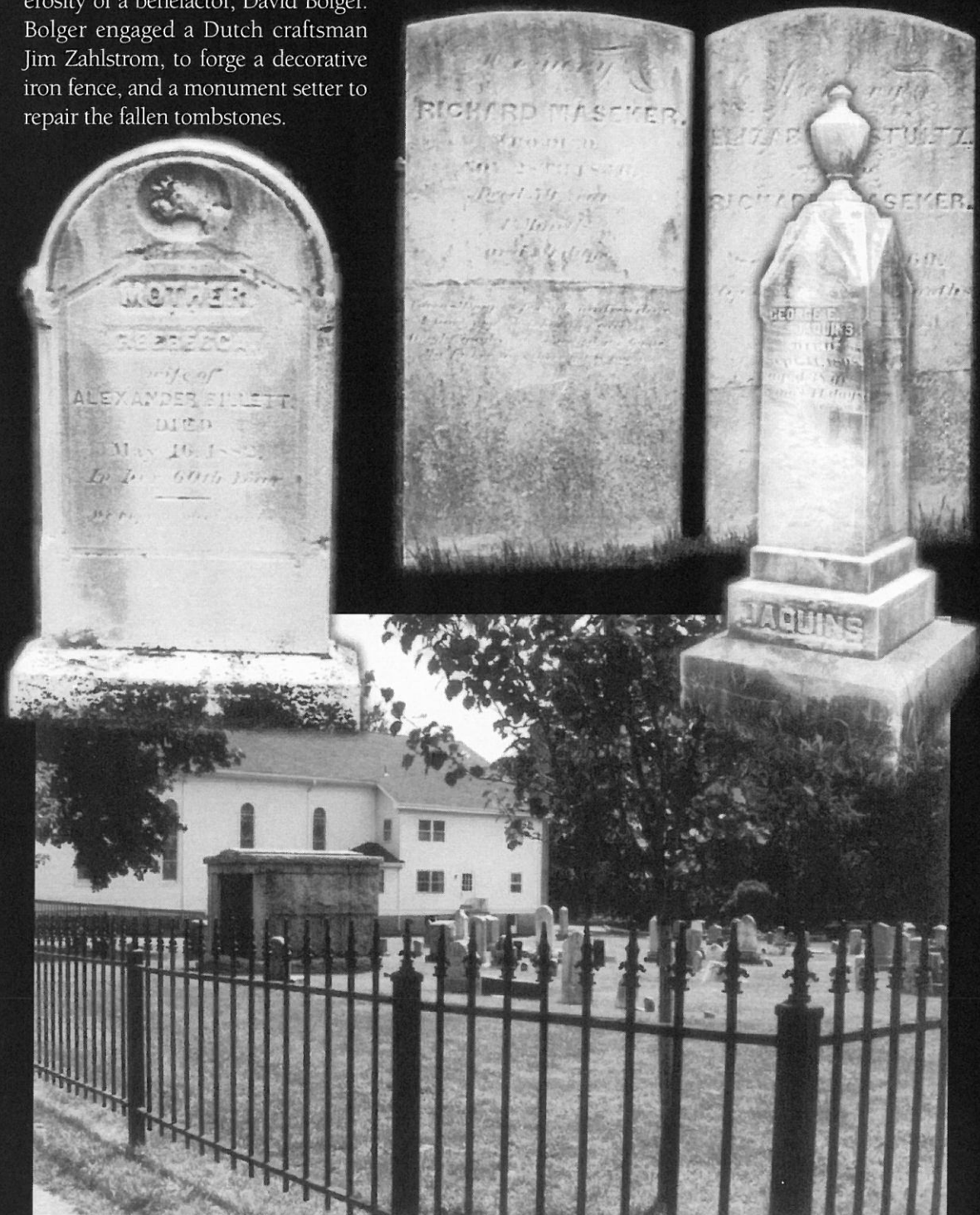
On Nov. 13, 1968, a motion was passed changing the name of the church from the Methodist Episcopal Church of Godwinville to the Midland Park United Methodist Church.

Since that time, the church has celebrated the bicentennial of Methodism in America (1984) and the local church's 190th year (1992).

The cemetery adjacent to the United Methodist Church on Godwin Avenue dates back to the early 19th century, possibly as early as 1821. The cemetery property was owned by the church prior to 1867, believed to have come into its possession through a will. In 1955, when the church elders decided that they could no longer maintain the historic site, they asked the municipality to assume responsibility for its upkeep. The property was leased to the borough for \$1 a year.

Each cemetery plot owner holds the deed to his plot, and the church collects on the sale of the plots, although very few are available. Occasionally there is a burial on a site that has been owned by a church family for decades.

The cemetery had fallen in a state of disrepair and received a major facelift in 1988 thanks to the generosity of a benefactor, David Bolger. Bolger engaged a Dutch craftsman Jim Zahlstrom, to forge a decorative iron fence, and a monument setter to repair the fallen tombstones.



A Century of History Packed Into One Year

THE BOROUGH CELEBRATES ITS
100TH BIRTHDAY IN A BIG WAY



*Members of
Midland
Park
MAGIC!,
Sam Blom,
Carol Ann
Mejury and
Jim Mejury,
entertain
the crowd*



*Dick Jeffer, Heritage Day coordinator Evelyn Sehr, Tom
Stonebrink, Winifred Belanus DeWitte, and Jacob
Bakker reminisce at February's history program.*

The goal of the Midland Park Centennial, Inc., was to create a celebration which would interest people of all ages. The program was designed to accommodate the centennial plans of the businesses, civic, religious and fraternal organizations, the borough's government and all other groups who wished to celebrate with their own programs.

Each month in 1994 was assigned a theme, and events were planned around that theme.

January 29 was the kick-off celebration. Midland Park MAGIC! delighted the audience by leading them in an old-fashioned sing-a-long. Afterwards performers mingled with the audience dressed as famous Midland Park personalities from 1890. Local caterers supplied hors d'oeuvres and dessert.

February was history month. Winifred Belanus DeWitte, Richard Jeffer, Tom Stonebrink, and Jacob Bakker reminisced about life in Midland Park during the early 1900s. Afterwards, the 1939 film *Elmer Goes to Hollywood* was shown. This film features Midland Park school children.

Education month was in March. The night's program title was 100 Minutes of Education and featured the artwork, bands and choirs of the three school systems in Midland Park: Midland Park Public Schools, St. Thomas More, and Eastern Christian.

April celebrated Business and Commerce, featuring an open house of all businesses in Midland Park, and the Chamber of Commerce offered a special drawing for a color TV.

(continued on page 168)

by Beth
Abma Fylstra

EACH MONTH IN 1994
WAS ASSIGNED A THEME
AND EVENTS WERE PLANNED
AROUND THAT THEME.



Members of the Highland School Choir performed during education month in March.

Performing during the March education events were MPHS students Jamie Connors, Laurelei McLoof, Amy Konzelman, and Wendy McLoof (foreground).



The Centennial Celebration

(continued from page 167)

May 1 was May Day with an Old-Fashioned Train Ride from Midland Park to Sparta Junction. An “unexpected” surprise was a hold-up by the “Wortendyke Gang,” the famous train robbers who had just escaped from jail after being captured in 1893. Afterwards, the school children, dressed in old-fashioned outfits, recreated maypole dances and played games from the 1890s at Veterans Plaza in Wortendyke.

Also in May, the Midland Park Centennial sponsored a 5K run for running enthusiasts. This event set the “winning” tone for our sports month, June.

June 25 brought back the semi-pro Rangers baseball team to Midland Park’s Johnny Vander Meer Field on Dairy Street. The baseball players were from three different eras of Ranger history – the 1930s, 1950s and 1960s. The most famous Ranger in attendance was Johnny Vander Meer who, in 1938, as a 23-year-old left-handed rookie pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds, hurled back-to-back no-hitters (a Major League record).

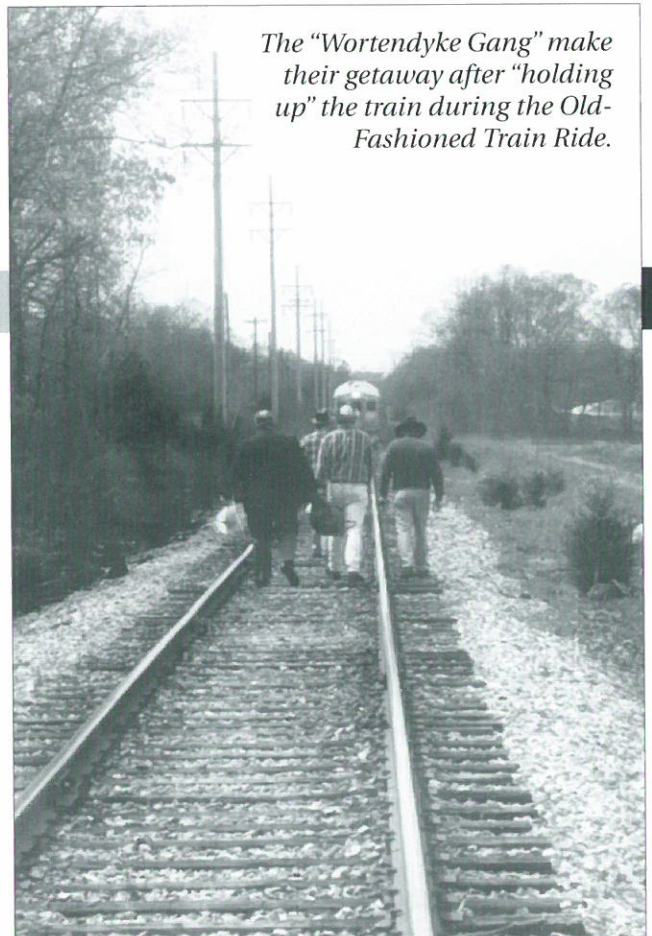
July brought a theatre and performance theme. Performers from four to 86 years old joined with Midland Park MAGIC! and the Park Players for AMERICAN...a look at song and dance in the 20th century and illustrating how music, dance and the arts were and are still alive in Midland Park.

During August’s Music Month, Midland Park was honored to host the West Point band in concert. On a Friday evening, August 12, the band performed

The “Wortendyke Gang” make their getaway after “holding up” the train during the Old-Fashioned Train Ride.



Flag designer Carol Sullivan, right, and fundraising committee member Bobbie Kutcha display the centennial flag.



a stirring concert under beautiful summer skies to a packed crowd at Midland Park High School's football field.

Our Grand Celebration Parade and family picnic was the highlight of our year. Midland Park was treated to one of its finest parades ever, which included 50 marching units consisting of neighborhood, business, organizations and church floats, bands, emergency service equipment and much more. After the parade, the community was treated to a free picnic which included a '50s band, rides, games, and crafts for the kids. Special attractions included a centennial limited edition Postage Cancellation, Centennial Souvenirs, food, dressed-up characters for the kids and a dunking tank.

In October Dutch Heritage Day was celebrated at the library. Midland Park's own Klompen dancers, attired in authentic costumes, entertained

(continued on page 170)



School children danced around the maypole at the May Day celebration.



Sports coordinator Tony Vuolo, Bergen County Freeholder Bill Van Dyke, Johnny Vander Meer, and Centennial Chairman Beth Abma Fylstra, at June's Rangers reunion.



The Centennial Celebration

170

(continued from page 169)

the crowd as they listened to Dutch music and shopped at the Dutch booths.

The final program took place on Sunday, November 20, 1994, at Midland Park Christian Reformed Church. The churches of Midland Park combined their talents and held an Ecumenical Hymn Fest. Adding to the evening's excitement was the combined choirs singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.

1994 was an exciting year for the town of Midland Park. Each and every event was a huge success and a real inspiration. The events were made possible by generous donations from the people, businesses and organizations of Midland Park and the hard working efforts of the Centennial's fund raising committee, which with much dedication raised the money needed to run the huge program so aggressively planned. Items which were available for sale included; pins, glasses, mugs, bookends, tee shirts, sweatshirts, pillows and flags. In addition, a flea market was organized by the committee in September, 1994 to help raise the needed funds to complete the budget.

Centennial Chairwoman Beth Abma Fylstra graced the parade in a period dress made and donated by Virginia Fawcett of the Needlecraft School.



Jackie Vitez and Jeannette Backmeier of Dutch Girl Cleaners, during the business open house.

Klompen dancers Lorraine DeLuca and daughter Elizabeth.

Many thanks go to the people of Midland Park who worked so diligently behind the scenes by donating their time and money to make the centennial a huge community success. In addition, a special hats off to the Centennial Committee members, who sat through hundreds of hours of planning sessions to create Midland Park's Centennial:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Beth Abma Fylstra | Chairwoman |
| Donald H. Quinn, CPA | Treasurer |
| Harriet Hollema | Secretary |
| Francis Rodriguez | Historian |
| Jo Ann Cotz | History and Research |
| George Cooke | History and Research |
| Bernard N. Holst | Fund Raising Chairman |
| Jack Kooreman, Esq. | Legal Advisor |
| James E. Brown | Insurance Advisor |
| Robert Klingen | Traffic and Safety Advisor |
| Leonora Wynbeek | Graphics and Artistic Advisor |
| Claire Drexler | Publicity |
| Cindy Ver Hage | Publicity |
| Charles F. Ryan, Esq. | April and May Coordinator |
| Rev. William Noll | November Coordinator |
| Barbara Wostbrock | March Coordinator |
| Andy Swankie | Picnic Coordinator |
| Evelyn Sehr | October Coordinator |
| Joan Vandervliet | August Coordinator |
| Robert Greenlaw | Parade Coordinator |
| Layne Williams | July Coordinator |
| Tony Vuolo, Sr. | June Sports Coordinator |



About the Centennial Logo...

The Victorian Round Top Window symbolizes the Victorian Era during which Midland Park was incorporated. It can also be looked at as Midland Park's vision into the future.

The Tulip is a traditional Dutch flower. Midland Park was founded by the Dutch.

The Bolt of Fabric... unlike many of our neighboring towns which were founded on agriculture, Midland Park's beginnings trace back to textile mills, and many of the early residents were workers in the textile mills.



To mark the centennial, the Midland Park Post Office issued a commemorative, limited edition postage cancellation. Postmaster Dave Hug is at the window.



The Midland Park Highland School 9th grade Class of 1954 held a very special reunion during the borough's centennial picnic.

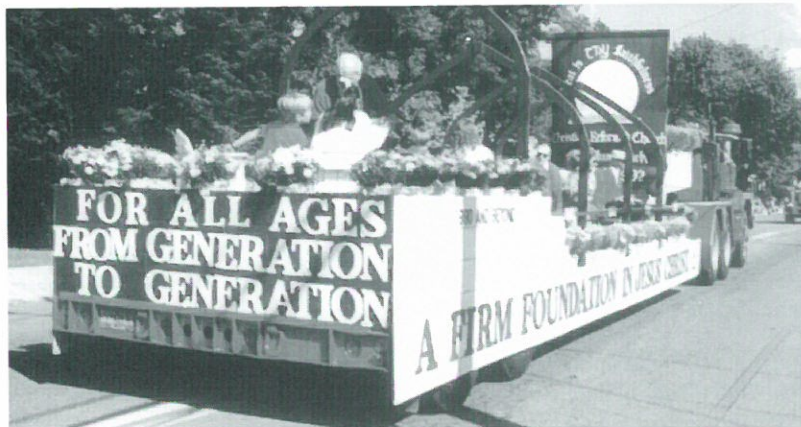
The Centennial Celebration



At left, a Revolutionary War militia detail offers a salute; below, the float presented by the Fire Department Women's Auxiliary.



The PARADE



Pictured above is a float based on the theme of local history, presented by families in the Irving Street neighborhood; at left, the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church float.



Above, the Wyckoff Fire Department's antique steamer; above right, the float presented by Jeff's Starflower Florist; and at right, the historic-themed float presented by Midland Park MAGIC.



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 4
1994**

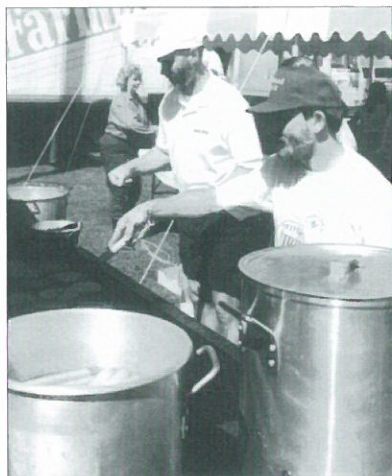


Pictured at left is the float presented by Atlantic Stewardship Bank.



At right is the agriculture-inspired float by Jacobsen Landscaping.

The Centennial Celebration



The PICNIC





Scen^es from the Centennial Picnic included: clockwise from upper left, the Midland Park Boosters worked tirelessly to supply enough food for the hungry crowd; the Little Darlings Band delighted the audience with music from the '50s; hungry youngsters munched many hot dogs; horse and wagon rides were popular with the children; Sam Blom shows that he's ready for the "dunk tank;" the purple dinosaur made many new friends; and Beth Abma Fylstra gets ready for a good soaking.

Memories Memories Memories

Reminiscences by longtime Midland Park resident Orié Yonkers, pictured at the right during a radio broadcast for the United States Army Radio Service in London, June, 1945.

Memories are strange things. I can remember events clearly from the 1920s and 1930s but can't remember to bring home that quart of milk after an AARP meeting. Maybe because things that happened in the "good old days" are so firmly imprinted in my mind.

Golf: I can still remember writing about a youthful assistant pro named Byron Nelson at the old Ridgewood Country Club. He always had a smile as broad as his Texas drawl. The club was located high on a hill overlooking Lincoln Avenue near the Ridgewood-Glen Rock border.

George Jacobus, the Claude Harmon of the '30s, was the head pro at the club and taught Nelson how to win... and win he did! County sports writers followed him at either Westchester or Baltusrol. After he finished, we would all meet at the 19th hole and talk about old times and old friends.



I Remember When

Paper Boy: We got up at 2 a.m. in the morning, rain or shine or snow, and walked to the NYS&W RR Station at Goffle and Lake to meet the early mail train from Jersey City to pick up our papers.

Childhood days were something special. Large families were the norm; our older brothers told us to get lost. We had our own friends, all about the same age. One of my closest friends was Tom Englishman, Jr. (He was on the Vandy tape of the permanent exhibit dedication at the library.) There were many more: Wilbert Bakker, Al Tintle, Herb Pruder, Johnny Van Brederode, Dick Holden, Ed Drews, Russ Howard and Al Mulder. There would be another VCF who lived next door – he missed most of the fun – his mother insisted he practice classical music most of the day. He got even with her when he grew up and became a premier jazz pianist. The name of Midland Park's Al "Mixie" Verhulst would sparkle on the lighted marquees of famous night clubs and theaters coast to coast.

We made our own fun, played baseball on the meadow behind the municipal building, passing an overgrown jungle-like Methodist cemetery on the way

home. We went swimming with Marie and Johnny Klemm in the brook that runs in front of the Ridgewood Water Company, then behind the Klemm residence. Our older brothers swam in the bottomless, dangerous ravine above the Wostbrock lace mill (later the scene of a gruesome murder). The water cascaded over the high dam at Granite Linen Mill upstream, picked up speed as it passed through Morrow's Pond, with its broken dam. It would gain rapids-like momentum as it went through their swimming area. (This stream would earlier supply power to the Granite Linen Mill and the Morrow Tannery as well as the Wostbrock Mill.)

Sunday evenings we sometimes sat on the elevated lawn of the Peter Bakker residence, watching the bumper-to-bumper traffic en route from the Catskills to the 42nd Street Ferry to NYC. They came down Prospect Street to avoid similar jams on Franklin Turnpike. As we grew up we put dead snakes in mailboxes and tipped over outdoor privies on Goosey Night. Later we would walk to Ridgewood on Saturday afternoons to see Tom Mix; first at the old Opera House where the bus terminal now stands and then at the new Playhouse on Wilsey Square facing the railroad tracks.

The Depression: The people of Midland Park faced a bleak future in 1932. The town's only bank was closed, never to reopen. Many folks lost their life savings. Unemployment was almost 50%. Many of them labored for the WPA – pick and shovel – clearing the later-to-be paved Route 208... much later. There was no welfare; each church took care of its own. The Yonkers family was lucky; we all had jobs, including Pa, a foreman at Granite Linen Mills, and my two sisters, who also worked there. Even with three children still living at home, my mother "shared" with many of the less fortunate, a community-wide practice that brought us all together.

The Democrats met in the phone booth outside McNeill's Pharmacy. Postmaster Tom Post looked like he had a lifetime job in his grocery-post office on Goffle Road across from the NYS&W RR Station, until FDR came on the scene and Frank Martin took over – perhaps the beginning of the Democratic Party in Midland Park.

WWI Era: How many of you still remember the end of WWI? I still recall Nick Heemstra and Albert Outslay coming back home from the war. (Nick's father performed an essential community-wide health service with his hand pump

(continued on the following page)

Orie Yonkers

Midland Park was represented on the World War II front not only by its brave soldiers in all branches of the armed services but also by a high profile war correspondent: Orie Yonkers. A native Midland Parker, Yonkers had been a reporter and sports writer for the *Record* and the *Ridgewood Herald* before starting a retailing career. He was also a booking agent for many semi-pro traveling baseball teams in the metropolitan area.

When he enlisted in the Army during World War II, his newspaper experience landed him a sensitive public relations correspondent's assignment in HQ ETO USA/SHAEF. He also escorted many of the civilian war correspondents in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany, including those who participated in the Allied Airborne Invasion of Holland in the fall of 1944. After VE Day he returned to London and served as an announcer and producer for the U.S. Army Radio Service.

After the war, as an executive of W.T. Grant, at the time the nation's second largest general merchandise chain, he traveled the world promoting retailing and also representing the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development (A.I.D.). He met with many high ranking government officials around the world, from President Park of South Korea to Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meier.

Yonkers was a personal friend of Johnny Vander Meer, who encouraged him to present his memoirs to the Midland Park Memorial Library, where they are today.

Memories Memories Memories

(continued from the preceding page)

and horse-drawn cart.) I can still remember making a stuffed effigy of the Kaiser with the other neighborhood 8-year-olds and parading up a dusty dirt Godwin Avenue to the meadow behind the municipal building where we proceeded to burn the "Blasted Hun." (The Midland Park AC would later draw huge crowds there with their Friday night softball games.)

Gussy Roman's rattletrap used Republic bus would ultimately provide transportation to Ridgewood, to carry the few NY commuters to the Erie Station in Ridgewood, continuing on to drop us off at Ridgewood High School to start a new phase of our lives. One of them would be Garry Hagedorn, later Mayor and State Senator, on his way to his job at Cities Service Oil (now Citgo), dressed in a coat, white shirt and tie, carrying a briefcase. Bill White would be named President of the DL&W RR – a railroad president from Midland Park.

MIDLAND PARK'S BOB SALL WAS A CONSTANT WINNER THERE...BOB WAS THE NATIONAL DIRT TRACK CHAMPION FOR TWO STRAIGHT YEARS.

1931-1932 were great years for the then 20-year old son of Dutch immigrants. I was starting my third year as Sports Editor of the Ridgewood Herald. Vandy would sign with the Dodgers. I lucked into a part-time PR job – called press agents in those days. Ralph Hankinson, then the top auto racing promoter in the East, was looking for someone to handle his publicity in North Jersey. His big money maker was the one-mile dirt track at Langhorne, Pa., attracting crowds of 60,000 or more. Midland Park's Bob Sall was a constant winner there. He recommended me for the job. Bob was the national dirt track champion for two straight years.

I Remember When

The full impact of the Depression came in the mid 1930s. Sports racing dried up. The Herald merged with the Ridgewood News, where Joe Dougan was Sports Editor. I went to work for the Evening News

in Paterson, then joined the Bergen Evening Record.

These memoirs would not be complete without mentioning the Vanderbush family on Aqueduct Avenue – Brute, Al and Rink, their wonderful parents and sisters. Rink was on the tape Vandy sent me from the Permanent Exhibit (Vander Meer exhibit at the library) – he looked about the same. I was friendly with all three boys, and so were my two brothers, Casey and Bill. Rink and I corresponded via local APO in France. He was a First Sergeant, a great achievement. I met many of them overseas in the ETO. I still recall inviting Al to go on assignment with me late one night, to cover the crash of the German Zeppelin, The Hindenburg, in Lakehurst, NJ. There was no NJ Turnpike in those days, so it was a long ride in my beat-up Chevy.

The Christmastime display of Walt Disney characters has been a fixture on the Ridgewood Water Company pumping station property on Godwin Avenue since the 1960s, attracting thousands of young and old alike to Midland Park.

Originally created by the late Glen Rock Architect Carl Kemm Loven with special approval from Walt Disney Studios, the display features wooden cartoon characters from a number of Disney's full-length films as well as Santa Claus and other traditional holiday figures.

The 150-piece display was made by Loven a little at a time and was exhibited on the lawn of his Rock Road home every Christmas season from 1938. When Glen Rock officials banned it in 1953 because of the traffic and crowd problems it created, the display was discontinued and some of the figures sold. Years later, members of the Midland Park Volunteer Fire

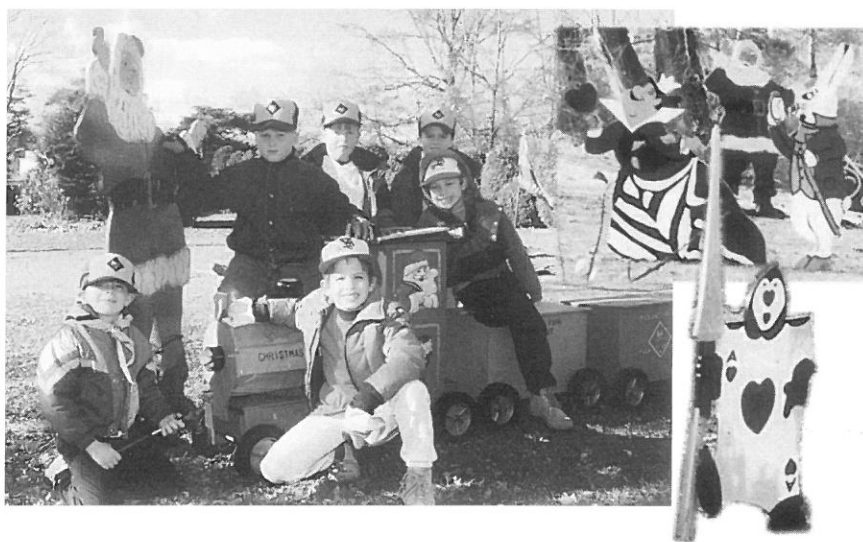
Department discovered some of the pieces in a local antiques shop and purchased them at a nominal cost. Firemen John Foley and Werner Schneider and Schneider's wife Marjorie undertook the task of replacing and restoring the figures, displaying them at the Waterworks for the first time in 1967. When the Loven family saw that the figures had found a permanent home in Midland Park, they gave the firemen the rest of the pieces which they had originally decided to keep for themselves.

The firemen added a manger scene and a wishing well, installed lighting and piped in holiday music.

When the Schneiders moved from town in 1974, interest in maintaining the display waned and the firemen considered selling it. The Midland Park Chamber of Commerce and its then president, Patrick "Bud" O'Hagan, decided to coordinate a restoration effort as a community project and donated the display to the town. The chamber, the Lions Club, the Senior Group, Inc., the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion provided funds and manpower, and residents were asked to adopt a figure and restore it. The display went up again for the 1980 season, and has been in place ever since, with O'Hagan still coordinating the project and the Cub Scouts erecting and dismantling it every year.

The Queen of Hearts, Snow White, the Three Little Pigs have found a loving home in Midland Park.

A Christmas Tradition





Restoration Committee chairman Wayne Swezey proudly drives his pride and joy in the 75th anniversary parade.

Restored Pumper a Labor of Love

In addition to its modern fire-fighting apparatus, the Midland Park Fire Department also has a piece of equipment that would make any antiques collector proud: a 1921 Ford Model T.T.-Howie Pumper. The truck was donated to the department in 1982 by Arnold Ackerman and John Morrison.

A restoration committee of volunteers went to work thoroughly rebuilding the truck to its original condition. All parts were removed and sand-blasted. Most mechanical parts were refurbished and reassembled. All woodwork and main frame members were replaced in the original oak. The wooden wheels and spokes were painstakingly restored and refinished by Fireman Pat Witte.

The three-cylinder piston pump, capable of producing a water flow of 100 G.P.M., was rebuilt by Dick Strangfeld, Bill McClure and Jim VanBlarcom, Jr. of ITT Marlow, who then published a comprehensive operation, maintenance and repair manual.

Three firemen, Chairman Wayne Swezey, Terry McGraw and Frank Miller then individually finished and reassembled each part. Don DeBlaey and Phil Scaglione did the mechanical and electrical work.

After almost three years and a total of more than 5,000 man hours, the restored pumper made its official debut at the department's 75th Anniversary Parade in 1984. The pumper is now kept at the museum of New Jersey Firemen's Home in Boonton.

Childhood in Brooklyn was Inspiration for Borough Author

Midland Park author Maria Owens Farrell, who with local illustrator Frances Strezeski produced the children's book *Peter the Great* in 1932, had her roots in Ireland a century earlier.

Her mother, Mrs. Nichola Knapp, came to the United States from Ireland during the time of the Great Potato Famine in the 1840's. Knapp's parents, seven brothers and a sister were on their way to stay with a relative in San Francisco.

They came into the country through Ellis Island and settled temporarily in Brooklyn, where they were greeted by newspaper headlines announcing the terrible earthquake in San Francisco. They never again heard from the relative they were planning to meet and assumed she

was killed in the earthquake.

The family stayed in Brooklyn, surrounded by immigrants from many European countries. This melting pot atmosphere provided the inspiration for a children's book, *Peter the Great*. Farrell wrote the book after moving to Midland Park in the 1930s.

The book's illustrator, Frances Strezeski, won an art scholarship to Pratt Institute and did the illustrations for the book when she came home to the borough for the summer.



Bicentennial Celebration United the Community

Midland Park marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of our nation during 1975-76 with festivities designed to bring the entire community together in celebration. Funds for the year's events were raised almost exclusively by the sale of a "Bicentennial Plate," a commemorative sand cast Armetale plate (which resembles fine pewter) designed by local artist Richard "Rip" Van Winkle featuring the Lozier House, the borough's oldest, and the Bicentennial logo.

As a lasting remembrance of the year-long celebration, the committee erected a sun dial on the lawn between town hall and the library. Designed by Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairman Ted Vandervliet, the monument used an original grist millstone from the Lozier House contributed by the Wostbrock Family. Buried under the monument is a lead container with memorabilia of the time expected to be opened at a future date in history.

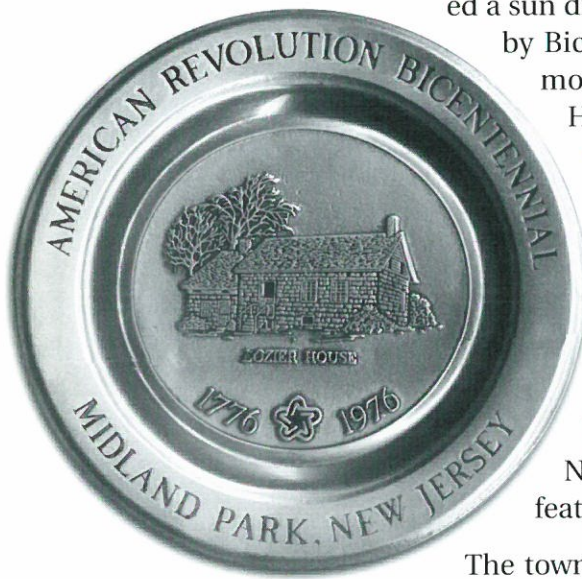
Student Day, with local young people taking over town government for a day, was celebrated in May; Flag Day in June featured ceremonies in front of Midland Park High School and a flag burning sponsored by the Knights of Columbus; and a Liberty Tree, planted on the municipal building property by the Garden Club, was dedicated on New Jersey Day in April. The Midland Park Memorial Library featured historic exhibits and programs throughout the year.

The town's churches played a big part in the celebrations. Most got together and sponsored joint Good Friday services, with the minister of each of the participating churches preaching on one of Du Bois' Seven Last Words of Christ and a joint mini-choir providing musical accompaniment. A much larger joint choir performed in December in an original Christmas Cantata which drew nearly 1,000 residents, and on July 4th, all churches rang their bells at 2 p.m. to participate in the nationwide community bell ringing.

Another Community Sing Festival, this time with a patriotic theme, was held in Highland School in May, near Memorial Day.

The highlight of the year was Bicentennial Day on September 18, 1976. A parade kicked off the festivities, followed by an old-fashioned country fair at the Dairy Street field.

Tennis tournament finals were followed by track and field events, sack and cycle races, log sawing, tug of war and pie eating contests. Local organizations manned booths selling food, handicrafts, plants, gifts and their own special



artifacts. Two trailer exhibits depicting the history of New Jersey were on display, as well as the award-winning Lozier House float. Free amusement rides, games of skill and entertainment under a canopy were available throughout the day featuring American music and Indian dancing. At night, the Recreation Committee provided two dance bands, one for square dancing.

Bicentennial Float a Winner

The Midland Park Bicentennial Committee's float, whose construction was ably engineered by resident Roseann Perkosky, won top honors in the Ridgewood Independence Day Parade, including first place in the parade theme category with its theme "200 Years of Service and Dedication." The community project, which took about 500 man-hours to complete, also captured third place in the Best in Parade and in the Neighborhood Group categories.

The float featured original 8-foot acrylics of the borough's pre-Revolutionary Lozier House by artist Ethelyn Woodlock, men in authentic military outfits, and a variety of American flags. Float workers cut and folded a mile-and-a-half of crepe paper into little flowers, and cut the fringe that bordered the flatbed and the paintings - no plastic garlands for this group. Floatmaster Perkosky made a model of the float for the committee's approval, sought out local merchants to contribute the materials, and recruited workers among her family, neighbors and friends. The float had to be assembled and disassembled three times: for the Ridgewood parade, for the town's own Bicentennial Parade and for the Bergen County Bicentennial Parade in Hackensack.

American Revolution Bicentennial Committee

James Brown, *Co-Chairman*; Ted Vandervliet, *Co-Chairman*; Pierre Blair, *Treasurer*; Ester Vierheilig, *Secretary*

Bicentennial Day Sub-Committee

Parade: Bob Livingston and Pete Damsma (V.F.W.); *Float Chairwoman*: Roseann Perkosky; *Entertainment*: Dianne DeRoker; *Food*: Fire Department; *Booths*: Paul Boos (Lions Club); *Tennis Tournament/Games*: Jerry Brawner (Ambulance Corps); *Clean up*: Dick Couser (Boy Scouts).

This Lozier House painting, one of a pair painted by local artist Ethelyn Woodlock as the focal point of the borough's float for the Bicentennial in 1976, now hangs in Memorial Hall at Midland Park High School.





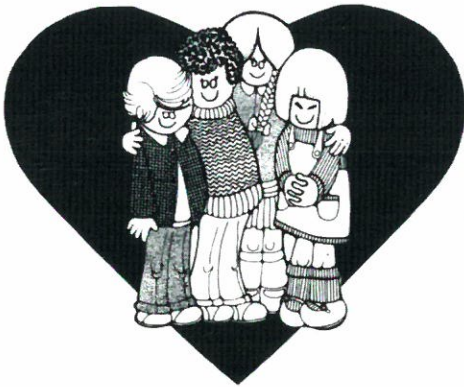
Bicentennial Monument

The focal point of the Bicentennial monument near Borough Hall is the millstone seen at the left, which was formerly located in front of the Lozier House. Pictured are, from the left, Richard Wostbrock, Councilman J. William Van Dyke, Henry "Bud" Wostbrock, Walter Wostbrock, Councilman William Vermaas and Mayor Robert J. Hamilton.

The Love Fund: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Love Fund was launched on Valentine's Day, 1977 to help a young local girl suffering from a serious illness. On that day, scores of volunteers of all ages, many of them the girl's classmates at Highland School, combed the town door-to-door seeking contributions. The Love Fund successfully aided her full recovery and was revitalized in 1986 as an ongoing service for children of the community.

The Love Fund



Since its inception, The Love Fund has helped residents cope with personal emergencies by easing some of the financial burdens sparked by their situations, thereby helping them to maintain their quality of life and protect the children from further hardship. Contributions come from individuals, businesses, religious and service organizations, all of which have built the fund into a strong community resource.

Drum & Bugle Corps Kept Young People Active

Wholesome activity for young people and first rate entertainment for everyone was available locally for more than 30 years from the drum and bugle corps sponsored by American Legion Post 130. The junior corps provided young people 7-19 years of age the opportunity to develop and perfect their musical and marching talents and to travel and compete nationally.

The Midland Park Drum and Bugle Corps performed in the late 1940s through the 1950s under the direction of John Iseldyke. In 1968 the Imperial Knights of Midland Park, an all-girl drum and bugle corps, was organized. Originally directed by George Holden, the group was reorganized in January, 1969 with Lew Herbert, known as Uncle Lew, at the helm. From a group of just 12 girls, the corps grew to over 100 members distinctively dressed in light blue shirts and navy skirts.

Under Herbert's leadership, the corps and its members individually won many awards. In 1974 they became the American Drum Corps Circuit Champions, and in 1976, during a busy national centennial year schedule, the corps won the American Heritage Championship Flag for the third time.

As membership in the corps waned, the Imperial Knights and two other area corps joined together in 1978 into Fantasia III. Members included young people, male and female, ages 14 to 20.



Lists Worth Noting

Armed Forces Honor Roll

World War I

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Garrett Swap | September 17, 1918 |
| John Coombs | September 16, 1918 |
| Frank Outslay | October 12, 1918 |
| Herman Englishman | October 18, 1918 |
| Harry Streelman | February 5, 1919 |
| John Millington | May 1, 1919 |

World War II

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Joseph Marvin Millington | November 13, 1942 |
| Leonard Faner | January 11, 1944 |
| Robert Logan | June 24, 1944 |
| Martin De Heer | September 26, 1944 |
| Clarence C. Brautigam | October 18, 1944 |
| Edward Drews | December 18, 1944 |
| Eugene Busteed | March 6, 1945 |

Korea

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Raymond Estes | October 26, 1952 |
|---------------|------------------|

Vietnam

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alan Zimmerman | February 2, 1967 |
| Norman R. Goble | November 22, 1967 |
| Wayne L. Golon | February 5, 1968 |
| Brian Wedlake | May 2, 1968 |
| Roger W. Roetman | July 2, 1958 |
| Steven Foster | August 24, 1968 |
| Cordell Rogers | May 27, 1969 |
| Michael Parmarter | June 22, 1969 |

Eagle Scout Honor Roll

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Thomas J. Ochs | 1966 |
| Carl Nelke | 1966 |
| Thomas J. McKinley | 1967 |
| Ken Ochs | 1967 |
| James Nanfeldt | 1968 |
| Chris Zwingli | 1970 |
| Michael Zwingli | 1972 |
| Doug Fielding | 1972 |
| John Wostbrock | 1976 |
| Michael Van Brunt | 1976 |
| Franz Weiglein | 1978 |
| Robert Fossa | 1978 |
| Ed Wostbrock | 1978 |
| James Wostbrock | 1978 |
| James Ketterer | 1980 |
| Adam Kimmick | 1980 |
| David Wostbrock | 1984 |
| Albert Vierheilig | 1984 |
| Richard Wostbrock | 1988 |
| Andrew Mejury | 1990 |
| Christopher Alan Straubel | 1991 |
| John Stephen Tomasi | 1993 |
| William Bernard Hobbs | 1994 |
| Sean Thomas Flynn | 1995 |
| Mark Joseph Hobbs | 1995 |
| Douglas Michael Kroitsch | 1995 |
| Matthew Dennis Portsmouth | 1995 |
| Michael Joseph Ferrara | 1996 |
| Michael Williams DeLuca | 1997 |

Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients

1987

Danielle Cimino, Audrey Coyle, Karen Heather Mejury, Lisa Miller, Lisa Parker, Donna Perkosky, Jill Plafta, Judy VanDeVeen, Susan Wagstaff, Julie Zacco

1991

Melissa Berg, Catherine Carol, Janice Mejury
Linda Wagstaff

1994

Jennifer Christenson, Kerry Moore, Jennifer Rehbein, Jennifer Schiffer

1998

Kristie Prokop

Midland Park Fire Chiefs

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Dr. Joseph Payne | 1909-10 |
| Charles M. Brown | 1911-32 |
| Ruthwin Terhune | 1933-34 |
| John Decker | 1935-36 |
| James Ten Kate | 1937-38 |
| Barney Van Der Snow | 1939-42 |
| John Vanderbush | 1943 |
| John Pitman, Jr. | 1944-53 |
| Albert Vanderbush | 1954-57 |
| Andrew Knapp | 1958-59 |
| Raymond "Rink" Vanderbush | 1960-63 |
| Samuel De Vries | 1964-65 |
| John Osenga, Jr. | 1966-69 |
| Henry "Hank" Hazen | 1970-73 |
| Henry Amos, Jr. | 1974-75 |
| Henry "Hank" Hazen | 1976-77 |
| Charles Paulson | 1978-79 |
| Donald DeBlaey | 1980-81 |
| James McCombs | 1982-83 |
| Edward Hollema, Jr. | 1984-87 |
| Phil Scaglione | 1988-89 |
| Albert Van Houten, Sr. | 1990-93 |
| Chris Englishman | 1994-97 |
| Edward Hollema, Jr. | 1998- |

Mayors of Midland Park

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| William B. Morrow | 1894-95 |
| Robert W. Wortendyke | 1895-96 |
| Monmouth B. Wilson | 1897-1900 |
| Robert W. Wortendyke | 1901-07 |
| Hooker J. Coggershall | 1908-11 |
| Henry J. Wostbrock, Sr. | 1912-15 |
| Adolph Schleicher | 1916-23 |
| Henry Gunther | 1924-25 |
| Dr. Joseph Payne | 1926-29 |
| Henry Sluyter | 1930-38 |
| Dorrance Talbot | 1938-41 |
| Dr. Peter D. Westerhoff, Sr. | 1942-43 |
| Warren T. Brewer | 1943 |
| James F. Vance | 1944-45 |
| Harry Hoitsma | 1946-47 |
| Henry J. Wostbrock, Jr. | 1948-51 |
| Peter W. Passaro | 1952-57 |
| John Vanderbush | April-December, 1957 |
| Garrett W. Hagedorn | 1958-67 |
| Cornelius Pontier | 1968-71 |
| Robert J. Hamilton | 1972-83 |
| J. William Van Dyke | 1984-87 |
| Faith Walker | 1988-95 |
| Ester Vierheilig | 1996- |

Police Chiefs

Orie Van Dyke
 William Junta
 John Molenstra
 Robert Vanderclock
 August "Augie" Faber
 Thomas Monarque

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