

MIDLAND PARK

through the years



“Van het oude vaderland naar de nieuwe wereld, kuamen onze Hollandse voorouders . . . en hier volgt het relaas hoe zij onze tegenwoordige samenleving opbouwden.”

“From the old country to the new world, came our Dutch ancestors . . . and the story of how they built the structure of our community, now unfolds.”



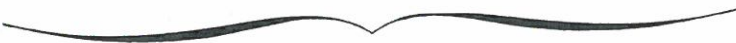
Dedication:

A community is many things, but above all it is people ; people willing to work for the ideals that is America ; people willing to sacrifice today for a brighter tomorrow ; people whose faith can never be tarnished.

The story of Midland Park is a story about people ; generations upon generations who have helped to build our town and raise it to the place of honor it now enjoys. The great families whose exploits are detailed in this book and the thousands of others who pioneered our work and set for us the task of carrying on have all played roles in the drama that is our history. The civic workers, the organization members, our teachers, educators, and religious leaders, those in industry and commerce and even those who helped to carry the name of Midland Park onto the fields of sport have helped to build our town, to raise its standards and enhance its prestige.

Therefore, it is with pride and humility we dedicate this book — to the people of Midland Park of all ages, past, present and future.

GARRETT W. HAGEDORN
Mayor



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Cooking utensils used by our ancestors: Potato Masher; Coffee Grinder; Wooden Spoon and Slip-Ware Dish; Tea Pot with Stove and Butter Mold.



Van Iderstine House: An unusual feature of this Pre-Revolutionary home is the large fireplace in the basement. A three-story addition was added about 1870 with the food conveyed to the dining room upstairs by a dumbwaiter. Shown in the above photo are Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Babcock on porch, Charles Lynde Babcock, age 10, on horseback and his sister Catharine on the steps. Gardener on lawn is unknown.

I. Originating . . .

OUR PRESENT COMMUNITY

Midland Park's proud heritage of colonial times has left its mark on our homes, our churches and our people. For that heritage was Dutch and we like to think that we still emulate our forefathers with their deeply religious feelings, their honesty, conscientiousness, industriousness and self-sufficiency. Perhaps it is pride that makes us point to the Dutch-style architecture still visible in our town; perhaps it is pride that makes us state that the faith of our fathers is still flourishing in our midst; certainly it is pride that makes us list the many old-Dutch names still found amongst us.

Yes, the Dutch were a proud people; they had to be to go forth from their native land and to brave the rigors of the New World. It was a hard life, with few comforts and small rewards except for the knowledge that they were following the ways of free men, they were following the ways of their fathers before them. Their lives were simple, their needs meager, their joys heart-felt. If there were two things that the early settlers prized above all else they were their families and the land. Records show that families with 12 and 13 children were not uncommon. In cases where a man married more than once, it was not unusual for him to have 20 to 25 children.

Life for the children was not carefree. Each had his chores and nearly every son was taught some mechanical skill. The daughters, of course, learned cooking, sewing and other household tasks at an early age. The farmers tanned their own leather and made their own footwear. They also did most of the carpentering while they weren't involved in the usual farming tasks. The women spun or wove cloth and provided most of the family's wardrobe.

Although all Dutch settlements that radiated from New Amsterdam were brought under English rule in 1664, the change in sovereignty had little effect on the day-to-day lives of the people in our area. Dutch was still the language of the home and continued to be taught in schools. The laws were English, but the people were basically Dutch and ministers came from Holland to keep their overseas flocks strong in the way of faith. The influence of the Dutch ministers was so strong that until 1850, nearly two centuries after the English conquest, most church services here were conducted in Dutch, with only an occasional sermon in English.

The great migrations to America in the middle of the nineteenth century brought many nationalities into New Jersey, but it is estimated that 80 per cent of our people in Midland Park claim Dutch ancestry. One reason for this could be that by 1810, the population of this section was fairly stable. There had been an influx of new settlers in the late eighteenth century because of the fertile soil and the comparative mild climate, but many of these people were Dutch, too.

The first stirrings for the establishment of a town were inspired by Cornelius Wortendyke, the first of a family of progressive men who contributed immeasurably to the development and growth of our community. Cornelius Wortendyke moved from Pascack (now Park Ridge) to Franklin Township in 1796. In 1800, he founded a hamlet that he named Newtown.

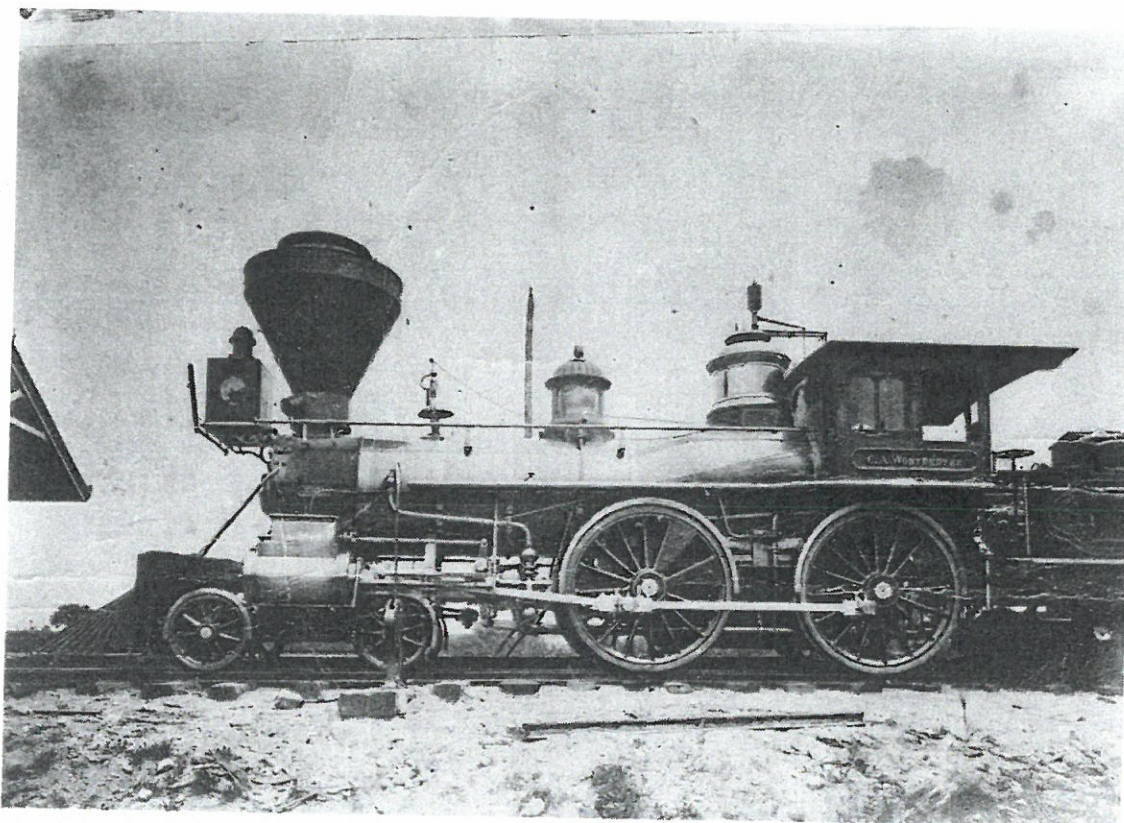
This community was the embryo from whence grew the Midland Park of today. The Wortendyke woolen mill, established in 1812, was the magnet that attracted settlers and the wellspring that caused the town to grow. Newtown was officially named Godwinville in 1829 and in 1871 was renamed Wortendyke in honor of that civic-minded family.

Cornelius Wortendyke, Abram Wortendyke, his son, and Cornelius A. Wortendyke, son of Abram, gave our town three generations of service. Abram Wortendyke took over the mill from his father in 1832 and converted the manufacturing process to cotton cloth production. Abram Wortendyke was responsible for the establishment of the first Post Office here in 1850 after years of personally bearing the expense of carrying the mail. Prior to that time, mail for Godwinville was thrown off at Ho-Ho-Kus and carried to nearby villages by postmen on foot or on horseback. Abram Wortendyke was one of a group of men responsible for the establishment of a railroad station at the Godwinville Road Crossing (Ridgewood) after long arguments that the town's manufacturers warranted the service rather than having to go to Ho-Ho-Kus. This railroad station was not in what is now Midland Park, but the greater convenience it represented helped our town to grow. It remained for Cornelius A. Wortendyke, son of Abram, to bring the first railroad into our town.

Cornelius A. Wortendyke showed the same enterprise as his father. He brought the telephone to our town by agreeing to pay the costs of erecting all the poles from the telephone company office in Paterson to the Wortendyke mill. He was elected first president of the New Jersey Western Railroad Company in 1867 and in 1870 he headed the consolidated company

Midland Park Railroad Station—about 1912. Flagman (on the right) is John Stregeski. Station master and passenger unknown.



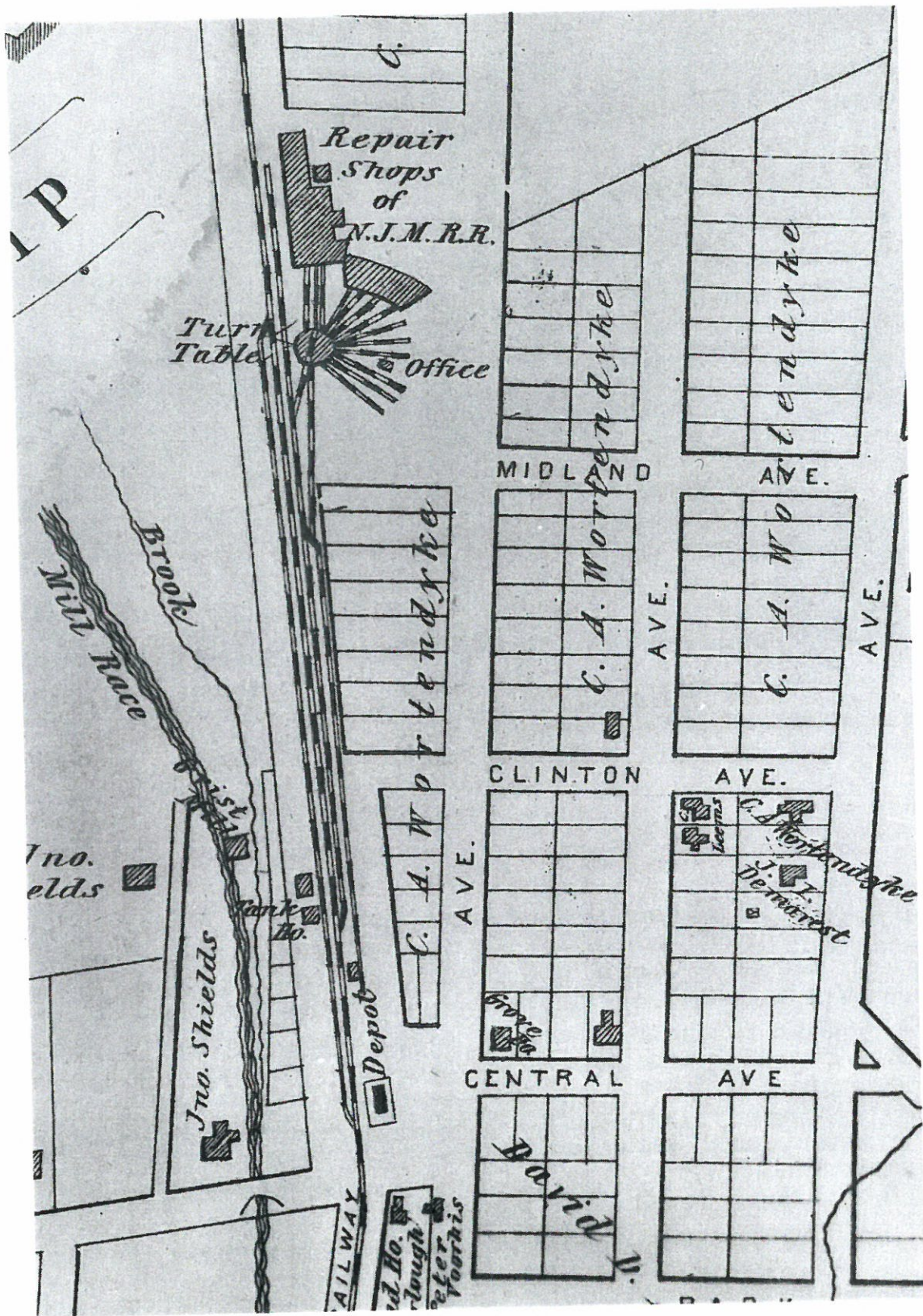


Woodburning locomotive No. 2, named to honor C. A. Wortendyke, first president of the old New Jersey Midland Railroad, was built in April 1871 by the Rogers Locomotive and Machine Works in Paterson, N.J.

formed by the merger of the New Jersey Western and the New Jersey Hudson and Delaware and Sussex Valley Railroad. The consolidated company—the New Jersey Midland Railway Company (now the Susquehanna and Western Railroad)—was the source of our town's name of Midland Park.

With the coming of the railroad, a hotel was established by John T. Ramsey and a general store was opened by H. T. Lawrence, who became postmaster in 1888. With each step forward, our town grew and prospered. On September 6, 1894, Midland Park became an entity when the borough was incorporated. The original incorporation included the village of Wortendyke and on April 28, 1920, a part of Franklin Township was annexed to bring the community to its present size.

With our new status of a borough came new responsibilities, new goals, new ambitions. William B. Morrow was appointed the first mayor and Jacob Smith was named the first Marshall, but he declined the honor, which subsequently went to John Marr, who was succeeded by Frank Shuart and Cornelius Van Nimwegen. By the early days of the 20th Century, the town fathers were concerned with such problems as trolley lines (none ever entered the borough proper), streetlighting (the first contract in 1905 called for the installation of two 32-candlepower lights) and fire protection. It wasn't until after fire destroyed The Granite Mill in 1905 that a committee was named to organize a volunteer fire department, however.

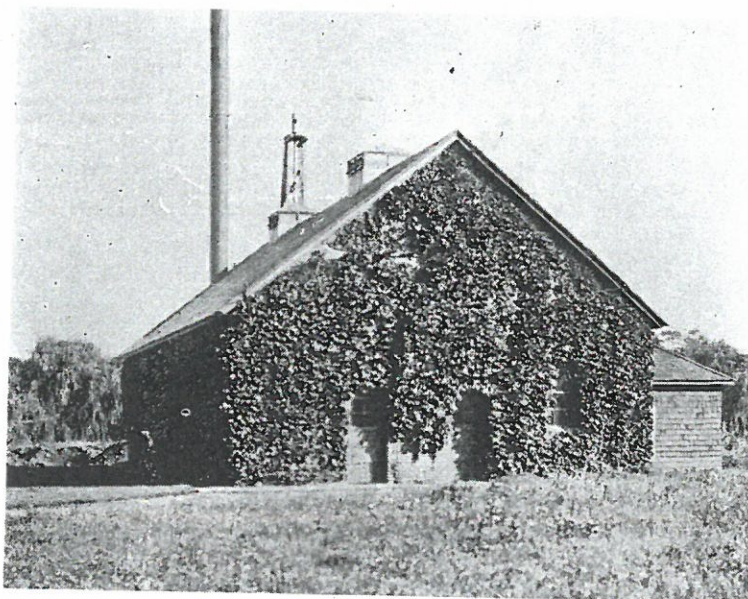


LOCATION MAP—WORTENDYKE RAILROAD STATION—1876



Wortendyke Railroad Station—about 1910

Permission for the Ridgewood Electric and Gas Company to lay gas mains in the streets was granted in 1906, but many old-time residents recall that it wasn't until 1925 that the mains were actually laid. It was a little better with water service, with only a year elapsing between the suggestion for the laying of water mains and the start of the work in 1908. Yes, the



*The Water Works,
Midland Park, N.J.*



Godwin Avenue, Midland Park, N.J. before streets were paved



Original Midland Park Post Office

early part of the century was a time of growth, a time of building on carefully laid ground work or a time of planning for the future. Our borough building was completed in 1917, a year of sorrow as many of our young men went off to war. Their service was commemorated by the erection of the World War I monument at the Municipal Building in 1920.

In 1924 the school building on Godwin Avenue was destroyed by fire, but the taste of ashes is foreign to a proud people and we built a new school, on Highland Avenue, in 1925. It is hard for a proud people to be defeated, a lesson we learned during the bitter depression years of the early Thirties, when 85 of our families were on relief. We were not defeated and with the rest of the nation we recovered and went on to face the problems of the Forties and another great war; the complexities of the Fifties, with the dawn of the Space Age, and the challenge of the Sixties with its great currents of social and political turmoil.

And not having been defeated, we are unafraid. We look back on our heritage with pride and thankfulness that the precepts that guided our ancestors will stand us in good stead. Armed with that thought and the knowledge that our standards are high, our resolution strong and our devotion to our ideals unflagging, we face the future proudly and confidently.



"Hank" Shuart, one of Midland Park's early Marshals, poses with proprietor L. Eisenstein in front of tailor shop located across from the library in center of town.



Mrs. Abram Wortendyke—about 1832



Isaac Wortendyke



C. A. Wortendyke

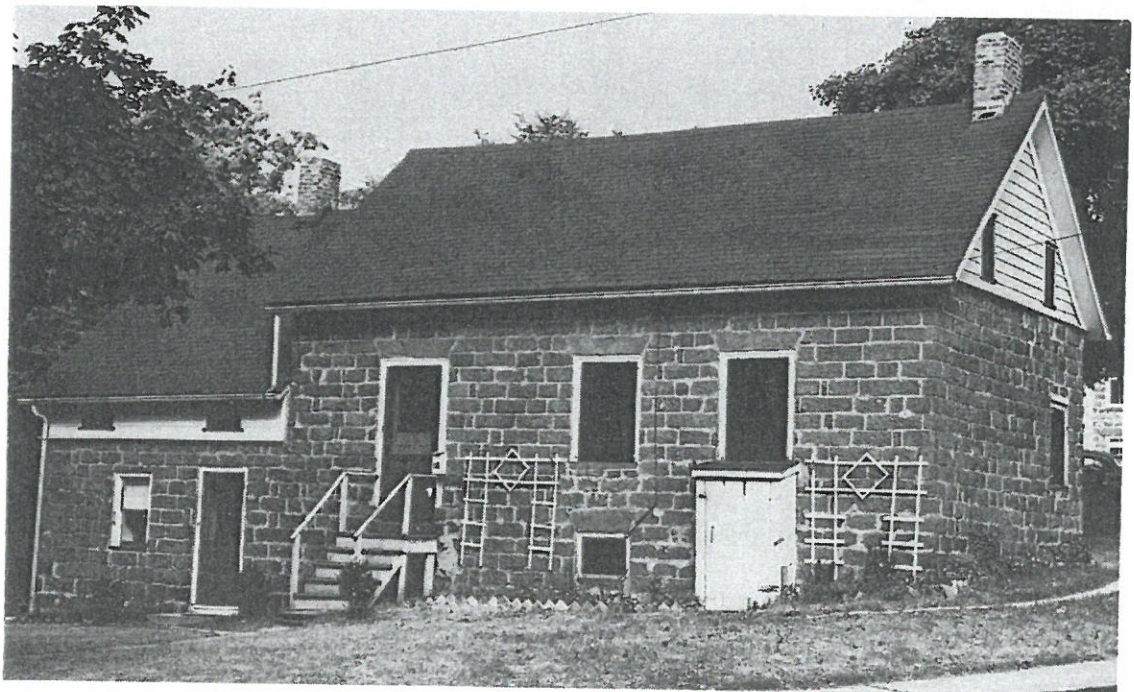
II. Building . . .

OUR HOMES AND FAMILIES

When the Dutch first arrived in the region that is now Bergen County, they made use of whatever materials were on hand to provide homes. There were sod homes on a temporary basis, log cabins and homes of rough, hand-hewn lumber. It wasn't long, however, before they discovered the abundant quarries of red sandstone and some of the homes that were made of this material have endured to the present. Most of the examples of that early-day building show regular-sized blocks set in mortar. In many cases, however, the blocks were cut in random sizes and shapes without regard to symmetry. The mortar was made from clay strengthened by straw or hog's hair.

The squat appearance of the homes undoubtedly derived from Holland. They were usually one story, with an attic used for storing of grain, sleeping quarters or for the spinning of wool. Usually there was one huge fireplace in the living room, although some of the homes had fireplaces in the kitchens, too. Since the homes were the homes of farmers, there usually was a large barn nearby, a smokehouse and a root cellar. Window glass was crudely made and some surviving examples can be seen with bubbles and waves in the panes. A sandstone house at the foot of Paterson Avenue and Goffle Road is a good example of the construction skill of the early Dutch. This home has the original windows, with 12 panes in the upper sash and eight in the lower. Like most of the homes of the day, the home also has window lintels of stone.

Lozier House, Pre-Revolutionary landmark.



The home is known as the Lozier House, although it is recorded in the Library of Congress as the "Cornelius Wortendyke House." Revolutionary War maps of the area list the home as that of Cornelis Lozier. During the Revolutionary War, a mill stood on the south side of the road and tradition links the mill to the Lozier House. Since the home was probably that of the mill owner, a man of affluence, the home would be expected to be well built.

Like many Dutch homes seen in the area today, the Lozier House represents a blend of several periods of building. Authorities believe that the stone lintels over the door and windows indicate that the main house was built in the third quarter of the 18th Century. The need for additional bedroom space probably led to the erection of the half story of frame above the wing early in the 19th century. Height was not important for bedrooms in those days; the rooms were used only for sleeping.

Another fine example of early Dutch building in our town is the Van Iderstine House at 179 Park Avenue in the Wortendyke section. The red sandstone was covered with cement and painted over in the early part of the century, but the home has the unmistakable mark of the Dutch despite a Victorian addition that was constructed about 1870.

A map on file in the Bergen County Clerk's office in Hackensack shows the Van Iderstine House on Lot 24, which originally contained 244 acres. The map was drawn in 1767-68 and the first known owner of lot 24 was Andrew Bell of Perth Amboy, who sold 39 acres to Thomas Myers of Ramapogh for a price of little less than five dollars an acre. A mortgage executed by Thomas Myers of the Township of Franklin to Thomas D. Eckerson of the Township of New Hampstead in Orange County, New York, indicates that the proceeds were used to build the earliest part of the present house.

Thomas Myers eventually sold the land and the property subsequently changed hands several times and also grew. In 1807 20 acres were added to the original 39 and 26 acres more were purchased in 1825. Under the ownership of the Masker family (1823-1854) a large addition was made



Babcock-Van Iderstine House, 179 Park Avenue, Wortendyke, N.J.

to the home. Abram C. Wortendyke bought the home and 84.71 acres from Thomas Higham Jr. on April 29, 1869 for \$10,000. Wortendyke sold the property the same year to Edward H. Babcock, the grandfather of the 1964 owner, Mrs. Helen Babcock Van Iderstine.

Many reminders of a by-gone era have been preserved in the home. The large china bell pull sets off the sound of muted sleigh bells. A large brass key is still used to lock the front door. On the interior can be seen the low-ceilinged rooms, the center stairway with one room on either side of a short hallway. One of the panes of the original glass has been inscribed "C.L.B.—Aug. 1870." This was done by the Babcocks' son with his mother's diamond ring.

The Van Iderstine house is irrevocably linked with our history because the earliest known church services in our area were held in one of its rooms. The home is also linked with the history of our nation because tradition says that Hessian soldiers were held prisoner in the basement of the home during the Revolutionary War. A narrow closet with a thick door was the prisoners' cell. There was an opening in the door where food and water could be passed to the prisoners and through which they received their only ventilation in the depths of the home, whose walls were more than two feet thick.

Mrs. Van Iderstine and many old residents of the area believe that a ghost of one of the Hessian prisoners still walks in the home. Sounds of footsteps have been heard going up the stairs, but no sounds of returning footsteps are ever heard. The ghost is a benign one, however, and other than his occasional walks, he does not disturb the residents of Van Iderstine House.

Still another fine example of Dutch construction that survives in our town is the Baldwin house on Lake Avenue between Goffle Road and Godwin Avenue. The Baldwin family settled here about 1720 and although little is known about them, 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.

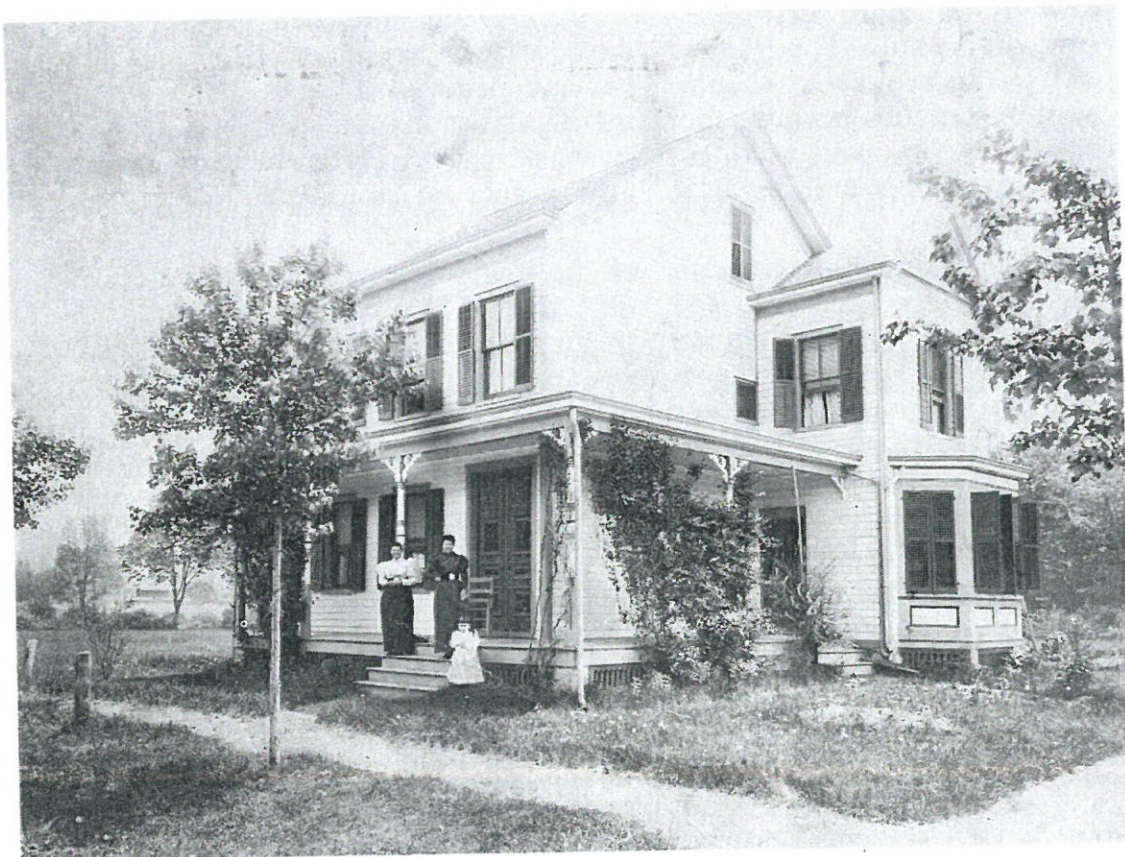
David Baldwin, a grandson of the man who built the old stone house 200 years ago, occupied the home from 1840 to the early years of the 20th century. David Baldwin was an inventor who dabbled with electrical experiments. He had the old mill equipped as an electrical laboratory and had wire connections between his home and the mill long before the invention of the telephone. The wires were part of communications and alarm system that would warn of the approach of intruders. Whenever someone approached the pond to fish without permission, an alarm would sound in the Baldwin House.

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 stately 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.



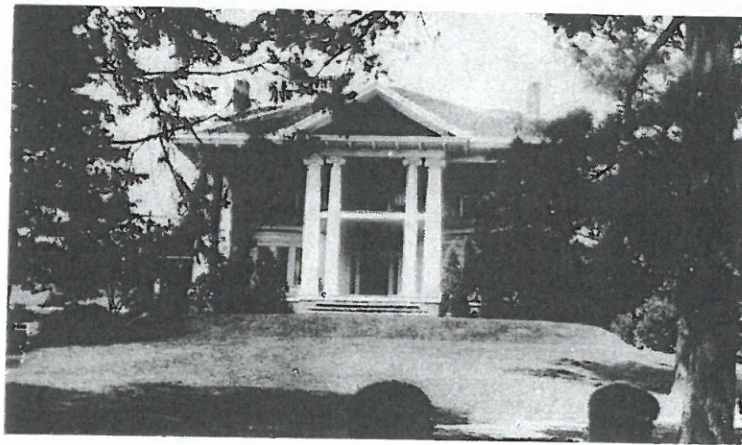
Abram Wortendyke House: Built in 1870 by C. A. Wortendyke, this beautiful home was a wedding gift to his son Abram Wortendyke.

Shuart House in the early 1890's



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 with 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.

Still another by-gone landmark in our town was the Abram C. Wortendyke house, a fine example of the Victorian rather than the Dutch architecture. This house was built in the early 1880's by Cornelius A. Wortendyke as a wedding gift to his only son. The home was last occupied by Mrs. Theodore Mastin and was razed in 1963 to make way for new homes on Este Court.



Colonial Pines

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Recollections from the golden memories of senior citizens

The old wooden bridge over Wagaraw Brook

Peter B. Terhunes's blacksmith shop at the corner of Godwin Avenue and Goffle Road

The blizzard which left an 18 ft. snow drift, completely covering two bartlett pear trees behind one of the houses on Goffle Road, near the Wostbrock Mill

The one-man police force—namely Orie Van Dyke, who made his tour of duty on bicycle, without night stick, side arms or any street lights

When meat was purchased from horse-drawn butcher wagons, before the days of butcher shops

The single line trolley—Passengers delayed the schedule, by visiting with friends on other cars—thus causing the trolley to omit the Ridgewood stop, and return directly to Paterson

The fire gong near the Methodist Church cemetery

The wonderful coasting on Chapman's Hill and Mackerel Hill—now known as Franklin Avenue and Wyckoff Avenue

When the Marlow Pumps property was a cow pasture

The "Silver Trill" Mandolin Club in the early 1900's

The old horse drawn taxi, operated by Jake Zour



1918 Mayor, Council and Police Departments, Borough of Midland Park, N.J. Seated: Councilman R. Terhune, Sgt. O. Van Dyke, Recorder Henry Van Brederode, Mayor Adolph Schleicher, Chief of Police S. Potash, Councilmen J. Steele and G. Vermulen. Standing in the rear: John Pittman, Frank Stuart, Henry Van Omen, August Fisher, John Decker, Theo. Bollerman and William Eifert.

Mayors of Midland Park

William B. Morrow 1894-1895	Dorrance Talbot 1939-1942
Robert W. Wortendyke March 1895-1896	Dr. Peter D. Westerhoff, Sr. 1943 (entered U.S. service in 1944)
Monmouth B. Wilson 1897-1900	Warren T. Brewer 1944 (Acting Mayor)
Robert W. Wortendyke 1901-1907	Harry Hoitsma 1945-1948
Hooker I. Coggeshall 1908-1911	Henry J. Wostbrock, Jr. .. 1949-1952
Henry J. Wostbrock, Sr. .. 1912-1915	Peter W. Passaro 1953-1956 (Resigned 4/11/57, elected to B.C. Bd. of Freeholders)
Adolph Schleicher 1916-1923	John Vanderbush....elected Mayor by Borough Council to serve until 1/1/1958
Henry Gunther 1924-1925	
Dr. Joseph Payne 1926-1929	
Henry Sluyter 1930-1938	

Garrett W. Hagedorn 1958 —

III. Defining . . .

OUR CIVIC CODES

We always like to think that our town has been especially favored by the caliber of public-spirited men it has attracted from the days of Cornelius Wortendyke to the present. "Public service is a public trust," could well be the guiding principle that has brought these men to make the sacrifices necessary to contribute so much to the borough. Like most municipalities in Bergen County, Midland Park is governed by men whose principal occupations are concerned with things other than government. These men supervise and guide the activities of all the full-time and part-time municipal workers.

The mayor and council form of government has been in effect in our town since the borough was incorporated in 1894. There are six councilmen and each is charged with the operations of a specific part of the local government. Elections are held every year, but the terms are designed so that no more than two council vacancies are being contested at one time.

Public meetings of the borough council are held on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of each month. The council is open to the presentation of all communications, petitions and complaints from the citizens of the town. The local governing body also receives and approves vouchers for services rendered to the borough.

As the highest elected officer in the borough, the mayor presides at all public meetings. In his absence, the mayor is replaced by the president of the council, one of the six councilmen who is elected to the post of president by his fellow members. Each of the councilmen heads a committee involving various departments of the government and each man serves on two or more committees to give the widest possible opinion on all matters of policy.

The principal committees are the finance committee, the public works committee, the public property committee, the fire committee and the health and recreation committee. The finance committee deals with the coordination of the budgets of the other committees and approves vouchers for the disbursement of funds. The borough clerk and his administrative assistant work closely with the finance committee to keep the group aware of the day-to-day operations and the costs involved in the government.

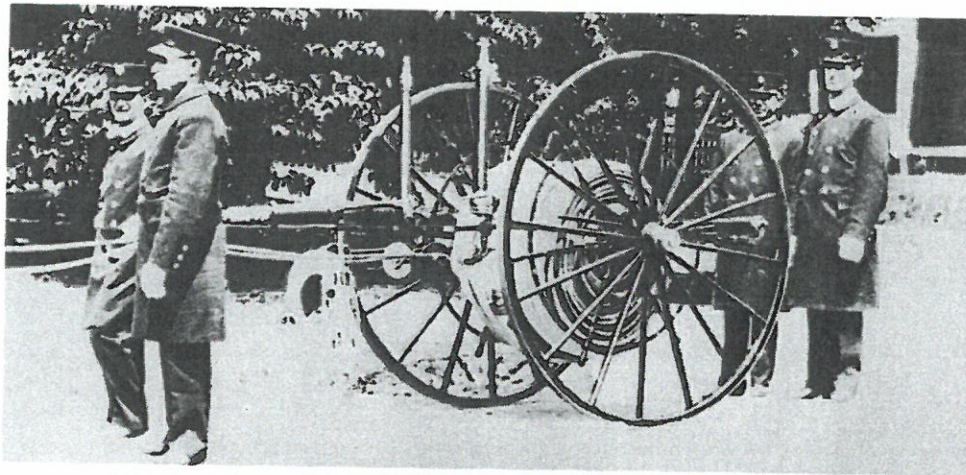
All public thoroughfares within the town limits are maintained by the public works committee. Midland Park has 47 miles of streets, including four miles of county roads. The Road Supervisor, foreman and two maintenance employees are under the direct supervision of the public works committee. The road department maintains headquarters in the municipal garage on Greenwood Avenue. Also under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Committee are the two municipal parking areas and two public recreational areas.

Responsibility for all buildings and grounds dedicated to public use rests with the Public Property Committee. The Public Property Committee supervises the Municipal Building and grounds, the Dairy Street Recreational area and buildings, the Park-Irving recreational area and the Wortendyke plaza. The committee also works closely with the Library Trustees in the maintenance and expansion of the Midland Park Memorial Library.

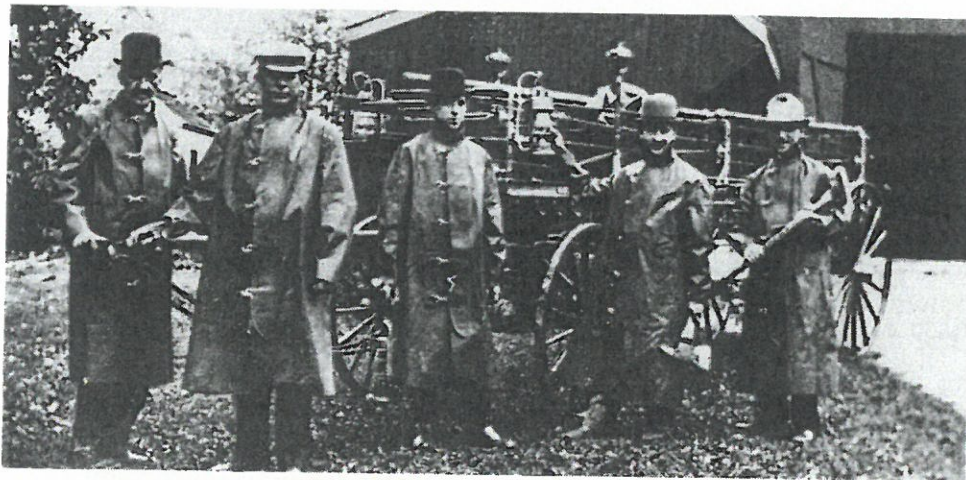
The Fire Department is the responsibility of the Fire Committee. The first fire ordinance was adopted in 1905 and it has been changed several times to keep the department apace with the growth of our town. At present the department consists of 50 volunteers headed by a Chief Engineer, an Assistant Engineer, a Captain and three Lieutenants. All members of the department are trained in the latest techniques of fire prevention and fire fighting. We have two combination pumper-engines and an emergency truck, all housed at the Municipal Building. A home alerting system for volunteers was installed in 1963 to augment the audible alarm system.



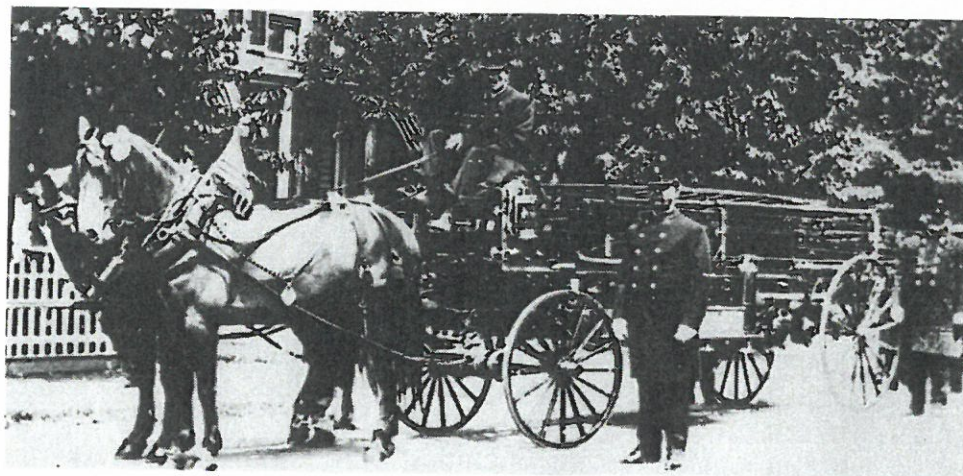
One year after the Midland Park Fire Department was organized, the above delegation attended the Atlantic City Firemen's Convention. Posing for a boardwalk photographer on September 14, 1910 are (left to right) Jacob J. Terhune, Dr. Joseph Payne, Henry Sluyter and Louis Baughman.



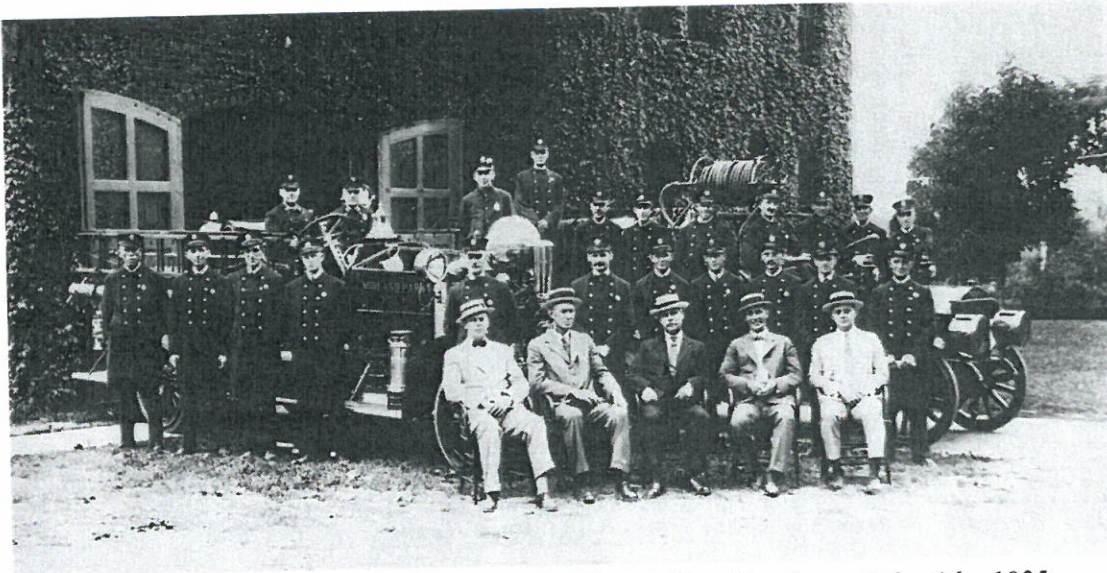
First hose reel used for fire fighting in Midland Park: Bob Sall (left) and J. J. Terhune in front; William Flaker and Fred Terhune in the rear.



First ladder truck purchased in 1909. Ready for any emergency are (left to right) Louis Essing, William Flaker, Henry Sluyter, Louis Eisenstein and Charles M. Brown.



Horse-drawn ladder truck, one of the early pieces of fire fighting equipment owned by the Midland Park Fire Department. Standing are Ruthwin Terhune and Sam Stanford, Sr. August Fisher is in the driver's seat.



Midland Park Fire Department pose with Ahrens Fox Truck on July 4th, 1925.

Our equipment is first-rate and our men of top-calibre as proved by many competitions with volunteer departments of other municipalities.

Ordinances involving the health of our community are the responsibility of the Health and Recreation Committee, which has two working groups whose members are appointed by the mayor. The Board of Health is comprised of five members appointed for a term of four years. The Board is charged with the task of passing, altering or amending ordinances or rules and regulations affecting the public health.

From its inception in 1957, the Board of Health has provided health services direct to the community through part-time employees working directly for the borough. In 1957, Midland Park and two other communities joined to form the Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission. A fourth community joined in 1958. This commission is composed of two members from each town's Board of Health. The commission employs a Health Officer, a Chief Administrator, Sanitary Inspector, secretary and clerk typist. These employees, appointed as agents for the member towns, are able to provide full-time health services encompassing all necessary standards for sound public health.

Midland Park's health standards are in excess of the standards required of Municipal Boards of Health by New Jersey legislation passed in 1960. These high standards are attributable to the high degree of training and skill maintained in employees as a result of membership in the Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission.

Recreation has become of increasing importance in our lives and the lives of our families in recent years because of the shorter work week and the longer vacation period. As a result, the Citizens Recreation Program has grown until today it offers a wide variety of activities to children and adults of our town. All recreational facilities are open to the residents of Midland Park without charge. This includes both summer and winter programs, indoors and outdoors.

Of course, the largest undertaking involves the summer program, when the children are out of school. This playground program offers tennis, handball, baseball, swimming and other games as well as arts and crafts.

Our Kiddie Day program, which is sponsored by the Mayor and the Council, is the annual climax to a summer of fun and healthful activity. The program is open to all ages and is a summer highlight of the pre-school days.

In the winter, ice skating is enjoyed on the pond in the Irving-Park recreation area and the high school gymnasium is crowded with would-be stars of the basketball courts. Bowling teams are sponsored by the committee and boys and girls are offered the chance to compete against youngsters of comparable skills. Other popular indoor activities on the winter program are calisthenic classes and trampoline tumbling. Just as the Kiddie Day is the highlight of the summer program, the Halloween Party staged by the Citizens Recreation Committee and the Midland Park Fire Company is a high spot with the youngsters in the fall.

Both summer and winter games are held in The Barn at the Dairy Street recreation area. In summer, the enrollment numbers about 700 children each week and in winter about 250 youngsters weekly make use of the recreational facilities.

The Public Safety Committee is the administrative body for the police department, which consists of a Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant and four Patrolmen. The well-manned and equipped department is charged with the preservation of public order, the apprehension and detection of criminals and the regulation of the flow of traffic. A new manual of Rules and Regulations was adopted for the Police Department in 1962.

Twenty-four hour patrols are maintained on the streets of our borough. A second patrol car is available for emergency duty or to help during periods of critical traffic flow. Complete radio coverage is provided and the borough is linked instantaneously with other police departments in the area through a teletype printer. The local records bureau is one of the best among smaller communities in the state.

Civil Defense Police Reserves supplement the full-time force in critical periods. These men have had special police training and are qualified for assignment to duty by the Chief of Police when required.

Again it is a matter of pride with us when we state that our crime rate is low and the incidence of delinquency trifling. This is a tribute to our citizens as well as to our efficient, modern police department.

Naturally, all borough services cost money and the funds to pay for these services are raised by taxes, with real estate providing the major share of the tax budget. The Tax Assessor is charged with assessing all property in the borough at fair value. The Tax Assessor is elected for a term of four years, involves the collecting of taxes due the borough.

In addition to the elective offices and the departments directly under the supervision of the councilmen, Midland Park, as well as other municipalities in Bergen County, require the services of specialized boards to accomplish the task of fair and just local administration. These boards are filled by the public-minded citizen who have never been in short supply in our town. Among these boards are the Planning Board, which deals with the construction of homes and businesses; the Department of Buildings, which reviews the standards to be followed by contractors, and the Board of Adjustment, which acts on appeals for exceptions to building and zoning codes. In addition, the Mayor may also recommend other specialized groups be formed to study such matters as traffic, industrial expansion or anniversaries—the annual kinds or the ones marking our State's 300th year.



Midland Park Office as it stands today.

Although the Post Office cannot properly be termed a part of the municipal government, the Post Office has played a vital part in the growth of Midland Park. In the early days of our town, the Post Office helped to attract more business to the area, for a Post Office was a sign of civilization, a mark of progress. Thus when the first postmaster, Albert G. Hopper, was sworn in on March 18, 1873, the future of our town could be said to be assured. No longer was our mail delivered to Ho-Ho-Kus and then taken back to our town by horseback. Mail trains made regular stops after that and the volume of mail rose as the town grew.

Many of our postmasters have led distinguished careers, adding to their public service by participation in the life of the community. Fittingly, there were two Wortendykes who served as postmasters and coincidentally there were two men named Post.

The first Postmaster Post was John H. Post, who held the office from May, 1889, to September, 1893, and returned for a second tenure from April, 1897 to October, 1914. His son, Thomas Post, served as Postmaster from October, 1914, until 1933. At present we have a third generation of the Post family, Edwin Post, a grandson of John H. Post, in our postal system. He has been associated with the post office in Midland Park since 1920.

John J. Wortendyke, a descendant of the man who helped bring our town into being, served as postmaster for one year, from April, 1875, to March, 1876. Another Wortendyke, Robert H. Wortendyke, served a two-year term, from April, 1895, to April, 1897. Other Postmasters and their terms were: Lambert Snyder, March, 1876, to February, 1880; Charles W. Van Ness, February, 1880, to May, 1889; George Geynon, September, 1893, to February, 1894; Abram Hengveld, February, 1894, to April, 1895; Frank Martin, December, 1933, to December, 1956; Laura E. De Boer, December, 1956, to September, 1959, and Walter G. Haddock, from September, 1959, to the present.

A quasi-governmental body and an important one is the Civil Defense and Disaster Control Council. This group sprang into existence during the days of World War II when saboteurs were landing on Long Island and the possibility of extensive plant bombings seemed possible. The Defense Council of Midland Park was created by Mayor Dorrance Talbot on August 11, 1941. Police Chief Orie Van Dyke, Fire Chief Barney Vander Snow and three private citizens—Joseph Obeeny, Theodore Mastin and Frederick Woelfle were named to the council.

On October 20, 1941, the unit held its organizational meeting in the Municipal Building. Joseph S. Obeeny was elected chairman; Barney Vander Snow vice chairman and Doris Moore (Mrs. William Yonkers) was appointed secretary. Under the suggested plan of organization promulgated by the State of New Jersey, the Defense Council listed its objectives as the safe-guarding of the interests of the Borough of Midland Park, the protection of the people, their homes, businesses and morale.

During the war years, many local residents were named to serve with the Defense Council. Many of our citizens spent long lonely hours on air-raid warning duty or on sabotage alert at principal manufacturing plants. As the war threats waned, however, interest in the work of the council waned, too, and Mayor Henry J. Wostbrock, Jr. reorganized the Defense Council in 1949. Thomas A. Coleman was named chairman of the group on June 27, 1949. He served until September of the next year and was succeeded upon his resignation by Thomas Dykstra Sr.

Mr. Dykstra headed the Defense Council for nine years until pressure of business forced him to resign in 1959, when he agreed to continue with the organization as deputy director. Frank Rickettson moved into the post of director, but remained in charge only until midyear when he was succeeded by Thomas McKim, the Borough Clerk. Mr. McKim, assisted by Mr. Dykstra, heads the civil defense council at the present.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Midland Park Elementary PTA was organized in 1922 and has continued to be an active community group throughout the years? Their efforts are directed toward the welfare of the child and promote close cooperation between the parents and school.

All Midland Park High School students attended Ridgewood High School between the years of 1905 and 1932? Prior to that, students were sent to Hackensack High School.

Our Town's fine school system is a tribute to the citizens of Midland Park and the many dedicated members of the Boards of Education who have served their community throughout the years?

The elevation of Godwinville was 137.4?

There are more than 50 homes in our town reported to be over 100 years old?

The population in 1910 was 2,001; in 1920 was 2,243; in 1940 was 4,048; in 1950 was 5,146 and in the last census of 1960 was 7,635?

The assessed valuation of taxable property in 1920 was \$1,488,023. Today it is over \$8,700,000?



First Elementary School built in Midland Park—about 1890.



Class of 1890

IV. Educating . . .

OUR YOUNGER GENERATION

Education and schools have always been close to the hearts of our people ever since the earliest days of our town. The first interest in school is shown by a lease granted by Cornelius Wortendyke on September 1, 1811 for the erection of a school building. The lease covered a plot of land near the site of the present Methodist Church and ran for a term of 25 years. Issac Blauvelt, Jacob Quackenbush and "others of Newtown, Trustees," were named in the lease. The building that was erected was the first schoolhouse in our town.

From what we know of conditions in those days, it can be assumed that the school curriculum was simple, the learning by rote, the discipline severe. The philosophy of "spare the rod and spoil the child," undoubtedly held sway, for it was not until around the middle of the 19th century that more enlightened teaching methods began to gain popularity.

The first schoolhouse, a frame building, was destroyed by fire in 1822. A new school, of brownstone construction, was erected near Lydecker Mills, a grist mill approximately on the corner of Paterson and Goffle Road, between the Midland Park railroad station and the brook that ran beside the mills. Dutch and English were spoken in this building, which was used until 1859, when a small building of brick was erected on Godwin Avenue one block north of the intersection of Vreeland and Godwin Avenue. Still standing, this building is behind the structures facing Godwin Avenue. It became known as the Public Schoolhouse, District No. 46 Franklin Township. Henry Westervelt, the first teacher, was succeeded in order by Tunis Crum, Isaac Sturr, Richard Elsworth, Asabel Abbott, John Turner, Rev. Mathew 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, employ and license teachers. In 1846, a township superintendent was appointed and each township was required to raise by local taxation at least as much money for schools as 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. This method subsequently proved unsatisfactory.

Bergen County was divided into districts, supervised by town superintendents until 1866. The area of Midland Park and Wortendyke was included in the district of Franklin Institute No. 1. Before Midland Park was incorporated as a borough in 1894, it was included in Franklin Township, which had seven schools. Of these schools, Midland Park's school, built in 1866, as a two-story frame building of four classrooms to accommodate 206 children, was reported to be valued at \$6,500. It was the largest school building in the township; the others were valued at \$1,000 or less. Situated on the site of the present Midland Park Memorial Library on the corner of Franklin and Godwin Avenue, the school was used until January 5, 1924, when it was destroyed by fire.



Class of 1894/5



Class of 1899

School laws were revised in 1867 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 in 1886 the fourth county superintendent. Mr. Terhune was very active and successful in promoting school libraries. Libraries were established in virtually every school under his supervision. His interest in the observance of Arbor Day earned him a state-wide reputation. He prepared the first Bergen County course of study and improved the system of eighth-grade examinations, with a county diploma being awarded for successful completion.

In writing to George H. Osborn, the Principal of the Midland Park School in 1901, Mr. Terhune, then the county superintendent, credited Isaac Wortendyke with having introduced him to the study of nature as a boy. The interest in nature led to Mr. Terhune's lifetime interest in Arbor Day observances. Mr. Terhune also said that Isaac Wortendyke had been influential in bringing the Normal School trained teacher into the district about 1861. Following John Terhune as principals, while the school was under the township regime, were Arthur M. Hyde, William Green, George A. DeBaun and John Ackerman.

With the incorporation of the Borough of Midland Park in 1894, the school system came under the control of the first Midland Park Board of Education, which met for the first time on September 12, 1894. The members of the Board were: John R. Carlough, President, George W. Holt, District Clerk, Stephen Wynkoop, D. L. Wortendyke, William Morrow, John Chapman and Jacob Leenas.

A special election asked the following appropriations for six months:

Teachers' Salaries, \$472.78; Janitor, \$200; Coal, \$100; Books, \$100; Heater Repair, \$50; Repairs and Incidentals, \$70; Clerk's Salary, \$20.

Of 50 ballots cast, 46 were in the affirmative.



Early classroom interior—about 1910.

The following school year, in March, 1895, an election resulted in the board membership being composed of Robert H. Wortendyke, I. W. Gan-non, Stephen Wynkoop, D. C. Wortendyke, Robert V. Lewis, Marcus Young, Hugh T. Lawrence and George Holt. On the teaching staff, en-gaged by this group, as of May, 1895, were:

G. W. Weynant, who had a salary of \$750; Carrie Halstedt, \$475; E. Hengeveld, \$400; Grace Cook, \$350.

Mr. Weynant's appointment ended the term of John Ackerman as prin-cipal. In August 1895, the salary for the janitor, Louis Carlough, was set at \$200 per year. Mr. Weynant continued as principal until 1898, when the Board appointed G. H. Osborn at a salary of \$750 annually. It was stated that if there was a balance 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 started service on the board in March 1901. They were Henry Sluyter, John Cronk—who became District Clerk and Secretary of the Board of Education in 1905, an office he held for 35 years, until his death—Garret Klopman and Samuel Van Blarcom. The other members of the Board were Edward M. Krech, Henry J. Wostbrock, president; Edward Van Splinter, Robert V. Lewis and George Holt. Miss Virginia M. Evans who taught the eighth grade until 1933, was appointed a teacher at the 1901 board meeting. Miss Evans was greatly beloved and highly respected by her hundreds of pupils. Also in 1901, 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 of a brick annex beside the frame building. On May 10, 1905, the voters, by 43 to 34, gave approval to the construction of a brick annex, at the cost of \$8,000. An extension to the annex was built in 1908 at a cost of \$6,341.00. The frame building erected in 1866 and the annex completed in 1908 housed the school system until January 5, 1924, when the buildings were destroyed by fire.

Garret Van Dyke (popularly known by the children as "Pop") was ap-pointed the school janitor in May 1907. His starting salary was \$42.50 per month. Through the years he served in the frame building, the brick annex, the Highland Avenue School and in the Godwin School, which was built in 1951. A community-wide testimonial dinner in 1956 honored his 50 years of service. Mr. Van Dyke died on August 24, 1957.

Adolph Schleicher, August H. Wostbrock and William Ryans became board members in 1911. Henry Sluyter became president and Adolph Schleicher became vice president. Since Henry Sluyter was Collector of Taxes with the additional duty of Custodian of School Funds, it was deemed advisable that he not serve as president. He therefore resigned and Adolph Schleicher became president. Mr. Sluyter remained on the Board, however, and served a long career as a Board member. Adolph Schleicher resigned in 1914 to assume membership on the Borough Council.

In April, 1917, Charles Oley resigned as Principal after more than 15 years of creditable service in the borough's schools. After his death his portrait was purchased by funds raised by his former pupils and presented to the school in tribute to his memory. Abel Rose was appointed as Mr. Oley's successor at a salary of \$1,200 annually.

Some apprehension was expressed in February, 1918, about the sturdiness and safety of the original frame building. It was urged that the State Department have an examination made by one of its inspectors. The subsequent report of the inspector indicated that there was no occasion for alarm. Another suggestion made that year was for the establishment of a dental clinic. After a committee visited a clinic in the Hawthorne Schools and returned a favorable report, such a clinic was instituted in Midland Park.

Concern continued to be shown about the inadequacy and safety of the school facilities. In 1921, the enrollment was rapidly nearing 500. Leland F. Reynolds was the principal, heading a staff of 11 teachers. The Board of Education began exploring solutions to the problem, which seemed to call for a new school building. This is shown in a report made in December, 1921, when a report was received on a conference with the Borough Attorney. It was advised that the first step should be the selection of a site. The attorney recommended that an informal meeting of citizens be called to ascertain the sentiment of the public. This meeting took place in January, 1922, but there is no indication of any accomplishments.

The proposal for a new school was given further impetus in February, 1922, when it was referred to the county superintendent of schools. An architect, William Fanning of Paterson, prepared preliminary plans or sketches, one for a 10-room addition to the present building and another for an 18-room structure on a new site. The new school proposition appeared on the agenda at almost every board meeting. In July, 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 erection 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 (the present site). Approximately 200 citizens participated in the election; 127 were against the purchase of the land. On the request for authority to erect a school building, 59 approved and 136 were against the granting of such authority. In a second election in October, 1922, the expansion plan was rejected, 166 votes to 67. An Advisory Citizens Committee of about 25 citizens was formed in April, 1923. Three plans were studied:

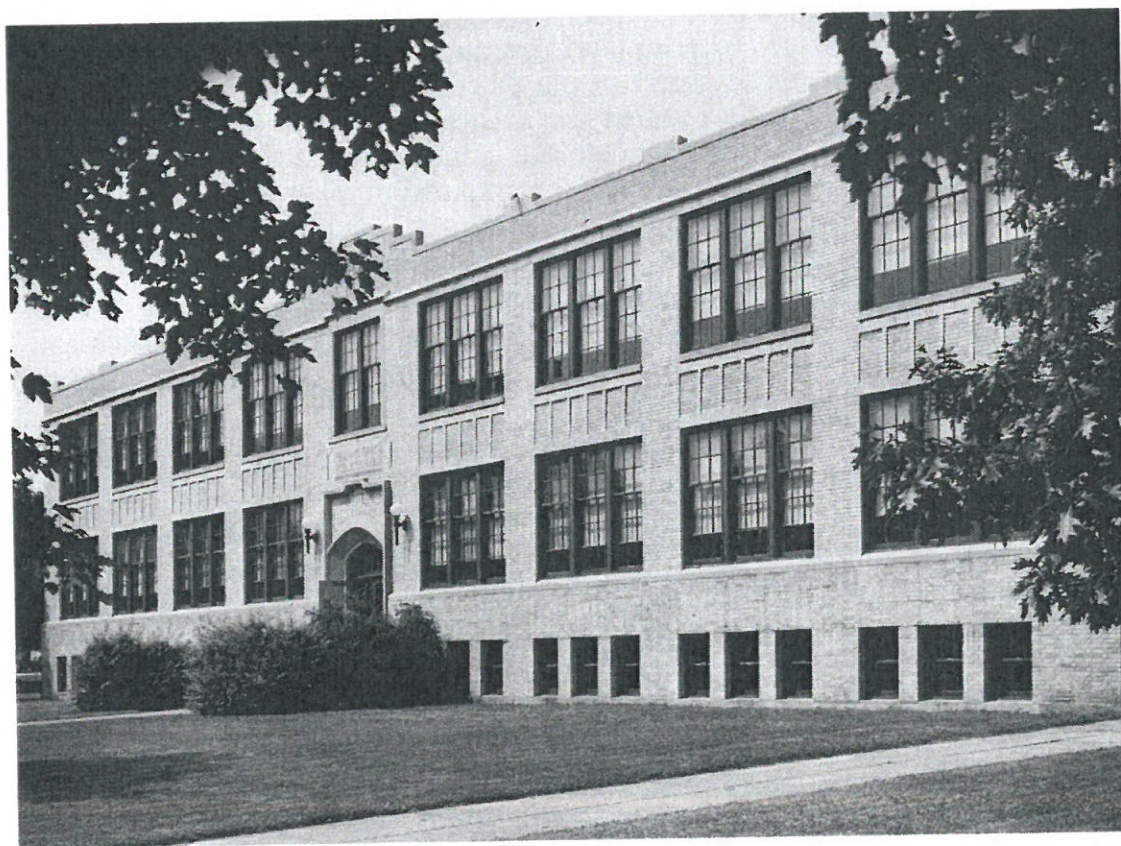
1. An addition to brick building constructed in 1905
2. Two small schools in the eastern and western sections of town
3. The erection on a new site of a twenty-room building of fireproof construction without auditorium

Plan 3 which was estimated to involve a cost of \$166,680, exclusive of the cost of the site, grading and furniture, was approved, 218 to 85, in December, 1923. On January 5, 1924, a fire destroyed both the old frame structure built in about 1866 and the brick building erected in 1905 and 1908. The borough had no school facilities at all, but within two weeks all children were attending classes in Wyckoff Public School, the Midland Park Christian School, all the church school rooms and the Council Chamber. Work went ahead rapidly on bids and construction of the Highland Avenue School and the cornerstone was laid Memorial Day 1924.

Construction of an auditorium, in an open area in the center of the building, was started in September, 1926. Built at an estimated cost of \$34,500, of which \$23,000 was realized from insurance on the building destroyed by fire, the auditorium was completed in the spring of 1927. It was used

for the first time for the presentation of an operetta "Peter Rabbit" on May 19, 1927. The completed school contained 19 rooms, an office, a medical room, (a nurse added to staff in 1927) and an auditorium. The basement contained open areas, part of which was set aside for playroom facilities. Parts of other basement areas were made into manual training and home economics quarters, in 1926. Even though the expense of this renovation was borne mostly by state aid, it failed to meet the voters approval the first time it was submitted. Later that year, after diligent work by the board of education members, the proposal on the renovations was resubmitted to the voters and passed by 182 votes to 50. To conform to a system adopted at Ridgewood High School, our receiving district for high school pupils, a junior high school system was established locally in 1930. There were 177 pupils in grades seven through nine. Grade 9 contained 55 pupils—of whom 38 were taking a business course, the rest college preparatory and general courses. The teaching staff contained 23 members for an enrollment of 578 in kindergarten through the ninth grade. Our school was growing and in 1930 a school library was started to serve the pupils. Midland Park was invited to participate in a teacher training program by the Normal Schools of the state in 1931. This program has been continued ever since. More than 300 student teachers have been trained in the Midland Park Public Schools between 1931-1963 and many have returned to teach in our town.

Until 1932, state examinations were given in Midland Park schools in geography and hygiene in the seventh grade and arithmetic, spelling, english and history in the eighth grade plus local examinations. In 1932, standardized achievement tests—usually given twice a year—were started. The junior high school schedule was changed from five periods a day of 65



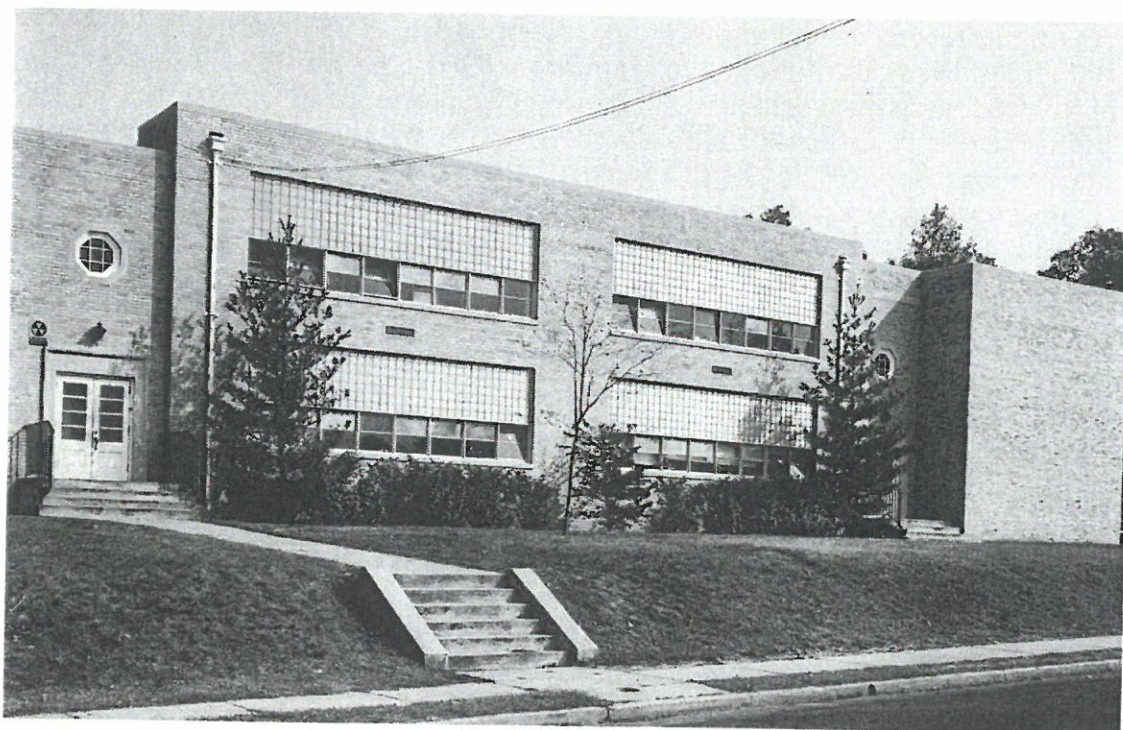
Highland Elementary School, Highland Avenue, Midland Park, N.J. (Built in 1924)

minutes each to seven of 50 minutes each. The reporting system was changed from 10 reports a year to 6. Alphabetical marks were adopted, replacing a numerical system of marking.

Richard M. Hartman, the Supervising Principal, 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 the growth of our town, because of residential construction, moved sharply upward, with 358 new dwelling units constructed during that year. This caused an upsurge in school enrollment to 763 pupils in the kindergarten through ninth grade and additional facilities became necessary. As a result, the Godwin School was erected on a new site on East Center Street directly to the rear of the Highland Avenue building.

The first six-room section of this building, completed and occupied 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 for occupancy in September, 1954, when the building then contained 11 classrooms and a small administrative office area. The first, second and third grades, were housed in this building, leaving the kindergartens and grades four through nine in the Highland Avenue School. Both buildings, containing 992 pupils, remained under the supervision of the superintendent of schools until September 1954 when John Orr, a junior high school mathematics teacher was appointed principal for the Highland Avenue School. The following year, in September, 1955, 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, 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 staff for seven years.



Godwin Elementary School, 41 East Center Street, Midland Park, N. J. (Built in 1952)

Midland Park received notice from the Pompton Lakes Board of Education in May, 1954, that the population growth in Pompton Lakes made it necessary to stop accepting high school pupils from our town effective at the end of the 1956-57 school year. It then became necessary to make other arrangements for the education of the senior high school students. The student population growth, crowding in the local junior high school, the dissatisfaction always inherent in a sending-receiving relationship, and the fact that a local high school could serve the community in many ways, caused thoughts to turn to a high school for Midland Park.

An educational consultant, Dr. Felix McCormick of Teachers' College, Columbia University, was employed to study our school needs. Two official public hearings were held by the Board of Education to report his findings and recommendations to the citizens. 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 to construct the proposed new building was granted on December 1, 1954. The referendum was passed on June 2, 1955. Ground was broken in the fall of 1955 and the school opened in September, 1957, with 484 students including tuition pupils in grades 9, 10, and 11 from Waldwick and ninth grade students from Wanaque. The Wanaque pupils attended for the 1957-58 year, but the others remained since the Waldwick and Midland Park Boards of Education had agreed that Waldwick students in grades 9 through 12 would attend Midland Park Junior-Senior High School through 1964-65.

Ervin A. Arbo, selected by the Board of Education to be the first principal of the junior-senior high school, assumed the position in July, 1956, a year before the school was opened. He assisted in developing the curriculum, equipping and staffing the new school. Mr. Arbo resigned in June, 1958. Milburn Dixon, chairman of the mathematics and science department served as acting principal until April, 1959, when William D. Polhemus was appointed. In January, 1961, Arthur H. Fugelsoe was appointed assistant principal. Mr. Fugelsoe had been a member of the junior-senior high school staff for two and a half years and mathematics and science department head for part of this time.

The Midland Park Junior-Senior High School was erected on a 22.2 acre site on Prospect Street between Sunset Avenue and Crest Drive. This area was formerly known as Blom's Dairy. It is in the north-central part of the Borough, within walking distance for the age pupils it serves. It is an attractive one-story building containing 32 academic and special classrooms, a library, gymnasium, three guidance offices, administrative area, music, industrial areas, homemaking rooms, and a double cafeteria. It does not contain an auditorium. In 1962 additional locker room and team facilities were added. A contract was awarded in June, 1962, for the installation of a language laboratory.

In January, 1961, the Midland Park Junior-Senior High School was evaluated by the Middle States Association and later that year it received accreditation from the Association. The High School offers a comprehensive program that has enabled more than 50 per cent of its students to enter four-year colleges and other institutions of higher learning. From September, 1961, to June, 1963, the junior-senior high school operated on double sessions because of the increase in students from Midland Park and from



Midland Park Junior-Senior High School, Prospect Street (Built in 1957)

the sending district. The sending district opened its own high school in September, 1963, and a wave session program was substituted for one year due to only 11th and 12th grade Waldwick tuition students attending. Beginning in 1964-65 the school will be on single session.

Dr. Taylor resigned as superintendent of schools in March, 1959, completing a tenure of 11 years. Dr. Robert N. Grove was appointed his successor in September, 1959.

The 1960 census showed Midland Park with a population of 7,543 persons, a gain of 2,379 since 1950. This gain was reflected in a second report by Dr. McCormick in July, 1962, that noted that "the population and enrollment increases of the past decade have placed a heavy burden on the elementary school plants." Both elementary schools were utilized beyond their desirable capacity rating and six additional kindergarten sections were in temporary quarters at the Christian Reformed Church.

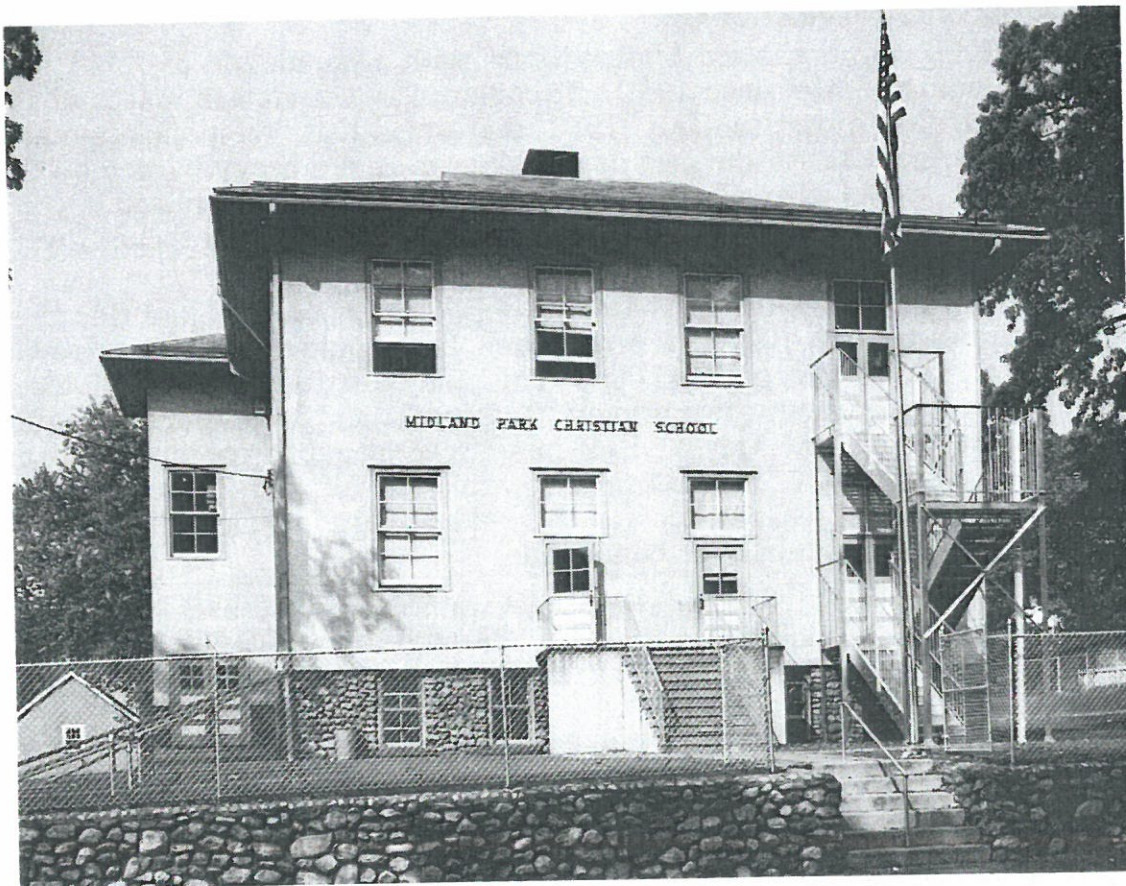
After a long study, the local Board of Education sought State Board of Education approval to hold a referendum on an addition to the Godwin School at a total cost of \$300,000. This addition would consist of three kindergarten classrooms, two primary classrooms and an all purpose room. The referendum, held May 7, 1963 after several public meetings and an official public hearing, resulted in a vote of 504 for and 263 against the proposal. Ground was broken for this addition during December, 1963, with 1964 the target date for completion.

In October, 1963 the school system had the following number of pupils: kindergarten to sixth grade, 950; 7-9, 315; 10-12, 304, for a total of 1,569 pupils from Midland Park. There were an additional 254 students in grades 11 and 12 from Waldwick. This is a total of 1,923 pupils.

During the 1963-64 year, the staff consisted of 91 teachers, 3 nurses, 10½ clerical and secretarial personnel, 3 guidance counsellors, 1 librarian, 9 cafeteria workers and 9½ custodians and 1½ in maintenance and 1 matron. There are, in addition, four administrators, a superintendent and a school business administrator. There are 3 buildings, two elementary and one junior-senior high school.



Church of the Nativity Parochial School, Prospect Street (Built in 1957)



Eastern Christian School, Maltbie Road (Built in 1911)

We are fortunate in having two fine private schools in Midland Park. The Midland Park Christian School, which is sponsored by the Christian Reformed Church, has been part of our educational life since 1911. The grammar school of the Church of the Nativity was opened in 1957 to serve the Roman Catholic children of our town.

Just as the public school had a modest start, so, too, did the Nativity School. The Rev. William F. Sheehan, the pastor of the Church, authorized the opening of a one-room school in September, 1957. There were 42 students in the first grade, with Miss Bregitte Sys as the teacher. Father Sheehan pursued more ambitious plans while the first grade operation continued. 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 the teaching staff composed of Sisters of St. Dominic from Caldwell, N. J. Sister M. Rita Joseph, O.P., was the principal of the school, which had an original enrollment of 175. The enrollment grew in succeeding years to 225, 292, 330 and 363 for the 1962-63 school period.

The fifth grade of 1959 was taught in the balcony room of Nativity Church. In 1960 the cafeteria was divided to provide two classrooms, one for the sixth year and one for the seventh grade, which was instituted in 1961.

The Rev. Francis J. Ballinger, Father Sheehan's successor as pastor, completed a new addition to the school in 1963. This addition, which provides for an expected increase in enrollment, contains seven new classrooms, six new outdoor classrooms, an all-purpose room equipped for gym classes, a faculty lounge and offices for the nurse and the principal and for the reception of visitors.

The present school contains grades one through eight. In June, 1963, the first graduation exercises were held.

The Midland Park Christian School on Maltbie Avenue is affiliated with the Eastern Christian School Association, the largest layman-controlled school system in New Jersey. Founded in 1911 by parents of Reformed persuasion who sought to give their children an education based on their religious teachings, the Christian School has always been parent-controlled. Until 1950, when the school became part of the Eastern Association, the board of directors of the local school were all residents of Midland Park. Membership in the Eastern Christian School Association, which is composed of five elementary schools, a junior high school and a high school in Midland Park, Wyckoff, Prospect Park, North Haledon and Passaic, caused the Christian School to change its system. Initially the school had offered all grades from kindergarten to the eighth. After joining the association, the school taught kindergarten through the sixth grade, with the students then going to junior high school in Prospect Park for the seventh and eighth grades and then going on to high school in North Haledon.

In 1964, the Midland Park Christian School had an enrollment of 235. Some pupils in the northern section of the borough attend the Wyckoff Christian School. Thirty-two students from Midland Park attend the Eastern Christian Junior High School and 48 are enrolled in the Eastern Christian High School. The total enrollment of the Eastern Christian School Association is 1,850.

- A library, as much a part of our cultural life as our educational process, is one of the vital community assets of which we are proud. Our first library was established in the school by the Borough Improvement Association, but was wiped out in the fire that destroyed the school in January, 1924.

It took six years for a library to emerge from those bitter ashes. This time the efforts of Mrs. Thomas Young, the chairman of the Civic Committee of the Woman's Club, helped to crystallize the clamor for a new library. Mrs. Young called a mass meeting in the Municipal Building on April 9, 1930 to promote the cause of the library. The principal speaker was Miss Sarah Askew, the New Jersey State Librarian, who gave an inspiring talk on the need of a library.

By that fall, a library was established in a classroom of the Highland Avenue School. Miss Hulda Block of the school faculty was the librarian, a post that was taken over by Mrs. Young soon after the library opened.

A free public library was established by the municipal government in November, 1937. Operated in part by public funds, the library was governed by a board of trustees headed by Mrs. Hooker I. Coggeshall. A vacant store at 220 Godwin Avenue was selected to house the library, which was incorporated in 1938. The growing demands for library services and the growing number of books ordained the moving of the library to more adequate quarters and the cornerstone for a library building was laid on September 23, 1950 on the site of the old school.

The library building was a tribute to the unflagging devotion to the community of such persons as Mrs. Coggeshall and Mrs. Young, who died in November, 1958. Mrs. F. Leslie Strickland was appointed librarian to succeed Mrs. Young.



Cornerstone ceremony Midland Park Memorial Library—1950.

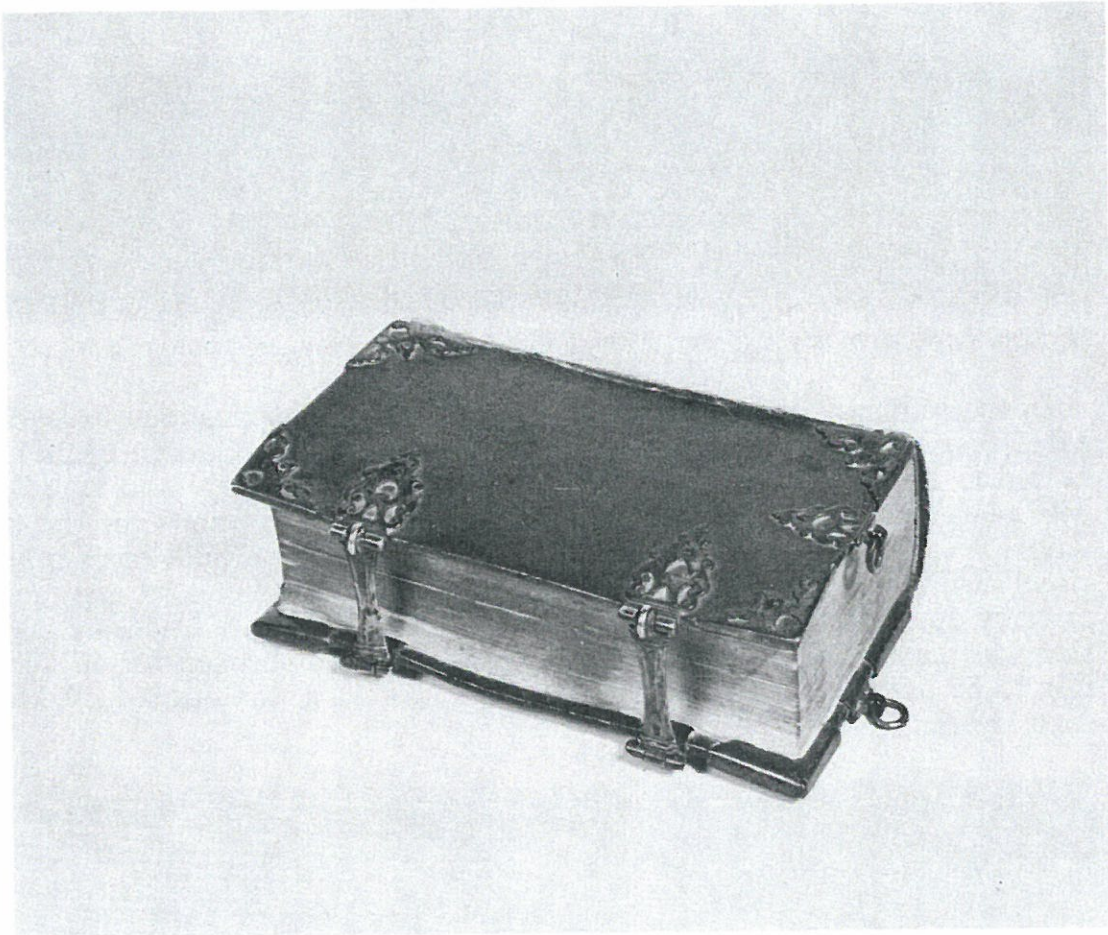


Midland Park Memorial Library, Franklin and Godwin Avenues, Midland Park, N. J.

In the Midland Park tradition of service, many organizations have donated books to the library on frequent occasions. The Garden Club has helped to keep the grounds of the library landscaped neatly and supplied with plantings. The club also has provided floral decorations for the interior on special days. An auxiliary group, the Library Guild, has worked closely with the trustees and has provided physical and financial assistance to carry out many of the library projects. Due to increased needs expansion was inevitable and in January, 1963, ground was broken for an addition to be used as a children's room. This new wing was opened on May 20th, 1963.



Library Interior, (L to R) Ronald Smith, Carol Lenaeus, Patricia Schaafsman, Ruth Kerr



Early settlers of Midland Park were deeply religious. The above photograph of a rare 200 year old bible, printed in Dutch, was hung by ribbons and carried around the necks of our pioneer women.



V. **Worshiping . . .**

IN OUR FATHER'S WAY

The pride that motivated our ancestors in so many things in the early days of our community also applied to their religious lives. They were proud of their faith and humble in their following of its teachings. In the early days, there were undoubtedly family prayer services, which were later expanded to neighborhood services and then community services. The setting for this worship often was mundane: a humble home, a barn or a store, but the fierce, burning faith, the zeal that was to lead to the building of so many churches in our community was there. We like to think that the same zeal remains today. Certainly our churches help to set the spiritual and social standards of the borough.

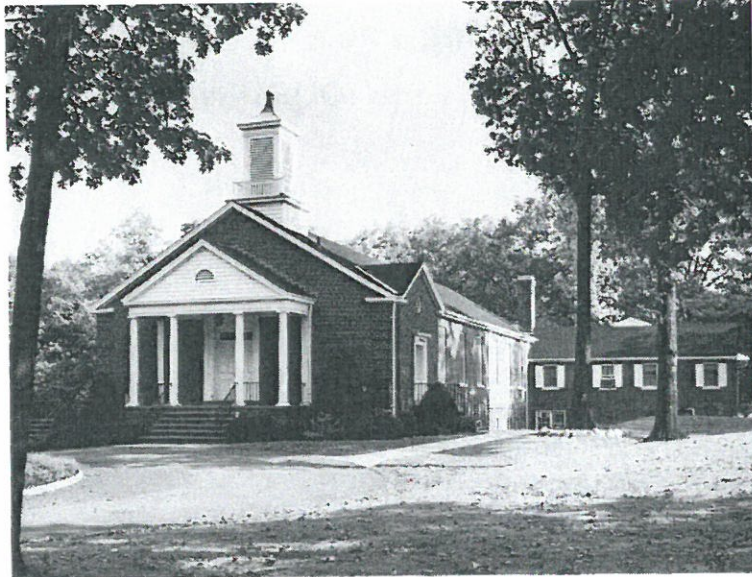
Although the earliest settlers were Dutch and their religion Calvinistic, the first formally established church in our town appears to have been Methodist. This was in 1802, following the start of a Methodist crusade in Bergen County that began with the founding of a Methodist Society in New Prospect, now Walduick. Using a general store as their meeting place, a small group of Christians founded in 1802 a Methodist Society that became part of the New Prospect Circuit. The store, reconstructed in 1812, was about 150 feet to the rear of the present church building. In 1842, the church burned and a new log church was built approximately 100 feet north of the present building, where the mausoleum of John Marr stands. A larger place of worship was built in 1867 on the present site at a cost of \$9,000.00. By 1871, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Godwinville had 54 members. The members were divided in 1904, and a number withdrew and founded the Trinity Reformed Church of Wortendyke. Active membership in the church grew again and had increased 69 per cent by 1910.

Feeling the need of a new church in 1953, the Church Board decided to rebuild on the same spot (269 Godwin Avenue). Only the barest shell of the old building remains and that has been altered markedly. From a building with no basement, no rest rooms, no separate church facilities, a Colonial-Design church of great beauty has emerged.

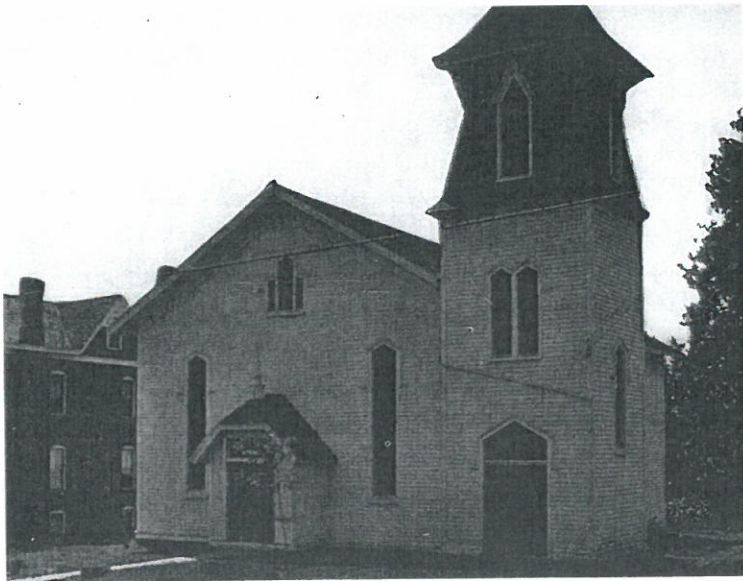
Through the efforts of the Methodist Fellowship and one of its members who corresponded with Representative William B. Widnall, the bell from the U.S.S. Chimago, a decommissioned naval ship, was installed in the belfry in 1960. The church is a very active one with its youth organizations, Couples Club and women's organizations.

The Christian Reformed Church of Midland Park dates to 1892, when it was organized with 83 families (200 members). In June, 1908, the present edifice at 183 Godwin Avenue was dedicated.

Until 1923, all services were conducted in the Dutch language. It was at this time that an assistant pastor was called to help during the transition from the Dutch to the English language, and English-speaking services were held on Sunday evenings.



*Irving Park
Christian Reformed Church,
Irving Street*



*Methodist Church
and parsonage
before remodelling*



*Trinity Reformed Church,
Godwin Avenue,
Midland Park, N.J.*



*Church of Good Shepherd
Episcopal Church,
Godwin Avenue*



*First Reformed Church
of Midland Park
Center Street*



*Christian Ref. Church,
Godwin Avenue
Midland Park, N. J.*

From the original Christian Reformed Church, three churches were organized: The Ridgewood Reformed Church, the Calvin Reformed Church in Wyckoff and Irving-Park Christian Reformed Church in Midland Park.

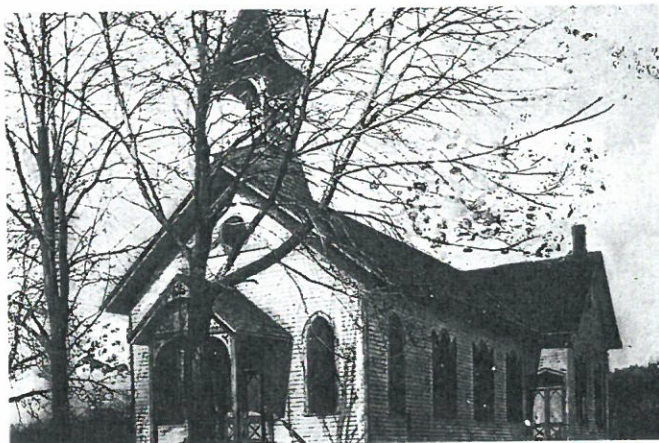
A new parsonage was built on Maltbie Avenue, Ridgewood, in 1958. The former parsonage adjacent to the church was at first used for meeting rooms, but was demolished in 1961. A new colonial-styled structure was erected on that site. This educational building joins the church proper and was dedicated April 10, 1962. Additional facilities are provided for many meetings. There is a large basement for recreation, a multi-purpose room, which can be divided to make three meeting rooms, and a large modern kitchen. In addition, the building contains four large meeting rooms, a consistory room, conference room and a pastor's study. There is a stage in the multi-purpose room.

The First Reformed Church on Center Street was organized on September 25, 1872. A few Dutch families living in and near Ho-Ho-Kus began to meet in a schoolhouse for religious services. The plan to organize as a congregation materialized, and the first church building, erected and dedicated on Center Street in 1875, was incorporated as the First Holland Reformed Church of Wortendyke.

In 1959, the church sanctuary was enlarged to seat 150. The choir loft was enlarged and new rugs installed. A pastor's study and five rooms in the basement were added. The front of the church was faced with brick. A stained glass window was installed, depicting the world, a crown of thorns, lilies and the cross. This is illuminated at night and is known as the "Missionary Window". The former parsonage, facing Godwin Avenue, was renovated and adopted for Sunday School use, and is now known as an educational building. It was painted inside and out, lights were added and new draperies were placed at the windows. A fire alarm system was installed in the church building as well as in the educational building.

Active societies of the church include the Ladies' Missionary Society, Helping Hand Society, Young Ladies' Missionary Guild, Choral Society, Junior Choir, Couples' Club, Pioneer Girls and Young Peoples Societies.

The Church of the Good Shepherd—Midland Park, is situated at 497 Godwin Avenue. It is built on the site of the former Christ Chapel, which had been erected in 1908 by a group of Episcopalians from St. Paul's, Paterson, on land deeded to them by the Granite Linen Company.



Holland Reformed Church before remodelling



Christ Chapel

The original Parish House was once a stable, then a meeting place for the Field and Stream Club. It was later moved next to the church proper. The chapel met the spiritual needs of the local Episcopalians, but the Parish House met the whole town's social needs.

Now there is a large airy Parish Hall, containing an auditorium and stage, modern kitchen and many classrooms. The new church is contemporary in design, seats 300 and also contains many classrooms, a small chapel and a nursery. The Parish House is used by many organizations. One of the most noteworthy groups meeting here is a class for retarded children.

The Irving-Park Christian Reformed Church was organized on February 24, 1955. This congregation was formed to relieve the overcrowded conditions of the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church and began with a membership of 58 families. For the first two years, the group met in the Midland Park Memorial Library, until the completion of its church building at the top of Irving Street. The name Irving-Park was chosen to identify the congregation with its location, since the property extends from Irving Street to Park Avenue. An addition to the original church of six classrooms has recently been completed. The congregation numbers approximately 500 members.

The congregation supports missionaries in Nigeria, Jamaica, New York and Miami. The congregation is also active in neighborhood evangelism.

A picturesque church at 400 Godwin Avenue of cobblestone and shingles with beautiful stained glass windows and partially covered with ivy is the home of the Trinity Reformed Church. The church was founded in 1904 by a group of prominent citizens who had once been affiliated with the Methodist Church.

A large annex was built in 1956 as an educational building and in 1960, the entire church was remodeled. A balcony was added, new pews, a pulpit and a communal of white oak, all set off by red carpeting.

A beautiful monument to the faith, hope and love of the people of Nativity parish can be seen in the extensive buildings on Prospect Street.

Ten years ago the grounds that house five large modern buildings were the setting for that run-down barn. The Reverend William Francis Sheehan, the first pastor, had the barn transformed into a lovely, rustic chapel.



Church of the Nativity R. C. Church on Prospect Street

As the parish slowly grew, the first classes of Nativity School were held in Pius X Hall and were taught by the Sisters of St. Dominic. When the chapel and schoolroom no longer could hold the overflow, a modern new school and church were built.

Father Sheehan died in 1960 and the Reverend Francis J. Ballinger became the new pastor.

To fulfill the needs of a growing parish, an addition to the school was undertaken. It provided much needed classroom space and a gymnasium-auditorium.

In 1963, the tenth anniversary of the founding of the parish, the parishioners look back on a fruitful past and look forward to an even brighter future. The school was completed and the first class graduated in June, 1963.



Gospel Hall, Prospect Street, Midland Park, N. J.

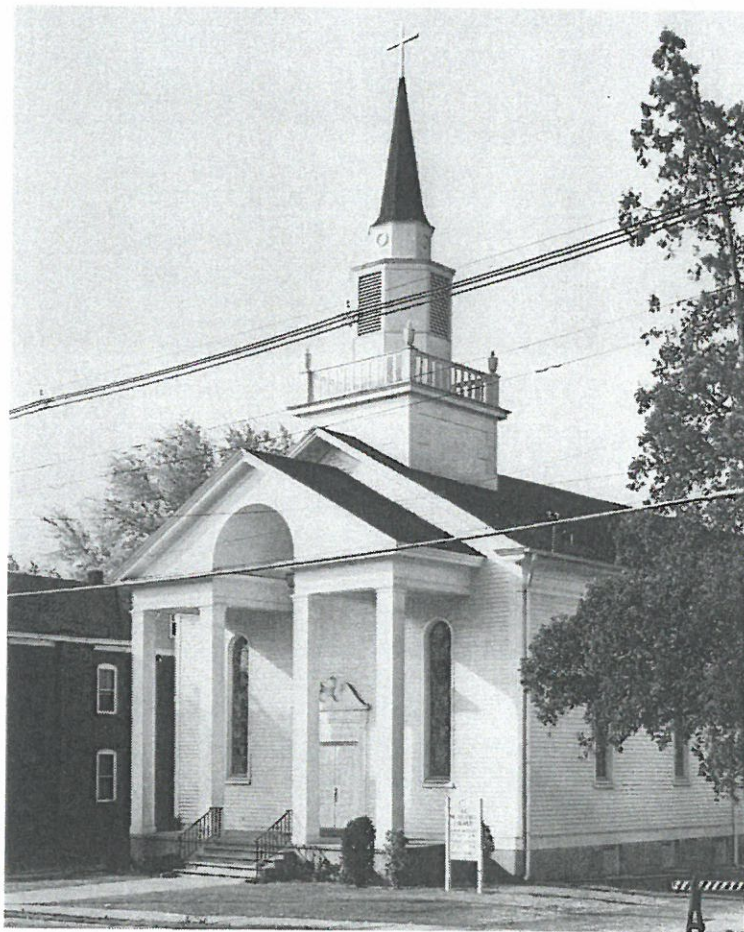
The Gospel Hall of Midland Park was built in 1929 after years of bible meetings in a tent. The tent, which was first pitched on Glen Avenue, Ridgewood, was borrowed for the meetings. While attendance was fair, interest in what was spoken did not seem to be great, according to those in charge. When the Evangelist who did the preaching went to East Orange to engage in tent work there, the tent was moved to Midland Park on Vreeland Avenue just below Franklin. A young man from Saddle River and a brother who had just entered this country, then took up the preaching. The next few years the tent was moved to Westwood, Emerson, Butler, Boonton, Fair Lawn and Hawthorne, but the greatest interest in the bible reading seemed to center on Midland Park.

Weekly Bible readings were continued in Midland Park and after a few years of rising interest, the need of a building was realized. Two buildings were rented, but proved unsuitable. Finally a gospel hall was erected on Prospect Street.

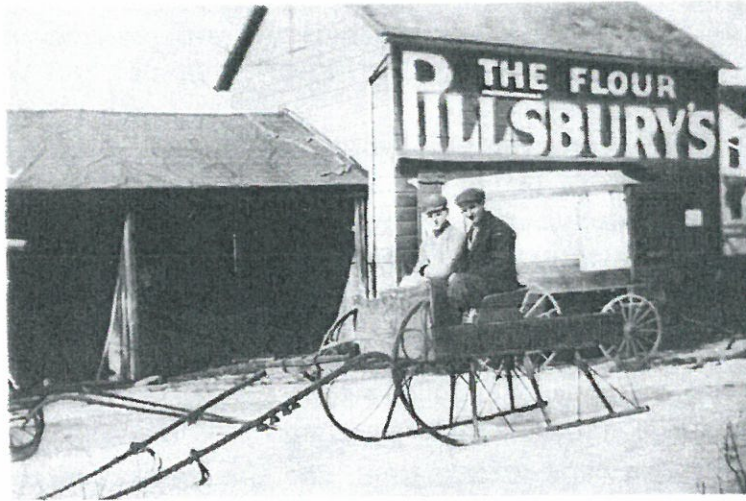
For the last 20 years, annual Bible Conferences with Evangelists and Christians coming from far and near have been held here.

At one time, an active and aggressive group, known as the Russelites, held well attended meetings in Columbia Hall. This group had its origin in adherents of a minister by the name of Rev. Charles Taze Russell and their religious principles were often exemplified in books, pamphlets and over the radio by Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford. Many prominent citizens attended these services which were conducted under the name or auspices of the International Bible Students.

Interest began to wane after a time, and the services were discontinued. It has been impossible to verify the contention that the Jehovah Witnesses, the name taken by the International Bible Students in 1951, are members of the Russelites or an offspring thereof.



Midland Park Methodist Church on Godwin Avenue



Early means of transportation



Original building—Bergen Water Company plant, Midland Park, N. J.



Early business section of Midland Park—store burned in 1909

VI. Increasing . . .

OUR GOODS AND WEALTH

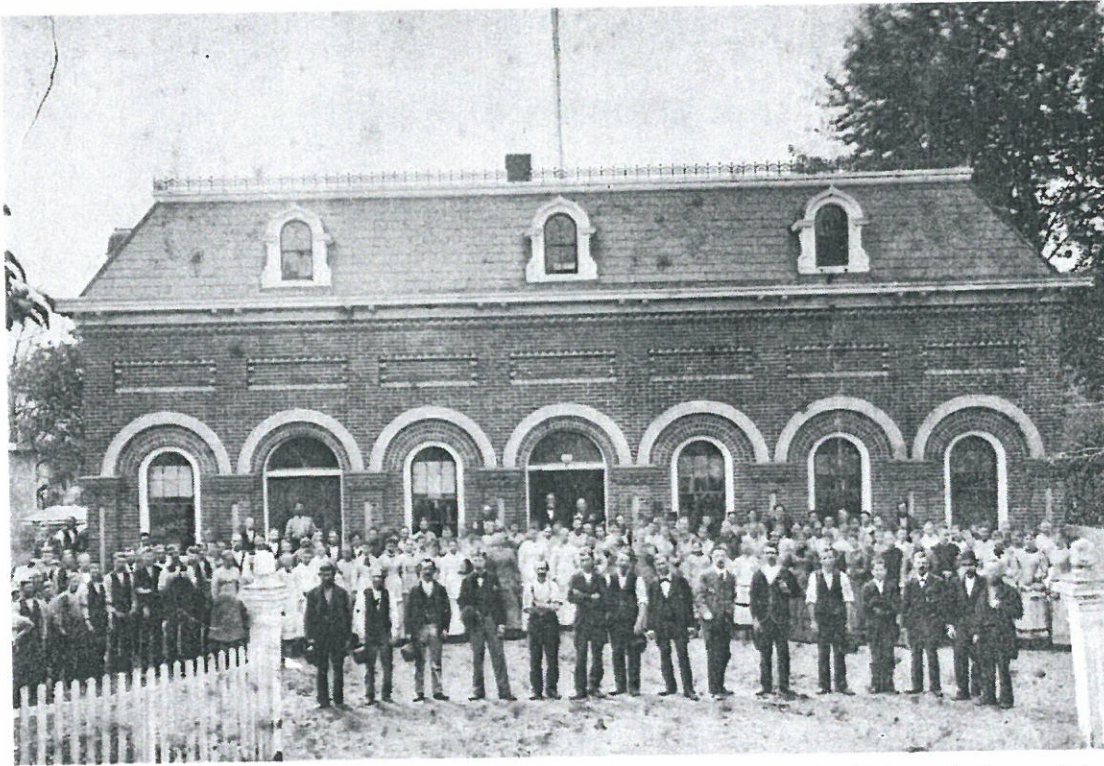
We believe that our community has enjoyed advantages not open to all our neighbors in Bergen County. One of these advantages has been an early realization of the vital role that industry plays in the life of the community. In fact, one might almost say that Midland Park is a product of its industry, for the early presence of industry helped to attract settlers to the area and led to the establishment of the first railroad station here. These are the tangibles. The intangibles are no less important; but how does one measure the value of industry to a community? Is it the number of jobs provided? The taxes contributed? It is all these things and more: It is the cooperation that industry and its people offer to our municipal government; it is the support that industry gives to the many projects and charitable organizations in our town. Industry is not some alien thing to be tolerated and exploited; industry is a vital part of us and our way of life.

Industry came to our town in 1812, when Cornelius Wortendyke opened his woolen mill in what was then called Newtown. 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. Cornelius Wortendyke entered into partnership with John Morrow in 1816. The partners then began to produce satinets at the mill as well as woolen materials. Mr. Morrow withdrew from the partnership, but in 1829 he became associated with Abram Wortendyke, son of Cornelius. In the two years of the Abram Wortendyke-John Morrow partnership, the mill property was improved and the capacity of the plant raised.

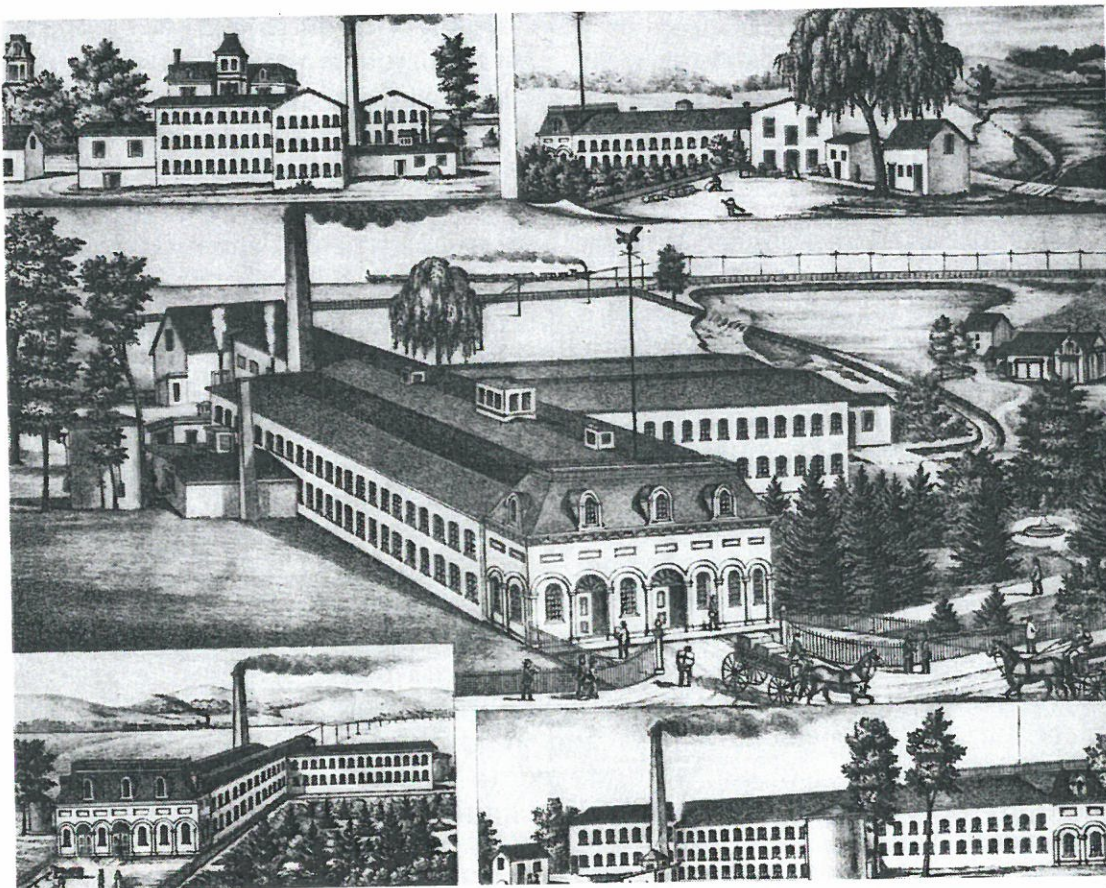
The industrial revolution was well under way when Cornelius A. Wortendyke succeeded his father as head of the mill in 1875. Cornelius A. Wortendyke, like his grandfather, was a man of vision and daring. He enlarged the cotton mill and added a silk mill, taking over the Granite Textile Mill, which had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

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. Most of the older homes on Madison and Greenwood Avenue were built by Cornelius A. Wortendyke for his new mill hands. But Mr. Wortendyke's concern with his imported workers did not end there. He built a large hall in the wooded section of Central and Greenwood Avenues. Plays were staged here and medicine shows and Wild West shows presented. Later dances and roller skating were staged in the hall, which served as the introduction to American social life for hundreds of workers at the Wortendyke mills.

The Wortendyke Manufacturing Company continued in business until 1884. The company's silk mill was bought by James S. Elliot in 1892 and



Employees of Wortendyke Manufacturing Company pose in front of the original building



Montage shows the evolution of the Wortendyke Manufacturing Company was established in 1832 and incorporated in 1871.

became known as the Elliot Granite Linen mill. It was rebuilt in 1905 after a severe fire. This catastrophe led to the formation of the first fire protection plan for Midland Park, so it might be said that even on disastrous days contributions to the community have been made by our industries.

- The Wostbrock Embroidery Company follows a tradition of family-owned businesses in Midland Park. Now operated by Walter C. Wostbrock, the son of the founder, the business occupies the old "Stone Mill" at 11 Paterson Avenue. It is the oldest family-owned business in our town.

Although many manufacturing processes have changed since the company was founded, the original Swiss hand loom machines are still in use. As in the earlier days, the looms are run by water power supplied by the pond at the rear of the building. Wostbrock products are sent from Midland Park to outlets and plants throughout the nation. The plant does not produce complete garments, but performs specialized detail embroidery on such items as women's blouses, men's shirts, children's wear, sportswear and labels.

- The Oriental Rug Company at 11 Paterson Avenue is another outstanding example of a family-owned business in our town. Established in 1917, Oriental Rug has been located in Midland Park since 1928. Under the ownership and direction of Fred W. Wostbrock, the Oriental Rug Company became an outstanding industry in the retail selling, cleaning, repairing and alteration of oriental rugs, domestic broadloom carpeting, hooked and braided rugs.

The firm has a cleaning and drying plant, a repair and cutting department and a retail sales and showroom. Its services include cutting, binding and repairing domestic and oriental rugs, the cleaning of rugs in the plant as well as in the customer's home, and the retail selling of fine quality rugs and carpeting.

By 1964, two sons of the founder, Fred W. Wostbrock Jr. and James Wostbrock, had assumed the active direction of the Oriental Rug Company, thus continuing the family tradition in the business.

- Albert J. Bartson, manufacturer of upholstery fabrics, was founded in Midland Park in 1923 and incorporated in 1941. Their fabrics were sold in every state in the country and in some foreign countries. Some of the fabrics were used in the State Department in Washington, D. C., and in some of the embassies there. In 1962 the firm was sold and the Albert J. Bartson Fabrics, Inc., was organized. This company imports fabrics from Italy and Belgium and distributes them throughout the nation from their plant at 240 Glen Avenue, Midland Park.

- The Marlow Division of Bell & Gossett Company manufactures three lines of equipment: pumps, sprayers and generators. Marlow Pumps can be found in 71 countries throughout the world and in almost every state. The sprayer, called the "Econ-O-Mist" is used for the protection of fruit in orchards and groves. Marlow generators are found everywhere there is a need for auxiliary or emergency power.

Marlow Pumps was started by Alfred S. Marlow Sr. in 1924. The first pumps were designed for handling heavy construction seepage. These were built in Bartley, New Jersey. Marlow pumps came to Midland Park in 1929 when the first building was constructed on the present factory site. It was a building measuring 40 feet by 50 feet. As the manufacturing area enlarged, a branch plant was opened in DeQueen, Arkansas, in 1952. The plant was later moved to Longview, Texas.

In 1953 the company merged with the Bell & Gossett Company of Morton Grove, Illinois, manufacturers of hot water heating specialties, heat exchanges, centrifugal pumps, distillate chemicals and Dualex, a new electronic communications system. Two years later the company acquired the Granite Textile Mill property on Godwin Avenue, Midland Park. This new modern administration building is the completely renovated former Granite Textile Mill, linking our industrial past with our industrial future.

- Midland Products Company at 181 Greenwood Avenue is a manufacturer of contractors' pumps, contractors' re-bar fabricating machines, contractors' rollers and contractors' heaters.

Midland Products Company is owned by A. S. Marlow, previously owner and president of Marlow Pump Company. Mr. Marlow is a leading authority on self-priming centrifugal pumps. Pumps of his design and manufacture have earned a reputation throughout the world for performance, reliability and longevity.

The Midland pump, introduced in 1956, is recognized as the most advanced contractors' pump on the market. From the factory in Midland Park pumps are sold in the United States through a network of 200 dealers. Dealers in 31 foreign countries move the pumps to the world market. The factory in Canada, under the name of Mid-Mar Limited, serves Canadian contractors from coast to coast. The factory in Great Britain, Almar Pumps Limited, serves the United Kingdom and overseas markets, especially the Commonwealth countries. The Midland Products licensee in Germany serves the European Common Market; the licensee in Mexico serves Mexico and the licensee in Colombia serves Colombia and neighboring South American countries.

- Northeast Industries, Inc., at 300 Greenwood Avenue, is one of the nation's leading manufacturers of industrial cleaning equipment. It was organized in 1958 by Richard Marlow, son of the founder of Marlow Pumps, and Ernest A. Mingst.

Since 1958, a company product, Northeast Vapor Jet Cleaners, has become one of America's best known steam cleaning machines. The machines are sold through more than 100 distributors in the United States and Canada and are exported to Central and South America, Europe, Africa and the Far East.

- The Midland Park Lumber & Supply Co., Inc., on Lake Avenue, was incorporated in June, 1926 as The Midland Park Coal and Lumber Company. When coal was discontinued the name was changed to The Midland Park Lumber & Supply Co., Inc.

The Company started small, employing only eight persons. Today it is one of the largest retail lumber companies in the State. It employs 100 persons plus stevedores. It handles a full line of lumber, millwork, building supplies, tools and hardware.

- The Wyckoff Machine & Tool Co., Inc., was founded in 1941 in Wyckoff, but later moved to larger quarters in Ramsey. In 1949 the company moved to still larger quarters on Greenwood Avenue in Midland Park.

The principal items manufactured are screw machine products of brass, steel, plastic and stainless steel. The company's main customer is the Rowe Manufacturing Company, Inc., in Whippany, New Jersey, the world's largest automatic vending machine company.

- Black Millwork and Lumber Company, Inc., on Lake Avenue, was organized in 1938. The concern is a wholesale millwork distributor, covering northern New Jersey, southern New York State and Connecticut. It is also a distributing agent for many Western and Midwestern manufacturers.

Black Millwork developed a window unit called "The Storm King", which was manufactured and assembled in Midland Park. Several years ago the manufacturing operation was given up and today Black Millwork is an assembly plant. The components are manufactured to the company's specifications on the West Coast.

- International Wire Products Corporation of 301 Greenwood Avenue, was founded in 1945 by Anthony J. Rizzuto. The operation was started in Belleville in a two-car garage at the rear of Mr. Rizzuto's home. The initial capital investment was about \$3,000.00. A few years later the operation was moved to the Clark Thread building in Newark. The plant at that time employed four or five persons.

In 1953 the factory was moved to a small building that is a part of the present manufacturing complex in Midland Park. The original Midland Park plant employed 15 persons, but has since grown to where it has 125 employees.

Mr. Rizzuto was joined in this operation in 1953 by Irving Landis. They were the sole owners of International Wire Products Corporation until 1959 when the company was sold to the Carlisle Corporation of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. International Wire is one of the several integrated manufacturing units of the Carlisle Corporation.

- The Federal Boiler Co., Inc., on Granite and West Streets, in Midland Park, was formed in 1946 and moved from Yonkers, New York, to Midland Park the same year. At that time the plant employed ten people. Its personnel now numbers 150.

Federal Boiler Co., Inc. manufactures low-pressure residential steel heating boilers (steam and hot water). The company also sells related heating specialties such as various controls, oil and gas burners, pumps and valves used in a heating system.

In 1955 Federal Boiler entered the field of low-pressure commercial steel heating boilers, erecting them on the job site as well as building them in the shop. In 17 years Federal Boiler has become one of the largest producers and sellers of residential and commercial low-pressure steel heating boilers in the country. The boilers provide heat and furnish domestic hot water for homes, apartments, factories, motels and hotels in the United States, Canada, Mexico and overseas.

Wholesale plumbing supply houses are the sole distributors for Federal Boiler products. On Feb. 28, 1964, the Federal Boiler Co. was purchased by the Aqua-Letric Co. which changed its name to Federal Hydronics, Inc.

- Isaac Deganaars Company of 231 Greenwood Avenue, General Building Contractors, started in business in Midland Park in 1946. The company's main line of operation is the construction of schools, industrial buildings, commercial buildings, churches and public buildings for State, County, Municipal and Federal governments. An example of Isaac Deganaars construction is the Midland Park High School on Prospect Street.

- The F. G. Montabert Company, manufacturers of woven labels, emblems, and decorative ribbon used for the women's apparel trade, is situated at 177 Paterson Avenue.

When the company's new mill was built in 1948, new jacquard ribbon looms were installed. Silk and rayon yarns are used in the weaving of these labels, which are distributed throughout the United States.

The mill employs an average of 100 workers and is under the management of Alfred E. Suter, vice president of F. G. Montabert.

- Crown Castings, Inc., at 108 Greenwood Avenue, was established in 1948 in Paterson, New Jersey, by Hamell Suhadolc of Ramsey. The company which manufactures white metal lamp parts, ornamental hardware, novelties and machine parts, moved to its present address in 1956.

White metal, the principal commodity used, consists of a combination of zinc and aluminum, purchased in 20 pound pigs. These bars are melted down in casting pots at 700 degrees. The hot metal is then poured into permanent molds to produce the various parts. There are more than 1,000 molds, all processed on the premises. This product is distributed throughout the United States and Canada as well as in many cities in Europe and South America.

- F. Schumacher & Company was founded by Frederick Schumacher in 1897 in the old Waverly Mill in Paterson, New Jersey. Through the years it has woven many famous fabrics. One of the best known is the fine Silk Lampas made for the Blue Room in the White House.

Stanford White, the foremost architect in this country when Theodore Roosevelt was President, drew the design. It was originally used in 1902. In 1917 the design was repeated for Woodrow Wilson and again in 1926 when Calvin Coolidge was President. In 1951 President Harry Truman used it for the fourth time and in 1961 it was re-ordered by Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

Fabrics were also made at this mill for the New York City Governor's Room, and for the United States Senate and House Galleries of the Capitol.

F. Schumacher & Company has the sole license for providing fabrics for the Williamsburg Restoration. All of these fabrics are woven in the Midland Park mill. The mill building, on Faner Road has been owned and occupied by Schumacher since 1950.

- The Stafford Glass Co., Inc., at 168 Godwin Avenue, was founded May 1, 1950 by Warren Stafford at 154 Chestnut Street, Ridgewood, New Jersey. The company installed auto glass, mirrors, glass tops, venetian blinds, combination aluminum windows and doors and plate glass. Mrs. Anne Stafford, mother of Mr. Warren Stafford, managed the office.

The company expanded to include metal store fronts among its installations. Business increased rapidly and Stafford Glass took over all three floors of the building at 154 Chestnut Street.

Since large contract glazing of industrial centers and shopping centers requires a tremendous inventory of glass, aluminum doors and metal moldings, the company sought additional space and purchased its present building in September 1956.

- The Parcloid Chemical Company at 140 Greenwood Avenue is a New Jersey Corporation founded by Richard A. Parsekian in 1952. This company manufactures thermo-plastic dispersions for specialty industrial applications. These dispersions are of vinyl resins, which are liquid at atmospheric temperatures and contain no solvents or volatile ingredients. Upon baking at elevated temperatures, they become either a flexible or rigid solid depending upon the formulation.

This product is used to coat metal surfaces to insure protection against acids and alkalies; to cushion surfaces; to decorate; to give electrical insulation; to coat fabrics or to mold various items or make foamed goods. The main area of distribution is metropolitan New York and several New England states.

- North Products, Inc., at 190 Greenwood Avenue, manufacturing engineers, was incorporated in 1959 as a producer of fabricated metal items. The company specializes in manufacturing materials handling equipment. It produces much in this line for the government. In 1961 a Lightweight Portable Surveying Tower was developed for the United States Geological Survey. Improvements were made in the original tower and the new surveying tower is a standard product of the company. North Towers are used by the United States Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management and the Army Corps of Engineers. In 1962 six 75 foot high towers were shipped to Africa.

The fabricating shop of North Products, Inc., produces items in aluminum, magnesium and steel. Welding equipment is available for all metals. High strength-weight ratio tubular structures and lightweight materials handling equipment are a specialty.

- Mackson, Inc., a real estate holding company, was founded April 7, 1959, with Floyd R. McGuckin, president, and Lloyd H. McGuckin, secretary-treasurer, upon the purchase of the John Abbink property at 77 Greenwood Avenue, Midland Park. A suitable building was erected and rented to General Devices Company in September 1960. Floyd R. McGuckin is president of General Devices, which was started 17 years ago. The company manufactures telescope and microscope accessories and repairs eye-examining equipment. Research and development for inventors on electrical instruments, automotive tools, special-purpose tools, and microscope and telescope attachments also are performed.

- Commercial Chemical Products, Inc., at 11 Paterson Avenue, was formed in 1959. Specializing in water conditioning, the company sells water softeners, demineralizers, dealkalizers, deionizers, chemicals and allied boiler room products. The laboratory tests boiler water samples, etc.

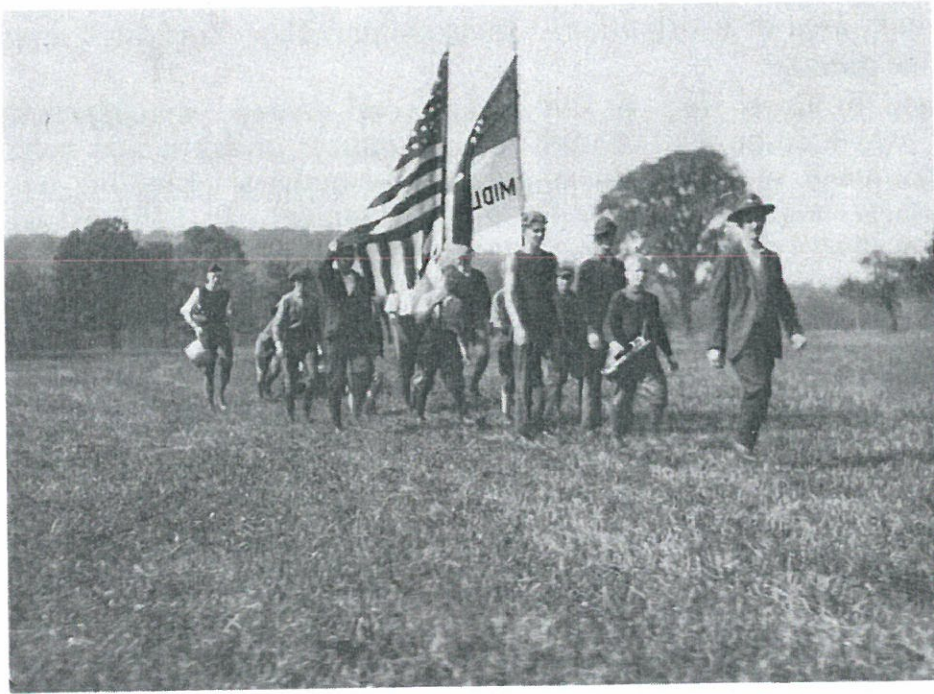
Included in a long list of distinguished customers are American Cyanamid, Bendix Corporation, Bethlehem Steel Company, Dugan Bros., Inc.; Eastman Kodak Co., National Bureau of Standards, Prudential Insurance Company of America, Shell Oil Company and Western Electric.

- The Burgmaster Corporation, the world's largest builder of Turret Drilling Machines, maintains its Eastern sales office at 196 Greenwood Avenue, Midland Park. This office was opened in Ridgewood in 1955 but was moved to Midland Park in September 1961. A sales and service staff of approximately 14 men covers the entire Eastern Coast from this office.

In 1947, Burgmaster's first year of manufacturing tools, total sales volume was under \$20,000.00. For the fiscal year of 1962, sales were better than \$6 million.

Part of Burgmaster's phenomenal growth is traceable to its early entry into the Numerical Control Field. This device reads commands on a punched tape and transmits the commands to a drilling machine.

Sales offices are in New Jersey, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Northern California. Kearney and Tricker, C. V. A. Ltd. are sole agents for Great Britain, the British Commonwealth and Western Europe. Mitsubishi Corporation are sole agents for Japan, Far East and South America.



Led by Troop Leader Irving T. Tyler, boys in Midland Park's first Boy Scout Troop march in formation during their first overnight hike.

TENTH ANNUAL PIC-NIC
 OF
Dyke Lodge, No. 175, J. D. D. J.
 AT WORTENDYKE GROVE,
Wednesday, August 6th, 1884.
 MUSIC BY PROF RIPPY'S ORCHESTRA.
 Nicholas Carlough, Assistant Floor Manager—Jacob Roughgarden. Floor
 Jacob A. Terhune, David L. Vreeland, Thomas Holt, Jr., Edward Terhune.
 50 Cts.
 Dancing commences at 2 P. M.

Long forgotten, this admission ticket to the 10th Annual Picnic held on August 6, 1884 by the Dyke Lodge No. 175 100F was found buried in a book in the cellar of Harold Morgan, Erie Railroad fireman. Wortendyke Grove was also known as "The Grove" on Sparrow Row, (now Greenwood Avenue, Midland Park, N.J.)

VII. Enjoying . . .

OUR LEISURE HOURS

The enjoyment of leisure is all things to all men. To some, a walk in the park, an evening of stimulating conversation or a musical interlude is all they ask. To others, the trend runs to healthy competition in sports, a quiet game of checkers or a role as the chief cheerleader at Little League games. Midland Park offers all these things and more. In the past, our pursuit of leisurely recreation was more in tune with the pace of the times and inevitably these organizations that catered to that less demanding need have moved from the scene. There were not so many organizations in the less hurried times as there are today, but the membership was larger and, old-timers like to tell us, more enthusiastic. Some groups met in private homes; others in church rooms.

One of the most popular public meeting places was The Wigwam, a large hall in a grove of trees where the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company offices stand on Greenwood Avenue. Camp meetings were held there and Indians would come to perform their tribal dances. Later Columbia Hall was a focal point for indoor activities. For outdoor functions, such as a picnic, like the one preserved for posterity by the accompanying picture of a ticket, any grove of trees or meadow by a brook would usually suffice. There were mountains of food, plenty of good beer and an immeasurable amount of good fellowship in those grand-style picnics.

In recent years, organizations have gathered at the Glen Athletic Club on Woodside Avenue, the Memorial Library, The Recreation Barn on Dairy Street or the American Legion Post Home on Faner Road. The Glen A.C. building was erected between 1945 and 1948; the American Legion Home was completed in September, 1955.

One of our earliest organizations was the Wortendyke Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge, whose first meeting place was in what is now known as Wostbrock's Mill. About 1878 all the lodge records were lost in a flood. The Lodge's next meeting place was above Jacob Terhune's blacksmith shop on Godwin Avenue. Later it met in Columbia Hall.

Between 1889 and 1894 Jessie R. Gilbert started a society for young girls called the Mites. About the same time a group for young boys was started called Juvenile Society, organized by Mrs. Thomas Marr.

The Wortendyke Field and Stream Club was formed in 1935 as a hunting and fishing organization with its chief interests wildlife and conservation. The organization received national publicity when the late Phil Gootenberg wrote about some of its achievements in the May, 1939 "Hunting and Fishing" magazine. The article cited how the club members had worked to have 6,000 acres of formerly closed hunting and fishing lands opened to sportsmen, had built dams to conserve streams and had played a vital role in stocking lands with game and streams with fish.

Marion Vanderbush of Wyckoff was hailed for winning a junior fly-casting title and her sister, Florence Vanderbush, was termed "one of the

best flytiers in this section of the country." The club's program of tending feeders to save starving game and birds was called an inspirational display of American sportsmanship.

The Harmonians harmonica band, directed by Eddie Vreeland, held its first meeting November 2, 1933. The 20 members played harmonicas with the exception of the director, who played the accordion, and Ralph Hoebee, who played the guitar. They performed before groups in this area.

The Godwinville Masonic Club was started in September, 1947, by 13 Masons. The membership grew rapidly to 75. They helped care for needy families, sponsored the Boy Scouts from 1948 to 1953, held an annual picnic and Strawberry Festival. After several years the club disbanded.

They were among our many fine organizations of the past. Today, the following groups are active in our town:

American Legion, Midland Park Post 130; American Legion Auxiliary, Midland Park Unit 130; Community Ambulance Corps; Blood Donors Association; Boy Scouts; Chamber of Commerce; Democratic Club; Garden Club; Girl Scouts; Midland Park High School Athletic Boosters; Lions Club; Republican Club; Taxpayers Association; Valley Hospital Auxiliary; V.F.W.; Memorial Post 7086; V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary Post 7086; The Woman's Club; United Republican Club; U.S. Sea Cadets; Drum and Bugle Corps; P.T.A. and the Midland Park Senior Group.

American Legion, Midland Park Post 130, founded January 21, 1943 for veterans of the armed forces, fosters peacetime service to America. Members participate in activities contributing to rehabilitation of disabled veterans. Each year the Legion sends a boy to New Jersey Boys' State, and awards the Martha Hazen nurses scholarship to a high school graduate.

American Legion Auxiliary, Midland Park Unit 130, chartered October 11, 1943, aids the American Legion. The unit presents citizenship and Americanism awards to graduating pupils and sends a delegate to New Jersey Girls' State.

The Midland Park Blood Donors Association was organized in May 1961 to provide blood for residents of Midland Park without cost, except for hospital charges for administering. Blood credits are established in the Bergen Community Blood Bank. Midland Park is one of 36 municipalities belonging to the Bergen Community Blood Bank.

Midland Park residents have had free, 24-hour ambulance service since May 30, 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Mastin gave Midland Park a reconditioned Packard Ambulance in February, 1942. Mayor Peter Westerhoff appointed Councilman Hugh Connelly, Richard Reynen and Raymond Winters to recruit and train personnel to handle first-aid cases and operate the ambulance.

Five trustees were appointed by the Mayor: The Reverend John T. Holwerda, Mrs. Lawrence Reynen, James DeKorte, Hugh Connelly and Mrs. Benjamin Greene. The five represented the clergy, the Woman's Club, the Parent-Teacher Association, the Mayor and Council and the Corps. In 1962, the number of trustees was increased to seven by the addition of two additional Corps representatives—the chairman of the Ambulance Corps and an at-large representative. In May, 1964, the entire trusteeship was composed of men of the Ambulance Corps.

All requests for ambulance service are handled by the Police Department, whose fine cooperation has enabled the Corps to provide efficient aid in

time of need. A volunteer service organization, the Corps has top-notch equipment, including resuscitators, oxygen tanks and masks.

The Corps is a member of the New Jersey First-Aid Council, Inc., a state-wide organization that gives the residents of Midland Park unlimited ambulance service in any emergency. The Corps headquarters is at the corner of Pierce and Pleasant Avenues.

Midland Park Boy Scout Troop 1 was chartered March 29, 1921 with the Trinity Reformed Church as sponsor. The troop met in the social rooms of the Church and went to a camp in Darlington Farms, Mahwah, N. J. When the North Bergen County Council was organized, the troop number was changed to 51, and the campsite was changed to Sparta, N. J. During World War II the charter lapsed. When reorganized the troop received the present troop number 134.

Cub Scout Pack 51 was organized in September 1943 by the Parent Teacher Association. In November, 1954, a charter was granted the Trinity Reformed Church to form an Explorers Post 134. These are boys 14 or older.

There are three Cub Packs—Pack 157 sponsored by the Methodist Church, Pack 234, organized in February, 1963, by the Irving-Park Christian Reformed Church and Pack 251, organized in March, 1956 by the Church of the Nativity.

There are four Boy Scout troops: Troop 134, Trinity Reformed Church; Troop 157, organized in November, 1960, the Methodist Church; Troop 234, organized in December, 1958, by the Irving-Park Christian Reformed Church; Troop 251, organized in November, 1955, by the Church of the Nativity.

There are two Explorer Posts: Post 134, organized in November, 1955, by the Trinity Reformed Church, and Post 234, organized in December, 1961, by the Irving-Park Christian Reformed Church.

Midland Park Chamber of Commerce, Inc., was organized in 1956 to advance the commercial, industrial and civic interests of Midland Park and its surrounding trade area.

The Midland Park Democratic Club was incorporated in 1929. The club seeks to preserve and enhance the Democratic ideals passed on by Thomas Jefferson. The principal activity is the preservation of the American way of life by promoting the two-party system of government.

The Midland Park Garden Club was founded 33 years ago to promote an interest in gardening, to sponsor town beautification, to protect wild flowers and birds, and to preserve our natural beauty spots.

Midland Park Girl Scout Troop 45 composed of 21 girls, was organized in 1933 by the P.T.A. and met in the social rooms of the Trinity Reformed Church. The girls attend the Girl Scout Summer Camp at Te Ata, Bear Mountain, New York. An annual cookie sale helps to support the seven Brownie and seven Girl Scout troops that make up The Midland Park Neighborhood Association.

Midland Park High School Athletic Boosters were organized in 1956 to support the athletic program of the Junior-Senior High School and honors the members of the High School football team with annual dinners. Trophies are given to senior members of the teams.

The Boosters operate a refreshment stand at all home football games. The profits and all other funds raised by the club, purchase many extras for the athletic program. One of these is the electric scoreboard at the High School athletic field.

The Midland Park Lions Club, chartered on April 24, 1951, is a service organization of town businessmen. The Lions engage in charitable activities with many projects for or on behalf of the blind.

Formed in 1955, the Midland Park Taxpayers Association, Incorporated, seeks to promote efficiency and economy in government through the improvement of public services and the reduction of public expenditures. The goal is to reduce taxes without impairment of benefits received.

The Midland Park Men's Republican Club was formed October 17, 1961 to advocate, promote and maintain the principles of the Republican Party and to foster active participation and interest of Republican men on the national, state and local level.

Midland Park Republican Women, Inc. was founded in August, 1961, and incorporated under New Jersey State Laws September 12. It advocates, promotes, and maintains the principles of Republicanism and fosters active participation and interest of Republican Women on a national, state and local level.

Midland Park Branch of the Auxiliary of The Valley Hospital is one of 14 in this area. These women raise funds for linens, equipment and additional building projects, serve the hospital as volunteers and create goodwill for the hospital through their various activities.

Midland Park Memorial Post 7086, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was instituted on March 10, 1960, with 45 members. Many fund-raising projects were conducted and within two years the Post purchased the former Glen A. C. building. The building and the Post Colors were dedicated in September, 1962.

The V.F.W.'s main projects are helping veterans, widows and orphans of a veteran, along with youth activities and community service.

The Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7086 was formed October 7, 1960 for community service and hospital work.

U. S. Sea Cadets were organized in March, 1962, to introduce boys to Navy life. One of the aims is to attract boys 14 to 17 to the Navy and if possible to gain entrance to Annapolis.

The Drum and Bugle Corps, formed in July 1962 gave its first public performance in the 1963 Memorial Day Parade. Boys 9-14 years of age are eligible to join. A bake sale and house-to-house canvass was conducted to raise funds for the instruments. The Corps meets one night a week at the Recreation Barn for instructions and practice.

The Woman's Club of Midland Park was organized in 1929, with 63 charter members. The object of the club is to promote the ethical, intellectual and social standards of the community.

Among the many contributions to the community made by this group were its role in starting a library and its advocacy of a more convenient location for the post office. For a decade the woman's club was awarded a scholarship to a Midland Park girl graduating from high school.

The United Republican Club of Midland Park held its first meeting March 17, 1952 under the sponsorship of the County Committee. The

object of the club is "To advocate at all times the principles and philosophy of the Republican Party in national, state, county and municipal governments, to advocate the election to public office of those candidates who best represent the basic principles of Republican Government; to promote the ideals of the Republican Party in the Borough of Midland Park; to inform members of the organization on civic affairs; to promote harmony and goodwill among members and to foster a spirit of community cooperation throughout the Borough; to stimulate interest and conduct social and constructive activities of the Republican Party and to perform such other work as may best serve the intent of the Republican Party." Membership is open to registered Republican residents.

In sports, baseball was one of the biggest leisure activities in our town. The Wortendyke Athletic Club team of 1896 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 Shackleton, 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. Appearing on these teams were Manager Louis Bauman, George Garrison. Al Hazen, Allen Terhune, Hugh Laurence, Garry Winkler, Richard Mulder, Herbert Payne, John Roughgarden, G. Whitmore, Arthur Elliot, Bob Osenga, Ted Lewis, Charlie Fredricks, Garry Hazen, Sam Van Blarcom, Ben Westerhoff, Bob Fromelt, Bob Foster, Charles Brown, D. De Don, Charles Henion, William Woodhead, Max Payne, Art Pickering, Howard Payne, mascot, and Harry Goetchius, assistant manager. The 1907 team won the Suburban League title.

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

The Midland Park Rangers were organized in the 1930's and their most famous player was Johnny Vander Meer who pitched two consecutive no hitters for the Cincinnati Reds in 1938. Other players were Dick Jeffer, Gel 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.

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 advisers. The members played football, baseball, basketball and enjoyed such clubroom games as billiards and ping pong. Al Vanderbush, John Vanderbush, Joe and Lou Mondelli, Bill Payne, Art and Al Sherry, Hempy Bush, Sonny Wilson, Walt Pickering, Gel Turner, Bob Turner, Bernie Bowen and Herm Malenstein were some of the members.

A team known as the Midland Park Larry's had among its players Bob Terhune, Bill Church, Sax Korner, Paul Arrigoni and Jake Junta. An American Legion team represented Midland Park around 1950.

The Midland Park Rangers were reorganized in 1957 with Dick Jeffer manager from 1957 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.

The Midland Park Athletic Club played basketball in the Columbia Hall. The Rangers and Larry's were in the Ridgewood Church League, which was sponsored by the Y.M.C.A.

The Midland Park Softball League began in 1936, with Cornelius Yonkers as the first and only president. Ray Rosenboom was vice president, George MacDonald secretary-treasurer and John Hazen the last treasurer.



Midland Park's first Baseball Team—The M.P.A.C.

There were eight teams. The Firemen, led by John Decker; Darlings, Fred Darling; Artsma's, G. J. Artsma; Hagedorn's, Albert Mulder; Glen A. C., Garry Hazen Sr.; Young Republicans, William Payne; Republican Club, Barney Knapp; and Modern Barber Shop, James Polizzotto.

Later teams included Trinity Reformed Church, Community Lunch, Larry's Barbershop and Central Barbershop.

The Darlings won the 1936 and 1937 titles. Artsma won in 1938 and '39. The league had an all-star team which won 15 straight night games in 1939. Ottens' Market took the championship in 1940 and Jim's White Flash in 1941.

The league had its own lighting system for night games; all games were played on the field in the rear of the Municipal Building.

Inactive during World War II, the teams played in 1946 and 1947 but then disbanded. The lights were given to the borough and the treasury funds divided between the Citizens Recreation Committee and the Glen A. C. sponsored Rangers Baseball team.

At the present the Men's Senior Softball League is sponsored by the Recreation Committee.

The Midland Park Bowling League started in Waldwick in 1937, then moved to Midland Park when William Touw opened his alleys. Cornelius Yonkers was president for about fifteen years, then former Police Chief Orie Van Dyke.

Some of the bowlers are John Vanderbush, Orie Van Dyke, John Molenstra, Len Heymen Sr. and sons Martin and Walter, Norman Baker, Clarence Baker, Matt Hagedorn, Herm Hoffman, Wayne Delaney, Morris Scharr, Ossie Bender, Pete and Orie Hoagland, John Koorman, Jim Van Wieren and Dan Douma.

A church bowling league and women's group are active.

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

Before Midland Park had its own high school, Midland Park boys were among the outstanding football players at Ridgewood and Pompton High Schools. Among the well known players were the Raders, Wehrell boys, Vanderbush boys and Quentin Cooper.

Little League baseball for boys 8 to 12 has been played in our town for about 7 years. The season opens the first part of May and runs to July. The Babe Ruth team is for boys 12 to 16.

More recently than these, there have been some very active groups such as the Borough Improvement Association, Girls Patriotic League, Citizens League, Campfire Girls, 4H, The Glen Athletic Club, Inc., Wortendyke Field and Stream, The Harmonians, Godwinville Masonic Club, just to mention a few.

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 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 Senior Group was organized in November, 1963. Anyone from nearby communities of fifty years of age or older, is eligible to join. Activities include service work with other organizations, educational lectures on current needs, and social activities, such as bus trips to historical museums. Meetings are held in the Midland Park Memorial Library auditorium.

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