

Hillsdale Scrapbook

A selection of newspaper articles about Hillsdale history
published during the 50th and 75th anniversary years

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Reference Department

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Source: Local Review March 22, 1973:14

Noteworthy Dates in Hillsdale History

- 1630 – Dutch colonists settle Bergen County.
- 1665 – Bergen Township (now Jersey City) becomes English colony.
- 1693 – New Barbadoes Township formed from Bergen Township.
- 1710 – Bergen County starts to be reshaped into present area.
- 1737 – Saddle River Township formed from New Barbadoes Township.
- 1775 – Harrington Township formed from Saddle River Township
- Sept. 28, 1778 – Baylor Massacre on Rivervale Road
- Jan. 30, 1840 – Washington Township formed from part of Harrington Township
- 1856 – First schoolhouse built on Pascack Road
- Dec. 25, 1869 – First railroad train enters “Hillsdale”
- March 4, 1870 – Railroad opened to public at Hillsdale station
- March 1870 – Daily mail service inaugurated
- 1871 – Present park area in center of town donated by David P. Patterson
- 1873 – Railroad extended to Haverstraw, NY and town becomes railroad center
- May 3, 1874 – Hillsdale Methodist Episcopal Church organized
- June 29, 1890 – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church holds first services
- 1898 – Magnolia Avenue School #2 opened
- MARCH 25, 1898 – HILLSDALE INCORPORATED AS TOWNSHIP AFTER STATE LEGISLATURE ENABLES BREAK-AWAY FROM WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP**
- April 23, 1898 – Board of Education organized
- May 7, 1900 – NY & NJ Telephone Co. (now NJ Bell) granted franchise. First telephone installed in home of Thomas C. Demarest on Summit Avenue (Broadway)
- May 6, 1901 – Township clerk authorized to purchase pair of handcuffs for use of constable
- April 1902 – Hillsdale Fire Association and Ladies Auxiliary organized
- 1902 – First macadam laid on Summit and Railroad Avenue (now Broadway)
- Sept. 3, 1903 – Water franchise granted Hackensack Water Co. to lay water lines and fire hydrants
- 1907-08 – Special town meetings authorize \$45,000 to macadamize all accepted town streets
- 1913 – First post office building erected under Postmaster John W. Kinmouth
- July 7, 1913 – First uniformed special police officer appointed
- 1916 – Hillsdale Boy Scout Troop 1 organized by Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
- April 17, 1917 – Hillsdale Loyal League formed in World War I
- 1919 – Hillsdale American Legion Post 162 organized. Re-designated in 1929 as General Leonard Wood Memorial Post 162
- 1921 – New twelve room schoolhouse built (now George White School)

July 8, 1921 – Hillsdale Fire Department created
April 24, 1923 – Borough form of government adopted
Nov. 1923 – Board of Health organized
1924 – Girl Scout troop organized
Sept. 15, 1924 – Avolia Transportation Co. of Paterson inaugurates first bus service from Hillsdale to Paterson
1925 – First assigned Road Dept. organized with Axel Gufstafson using wheel barrow and hand tools
Dec. 13, 1925 – St. John the Baptist R.C. Church dedicated
Jan. 1927 – Hillsdale National Bank opens with W. Merle Hoffman as cashier (now Pascack Valley Bank & Trust Co.)
Nov. 9, 1927 – Borough Planning Board appointed
July 13, 1928 – Regular Police Dept. organized
Dec. 11, 1928 – First council meeting held in present borough hall after purchase from Exempt Firemen's Association in 1927
April 5, 1929 – Sun dial Garden Club organized to beautify town
July 23, 1929 – Zoning Board of Adjustment organized
April 1931 – Shade Tree Commission formed
June 1933 – Hillsdale Businessmen's Association organized
1934 – Hillsdale Recreation Committee formed
Jan. 27, 1936 – Public library begins to distribute books
June 23, 1938 – Municipal Assistance Commission organized
May 23, 1941 – Hillsdale Defense Council formed in World War II
July 16, 1945 – Parks & Playgrounds Commission organized
1951 – Hillsdale votes to form Pascack Valley Regional High School District with Montvale, River Vale and Woodcliff Lake
1951 – Municipal Garbage Collection begins
Feb. 1, 1954 – Hillsdale Ambulance Corps Begins duty
Sept. 1955 – Pascack Valley Regional High School opened
1955 – Ann Blanche Smith School opened
1964 – Meadowbrook School opened
1968 – Sewer System Hookups start
1972 – Work begins on new Borough Hall

Source: Local Review March 22, 1973:14

HISTORY OF HILLSDALE: PART I

Hillsdale Got Its Name from School, Station

HILLSDALE – The story of the evolution of the community known today as the Borough of Hillsdale, with its approximately 3000 homes, business community and a population of 11,700 persons saturating most of its roughly two square miles of territory, is a colorful one.

The delineation of the boundaries of present-day Hillsdale involved a constant erosion of larger land divisions from 17th century colonial days to the final partitioning of eastern Hillsdale Township to form the Township of River Vale in 1906

There were two eras of great metamorphosis in Hillsdale's history – the advent of the railroad in 1870 which literally put the few scattered farms and country stores near the banks of the Pascack Brook “on the map” and the opening of the George Washington Bridge in the early 1930's.

Both events brought waves of migration by the masses from the crowded cities of New York, Paterson, and Jersey City. The new arrivals in both migratory waves sought identical goals: land, clean air and water in a rural atmosphere located within reasonable distance to the job markets of the large cities. The first migration proceeded at a leisurely pace through World War I increasing in tempo as the means of public transportation were improved by increased rail service and the establishment of bus routes. The second tide of migration came to a halt during World War II but developed into an engulfing wave with the war's end. This latter migration has today almost completely saturated Hillsdale's available land space.

COLONIAL DAYS

Although records are almost non-existent, it is believed that the Leni-Lenape Indians, members of the powerful Algonquin Nation, roamed the Hackensack River valley at the time of the arrival of the first Dutch explorers and settlers in 1630. A few Indian artifacts and the names of the Pascack and Musquapsink brooks are all that remain from the centuries of Indian occupancy of the area.

The Dutch settlers from the town of Bergen in Holland transferred the name of their fatherland community to the County of Bergen in 1630 and to the Village of Bergen in 1661. (It is now part of Jersey City) In 1665 the village and its surrounding lands became an English colony.

The present State of New Jersey was divided into four counties by the British Crown on March 7, 1682: Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth and Bergen which was designated as “all the land between Hudson's River and the Hackensack River.” The counties were re-divided in 1710 and Bergen County then comprised

“all the land between Hudson’s River and the Pequannock and the Passaic rivers.” Bergen County took its present boundaries after the creation of Passaic County in 1837 and Hudson County in 1840.

In 1693 the Colonial Assembly began the division of New Jersey’s counties into townships. Bergen County was divided into three townships, one of which was New Barbadoes Township which included all the land between the Hackensack and Passaic rivers.

In 1737 Saddle River Township was carved from New Barbadoes, and in 1775 just before the start of the Revolutionary War, Harrington Township was created from Saddle River. Thus during that war, the area which is now Hillsdale was part of Harrington Township. The farms in the area were ravaged and plundered by the armies of both the Americans and the British and their mercenary Hessians. The Baylor Massacre on Sept. 28, 1778 at the Hering Farm on Rivervale Road, River Vale, took place on land which was included in Hillsdale from 1898 to 1906. During the war, many farmers in the area were sympathetic to the British Crown and fled to Canada: some remained and were called “Tories”: some spied for the British army as in the case of the Rivervale Road farmers who betrayed Colonel Baylor.

TOWNSHIPS FORMED

On Jan. 30, 1840, Washington Township was created out of part of Harrington Township and included: “that territory extending from New York State on the north to Soldier Hill Road, Oradell, on the south-between the Hackensack River and Saddle River.” In 1894, the Boroughs of Westwood, Park Ridge, Woodcliff Lake, Montvale and Old Tappan were formed in that order. In 1898 just prior to the Spanish-American War, Washington Township had shrunk to the territory which now constitutes the communities of Hillsdale, River Vale, Emerson and Washington Township.

HILLSDALE INCORPORATED

The state legislature was petitioned by the residents of “Hillsdale” who had adopted the name from a school built on Pascack Road in 1856 and opened in 1870 for a separation from Washington Township.

The legislature granted the petition, and incorporated Hillsdale Township in an act passed March 25, 1898. The town comprised “all the territory between the Hackensack River on the east and Orvil Township (now Ho-Ho-Kus and Waldwick) on the west – between the boroughs of Woodcliff Lake, Park Ridge and the New York state line on the north and the borough of Westwood and imaginary line due west on the south.”

Credit for sparking the movement to incorporate Hillsdale has been given to Orin S. Trall (later tax collector), John H. Riley (later freeholder), A.C. Holdrum (State Assemblyman during the period), John F. Winters, David H. Demarest, Herridon Rohrs and the following members of the first official family: Sanford Bogert chairman (mayor); George Seaman, treasurer; township committeemen

Edmund Greenin; William W. Banta, clerk; Arthur J. Stever, freeholder; John A. Storms, assessor, and Ernest Koester, township counsel.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The first election of local officials was held April 1898 in the former Hillsdale Manor House off upper Broadway, since torn down. Meetings of the township committee were held there until March 1899 when they were held in a room over the Abram C. Hering store (now Pascack Board of Realtors building) at 150 Broadway until March 1901.

The township was divided into three road districts early in 1898. The rate for road work was fixed at \$1.25 per day for nine hour's work and \$4.00 a day (nine hours) for one man and a team of horses. Each of the three township committeemen had charge of one road district.

David Patterson had donated the land for Magnolia Avenue in 1850 and in 1871 donated the land in the center of Hillsdale which is now Memorial Park.

The Hillsdale Board of Education was organized April 23, 1898 with A.C. Holdrum as president and William Blauvelt as clerk. There were three schools in Hillsdale in 1898: No. 1 which was the former School #1 in River Vale; No. 2 on Magnolia Avenue and No. 3 on Pascack road built in 1856. Both latter schools have been torn down.

High school children attended schools in Park Ridge, Westwood or Hackensack prior to the Pascack Valley Regional High School in 1955.

The tavern of Peter A. Jersey in Pascack (Woodcliff Lake) was the depository for mail addressed to Hillsdale on a once-a-week basis until March of 1870 when the railroad entered Hillsdale. At that time it was delivered daily to the post office established in the present Leddy Building on Hillsdale Avenue just west of the railroad tracks. Henry G. Hering, the storekeeper, was appointed the first postmaster at a salary of \$12 per year.

Mr. Hering was one of the leading citizens of early Hillsdale for a long period of time. In addition to his storekeeper-postmaster duties he served as stationmaster, secretary of the railroad, township clerk, state assemblyman, under sheriff of the county from 1881 to 1886, former supervisor and tax assessor for Washington Township before Hillsdale was created, and he was a civil engineer and surveyor. Hering laid out most of the roads in Bergen County and owned and developed most of Hillsdale Manor.

Other early postmasters were school principal W. W. Banta and John W. Kinmouth who moved it to his store on Broadway, now the Cala Brothers Buildings. At the incorporation of Hillsdale in 1898, the post office was moved back to the Leddy Building then owned by John W. Winters who became postmaster.

POLICE AND FIRE

Prior to 1908, the public safety in Hillsdale was maintained by constables elected each year.

There was no organized fire-fighting unit in the community until the formation of the Hillsdale Fire Assn. in 1902.

In the early days, bucket brigades of local residents fought fires after arriving on the scene on foot or by wagons.

The Town did, however, have one of the best fire alarm systems in the county. As the railroad car shops and roundhouse were in Hillsdale, there were usually several engines parked in Hillsdale. The blowing of the whistles of all the engines in town signaled the discovery of a fire and could be heard for miles around the countryside. This alarm method was used until the employment of several huge iron rings at various locations in the town shortly after the turn of the century.

THE RAILROAD

As mentioned previously, the advent of the railroad effected a great change in the character of Hillsdale and its relation to the outside world.

A charter was granted by the state on March 14, 1856 to the Hackensack and New York Railroad Company which began construction of a 21-mile line in the spring of 1869. On Christmas Day of that year the first engine crossed what is now Hillsdale Avenue forming a link with the Erie Railway junction south of Carlstadt to a point just west of Hillsdale Avenue which was its temporary terminus. When Hillsdale Station was opened for use of the public on March 4, 1870 there were only six houses within half-mile radius of the site.

Hillsdale residents were prominent in the organization of the pioneer railroad. Its president was David P. Patterson: Henry G. Hering was first secretary: and John Alfred Storms was the agent for the first station.

Equipment was primitive with wooden, open-platform cars for passengers and wood burning stoves at either end of the car for heat.

The tiny railroad's first engines were wood-burners built in Paterson. They remained in service until 1879. Coal burning engines were introduced in 1874, and one engine, No. 2, was adorned with the name "Hillsdale" on its sides. Shortly after 1870, the 21 miles of track were extended northward from Hillsdale to Haverstraw, NY and was known as the Hackensack and New York Extension Railroad. The two lines were merged in 1873 into the New Jersey and New York Railroad Co. An 1879 timetable indicates five round trips per day between Jersey City and Hillsdale and one round trip freight train. Commutation between Hillsdale and New York (using the ferry) was \$14.50 per month with one-way fare costing 75 cents. In 1896 the NY and NJ Railroad was leased to the Erie Railroad.

When Hillsdale became a township in its own right in 1898 the railroad's engine roundhouse and car shops were located in the town. Two local residents Rubin W. Jepson was superintendent of motive power, and L.B. Van Wagonen was superintendent of the car shops. The railroad's water tank, coaling station and turn table were all located in Hillsdale and gave a healthy stimulant to the economy of the community.

The rooms over the railroad station, first used as the superintendent's office, later served a multitude of purposes in Hillsdale: the Fire Association and Improvement Association met there; it was the site of early services for the Episcopal Church; local political organizations used the offices: and they later were converted into a real estate and insurance office.

By the turn of the 20th century, the first phase of Hillsdale's growth was well under way, due in large part to the coming of the railroad and the prominent part the town played in its operation.

Source: Local Review March 29, 1973:11

HISTORY OF HILLSDALE: PART II

Township Of Hillsdale – The Years 1900 to 1923

HILLSDALE – In the previous issue of this newspaper, the first segment of a four-part series presenting a condensed History of Hillsdale dealt with the history of the community from Colonial days to the turn of the 20th century.

This week's segment will review the period from 1900, which was just two years after the incorporation of The Township of Hillsdale on March 25, 1898, through 1922. This period includes World War I and the entire era during which Hillsdale was governed as a township. Hillsdale adopted its present borough form of government April 24, 1923.

During the period 1900 through 1922, the growth of Hillsdale Township remained slow. The character of the town was still rural with farming the principal occupation for those of its residents who did not commute to jobs in the large nearby cities of New York, Jersey City and Paterson. Local storekeepers, businessmen, and officials of the railroad were the main community leaders who ran the town.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The most noteworthy characteristic of the two decades under consideration was the evolution of community services and utilities which are today taken for granted. The era saw the birth of the fire and police departments, modern roads, the coming of electric lights and the telephone, water mains and fire hydrants, new and larger schools, organizations such as the Boy Scouts and the establishment of town parks.

One of the last land alignments in the Pascack Valley took place in 1906 when "all that territory in Hillsdale Township east of Demarest Avenue – Cedar Lane and an imaginary line due north – and the northeast part of Westwood (then known as Eastwood)" was formed into River Vale Township, leaving the boundaries of Hillsdale as they are today. Eugene E. Rich was mayor of the town in that year. From 1900 until March 1901, the township committee met in a room over Abram C. Hering's store on Broadway which is now the building housing the Westwood – Pascack Valley Board of Realtors. In the latter year the meeting place was shifted to Hillsdale Manor on north Broadway (since demolished) where it remained until May 7, 1907 when meetings were held in Fireman's Hall – the present borough hall.

Railroad and Summit Avenues (now Broadway) received the first macadam in the town in 1902. Special elections in 1907 and 1908 authorized the issuance of a total of \$45,000 in bonds to macadamize all accepted streets in the town. The state matched the sum in aid. The importance placed upon roads at the time is shown by the fact that 232 of the town's 240 eligible voters in the first

election approved the bond issue. In 1910 the County Freeholders replaced the iron bridge on Broadway connecting with Westwood and a second connection through Hopper Street which is now Kinderkamack Road.

A public meeting April 7, 1900 petitioned the township committee to appropriate \$200 to improve the present Memorial Park. In 1908 trees, plants and flowers were planted in the park and William Hozenhaler was assigned as park caretaker in 1921. In the same year the town purchased a flagpole for the park, and an Honor Roll Committee was appointed to honor World War I servicemen. A huge boulder was brought to Hillsdale on a railroad flatcar. In an attempt to transfer it to the park, the boulder fell off the transfer vehicle. Several meetings were held on the problem. It was decided it was too costly to attempt to move the boulder, so it remains today where it fell just behind the present bus shelter on Broadway.

It was decided in 1922 to erect the present granite monument in the park.

PUBLIC UTILITIES ARE INSTALLED

The Union Electric Company was granted a franchise on May 19, 1900 to erect poles and wires for electric lights in Hillsdale due to a proposal by Genest M. Ottignon. In February 1901, the Bergen County Gas & Electric Company, an outgrowth of the former company, was granted a franchise to lay gas mains and erect electric lights in the town. Both companies were later absorbed by the present Public Service Gas and Electric Company.

In 1902 the sum of \$2000 was voted by the town "for the electric lighting of public streets, to replace oil lamps, 32 candlepower lights to be placed on various streets in the township."

A franchise was granted for the NY and NJ Telephone Co. on May 7, 1900 to erect poles and string telephone wires in the town. The first telephone was installed in the home of Thomas C. Demarest on Broadway supervised by Edmund L. Greenin, a local township committeeman. The telephone company later became the present-day NJ Bell Telephone Company.

Mr. Greenin in 1903 was appointed by the Township Committee to secure water for Hillsdale, and on Sept. 9, 1903 a water franchise was granted to the Hackensack Water Company. Two miles of water mains and 24 fire hydrants were installed shortly thereafter.

The post office in 1898 was housed in the back of a store owned by John F. Winters (the Leddy building) who was postmaster. In 1913, John W. Kinmouth became postmaster and the first wood frame post office was built.

POLICE DEPT. TAKES FORM

Protection of public property and law enforcement in Hillsdale was maintained by constables elected annually until Feb. 4, 1908 at which time Albert W. Rawson and Christian Dies were appointed "special officers" to assist the constables. They held office until July 1913.

Early town records show that the township clerk was authorized May 6, 1901 to purchase a pair of handcuffs for the constable and a second pair on June 2, 1902. The first traffic ordinance was passed June 4, 1900 "prohibiting bicycle riding on the paths upon the roadsides," and on May 5, 1902 a speed limit of eight miles per hour through the township was established for motorcycles, autos and bicycles. On July 2, 1906, the constables were ordered to enforce the state auto laws.

The Bergen County Detective Assn. (later to become the New Jersey Rangers Detective Assn.) was organized Sept. 10, 1912 with its headquarters on Summit Avenue (Broadway), Hillsdale. At one time the group numbered 20 men called "pursuers." The Rawson twins of Hillsdale Albert W. and Alpheus E. became famous as early "lawmen" in the Rangers whose trustees were all Hillsdale residents.

Charles E. McCleary, who owned a butcher shop on Summit Avenue, was appointed as the first uniformed Special Police Officer July 7, 1913 at a salary of \$5.00 per week. He served until the summer of 1915 and was followed by various other special police officers until 1921.

John G. Ackerman was appointed the first recorder in May 1917 at a salary of \$50.00 per year. He resigned in June and Theodore I. Haubner was appointed to complete his three-year term.

The first regular police department began to take form in January 1921 when eleven special police officers were sworn in with John Hartleib named acting chief. The town purchased badges and clubs and ordered the acting chief to submit monthly reports to the township committee. Fred Walker took over as acting chief from H.E. Hering in 1922.

FIREMEN ORGANIZE

In April 1902 the Hillsdale Fire Association was organized at a meeting held over the railroad station. John H. Riley was elected president; J.W. Banta, recording secretary; E.F. Taylor, financial secretary; and O.S. Trall, treasurer. The association was incorporated in 1903. In March 1912, an active "Fire Dept." was created within the association for members who wished to be active firemen with others remaining as social members.

The association was designated the "Bona-fide Official Fire Dept. of the Township of Hillsdale" March 20, 1914 and Henry J. Werner was named the first chief.

Prior to this reorganization, the Fire Association held its first fair in August 1902 with the Ladies Auxiliary and raised the money to purchase a hose reel and pump pulled on a wagon by ropes. Enough money was raised by various events to buy a horse drawn rig and build the fire headquarters which is now the present borough hall in 1906. Hook & Ladder Co. #1 carried a 40-foot ladder and hose in the rig pulled by horses rented at Calvin Gardenier's stables on Park Street. In 1907 a horse drawn hose cart was acquired. The horse hose vehicle was replaced by the first auto, a Mathieson, in 1914. By 1918 the town had three fire

trucks and had replaced all the horse drawn vehicles. On July 8, 1921, the association donated the trucks to the town.

The Hillsdale Fire Patrol was formed with 35 members March 14, 1917. The men had authority to arrest violators of the law at a fire. The patrol later became Chemical Co. #1.

After several mergers of the different fire companies, the Hillsdale Fire Dept. was established by town ordinance July 8, 1921 under Chief A. Bachman. J.E. Butenschoen was chief in 1922 the year in which the newly formed eight-member Hillsdale Women's Fire Dept. attracted the attention of three NY daily newspapers.

The local fire department gained prominence in county and state firemanic circles from an early date. On Sept. 18, 1915, the Hillsdale firemen set a new world's record at the Ho-Ho-Kus Fair Grounds by laying and coupling 150 feet of hose to a hydrant from running start in 41 seconds. In 1916, Hillsdale broke their own record by performing the same feat in 37 seconds.

The NJ and NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn. of today was conceived in Hillsdale in 1915 when Henry J. Werner was elected its first president. The department has been a member of the NJ State Firemen's Assn. since 1916. The Hillsdale Exempt Firemen's Assn. was organized Sept. 23, 1918 with T.C. Demarest its first president. The NJ State Exempt Firemen's Association held its convention in Hillsdale in Jun 1922.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Hillsdale Fire Assn. was organized in 1902 with Mrs. John Riley as chairman. It was reorganized in 1906 with 32 members and Mrs. M. Clausen as president. The group assisted the firemen at many social functions and carnivals and assisted the men in fund-raising projects.

SCHOOLS – CHURCHES

The nucleus of what is now the George G. White School on Magnolia Avenue was built as 12 rooms in 1921. High school students from Hillsdale attended schools in Park Ridge and Westwood. In school elections prior to 1920 it was necessary to have two ballot boxes, one for election of board members and one for appropriations because women taxpayers were permitted to vote for appropriates but not for board members. Nominations for board members were made from the floor with the names placed on a blackboard and the voters making their choice from the names listed.

The Hillsdale PTA was organized in 1922 with 73 members as the result of a petition drawn up by Mrs. Della Fox.

An addition to the Hillsdale Methodist Church, then across from the street from the present church, was built in 1911. William Blauvelt served as treasurer of the church school from 1904 until 1944.

The parish house of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church then located on Cross Street was used extensively during World War I by the Red Cross for making dressings and bandages. Miss Minette Bell became the first church organist in 1905.

THE BOY SCOUTS

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church sponsored Hillsdale's first Boy Scout Troop in 1916. The Rev. A.R. McWilliams was scoutmaster of Troop #1 with J. Harry Huser and Rollings Webster as assistance scoutmasters.

Two additional Scout troops were sponsored in June 1920 by a group of citizens including Henry J. Werner, John G. Hansen and Fred D. Day. Walter M. Dwyer and Edward Singleton became scoutmasters of the new troops which later were known as Troops 52 and 81.

Girl Scouts, Cubs and Brownies were not organized in Hillsdale until several years later.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN WORLD WAR I

Hillsdale's participation in home activities during the two-year period of World War I was typical of many rural communities

The "Hillsdale Loyal League" was recognized by the Township Committee with 53 members April 17, 1917. The unit was led by H.I. Knickerbocker and members were sworn in as "special police." An additional 20 members were added by the end of the year.

The ground was re-designated as the "Hillsdale Home Guard" in January 1918, and 25 rifles were purchased after a special election July 5, 1918. A request for ammunition and bayonets was denied, and the rifles were disposed of in 1919 when the unit was disbanded.

Local citizens were busy during the war years with Red Cross work, scrap drives and other activities supporting the war effort.

In 1919 returning veterans organized American Legion Post 162 with Charles Riley as commander of 10 charter members. On July 4, 1920 the first colors were donated to the post by Hillsdale Fire Assn.

Source: Local Review April 5, 1973

HISTORY OF HILLSDALE: PART III

Borough of Hillsdale During Years 1923-1946

HILLSDALE – During the year 1922 the Civic Association, after canvassing the will of the residents, presented a petition to the Township Committee expressing the opinion that the community had outgrown the township form of government.

As a result, the State Legislature passed an act on March 2, 1923 incorporating the Borough of Hillsdale. The residents ratified the legislature's action in a referendum held April 24, 1923. The first Mayor and Council was elected November 12, 1923 and took office the same day with Henry J. Werner as Mayor.

The principal officials in the first borough family were: Councilmen C.G. Graf, W.W. Livengood, Frank Scott, M. Taradash, Harvey E. Hering and C.A. Lorentz; Collector-Treasurer, George W. Saul; Clerk, George M. Yates; Borough Engineer, H.G. Hering Jr.; and Assessor, John W. Kinmouth. Garrett A. Storms served a long tenure as Borough Clerk from 1926 through 1950. George W. Babcock served as Borough Attorney from 1822 until his death in 1945.

The first borough board to be appointed was the Board of Health formed in November 1923 with Ralph H. Stever as chairman. It took more than 20 years to fill out the borough's present operating boards; the Planning Board organized Nov. 9, 1927 with W.W. Livengood, chairman; Zoning Board of Adjustment on July 23, 1929 with J.G. Hansen, chairman; Shade Tree Commission in April 1931 with R. Lehman, chairman; Municipal Assistance Commission on June 23, 193 with William B. Terry, Chairman; Parks and Playgrounds Commission on July 16, 1945 with George Abelman, chairman.

The first borough meeting hall was in Fireman's Hall until December 4, 1923 when the council met in the old school building on Magnolia Avenue. In 1927 the Fireman's Hall from the Exempt Fireman's Assn. and the first council meeting was held in the present borough hall on Dec. 11, 1928

COMMUNITY SERVICES ARE EXPANDED

During the two decades between 1923 and 1947, the new borough began to improve community services. The Patterson Street bridge over the Pascack Brook was built by the county in 1925. Additional homes began to be constructed in the Washington Park Development in 1926 at the then Demarest Farm west of Broadway and Central Avenue. Streets in the Glenbrook Park Development were laid from 1926 through 1928. Axel Gustafson was appointed as the first assigned Road Department in 1925 with equipment consisting of a wheelbarrow and hand tools. William Diefenbach was named foreman of the department in March 1929 and held the position for more than 20 years.

The local Civic Association had undertaken the beautification of Memorial Park up to the summer of 1925. The group was dissolved in July 1925 and presented the borough a check for \$231.50, its total bank account, requesting that the funds be used for beautification of local parks.

The first bus line serving Hillsdale went into operation Sept. 15, 1924 when Avolia Transportation Co. of Paterson ran a line from Hillsdale station to Paterson via Pascack Road and Hillsdale Ave. On Nov. 3, 1924 the Park Ridge Transportation Co. received a franchise to operate two busses through Hillsdale via Broadway between Pearl River and Westwood. In 1927 the Spring Valley Bus Co. began a run of five busses from Spring Valley to Jersey City through Hillsdale. Rockland Coaches began their current runs from Spring Valley to New York in the 1940's A.J. Tiedeman operated buses from Westwood to Ridgewood via Hillsdale and provided Taxi service in Hillsdale from 1921.

MODERN POLICE AND FIRE UNITS

Lawrence J. Foley was appointed the first regular Chief of Police with the adoption of a Police Ordinance July 13, 1928. James A. Holland and William F. Bulach, who later served as chief, were appointed first regular patrolmen. The Board of Trade donated the present kiosk police booth to the borough on Christmas Day 1925, and the first traffic lights were installed on Hillsdale Ave. and Broadway in July 1927. The first police patrol car was purchased in 1926 and the police headquarters was moved to its present site in borough hall in January 1931.

A Mack combination hook & ladder truck was purchased for the fire department in April 1926. This was replaced in 1941 by a Ward LaFrance Cities Service Truck which saw about 15 years of service, and a Sanford pumper and hose truck purchased in March 1929 was used for more than 20 years. A local fireman, Albert Westervelt, won first prize in a ladder climbing contest on Nov. 9, 1931 at the State Firemen's Home in Boonton. During the depression a Welfare Committee of the Hillsdale Fire Dept. was active from 1929 through 1932. The Pascack Valley Fireman's Assn. was form in 1924 with Hillsdale as a charter member. Oscar Bartalot served as president in 1948.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Assn. was dissolved May 12, 1924 and reorganized as the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Exempt Firemen's Assn. with 37 members and Mrs. W. Werkeiser as first president. The present Ladies' Auxiliary of the Fire Dept. was organized with 18 members and Mrs. Ann Farley as president.

The fire department erected and presented a World war II Honor Roll to the borough on Memorial Day 1924 with assistance chief R.C. Appeld making the presentation. The roll was built by former Chief Charles Westphal and contained the names of 455 men and women who saw service and 11 men who had given their lives for their country. The department maintained the roll in the park and later donated it to the American Legion Post where it can be seen at the post home on Legion Drive.

SCHOOLS – CHURCHES AND LIBRARY

In 1983 an addition of six classrooms and the 800 seat auditorium was built on the original 12-room school on Magnolia Avenue which is now the George G. White School. High school students attended Park Ridge and Westwood high schools on a tuition basis paid by the Hillsdale district.

A meeting of local citizens on June 16, 1935 laid the ground-work for a public library in Hillsdale with Miss Sarah Vander Clute playing a leading role. A small store on the north side of Hillsdale Ave. was dedicated as the library on Jan. 20, 1936 with Judge Walter McIntyre presenting the keys to Mayor John G. Hansen. On Nov 3, 1936, Hillsdale voters made the Free Library a permanent institution, and the borough received a gift of 4500 books in a debt-free library on Jan. 1, 1937. In March 1938, the library moved across the street to Leddy Building. First librarian was Mrs. Ruth Newman, Judge McIntyre was president of the trustees for many years.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Hillsdale Ave. became a self-sustaining parish in May 1945 with Rev. Richard Ashford as the first Rector of the parish.

Mrs. Helen Riley donated the land for the first St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, then a mission, on the south side of Hillsdale Ave. Ground was broken April 4, 1925 by Father O'Donnell and lay trustees Mayor Henry J. Werner and John T. Buckley. The church was dedicated Dec. 13, 1925 with Father Cornelius A. Corcoran installed as first resident pastor on Oct. 14, 1927 Rev. Thomas J. Duffy was appointed pastor on June 1, 1945. He is presently Monsignor Duffy and pastor emeritus of the parish. The church sponsored Boy Scout Troop 91 which received a charter May 1, 1944. Troop chairman was G. McAleer, and William Kovac.

SCOUTS AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Doubles Club of Hillsdale sponsored Boy Scout Troop 108 chartered with 12 boys in February 1945 under the leadership of J. Edward Lohman. Cub Pack 91 sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Church was invested Sept. 28, 1945 with 31 young boys in six dens.

Mrs. John J. Merritt was captain of the first Girl Scout Troop in 1924. The "Lily of the Valley" Troop was organized in 1927 with Mrs. William Bach as captain. The PTA and American Legion Post were instrumental in organizing many other boy and girl Scout troops over the next decade and they played a leading role in local activities during World War II. Three Browning Scout troops were organized in 1939 with 54 girls by the Hillsdale PTA

LOCAL CLUBS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

In the two decades following 1920, Hillsdale saw the organization of a wide variety of clubs, civic organizations, and business groups which played a large part in the community life of the town.

In 1925, the Hillsdale American Legion Post was reorganized and Kenneth Anderson was elected Commander. In 1929 the post was incorporated under the name of the General Leonard Wood Post 162. The property where the Legion Hut now stands on Legion Place was purchased in 1930 and Legionnaires constructed the present headquarters largely with donated labor and materials. The building was dedicated in 1932 as "Veterans Memorial Hall."

The American Legion Auxiliary of Post 162 was granted a charter July 1, 1927 with seven members and Mrs. Elenore Vogler as president.

At a meeting at the home of Mrs. Paul Clerke the Sun Dial Garden Club was organized with 28 members and Mrs. Clerke chosen as president. The late T.A. Weston was one of the leaders of the club from 1929 until his death in 1946. The club did much to beautify local parks, stimulate gardening in the town and planted trees along principal roadways. The club donated the sun dial now in Memorial Park in 1931 and later a memorial to Mr. Weston.

The Hillsdale Branch of the Hackensack Hospital Auxiliary was formed in May 1935 at the home of Mrs. Garrett Broadhead. At the next meeting Mrs. Broadhead was elected president by the 15 members of the group. Mrs. Thomas Mullen served as president from 1937 through 1948.

Under the sponsorship of the Hillsdale Methodist Church, The Young Doubles Club was organized by Rev. Earl Hampton. The Club was non sectarian with the aim of promoting Christian fellowship among the young married couples of Hillsdale. The club which became The Doubles Club in 1946 sponsored Boy Scout Troop 108.

The Hillsdale Civic Association was incorporated on August 8, 1945 with 15 trustees and Frank D. Peters as president. The group met twice monthly, sponsored social events, published a news letter mailed free to local residents and installed "Welcome" signs at the entrances to Hillsdale on principal roads

In 1928 the Hillsdale Republican Club was organized as the outgrowth of the Second District Republican Club which had been in existence for several years under the leadership of Clarence V. Shuttleworth. It pledged to maintain the principles of the Republican Party and to elect local officials who stood for "Good Government."

Mrs. William B. Terry, president of the Hillsdale Parent-Teacher Association was instrumental in organizing the Hillsdale Recreation Committee in 1934 with 25 members. The committee was later sanctioned by the Mayor and Council and Board of Education. Harry F. Gunther was chairman of the committee from 1934 to 1942 when it ceased to operate during the war years.

In 1941 a program of serving lunches at the playgrounds during summer programs was instituted. Many of the recreation programs now carried on by the Hillsdale Recreation Commission were conceived by the original Recreation Committee.

From its earliest days, Hillsdale won a reputation as the home of outstanding athletic teams. The Hillsdale A.C. was known all over the county for its championship baseball teams. Later the Hillsdale Saxons and teams sponsored by various business firms carried on the tradition of fielding winning teams.

THE BUSINESS LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

The Business Association of Hillsdale was organized in the fall of 1932 and incorporated in June 1933. Its first president was Lucien Meyer. Trustees were leading local businessmen: Milton A. Zabriskie, Ira Durie, William Gensheimer, Berthold Hemme and Jay T. Fast. The association, which was the fore-runner of the present Hillsdale Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in obtaining better street lights for the business section and the widening of Broadway.

The Hillsdale National Bank, predecessor of the Pascack Valley Bank and Trust Company, was organized in 1926. The first Board Directors consisted of John T. Buckley, Edward P. Davis, William W. Livengood, Charles A. Lorentz, Anton Maksche, Bernard T. Rafferty, John A. Schlotterbeck, Albert H. Storms, Henry J. Werner and George M. Yates.

In January 27, W. Merle Hoffman was elected cashier with Edward J. Hauck and Mrs. Claudine Davis as assistants. Deposits at the close of the first day of business were \$52,064.83 in 110 accounts. Total resources were \$101,919.83. Ten years later on April 1, 1936 when the bank moved across Broadway to its first building at its present location, resource amounted to \$667,971.46.

The first automobile agency in Hillsdale was opened in 1909 by Ira Durie who sold Jackson cars at the site of the present Durie Motors on upper Broadway. Durie took the Oakland franchise in 1922 and was the Studebaker tributor from 1917 until the company went out of business in 1966. He also had an Oldsmobile agency from 1932 through 1940 and the Cadillac agency from 1936 to 1965. The business is now operated by Ira Durie Jr. and his son, Keith.

Source: Local Review April 12, 1973:27

HISTORY OF HILLSDALE: PART IV *Hillsdale During Years Of The 2nd World War*

HILLSDALE – During the period of American involvement in World War II between the years 1941 through 1945, nearly 500 men and women from Hillsdale saw service in the armed forces of their country.

Eleven men lost their lives in the four-year struggle. The men with gold stars affixed after their names on Hillsdale's World War II Honor Roll are: C. Clark, R. Greve, L. Gritman, E. Hills, R. Holensworth, W. Irvine, T. Lyons Jr., C. MacMillan, L. Meyer, H. Springer and R. Swenson.

On the home front, the entire community took an active part in supporting the war effort, providing home guard protection and in entertaining servicemen at nearby Army camps.

On May 23, 1941, Mayor Frank E. Hafemann appointed a Hillsdale Defense Council. Its principal leaders were: former Mayor John G. Hansen, chairman; H. Clyde Day, vice chairman; and Garrett A. Storms, secretary. Police Chief Henry P. Koelsch was later added along with Fire Chief Martin Shaefer and succeeding fire chiefs as they took office. Three men trained as bomb experts were included in the council: Milton Zabriskie, Henry Heins and R.C. Appeld.

In the autumn of 1941, a police Auxiliary of 21 men was organized and later expanded to 48 men. Also a Fire Auxiliary of 24 men was organized together with a First Aid Class of 40 men and women which received training. The first army air raid test was blown on the fire siren in Hillsdale in October 1941.

DEFENSE COUNCIL HOLDS CONFERENCE

The day after Pearl Harbor, Dec. 8, 1941, the Defense Council held a war conference upon orders from the state. A total of 141 persons were divided into zones in the community to enforce blackouts, serve as air raid wardens on a 24-hour basis and maintain order. By the end of 1942, the Defense Council consisted of 200 members. The borough hall was established as headquarters with first aid and canteen stations established at the George White School and Hemme Building.

The Army Air Force organized the Aircraft Warning Service under the sponsorship of the American Legion of Bergen County, and many Hillsdale residents joined the service. They were recognized for their contribution at the end of the war. Soldiers from nearby Camp Shanks manned anti-aircraft stations in the Pascack Valley during the war. Hillsdale girls volunteered as junior hostesses at U.S.O. dances in Hackensack, Westwood and Pearl River, N.Y. Hillsdale women supplied the soldiers with food books, records and invited them

for Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners at local homes. The local Fire Department also entertained soldiers on several occasions.

LOCAL COMMITTEES BACK A WAR EFFORT

A myriad of local committees were formed to cover all types of wartime emergencies: A Demolition and Rescue Squad, Transportation Committee, Evacuation Committee, Consumer Interest Committee and Salvage Committee. An aluminum drive for pots and pans in late 1941 collected these articles to aid the war effort. Later there were drives for scrap metal and paper; Victory Gardens were encouraged and local residents participated in large numbers in Red Cross Blood Banks and making surgical dressings for the Red Cross. The effects of rationing were felt in Hillsdale as in other parts of the nation.

When groups of Hillsdale volunteers or draftees left for duty, they were treated to farewell parties and given a pen by the borough. The names of the new servicemen and women were placed on the Honor Roll in the park.

Throughout the war, Hillsdale residents contributed generously to bond drives and war fund drives.

HILLSDALE HERO WAS HONORED

A Hillsdale resident, Colonel Frank A. Hill was the first American pilot to shoot down a German plane in World War II. Hill accomplished his feat over Dieppe, France. After completing 166 combat missions in Europe, Hill was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star and Air Medal with 19 Oak Leaf Clusters. The fighter pilot had six and one-half German planes to his credit by the end of the war. During his career, Hill rose from a private in the Army Air Corps, was commissioned as a second lieutenant and promoted rapidly as his exploits increased. He was never wounded and never lost a plane.

On Nov. 24, 1943 the entire town of Hillsdale turned out to honor the 24-year old hero in a giant "welcome home" party.

Special church services were held on "D" day, and general celebrations were held on "VE Day" and "VJ Day."

The Hillsdale Defense Council under John G. Hansen held its final meeting Sept. 30, 1945.

In September 1946 a giant "Welcome Home" celebration was staged to honor all men and women who had served in the war and featured a parade, games at the athletic field and a dance in the school auditorium.

KOREA AND VIETNAM

No accurate records were kept on the number of Hillsdale men and women who participated in the Korean War and in the recently ended war in Vietnam. A total of six Hillsdale men gave their lives in those two conflicts. Albert Rawson was killed in Korea and W. Roell, G. Poor, E. Eifenbein, P.P. Muniner,

and E.M. Maher Jr. lost their lives in Vietnam. The memory of these men is perpetuated by their inclusion with gold stars on the Honor Roll in the American Legion Post Hut on Legion Place.

Source: Local Review April 19, 1973 p. 13

HISTORY OF HILLSDALE: CONCLUSION

Population Explosion Rocks Town 1948-1973

by G.D. Graves Jr.

HILLSDALE – Explosive growth may be said to be the hallmark of the past quarter-century of the history of Hillsdale which covers the period from 1948 to the present 75th anniversary year of the community, 1973.

James A. Tatem was mayor of Hillsdale in 1948 when the groundwork was laid for the Tandy and Allen development of more than 200 homes which started Hillsdale on a building boom in 1949 and 1950 which has only very recently ground to a halt due to the fact that the only available lands in the community suitable for home sites are small lots scattered throughout Hillsdale.

Population figures published by the Bergen County Planning Board show Hillsdale's population as under 4000. The population of the town has tripled during the last 25 years to 1973. The building boom had its sharpest increase in the ten years from 1950 (population 4127) to 1960 (population 8734). The official population in 1972 was 12,035, making the community of only two square miles the most populous of the eight towns in the Pascack Valley.

BUILDING BOOM BRINGS SCHOOLS

The most immediate consequence of Hillsdale's exploding population was the demand for new schools and educational facilities.

In 1948 the elementary school enrollment was 496 students, all attending the George G. White School on Magnolia Avenue which had been enlarged in 1921 and 1938. A total of 155 Hillsdale High School students attended Westwood and Park Ridge high schools. Lindley Baxter served for ten years as superintendent of schools beginning in 1948 and E.C. Kenyon was president of the Board of Education.

Shepard Cynamon became superintended in 1962 and still holds that post. The present school board president is Harold Keates who has been in the position for six years.

In 1951 the residents of Hillsdale voted to form the Pascack Valley Regional High School District with River Vale, Woodcliff Lake and Montvale. The Pascack Valley High School on Piermont Avenue, Hillsdale was opened in the fall of 1955. A second school, Pascack Hills High School, was opened in Montvale in September 1964.

The Ann Blanche Smith School was opened on the west side of town on Hillsdale Avenue in 1955 and the Meadowbrook school was built on the east side of town on Piermont Avenue in 1964.

A massive school expansion program was initiated in December 1972 with the passage of a \$1.45 million bond issue. Construction now under way includes: four classrooms and an expanded library at Meadowbrook School: three

classrooms, a double station gym, new library, conversion to a cafeteria, and conversion to two science labs at the White School.

The public school enrollment in 1973 is 1665 students.

In 1955 St. John the Baptist parochial schools was constructed on Hillsdale Avenue to accommodate the large Catholic population in Hillsdale. St. John's School has a present enrollment of 560 students.

DEMOCRATS BREAK REPUBLICAN GRIP

In the fall of 1955 a split within the Republican Party in Hillsdale enabled John F. Dowd, a Democrat, to become the first member of his party to be elected Mayor of Hillsdale. Dowd served with distinction in 1956 and 1957 presiding over an all-Republican council. His appointment of Walter T. Wittman as Borough Attorney has never been changed as Wittman and is firm hold the position today.

During the past decade, the Hillsdale Council has contained several Democrats but never a Democratic Mayor since Dowd's term.

BOROUGH SERVICES TAKE PRESENT FORM

Over the past two decades Hillsdale's municipal services began to take their present form. In 1948, William Diefenbach was foreman of the Road Dept. with two men, a road grader, on truck and a gasoline operated street sweeper.

The present borough garage was constructed in 1966 when Gilbert E. Busch was Mayor and Robert Raute was Supt. Of Public Works. In 1973, the department is headed by Joseph D'Amico as superintendent of 28 full-time employees, the largest in the Pascack Valley. The department owns seven trucks and eight other pieces of equipment. All maintenance of equipment including the police and fire department vehicles is performed on the premises of the DPW. In 1951 the borough began municipal garbage pickup. In August 1972 six garbage trucks began twice weekly track pickup on Wednesdays covering the entire community.

Studies aimed at a municipal sewer program were begun in 1959 under Mayor Lester E. Bremer. The present Borough Clerk-Administrator S. Halloran was on the first sewer committee in 1959. Under Mayor Gilbert E. Busch in 1968, four sewer contracts were let in rapid succession backed by bond issues totaling \$4,100,000. The entire community was sewered by 1970 at a great saving to the taxpayers. Councilmen Richard Butterworth and Ivan Sattem were instrumental in guiding the sewer program to its completion.

The new firehouse on Hillsdale Avenue was completed in 1957 under Mayor Dowd and an addition of a second story was constructed in 1968 under Mayor Busch.

The Hillsdale Ambulance Corps began operations Feb. 1, 1954 and the new building now owned by the corps behind the firehouse on Washington Avenue was completed in 1968.

Judge Walter J. McIntyre served as president of the Board of Trustees of the Hillsdale Free Public Library from 1948 until his retirement in 1972, the year

in which an extensive expansion program was completed at the at the library on Hillsdale Avenue.

At the beginning of 1973, the library had 50,000 volumes on its shelves. Mrs. Betty F. Malone is full-time librarian in charge of of a full staff of several paid and volunteer assistants. Mrs. Dorothy H. Ward is president of the Board of Trustees.

The present United States Post Office building was opened in March 1960 with Calvin Piper as postmaster. Herman Orfini, a long-time employe of the post office, is now acting as postmaster following the retirement of Postmaster Piper early this year.

POLICE AND FIRE DEPTS. EXPANDED

In 1948 the Hillsdale Police Dept. consisted of Chief R. Frank Stoeckel, patrolmen Frank Scott, J. Greve and Gerald Schmidt, and one patrol car. The headquarters was located in the rear of the Borough Hall. Chief Stoeckel retired in 1969 and Captain Philip J. Varisco was appointed chief.

The department in 1973 headed by Chief Varisco consists of Captain Robert Schramm and 21 other officers and man with 6 police vehicles as their disposal. The headquarters is still in the Borough Hall but will be located in the new municipal building upon its completion late this year.

The Hillsdale Fire Department was housed on the ground floor of the present Borough Hall in 1948. Robert S. Rawson was chief of the 38 member department in that year, and the equipment consisted of one pumper and one hook and ladder engine. Oscar Bertalot of Hillsdale was president of the Pascack Valley Firemen's Association in 1948.

The department moved to its new building on Hillsdale Avenue in 1957. Franklyn C. Glucker is chief for 1973 with Richard E. Schreiber captain of Hook and Ladder Co. 1 and Wallace G. Brindise captain of Hose Co. 1. The department has four large, modern engines including a snorkel pumper, a chief's car and emergency vehicle. George Schoonover is president of the Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service; Rudolf C. Appeld is clerk of the Board of Fire Officers; and Dr. Gerald Dolan is Fire Dept. Surgeon.

In the fall of 1972, the fire department and ladies auxiliary won several first prizes for competitions in the annual parade and convention of the N.Y. and N.J. firemen's Assn.

THREE NEW CHURCHES ARE CONSTRUCTED

During the period following 1948, three new houses of worship were constructed in Hillsdale as the parish membership outgrew the original churches.

In 1954, Hillsdale Methodists built a new church across Magnolia Avenue from the first church which burned to the ground. A church school building was constructed some years later. Rev. Lawrence Richards is the present pastor of the congregation.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church completed a new building around the original church on Hillsdale Avenue in 1966. Rev. John S. Allen is Rector of the congregation.

In 1968, the parish of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church under the leadership of its pastor, now Monsignor Thomas J. Duffy pastor emeritus, completed a large new church with an entrance off Patterson Street. The Rev. Father Thomas Finnegan is now pastor of the parish which also supports St. John the Baptist Parochial School.

NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING UNDER WAY

In the late fall of 1972 under the leadership of Mayor Richard Englander, construction was started on a large new municipal building facing the firehouse on Hillsdale Avenue. The building will house all borough offices, a meeting hall for the governing body, the police department and Board of Health facilities. It is scheduled for completion late in 1973.

BUSINESS AREA PUSHES OUTWARD

From the earliest days, Hillsdale's business district was confined almost wholly to the area surrounding the railroad station on Broadway and Hillsdale Avenue. In the decade from 1960 to the present the business area pushed northward and southward along Broadway and its side streets. Valley Fair opened the first shopping center in town in 1968 near the Woodcliff Lake boundary in an abandoned sand pit. The burning of Koenig's Hofbrau, long a Bergen County gathering place for Americans of German descent and a meeting place for local residents and civic affairs, in the late 1960's opened up an area east of the Pascack Book suitable for a large shopping center. The center was opened in 1970 along with a municipal parking lot made by the demolition of several houses on the south side of Hillsdale Avenue west of the railroad tracks.

N.J. Bell Telephone Company built two new buildings on Broadway and several other new commercial buildings were constructed on both ends of the street. Both Pascack Valley Bank & Trust Company, formerly the Hillsdale National Bank, and Progressive savings and Loan Association built new headquarters on Broadway and the bank opened a branch office in Old Tappan. The bank has announced plans to merge with the Citizens First National Bank of Ridgewood, and the new Liberty National Bank is planning to open for business in the former Pheifer's County Hearth Building on Broadway later this year.

The Hillsdale Business Association was reorganized into the Hillsdale Chamber of Commerce which has been active in the community in recent years. The president for 1973 is Richard Kelley, president of the Pascack Valley Bank & Trust Co.

Several new organizations have been formed. A 50 Plus Club was organized by senior citizens, a Hillsdale Branch of the Pascack Valley Hospital Auxiliary was formed after the opening of the hospital, A Democratic Club was organized, and a Veteran's Council laws formed by the Gen. Leonard Wood Post

of the American Legion and the recently chartered Hillsdale Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

RECREATION ACTIVITY

The Hillsdale Recreation greatly expanded its operations to include year-round activities in the past ten years under a paid director, Joseph Talamo. The Memorial Park Little League Field off Hillsdale Avenue was improved. Beechwood Park recreation area was established with a nature trail and the music shell opened in the park in 1961 with a series of summer concerts. New playgrounds were opened in Glenbrook Park and a small plot of land off west Hillsdale Avenue was set aside as Halloran Park.

Mrs. Clifton S. Pruet is currently president of the Recreation Commission and John E. Stubbs is chairman of the Environmental Commission established by the borough in 1969.

Source: Local Review April 12, 1973

Hillsdale Development Of The Land 1870-1970

By BOB FISHER

HILLSDALE – The evolution of the scattered farms surrounding “Hillsdale Station” at the coming of the railroad in 1870 to the present-day community of approximately 3000 homes with a population of 11,7000 people was, in large part, the result of the sale over a century of multi-lot land developments.

It will be noted that in many of the early developments, the lots were very small in size, 25 by 100 feet. There were no zoning laws in the early days, but today a great many of the early lots have been welded into much larger tracts. Many of the lots in Hillsdale’s last large development west of Werimus Road contain from one-half to three-quarter acre plots.

FIRST DEVELOPMENT STARTED IN 1870

The first development in Hillsdale consisted of Lots and Villa Plots sold by D.P. Patterson, president of the Hackensack and New York Extension Railroad Co. The development, which included a total of 154, 50 or 100x200 foot lots north of Piermont Avenue, and 288 lots of the same sizes south of Piermont, encompassed all of the center of town except for a one-block wide swath bounded by Piermont and Hillsdale Avenues and going east from Broadway (then known as Summit Avenue). That open land belonged to A.A. Hopper, G.S. Demarest, and J. Tice. Lots and Villa plots took in property from just north of Serpentine Road (Knickerbocker Avenue) south to the Pascack Brook just beyond Lawrence Street and from Valley Street on the west to about Trinity Place on the east. The development was initiated in May 1870.

Part of Patterson land was later developed by Rachael Ackerman, who divided the property between Piermont and Hillsdale avenues from Central to Valley Avenue into 68 plots.

Hillsdale Manor, which began as Hillsdale Terrace in January 1890, was the next major development in the township. The manor, shown in plans submitted through 1894, included some 2257 plots generally of 25 by 100 foot dimensions from Lincoln Avenue in the north to Knickerbocker and Piermont avenues in the south and from Summit Avenue (Broadway) in the west, to St. Mary’s and Raymond streets in the east. A related development, known as the “Park Lands,” included some 126 plots of about the same size west of Summit Avenue on Park View Avenue Lake Drive, and South and West streets. This was the area of the Hillsdale Manor Railroad Station.

GLENBROOK PARK

The area which is now known as Glenbrook Park began its development between the turn of the century and 1910 when the Crest Development Co.

opened up land from Taylor Street east to Summit Avenue including the Boulevard and Crest Road. 75, 25 x 100 plots were initially set out in that area. Development of this area was delayed for some years due to the inability to obtain water mains.

The Hillsdale Land and Improvement Co, in 1913, continued land development south of the Manor Park Lands from Brookside Place to the south side of Prospect of Patterson Street to Summit Avenue. 26, 25 x 100 foot lots were carved out of that area.

EAST-CENTER SIDE DEVELOPED

Development on the east/center side of town from Summit Avenue to Kinderkamack Road was virtually finished with subdivisions by the W.J. Rich Development Co from 1911 to 1914. The Rich Co developed land along Conklin and Large streets east from Magnolia to the area of Kinderkamack Road. The same company also developed the small area from Cross Street to Hillsdale Avenue including what is now Liberty Street, George and Park streets. A total of 325 lots, 25 x 100 feet in Dimension were mapped out by this company.

During the 1920's, development centered on the southwest section of the borough with the Overbrook Manor Development Corp parceling land from Hopkins Street south to Demarest Avenue including Overbrook Place, Carlyle Place, and Buena Vista Avenue. There were 149, 25 x 125 foot plots in this area, and the development including the Overbrook Country Club which was adjacent to a pool in Pascack Brook called Prospect Lake.

Later in the decade, the Washington Park Development Co created 236 parcels, again, 25x 150 feet in dimension on Everdell, Midland, and Highland avenues from Homestead Avenue north to Demarest Avenue. Development of that land began in 1928.

TWENTY YEAR LULL IN DEVELOPMENT

There is no recorded land development in Hillsdale from the Washington Park Development in 1928 to that of Tandy and Allen in 1948.

TANDY AND ALLEN

In June 1948 the first plats were filed of a land development first called Brookdale, then Saddlewood Hills, but more commonly referred to as the Tandy and Allen Development. According to maps on file with the county, the development encompasses all of the land lying between Hillsdale Avenue, Saddlewood Drive and Pascack Road. Approximately 205 lots of 100 foot frontage and varying depths were laid out in that area between 1948 and the end of 1950. The development included provisions for a lake at the end of Sherwood Drive. The lake never eventuated. Most of the land in this development comprised the farm last owned by Henry Clendenny. It was not until 1972 that

the last six homes were completed on Hillsdale Avenue at the site of the Clendenny farmhouse which pre-dated the Revolutionary War.

LAST DEVELOPMENT IN 1958 AND 1968

Development of one of the last large tracts of open Hillsdale land began in 1958 with the Chestnut Hills project which extended from Melville Road to Werimus Road and from Werimus Road north to Craig Road.

The Royal Hills Development opened in 1968 stretched west of Chestnut Hills to the Saddle Rivver border and north of Melville Road to the Woodcliff Lake line.

Source: Local Review March 22, 1973:14

Hillsdale Had Glowing Press 100 Years Ago

More than 100 years ago, a booklet published in 1870 for the purpose of attracting home buyers painted a glowing picture of the community as both a residential area and an ideal site for industry and manufacturing. The booklet by George L. Catlin is titled: "Suburban Homes for City Business Men on the Line of the Erie Railway – 1870." The preamble of the piece describes the general area thus:

"- a description of the country adjacent to the eastern division and branches of the Erie Railway and Northern Railroad of New Jersey
- together with a statement of inducements offered for purchased of a suburban residence in the rich valleys of the Hackensack and Passaic, the healthful mountain region of the Ramapo, or the fair fields of Orange County."

The cover of the prospectus further glorified Hillsdale with heavy use of exclamation points as follows:

"Choice Locations for Country Villas, Cottages and Building Sites at Hillsdale. N.J. – Fine Mountain Scenery!! Rich Soil!! Pure Waters!! No Mosquitoes!!"

Getting down to the hard description, author Catlin waxed eloquently over Hillsdale. We quote him verbatim:

"Hillsdale, the present terminus of the road, and destined at no distant day, judging from the wonderful progress made during the last six months, to become an important center of trade and travel. The President of the Extension Road, D.P. Patterson Esq. resides near the depot, and within a circuit of a half mile are the abodes of a number of old and wealthy inhabitants of the county. A large hotel, capable of accommodating 250 guests, is in course of erection, a fine new country store, well stocked, is already in operation adjacent to the station and quite a number of dwelling houses are going up within a stone's throw of the spot. The Village of Hillsdale has a population of about 2000, contains two schools, a church (Dutch Reformed), a spool manufactory, (seventy five by a hundred feet in dimensions, and five stories high), and four turning mills, all in operation.

"The Pascack Creek, formed by the confluence of several large brooks, furnishes a water power sufficient for fourteen mills, and, in this respect, the advantages of Hillsdale are especially worthy of consideration. But its claims as a place of residence are equally strong. The country is open and well cultivated, the air is clear and healthful, the water pure and the soil very fertile. The country roads afford opportunities for delightful drives or rambles; two miles east of the station is the hill where the unfortunate Major Andre was hung, and where his remains found a resting place, until, their removal to his native country a few years ago.

Withing a half a mile from the Hillsdale Depot one may purchase an acre of good land for \$500, while city plots, easily accessible from the cars, can be

hand at from \$300 to \$500. A visit to and an inspection of this newly opened section will generously repay those who take an interest in the subject of Suburban homes.

Source: Local Review March 22, 1973:15

WOMEN'S LIB 1922 Hillsdale Fire Ladies Captured N.Y. Press

Early in 1922, a Women's Fire Dept. was organized in Hillsdale with eight fully equipped members trained by the men of the regular fire department.

The innovation in fire-fighting in Hillsdale was believed to be the only group of its kind in the world at that time. It captured the imagination of the daily press in New York City. Three of the city's largest newspapers gave wide publicity to the Hillsdale women's group at a time when the leaders of today's "Women's Lib" movement were either unborn or in swaddling clothes.

The N.Y. DAILY NEWS began the public presentation in its issue of June 6, 1922, with a picture of the eight Hillsdale girls in their uniforms holding a fire hose.

On June 11, 1922 in a Sunday edition, THE N.Y. EVENING TELEGRAM presented a full-page spread with five pictures of the female firemen in action under an eight column banner headline: "Where The Only Girl's Fire Force On Earth Goes Into Action." The sub-heads of the story ran as follows: "Young Women Show Class in Ladder and Hose Work at Hillsdale, New Jersey" and "Uniformed Organization. Trained by the Regulars, Are in the Game in Earnest; Not for Fun; and Challenge the World."

The next day, the N.Y. EVENING WORLD in its issue of Monday, June 12, 1922, presented a similar full-page spread with pictures and a large artist's sketch of the girl's fighting a fire at a burning home. The banner headline ran: "Fire Lassies Who Fight Fires Just Like Men." The story written by a reporter who visited Hillsdale had the sub-head: "Hillsdale, N.J. Young Women Run A Fire Department Of Their Own and Are Training To Wrest 'State Championship' From The Men."

Copies of the news stories are preserved in the microfilm newspaper section of the New York Public Library and may be read there Monday through Friday.

The feature published in the N.Y. EVENING WORLD is reproduced below as its author wrote it almost 51 years ago.

By R. BATCHELDER

HILLSDALE – The past few years have seen a decided slump in the traditional supremacy of man. Nowadays we never flicker an eyebrow at the thought of a woman lawyer, a woman doctor, a woman subway guard (still in action in the Hudson tubes), a woman cop, a woman member of Congress, a woman mayor, or a jurywoman who sits up all night and then goes home to get breakfast.

But one civic activity which has hitherto been inviolate by women has become a memory, in so far as the male monopoly is concerned, and will shortly, we prophesy, have as many women on its roles as any of those we spoke of in the first paragraph.

Hillsdale, N.J. has a women's fire department.

Though only two weeks have passed since the town fathers decreed that women could take their place with the men on the fire ladder, or at the nozzle of the hose, the whole town is proud of its female smoke-eaters, and is willing to bet that before long every town in the country will follow its example, and not merely allow, but even urge its women to don the red helmet and prepare to subdue any unruly flames when the occasion arises.

I went to Hillsdale, an hour's ride from New York, to see if there really was anything to report that the women of the town were getting ready to compete with the men for places on the roster of the several fire companies.

First I asked a small boy when I alighted from the train.

"You betcher," he assured me.

The proprietor of the leading drugstore likewise declared that Hillsdale really had women for firemen. He sent back to Assistant Chief Block, who is the station agent when the fire gong is inactive, and Chief Block went even further than that.

"We most certainly have," he asserted positively, "Now you just go across the common and talk with Capt. Theodore I. Haubner of the chemical company. He can tell you all about it."

At that point I began to get a good idea of the variety of town to which I had come. It was similar to many which one sees in Jersey beyond a 20 mile radius of Jersey City. In back of the station was the town square, with its soldiers' monument (still gloriously bedecked with Memorial Day tributes). Beyond that was the main road, along which stretched, on the farther side, the dozen or fifteen shops of the town. The side streets had comfortable houses, almost entirely screened from view by profuse foliage and leafy bushes. Some might call it a "a restful looking place." About half of its menfolk commute daily to New York and New Jersey cities. The rest have local businesses or farming interests.

And that is the sort of town which holds the world's record for laying hose, as I later learned, and has just smashed all precedent by declaring that while woman's place may be in the home at certain hours, her place is on the fire truck as soon as the gong rings.

I then went over to Capt. Haubner's store, and he soon confirmed the opinion which I had already formed that everyone in Hillsdale was a confirmed firebug. Not the variety of bug which sets fires, but that which has the time of his life putting them out after they have started, and preventing them before they have a chance to begin. Capt. Haubner confessed that he was once a New York reporter, and that a good part of his job consisted in chasing the fire engines around the Tenderloin. At that time he caught the fever and he has never got over it. He and Fire Chief John E. Butenshon (Butenscheon) are responsible for this "Let the women help put out the fire" movement.

“We want to have a woman fire-fighter in every home in Hillsdale,” he said, “and we have already made a stand which has caused more interest in New Jersey than any election we ever had.”

And then he told me why and wherefore. There is an old tradition it seems, that a woman, when a fire starts, will throw the mirror out the window, carry the feather mattress carefully downstairs, then telephone her husband in town and ask him to call up and tell the firemen that the house is burning up.

This never held true in Hillsdale – not by 8000 darnsights. But you get the point nevertheless. Men have always said loftily “What does a woman know about fire-fighting?” And then, with several pats on the chest, “That’s a real man’s job.”

As a result, the women of Hillsdale, like the women of Larchmont, Ely, Nev, or Pingping, China, have always had the idea that when a kettle of fat falls into the stove, the first thing to do is get a pail of water and throw it on the fire, thereby, by the way spreading the flames all over the room.

The proper thing to do is to take a hod of ashes, a box of sand or the contents of a few flower pots, throw any of them at the base of the flames if a home extinguisher isn’t handy and then call the department. But women rarely do that, because the men who work the hose and take care of the big engines in the volunteer department have never thought of telling about such incidentals at home.

Moreover, out in Hillsdale where every man is a born and brought up fireman, there have been huge metal rings at various points of the village, which one strikes with a metal hammer to announce a fire. One blow, for instance, means that the fire is near the stations, and there are a dozen other signals which will send the apparatus to other parts of the town. But it has been found that the average woman, knowing little about signaling, will strike the metal ring steadily until she hears the engines coming. The result is utter confusion; for the firemen, counting fifty-six strokes when twelve is the highest on record, they must go from one end of the town to the other to find out where the fire is.

Chief Butenshon decided that all this was the fault of the men, who didn’t explain such affairs at home. As a started, he enrolled eight high school girls in his department and told them that they were on the town books just as much as he was or their fathers were. They were real smoke-eaters., he asserted, and any one who declared differently should come to him for correction. Teddy Boscher was made Chief and Buster Wandell was appointed Assistant Chief. Then there were Elizabeth Gosman, Rose Piscano and her sister Nettie, Edna Manahan, Eleanor Willse and Frances Willse.

At first some of the veterans inclined to smile, but when, after the first drill three of the girls were able to attach a hose to a hydrant, turn on the water and hold it with ninety-five pounds of pressure, it was no joke. That was something that hitherto had been regarded as a man’s job, and one which only a man could do speedily and efficiently.

I found Miss Gosman, Edna Piscano and Frances Willse in the room over the Firemen’s Hall rehearsing for their commencement exercises. “And what do

you think of being full-fledged firemen?" I asked Miss Gosman, a pretty young lady whom no one would regard as a smoke-eater.

"I like it first rate," she admitted, "and we have done a lot in these first two weeks. I realize that it will take some time before we can beat the men, but we have already made a good start."

Captain Haubner then remarked that the older boys were about to join the department, and started a rival organization.

"And we hope to beat them in the annual meet of the volunteer firemen at Hohokus," put in Miss Willse.

"And three of us can handle a regular line of hose," added Miss Piscano.

Further questioning brought out the fact that these young women can alone handle a fire engine and put out a fire. One of them is an expert driver; two can take care of putting out a fire.

But this is the real purpose of the "Firewoman drive." The menfolk have always been good fire-fighters, but they have never thought to talk over their problems at the supper table. These women, and the Boy Scouts, who have recently been a tremendous help to the firemen, will surely take home what they have learned by practice. They will tell the whole family, from Grandpa to the three-year-old-Jimmy, that when there is a fire, some one should try to put it out, and some one else should call out the department in proper fashion. The methods of putting the fire out, and the differences between various kinds of fires, will be broadcasted after a few meetings and drills. Thereby, the prevention of these fires will be taught in every Hillsdale household, and "first aid" lessons will be understood. After a short time, no one will get excited when a fire started; he or she will know exactly what to do.

There is going to be much comment on the women fire-fighters and their work when the New York and New Jersey Volunteer Fireman's Association has its convention on Saturday, July 8, the last day of Hillsdale's Old Home Week. One of its organizers, Henry J. Werner, who was Chief of Hillsdale in 1913, and president of the organization for four years, brought the party to his home town this year. But it was not merely on that account that Hillsdale was recognized as the local meeting place.

Take out your watch and then read this.

In 1916, when official watches were timing the competitions, the Hillsdale Fire Department won the world's record for hose-laying at the Hohokus race track. Its members with a running start on the engine, rode a quarter of a mile, coupled 150 feet of hose to a hydrant, ran out the hose, adjusted the nozzle and turned on the water – all in 41 seconds.

In 1917, under the same conditions, they did it in 37 seconds; and last year with a standing start, and all men 25 feet behind the engine when the pistol was shot, they were ready for water in 57 seconds. Another world's record was broken.

The Woman's Fire Department, according to the opinion of every one in town, is going to follow precedent. If it does, it will be a hummer.

Source: Bergen Evening Record October 9, 1948:13

Hillsdale Celebrates 50th Year of Independent Rule

Week's Observance Marks Town Organization in '98

Hardy Pioneers Broke From Vast Washington Township to Started Hillsdale, Taking Name From Old School – Bogert First Mayor

History books record the year 1898 as a momentous one, with the decisive battle of the Spanish-American War being fought, the Treaty of Paris signed, the Hawaiian Islands annexed by the U.S. and president William McKinley serenely serving the second year of his term which was to be ended by his assassination in 1901.

OLD TALES RECALLED

But to old-time residents of Hillsdale that year of 1898 marks the period of something of greater importance, something that to them was far more momentous. And all next week the few that are left will be passing along to grandchildren and great-grandchildren the story of that year 1898 when a group of Bergen County residents broke away from a sprawling territory known as Washington Township to set up their own community of Hillsdale.

It was March 25, 1898 that incorporation papers were filed at the State capital informing one and all that Hillsdale Township had come into being, that a band of hardy citizens thought they could do a better by themselves if given a compact territory and left to set up their own community. Today the wisdom of the move has been proved.

Axel Guastafson had the distinction, back in 1925 of being the entire road department of Hillsdale. His equipment, however, wasn't quite so distinctive, consisting of a wheelbarrow and other hand tools.

But it was a long, hard struggle and only through the vision and foresight of the governing bodies did Hillsdale blossom into one of Bergen's longest-stemmed roses. However, let's go back to the winter of 1897-98.

According to yellowed records and the stories of residents of that era which were passed along to relatives, prime movers of the action to create a new community were Orrin S. Trall, who later became County Tax Collector; John H. Riley, a future Freeholder; A. C. Holdrum, who was then serving as an Assemblyman; and John F. Winters. Herndon Rohrs, David H. Demarest and those elected in 1898 to form the first official family.

Meetings were called and plans formulated and so convincing were the initiators of the project that soon the idea was unanimously supported. And on March 25, 1898, a community to be known as Hillsdale Township became a separated entity instead of being a part of Washington Township, which then

included an area which now comprises River Vale, Emerson, Washington Township, and Hillsdale.

First thing the residents did was united to name the township Hillsdale, adopted, it is said, after the Hillsdale School, which was built in 1856 and the railroad station which bore a similar name upon its completion in 1870. Next, an election was held at the Hillsdale Manor House on April 19, 1889 and the following comprised the first elected official family:

Township Committeemen, Sanford Bogert, George H. Seaman and Edmund L. Greenin with Bogert as chairman and Seaman as treasurer; William W. Banta as township clerk, Arthur J. Stever as freeholder, Orrin S. Trall as tax collector, and John a. Storms as tax assessor. Commissioners of Appeal included William P. Clerke, Henry C. Storms, and William Ellen. Highway surveyors were Garret H. Mead and John Ackerman; Charles J. Perry was poormaster, and Cornelius DeVoe was Justice of the Peace.

The officials held their first meeting April 25, 1898, at the Manor House – later known as the Lake View Inn and but recently torn down – with the initial move to establish the tax rate for the Township. Later the territory was divided into three road districts with the rate for work being established at \$1.25 for 9 hours work or \$4 a day for 9 hours work by one man and a team of horses.

Each Committeeman was placed in charge of a district with Seaman heading the River Vale area, Bogert everything west of the Pascack Creek Bridge on Hillsdale Avenue, and Greenin all roads in the Township proper.

CAME THE UTILITIES

On May 7, 1900, permission was given the New York and New Jersey Telephone Co. to erect poles and string wires, with the first telephone being installed in the home of Thomas C. Demarest on Summit Avenue; on May 19, 1900, first franchise for lightning was granted the Union Electric Co; the Bergen County Gas and Electric Co. was authorized to lay gas mains and electric light lines in 1901 throughout the Township; and on Sept. 9, 1903, a water franchise was awarded Hackensack Water Co. for installation of two miles of water main and 24 fire-hydrants

The Committee established corps of Constables to maintain law and order, the group including James H. Demarest, Charles George, and James G. Titus, while it also spent the sum of \$200 to improve the park after a public mass meeting held at the Manor House on the afternoon of April 7, 1900. It macadamized Railroad and Summit Avenues in 1902; unofficially recognized the Fire Department and aided it wherever possible; and called upon the County and State for assistance in building up the community's transportation and utility facilities.

Chairmen of the Township Committees in the early days were also known as Mayor and the list until 1923 when Mayors were elected includes Sanford Bogert, Eugene E. Rich, Henry Brune, George W. Saul, Franklin J. Myers, C.L. VanWagnon, A. Mohmking, Jenner R. Fast, Ralph H. Stever, James J. O'Brien, Leslie J. Forber, and A.H. Storm.

Down through the years of Hillsdale proceeded to grow – as the Pascack Valley likewise became heavier populated and more suburban and in 1923 a move was initiated to make Hillsdale a Borough. This action was spearheaded by the then existing Civic Association, and on March 2, 1923 the State Legislature passed an act incorporating the community; on April 24, 1923, vote of the People created the new method of government; and on Nov. 12, 1923, the first Mayor and Council were elected and took office.

These first Borough officials included Henry J. Werner, mayor; G.G. Graf, W.W. Livengood, Frank Scott, M. Taradash, Harvey E. Hering, and C.A. Lorentz, councilmen; George W. Saul, collector-treasurer; George M. Yates, clerk; H.G. Hering Jr, engineer; John W. Kinmouth, assessor and Louis G. Meyer as poormaster.

Since that time the following have served as Mayor: Werner 1923-25; Edmund L. Greenin, 1926-27; George M. Yates, 1928-29; William W. Livengood, 1930-31; John G. Hansen, 1932-39; Frank E. Hafemann, 1940-45; Greenin again, 1946-47; and James A. Tatem, the present Mayor.

Although other posts have varied from year to year, the community has had but four clerks since its inception as a Township. The list includes W.W. Banta from 1898 through 1914. George M. Yates from 1915 through 1924, Charles A. Lorentz in 1925 and Garrett A. Storms from 1926 until the present time.

The present official family of the Borough includes Tatem as Mayor; Council Elsie M. Hubachek, Charles W. Hillsbrant, Adam Pech, C.L. Townsend Jr, Carle R. Abbenseth, and A.F. Westervelt; Borough Attorney, Charles W. Weleck; Collector-Treasurer; Garrett A. Storms; Secretary, Mrs. Emily Broegler; Tax Assessor, John W. Kinmouth; Borough Auditor, John Klein; Borough Engineer, Frank E. Harley; Building Inspector, Charles S. Westphal; Custodian, Axel Gustafson; and Recorder, Robert O. Bentley Jr.

CHURCHES TO OPEN PROGRAM

The Borough of Hillsdale tomorrow starts a seven-day celebration in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation as a municipality, with special observances at the three local churches. The Rev. Thomas J. Duffy, pastor of St. John the Baptist R.C. Church, will note the occasion at 8, 10, and 11:30 A.M. Masses. The Rev. Carl J. Conrad, minister of the Hillsdale Methodist Church, will include the observance at the 10:45 A.M. worship service. The Rev. Lee Aden Hanes, new rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, will conduct a special anniversary service at 8 P.M.

The Borough is gay with special decorations and street lightning. Monday night the firehouse doors will be open at 7 o'clock and the Fire and Police Departments will hold open house and exhibitions. Fire Chief Robert S. Rawson has reported all equipment and trophies will be on display, souvenirs will be distributed to women and children, and refreshments will be served.

Tuesday at 8:30 P.M. Mayor James A. Tatem will preside at a special meeting of the Borough Council.

An exhibition of pictures, records, and other subjects and data about Hillsdale and the Pascack Valley will open Tuesday, to run through Thursday at Holy Trinity parish hall, arranged by former Mayor Frank E. Hafemann, John C. Storms, curator of the Pascack Historical Society, will co-operate with the chairman, with the assistance of Jenner R. Fast, Theodore I. Haubner, John P. Helyat Jr, H. Gregory Miller, and Clarence V. Shuttleworth.

An afternoon entertainment for Hillsdale schoolchildren, financed by the sale of souvenir stamps, will be held at the school auditorium Friday at 1:30 P.m. The program will include a preview of a pageant of the history of Hillsdale and the serving of refreshments to each child. Parents are invited.

Dramatization of the history of Hillsdale, written and directed by Miss Elsie M. Hubachek, Councilman, will be presented in the form of tableaux and musical numbers at the school auditorium Friday at 8:30 P.M. Fred Walker of Westwood, who was born in Hillsdale, will be reader of the pageant.

Included in the program will be a scene around the cracker barrel in an old country store, with Walter Brill as the philosopher. Present-day Hillsdale will be represented by a scene including representatives of 26 organizations in the Borough.

Saturday, October 16, has been proclaimed Fiftieth Anniversary Day by Mayor Tatem and will be featured by a parade at 2 P.M. of all organizations and Borough departments, reviewed at Memorial Park. Fred W. Hunter will be honorary marshal, with the parade committee including Fred Asman, parade marshal; Carmel Canzoneri, Michael Tirak, and E. Lawrence Clark.

The week-long festivities will come to a close Saturday when a public dance will be held at 9 P.M. at the school auditorium. Hostesses will be Mrs. E.O. Phillips, assisted by Mrs. J Williams, Mrs. H. Meese, Mrs. J. Breitenbach, Mrs. J. Bielli, Mrs. F. Schwarz, and Mrs. E.G. Ringrose.

The Hillsdale Public Library will have special window displays for the entire week.

Executive Committee for the Anniversary Celebration includes Mayor Tatem, chairman, ex-official; Harry F. Gunther, chairman; Councilmen Elsie M. Hubachek, Charles I. Townsend Jr, Carle R. Abbenseth; Charles W. Hillabrant; Adam Pech; and Albert F. Westervelt.

William W. Livengood is vice-chairman; Garrett A. Storms, Bor Clerk, is finance officer and Mrs. Emily B. Broegler, secretary.

Rudolph C. Appeld is anniversary historian; Miss Hubachek, pageant author; and Mrs. Harry F. Gunther, publicity chairman.

The general committee includes: Souvenir Book: Rudolph C. Appeld, chairman, A. Gordon Black, E. Lawrence Clark, Mrs. Vera Potter, Garrett A. Storms, and Jack Williams.

Entertainment committee: George G. White, chairman, Appeld, Mrs. J. Burning, Miss Gertrude Gersten, Miss Hubachek, Fred W. Hunter, Livengood, Mrs. Donald Scandlin, and Miss Blanche Smith.

Dance Committee: Carmel Canzoneri, chairman, Black, Alton P. Kinmonth, Mrs. Potter, Joseph Sciannimanico, Mrs. Harold Shuttleworth, and Mrs. Henry Stieh.

Decorations: Clark, John Kunze, Sydney Pinnell, and Tirak.
Souvenir Stamps: Hillabrant, Abbenseth, Pech, and Townsend Jr.
Refreshments: Mrs. Shuttleworth, Mrs. Thomas Mullin, Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Stieh, and Mrs. Peter Williams.

Source: Hillsdale News Oct. 21, 1948:1

Pageant of Hillsdale's History, at Which Gift of Land to Borough Is Announced, Highlight of Celebration of 50th Anniversary Parade is Colorful Feature of Week-Long Program; Many Participate

EXHIBIT, DANCE ARE ALSO ON SCHEDULE

A mixture of reminders of days almost forgotten with the present, blended to make the parade in Hillsdale Saturday afternoon, October 16, a colorful feature of the borough's celebration of its 50th anniversary as a municipality.

This parade, and the dance in the school auditorium Saturday evening, brought the week-long program to a most successful close. It was a week Hillsdaleites will long remember.

Starting promptly, under most favorable skies, the procession was led by Police Chief Frank Stoeckel in a car and Frederick W. Hunter, honorary grand marshal, on foot.

Then followed the official family of the borough – Mayor, members of the council, Tax Collector – Clerk, Recorder.

Former Councilman Harry F. Gunther, chairman of the celebration's general committee, followed and then came former Mayor John G. Hansen, W.W. Livengood and Frank E. Hafemann.

The local Legion Post and Auxiliary unit, Hillsdale Fire Department, Hillsdale Fire Dept. Band, exempt firemen, the Ladies Auxiliaries of both the active and the exempt firemen and the fire-fighting apparatus followed in quick order.

The fire ladies had a float, a huge birthday cake reminding the spectators along the streets through which the procession passed, why it all was being done.

Led by the Girl Scout drum and bugle corps of Emerson, the representatives of Hillsdale Business Association came along. Their contribution to the span-of-years motif was a horse-drawn wagon labeled "1898" followed by a handsome car bearing the legend "1948."

A camp scene float entered by the Boy Scouts was representative of the activities of this youth organization and drew much appreciative comment. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cubs and Brownies are a large section.

St. John's Church Holy Name Society, the Safety Patrol at the school and other school children also were well represented, with a pony-drawn wagon, driven by little Richard Schreiber, bringing smiles to many faces.

Hillsdale Civic Association was impressive with its variety of entries – five Indians to remind the spectators of the first settlers in this area, old cars, such as

the one which carried the majestic Bill Bird, new cars, a hurdy-gurdy man, a living room scene of years ago, ladies in costumes more familiar to our mothers and grandmothers – all led by a band.

A reviewing stand had been set up in Station Square and when this was reached the celebration and borough officials fell out of line, ascended the stand and watched the rest of the parade pass by.

It is worth repeating that the spectacle was one long to be remembered by the people of Hillsdale and the visitors who lined the streets during the procession.

DANCE BRINGS CELEBRATION TO AN END

On a platform handsomely decorated by Sun Dial Garden Club were seated the orchestra and soloist; on the highly polished floor dozens of couples of young folks and older people whirled or glided to the strains of good music. This was the scene at the dance in Hillsdale School auditorium Saturday evening which was the finale in the week-long celebration of Hillsdale's 50th anniversary. Plenty of refreshments downstairs helped make the occasion enjoyable for the hundreds who attended.

HISTORICAL DISPLAY BRINGS PANGS OF NOSTALGIA TO MANY WHO SEE IT

Looking like a corner of the Smithsonian Institute, the historic display held in Parish Hall of Holy Trinity Church, Hillsdale, Tuesday Oct. 12 through Friday Oct. 15 attracted several hundred persons each evening.

The exhibit arranged in connection with Hillsdale's 50th Anniversary celebration, included such interesting items as a butter churn propelled by dog-power, old furniture, carriage foot warmers, old newspapers and publications, documents, an ox yoke, a full bedroom suite, and many pictures depicting business, social and home life in this vicinity over a period of 50 years or more.

The display was interesting and education. Many of the older folks who were seen intently peering at time-yellowed photos, trying to identify relatives, friends or neighbors among the bewhiskered gentlemen and beruffled ladies, probably went home with a severe case of nostalgia.

Two old reels of film were run off which, it was explained, were similar to those shown every Saturday evening in the fire hall more than 20 years ago. These were especially enjoyed by the children. The simpering "bathing beauties" of several decades ago were met by shouts of laughter, as were the vibrating "horseless carriages," complete with drivers in goggles and women in dusters.

The committee responsible for the collection and display of this material was headed by ex-Mayor F.E. Hafemann and included Jenner R. Fast, Theodore I. Haubner, John P. Helyar Jr., H. Gregory Miller and C.V. Shuttleworth.

Developers Give Tract of Five Acres for Recreational Uses

PICTURES, SKETCHES REVIVE MEMORIES

An unusual, and most pleasant, surprise climaxed the pageant held in the school Friday evening, Oct. 15, in connection with Hillsdale's week-long Fiftieth Anniversary celebration.

Mayor James A. Tatem was just about to conclude his part in the program, at the end of a highly interesting backward look into the history of the borough, when he presented to the audience which filled the school auditorium Alan D. Allen, president of the Tandy and Allen developing organization, which has built many homes in Westwood and which is engaged in developing a tract in the Hillsdale Avenue-Pascack Road section of the borough, at one time known as the Clendenny homestead.

Mr. Allen identified the document he held in his hand as a deed to about five acres of grounds in the area his firm is developing and said that the property was being given to Hillsdale for use as a municipal recreation site and swimming pool.

In accepting the deed, Mayor Tatem expressed the thanks of the community and said that the gift had many possibilities in looking toward a bigger and better Hillsdale of the future.

The program which led up to this exciting climax was a most pleasing combination of nostalgic verbal description, sketches and slides covering many phases of community life in the municipality during the past 50 years and more. There were many in the audience who had lived through some of the incidents mentioned: there were many others present whose parents and grandparents had taken an active part in the activities which now had become fond history.

White haired men and women in the audience were seen to put their heads together when names, dates and places were mentioned, as if one was reminding the other of how they themselves were there. Occasional chuckles and laughter were heard as the humorous situations in which some of those in the audience, or persons familiar to them, had participated.

The evening's program opened with a pretty and graceful interpretation of the Anniversary Waltz by a group of young girls: Barbara Conner, Dorothy Hedges, Carole Estroe, Jean Mc Grath, Ann Fowler, Barbara Burhorn, Nora Scandlin and Barbara Milne. They danced on a stage which had for its background a huge gold 50, which served as a constant reminder of the occasion. The girls had been directed by Miss Florence Frederick, of the Florence Frederick Studio of the Dance in Westwood.

As the dance number came to its end, Fred C. Walker, former resident of Hillsdale, former Assemblyman and former member of the borough council in Westwood, the platform to begin his duties as narrator and commentator for the remainder of the program.

"I'm an old-timer here in Hillsdale," began Mr. Walker, "I'm here because I was brought up in Hillsdale and I love the old town."

Remarking that the Anniversary Waltz just presented by the young folks made him think of "50 years ago, when I was going to the little old school house on Magnolia Avenue," Mr. Walker began to recall by-gone days. The station in 1896 didn't look much different from its appearance today, said the narrator, drawing laughter from the audience. The streets were just dirt roads... there were few houses... and there was the Hillsdale Hotel, located where Mrs. Smith's department store now stands... what is now the park was hardly more than a swamp... and up the road could be seen what was said to be Hillsdale's first home, now an antique shop, and where Hillsdale National Bank's parking lot is now, then stood Cal Gardenier's livery stable.

Then were flashed on a screen slides of old landmarks and Mr. Walker added more information about Hillsdale of the old days, talking about the railroad, of the "rigs" that could be hired at Cal Gardenier's stable and about the use of bicycles in those days... the mention of bicycles being the cue for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Williams, of Pascack Road, to come upon the stage on a bicycle built for two. They were dressed in the height of fashion – for 1898 – and their appearance was greeted with applause and laughter.

Before he left the subject of transportation, Mr. Walker remarked that Hillsdale was a railroad terminal in the old days and that the towns in this area were served by trains daily as far back as 1870 than they are today.

Turning his attention to schools, Mr. Walker mentioned that the school in that early era, when the railroad line was started in 1869, was located on Pascack Road near Hillsdale Avenue, and was known as District No. 22 School. It was given the name Hillsdale School and the station, too, was given the name Hillsdale.

A picture of the Methodist Church, built in 1874, recalled to Mr. Walker's mind the D.P. Patterson family, which lived in the house now called the Riley house. Mr. Patterson gave the ground for the Methodist Church and also for the borough park. Reminded of another looming citizen of early Hillsdale, Mr. Walker mentioned having known H.G. Hering Sr. ("we called him Big Hank Haddock")

Mr. Hering indeed was a personage. Said Mr. Walker: "He (Mr. Hering) surveyed most of the roads around here; he was State Assemblyman, Under Sheriff, a civil engineer, storekeeper, school teacher, township clerk and postmaster... he was secretary of the railroad company, too."

Illustrating Mr. Walker's remarks about the part women play in the history of a church, a sketch was presented by Mrs. C. Conrad; Mrs. A. Bachman, Mrs. William H. Furman, Mrs. G. Travis, Mrs. John Steele, Mrs. A. Milliken, Mrs. S. Tompkins. These ladies showed what a quilting party looked like. They sang a hymn, with Mrs. Conrad at the organ, and worked at quilting.

The applause was long and loud when Mr. and Mrs. William F. Mac Kenzie of Westwood were presented to the audience. "I remember one of the teachers," reminisced Mr. Walker. "It was Sally Ann Buckman." This was the young schoolmarm who later became the wife of the first school principal in Hillsdale – Mr. Mac Kenzie. Mrs. Mac Kenzie was presented with a corsage, and Mr. Mac Kenzie, who spoke briefly, received a boutonniere.

Musing further on school days, leading up to a sketch on the subject, Mr. Walker mentioned that Hillsdale's first District Clerk, William Blauvelt, still lived in Hillsdale.

Mr. Blauvelt, in fact, was in the audience and he responded to a request to bow. He was reminded, continued Mr. Walker, of the late Garrett Cronk, who, "having no Tiedemann buses," as Mr. Walker put it, walked away from Woodcliff Lake to Paterson and back everyday to obtain a higher education.

The school skit, played by Mrs. William Griggs and Judith Hogrelus, was set in a school room and brought about the reading of old school registers – many of the names still familiar in Hillsdale, thought in some cases those who bore them at the time were no longer with us.

More on churches and establishment of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in 1890 and the erection of St. John the Baptist R.C. Church (on property donated by the Riley family) in 1929, led to another skit and a solo.

The sketch depicted a meeting of the Guild of the Episcopal Church and was presented by Mrs. John Helyar, Mrs. D. Hasbrouck, Mrs. Jack Williams, Mrs. E. J. Hutton, Mrs. J. Selliken, Mrs. Fred Magnusson, and Mrs. John Van Remoortel. According to an unidentified voice at the elbow of this reporter, the meeting was a true picture of the type of session it was meant to represent.

The solo, a beautiful Ave Maria by Mrs. Frank Saul, formerly Miss Mary Carpenter, well-known in this locally as a singer, was most appreciatively received.

Just to show that there was fun in the old days as well as work and worship, Mr. Walker spoke of straw rides, sleigh rides, dances... thus giving an opening for the presentation of an old-fashioned dance by the eight dancers who opened the sage program with the Anniversary Waltz. The group was under the direction of Miss Frederick for this number, too.

A "stop-the-show" interlude of humor was provided by R. Conklin, Gordon Curtis, George Geregthy, and Micheal Longo, who dressed the part, sang as an oldtime barber shop quartet. They sang such songs as "If I Had My Way," "I'm Working on the Railroad" and, as an encore, "If You Had A Dream." They more than earned by their appearance and blending of voices, the boutonnieres which Mr. Walker presented to them.

"The real social life of the town started with the fire department," said Mr. Walker, and a few would deny that this was true of all small communities and that it continues to be true in Hillsdale as elsewhere. Outlining the development of the first fire association in Hillsdale, Mr. Walker prepared the way for the appearance on the stage of an old jumper, one of the earliest types of fire-fighting equipment in this country. Hand-drawn, it gave way to horse-drawn apparatus and then the horses had to make way for the motorized equipment of today.

With the jumper on the stage came C. V. Shuttleworth and Edward Roede, longtime members of the fire department, former Chiefs and active today in the Exempt Firemen's Assn. Mr. Shuttleworth spoke of early incidents in the fire-maniac annals of the borough, causing more laughter in the audience.

When the horse-drawn apparatus came into the picture, Mr. Walker pointed out, horses were hired from Cal Gardenier. One of the first drivers

assigned to the hook and ladder, the narrator recalled, was the late Mayor Edmond L. Greenin.

An American institution of bygone days took the spotlight at this point – the old country store, complete with cracker barrel and cubby hole post office. In this scene Walter Brill of Montvale, a former resident of Hillsdale for many years and one who assisted greatly in putting on Friday evening's pageant, talked about problems of the day ("This park question is getting to be a political issue") and looked, somewhat apprehensively and skeptically, into the future. His associates in the scene, who were more engrossed in a game of checkers than Mr. Brill's philosophizing, were the quartet who had won acclaim a few scenes earlier.

Brill spoke of the beauties of living in Hillsdale, but wondered if those beauties would be jeopardized by the possible encroachment of horseless carriages, paved streets, more homes, more schools and the day going Republican. One was inclined to deduce that the philosopher impersonated by Mr. Brill would prefer to see Hillsdale remain in an era when even the speed of bicycles was too rapid.

Having completed his ruminations on the past, Mr. Walker withdrew from the scene and made way for the present – in the person of Mayor Tatem.

"I'm proud of the old days," said the Mayor, "and prouder still of the days and years of progress which have passed since the formation of the municipality."

An impressive cavalcade of the organizational strength of the borough was set into motion when Mayor Tatem called upon representatives of the following groups to take places on or before the palm-decorated stage:

Mayor and Council, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Exempt Firemen, Exempt Firemen's Auxiliary, Fire Department, Fire Department Auxiliary, Civic Association, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Police Department, Department of Public Works, Board of Education, Parent-Teacher Association, Board of Health, Library Board, Assistance Commission, Borough Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Parks and Playgrounds Commission, Sun Dial Garden Club, Firemen's Band, Hackensack Hospital Auxiliary, Doubles Club, Business Association, Shade Tree Commission.

Each organization was represented by one or two persons, many with their own banners and some with the American colors. The blending of the two formed a colorful scene.

In closing the evening's program, Mayor Tatem presented former Councilman Harry F. Gunther, general chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements for the celebration and thanked all those who had taken a part in putting over so fascinating and successful a pageant.

Mr. Gunther overlooked no one in expressing thanks for the assistance given by the organizations and individuals.

He remarked that on the next day, Saturday, there would be a parade which was not included in the original program for the week because it had been intended to hold the celebration in the Summer and it was felt that the weather would be too warm for such an event.

When the celebration was postponed, the parade was included, and he named Michael Tirak, president of Hillsdale Business Assn; Carmel Canzoneri and Fred Assman of the local Legion Post, and E. L. Clark of Hillsdale Civic Assn, as those responsible for arranging the parade.

Councilwoman Miss Elsie Hubachek was director of the evening's program, Mrs. Alter Klees was accompanist and Ruth Toensmann was in charge of make-up. The stage committee was composed of school Principal George White, Miss Blanche Smith, Mrs. J. Bruning, Mrs. D Scandlin and Miss G. Gersten.

Source: Bergen Evening Record October 9, 1948

DONATED PARK LANDS

David P. Patterson donated the present park sites in downtown Hillsdale in 1871. Since then the park has been kept immaculate by expert care with particular attention paid to the trees which were planted in 1908. First park caretaker was William Hozenhaller who was appointed in 1921. Today the work is handled by the road department.

Source: Sunday Post June 10, 1973:21

1899 Poem Shows Restful Community

Excerpts from "Hillsdale," a poem published in 1899 and dedicated to the borough by John H. Rohrs.

*Hillsdale in the valley,
By the mountain side;
Here the air is balmy,
Healthy, pure, and bright.
Yonder through the valley,
Flows a silvery stream;
Adding sparkling beauty,
To the valley scene.
Here the city dweller,
Findeth peace and rest;
Noisy scenes and tumult,
His mind will not distress.
Then let us be contented,
In our happy sphere;
And live a life of honor,
While we are here.*

Source: Bergen Evening Record October 9, 1948:14

WELCOME TO HERO

Hillsdale Colonial Hill Received Acclaim on Return From War

One of the bright moments for Hillsdale during World War II occurred on Nov. 14, 1943, when everyone who could walk or be carried turned out to welcome home 24 year-old Lieutenant Colonel Frank A. Hill, Hillsdale resident, who rated as one of the big heroes of the conflict.

Hill had participated in 166 combat missions in Europe and Africa, was the first American flier to shoot down a German plane in World War II, and was a full fledged fighter pilot with six and one-half Nazi planes to his credit. For his efforts he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star, and Air Medal with 19 Oak Leaf clusters.

Apparently, having a charmed life, Hill never lost a plane and never was wounded despite the scope of his activity in the air over foreign soil.

Source: Bergen Evening Record October 9, 1948:14

Brill Portrays Demarest As Philosopher in Pageant
Nostalgic bits of Hillsdale's history, translated into pageant form after intensive research by Councilman Elsie Hubachek, will help highlight the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration at the Hillsdale School auditorium on October 15

And one of the highlights of the pageant will be the portrayal by Walter Brill of Montvale, formerly of Hillsdale, as the old philosopher. David Demarest, uncle of Kenneth L. Demarest of the Bergen Evening Record staff, who was general clerk in Hillsdale's general store.

John F. Winters, whose family played a long and important role in the history of the Borough, had taken over the store from William W. Banta, who also served as the first principal of Hillsdale School and also was postmaster. Winters died early this year.

It is peculiarly fitting that the role should be taken by Brill. A former staff man for the Bergen Evening Record, Brill this year is observing his fiftieth anniversary of coming to Hillsdale at the age of 6. He still recalls, he says, that all the women at the railroad station, when he first arrived with his parents, wore poke or sunbonnets and gingham dresses.

The role of narrator in the pageant will be taken by Fred Walker of Westwood, born in Hillsdale and a former Hillsdale Councilman who later became an Assemblyman.

BOY SCOUT START

First Troop Started In 1916 At Holy Trinity Church

Boy Scout activity came to Hillsdale in 1916 when the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church sponsored Troop 1, with the Rev. A. R. McWilliams as Scoutmaster, and today the movement has spread to 2 troops, 91 and 108, involving over 50 boys, and Cub Pack 91, for younger boys, with more than 31 now enrolled.

Troop 91 and Cub Pack 91 are sponsored by St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Troop 108 was chartered by the Doubles Club of Hillsdale. Respective Scoutmasters include Gred Gute, C. Fred Barrett, and Harold Geise.

ENGINE FIRE ALARM

Hillsdale had one of the best fire alarms in Bergen County back in the 1890's. Engines of the Erie Railroad were parked at the coaling station in Hillsdale and upon discovery of a fire in town, all the engines' whistles were blown. Old timers stated the whistles made more noise than the current siren and could be heard in all parts of the community.

Source: Bergen Evening Record October 9th, 1948:13

Yarns Spun Of Rawsons In Hillsdale

Albert W. Rawson, 73, formerly of Hillsdale and one-half of the famous Rawson twins, at a rodeo conducted by the Sheriff of Los Angeles County, Calif., this year successfully rode a wild Bramha bull. There are pictures to prove it.

The other half of the twins, Altheus E., known as Ned, is living near the site of the family home, first the showplace mansion which burned down about in 1910, and then the converted 14-room carriage house which burned down about 1930 with the loss of invaluable papers, paintings, and records.

The history of the Rawson family and their ancestors is woven into the woof of the nation and of Hillsdale. The family originally came to the United States in 1621, and at Rawsonville, Vt., each year hundreds of Rawsons from over the United States hold an annual reunion. Rawsons held the first U.S. Government munition dump grants.

Laure Keen, great-grandmother of the present Rawson generation held the head of the dying Lincoln in Ford's Theater where she played the leading role in "My Country Cousin," the play the Civil War President had come to see. The dress, with its dark brown stains, is preserved in the Museum of Natural History, New York City. She eventually died in her home on Bond Street, New York City.

HE VANISHED

Her daughter was wed to Albert Layston Rawson, whose portrait painting won command orders from the crowned heads of Europe, the Pope, and other celebrities. He eventually reported to have sailed for Australia, sent one letter home, and then vanished from sight.

He was father to the Rawson twins and to their sister, Julia, who died in 1906.

The escapades of the Rawson twins still cause many a chuckle and many an official frown in the Pascack Valley, but then suddenly at about the age of 20 they experienced a change of heart and became peace officers.

They lived in a huge mansion on an original tract owned by the Hering family before the Revolution. It was eventually acquired by Isaac Cole, father of Mrs. Ellen Patterson of the railroad Pattersons who proved to be among Hillsdale's greatest benefactors. Cole built the mansion which was then acquired by the father of the Rawson twins.

Trees were brought there from all over the world. Great driveways, the finest of horses and equipment, lavish entertainment made it one of the grand social centers of the East.

Then the twins became peace officers. At about the turn of the century when the workers who were building Woodcliff Lake lived in shacks in Hillsdale they caused considerable disturbance. At that time Bert became a chief and Ned a cop. They speedily restored peace and order.

Both were fearless and crackshots. They almost lived in the open. They knew all elements and got along with them all. And that is when they were requisitioned by sheriffs of Bergen County from the time of Bob Heath until Pat Reilly became sheriff. They would even go into what then, more so than now, was dangerous Jackson White country and bring out wanted men without trouble. It was a job no one else wanted or would take.

Ned's toughest battle was with a character known as Getts, who weighed well over 200 pounds and when drunk would mercilessly beat his wife and daughter. Getts fled on a train for Montvale after such an incident with Ned at his heels.

In the battle that followed, and Ned weighed in at about 170, they broke train windows, the iron seats then in vogue, and were both almost killed when Getts tried to jump from the moving train. But Ned had made a loop with his belt, snared the snarling madman's feet, and pinned him to the vestibule.

There are many Rawsons in the Hillsdale section. Ned had eight daughters and a son; Bert, two sons. Most of the Rawsons, boys and girls, have children. Apparently there will always be Rawsons in that area.

But it is unlikely that there will ever be twins as reckless, as fearless, and as popular as the Rawsons. They helped make the kind of history Bergen County likes to remember.

SEGREGATED VOTING

Two ballot boxes were required for school elections in Hillsdale prior to 1920, one for the election of members to the Board of Education and one for the appropriations. The reason: women were permitted to vote for appropriations but not for board members.

HOLDUP AT BANK MADE HEADLINES

It Was Hillsdale's Lone Taste of Banditry

It was just another drowsy morning, that June 6, 1932 when Edward Hauck, paying teller of the Hillsdale National Bank, went through his usual routine of counting out cash at about 7:45 A.M.

But within the hour, the town was buzzing with excitement, the police had alerted the County at large, and a full-fledged manhunt for a pair of bank robbers was on. The bank had been robbed of what later proved to be more than \$5,000, just as the police, a block away, were changing the morning shift with Patrolman Frank Stoeckel coming on duty.

Hauck, now an official of the bank, can afford to smile a little as he recalls how he had looked up into the muzzle of what seemed to be a cannon. The second armed man came back of the teller's cage and hustle him off to the back room.

They tried to get him into the men's room. It was locked. So from a brown paper bag, a precision robbery if ever there was one, they took rope and a handkerchief and tied Hauck securely.

Fortunately, Hauck had locked the vault when he took out the day's working cash. The bandits scooped up the loose cash in the teller's cage, walked out the front door and into a waiting car. That was the last Hauck saw of them.

Samuel Schneider of Hillsdale Avenue noted the license number of the high-powered car the bandits used in the getaway. It helped in the speedy recovery of the car in Washington Township, where it had been abandoned.

Hillsdale has made little bid for fame in the criminal annals, There have been little imperfections in the Police Department, and the usual run of this and that. But there have been no spectacular murders and little outside of routine.

Source: Bergen Evening Record October 9th, 1948:14

McCleary Was First Uniformed Cop In Place Of Old Time Constables

Paying full heed to the adage that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, Hillsdale officials down through the years have knitted a well-nigh perfect organization and not the least of these above-average key units are the Police and Fire Departments. Modern in all respects, each has brought credit to the community.

Today's Police Department is headed by Chief R. Frank Stockel, with George Scott, John Greve, and Gerald Schmidt serving as patrolmen. Protection is furnished residents 24-hours daily, the Department is equipped with a police radio car, and Hillsdale's accident and crime rate is one of the lowest in Bergen County.

Law and order came to the community in 1898, when constables were elected, the first being James H. Demarest, Charles George, and James G. Titus. First uniformed special police officer was Charles E. McCleary, appointed in 1913. In 1928 an ordinance created a Police Department with Lawrence J. Foley appointed chief. Chiefs since then have been William F. Bulach and H.P.N. Koelsch. First police car was purchased in 1926 and traffic lights were also provided.

R.S. Lawson is chief of the president Fire Department, which is equipped with modern hook-and-ladder and pumper-and-hose trucks and has a membership of about 50 men. It operates in efficient fashion and has been active in Pascack Valley, New Jersey State, and New York and New Jersey Firemen's Associations.

The first Department was formed early in 1902 on an unofficial basis and was recognized by ordinance in 1921. Early equipment was hand-drawn or horse-drawn with alarms being sounded by the Methodist Episcopal Church bells and later by whistles of coal-burning engines parked at the depot. President of the first Fire Association was John H. Riley while the first known Fire Chief was C. Steinhauer in 1909. An Auxiliary to the Fire Department was formed in 1902 with Mrs. John Riley as chairman, while an Exempt Firemen's Association was formed in 1918 with T.C. Demarest as president.

THE GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scout movement in Hillsdale started in 1924 and has grown to four troops and three troops of Brownies, with a total membership of more than 100, with many plans for an even more active future. Sponsoring groups are the local P.T.A., and interested parents. Girl Scout Troops now active are Numbers 8, 18, and 23. Brownie organizations include Troops 11, 12, and 13. Weekly meetings are held and the girls have been active in paper salvage drives, distribution of public information, and in charitable work.

Stage Coach Opened Way To Hillsdale

So old that even Hillsdale's old timers may have difficulty in recalling, is the old stage coach route which more or less is responsible for some of the winding roads which have persisted into modernized asphalt and concrete.

Perhaps the best known trace of that former route traversed by the jouncing coach is Yesler Way, over which traversed Bergen County's high and low. The terminus for the coach was the old John Jacob Astor Trading Post which stood opposite the home of Assistant Prosecutor of Bergen County Wallace S. De Puy in Park Ridge. Here the famous fur trader of the last century is reputed to have purchased wampum which he used in trade with the tribes of the West, and that wampum was made at the old wampum mill in Park Ridge.

But returning to the old stage coach route from the trading post which also passed over Hillsdale Avenue west of the railroad, Jefferson Avenue and down Kinderkamack to Old Hook Road, it eventually wound up at Closter where it was possible to obtain railroad transportation.

Hillsdale then was noted for its large farms, many of them in fruit, and some traces of the old orchards are still evident. The Demarest fruit farm on Hillsdale Avenue west, the Liveright farm, formerly the Garrett Storms Farm; Winters formerly owned by a mayor of Hillsdale, Sanford Bogert; Felter's, Meyers', Hoppers', all contributed to the town's economy.

Perhaps the best known at the end of the last century and continuing into the early 1900's was what was known as Lord's Farm, just over the line in Woodcliff Lake where a religious sect whose leaders were known as The Lord, Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, and others ran a community venture which was the delight of mischief-minded youth of that day. Some of these same boys, now far into middle age, can still recall being lectured by John the Baptist for playing cards or stealing fruit.

But Hillsdale didn't receive its first real impetus to growth until the arrival of the railroad terminus March 4, 1870 with the other end of the 21-mile line just south of Carlstadt.

John Alfred Storms was the first station agent for the line whose wood burning locomotives, made in Paterson, continued in used until 1879. The first coal burner was sent over the rails in 1874 with the name, "Hillsdale" painting on its side.

J.S. Drake was superintendent of the railroad in 1889, just 50 years ago and by that time the railroad had expanded and was known as the New Jersey and New York Railroad Company. It had already been leased to the Erie Railroad two years before. But the roundhouse and car shops were still in Hillsdale and the Township continued as one of the most important stops on the line for many years.

It wasn't until 1924 that the first buses came to Hillsdale.

Source: Bergen Evening Record October 9th, 1948:14

Debate Rages: Which Home Is The Oldest In Hillsdale?

Some Say It's House In Which Antique Shop Is Located, Others The Clendenny-Smith Home

There may never be an end to the argument which is raging in Hillsdale during the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of which is the oldest house in the Borough.

The anniversary booklet claims the honor for what is now the Smith Antique Shop on Upper Broadway, denoted on an authenticated map dated 1778.

But let's look at the old Clendenny house whose remnants are said to date back to pre-Revolutionary times, when it was owned by the Vanderbeck family, loyalists. It was confiscated during the Revolution and eventually sold by the New Jersey commissioner to the Peter Westervelts in 1784 for 1210 pounds, about \$2,000 then.

Westervelt heirs eventually sold it to the Smith family. Henry Smith, one of the wealthiest men in North Jersey as the time, who was an undertaker, eventually willed it to his grandson, Henry Walter Clendenny, the present occupant. The old, dilapidated house on whose site a home is said still to be standing is now part of the Saddlewood Hills holdings. At one time the house had been owned by a Trall family and a Trall was one of the first officials of Hillsdale.

Then there's the old house owned by the Armstrong family on Ell Road, for which claims have been made as the oldest house. It is known to have been built long before the 1800's. The ground was acquired by John Durie from Henry Van Delinda in 1750 and passed to Garret Durie, Judge of the Common Pleas, who died there in 1822.

There are three houses on Pascack Road originally owned by the Banta family which also have pre-Revolutionary antecedents.

The site of the Rawson mansion too, also was the site of the original Hering house which predated the Revolution.

Then there's the old Demarest house which stood where the Demarest Grist Mill was located on the Pascack Brook. The mill originally was built long before 1800, and the old Demarest house preceded that by many years. An Erskine Revolutionary war map locates a Demarest home there with the date of 1778.

The Demarests at that time, and until the property was purchased from their heirs by the David P. Pattersons, owned what virtually was the center of what now is Hillsdale.

BUSY LIBRARY

Hillsdale Started Public Library In 1935, Busy Ever Since

Hillsdale Public Library, organized June 16, 1935, and dedicated Jan. 20, 1936 had a total circulation of book and periodicals of 342,100 and a card-file of 3,100 members during its first 11 years of existence, it has been reported.

The library opened on Hillsdale Avenue January 37, 1836, after cooperation of all the citizens in making such a place possible. It soon grew too large for its quarters and moved into its present location in the Leddy Building. Librarian during this period has been Mrs. Ruth Newman, assisted successively by Mrs. Cornelia Collins, Miss Sara Vander Clute and Mrs. Walter Holgerson.

Source: Bergen Evening Record October 9th, 1948:15

POSTAL SERVICE WAS A PROBLEM IN OLDEN DAYS

Mail Came To Old Tappan Once A Week In Pre-Hillsdale Era

FIRST POST OFFICE

House-to-house postal delivery service is now the style in Hillsdale, which has kept pace with the times, but oldtimers recall that it wasn't always this way and that back in the early days of the community it was a good deal easier to deliver your message personally rather than by letter-writing.

For, prior to 1870, Hillsdale residents received mail but once a week and had to call for it at the tavern of Peter A. Jersey in Pascack, now Woodcliff Lake. The appearance of the railroad to town in 1870 set a new pattern, however, and thereafter mail was received every day. Residents had to pick it up, however.

First Post Office was set up in a store conducted by Henry G. Hering I on the site of what is now the Leddy Building and Hering was named postmaster at a salary of \$12 weekly. Later postmasters included W.W. Banta, John W. Kinmonth, John F. Winters, Jack Quinn, Charles Riley, John W. Barnett, John S. Haines, and John V. Snow, with the Post Office moved from place to place by each incumbent.

In 1913 a wooden-framed building was erected during the tenure of Kinmonth and served as Post Office, later being moved to the Fedden Building, and finally to its present location on Broadway. Mail delivery service was inaugurated while Haines was Postmaster with delivery facilities expanded during later years until today's excellent service was maintained.

Hillsdale, Happy Hunting Grounds In The Old Days

The picture of old Hillsdale would be incomplete if some mention were not made of the fish and game and the good hunting which was part of the bucolic life of that area. Many a family at that time depended for part of its winter supply of meat on the deer whose herds often traveled almost through the heart of the Borough.

Even some of the younger men in the neighborhood of 50 years can recall without difficulty herds of more than 20 deer, browsing almost undisturbed below the spillway of Pascack Brook.

Rabbits were plentiful and a fall and winter meat stock in trade for every thrifty housewife whose husband or sons did the family gunning.

Among the more famous hunters of that time were the Rawson twins, who did all their shooting of rabbits, vermin, and birds with a rifle, a natural heritage because some of their kin were even then employed in the munitions manufacturers as marksmen exhibitors and demonstrators.

But when the shotgun became the legal weapon in New Jersey and the rifle was prohibited because of its carrying power and potential menace, the Rawsons hung up their rifles and pistols, with which they were equally proficient, for all time.

“Shotguns! Pepper boxes?” said Ned Rawson the other day. “If a fellow couldn’t get a bird or a rabbit with a single bullet he should not hunt.”

Even in later years, the Rawsons would be limited to a single shot for any prize at a turkey shoot because of their deadly skill with the rifle and pistol.

Source: Bergen Evening Record October 9th, 1948:15

Methodists Built First Church Here

Three churches, an Episcopal Catholic, and Methodist Episcopal, maintain parishes in Hillsdale with the honor of having been the first erected in the community falling to the Methodists Episcopal Church which held its first service in 1878.

Organized May 3, 1874 by the Rev J. Switzer and constructed on land donated by David P. Patterson, the church has been served by 22 ministers and has a membership of 190. The parsonage was constructed in 1884 and shortly after an addition was made. An addition was also made to the church in 1911. Rev. Carl J. Conrad is present minister, William Blauvelt has served as treasurer of the Church School for the past 44 years, and Mrs. August Bachman has headed the Women's Society for Christian Service for the past 22 years.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church held its first service Jan. 29, 1890 in the residence of J.F. Finke on Patterson and Park Streets with the first church being built in 1890 on Park Street and moved to its present location on Hillsdale Avenue in March of 1894 on land donated by Mrs. A.C. Holdrum. The church was later remodeled into its present structure. A total of 19 ministers have served the church, which became a self-sustaining parish in 1945 and the Rev. Richard Aselford became the first rector. The congregation numbers more than 300.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church was dedicated Dec. 13, 1925, after being erected on Hillsdale Avenue on property donated by Mrs. Helen Riley. Father Cornelius A. Corcoran became the first resident pastor and served until 1937 when he was succeeded by Father John A. Munley. Father Thomas J. Duffy has been pastor since 1945. The congregation numbers approximately 1,000 of which 126 served in World War II. Five made the supreme sacrifice.

Source: Hillsdale News March 20th, 1973

75th Anniversary Year Hillsdale

By Vera V. Berlet

Poor Henry Clendenny,
Hasn't a penny,
But his friends are many.
Support him!
1968 chant
Author Unknown

Yesterday a few clumps of snowdrops – we used to call them foolish virgins – nodded bravely in the March wind and snow as we walked in our garden. We remembered the day after everyone else had ravaged Henry Clendenny's yard – how our family had gone there early in the quiet morning in search for some growing thing as a memento of what had taken place. Our garden is filled with plants and bushes that represent friends. At least, as we were about to go, under dry season, in a far corner, we found the snowdrops, a few star of Bethlehem and crocus plants to carry home and plant in our garden. The others must have thought they were wild onions. They will always remind me our son, Chip, told me the young people were having a demonstration, because the old folks had forgotten what they had taught their children – that the first sign of breakdown in civilization is when the young neglect to care for the old.

It seems a short time ago our workshop was filled with signs reading "Don't Build on Me," and "R.I.P. Hillsdale Heritage." 1968 was the year elementary and Pascack Valley High School students demonstrated in front of Henry's house and later collected \$1,400 by going from door to door. This was to help Henry pay his back taxes so he could stay in his ancestral home on Hillsdale Avenue. Some adults were indignant.

February 8th, 1968 Nita Koehler and I were among those from Hillsdale in Superior Court when Judge Morris Pashman ruled that Henry could keep his home. You should have seen Henry in his fresh crew cut, new grey suit, starched white shirt, blue socks and the scuffed, muddy brown workman's shoes he always wore around home. As soon as he was settled in the courtroom bench, he turned around with a big smile and wink at Nita and me. He looked much younger than his 82 years.

It seemed Henry lost the 300 acre property in 1941 for nonpayment of taxes. He either sold about 200 acres for a small amount or traded it for supplies. When the agreement was made that he should have a life tenancy on the few remaining acres, Henry was 72 years old, and had a life expectancy of 8 more years according to insurance company actuary tables. Judge Pashman, who is

famous for injected humor with exact timing, quipped, "Well, he certainly fooled a lot of people."

For those who didn't live in Hillsdale in 1968 – our town attracted nationwide attention with TV, radio and newspaper coverage. Even L.B.J. got in on it through a \$100 contribution sent to him because a Lt. David Hart, who was in Vietnam, didn't know how to make out the check. The Clendenny family had lived in the 300 year old house for many years and now he was not to be evicted!

Furniture and furnishings from this home are now in the Smith Cove Museum in Rockland County in New York State and much of it is in private collections. Quite a lot of it was stolen by Hillsdale residents. I saw a young man walk away with an oil, surely a family portrait, with a beautiful gold frame. Too bad we didn't have our own museum.

Our son nailed up a door under the porch where there were stacks of English stoneware; death certificates or forms dated as far back as 1850 and 1860; bills and deeds dated in the early 1800's; bullet shaped glass fruit jars dated 1848 and much more. I wish I had the jam cupboard in the basement. This was reported to Governor Hughes' office by Lamont Haggerty and me.

Artists come from the entire area to paint this ramshackle building which had just "grewed" to accommodate additional families as land became more scarce. On a fine spring or autumn day it was not unusual to see a group of them settled down with their boxes and palettes for a day of painting.

Some of them show Henry in his hay wagon taking young people on a hayride, something he did until a few years ago.

Henry Clendenny has been called "Hillsdale's Dr. Doolittle" by many. He really did talk to his animals as they seemed to understand. February 1968, at the time of the student demonstration in front of his home, the most famous creatures in his yard were the attacking geese – more vicious than any watchdog. He had three horses, two waddling ducks, a pet rabbit, a dog, two cats and a pigeon. His rooster wakened the neighbors for blocks around each morning, as well as his harem of various breeds of hens. With most of these in the house with him sitting on his lap or shoulder you can understand why the children gave him his nickname "Dr. Doolittle."

November 1, 1969 Henry Walter Clendenny took his splintered straw suitcase plus three brown paper bags full of his possessions and left his home to live with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fitzpatrick of Washington Avenue. He is still living with these friends and their children.

Henry's home, directly across from the Neighborhood Store on Hillsdale Avenue, once the manor house of a 300 acre estate would be worth about \$15 million on today's market. Now there are six modern homes standing on this ground.

The home he abandoned was in poor condition and even dreamers agreed it wasn't feasible to restore it to its earlier condition. However, the entire second floor had wood paneling with worm holes and a patina many collectors considered priceless. While there was no carved and little classic woodwork exposed, experts on primitives and restorations have been appalled at the ignorance of those who allowed it to be demolished without salvaging the old

wood. Most of the valuable hardware was stolen by local people long ago and the antiques went for nothing to dealers when Henry needed supplies.

Perhaps the city fathers, in office at the time this large parcel of land is rumored to have been sold for a pittance, can tell us how this came about. It is my understanding all tax sales must be advertised locally. This should have been purchased by the city or county for a park. Was anyone around in those good old days?

Next week Jack Fitzgerald will tell how he met Henry Clendenny as a young boy; let you know how he is getting along now; and even include a brand new picture of Henry. Don't miss next Tuesday!

Source: Bergen Record ?, 1969

Homestead Goes – Stubbornly, Like Henry

KATHLEEN S. BACKUS

Staff Writer

Families of raccoons that had over the years ripped off roof shingles escaped from the Clendenny homestead toward trees centuries old.

The demolition job began at 8:30 a.m. and knocked down the west chimney. Joseph Maio and Sons of Lodi, excavators on their first demolition job, used a backhoe and a bucket loader yesterday to push, nudge, and bang the oldest house in Hillsdale to earth.

By 10:20 a.m., the east wing of the two-story houses shuddered and collapsed. Then the barn sheds, and a corncrib fell, too.

200 Years of History

"It's stubborn, just like Henry," said Barry Dowd, student at Don Bosco and son of former Mayor and Mrs. John F. Dowd, who with a few other townspeople stood watching until the farmstead disappeared.

Henry is Henry W. Clendenny, 84, whose financial bind forced him last Halloween to leave the pre-Revolutionary home his family had occupied since his great grandfather, Andried Smith of Sneden's Landing, N.Y. acquired the house and 102 acres in 1837.

The original sandstone portion of the house has been estimated to be more than 300 years old.

Beagle Still Loyal

"Let bygones be bygones," Henry had been saying. He was not around yesterday. He had mourned the loss of his ancestors' home, all alone, through that night before his leaving to live with young Hillsdale friends.

His beagle, Nellie, 12, accompanies him daily to spend the day with his two mares, Star and Beauty, Percheron - Hambleton blood sisters, stabled now with a friend in Saddle River.

But the way to go from Hillsdale to Saddle River was past his former home – twice a day. He kept his eyes averted when he reached what used to be 604 Hillsdale Avenue.

A friend told him yesterday afternoon that demolition had started. Henry's head was lowered but his eyes filled with tears when he passed the high rubble, said Timothy O'Reilly. Tim is one of the many youngsters who used to help Henry's private menagerie of pets.

Like A Gracious Lady

"Henry used to give me a birthday party hayride," said Timothy. "And he'd tell us scary stories about the funeral home his family used to have in the east wing."

The Clendenny homestead was once a place of gracious living. Fine linens, silverware and china were used for tea parties on the lawn. The house was furnished with antiques, long gone now. In recent years, the place was picturesque to some, and an eyesore to many.

The family back of the Clendenny tract had bought their house because of the adjoining tumbledown property. Henry is that family's dinner guest once each week.

Clendenny, a widower without children, paradoxically is a loner with many friends. He is weatherbeaten, gruff, and blunt, yet these qualities make him the more endearing to those who know him. He is trying to adapt to the great change in his way of life, and is unhappy when he is part of continuing headlines. "Let bygones be bygones."

Early in 1968 when The Record announced threatened eviction of Henry Clendenny, contributors throughout the nation, Canada, and Vietnam helped to keep Henry in his home, for what became two extra years – time to adjust to the inevitable.

The most recent owner of the Clendenny remaining two acres, Norman J. Tandy of Hillsdale, has sold the property to a Fair Lawn builder, who will develop a six-lot residential subdivision of expensive pseudo-colonial homes.

Many friends of Henry claimed mementos yesterday, a rock garden, or a spadeful of the snowdrops, blooming on what used to be the lawn, near the tall evergreens Henry planted when he was a small boy.

Others salvaged barn planking and a house beam or two, handhewn, and an ovaltopped attic window and shutters, for exhibit at the Bergen County Museum.

Antiques lovers carried away well-seasoned doors or columns, but others scavenged just for wood and bricks for do-it-yourself projects.

Said the wrecker:

"The neighborhood looks better already."

Source: Hillsdale News April 25, 1973:1

HAPPIER DAYS AT THE CLENDENNY HOME

By Margaret Wolfangel, as told to Vera V. Berlet

Long years ago it was a pleasure to be invited to spend an afternoon with my mother and her friends when they went to visit Mrs. Mattie Clendenny (Henry's wife) and Mrs. Effie Rapp, her mother, at the old homestead on Hillsdale Avenue.

While the older women talked as they quilted or did hand work, I wandered about looking at the glass-enclosed case of stuffed birds Mattie told me Henry had shot or snared on his property. There was a cedar wax wing, goldfinch, bluebird, red winged blackbird and many more to thrill a youngster. Most entrancing was a stuffed pheasant on the mantle. Sometimes I watched two love birds in their cage hanging in the dining room.

Outside of their house I played with their dogs, cats, Bantams and showy Japanese Tosas. It was a special treat to watch Henry bring in the horses and bed them down. I was fascinated watching Henry's mother drive those huge work horses harnessed to the heavy farm wagon to town to do her shopping. Effie handled this team of horses as well as any man. She always wore a dress and a black wool shawl with a starched black sun bonnet. Her highbuttoned shoes were almost the same as Henry's. Effie Rapp was a tall, handsome woman, her "Good silk print with a white lace dicky," with white gloves, hat and her "good" shoes and stockings.

After the quilting bee and needle work session was finished, Mattie would serve her famous hot milk sponge cake and coffee, plus cookies and layer cake. Also, home grown strawberries and black caps, in season, with heavy shipped cream. The cookies were giant sugar cookies made with home made butter, fresh eggs and milk using large sugar crystals on top and washerboard molasses cookies made with real blackstrap molasses. Fruit salad in those days meant all home grown fruit with home made fresh daily mayonnaise. Extra heavy whipped cream was gently folded into the mayonnaise and generous servings were brought and topped with one maraschino cherry – they used to be very expensive. This was served with angel food cake – such as mix will never produce. And Mattie's coffee – Oh Henry!

Mattie's parlor was carpeted and lace curtains. There was a large sofa and two love seats with pierced and carved cherry cresting rails. In earlier days it was lighted with kerosene lamps but their home was electrified when the lines came through Hillsdale. There was wallpaper on the walls and I remember several marble topped tables and rocking chairs. There was a comb back chair in the front parlor. There were three pianos; one a very large grand piano with huge carved legs and a mother of pearl keys; the other two uprights. Henry took piano lessons, but no one seems to know how far he progressed.

The bedrooms were at the front of the house and each bed had a deep fluffy feather ticking mat that had to be fluffed. The beds had rope mattresses. Beautiful homespun bedspreads and hand quilted quilts were on each bed. The

sheets and pillow cases had lace, tatting and embroidery on them. Mattie was proud of her fancy linen tablecloths and napkins with cut work and embroidery; her huck towels with fringes and bureau runners of silk and linen.

Henry also had a tremendous truck garden and sold vegetables. During the depression when many people in town were having a rough time they knew they could get food at the Clendenny farm. This was mentioned by more than one resident when money was being collected for Henry's back taxes a few years ago.

Mattie was a ladylike gentlewoman with brownish hair and eyes. Her charm was in her warmth and kindness. She enjoyed entertaining and was known for setting a beautiful board. She was most often seen in simple shirtwaist dresses, which could pass in a '73 crowd, if shortened. Her flower gardens were carefully manicured. Brave crocus, snow drops, hepatica, daffodils, myrtle and grape hyacinths were still bursting forth each spring, hardly able to wait until the snow was gone to show their colors, up to the very time when the house was demolished. Her bushes still stood too – as proud and tall as Mattie and Effie – the forsythia, spirea, wegelia, bridal wreath, lilac, and mock orange.

In later years, after marriage, John and I were often guests of the Clendennys along with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Banta and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wandell. Henry and Mattie's hospitality was as warm and friendly as any I have known. After Mattie died, her mother went to stay with Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Tetlow at the corner of Magnolia and Cross Street, where she stayed for quite a few years.

I like to remember the happy days at the Clendenny's and hope Henry can do the same. One of my first memories is going to get milk, in a tin pail, at their kitchen door, for seven cents a quart as a child. It has never tasted as good since then.

When Mattie and her mother went to the Methodist Church on a Sunday morning Mattie wore a neat little hat trimmed with flowers and a flowered silk print dress. Effie would wear a dark skirt and white blouse with a black velvet ribbon crossed over at the collar with a cameo pin.

Yes, there were happy days at the Clendenny house.

Source: Hillsdale News Mr., 27, 1973:1

Not quite a native-born Hillsdalite, having come here at age six months from Hackensack in 1909, and having lived here since then, except for a few short years in Oradell, New Jersey, I feel like a real "oldtimer."

REMINISCING BY GEORGE K. JEPSON

First recollections in winter 1912-13, looking up from shoveled paths, at snowbaks way over my head. Also, riding with Pop, Jr and Pa (Grandpa) in Pa's 1909 Premier touring car which was very noisy and not always dependable. My Pop did not drive yet in 1911 but went by train and trolley car to Paterson Automobile Row where he bought this Premier car for Pa Jepson. After taking title to the car, he learned to drive on the way home to Hillsdale and probably did pretty well. Later he taught Pa J to drive. Pa was a long-time locomotive engineer for the New Jersey and New York Railroad, also master mechanic and road foreman of locomotives. Being used to rail-guided locos, occasionally he forgot to steer the Premier with resulting small disasters of landing in railroad ditch, corner of Summit Avenue (now Broadway) and Harrington Street. Further remember a Sunday afternoon ride in Premier with Pop driving. The car broke down in Far Eastwood section (part of Old Tappan) so Pop walked to Lachmond's Hotel in River Vale and phoned Walter Peverelly Taxi Service to pick us up. "Pep" arrived promptly in a 1911 Ford Model "T" limousine-type taxi, one of 3 or 4 he ran in Hillsdale. He took us home and Pop had the Premier towed in and repaired. This car was not the first car in Hillsdale, but was one of the early cars here. Those years, just about all cars were put away in late Fall, jacked up and drained until early April, when a new motoring season started. No such thing as plowing roads, only sidewalks usually done by Henry Clendenny with one horse and a wooden wedge plow filled with rocks to plow close. Some years later (24 or 25) still no plowing. One made his own tracks through the snow and when rain occurred and froze later, cars got into these tracks with just about no steering needed. Many times, I recall going a couple of blocks before being able to get out of an icy track. Those were the days! Everything at a much slower pace than today.

As a young schoolboy I remember an envelope of pay-checks to Mr. Banta, school principal, who then paid the teachers. Pop was school clerk and had charge of such matters for a few years. Was I a big shot then!

A big event as the daily parade (A.M. down) (P.M. up) of 12-20 cows of Mrs. Werkheiser of Hillsdale House, usually attended by Bobby Lane, sometimes by Mrs. Werkheiser. The cows grazed overnight in the fields, corner of Washington Avenue and Broadway (Hemme's) and in the meadows, just below Pascack Brook bridge on Broadway, during the daytime. I made a daily trip (usually bare foot) with two or three 4-6 qt. pails of milk for my folks and two neighbor families. All this for spending money. Often we drank the warm, rich milk an milk never tasted better.

As children we played in the railroad yards on and round the cars and engines, in spite of Mom's warning "don't go over on that dirty old railroad, you might step in 'something.'" Riding to Hackensack as a very small boy with Mom and always having to make at least two visit to the "lil Boys Room" where I was fascinated looking down the hole at the roadbed flying under me. In the late '20s and early 30s riding in the locomotives usually with Lew Westphal or Dave Ackerman was a very big thrill, and always a dirty, sooty trip. Rode the 'lil cupola in the caboose a few times (in freight trains) all the way to Haverstraw, N.Y. where line ended at that time, but connected with West Shore division of New York Central. Have photos these happenings.

Another memory is commuting 1923 to Jersey City for a job in Seaman's Bank for Savings, Wall Street, where I was "chief office boy." Living at 50 Harrington Street I could walk across Broadway and catch an "Emerson" of "Westwood" train (unauthorized, of course) in the A.M. and evenings, coming home (and being young and thoughtless) jumping off the train earlier and earlier while in motion until I had it down to a fine professional art. The trainsmen finally warned me and this caper ceased!

A friend (name forgotten) and I built a small dam over the Pascack Brook with logs, rocks and sod for a deeper swimming hole. Just about finished it when we were set upon and shaken up thoroughly and dam destroyed by Pete Buschbaum and some of his pals. They claimed we were about to flood their yards. Quite a caper and no harm done to anything or anybody.

We played hundreds of hours on the maze of islands formed by Pascack Brook starting just South of Koenig's yard west of railroad tracks and ending at railroad car bridge. Many logs and trees down over to bridge stream; many good swim holes; many snakes; wild flowers in spring and just plain exploring.

Visiting a character named Pete "Shohola" Peters, a squatter, a lonely recluse, living in a shack, home-grown at the site of the present Boro Garage. His house was constructed of packing boxes, crates and tar paper and had such fascinating items of interest to a youth such as kerosene lamps. There was no plumbing. He carried his water from a nearby hand pump at the home of neighbors. This shack was built on an island, one of perhaps five, made from the meandering of the Pascack brook. Venturing further to a strange bran on another island housing many peculiar props and theatrical statues belonging to Mr. Tom Nawn who was a small-time theatrical producer and playwright. I was further mystified.

This house later belonged to Mr. Swann, deceased, and is now occupied the Pfeiffer family.

Sometimes I crossed Harrington Street to Papa and Mama Long's home at 50 Broadway where I was royally entertained for a period of many years in the house or in the 2 ½ story barn with an elaborate theatre and all sorts of expensive domestic and foreign toys and games. Upstairs were skee-ball-type and American toys with a stage for shows. Below in the garage part were cars. I remember seeing Chalmers, Maxwell, Willys Knight, Moon, Locomobile, and others. Some of the outside games were the rings and swings on long ropes attached to tall trees. They were just about the best of fun in the neighborhood.

The first local transportation was in buses (jitneys they were called at that time because they cost five cents) based on Model "T" chassis and operated from Westwood to Park Ridge. They were owned by Mr. Sam Bazinni, an old friend, who has long since passed on. This service started just after World War I in 1919.

Summit Ave. (now Broadway) in the rainy season became a muddy mire. Many early cars sank in to the hubs and had to be pulled out with horses.

In the summer Gypsy caravans (horse-drawn) came through town and most were very colorful. Children were warned to stay at home or they might be stolen and sold.

I remember many large wooden bodied long distance moving vans hauled by two or three teams of horses passing thru to other points. So slow and different from today.

Summit Ave. (Broadway now) was paved with modern concrete just after W.W.I (1919) and at first, was a thing of great joy to us mechanically inclined youths. Watching the steam-powered cement mixer inching along a few feet a day, being fed sand and gravel by horse-drawn wagons with dumping equipment and crushed stone by very early 4 cyl. General Motors Company dump trucks (hand-started by cranking and hand-dumped) was great. It took almost a year to pave from Washington Avenue, Hillsdale to Irvington Street, Westwood. It lay unused for perhaps two months in order to let it harden. We younguns took it over and used it for the best and fastest roller skating area ever known in these parts. We kids were quite peeved with motorists finally started to use it for a road. It was a tremendous step over the old rutted gravel and mud road used formerly.

Up to 1915-20 most older homes had no inside conveniences except perhaps a hand-water pump in the kitchen. The outside convenience, otherwise known as outhouse, Johnk, "Chic Sale," or just plain one-holer or two-holer was mostly used up to that time. Making use of one at night or in winter weather was quite an experience – not too comfortable. Many outhouses were very fancy with carve woodwork and fancy lattice-work, plus hand carve half-moons used in the doors for ventilation. The water pumps were of two types as I remember. A piston type with an up and down motion handle and an endless chain type with small metal cups attached to the chain which when cranked in a circular motion, produced a fairly good flow of water out of a spout.

A great Sunday afternoon treat was a walk up to Dr. DeMott's French ice cream parlor. In those days, strolling by whole families was quite popular as very few people had cars.

Those wonderful silent movies! Saturday evening and occasionally Saturday afternoon matinee with Pearl White, Ruth Roland, Dorothy Dalton, Charlie Chaplin, Doug Fairbanks, Sr. and Mary Pickford plus, of course, the famous horror films, "The Hooded Terror," "The Man-Ape," "Perils of Pauline" and many others. All of these at the old Hillsdale Fire House upstairs with an occasional jaunt to the old "Casino" at corner of Broadway and Irvington Street, Westwood. This last was an old wooden theatre with player piano and moveable sets.

Quit a few sand and gravel pits were located around Hillsdale with cement block plants adjacent. Perhaps the earliest one was at the corner of Washington Avenue and Magnolia Avenue where all of the gravel and sand for the poured cement apartments and some nearby homes came from. These structures had wooden forms erected and the mixed cement was then poured making a very substantial, but heavy building. This particular cement block plant was owned by the John Ackerman family. A later generation moved the plant to East Piermont Avenue near Ruckman Road where it ended its days perhaps ten years ago. Another big such pit and plant was on Wets Hillsdale Avenue near Taylor Street. It mined sand and gravel for many years owned by Mr. T.I. Haubner who later became a Boro official and public-spirited citizen being Fire Chief and Poormaster.

Another business in progress locally was the log saw-mill, a fact now remembered by only old-timers. One that I particularly remember was located on the northwest corner of Magnolia and Piermont Avenues owned by Mr. Grant Titus who later moved it to East Piermont Avenue near the Ackerman sand-pit where it closed about thirty-five years ago.

In my very young days, 1914-20, I played around the ruins of an abandoned box factory located near Colmeyer pond just west of the Hillsdale Manor Railroad depot. I was greatly interested in their big steam engine and boiler rusting away. I have even heard rumors of an earlier factory east of Kinderkamack Road near St. Nicholas Ave. Such are my memories, and many more as the Jepson clan developed.

Source: Hillsdale News Mr., 6, 1973:1

HILLSDALE MEMORIES – FROM TEENAGER TO SENIOR CITIZEN IN FIFTY BUSY YEARS – PART I BY MERCEDES BOESCHE GEISE

My introduction to Hillsdale came as a teenager when my family purchased a home here through Loretta Higgins, mother of present day realtor, Joseph Higgins.

I recall Post World war I Hillsdale as “hills and dales” – as the name implies – and lots of wide open spaces, a concentration of homes close to the station area, a few stores, a livery stable where the present bank is located, and a tiny wooden Post Office located at the Northeast corner of Hillsdale and Railroad Avenues, presided over by Postmaster Barnett. On the outskirts of the town proper were numerous farms and a sprinkling of homes. It was a rural community in which everyone knew just about everyone else at least by name and sight.

Since there was little industry in Pascack Valley, most of the men not operating farms or local stores and businesses commuted to New York City. Train service, although dirty and jolty, was more frequent than it has been for many years. Service on Saturdays and Sundays made it possible to visit in New York or take advantage of entertainment there. A small rickety bus did local service between Park Ridge and Westwood.

Few wives worked outside of their homes unless assisting husbands in local businesses. Most were active in church work – Ladies Aid Society and similar organizations – and occasionally enjoyed coffee, cake and card playing with neighbors and friends. Car ownership was unusual so that activity was usually within a small radius. Some of our closer neighbors were the Bill Dublers, Clyde Days, Charles Hillebrants, Hoppes, Angells, Burgoynes, Westons, Normans, and the George Whites. Close by on Conklin Avenue were the Al Tiedemans, the Mullens, Slaters, and Higgins.

A square wooden schoolhouse located on the site of the George White School was the lone seat of learning within the town; the next step being attendance at either Westwood or Park Ridge High School.

I don't recall teenagers then enjoying a special classification (as they do now). We were just older children, assigned chores as we grew and gradually permitted to go places and do things younger brothers and sisters could not. We grumbled sometimes but bowed to parental rule and did respect our elders. Mischief? I'm sure we got into some, but it would not have occurred to us to deliberately wreck property or injure anyone. Drugs? Why they were nasty things which had to be taken when ill. Liquor? A small glass of wine enjoyed with the family at holiday time. It was apparent even then that our lives would not be like that of our elders. The War – as all wars do – had greatly affected, all, directly or indirectly. But we had fun in the twenties. Living on the east side of town, we sleighed on Campbell's Hill (Piermont Avenue), on Large Avenue and Conklin

Avenue; on the latter sometimes ending up in the small brook running along the far side of Magnolia Avenue if a bad left turn was made. Sometimes three, four, or more sleighs joined together – usually resulting in a big spill. There was skiing on Gertenbach's Hill – the eastern extension of Large Avenue, and ice skating at many locations – from Oradell Reservoir, where a stiff breeze would sometimes carry you almost across the lake, to the Electric Light Pond in Park Ridge, with many smaller ponds in between.

In summer we swam almost anywhere water was found – again from Oradell Reservoir to the Electric Light Pond, with smaller swimming hole favorites in between – Lachmunds, a place we called Duppers back River Vale way, and a spot called Storms' west of Pascack Road.

Evenings were at home with the family, curfew was early. We did some reading. Radio was just becoming popular and my older brother Aug – like most boys- was winding coils, assembling "cat's whiskers," knobs, and other parts sitting with earphones by the hour, with an occasional shout "I'm getting Philadelphia" or some other city.

An outdoor lover, I had joined a Camp Fire Girl group in Emerson led by Marjorie Ackerman, a Hillsdale school teacher (later Mrs. Grover Huyler). Weekends often meant hikes to the Palisades at Alpine, cooking out and climbing up and down the cliffs, then the walk back home. Summer camping with this group at Hook Mountain on the Hudson and Brook's Lake at Fort Montgomery was also great. At the former we climbed the mountain, explored abandoned mine shafts, crabbed from the decrepit pier. Other Hillsdale girls who sometimes joined these expeditions were Nettie and Rose Pisacano and Marion Hansen (daughter of Hillsdale's mayor). The Glen at Park Ridge was a closer favorite on hot summer days – a bike ride, picnic lunch, then wading in the ice cold brook. We teenagers of the twenties did a great many things now considered "corny." We were a reasonably healthy lot and in later years I found that I could be comfortable sleeping in a pup tent or in a Waldorf suite.

I remember movies in the Hillsdale Fire Hall – as we called Borough Hall, then a wooden building housing the fire-fighting equipment. Upstairs was one large room with a stage at the far end and a balcony of sorts on the entrance side. Here also were held frequency dance, masquerades, entertainments of all sorts, and of course, town meetings.

College in the twenties was not possible for many. In addition to being at some distance, few families were economically able to finance their children's education beyond high school. Consequently, further education for most young people resulted through "on the job" training. Many found work in New York – some in banks, some at insurance companies or the telephony company. With a pretty solid English and 3R basis, plus a comprehensive business course, I was fortunate, after a couple of "dud" jobs to join the staff of a large national organization representing manufacturers in Washington. The work proved interesting. With little previous political interest, I became familiar with lobbies, press releases, consolidations, and business in general. The Wall Street Journal and business publications, the Congressional Record on Tariff Hearings etc. became necessary reading materials. Our Chief was a remarkable man who took

an interest in the lives of all his staff – from time to time dispensing such philosophical advice as “Always remember where your roots are, but see as much of the world as possible” and “Learn to do as many things as possible.”

Commuting was not unpleasant; usually with one or more friends as company. Familiar faces daily included Margaret Wandell, Josephine Fitzpatrick, Hazel Rush, Edna Manahan and her brothers, Adele, Chet and Chet Field, the Norman brothers, Chick and Harry Tatem, Frank Stoeckel, Joyce Baker, Helen White, Ray Mullen – and so many others.

Commuting busses were not in service until the 30's and when my organization moved to 42nd Street a good bit of traveling resulted. Dinner and even an early show with friends in town resulted in a mad dash via the Hudson Tube at 33rd Street to Jersey City to catch the last train leaving at 12:20 a.m., arriving in Hillsdale at about 1:30 a.m. Up again at 6:00 a.m.

A more local popular spot to visit after movies in Westwood was the Palm Room located over Loomis' Ice Cream Parlor on Westwood Avenue. In between ice cream sodas and gooky sundaes we danced to juke box music, then walked home to Hillsdale.

Apropos current Women's Lib efforts, it is amusing to look back on Hillsdale's own incident in that direction fifty years of age. Originating as a semi-serious gag – I believe in connection with a coming Firemen's convention, a group of girls including myself was asked to participate in a women's fire-fighting brigade. This made New York newspaper headlines, just about full page in some cases. The Pathe News sent out cameramen to shoot scenes of ladder climbing, coupling hoses, fire equipment, water battles, etc., and we were invited to New York for lunch and a showing of the then current “Burning of Rome;” it was great fun while it lasted but got a little out of hand and the whole idea was squelched – you'll have to guess by whom.

Other kaleidoscopic memories which I cannot pinpoint now as to date – Gardenier's General at Broadway and Cross Street, Winkler's Grocery and Delicatessen – later Gersten's, joint community Fourth of July Fireworks (prior to those held at the Ballground) held between Hillsdale and Westwood in a large area south of the brook later the site of Harold Shuttleworth's shop and sundry other buildings. Then there was the burning of Park Ridge High School, after which we found charred parts of textbooks in our Large Avenue yard. Also a twister which ripped down Large Avenue, leveling all the popular trees and tilting up the sidewalks, then rushed down Cross Street to cause havoc there.

Thirty more years in Hillsdale to follow – next week.

Source: Hillsdale News Mr., 13, 1973:1

HILLSDALE MEMORIES – From Teenager to Senior Citizen in Fifty busy years – PART II By Mercedes Boesche Geise

In the late Thirties my husband Harold and I had purchased a home in Hillsdale, close to the home of my parents, and we both commuted to New York – he by train to the lower Manhattan Insurance District, I by bus to Radio City. The National Association of Manufacturers, with whom I had been associated for nearly fourteen years, became one of the first tenants in the just completed Time and Life Building. Then an approaching blessed event prompted my resignation and I became an ordinary suburban housewife and mother.

The Forties. We had hardly settled down to being parents and homeowners when World War II was upon us. My brother Frank joined the Air Force; my sister Eva, only married a short time, saw her husband off to the Army. Both saw overseas duty, as did many local boys. We “stay-at-homes,” in addition to anxiety for those in the service, began to experience the civilian effects of the war – air raid drills, Civil Defense meetings, rationing of food, shoes, gas – ration coupons and little red and blue ration tokens. My old walking habits became useful. To save gas, I pushed the baby carriage to Westwood and back for shopping, later pooled cars with June Savoia to take our boys to nursery school in Westwood. There were substitutes for everything – except money – that remained scarce.

Meanwhile, Hillsdale changed gradually. Isadore Gersten had built an apartment house at Broadway and Park Avenue and further south there were also apartments, stores, and Hemme’s Restaurant. Many older houses disappeared in the process as Hillsdale began to really grow up. We had acquired a Library, first one room, then two, in the Leddy Building. My small son soon became a regular borrower. The tiny wooden Post Office had long since disappeared; moving first to a store front in the Fedden Building on Hillsdale Avenue, then to the Broadway location occupied just prior to its present site. The bank, first housed in the Gersten apartment building, moved across the street to a small brick building facing Broadway, later razed to build the present Pascack Valley Bank and Trust Company.

The War ended. Our son, Howard entered George White School. I remember many of his teachers, especially Mrs. Ewald that first day in kindergarten. So many children cried; it was bedlam. Perhaps nursery school had made my little one feel like a veteran; he stood up quite well. Not too much later though, I remember Principal George White’s kindness and understanding when he became terrified over air raid or fire alarm bells. He associated them with radio broadcasts about air raids and destruction. Mr. White took him on his knee, explained the whole thing to him and showed him that he – not the airplanes – rang the bells. Blanche Smith also stands out in my memory as a wonderfully understanding teacher and vice-principal.

As building materials again became available, a few new homes began to appear in our neighborhood and we decided to purchase several lots on Grove Street, just back of our house, with a view to building a new home at a later date. Years later we wished we had taken advantage of other parcels offered to my husband by Mr. Barthman, of the N.J. jewelry store Barthman's at the time of our first purchase. One parcel was the V-shaped piece between Kinderkamack Road and Grove Street, ending at the intersection of Hillsdale Avenue. The price asked was \$150. We had felt the small stream running through the property would preclude building there, but not too long after a builder purchased it, convinced the borough they should divert the stream underground, and built three houses on it, chopping down many lovely dogwood trees. Money was scarce indeed. Builder Bill Schramm tried for months to sell a new house he built – six rooms, tile bath, modern kitchen, garage on 75' x 150'. The big arrowed sign at the corner said \$3995. It seems unbelievable now!

Both my husband and I became involved in a variety of town activities. As one of the founders of Boy Scout Troop 108, he was successively Assistant Scout Master, Scoutmaster and Committee member, also working in the District setup. There were always parades, hikes, trips to No-Be-Bos-Co, meetings and tests in our back yard. Never a dull moment – but rewarding! Many of the boys I remember developed into fine citizens and have enjoyed success in later years.

For me, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, PTA, and many years as Hillsdale's representative of the Bergen County Tuberculosis and Health Association, handling Christmas Seal mailings – which were at that time prepared at my home with a Committee – also arranging for the Bergen Pines X-Ray Bus to visit Hillsdale occasionally to X-Ray residents were rewarding activities. This necessitated arranging a location – the school or fire house for proper power – securing several typewriters, typists, as well as assistants. The actual X-Raying was performed by the Pines technicians on the Bus.

Although I missed the stimulation of a business career, I found that staying at home had some distinct advantages. I got to know my neighbors beyond a smile and a nod. I remember Elsie Hugels' bottomless coffee pot, her kitchen so often occupied by friends and neighbors – Muriel Dunphy, Catherine Strasser, Lois Patton, myself, and others, chatting over a cup while sundry children popped in and out and sometimes emerging with a new hairdo. Among other neighbors were the Petersens, Magnusens, Stevens, Zullors, Mikulkas, Grossers, Lohmans, O'Neills, Hobbs and Engels. It was a friendly neighborhood.

In the summertime it was fun to take my son, sometimes with a pal, swimming at Pascack Pool, or picnicking or fishing. Weekends the whole family usually took off to some lake.

We were invited to join the Doubles Club and made many new friends meeting monthly at some member's home for a social evening of entertainment in some form followed by refreshments. During the year special events were also arranged – hayrides, covered dish suppers, talent night, picnics, swim parties, Christmas parties, or dinner dances. In 1948 one of our Club members was suddenly stricken with polio and spent many months in the Sister Kenney Institute in Jersey City undergoing rehabilitation. Shocked club members

responded by organizing a Penny Sale, held in the School Auditorium on January 15, 1949. The proceeds were donated to the Sister Kenny Foundation in his name. Prizes were donated by townspeople and businesses and Boy Scouts assisted at the affair.

As publicity chairman for several organizations, my contact with Mr. Sam Lieberman – then publisher of THE NEWS – led to his suggestion that I cover the Hillsdale Mayor and Council, Board of Education and Board of Health meetings for THE HILLSDALE NEWS. I decided to try it. Since my husband was so involved in Scout activities, I often had to engage a babysitter at home. As a result my efforts proved somewhat of a financial loss but a liberal education. In those five years I became aware of the tremendous amount of routine necessary to run a town; of the sacrifice of time and personal dedication on the part of the Mayor, the Councilmen and Board Members. Masses of detail had to be discussed and disposed of at these meetings. Few spectators attended, except in a crisis such as the “Luben Controversary” which really filled the gallery. I remember the efficient Gary Storms at Council meetings, George Strohsahl at Board of Education and the many Councilmen and Board Members who were so friendly and cooperative to me.

Our son’s nine years in George White School were probably quite routine. He had many excellent teachers and participated in Junior Patrol and other activities. We were proud of him and his selection for American Legion award at graduation. Then off to Park Ridge High School – football, track team, etc. Extracurricular enlistment in the Ground Observer Corp required early Sunday morning trips to his post atop the Mittag Building in Park Ridge (stopping to pick up his partner Dick Zalewski) then a return trip to pick them up.

The Fifties and Sixties. Now I was not needed at home all day and was toying with the thought of returning to work when I learned that Paul Ackerman, who, with his sons-in-law Monty Robbins and Herman Marsala, operated a concrete products plant in Hillsdale, needed a “Girl Friday.” And so I re-entered the business field. Although the physical appearance and comforts there were a far cry from Radio City, Mr. Ackerman was a fine, considerate gentleman to work for. Descended from some of the oldest families in the area (he called them all woodpile relations) he had many stories and anecdotes to tell about “life in the old days.” Closeness to home also proved a great convenience.

We had finally built the new house so long planned and after his senior year at the newly built Pascack Valley High School, our son graduated and entered Stevens Institute of Technology to study engineering. Graduating as a Chemical Engineer, he accepted his first job in Connecticut, returning home for weekends, but decided a year later to do graduate work. He returned to Stevens as a Teaching Assistant for a year while working on his Masters degree, living at his fraternity house on the campus, then back into business, married a lovely Hackensack teacher and settled down in his own home in River Edge.

Shortly after Mr. Ackerman’s death, I again became a stay-at-home, then did “Girl Friday” duty at Rocco Pavese’s office in Westwood. In Rocky and his family I again found great friendliness and consideration.

My husband was the only member of our family who “stayed put,” remaining over forty years with the New York insurance brokerage firm of which he was Vice President when illness forced him to retire.

During the Sixties we did a good deal of traveling, sometimes just my husband and myself, sometimes with our son and daughter-in-law. We visited many exciting and interesting places from the Swiss Alps to the Casbah in Algeria. I enjoyed them all immensely, but it was always nice to return to our home in Hillsdale. I did not live all my life in Hillsdale, but the most formative ones, and so my roots were here. Should it become necessary or feasible eventually to locate elsewhere, I know I will not forget my years here. Certainly we had unhappy times too, as all families do – bereavements, illnesses, operations, personal problems – but on a wall hangs a favorite quatrain from Omar Khayyam’s Rubaiyat – as follows

The moving finger writes
and having write
Moves on; nor all your piety
nor wit
Shall lure it back
to cancel half a line,
Nor all your tears
wash out a word of it.

And so I try to remember the happy times which, in the interest of brevity I’ve had to skim over, and the many nice friends I have known here in Our Town.

Source: Hillsdale News May, 5, 1973:1

REMEMBERING WITH ELAINE RINGROSE

Many of Hillsdale's "Older Generation" will remember with me some of the famous people in our town. I give you a list of a few of our public officials from the old days.

Mr. William Terry, vice president, Kayser Corporation.

Mr. W.W. Livengood, treasurer, American Book Company.

Mr. Frank Liveright, vice president, Bamberger's Department Store.

Mr. Harry Gunther, officer, Consolidated Edison; Mr. Ralph Stever, president, Seamen's Bank. Mr. Jenner Fast, treasurer, Standard Oil Company.

I mention the above only because they served in our official family in some capacity – most as councilmen or of our borough.

We also had many famous visitors in Hillsdale as Martinelli, the Metropolitan opera star, who came often to visit The Villa Cesare. Even then the food was known to celebrities all over the country and it was called the "Headwaiters' Club." Especially the Pot Roast Theresa, Mrs. Betti's own recipe. It's nice to know it is still owned and operated by the same family and has the same quality food.

It was a big treat for all Hillsdale when Mr. and M. Hemme opened their Viennese Pastry Shop. Who can forget those exquisite cakes and candies. Then later their Beer Stube and Hemme's Restaurant, which is now the Chestnut Pub.

Remember those great political rallies at Koenigs? Their restaurant was known throughout the State. Large platters of wonderful sandwiches for 75¢. Big pitchers of ice cold beer 50¢. We had all the politicians of the County and beyond in those days.

Remember when Betty Hammerstein (Kramer) played the title role in a movie? Does anyone remember more about this? Remember when Dolly Mack won the local beauty contest? – She is now Mrs. R. McSpirit and lives in town. Viola Gustafsen Meese, who was an outstanding student, Eaglet Scout and captain of the debating team still teaches at the White School. Yank Travolta one of the best basketball players in Bergen County will never be forgotten. Arthur Mehling (The Baron) an outstanding football player? Hazel Hoffman (Mrs. Merle Hoffman) who made everyone look twice at her beauty is still such a lovely looking woman and is on the Board of Directors of the Pascack Valley Bank and Trust Company. Remember the Indian who lived in the woods in a tar-paper shack west of Pascack Road? He told us his name was Chief Half Moon and I always was a little afraid he would scalp us.

When I drive up Piermont Avenue I always think of it as Campbell's Hill, because the Campbell family lived there and we never knew the road as Piermont Avenue. Remember the white swans and lovely gardens of the Shulke family where the Post Office now stands? The statuary and fountains at the Mendelsen home just west of the Library were quite grand in their day too. The meadow between our town and Westwood where we picked wildflowers, hepatica, violes, daisies, black eyed Susans. Now all built up with industry. How

fortuna our town fathers thought ahead to acquire Beechwood Park for future generations. Here is so little left.

Remember our own Marion West Higgins, First Woman Governor in New Jersey? This was when Marion was Speaker of our State Assembly. Former Governor Hughes was out of the State so she served as our acting Governor for five days the first time. His happens. Who can ever forget the Haubner family? Mr. Haubner started the fife and drum corps and was the postmaster during the depression. His daughter Eleanor (Volger) was a talented dancer and daughter Dorothy was married to the late Garret Storms one of the most beloved men we ever had in Hillsdale. I would be remiss not to mention the wonderful hats worn by the Methodist Church Ladies Choir. They were something. Birds, flowers, feathers, veiling and a lot of other things. I used to sit in the Church and wish I could grow up just to have a hat like one of those. They were original creations and very beautiful.

Graduation dresses had to be made in sewing class when I was in the Hillsdale Grammar School. I couldn't sew (still can't) but I had to hem dish towels and Alice O'Brien, Doris Parsils, Ginny Jepson, Millie Hering, etc., all worked on my dress. We did our own stage decorating for graduation in the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church. We got chicken wire for the rear and sides of the stage and filled it with green privet hedge and daisies. There were many daisies in those days. Even the bouquets we received were flowers from Hillsdale gardens.

We had bus service to Park Ridge High School, but many of us walked home from school in nice weather. Seems we walked a great deal in the 1920's and never thought about it. Sometimes we sat by the lake (Woodcliff Lake) and paddled our feet. There were wooden rail fences then. There was one spot near the Spillway Road with thousands of violet plants. I'll never forget it. Almost all the houses had wells and one thought nothing of stopping for a drink. It was just understood people would not object. Hillsdale was such a quiet, sedate, yet always friendly and warm place to live.

Remember when Walter McIntyre arrived in town with his bridge? Walter went on to become one of our best known residents. He became a Judge and has been known as Judge Mac ever since. He gave a great deal of time and effort to our Public Library and his wife Jeanette to the Garden Club. What I like to recall about Walter most is his ability to give the best speech, political or otherwise, I have ever heard. He was and is a master of oratory. He taught many of our political aspirants, local and county, how to get their views over to the electorate. I am happy he is still part of Hillsdale.

Remember Miss May Brill who sang for the Metropolitan Opera Company? She was a very talented and glamorous lady.

Isn't it nice to read about Nettie Schwartz one of the Pisacano family? She is now working on "Meals on Wheels," delivering food to shut-ins once a day. Nettie has been doing kind things for people as long as I can remember, and she still is! Henry Pisacano was our postman, and was he ever a well-loved guy! On snowy days Henry would always have the mail, cigarettes, and sometimes milk and bread. He just knew when we couldn't get out. He also had all the town's news! Everyone misses him.

Remember Miss Florence Walker when she first taught in our school? Her sight is nearly gone now. She was beloved by everyone as were Belle and Ada Nelson.

It was a lucky day when Harold (Red) Smith arrived in town to take over as Pastor of the Methodist Church. He contributed so much to all of Hillsdale, and his sister Ann Blanche Smith was one of the most efficient and dedicated women we have ever had in Hillsdale. Her life was the education of the children in the town and I am happy there is a lasting "Thank you, Blanche Smith" in the name of one of our schools.

Someone must remember Mrs. Sheridan who lived on Orchard Street! She as the daughter of one of our General Grant's most important Generals Philip Sheridan. She was a delightful lady with one of the most beautiful flower gardens in town. Roses, bridal wreath, lilacs, lilies of the valley, hollyhocks, stock, phlox, primrose and all the old-fashioned flowers we never see today.

Remember when Sybil Marra (Mrs. George Geraghty) opened her Beauty Shop next to her brother Pat's Barber Shop on Patterson Street? How all the girls loved Sybil! She listened to all our little love affairs and school problems and did everything to make us feel pretty. Whenever I see Sybil I think of her sweetness and patience, trying to make each of us just right for the Junior Prom, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Langerfelt lived in our town too. They owned the Old Dutch Tavern in New York, one of the oldest taverns in the country. The Langerfelts were very interesting people and everyone Easter my father took us to their tavern for luncheon.

Mr. Francis Fast owned a lovely house in the Manor Section. He had a Japanese garden, a tea house, gold fish pond, cherry trees and flowers – especially Iris. His house as filled with Oriental Art, brasses, bronzes, jade and gongs. We all loved to visit there to see the porcelain.

Isn't it nice to hear that Harvey Hering, one of our outstanding Police Commissioners and Councilman, is healthy and happy in Florida? He was such an important part of our town and contributed so much. We was descended from one of our families which settled here back to colonial days. Auntie Hering, as she was known, had so many colonial clothes, hoopskirts, bustles, etc. Her grandniece, Mrs. Lee Donges and I, used to dress up in those clothes when we were children. We wore dresses with bustles and buttons all the way down the back. We wore shawls with fringes and tassels and carried pretty parasols. We wore high heels that made us walk funny and flirted behind fans as we had seen the grown-ups do. I remember high button shoes and jet beads, too. We also slept at her house many times on soft, soft, feather beds made by Auntie, of feathers from her own geese.

It's wonderful to known that many of our really old residents still have parts of their families here. Hillsdale must be a rather good place to live if so many of us are still here! It makes one happy to note that our present town fathers realize we must do something about housing for people who wish to live out their days in a town they love so well. It is sad to think of growing old and not being able to live where one's roots are. This is a problem for all of us and we do grow older. I don't know how I ever reached 60, but I did a few months ago.

Some of the elder generation here built the foundation of Hillsdale and should be able to stay here. They have contributed so much to Hillsdale.

Source: Hillsdale News Feb. 20, 1973:1

MY CHILDHOOD IN HILLSDALE

By ELAINE RINGROSE

My mother and father, John and Antonie Hansen, came to Hillsdale in 1909. My sister Marion was three years old, my brother John (nicknamed "Pete") was one and a half. My brother Bob was born in 1910. I was born in 1912.

Our first house in town was on Cedar Street, "The Crest." It cost \$2500.00. We had a wonderful "growing-up" in Hillsdale. Everyone swam in the Pascack Brook in Glenbrook Park, which was a lovely meadow. All flowers and trees on the edges for shade. The water was so clean we could drink it. The fishing was terrific. We walked to school every day. The old wooden schoolhouse always smelled of varnish and oiled floors. The sanitary facilities were outside, and I can remember the cold winter weather. No one lingered long in the outhouses!

The Yates tennis courts on Hillsdale Avenue was a special center and I can remember Mrs. Franklyn Myers with scarlet ribbons in her hair playing tennis with my mother. We loved to go to the Yates house. The children always played in the fields and had lemonade and cookies, while their parents played on the courts.

Life was simple and sweet in those days. All our social life centered around the churches and our wonderful Fire Department. Every Christmas the firemen gave a party for all the children. They were marvelous parties, presents for all, a good show (local talent) singing and dancing. We went to all the church parties. They were something to see. All the homemade cakes and cookies and fun. Every fall the Methodist Church had a Harvest Home. Dinners were 50 cents and were they ever good! Every summer we picked strawberries at the Demarest farm for 3 cents a quart and I will never forget the strawberry festivals in town. I can still taste the shortcake and heavy cream from the Clendenny farm. Every day my brother, Bob, went to Clendenny's for milk. We loved the farm and all the cows and horses we knew by name. Later on we had a bakery wagon with wonderful cake and bread, and an ice truck which we all followed to chip off ice on a hot summer day. We also had a "Honey Wagon" which was the local cesspool cleaner. It was a pine box tarred on the outside, but open on the top. We all prayed as it went by that it would not break down in front of our house. It very often did break down, causing everyone to scurry away.

Mr. Pete Van Horn had a vegetable wagon and came every day. We all waited to pet his horse.

George Fedden lived behind our house in the woods. He and his brother Armin were wonderful men. All the kids lived their vacation time in their woods. We had a tree house in a big Beech tree and ate lunch way up high in the branches. We wandered the woods day after day and we never thought of the things we warn our children about today. We were always safe and together.

In the winter we skated at Storms ice pond on Piermont Avenue and sledged on Large and Conklin Avenues. Almost all the town went skating and sleighriding. A special treat was a horse drawn sleigh driven by John Bell of Glenbrook Park filled with fresh straw and moonlight evenings. There were very few automobiles back in 1914 and we had an Overland touring car. Each Sunday we drove to Old Tappan and sometimes to Old Fort Comfort in Piermont where we swam in the wonderful clean Hudson River.

I remember my father wearing a duster (long coat) goggles and driving gloves. It seems to me now that we had five flat tires every time we drove out.

One of the things we loved best was when my grandmother and grandfather came by train (there were many trains a day then) and hired a carriage from Mr. Calvin Gardenier's stable on Park Street (present site of the Pascack Valley Bank). We loved riding up to the big farms for fruit and produce – the Meyer's Farm, Winter's Farm and, of course, the Demarest's. Our Fourth of July celebrations were something to see. A big parade – everyone participated. All kinds of games and the best fireworks in the Pascack Valley at night. We had movies in the Boro Hall every Saturday night. Silents, of course, but we had Mr. Schink playing the piano, and I can still hear the roll of thunder and horses' hoofs in the old westerns with Tox Mix and his horse, Tony.

I think the whole town turned out for the dances in the Firehall. All the children came too, and when we were tired we slept on coats in the cloakroom. No baby sitters then!

We were next door neighbors of the Shuttleworths. Their father had a fire cart – Hose Co. #2. Mr. Shuttleworth was Chief and my father Captain. They fought fires on the Crest until the large engines could arrive. It was fun. When a fire started in Hillsdale, we had gongs all over town, no siren. Everyone turned out who could walk or ride.

It was a big treat to go to Neilson's Drug Store in part of the old hotel to get big foamy jugs of ice cold root beer. Only 5 cents!

We moved to the big house on Hillsdale Avenue in 1919 – next to the present Fire Department. It seemed like a hotel to me. Five bedrooms and two more on the third floor. A fireplace and huge rooms, but most of all we loved the barn. We had so many barn dances there when we were teen-agers. The girls made cup cakes and punch and the boys came to dance and stand around. I remember the Slater boys, Ray Mullen, Howie, Travis. Charlie Hillabrandt, the Weston brothers, the Breidenbacks, the Bushbaums, Johnnie Marsala, who played the piano so well, and whose father often gave us soda pop for our parties. Many of these people are still here in Hillsdale or near by. They are grandparents as I am. After we moved to Hillsdale Avenue in the middle of town I woke up every morning to train noises. We had steam engines that steamed up all night down in the train yards by the old roundhouse. Also we had a pasture for Mrs. Werkheiser's cows next door. My brother, Bob, sneaked over to milk those cows for fun more than once. Mr. Schletterback was the butcher and had meat the taste of which I can never forget. He always gave us slice of bologna and liverwurst when we went to his store. Mr. John Winters' store was a big wooden building (where the Leddy Building is). It was filled with wonderful smells. Big wheels of cheese, loads of loose cookies in big barrels, crackers, penny candy, rubbers, shovels, brooms and just about anything one could want. We loved Mr. Winters and Mr. Burton who worked for him. Every day we visited the store to pet the beautiful hunting dogs Mr. Winters owned – also to get cookies. Everyone shopped at Winters' store. It was the Post Office, too.

I remember at the end of World War I we had an effigy of the German Kaiser and we all walked on it in school. There were parties all over town for the soldiers coming home, and prayers for those who did not return. Decoration Day, the end of May, was a big day in Hillsdale. A large parade, speeches, all the children, Scout troops and organizations marching in respect for those who were gone.

The people of Hillsdale have a great deal to be proud of. A Police Department ranking with the best. A Fire Department which is absolutely tops. Our Sanitation Department keeping the town really clean and all our governing boards of dedicated men and women giving their time and efforts to make Hillsdale a special place for living. It always warms my heart to run into people I have known all my life as Beas Lucas (O'Brien) our librarian, Betty Bently, Marjorie McAneny, Henry Breitenbach, Johnnie Marsala, George Jepson, Nancy Mullen, Harold Shuttleworth, Sarah Van der Clute, Blanche Smith, the Traveltas, Millie Hering Donges, the Hammersteins and so many others I have known in all my life.

Our family grew up interested in our town and very much involved in politics. My father held about every office in town at one time or another so his children grew up with a good understanding of community life. Our politics were fun in those days. We were Republicans, but many of Dad's strongest supporters were conservative Democrats. These men were dedicated to their town, as he was. The Depression Years were rough for all but there was a pulling together to help people get through, to help save homes from foreclosure, to feed their children, etc. Everyone helped. One's individual politics were not uppermost. We were as one, and for all of us it was a wonderful lesson that people do care about each other, and we all helped when the chips are down. I remember in 1932 Mr. Franklyn J. Myers (who was a leading Democrat) coming to our house and saying to my father, "John what do we do to help?" My dad was Mayor of Hillsdale and they were tough years in the 1930's.

One of the loveliest memories of my childhood is in the fields of daisies and black-eyed Susans in Hillsdale. Every vacant lot was filled.

Everyone in town went nutting in the fall. We had loads of Hickory trees, Beech trees and wonderful Walnut trees. My grandmother made walnut cakes and I have never tasted anything like her cake since.

We also went blackberrying south of Colonial Boulevard in what we called "Pecter's Woods." Our lives were filled with things to do. Wonderful "Unregimented" things. None of the children I knew ever asked "what can I do now?" There were so many wonderful places to go in Hillsdale. Our woods were so beautiful, our streams so clean and pure. No one would think of doing anything to contaminate a stream, brook, river, or lake.

Carnival time each summer was also a highlight for all of us. A whole week of rides, stands, hot dogs, candy apples and fun and everyone in town came. Our Fire Department ran the carnivals every year.

Years ago the winters seemed to bring so much snow. The plows, pulled by horses went all over town so people could get downtown to the trains and to school.

I have always been proud to say "I live in Hillsdale." My roots are deep and meaningful, my memories both happy and sad, but I am happy to be a part of a town that is a good place to live, where old-timers reach out a welcoming hand to those who come here to be part of our progress and growth.

Source: Hillsdale News ?, 1973

HILLSDALE MEMORIES

By Emily Brinkerhoff Vanderbeek Brogeler (Winner of Flag Contest)

Seventy-five years ago, Hillsdale along with the rest of our country, was in the era known as "The Gay Nineties." Most of Hillsdale's old-timers were farm folk who hitched their horses to open wagons loaded with farm produce and drove them to the nearest markets. Lincoln Demarest tells me that he and his father, George W. Demarest, sold most of their apples, peaches, etc., by the bushel or peach basket to regular customers in Ridgewood; the two Myers families usually carted their produce to the big wholesale in Paterson; and the Winters family went two or three times a week to the New York market, leaving at noon one day, getting a hitch up Dan Kelley's Hill from an extra team, as did all the farmers, one team not being enough for the long haul up that steep hill, arriving in time for the 4 a.m. trading, and then returning to Hillsdale by noon the next day.

In 1898, the largest farms in Hillsdale were owned by the following families on the west side of town: starting on the south end of Wierimus Road near Van Emburgh Avenue (then only a dirt lane), the Cornelius Myers farm (later owned by Fred Myers, his son) lay to the right, down the hill to the east; whereas the John J. Myers farm (later owned by his son, Garrett Zabriskie Myers) was to the west, up the hill, where the Chestnut Hills Development now stands; then, also on the west side of Wierimus Road to its junction with Wierimus Lane, and turning right on that lane and east a piece was the John Storms farm on the right. This was the homestead of Hillsdale's beloved "Little Mayor," the former Borough Clerk-Collector-Treasurer Garret A. Storms. He is gone now, and so are Franklin J. Myers (eldest son of John J. Meyers), another influential businessman in Hillsdale for many years, and all the other farmers in that area except Lincoln Demarest, who lives on Old Hook Road in West wood, and Fred Myers, who manages his own home alone since his wife, Martha, died last year. Fred lives on West Clarkstown Road in New City, N.Y. where he has a nice patch of farmland and as gorgeous a view of the New York skyline as he had from his hill farm in Hillsdale.

So, now, the only original farm left operating in Hillsdale is the Demarest one, run by Lincoln's son, George; and let's help him keep it as such – let us have at least one memento of the good old days!

If you were a boy or girl seeking amusement in 1898, you would be swimming in or going for walks along the Pascack and Musquapsink brooks, searching for equisetum, pussy willows, cattails in the bogs, and, in very early spring, the huge, unfurling leaves of skunk cabbage, and the elusive jack-in-the-pulpit with its delicately striped, arched canopy. Or, maybe you would take a walk in the many surrounding wooded areas to find a sunny patch with brownish-topped green moss and a clump of dainty white violets with their delicate purple veins, and if you were exceptionally lucky, later in the summer, a lone moccasin flower with its bulbous pink pistil shot through with darker pink veins, the only real

orchid known to grow wild in these parts. Or, you might even gather watercress by plunging your arms up to the elbows in one of the icy springs that feed the many tributaries of the main brooks – I remember one lovely spot just south of Henry Clendenny's house about a quarter of a mile or less, where a person could gather the most tangy watercress around these parts, even as late as 1943.

On the other hand, you might prefer the more sophisticated pleasure of riding along country lanes in a buggy with a top that can be raised or lowered (as Lincoln Demarest tells me his sisters Marion and Annie enjoyed), or you could have an open wagon or buggy with hinged and fringed umbrella (parasol) that fastens to the side of the seat, and you could fold it up into practically nothing but a little stick, or raise it and tilt it to any angle against sun or storm. Or you might even own a "surrey with the fringe on top" such as the Storms family boasted. And, you would probably be singing as you rode "...I bet my money on a bobtailed nag; somebody bet on the bay..." If it were winter, you'd be riding behind Dobbin on a big sled up Campbell's hill or one of the hills to the west of town, or you'd be skating on one of the many ponds in the area.

Speaking of old-time winters, Lincoln Demarest recalls one winter when Hillsdale's residents were snowed up on the hills for nearly a week. Finally, one of the dairy farmers broke through to deliver milk. They wrapped the horses' legs with thick layers of burlap, but even then the poor beasts came back to the barn with cut and bleeding legs because it had rained and frozen on top of the snow, making a hard, thick crust and cut like glass. Lincoln says he remembers that often after a heavy snowfall Marion had to walk from their farm all the way down to the station in town to get the train that carried her to the County Courthouse in Hackensack, to which she commuted for 40 years.

In case you deduce from the foregoing story that all these farmers did was have fun around Hillsdale, let me assure you that what most of you must have read about the rigors of life in those days is true. Not only did these farmers work from sunrise to sunset on week days (with some necessary chores such as milking cows and feeding chickens, pigs, etc. on weekends) but their womenfolk worked much, much harder than modern women, even around the house. They had brooms and carpet beaters instead of vacuum cleaners; they had to grind their own coffee and grate their own nutmeg; they kneaded their own bread and made pastries from the beginning instead of using a mix; they had to fill lamps with oil, trim the wicks and clean sooty chimneys, etc., etc., etc.

But, they were way ahead of us in the area of Social Security. Theirs had the odd title, "Pop's T' Other End." It meant living in Pop's house on the other end from where he and Mom lived. Fred and Martha Myers, mentioned heretofore, informed me that you could tell which was the youngest son by where he lived after he married. He always got "Pop's T' Other End." The eldest son got a choice corner of Pop's acreage when he married, so that he could start a farm and a home of his own, and the next son was given the second best corner when he married, and so on down the line until they came to the youngest, and he inherited the farm after his father and mother passed on; but, meanwhile, he and his family shared the rambling farmhouse with his parents, and they usually shared the work and profits from the farm as well. This gave Pop a little help in

his old age and assured the old couple of a home and an income for life, while at the same time it gave the young couple a start, even though the youngest usually had to wait much longer for his share than his elder brothers did, since these farmers generally lived to a ripe old age.

To sum it all up, Hillsdale will never again see those lazy, woodsy, quiet-life-on-the-farm days, so let's be glad there are such things as 75th Anniversary celebrations in order for us to go back for a short while and reminisce about "the good old days." Let's all enter into the spirit of "The Gay Nineties" and join in the activities Mayor Englander and the 75th Anniversary Committee, headed by Mr. Edw. J. Farrell, have planned for us!