Looking Back...
Stepping Forward
Errata

Page 15 - The Vanderbeek house is listed with its traditional address of 126 Werimus Road. However, recent redevelopment of the area (fence building and tree planting) has made the house invisible from Werimus Road. Instead, find 6 Arigot Court. This is the new mailing address for Vanderbeek house and it is visible from this address on its east side.

Page 68 - The Vorrath house became the Hillsdale Public Library in 1957, not 1937.
Villa Cesare
1933-1996

Julia Bellavita and her family wish Hillsdale a Happy 100th Birthday
In 1998, the year of Hillsdale's 100th birthday, just over 10,000 people reside in town. But there have been countless others who have come and gone over the years, some spending just a short time in Hillsdale and others, a lifetime. It is to all these people, past and present, who have at one time or another called Hillsdale, New Jersey their home, that this Centennial Journal is dedicated.

So much has happened over the past 100 years in Hillsdale that it would be a monumental feat to cover everything. In this journal, you will find a sampling of personal stories and remembrances by a few of the town's long-time residents, general history and an update of the many clubs and organizations that are active today. This is by no means a complete history and we apologize in advance if we inadvertently left anything out, but we hope that you will enjoy what we have put together for you and that this journal will spark past memories that can be shared with younger generations for years to come.
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Looking Back, Stepping Forward
Editor’s Note

Over the past two years, as I have collected photos, documents and information about Hillsdale, I have come to look at the town in which I live in a new light. Now I look at buildings and homes and see beyond what they are today, back to what they were years ago. I can’t help but think about Gardenier’s Livery Stable whenever I drive by Fleet Bank. Parking in the borough hall parking lot, the site of the old firehouse facing Park Avenue, I imagine two pairs of horses pulling out the fire wagons on their way to a fire. Looking at Chicken Delight, I see the Hillsdale House of the 1890s with chickens running loose and cows in the pasture. So much lies beneath the surface of this charming town that I, like so many others, call home.

The amazing feats and accomplishments of those who came before us have shaped Hillsdale into a wonderful community, one whose roots started with farming and the railroad and continue on today with so much more. We, as a town, have grown beyond what our founding father, David P. Patterson, could possibly have imagined in 1860 when he brought the railroad into Hillsdale. As you read through this journal commemorating Hillsdale’s 100th birthday, I hope that you are taken back to days gone by and see the Hillsdale of yesterday as well as the Hillsdale of today.

Jennifer Frantin

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The Hillsdale Centennial Executive Committee:

*Pictured left to right:* Top row: Gina Carney Sapunar, Secretary; Dennis Deutsch, Legal; Marie Hanlon, Co-Chairman; Barbara DeCaro, Co-Chairman; JoAnne Gagliano. Bottom Row: Richard Curran, Membership; Jennifer Frantin, Journal/Publicity; Peggy Garbarini, Ways and Means. Not pictured: Mary Griffiths, Treasurer.
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Hillsdale
New Jersey
1898-1998
Next Stop Hillsdale

In the spirit of the Centennial, allow yourself to step back in time for a few minutes, to a time when life was very different, and yet quite the same. The year is 1898. William McKinley is the President of the United States, the battleship Maine blows up in Havana Harbor, and the Klondike Gold Rush is in full swing.

You are in a bright orange train car on the New Jersey New York line. As you pull up to a two-story green train station, you hear the conductor yell out, "Hillsdale, this is the Hillsdale stop." On your left, you pass a water tower as the train slows to a halt. Out the window, also to the left, you spy an engine roundhouse, turntable, car shops and branches of other tracks (where Kings Supermarket is today). The conductor gladly reminisces about when Hillsdale was the last stop on the line when you ask him about the turntable. As he ushers you onto the platform, he adds that Hillsdale is his hometown.

As you walk on the dirt road in front of the station, you notice a group of horses hitched in front of a four-story building called the Hillsdale House (corner of Hillsdale Avenue and Broadway, see photo next page). Thirsty from your journey, you wander in and order a lemonade. Mrs. Werkeiser, who owns and operates the Inn with her husband, Reeves, assures you that if you would like to stay for dinner, the vegetables come fresh from her garden and the milk from her 40 cows that she milks daily. While you reserve your room for the night, you ask her what there is
Next Stop Hillsdale (continued)

to do in town and she tells you about swimming in the Pascack Brook, hunting in the lush wooded areas (especially where the Garden State Parkway is today), dances at the churches and strawberry picking at Demarest Farm. Mrs. Werkheiser continues to tell you that most of the town residents work on or for the railroad in one way or another.

Drying her hands on her apron, she walks you out, pointing out the post office (in the Leddy building where Wendy's now stands), the town's park area and the livery stables (where Fleet Bank now stands.) She informs you that the town even has official constables now and warns you to behave.

Walking away on the dirt road, assuring Mrs. Werkheiser that you will be back for dinner, you cannot help but notice the charm of this small, yet growing town. The people moving about the town are relaxed and friendly, nodding to you as you pass. The thought comes to mind that Hillsdale might just be the place you want to live, a pleasant small community to call home.

Hillsdale House- local restaurant and hotel.
Hillsdale as “Railroad Central”

Most residents of the Pascack Valley area are familiar with the train whistles that blow each morning and each night signaling that trains are bringing commuters to and from the city. To some, the trains are nothing more than an inconvenience that adds time to the traffic lights in the center of town. But it was actually the trains and the railroad tracks that brought them here that created the Hillsdale we know today.

In 1856, Mr. David P. Patterson had a vision; to expand the railways from Hackensack to the New York State line to open up the area for development. Together with a group of investors, Mr. Patterson established the Hackensack and New York Railroad Company that was incorporated by a Charter granted by the New Jersey Legislature on March 14, 1856. Construction on the line, which spanned 21 miles, began in the Spring of 1866 and tied into the Erie Railroad south of Carlstadt. The first train pulled into Hillsdale on Christmas Eve 1869.

The Railroad officially opened for public use on Saturday, March 4, 1870. At that time, there were only six houses within a half mile radius of the Hillsdale Train Station. Hillsdale was the end of the line for the Hackensack and New York Railroad until a line from Hillsdale to Haverstraw, called the Hackensack and New York Extension Railroad, was started in 1870. These two lines combined in 1873 to become the New Jersey and New York Railroad Company. In 1879, five round trips daily ran between Jersey City and Hillsdale, as well as one round-trip freight train. The fare of a ticket from Hillsdale to New York City was $.75 with monthly commutation costing $14.50.

In 1906, when a freight train out of Park Ridge lost its brakes, it slammed into a commuter train stopped at the Hillsdale Station. Fortunately, there were no major injuries, just a big mess.
What made Hillsdale unique along the line was that it housed the engine roundhouse, a turn-table, the car shops, water tower and engine cooling station. The engines would spend the night in Hillsdale and, because of this, many of the men who worked on the trains lived in Hillsdale. At one time, the majority of Hillsdale area residents worked for the railroad company in one way or another. Because the fires in the engines had to be maintained throughout the night, their whistles were always ready to blow. This provided the added benefit of a makeshift fire whistle if needed.

Another unique aspect of the Hillsdale Station was the Station house itself, which contained an upper level where the offices for the Railroad Company officials were located. These rooms later provided a meeting place for the Fire Association, Improvement Society, various political groups as well as services of the Episcopal Church, before it was leased out commercially.

The first engines used by the railroad were woodburners and were kept in service until 1879. When coal burning engines arrived on the line, the No. 2 engine was emblazoned with the name "Hillsdale" on its sides. The passenger cars of the day consisted of seats on wooden open platform cars with oil lamps hanging from the ceiling and woodburning stoves at both ends of the car for heat. By 1883, there were 20 daily round trips to New York City from Hillsdale, 14 of which continued into Nanuet, New York.

Water tower center with turntable just in front of it. Note second set of train tracks as well.

Hillsdale’s water tower in the process of going from old to new. The “new” tower was eventually torn down, signifying the end of the era of the steam locomotive.
Railroad Central (continued)

In 1896, the New Jersey and New York Railroad was leased to the Erie Railroad and Hillsdale's importance as "Railroad Central" began to decline. Two years later, in 1898, Hillsdale Township was established, taking its name from the Hillsdale Train Station and the Hillsdale School.

Today the train line is known as New Jersey Transit and 16 trains run through Hillsdale each day. Over 260 residents of Hillsdale use this railroad for the same purpose as their predecessors did over a hundred years ago, to get to their jobs in New York City. In a day and age when you can get from one side of the country to the other in four hours, it's delightful to see that something built so long ago still holds onto its original purpose and performs it daily, continuing to serve the people of Hillsdale.

The Hillsdale Train Station, with its unique second level, was originally painted green. Now it maintains a fresh blue exterior.

The train station in 1987 before its facelift. Note the police booth in the center of Hillsdale Avenue.

Illustration by M. Jane Bailey

Nighttime winter photo of train station—1985
Trains
Friends of the Hillsdale Railroad Station

In 1983, Rudy Appeld formed the Friends of the Hillsdale Railroad Station to help restore one of Hillsdale's most historic landmarks, the classic two-story train station. Over the years, the train station had deteriorated and the committee was determined to get the station back to its original glory. The project was started with donations from town residents, but the task was a huge undertaking that would require much fund raising over the years. In order to raise the funds needed, the Friends sold t-shirts, note cards, bumper stickers and framed prints, all with the railroad station, the town's centerpiece, emblazoned on them.

Funds to complete the project still fell short, so the group ran garage sales and held two flea markets a year for the next 12 years to raise the rest of the money needed to complete the refinishing. During that time, some of the funds raised were used to repair damage done by vandalism.

The renovations that followed included the raising of the station's foundation, replacing the station's underpinning and installation of new floor boards and new flooring on the first floor of the station. New doors and windows with criss-cross grills were installed, as well as a new roof. The outside wood on the upper half of the station had to be replaced, as did the overhang. At that time, the electricity and plumbing were upgraded as well. The final touches were the painting of the exterior of the building and the addition of a 1903 wood burning stove on a tile base in the waiting room. The stove was very similar to the original stove that had been removed years earlier.

Over the years, the Friends has done its best to ensure that the station remains in top condition. The exterior has been power-washed and painted three times over the past 12 years. The Hillsdale Station has been recognized state-wide, as well as nationally, including placement in the National Register, of historic sights and in Trenton by being named a national and state local point of interest. The station was also recognized by the Bergen County Historic Society on May 16, 1995, in appreciation of the exemplary contribution made by the Friends in the historic preservation of Bergen County.

It was during this time that the founder of the Friends, Rudy Appeld, passed away. The Friends felt obligated to finish the job it had started under his guidance. The committee completed the renovation in 1997 and turned the station back to the town. The committee at that time consisted of Elsie and Richie Schreiber, Bob Breitenbach and Fred Winkler.

The Hillscdale Railroad Station prior to renovations in 1977

Train Station under Renovation

1903 wood burning stove, replica of the original source of heat at the station.

Hillsdale Train Station in 1998.
Memories of My Childhood and the Trains
by Fred Winkler

One of the first recollections of my childhood is of a train set my father and mother gave me for Christmas when I was about five years old. I was fascinated by that train and played with it all the time. My father had a grocery store in the center of town across from the railroad station, where Ronnie’s bagel shop is now. I used to go to the store with him every day.

As I grew, so did my love of trains. I watched them come and go with awe. One day in 1934, when I was about 7, one of the engineers who frequented my father’s store came in and asked if I would like to go with him to prepare the engine for the night. I was thrilled. That night was the first of many that I spent on the trains of the Erie Railroad.

Because the turntable was in Hillsdale, the engines would return here for the night. Each night, before putting the engines on the sidings, the engineer and a crew of men would prepare the engine for the next day. This was called hasteling. I was so excited to be able to help. The engineer would let me pull the chain at the water tower, which opened the top of the tank so it could be filled with water. Then the train would pull up to the border of Hillsdale and Westwood. There, a switchman would turn a switch to enable the engine to move onto the siding that led it over to where the turntable sat, where Kings Supermarket is today. By the turntable were sidings that housed four to five engines overnight.

The skill of turning an engine on a turntable was masterful. First, the train would pull onto the turntable, then men would turn the entire engine on the turntable by hand. When the engine was lined up perfectly with one of the sidings, the engineer would back the engine off the turntable and onto the sidings. I remember that one time an engine started backing off before the turntable was lined up exactly with the siding, and it derailed. The men had to use derailers and jacks with timbers to raise the train back up to the track little by little. It took hours, but they finally got the train back onto its track.

The engines all carried timbers and jacks on them in case of derailment.

The most amazing thing about the trains back then was the amount of manpower it took to run a single train from Hillsdale in the morning until it arrived back to Hillsdale that night. There was the engineer, of course, who drove the train and sat up front in the engine. The fireman was the person who stoked the fire and kept the steam going to power the train. The brakemen, who were responsible for stopping the train, cranked on brakes that were big wheels on the top of freight cars to stop the train. The flagmen, using flags during the day and lanterns at night, told the trains which siding to go on and when to stop. The switchmen actually turned the switches that brought the trains to the different sidings. If they were not doing their particular task they were busy doing another, like stopping traffic at the crossings or jumping off the first car to signal the brakeman that it was time to stop.

Another amazing thing about the trains back then was that you could set your watch by them most days. There were no two-way radios or intercoms. The only way to communicate from the front of the train to the back, where the caboose held the brakemen and flagmen, was by running over the top of the train cars, a dangerous feat. So, every person on the team relied on keeping to the prescribed schedules. Everyone back then carried a pocket watch, and that was how things got done without being able to communicate back and forth.

Because the trains were steam engines, the fires had to be kept burning all night long and someone had to keep checking from time to time to make sure all was well and shovel in a little coal every few hours. The engineer had to get to the tracks almost an hour before the first train was scheduled to leave, in order to get the fire hot enough to produce the steam power the engine would need to make its trip. Four trains would leave Hillsdale each morning, starting at 5 a.m. Eighteen to 20 trains a day passed each way through Hillsdale on their way between Havestraw and Hoboken. The line was also used frequently for freight, especially for transporting coal, which was the main source of fuel in those days. Comfort Coal was in Westwood. Leddy Coal in Hillsdale was located right next to the turntable and supplied most of the Passaic Valley with coal. There were sidings where Scholastic Bus Company is now located. Freight cars full of coal or lumber would be stored there until a tender engine would come and get them and deliver them to Westwood and the surrounding areas. Back then, when
you crossed over the tracks on Hillsdale Avenue, there were
two sets of tracks and a siding ran parallel to the tracks by
what is now Winkler Way. Formerly Railroad Avenue, the
street was renamed in 1997 in recognition of my 50 years
service to the Hillsdale Fire Department.

Over the years, living in Hillsdale, I witnessed many
changes. The railroad is not as important today as it was
when I was growing up, but the railroad station itself sym-
bolizes how important the trains were to Hillsdale. I was
honored to help in restoration of the station with Elsie and
Richie Schreiber, Rudy Appeld, Robert Breitenbach and
others and I am very pleased with the way the train station
and Hillsdale have survived with the changing years.

Conductor James O'Brien in full uniform.

Men of the railroad. Conductor James O'Brien stands on lower part of cowcatcher on right.
Historic Homes

A long-standing disagreement about which house in Hillsdale is the oldest still lives on during this centennial year. There are no official documents stating which home has been here the longest, but since the demise of the Clendenny farmhouse in 1969, the best odds lie with the Blauvelt-Demarest house c. 1740, located at 230 Broadway. Originally the homestead of Arie Blauvelt, who owned a 152 acre farm during the eighteenth century, this Dutch colonial sandstone house started out as a 26' x 20' one-room stone building. It is now the home and office of Dr. Howard Kessler. Just down the road at 176 Broadway stands the Blauvelt-Ackerman house c. 1879 which is owned by the Traudt family today.

The Vanderbeck house at 126 Wierimus Road is a Dutch Sandstone built in 1748. It is owned now by the McClave Family.
The Garret Durie House on Ell Road is a sandstone building which possesses much local historical significance due to its association with Garret Durie, a farmer and blacksmith, who was also a Bergen County freeholder and judge. Built in 1767, the house was overtaken during the Revolutionary War by both American and British soldiers. Today, the house still retains its original charm, although several additions have been made throughout the years.
The David P. Patterson Estate erected at 462 Hillsdale Avenue about 1860 was one of Hillsdale's finest examples of mid-19th century architecture. David P. Patterson, Hillsdale's founding father, sold the house and the graciously landscaped grounds to John H. Riley, who named the estate the "Brook Side Pines". Up until the turn of the century, this property was the showplace of Hillsdale. The home still exists today on the grounds of St. John's Academy, although an addition to the front of the building camouflages the original architectural masterpiece.

At the corner of Pascack Road and Wierimus Lane stands the beautifully preserved large farmhouse of John Banta. This Dutch Colonial home at 211 Pascack Road was formerly the farm house for an over 400 acre farm. Today, it is owned by Thea Zittel.

The Forshee-Blauvelt-Peterson House at 116 Piermont Avenue shows the evolution of a small circa 1748 farmhouse through various enlargements. The center section, with its high sandstone foundation is believed to be the oldest part of the building.
The Bogert House, at 231 Wierimus Road overlooks the Garden State Parkway today, but was once the homestead of a large farm. The architectural embellishments suggest intentional strivings for a stylish building most often associated with country estates.

The Vanderbeck-Van Riper-Demarest Farmhouse at 215 Wierimus Road, built in the late 1700's, also overlooks the Parkway. Several additions have been made to the original building, but it has maintained its farmhouse charm to this day. George and Elisabeth Demarest, descendants of George Washington Demarest, who purchased the farm from the Van Ripers in 1886, still live in this home today, preserving its country-like character and appearance.
Historic Homes (continued)

The Samuel Moore House, at 185 Piermont Avenue, was built in 1853 and holds a place in the history of African-Americans in Bergen County as Samuel Moore, a freed slave, received the property through the bequest of his employer, Garret F. Haring.

The Westervelt-Demarest House, located at 737 Hillsdale Avenue, was built circa 1756 and was the home of Hillsdale’s Mayor in 1930, William W. Livengood.

The Blauvelt-Hering House, now located at 27 Vincent Street, was originally built in the early 1800s on the east side of Broadway, between Clinton Avenue and Wilste Avenue. Sometime after 1830, the entire house was moved to Vincent Street. As difficult as this seems, quite a few homes were moved to new locations during the 1800s and early 1900s. Another example of this is 45 Pascack Road. That building was originally the town’s first grammar school and was moved to its current location around the turn of the century about 300 yards south, on Pascack Road.

The Harry Vorrath House c. 1880, located at 509 Hillsdale Avenue, was purchased by the borough and has housed the Hillsdale Public Library since March of 1957.

The Samuel G. Demarest House, located at 141 Demarest Avenue, is a prime example of the house type popular in Bergen County at the turn of the nineteenth century. The “eye-brow” windows on the second floor were common in houses of that time period.
Historic Homes (continued)

The Riley Building, which is located on the northeast corner of Broadway and Hillsdale Avenue, was built in 1906 and was the first strip mall of its kind. The building today houses many commercial establishments as well as apartments on the second story.

Hillsdale also has many other homes which were built in the 1800s and are still standing and occupied today. Some of these homes include the Henry G. Hering House at 520 Hillsdale Avenue c. 1876, the Titus House, at 333 Washington Avenue, which is pre-1876, the David Campbell House at 333 Piermont Avenue built in the late 1800s, the L. B. Van Wagoner House at 321 Washington Avenue c. 1890, two 1890 Queen Anne style homes at 75 Lawrence Street and 22 Magnolia Avenue, not to mention the many other houses which have gained distinction by being over 100 years old. To the owners of these homes over the years, thanks should be given for helping to preserve Hillsdale’s history.

Built in the Manor Section of town on Broadway directly across from the Manor Train Station, (currently the site of West Coast Video) is the all-cobblestone building at 330 Broadway. This building has been used commercially for many years. During Prohibition, a barber shop occupied a front section of the building, hiding a speakeasy in the rear.

330 Broadway c. 1890’s

Riley Building c. 1906

Riley Building
Farms of Hillsdale
Yesterday and Today

Old horse-drawn hay rake.

It is reported that when the railroad first came to Hillsdale, only six homes were within a half-mile radius of the train station. Wooded area and farmlands made up the rest of what is today Hillsdale. Some farms during the late 1800s were small, but others encompassed hundreds of acres.

Most of the larger farms were in the western part of Hillsdale, along Wierimus Road and Wierimus Lane. The furthest south of these farms was the Myers farms. Cornelius Myers owned a large farm along Wierimus Road where it meets Van Emsburgh, down the hill to the east. It was later taken over by his son, Fred Myers. On the other side of Wierimus Road, up the hill to the west, was John J. Myers farm. This farm, on which the Chestnut Hill development now stands, was handed down to John’s son, Garrett Zabriskie Myers.

Moving farther north along Wierimus Road, which during the 1800s was just a dirt road, was Hooper’s Farm. Farther north is the one farm which is still in operation today, Demarest Farm.

Started in 1856 when George Washington Demarest purchased 40 acres of land in Hillsdale and Saddle River, the farm has been passed down for four generations to date.

When George died in 1916, his son, Lincoln, took over the farm. Lincoln continued working the land and raising livestock, but also added orchards to the farm; the same orchards that today produce the luscious peaches and fruits Demarest Farm has been famous for ever since.

Lincoln’s son, George, was the next in line to take over the farm. By that time, horses had been traded in for tractors and the farm continued to grow and prosper as more modern equipment made farming the land more efficient.

In 1969, after returning from service in the military, George’s son, Peter, took his turn helping with the farm and was instrumental in establishing the retail market by putting more emphasis on the flower and garden center.

The women of the family, Peter’s wife, Marsha and George’s wife, Elisabeth, are responsible for the retail end of the family business while the men tend to the farming. George and Elisabeth have now handed over the reigns to Peter and Marsha, with the hopes that yet another generation of Demarests, namely Peter and Marsha’s son, P.J., will continue to keep Hillsdale’s legendary farm alive well into the next millennium.

Moving farther north along Wierimus was Winter’s Farm. This large farm encompassed approximately 400 acres. The farmhouse still stands, overlooking the Garden State Parkway.

Turning onto Wierimus Lane will bring you to the farm of Hillsdale’s “Little Mayor,” Garrett A. Storms, who served as Hillsdale’s borough clerk, tax collector and treasurer in the late 1800s.

Four generations of farmers: Lincoln, P.J., George and Peter Demarest in 1976.

The Demarest Farm stand then...and now.
Farther east, on the land that is now the Tandy and Allen Developments, stood the Clendenny Farm. Originally purchased in 1837 by Andried Smith with 102 acres, the farmstead grew to over 500 acres by the time the last owner, Smith's great-grandson, Henry Clendenny, came to have possession of the property. At its prime, the Clendenny home and farmland was a place of gracious living, but over the years and financial misfortunes, their farmland was sold or lost to back taxes bit by bit and ended with the demolition of the house in 1969. Its owner, Henry Clendenny, then 84 years old, had been the focus of national attention a year earlier as funds were being raised to help keep the lifelong Hillsdale resident in his Pre-Revolutionary War home. Although funds were raised, it was not enough to keep the wrecking balls from demolishing the house. Mr. Clendenny in his day, had been called Hillsdale's "Dr. Doolittle" by the town's children, who often received rides on Mr. Clendenny's horse-drawn wagons.

Other smaller farms existed throughout the town. One such farm was that of the Rawson family. They bought their farm in 1911 and raised four children on the farm until their land was determined to be the proper site for a school. The farm was demolished and Meadowbrook School now stands in its place.
Growing up on our Hillsdale Farm
by Grace (Schrier) Wohn

Country life and being raised on a farm has always meant a lot to me and that is why I value so deeply my beautiful memories of that time in my life and cherish all the photographs that were taken of our farm. My family has shared some of the best times of our lives working together on our farm. Ours was just a little farm. As I looked out the back door of our house on Piermont Avenue, I could see the chicken coops and wire chicken runs, the dog coop, our big old barn, pear and apple trees, vegetable and flower gardens and cows grazing on the many acres of green pasture.

My father was proud of his vegetable gardens, especially when he had ripe tomatoes by the Fourth of July. Although he occasionally used the horses to plow the field, he usually did most of the cultivating, raking and hoeing by hand. It was not until the early 1960s that my father was finally able to afford a new “Model A Farmall International Tractor”. But he hardly got a chance to use it before he suffered a stroke. I still have that same tractor today.

My father had one of the toughest jobs ever - struggling to earn a meager living for a family of four on a small farm - but he never complained. Our farm stand where we sold fresh eggs and vegetables stood on the east side of our house where Meadow Drive is today. We also raised various farm animals, especially chickens. We also had geese, ducks, turkeys, cows, horses, pigs, two goats and two sheep. I have a fond memory of sheering the sheep, packing up the wool and sending it off to Shippensbury Woolen Mill in Pennsylvania. In return for the wool, I would be sent a beautiful woolen blanket.

Winters were blustery and cold with lots of snow when I was growing up. Piermont road was not a busy place and we would often enjoy sleigh riding from the top of the hill all the way to the bottom. The nearby ponds stayed frozen all winter and provided wonderful ice skating for all ages.

The Schrier Family - (left to right) Grace, holding family dog, Spotty, sister Evelyn, father Leonard and mother Grace Schrier pictured in the back yard of their family home at 116 Piermont Avenue in the mid 1940s.

Farming in the winter was not too easy. No matter how cold it got or how much snow was on the ground, the chores still had to be done every day. Keeping the livestock fed and their water from freezing was a big job, not to mention milking the cows twice a day. Even though life was hard, I have found that sometimes the things you liked the least end up being the things you miss the most.

I am happy to have lived in Hillsdale during such a beautiful time. The land was unspoiled, the air was fresh, the water was clear, the people were friendly and always had time for one another and were there for each other in times of hardship. One example of this was Mr. Frantin who for many years owned a grocery store and deli on Broadway (where Hillsdale Camera is today). If anyone needed food and they were short on money, Mr. Frantin would never turn them away. He would allow you to purchase whatever you needed in groceries, total up your order, and write down your name and the amount due in a little book he had. No one ever had to sign for anything, it was all verbal. Mr. Frantin made sure no one felt too embarrassed to come back to his store for groceries no matter how much they owed him or how old the debt. Mr. and Mrs. Frantin were kind, wonderful people who helped many, many folks in town who were in need of food, including my parents.

Leonard Schrier resting after a long day of working in the fields.
Growing up on our Hillsdale Farm (continued)

from rock to rock while crossing a crystal clear brook, sitting on a bench in the barn watching my father milk the cows, going to the barn on Christmas morning to feed the sheep and finding a new born lamb, watching baby chicks hatching out of their eggs, awaiting the arrival of the ice man on hot summer days and sitting around the old wood stove on cold winter nights talking and laughing with my parents and my sister, Evelyn.

We may not have been rich in a material sense when I was growing up on our small Hillsdale farm, but my parents always continued to remind us how “rich” we were because we had something that money could not buy - love. Now, however, all these thoughts and memories are only in my mind. For these, at least, I can be thankful.

Another example of the kindness of neighbors when I was growing up was Dr. Sasnow. When my father injured his finger in a farming accident, Dr. Sasnow stitched and set his broken finger with the total bill coming to $10. We did not have enough money at the time to pay the bill, so Dr. Sasnow asked my mother if she could afford $1 a month until the bill was paid. No one was ever turned away. We are fortunate in Hillsdale to have Dr. Lois Copeland now occupying Dr. Sasnow’s old office. She has carried on the tradition of caring set forth by Dr. Sasnow and has even, when necessary, made house calls - a rare thing in medicine today.

Farm and country people delight in the simple pleasures in life. My life was full of these, like holding a bottle of milk for a new born calf, playing with the farm animals, hopping

“Even though life was hard, I have found that sometimes the things you liked the least end up being the things you miss the most.”

Mrs. Grace Schrier and daughter, Evelyn in 1946.

Grace Schrier standing in the back yard with her calf. The roof in the background is the old outhouse which still stands today.

Evelyn and her father, Leonard Schrier in 1946 sitting in their chicken coop with the white leghorn chickens. The rooster in the front used to chase the children all over their yard.
Schools of Hillsdale
Old Pascack Road School

The first school in Hillsdale, built in 1856, was located on Pascack Road. The schoolhouse, which contained one big, open room, housed students from kindergarten through eight grade. W. W. Banta was the first principal of the school, as well as one of its teachers. In 1856, school enrollment was 36 students. When the town seceded from Washington, it took the name Hillsdale from the school and the train station.

The Hillsdale Board of Education was organized on April 23, 1898 with A.C. Holdrum as the president and William Blauvelt as clerk.

The second schoolhouse was a four-room wooden building on Magnolia Avenue that was later enlarged to eight rooms. By 1898, there were three schools in Hillsdale: the original schoolhouse on Pascack Road, the No. 2 School on Magnolia and a school that was located in what is now River Vale. Around the turn of the century, when the original schoolhouse on Pascack Road was no longer needed, the entire building was moved 300 yards south and made into a private residence that still stands today.

In 1910, when the town’s population reached 3000, the school enrollment increased to 300. In 1921, the original schoolhouse on Magnolia was demolished to make room for the present-day George White School, which originally had only 12 rooms.

In 1922, Mrs. Della Fox was instrumental in the formation of the Hillsdale Parent Teacher Association which had 73 members. Prior to 1920, school elections had two ballot boxes: one to elect board members, for whom only men could vote, and one for appropriations for which both women and men could vote.

In 1938, an addition of six rooms was added to the existing 12 rooms of the George White School, as well as an 800 seat auditorium. In 1948, elementary school enrollment was 496 students, all of whom attended George White School on Magnolia Avenue.

The town residents voted in 1951 to form Pascack Valley Regional High School which was open to residents of River Vale, Hillsdale, Woodcliff Lake, and Montvale. Prior to the erection of the high school in the Fall of 1955, students attended class in either Park Ridge, Westwood or Hackensack. In 1965, Pascack Hills High School opened in Montvale. Residents of western Hillsdale attended Pascack Hills until the late 1990s.

The Anne Blanche Smith School (K - 6) was opened on the west side of town in 1955 on 13 acres of land. An addition to the school was completed in 1962 as the population continued to swell. Meadowbrook School (K - 6) was built on the east side of town in 1964 on 7 acres. To accommodate the overflow of students by 1967, four relocatable classrooms and a central administration building were installed on the Meadowbrook property.

In 1955, St. John the Baptist Parochial School was constructed on Hillsdale Avenue to accommodate the large Catholic population. In 1973, their enrollment was 560 students and the total public school enrollment was 1665. Today, the school, now called St. John’s Academy, is preparing for major renovations that will add three new classrooms, a new library, office space and more.
Schools of Hillsdale (continued)

An attempt for a fourth elementary school in town was defeated in 1968, but additions to all three schools were approved in 1972.

Today, the Anne Blanche Smith and Meadowbrook Schools house grades K-4 and grades 5 - 8 attend the George White School. Smith School currently has 316 students, Meadowbrook has 308 students and the White School has 499 students. Pascack Valley High School, which accommodates students from all of River Vale and Hillsdale, has an enrollment of just over 800 for the 1997-1998 school year.

Construction has already begun on yet another set of additions to both of the elementary schools to accommodate a full-day kindergarten program, as well as to keep the student-teacher ratio within the classroom at a proper level.

Quality education always has and always will be a priority in Hillsdale.
Schools of Hillsdale (continued)

Graduating Class of 1923

Hillsdale Grammar School Class of 1928 from left to right: Dorothy Mehl, Virginia Rich, Evelyn Gossen, Robert Conover, Henry Hering, Mrs. Strohmeier (teacher), Norman Holridge, Thomas Fox, Daley Mack, Helen Clemens, and Alida Stevens. In front: Charles Hill and Stoner Springer.
Schools of Today

George White School and Auditorium

Pascauk Valley High School

Ann Blanche Smith School

Meadowbrook School

St. John's Academy
Hillsdale Board of Education
Top row from left to right: Shawn Siegel, Jeffrey Hering, F. Vincent Warren, Michael Brinsey, Alfred Murphy, and Ryan Schell. Seated left to right: Maura Ellis, Annette Bolyai, Linda Meisel, and Leta Gordon.
Over the past few years, the Meadowbrook Family-Faculty Association (FFA) has been focused on a greater understanding between the teaching staff and the parents, so that the children grow and develop both at school and at home. The Association seeks to be supportive of the staff’s ideas, both in spirit and by providing monetary support.

The organization, founded during the 1965-1966 school year, has accomplished much to enrich the educational environment of the Meadowbrook students over the past 33 years.

FFA projects have been aimed at responding to the diverse developmental needs of the children. Using an education consultant, teachers and parents have been enlightened about how children’s brains function and respond to stimuli. Recently, the organization raised more than $10,000 for Tomorrow’s Children, an organization that assists children who have cancer. Responding to the needs of other children has helped in the development of character within the student body. The FFA also funded the entire playground at the school, with parents providing the manpower to erect the equipment.

The organization’s mission is to bring a sense of unity to the efforts that are made in the name of children.
For 42 years, the Ann Blanche Smith School Parent-Teacher Association has been an active chapter in the National PTA. This local chapter adheres to the goals and ideology of the child advocacy organization, focusing on the premise that the primary responsibility for the education of children lies within their families. The Smith PTA works with the school's professional staff as well as community leaders in areas such as policies, curriculum and legislation, to promote the welfare of children at home, in school and in the community.

The PTA holds numerous fund raisers, with the proceeds providing programs, trips and virtually all the equipment in the school's playground. The organization also coordinates and sponsors many in-school activities such as visits from authors of children's books, book fairs, and book exchanges. The PTA also provides media center volunteers, and the Friendly's and Pizza Hut Reading Programs. The group's Story Bag Program is a PTA Presidential Challenge Award winner. These programs and activities, as well as tens of thousands of dollars of book donations, are all examples of the PTA's commitment to the concept that reading is the key to success.

The PTA has also organized a number of family programs over the years, including Bingo Night, Line Dancing and Spring Carnivals. Evening programs for adults have covered such topics as latchkey children, effective parenting, suicide awareness, children and sports, CPR and child abuse.

The group's Winter Workshop program has been a very popular and successful program for many years. Fantasties, Indoor Lunch and Banking are programs provided at the Smith School. The Helping Hand program and fingerprinting promote safety and well-being for the students. Donation drives for community organizations benefiting children, including the Hillsdale Free Public Library, Food Pantry, and Shelter Our Sisters, promote community service.

The Smith School PTA boasts a high membership rate, including 100% teacher membership. The positive, cooperative relationship between the staff and parents continually enables the organization to thrive as a child advocacy group.
During the 1922-23 school year, the first Parent-Teacher Association was organized at the George G. White School. This organization subsequently became the present White Family Faculty Association (WFFA).

The WFFA conducts fund-raising events throughout the year, the proceeds of which fund special programs and events for the students of the school, enhance the school's computer technology, as well as subsidize the costs of the eighth grade graduation party and annual field trips for each grade. Other programs supported by the WFFA include Arbor Day programs, the annual teachers' luncheon and scholarships that are awarded to three graduating Pascack Valley High School seniors who are borough residents and graduates of the White School.

As part of its mission to contribute to the overall education of the students, a percentage of the funds raised during the group's annual walk-a-thon is donated to the Hillsdale Food Pantry, helping the students to recognize the importance of giving to those in need.

The WFFA is also involved with the Hillsdale Teen Center, which is held at the school. The Teen Center provides an opportunity for students in grades six through eight to socialize in a positive way in a chaperoned environment. Each grade meets approximately one Friday evening each month.

The WFFA has continued the work begun by the PTA in 1922, striving to enhance the educational experience of the students at the George G. White School.
Although a Home and School Association has existed since the 1955 opening of St. John the Baptist School (now St. John’s Academy), it was not until Sr. Alice Boyle’s tenure as Principal from 1979 to 1983 that the organization formally adopted its present name, the Parent-Teacher Guild, or “PTG.” The mission of the PTG is to provide support to the school and its faculty and also to raise funds for its continued operation and constant improvement. The PTG provides a framework upon which to build a strong school community.

Every St. John’s parent is a member of the PTG, which holds four meetings periodically throughout the school year. Parental involvement has led to the success of the many events and fundraisers the organization participates in each year including the annual Fall Carnival, the ongoing Books and Beyond reading incentive program, the Christmas Concert, and Catholic Schools Week.

The expansion of the school is planned for the near future and the PTG looks forward to a bright future for the school, its students and the faculty.
High School Seniors
Class of 1998

Class of 1998 – Pascack Valley High School

Class of 1998 – Pascack Hills High School
(Hillsdale residents only)
School Day Memories
by Pat (Stanbury) Lucia

When I moved to Hillsdale in 1940, I was nine years old. My two brothers, Allan and Bob and I were registered in the only school in town, the Hillsdale Public School, which is now the George White School. Mr. George White was the principal. We had classes in the new building, but had lunch in the old wooden school building where the school's present auditorium stands. We brought our lunches and sat downstairs in the basement. When I was in seventh grade, the old wooden building was replaced by the auditorium and we had a lunchroom downstairs and could buy hot lunches there.

In fifth grade, I had Miss Eleanor Pauze as my teacher. One of the highlights of being in her class was taking turns sitting under the table, holding the radio antenna for clearer reception.

I remember Brownie meetings at Mrs. Baker's house. We made sit-ups in her back yard. Her son, Stewart, was in my class. One summer, they drove to Texas and Stewart's sister contracted polio and died. Polio was the scare then. During the summer that year we were not allowed to go anywhere near crowds, movies, swimming, etc., for fear we would become sick. Some of our friends and relatives ended up in iron lungs at Bergen Pines Hospital.

During World War II, we sat against the wall in the halls at school during air raid drills. Boards covered the windows so no glass could come flying in if there was a real bombing. I remember going to Westwood with my father to watch for planes atop the bank building. My father was an air raid warden and wore a band on his arm when he was on duty. A special siren would sound when we had air raid drills. Posters hung on walls indicating what each whistle meant. During drills, everyone in houses had to put out their lights and my father would run into the streets and make sure all the cars stopped and put out their lights. The street lights were out all the time.

My father, Allan Stanbury, joined the Navy and the night before he left, our family had dinner at Koenigs, which was where Kings now stands. It was a great restaurant and they had monkeys in cages outside that you could visit.

My mother, Lilian, started working at Lederle Labs in Pearl River processing blood plasma for the war effort. She had an "A" sticker for gas because of her work. We helped out by collecting aluminum foil from cigarette packs and rolling it into balls and collecting scrap metal for metal drives.

Driving was limited because of the gas rationing, but on Friday nights, roller skating at the school took place. For 25 cents, you could rent skates that clipped onto your shoes and skate to music on the gym floor. In the spring before graduation, they would sand and polish the floors and they would look new again.

We also went on hayrides on Friday nights in Mr. Clendeneny's wagon. He had lanterns hanging from the hay-filled wagon. We had a chaperone with us and we would sit on the hay and sing. The usual trip was to the cider mill in Closter, which took about four hours round trip.

Election card for 1946 on which Pat's father, Allan D. Stanbury, was running as a member of the Fusion Party.
When I was in seventh grade, I had Mr. Holgrelius and everyone had to learn the meaning of democracy by heart. I can still say it today without hesitation. Every morning, we also took turns reading psalms from the Bible, praying the Lord’s Prayer and pledging allegiance to the flag. During the pledge, we used to point to the flag when we said “to the flag,” but during the war they changed that because it looked like “Heil Hitler.”

During the war, soldiers from Camp Shanks in Rockland County came by the bus loads for a swim. It was probably one of the last fun things they got to do before being shipped overseas. There was a jukebox and a dance platform at the pool. Sometimes they would stay open late with lights for swimming. We had diving contests and clown shows on diving boards on Sundays.

A riding stable was right across the street in River Vale, where the condos are now and they rented out horses for one dollar an hour. People would be riding all over town. When the stable went out of business, the owner gave one of the horses to me and my brothers. We put her in our barn and learned to care for her. I remember riding her to town to get the paper. My brothers’ friends kept their horses in our barn as well and we started having rodeos on Sundays. We even acquired a steeplechase. We would go into what is now Beechwood Park with about 12 horses. People would make a big fire, sit around, talk and sing.

There was a candy store in town called Bosch’s and they had a soda fountain, magazines and a terrific candy counter. I think it was the first gambling place in Hillsdale. Mr. Bosch had a tray of mints, called “pick a pink.” They were one cent each and most of them were chocolate covered white mints, but if you found pink on the inside, you would get a five cent candy bar. We spent a lot of pennies there.

When my father came home from Okinawa, he was asked to run for councilman for the Fusion Party. He did, but was defeated.

When I graduated from Park Ridge High School, I worked for the Hillsdale Bank. Time passed and I married George Lucia of Montvale in 1950. We have six children, two boys and four girls. They all attended St. John the Baptist School. After living on Hillsdale Avenue for 16 years, we eventually moved back into the house I grew up in and that is where we reside today.

Hillsdale is a great town and my life spent here has seen many changes, much fun and happiness, great adventures, good friends and wonderful memories. I am proud to be a citizen of Hillsdale.
Happy Birthday, Hillsdale!

The following students all donated $1 to the journal and an unsharpened pencil for students in war-torn Bosnia to commemorate Hillsdale’s Centennial.

Ann Blanche Smith School

Kindergarten

Mrs. Ryan: Christina Athineos, Christopher Bedford, Jillian Beltran, Colin Everett, Jacqueline Finney, Andrew Fox, Stephanie Hios, Rachel Iriarrr, Michael Logan, Michael Moser, Kevin Vandervalk, David Wang.

Mrs. Lucia: Chirsie Lottis

Mrs. Rosmarin: Colin Doyle, John Soper, Jr.

Grade 2:


Grade 3:


Mrs. Schwartz: Jesse Bender, Amanda Brown, Valerie Cardaci, Sandi Cohen, Julian DeGennaro, Alexander Kruse, Hilary Moser, Kaitlyn Prinzi, Megan Reesbeck, Nicholas Stabile, Adam Stambler, Edward Tan, Alexandra Tomaselli, Lisa Viennckowski, Emily Rose Williams, Brain Zwan.

Grade 4:
Mrs. Giunchi: Matthew Alter, Ben Arad, Michael Athineos, Jason Bartels, Nicole Bassett, Stephanie Finno, Robert Flannery, Emily Garra, Nicholas Hodgman, Alex Kaplan, Andrew Mak, Tina Marchiano, Brennen Roth, James Saplanara, Alyssa Schneider, Matthew Schwartz, Chelsea Suarez, Ryan Tabincigoli.

Mrs. Lieberman: Jessica Braverman, Brendan Everett, David Lichtstein, William Mass, Danielle Scharfstein, Michael Schneider, Jamie Schweizer, Lena Sotnick, Alexander Stabile, Mark Suter, Michael Terranova, Michael Tobin, Gabrielle Trovati.

Mrs. Spingler: Richard Gazzillo, Perihlynn Glassner, Pan Hios, Rebecca Managan, Spencer Oberman, Amanda Soper.

George G. White School

Grade 5:
Mr. Benissi: Annie Feldman, Sam Gavzy, Gina Giannetti, Louis Giantz, Eric Hong, Jessica Humphreys, Brendan P. Jones, Thomas R. Kirk, Sara Lorello, Tommy Mass, Zachary May, Ashley Panaro, Marc Petersen, Erin Quinn, Mike Taormina, Allison Torres, Sarah Zilberfein.

Mrs. Panther: Ryder Bader, Ryan Brogan, David Brown, Aton Dushaj, Marla Feldman, Amy Fitzgerald, Pam French, Nicholas Gerando, Kate Illian, Lisa Linde, Rocky Lottios, Alex Mendelson, Philip Naoli, Daniel Osostsky, Corey Petruzziello, Adam Praciado, Liza Rosen, Alison Uzentsk.


Mrs. Santos: Gary Donatiello, Pano Dreves, Lauren Dwyer, John Elia, Victoria Ferraro, Alexis Frank, Briannah Griffin, Dennis Hill, Paul Kochansky, Emily Lorello, Daniel Melchiorre, Suei Minakawa, Greg Osostsky, Sara Ann Pellegrini, TJ. Raftery, Carly Short, Nadine Ilana Simpson, Adam Sperber, Glenn Valli.
Happy Birthday, Hillsdale!

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George G. White School (continued)

Grade 6:
Mrs. Au~i: Lauren Altscher, Christopher Badger, Scott Bakalian, Nicole Boccellari, Jacqui Bracco, Melissa Branley, Joey Buchwald, Mike Bueser, Erin Campbell, Jeff Campbell, Kyle Cashin, David Cooper, Bryanne Corra, R.J. Cummins, Nicole D’Angelo, Casey Winkler.
Mrs. Davis: Jillian Maloney, Max Meisel, Scott Miller, Alyssa Mitchell, Steven Park.
Mrs. Long: Jessica Davies, Jaclyn DeMais, April DeGennaro, Matt Deutsch, Mehmet Dushtaj, Greg Fanelli, Michael Fringuello, David Galin, Isabel Gardocki, Anthony Grill, Jenn Goodman, Chris Gonyo, Samantha Hendel.
Mrs. Shefchik: Christina Scordato, Michelle Schwartz, Noah Shunfenhal, Michael Sollecito, Albert Tashji, Brian Telesmanich, Jeffrey Tobin, Sydney Weiss, Susan Wichtler.

Grade 7:
Mr. Abrey: Tracy Arcella, Allison Bartels, Anthony Bellavita, Susan Borowski, Jon Berger, Sandra L. Cabrera, Thomas F. Clancy.
Mrs. Gonnella: Ryan Hill, Jessica Kohut, Leila Mady, Anna Manning.
Mrs. Parietti: Rona Mady, Erin McGrath, Ankey Mistry, Alexandra Moga, Jamie Nugent.
Mrs. Postman: Rachel Meyerson, Amy Pagnanella, Marissa Pollack, Chris Sayers, Billy Schweizer.

Grade 8:
Mrs. Gunther: James Hayden.
Mrs. Garrett: Daniel Altscher, Kimberly Atwater, Laura Bruno, Danielle Caren, Gabe Crane, Greg Cohen.
Mrs. McDonald: Matthew Martino, Heather Mueller, Joshua Pollack, Christopher Ruocco.
Mrs. Palmieri: Patricia Slattery, Jason Speer, Michael Tascian, Michael Tobin, Caroline Wates.

Meadowbrook School:

Kindergarten:
Mrs. Jene: Daniel Abolafia, Lauren Adrion, Jennifer Arcella, Charles Caporale, Matthew Choman, Tommy Corra, Kayla Darcey, Jenna Ellinger, Zachary Everett, Kristen Gronke, Daniel Harman, Lindsey Hickey, Timmy Illian, Tommy Jansen, Brianna Jones, James Kalajan, Diane Kalman, Elizabeth Lehman, Christopher McKenna, Brianna Mills, Tyla Murphy, Colton Alexander O’Neill, Andrew Osolin, Damon Postolakis, Grace Prisco, Emily Scandariato, Graham Terry, Thomas Wallace, Zachary Walz, Matthew Williams.
Mrs. Ordway: Justin Bell, Courtney Bosley, Jordan Magnifico, Nicole Mertz, Emily Misuta, Jordan Moldow, Alexander Parenta, Nicole Schneider, Lauren Schramm, Matthew Swatek, Keith Switzer, Maximillian Tinati.

First Grade:
Mr. Lorelo: Matthew Buesser, Traci Corra, A’Lbee Delia, Gabrielle Della Pasca, Jamie Deradorian-Delia, Kimberly Galinski, Daniel Glantz, Michael Griffin, Kiera Kral, Dana LoBue, Elizabeth Logalbo, Jessica Raymond, Ethan Scholl, Samantha Sicila, Michael Weitzke.
Mrs. Wechler: Michelle Campbell, Travis Chapman, Robert Deradorian-Delia, Cara Dipiazza Andrea Fallacaro, Everett John Fink, Melissa Franklin, Avrielle Gallipoli, Michael Hong, Ashley Makhoul, Matthew May, Jessica Sirico, Michelle Spagnoli.

Grade 2:
Mrs. Hook: Nicole Bettini, Alyssa Correia, Timothy DiGregorio, Jimmy Doyle, Clara Ennist, Emily Fredette, Jarret Gallipoli, Jessica Gardocki, Matthew Gray, Megan Griffin, Kiera Jones, Marina Maines, Fallon Murphy, Kayla Stackpole, Kevin Stuecky, Eric Wankoff.
Mrs. McKinley: Jack Bauerle, Lauren Campbell, Billy Everett, Kimberly Garcia, Jackie Gronke, Andrew Hickey, Shawn Humphrey, Kyle Mills, Jacob Misuta, Ami Miura, Alicia Timpanaro.

Grade 3:
Happy Birthday, Hillsdale!

The following students all donated $1 to the journal and an unsharpened pencil for students in war-torn Bosnia to commemorate Hillsdale’s Centennial.

Meadowbrook School (continued)

Mrs. Farrell: Jonathan Bologa, Keri Bourland, Sean DeLuca, Matthew Espeque, Breelyn Ganin, Kevin Garcia, Rebecca Gela, Matthew Gilbert, Chelsea Griffin, Hayato Kanesaka, Jessica Lurie, Kara Mc Dermott, Jamie Stuckey, Joseph Swayne, Caterina Toscano, Daniel Williams.

Miss. Kneis: Jena Andreu, Kyle Cooper, Christopher DiPiazza, Ross Frank, Noelle Gotthardt, Joseph Guadagno, David Hickey, Claire Locker, Rushe Lulanaj, Leanne Mc Loughlin, Casey Miller, Shannon Miller, Steven Tsistakis.

Grade 4:

Mrs. Davis: Christopher Arcella, Kenneth Barney, Ashley Bergholtz, Sara Camporeale, Anthony Crea, Matthew Danheiser, Gregory Ellinger, Juliet Gotthardt, Kevin Gray Daniel Hayden Jimmy Heinz, Steven Kalmak, Alyssa Koreen, Katlynn Lewis, Mardina Postolakis, Christopher Rose, Lee Trager, Lynell Velten.

Mrs. Barragato: Mark Bellavita, David Castaldo, Cory Cunningham, Stephanie DeFlora, Leticia Emnis, Justin Epifano, Nicole Fostinis, Michelle Griffin, Matthew Hartman, Shoh Kanesaka, Danielle Marino, Cristina Spagnoli, Monica Swayne, Ranjani Venkataramanan, Maura Wallace.

Mrs. Dana: Daniel Alves, Daniel Atwater, Allison Bell, Matthew Branley, Daniel Correr, Alison Dulle Molle, David Fidler, Anthony Fringuello, Joseph Homa, Matthew Kretschmer, Mindy Ourique, Hilary Scacchetti, Joseph Tashji, Daniel Tintle, Jenna Uszenski, Jessica Wates.

St. John’s Academy:

Pre-K:


Kindergarten:


Mrs. Barucco: George Fahny, Miguel Furtado, Emily Green, William Griffith, James Meier, Brielle Royer, Lauren Sachs, Dana Siska, Callie Rose Timpanaro, Natalie Trochimiuk, Tony Vienckowski.

Grade 1:

Ms. Franco: Stephanie D’Amelio, Matthew Feuerbach, Adrianna Martino, Joseph Seymour, Daniel Spence, Caroline Ziccardi.


Grade 2:


Grade 3:

Mrs. Danzuso: John Beatty, Tara Belts, Sean Cleary, Rachel Dalo, Brian Duffy, Amy Ford, Nicole Giacopelli, Daniel Poliecke, Brittany Royer, Clarissa Salazar, Matthew Vericker.

Grade 4:

Ms. Chigounis: Gianna Cesa, Sarah Culha, Casey Drummond, Lauren Folder, Jamie McIninchey, Colleen Rockey.

Mrs. Smith: Alyssa Dattoli, Nicole Emmons, Elissa Hicks.

Grade 5:

Sr. Pat Murray: Marc Amato, Joseph Caride, Jacqueline Dattoli, Beth Marada, Elizabeth Yorio.


Grade 6:

Mrs. Green: Rachel Culha, Christopher Flannery, Thomas Gray, Marissa Malady, Jennifer Meier, Alison Riccardi, Sandra Valerio.

Mrs. Vericker: Cheryl Anscombe, Jesse Brawer, Michael Costabile, Maria DeCarlo, Daniel Devir, Michael Duffy, Ryan Emmons, Kristen Flanagan, Yoon Ah Kim, Amanda Musella, Megan Sheenan.

Grade 7:

Sr. Ellen Casey: Carina Salazar.

Mrs. Gallagher: Michael Beatty, Lauren Giacopelli.

Grade 8:

Mrs. Absalom: Christina Dalo, Michael D'Marco, Michael Riccardi.

Mrs. Pontillo: Philip Mataras.
MISSION STATEMENT

We parishioners of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church are called by Jesus to be a community of his disciples, growing in faith and worshiping together in Eucharistic celebration. Nourished by God’s transforming love and blessed by gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live the gospel message and to witness it in Christ-like service to others within our parish community and beyond. We seek God’s blessing and guidance to be faithful to this mission.

February 19, 1996
St. John The Baptist Church

In 1925, on a plot donated by Mrs. Helen Riley, St. John the Baptist Church was built and dedicated. In 1927, Cornelius A. Corcoran was named first pastor of the church and a house was purchased on Yesler Way for a rectory. Father Corcoran served as pastor until 1937, when he was succeeded by Fr. John A. Munley. In 1945, Fr. Thomas J. Duffy was appointed pastor.

After purchasing a tract of land in 1953 and a ground breaking in 1954, the new parish school opened its doors to students in 1955 under the charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. Mother Marie Cecilia was the first principal. Another wing was added to the school building in 1961 which provided one section for the girls and one for the boys. The Brothers residence was dedicated the same year for the male faculty members who were Brothers of the Holy Cross and who were in charge of the boys until the school became co-educational in 1971.

The rectory on Valley Street was dedicated on May 23, 1965 and the ground breaking for the new church took place on October 30, 1966, with the first services being held at the new church on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1968. Msgr. T. J. Duffy retired in June 1972 and was succeeded by Fr. Thomas J. Finnegan, followed by Fr. Charles Vogel in 1977 and Fr. John Rock in 1978. Today’s pastor is Msgr. Phillip D. Morris, who was installed in 1993 after the retirement of Fr. Rock.

In 1990, the school became co-sponsored to include the parishes of St. John’s, St. Andrew’s in Westwood; Our Lady Mother of the Church, Woodcliff Lake; and St. Gabriel’s, Saddle River. The school was renamed St. John’s Academy in 1996. Much is planned for the upcoming years at St. John’s, including renovations of the church, a new parish center and an addition to St. John’s Academy.
The Holy Trinity Church began as the Holy Trinity Mission, which was organized in the Fall of 1889. The first service was held by Rev. Thomas Stephens on January 29, 1890 at the home of Mr. J.C. Fincke, located on the southeast corner of Patterson and Park Streets. Subsequently, services were held in the room over the Erie-Lackawana Railroad Station in the borough until the Mission's first church building was erected on Park Street on land donated by Mrs. Ellen Patterson. Services were held there from May, 1890 until March, 1894 when the mission moved to its present location, Hillsdale Avenue and Trinity Place, on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Abram C. Holdrum of River Vale.

In 1918, a parish hall was opened in a building on Cross Street. A new parish house was constructed and dedicated in October, 1923 on the church property.

Holy Trinity became a parish in May, 1945. The vicar at the time, the Reverend Richard Aselford, became the first rector.

In 1965, the old church was raised. The present church was dedicated on June 18, 1966 by Bishop Leland Stark of the Diocese of Newark.

The church was consecrated and the mortgage burned on March 27, 1977, with Bishop George E. Rath presiding. Renovations of the parish house, including the construction of a new church office, were completed in 1978. The new chapel was dedicated in January 1980, during its 90th year, and features stained glass from the old church building.

Holy Trinity Church continues to be a strong and active parish led by Father John J. Negrotto.
Hillsdale United Methodist Church

The establishment of the railroad in 1860 brought growth to Hillsdale. A group of residents formed a "Methodist Class" and by December, 1873, the growing group met on the second floor of the railroad station. In 1874, the society was formally organized by Rev. John Switzer of Allendale as the Hillsdale Methodist Episcopal Church. A Sunday School was established at the same time and average church attendance was 50. In 1875, Rev. Elam M. Garton was appointed the church's first regular pastor.

The site of the church's first house of worship, on the southwest corner of Hillsdale and Magnolia Avenues, was donated by David Patterson. Construction began in the spring of 1876 and the building was dedicated on June 25th of the same year. A lot adjacent to the church was purchased and funds raised to build a parsonage, which was completed in 1884. An addition to the church in 1911 doubled its size.

During World War I, the chapel area of the church was used by the Junior Order of American Guards, who used wooden rifles for practice drilling. The following years brought the installation of electricity and a telephone in the parsonage, water in the church and sidewalks and curbs along the church's property.

The congregation continued to grow despite the difficult period of the Depression and in 1944 the church purchased a pipe organ. As church membership grew, the need for more space was recognized and it was decided to build a new structure, as it was not financially advisable to remodel the existing building. In 1950, land was purchased in the southeast corner of Hillsdale and Magnolia Avenues. By 1954, sufficient funds had been raised to construct the new building and a ground breaking ceremony was held on August 1. The new church was completed in the spring of 1955. A new parsonage, on the corner of Trinity Place and Hillsdale Avenue, was acquired and dedicated on May 1st of the same year. A Fellowship Hall, part of the original plan for the church, was completed in 1960.

The original church was used for Sunday School classes and other church functions. Once the Fellowship Hall was completed, it was used for scout meetings and part of it was rented to the town for use as school rooms. A decision was made at that time to sell the building, but before the sale was completed, a fire destroyed the building. The site now serves as a parking lot. In 1967, an addition to the church building, which included classrooms and a church office, was dedicated. This addition completed the master plan for the church, which was adopted in 1950.

Since 1973, the Hillsdale United Nursery School has been housed at the church. The church has also housed the Helping Hand Food Pantry since 1992.

The Hillsdale United Methodist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 1999.
Pascack Bible Church

The Pascack Bible Church met for the first time on February 27, 1966. That congregation of 232 Christians came together out of a common desire to be supportive of faith missionaries serving with independent missions' organizations. The congregation first met in Emerson, but soon began holding Sunday worship services in the Pascack Valley High School auditorium.

In 1968, the Rev. Don Kenyon became the church's first pastor. During his five-year tenure, property on Piermont Avenue was purchased and the present sanctuary was built and dedicated in 1970.

In 1991, an addition to the church, the annex, was built to hold the church offices, Christian education facilities and the Crossroads Counseling Services. The Crossroads Counseling Services was established in 1986 under the direction of Glenn Lutjens. Its purpose is to meet the needs of the congregation and community, focusing on the importance of the spiritual component of life.

In front of the annex is one of the oldest houses in Hillsdale, the Geruldsen Missionary House. Built in 1858 by a freed slave for $100, it was recently renovated and provides housing for overseas missionaries who are home on furlough.

Faith Promise Giving for foreign missionary outreach was instituted under the leadership of Pastor Dr. Fred Beveridge. To date, over $4 million has been given to world missions and a new generation of missionaries, many from the church's congregation, have been sent to ministers in various locations throughout the world.

As a part of its commitment to its children's development, the congregation has had a number of youth ministers over the years.

The Pascack Bible Church is governed by 14 elders, nominated and approved by the congregation. One of its major duties is the development of leadership through discipline. This is reflected in its recently adopted mission statement:

It is the mission of the
Pascack Bible Church to glorify God
by living out His love in a diversity of
worship and ministries that develop
disciples of Jesus Christ who reach
our families, neighborhoods,
next to cities and the world.

Pascack Bible Church
Platinum Sponsor

Happy Birthday, Hillsdale
from
Louise and Robert Hewitt

As Chairman of the “Our Town” committee, Mr. Hewitt informed residents of upcoming events on the town’s bulletin board in the center of town for almost 10 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt, standing in front of the memorial lamp post that bears their name. The Hewitts were the initial contributors for these lamp posts that now line Broadway and Hillsdale Avenue in the center of town.
Local Government Then and Now

Today, Hillsdale is a Borough and follows that form of government. But when Hillsdale first broke away from Washington Township in 1898, Hillsdale Township was formed. The main drive for Hillsdale to become its own entity came from several citizens, including Orrin S. Trall, John H. Riley, A.C. Holdrum, John F. Winters, David H. Demarest, Herndon Rohrs and those who were elected in 1898 to form the first official family, including Sanford Bogert, Chairman (Mayor); George H. Seaman; Treasurer; and William W. Banta, Clerk.

In 1906, "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 Hillsdale as it is today.

Borough Hall building in 1973 just prior to its demolition.

When the citizens of Hillsdale felt that they had outgrown the township method of governing, a petition was started by the Civic Association to switch to the borough form of government. The Township Committee adopted a resolution on December 18, 1922, accepting the petition as the will of the people and the Borough of Hillsdale was born. The first Mayor of the Borough of Hillsdale was Henry J. Werner. The Council consisted of G.G. Graf, W.W. Livengood, Frank Scott, M. Taradash, Harvey E. Hering, and C.A. Lorentz.

There have been 20 mayors since Hillsdale became a Borough in 1923, both Democrat and Republican, who have served Hillsdale to the best of their abilities and have helped to shape Hillsdale into the warm, friendly and successful community it is today.

The Borough Hall, which was built in 1973, currently is the workplace of more than 22 borough employees. The intricate workings of the town as a borough have developed over the years as the population continued to increase. Cooperative programs, as with the Code Compliance Office that is shared with Westwood and Upper Saddle River, have helped to keep the expenses of the borough down, while providing the services needed by the town.

Municipal Employees: from left to right: Bernice White, Paula Hulin, Robert Sandt, Flora Bergonzi, Linda Petronzi, Colleen Ennis, Louise Spagnoli, Harold Karns and Clem McDonald.

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<tr>
<th>MAYORS OF HILLSDALE SINCE 1923</th>
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<td>Henry I. Werner 1923-1925</td>
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<td>Edmond L. Greenin 1926-1927, 1946-1947</td>
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<td>George M. Yates 1928-1929</td>
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<td>William W. Linengood 1930-1931</td>
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<td>John D. Hansen 1932-1939</td>
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<td>Frank B. Hafemann 1949-1945</td>
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<td>James B. Taterm 1948-1953</td>
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<td>Adam Pach May-Dec. 1953</td>
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<td>Walter L. Dril 1954-1955</td>
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<td>John F. Dowd 1956-1957</td>
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<td>Lester B. Bremer 1958-1963</td>
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<td>Harold D. McAneny 1964-1965</td>
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<td>Gilbert B. Busch 1966-1969</td>
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<td>Richard Englander 1972-1975</td>
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<td>Alfred J. Murphy 1980-1987</td>
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<td>Robert T. Elder 1988-1993</td>
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<td>Douglas A. Groner 1993-1995</td>
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<td>Timothy O'Reilly 1995...</td>
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Hillsdale Board of Health

On September 15, 1909, the Township adopted a "Code of Ordinance of the Board of Health of the Township of Hillsdale, New Jersey," by virtue of the provisions of an act of the Legislature of New Jersey. Some of the duties of the Board at that time dealt with the disinfecting of rooms or places were contagious disease were said to exist, the manner of collecting fines and duties of the Registrar of Vital Statistics. Over the years, the business of the Hillsdale Board of Health has expanded to include all of the state-mandated services, such as maternal and child health, adult health protection, health education, food handling, odor and noise regulation, as well as birth, marriage and death documentation.

The first officers of the Board of Health were: C.S. Van Wagonen, Pres.; George R. Stegman, Clerk; and John W. Kinmonth, Registrar of Vital Statistics. Franklin J. Myers and A. Momking were members at large. Hillsdale's first Health Officer was George Shafer.

In November 1923, after the 'Borough' of Hillsdale was established, the first Board of Health of the Borough was appointed. This board included Ralph G. Stever, Dr. James Fox, Leslie J. Forbes, Garrett A. Storms, John Hartleib, Edward P. Davis and Reinhold Lehman.

John W. Kinmonth served as Registrar of Vital Statistics from 1925 until 1959, a total of 34 years. Mr. Kinmonth also served as Tax Assessor of Hillsdale for 42 years, Postmaster for 12 years, school board member and fireman for 20 years. Mr. Kinmonth passed away in 1960 at the age of 91.

In 1991, the Hillsdale Board of Health contracted with the Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission for health services and this partnership continues. The mission of the Hillsdale Board of Health continues to be to provide each resident of the town with the best public and community health opportunities, education, counseling and referral services available. Members of the Board are dedicated to the tasks of monitoring and regulating all of Hillsdale's health and welfare issues and participation as proactive supporters of the Local Assistance Board and the Helping Hand Food Pantry and Clothing Pantry.

Lois Kohan, public health nurse, giving Mayor Timothy O'Reilly a flu shot as Barbara Ann DeCaro, President of the Board of Health looks on.
The Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission began as a 25 member Recreation Committee in 1934. The Hillsdale Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), under the chairmanship of Mrs. Harry Gunther, organized the committee that was dedicated to promoting leisure activities throughout the year and playground activities during the summer.

Two instructors, provided by the PTA as the Works Progress Administration (WPA), organized a playground program featuring athletics, crafts, swimming and horseshoes. The committee offered a twilight softball league and with the assistance of the WPA, adult education classes, including public speaking, Spanish, woodworking, sewing and home nursing. The Committee disbanded in 1942 because of World War II.

In 1948, the Mayor and Council established a Municipal Department of Parks and Playgrounds to be managed by an appointed seven member Recreation Commission. (In 1971, an amendment added two teen-age members.) In 1949, then Fire Chief Rudy Appeld circulated a petition proposing that the town purchase the property that is now Memorial Field. The 1,214 signatures on a petition persuaded the Mayor and Council to purchase the property for $7,500.

In 1956, the Commission hired Joseph Talamo as its first Recreation Director. He organized year-round activities and three day camps; Crockett, Hildaca and Camp Hillsdale. By 1972, the camps were serving more than 500 children from grades 1 through 8.

The Recreation Commission continues to provide services that meet the needs of the Hillsdale community. It established a six-week "Concerts in Beechwood Park" series. It has also sponsored a wrestling team, tennis lessons, an indoor soccer clinic and an instructional basketball league. Roller hockey teams began in 1996. The Commission also sponsors men's basketball and volleyball, women's volleyball, chess, duplicate bridge and craft programs, as well as the Fifty Plus Club. In 1997, Camp Hillsdale served 250 borough children. The Commission also organizes the town's Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Ragamuffin Parade and special events for Hillsdale Day-in-the-Park. It also assists independent organizations including the Baseball, Soccer and Football Associations and Boy and Girl Scouts.

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission was founded in February, 1969, as the Conservation Commission (one of the first such Commissions in the state.) Widened responsibilities caused the name to be changed to the Environmental Commission in 1972.

The idea of such a Commission was suggested to Mayor Gilbert Busch by Mr. Francis Costello, who went on to be its first chairman.

The scope of the Environmental Commission is far-ranging. It studies and makes recommendations in five broad areas: Open space preservation; natural resources management; scenic, aesthetic and historic preservation; waste disposal; water and air pollution and noise control.

One of the first accomplishments of the Commission was to establish a Nature Trail and Conservancy in Beechwood Park. This trail winds through three distinct ecological sections which is quite rare for such a small area.

To highlight the opening of the Nature Trail in 1970, the Commission planned a maple syrup festival featuring a pancake breakfast cooked by the then Mayor John Dumphry and Council members. This festival has become a much-enjoyed annual event. The festival is used as a showcase for the educational projects of the school children. They learn how to tap sugar maple trees, collect the sap and boil it down to make maple syrup.

The Environmental Commission is involved in planting recommendations for the various subdivisions in town, including the recently completed Stonybrook Townhouses and the Villa Estates. At the moment, the Commission is assisting with the passive recreation area being developed at the Stonybrook Swim Facility and the development of the recreation area on the site of the old landfill. In addition, the Commission is currently working to refurbish and complete the Nature Trail Walkway in the low-lying area of the conservancy.

Other responsibilities of the Commission include an Arbor Day program for school children and lectures and films for adults. The Commission also produces maps and pamphlets on conservation measures and is preparing a natural resource inventory for the town.
Helping Hands Food Pantry

In 1992, the need for a permanent source of food and essentials for borough families in need was recognized. A member of Boy Scout Troop 108 addressed this need, organizing a town-wide food drive as his Eagle Scout project. The success of this project provided the initial supply of food and other essential items. When the Hillsdale United Methodist Church offered a room to store the food, as well as the use of a refrigerator and freezer, the Helping Hand Food Pantry was established. The pantry serves families in need year-round, providing assistance not only with food, but also counseling and referrals to other agencies.

The pantry is supported by many volunteer and business organizations, churches, synagogues, schools and scouts, as well as individual residents.

Since its inception, the Helping Hand Food Pantry has met its primary goal of helping borough residents in need maintain their personal dignity and quality of life because the community has supported the pantry, helping neighbors in need.

Hillsdale Code Compliance Office

The Hillsdale Code Compliance Office is a frontier inter-local service group that serves the residents of Hillsdale as well as Westwood and Upper Saddle River. This concept saves taxpayers dollars and increases service.

The Code Compliance Office services all construction, zoning and land use. It also services fire prevention, fire code and property maintenance topics.

Photo left to right: Sara Jeune, John Wittekind, Mary Williams, Tricia Lucia, Michelle Wood (bottom front), Joe Mauro, George Lucia and Tracy Jeffery. Not pictured: Lou Zampolin, Rich O’Dowd and Rich Biale.
Memories of My Childhood in Hillsdale
by Kathleen O’Brien Kimble

When I was a young girl, I lived in a house on Harrington Street with my parents and seven sisters. We had a full, but loving household. My father was a conductor on the railroad and we were all very proud of him. It was during this tender time in my life that the United States entered World War I. President Woodrow Wilson was empowered to carry on war against the Imperial German Government on April 6, 1917 and the first American troops reached London in September of that same year. Unlike today, when information assaults you at every turn, we received all of our accounts of what was happening abroad through newspaper reports.

At home, several meatless and wheatless meals a week were encouraged to save food for the troops. Instead of butter, we had to use margarine, which came as a block of white vegetable fat with a capsule of dark amber fluid. I remember having to take turns with my sisters as we emptied the contents of the capsule into the mass of fat and mashed and mashed until it looked like butter. Mother made wartime cakes, which used no eggs. Victory gardens were planted to eke out foods hard to come by, allowing more food for the troops abroad. Fuel conservation was also encouraged.

I was part of a girls' group called the "Girl’s Patriot League". We met on Saturday mornings in a building on Prospect Avenue. Members wore armbands with the letters GPL emblazoned on them. The ladies in charge cut out booties, kimonos, etc., from cotton flannel and we sewed them according to their directions. The items were sent to Belgium, where clothing was scarce, although I can’t imagine that these items could have kept the infants very warm.

Another activity that we worked at was knitting. Girls and boys alike kept busy at this project. I remember sitting on my front porch and knitting squares for an afghan. I’m sure that every square was a different size and shape, but somehow a committee of grown-ups sewed them all together. The older girls, more capable of knitting, made mittens, socks, scarves, and helmets to be sent to our servicemen.

The Red Cross established a unit in town and adults rolled bandages for our injured servicemen. Mail to and from Europe was censored lest there be anything that might help the enemy. I have several old letters from Ireland that were opened and then resealed with white paper with numerals on it. To add to all this, influenza became rampant along the eastern seaboard and spread to states west of us. Deaths here totaled between 400,000 and 500,000.

On Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, some school classes, mostly the older grades, marched out of school and paraded over to Broadway. We all had little flags to wave, but I don’t know where they came from. Excitement was at a fevered pitch. Eventually, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.

George Jepson behind the wheel in 1922 with Bea O’Brien Lucas and Robert Parsils as passengers. The R.W. Jepson house and barn are in the background.
Memories (continued)

The period of the 1920s is a happy one in my memory. America prospered during the '20s. People could get back to business and business thrived. They called it a period of "getting back to normal" and the "Roaring Twenties." Many people could now buy vacuum cleaners, toasters, electric fans and radios. We got our first radio in 1927 for $125. Many people bought on credit and spending soared out of control. Circumstances like this, as well as investors buying stocks on margin, fed a tide of disaster and on "Black Thursday", October 29, 1927, the stock market crashed.

Many people who had enjoyed comfort and prosperity during the post-war years were now faced with unemployment and financial strain. This marked the beginning of the Great Depression. Hillsdale was not immune to its effects. I remember when a "tramp" would show up at our back door and ask for a meal. My mother would never refuse. I always wanted to be the one to bring him his plate of dinner. Sometimes Mama would give him a dime. We all tried to help each other and that is what brought us through such a hard time, as a family, as a town and as a nation.
In colonial days when a fire blazed, men, women and children scurried to the scene by foot or wagon to help extinguish the fire the only way they could, by bucket brigade. This slow, arduous process seldom saved a burning barn or home, but did help to minimize the spread of flames to adjacent buildings.

In 1902, a group of 14 Hillsdale citizens met in the store of T.C. Demarest on Broadway and the corner of Cross Street (now 150 Broadway) to discuss ways of "combating fires and minimizing the fire menace." They met again later that year in April and organized the Hillsdale Fire Association.

The Association's first need, with manpower now established, was equipment. A fair was held during the week of August 9th through the 16th by the fireman and their wives to raise the funds. The proceeds enabled the Association to purchase a hose reel and pump (called a jumper) and to construct a small shed to house the new equipment. When the alarm sounded, the firemen (together with most of the neighboring boys) would run to get the rig and then pull it to the fire. Many times they would arrive exhausted and barely able to take care of the emergency. Although the stream from the hose was weak, it was more efficient than bucket brigades.

Water hydrants began to be installed during the fall of 1903 and the project was completed in 1904. Twenty-five hydrants were spread throughout the town. Today, 315 hydrants supply the town. Although the hydrants were a great step forward, many times the hoses were too short and the bucket brigades were used.

Through contributions from local citizens and annual fair proceeds, a fire house was built in 1906. The citizens were so enthused over the project that enough money was subscribed
Fire Department  (continued)

to buy a horse-drawn combination ladder and hose truck, forming the Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 that still exists today. Horses to pull the rig were obtained from Gradiniers Livery Stable that was located on the present site of Fleet Bank.

In 1907, a horse-drawn hose cart was purchased. An oceangoing ship's bilge pump was acquired and carried on the hose truck. This pump was used to pump water from a well or brook or to help when the hydrant pressure was weak. The pump can currently be seen in its place of honor at the front entrance to the firehouse.

At that time, the total membership of the fire department's two companies was 71 men. Only 107 men in town were eligible to vote, which shows that most of the citizens were members of the fire department. But in 1912, only 15 to 20 men actually fought fires, with the rest of the membership involved in fund raisers and social events. It was at this time that an active fire department was set up. The first Fire Chief was a local butcher named Charles McCleary, who also served as the Police Chief for which he earned $5 a week.

In 1914, the department was recognized as the “Bonafide Official Fire Department of the Township of Hillsdale.” Henry J. Werner was elected chief. The town erected fire gongs throughout the township and built a wooden tower along side the firehouse on Park Avenue in which a bell was hung to summon active firemen to duty.

When a fire was reported, a great deal of commotion was caused. Bells and gongs would ring and the stable doors would be thrown open. Two white and two black horses would come out of their stalls and trot off across Broadway to the fire house on Park Street where they would back into their harnesses. The white horses were for the hose wagon and the black pair pulled the hook and ladder wagon.
The bells and the gongs were rung. The livery stable doors were swung open and the horses came out for their final run to the firehouse. The harnesses were attached and the wagon was pulled out. The new truck was backed in and the party started, with dancing and refreshments for all. By 1918, the town had three fire trucks, replacing all the horse-drawn wagons.

Competition was fierce when it came to hose laying and Hillsdale firemen were as good as they came. In 1916, the Hillsdale Fire Department set a world’s record for hose-laying at the Ho-Ho-Kus Race Track. Its members 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 in just 41 seconds. The Department then went on to break its own record in 1917 by performing the same task in just 37 seconds. In 1921, when they had a standing start with the men 25 feet behind the engine, they set another world record by completing the event in just 57 seconds.

Hillsdale was a member of the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association.
Fire Department (continued)

from its inception in 1913. This group of departments was originally a mutual aid organization, which came about through conversations among commuters traveling to New York on the trains. One of the fires Hillsdale was called to was the Palisades Amusement Park fire in Cliffside Park during the years of World War II.

In early 1922, a women’s fire department was organized with eight fully equipped members trained by the men on the regular fire department. It is believed to have been the only group of its kind in the world at that time.

In 1928, the Ladies Auxiliary was formed. The women assisted with fund-raising and social activities, continuing in their tradition to support the firemen.

Having long outgrown its quarters, the Fire Department moved to a new fire house at its present location on Hillsdale Avenue in 1958. The new building was designed to accommodate the existing equipment, but was soon outdated. The expansion to two floors was made in 1968. In 1996, with the addition of a new 2000 gallon pumper, another larger addition was added to the fire house.

The Hillsdale Fire Department continues to grow and change with the times, taking advantage of recent technology to assist with the operations and performance of the department. The department is proud to have Kim Saul as the first woman in Bergen County to attain the position of assistant chief, second only to the chief. Hillsdale’s second century will bring many advances to the fire department and the people it protects and with continued dedication, organization and training, the department will always be there when called for help.
Fire Department (continued)

Hillsdale Fire House - 1998


Junior Cadets: Top left to right - G. Lucia, M. Arnovitz, J. Wiles
Bottom: B. Hoffelfer, S. Blinn.

The Hillsdale Exempt Firemen’s Association, established in September 1918, is a social and service organization within the Fire Department. Members must serve for a minimum of seven years on the Hillsdale Fire Department. The organization meets four times a year with a goal of promoting unity, good fellowship and benevolence among members.

The Association membership maintains the grave markers of deceased members. Flags are placed on their graves around Memorial Day and the Association conducts a Memorial Day service in Fireman’s Memorial Park.

Service projects, such as the repair and donation of computers to those in need, especially children, occupy much of the Association’s energies. As of May, 1998, 320 computers have been refurbished, upgraded and donated to those in need. Fund-raising efforts throughout the year assist with the maintenance of past members’ grave-sites and provide funds for service projects.


Executive Committee, 1998: (left to right) Franklyn Gluckler, Secretary; William Becker, Vice-President; George Kehr, President; and Michael P. Negro, Treasurer.
Hillsdale Fire Department
Ladies Auxiliary

The Hillsdale Ladies Auxiliary will be celebrating its 70th anniversary during 1998. The Ladies Auxiliary is a group of dedicated women assisting the men of the fire department as described in the following poem by R. Lewis.

THE LADIES WAIT, WHILE THEIR MEN RESPOND
UNITED AS ONE IN A COMMON BOND
THE BOND OF SERVING EACH IN THEIR OWN WAY,
THE NEEDS THAT ARISE, BE WHAT THEY MAY
THE REHEATED MEALS, THE UNSIPPED DRINK
IS A COMMON OCCURRENCE, MUCH MORE THAN YOU THINK.
IT'S MOSTLY ROUTINE AND DONE WITHOUT FLAIR
THE MEN RETURN, THEIR LADIES ARE THERE
BUT THEN COMES THE CALL, THE TOUGH ONE TO FIGHT.
A WORKING FIRE THAT MAY LAST THROUGH THE NIGHT.
THE LADIES AGAIN WAIT AND THIS TIME THEY KNOW
THAT SOONER OR LATER, THEY, TOO, WILL GO
AS THEY WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL, THE TIME DRAWS NEAR
FOR THAT SOONER OR LATER TO BE SUDDENLY HERE.
THE MEN ARE ALL WEARY, SOME OF THEM SPENT,
THE REFRESHMENTS THAT ARRIVE ARE HEAVEN SENT.
THE AUXILIARY IN FACT, IS MORE THAN A NAME,
IT'S A DEDICATED ARM OF THE VOLUNTEER GAME.
SO GOD WHEN WE PRAY FOR THE FIREMEN'S CARE,
INCLUDE THE LADIES, WHO WERE ALSO THERE.

(From left to right) Pat Hughes, Treasurer; Barbara Blinn, President; Pat Morrissey, Secretary; Mardy Maloff, 1st Vice-President; Elsie Schreiber, Sergeant at Arms; Louise Nowacki, 2nd Vice-President.
Volunteer Ambulance Service

Recognizing that lives can be saved if victims of trauma are treated and transported promptly, the Hillsdale Fire Department launched a campaign in 1953 to start a first-aid service. Supported by various organizations, churches and the police department, the citizens of Hillsdale opened their hearts and minds and raised $20,000 for an ambulance, building, equipment and supplies. At the same time, first aid training was in progress. On January 5, 1954, 29 members signed the charter of the Hillsdale Fireman’s Ambulance Service.

Hillsdale now had its own emergency care service under the leadership of Reinhardt Felton, President; Howard Stanley, Vice-President; Calvin Piper, Secretary; Lewis Jeffries, Treasurer; John Ottignon, Captain; and Victor Wazeter, Lieutenant. Improvements and changes were quick to follow.

In February, 1954, ten women completed their first aid course. Although they were permitted to become associate members, they were not allowed to ride in the rig. However, with utmost dedication and perseverance, Mrs. Ruth Zabriskie broke this barrier by becoming the third member of a daytime crew. Many others followed. Nearly 20 years later, in 1971, women were finally permitted to drive the ambulance.

Improvements continued as ambulances were replaced and new advanced equipment was acquired. At one point, as residents with no connection to the Fire Department joined the Ambulance Corps, it was decided that the name should be changed to the Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service. The link however, between the two departments remains strong to this day as is evidenced by the St. John family. When sirens wail through the streets of Hillsdale, George St. John, a fireman for 24 years, most likely is on his way to put out a fire or perhaps Regina, his wife, a volunteer on the ambulance squad for 22 years, is on her way to save a life.

In September, 1994, members of the Women’s Auxiliary merged with the Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service as associate members. This dedicated group of men and women is credited with raising funds ever since 1967, when the auxiliary was founded.

Today, the Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service consists of 16 active EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians). Among these are members who have served 10, 20, 30, even 40 years. They are unpaid professionals who are on call twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. They are required by state law to accumulate CEUs (Continuing Education Units) for re-certification. Currently, one driver, three probationary members, nine associate members and 12 life members maintain the service.

In 1954, the Hillsdale Firemen’s Ambulance Service responded to 136 calls. In 1997, the Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service responded to 657 calls.

Throughout the years in an ever-changing environment, progress has been made in all aspects of life saving techniques. The training has become more advanced, the equipment more sophisticated, the volunteers more skilled and more lives are being saved.
Volunteer Ambulance Service  (continued)

Practice! Practice! Practice! Regina St. John and Bob Bradshaw, on the left, practice taking a blood pressure under the watchful eye of Tom LoBue. Tom, who joined the corps in 1970, was elected captain nine times and also served as lieutenant, president and vice-president.

Honoring two people who have given above and beyond.

To the rescue:

Throughout the years, the Ambulance Corp has responded to thousands of motor vehicle accidents.

Working together: The Hillsdale Ambulance Corp works together with the police and fire departments as Hillsdale's emergency team.
Volunteer Ambulance Service (continued)

Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Corp Officers for 1998:
Front row - left to right: Robert Bradshaw, President; Josephine Bradshaw, Secretary; Regina St. John, Vice President; Norman Chester, Treasurer. Back row - left to right: Lynne Bennett, Captain; Steve Samet, Lieutenant.

Associate Members: Front row - left to right: Peggy Hausmann, Josephine Bradshaw, Claudia Tirello.
Back row - left to right: Jerry Lee, Norman Chester.

Not shown: Joseph Bist, James Giannini.
Hillsdale's Police

The first official town constables, John H. Demarest, Charles George and James G. Titus, were appointed in 1898. On May 6, 1901, the township clerk authorized the purchase of one pair of handcuffs for use by the constable, with a second pair ordered on June 2, 1902. On June 4, 1900, the first traffic ordinance was passed, "Prohibiting bicycle riding on the paths upon roadside," and on May 5, 1902, a town speed limit of 8 mph through the township was established for motorcycles, automobiles and bicycles.

On September 10, 1912, the Bergen County Detective Association (later to become the New Jersey Ranger Detective Association) was organized with headquarters on Summit Avenue (now Broadway) in Hillsdale. At one point, the association had 20 members, known as "Pursuers." The Rawson twins of Hillsdale, Albert W. and Alpheus E., became famous as early lawmen in the Rangers, all of whose trustees were Hillsdale residents.

The first regular police department began to take form in 1921 when 11 special police officers were sworn in with John Harrill named as Acting Chief. The town ordered badges and clubs and the Chief had to report monthly to the township committee. In 1926, the town purchased its first police car. The first official Chief of Police was Lawrence J. Foley, who was appointed on July 13, 1928. James A. Holland and William F. Bulach, who later served as Chief, were appointed as the first regular patrolmen.

The Board of Trade donated the kiosk police booth which opened Christmas Day, 1925.

The first traffic lights were installed at the corner of Hillsdale Avenue and Broadway in July 1927. In January, 1931, the police headquarters was moved from the police booth to the Borough Hall building, which also housed the Fire Department.

The Police Department remained in the old Borough Hall until the present Borough Hall building was constructed in 1973.

In 1989, under Detective Sergeant Peter Hard, Hillsdale's D.A.R.E. program (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) was initiated and continues today to educate children on the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Recent changes in the patrol car design occurred in 1994. Also that year, the police department held its first Open House and participated in the Memorial Day Parade with a Honor Guard. A Police Memorial was placed in front of the police station on Memorial Day 1998, to honor those who served the Hillsdale Police Department.

The police force in 1998 is led by Police Chief Frank Mikulski and consists of two detectives, 18 police officers, two dispatchers and an auxiliary membership of 15. The department is also in charge of the 15 crossing guards who safely guide Hillsdale's youth across the many busy intersections in town.
Hillsdale's Police (continued)

1998 Police Chief Frank A. Mikulski


P.B.A. Executive Board left to right: Peter Leighton - Sgt.-At Arms; Robert Francaviglia - President; Tom Farrell - Past President; Frank Novakowski - Vice President; Joe Mazzeo - Delegate; John Scordat - Past Delegate. Not pictured: John Carty - Treasurer; Daniel McLaughlin - Secretary.


Hillsdale's Police (continued)


Dispatchers Christopher Donaldson and Kimberly Lucia

Retired Officers

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<td>7/7/51-7/7/76</td>
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<td>Capt. Robert J. Schramm*</td>
<td>9/23/57-6/30/83</td>
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<td>Lt. Vincent R. McCarthy</td>
<td>7/14/59-6/30/85</td>
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<td>Chief Phillip J. Varisco</td>
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<td>Lt. Robert M. Francaviglia</td>
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<td>4/12/71-1/31/93</td>
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<td>9/5/61-1/31/94</td>
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<td>Sgt. Richard S. Denzberger, Jr.</td>
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<td>Sgt. Floyd W. Kehr*</td>
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<td>Off. Robert F. Mele</td>
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<td>Det. Sgt. Peter J. Hard</td>
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<td>Sgt. Robert L. Buesser</td>
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<td>Susan Hayn (Police Clerk)</td>
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*Deceased

Department of Public Works

The first Road Department, which started in 1925, consisted of one man, Axel Gustafson, a wheelbarrow and other hand tools. The Road Department headquarters was located in the Werkheiser's barn at that time (where the borough lot adjacent to the Fire Department is today). Two different sites were used as the borough's garage before it moved into its current headquarters in 1966.

Today, the Department of Public Works (DPW) consists of nine full time employees. The department is responsible for street maintenance, snow and leaf removal and maintenance of all the borough and school fields and parks. Some services, such as grass cutting and sanitation have been contracted out privately in recent years.

The DPW operates the Recycling Center which accepts most recycled items including waste oil, tires, batteries, vegetative materials, heavy metal, plastic, aluminum, paper and cardboard.

Equipment purchased by the department over the past few years has been multi-functional and shared in a cooperative program with neighboring towns which enables the department to keep current with today's technology.
Kiosk – The Police Booth

In 1925, Mr. John Henry Olley was commissioned by the Hillsdale Board of Trade to build a structure that to this day is synonymous with Hillsdale: the police booth.

Ray Olley, John’s son, who now resides in Indiana with his wife, Jane, traveled back to Hillsdale recently to share his memories of Hillsdale and his father. Ray stated that his father, John H. Olley, a builder by trade, rode his bike from New York City into Hillsdale one day in 1905 and decided that Hillsdale was where he wanted to raise a family. He started off by buying a few lots on Beech Street and eventually built some homes on Washington Avenue. All five of the Olley boys, including Ray, were born and raised in one of the houses his father built on Washington Avenue. All five boys were enlisted in the different areas of the service during World War II and all five returned home safely much to their mother, Mary’s, delight.

Ray remembers the police booth in the center of Hillsdale Avenue and Broadway when it was the entire police station. The police car would drive up behind it and the officer would go inside and manually change the traffic lights. If he was needed elsewhere, he would switch the light to automatic, jump into his police car and be on his way. He recalls a time when a gas pipe joint was leaking under the police booth and when the officer inside flipped the switch to turn the light, there was an explosion which blew out the traffic lights. Luckily, no one was injured.

During his years in Hillsdale, John H. Olley also built another Hillsdale landmark, the Beechwood Park Bandshell, in 1966 with Julius Carpenter. In 1985, when a car crashed into the police booth severely damaging two of its walls, Ray Olley’s brother, John J. Olley, stepped in to repair the damage to the booth and the Olley tradition moved to yet another generation.

Ray and his wife, Jane, have 7 children, 18 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. One of their grandsons, Tim, is now continuing on in his great-grandfather’s footsteps as a bricklayer and builder, even using some of John Henry Olley’s tools.

Although the Olley family today spreads from coast to coast, Ray will be the first to tell you that a part of each of them lives on in Hillsdale; in the police booth, in the people of the town, but mostly in their hearts.
Hillsdale's first library was set up in a shop where the Hillsdale Paint and Wall Paper store currently stands. The library started out as an idea, primarily in the head of Miss Sarah Vander Clute, in 1935. On January 27, 1936, when the library first opened to the public, 2,939 books were available for borrowing and Mrs. Ruth Newman was the first librarian. In November, 1936, residents voted to make the free library a permanent institution and on January 1, 1937, Hillsdale received as a gift a debt-free library containing 4,500 books with a membership of 780.

Mr. Vorrath sold this property on the corner of Hillsdale Avenue and Yesler Way to the town in 1937 for $20,000. The town then spent another $10,000 to remodel the house and transform it into a working library.

As membership grew, so did the demand for space and the accompanying changes of location. In 1970, when the membership of the library topped 5,900, a $300,000 addition was authorized, tripling the size of the building. In addition, seating was increased by 400 percent, from 14 to 70 seats and the space provided for volumes doubled. The separate Children’s Library area was added as well as reference section, periodical area, storage and work space and offices for the librarians.

Over the years, the library has seen many changes with the rapid advancements in technology. Today, not only is the library on-line, but it also is a member of BCCLS, Bergen County Cooperative Library System, which links all the libraries in its membership to locate books easily within the system. The library also offers videos and audio CDs that may be borrowed, as well as books on tape.

Currently, the library has 7,447 members and a total of 90,000 documents. The library also offers internet access and continues to keep current as technology moves forward into the next millennium. The library continues to be a focal point of this town, offering a place to gather, share and educate all Hillsdale residents.
Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library organization is a fund raising group that helps support the Hillsdale Free Public Library. With over 450 members, the Friends provide classes and courses from pre-school through adult levels.

With donations from the membership, the organization has purchased books, CDs, computer equipment and other materials which continue to upgrade and enhance the library.

Support from the community is what makes this organization thrive today and into the future.
Post Office

Until the railroad made its way into Hillsdale, mail was brought in once a week and had to be picked up at the tavern of Peter A. Jersey in Pascack, now known as Woodcliff Lake. After March, 1870, the railroad made it possible to have the mail delivered to town every day. The first post office was located in the store of Henry G. Herring. As Postmaster, Mr. Herring earned a salary of $12 a year.

The next Postmaster was W. W. Banta, who was also the principal of the school, followed by John W. Kinmonth, who moved the post office to his store located on Broadway (148 Broadway). In 1898, the post office moved back into the Leddy building, then owned by John F. Winters, who was the Postmaster at the time.

In 1913, the post office moved once again, this time to an official wooden framed post office building on the corner of Hillsdale Avenue and West Railroad Avenue (now Winkler Way) and Mr. John W. Kinmonth again became the Postmaster. Next, the post office found a new home in a store within the Fedden Building with Mr. John J. Barnett as Postmaster. During the term of John S. Haines, in 1938, the post office moved once again to 98 Broadway (now the Hillsdale Professional Building) and home mail delivery was inaugurated. Twice a day delivery was provided to 688 stops. On Saturdays, there was only one delivery. In April, 1950, Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson reduced residential deliveries, nationwide, to once daily.

Calvin G. Piper became Postmaster in 1949 and served for almost 24 years until he retired in 1972. His successor was Herman Orfino.

The post office's present location on Hillsdale Avenue was opened on February 27, 1960. John E. Mayer became Postmaster in 1979 and was succeeded by the present Postmaster, Frank Zimmerman.
Post Office (continued)

Another view of the wooden Post Office on the corner of Hillsdale Avenue and West Railroad Avenue (now Winkler Way)

Back of post card postmarked from Hillsdale on August 28, 1906

Hillsdale Post Office - 1998
Memories of My Grandfather, Vincent Orfini and Hillsdale Manor by Francesca Moskowitz

When I think of my grandfather, Vincent Orfini (1886 - 1957) and I do everyday, I am taken back to a time when the air I breathed was filled with a constant sense of motion, excitement and anticipation. He started leaving his mark on the community as soon as he moved his family to Hillsdale around 1918. Poppa, as I called him, was a warrior. He fought by word, mouth and deed....for better schools, lower taxes, expanded benefits for municipal employees and more competent elected officials against Italian immigrants in this country and locally. My grandfather figured that if he named his children using the German silent “H” (Henry, Henrietta, Herbert, Herman, Helena, Harry and Hilda), no one would pick on his children. Needless to say, the Kaiser went to war and Poppa’s plan backfired.

After living on Patterson Street for a number of years, my grandparents bought a parcel of land on Ralph Avenue. Poppa built a lovely home (35 Ralph) and soon his seven children were happily living there.

Poppa was a budding real estate magnate, having built another home on Kinderkamack Road which he intended to sell. Shortly thereafter, the Depression hit and Poppa lost everything for the unattainable sum of $133 in taxes owed to the borough.

He still had one building lot left (155 Arthur Street) that had a two car garage on it. So, Poppa organized an old-fashioned barn raising. There were many other craftsmen in the same financial straits, so they pooled their abilities and supplies and helped each other. It was a time when the term “neighbor” meant something. Their garage was transformed into “Ersilia’s Cottage” and that is where my grandparents lived out the rest of their days.

Poppa wrote for the Manor News which kept residents in the Manor section of town apprised of community happenings. It was run by the Manor Association of which Poppa was an active member. Residents of the Manor section were all encouraged to join the association which had its own club house in which many social events took place.

During that time, the Manor section of Hillsdale was a popular vacation resort with its own railroad station, store and hotels. Many city residents came to the Manor for a weekend of rest out in the country.

Poppa also published the “Hillsdale Gazette” which was “published now and then in the interest of better government”. He had his own printing press and wrote most of the articles himself. He was the type of person who always spoke his mind and that was one of the reasons I loved him so much.

Ironically, one of my best friends recently purchased my grandparents’ house on Arthur Street and in the attic of the garage, she found something dear to me, my grandfather’s old printing press. Even though my grandfather is gone, his lively, spirited memory lives on in me and in that printing press.
Memories (continued)
Hillsdale was the end of the line for the Jersey City run. As a result, many of the Line's engineers, conductors, brakemen and firemen made Hillsdale their home and made up the bulk of the population, which at that time was about 700 in 1880. Back then, Hillsdale was known as "Railroad Central."

To encourage people to move to Hillsdale from the city, a booklet was put out in 1899 called "Picturesque Hillsdale" by C.H. Dunn, a land speculator interested in selling lots. The booklet noted that in Hillsdale there was clean air, no malaria, the purest water in New Jersey and the finest school and library in the area. The pamphlet also noted that the then Township of Hillsdale had "greatly increased in population and valuation in the past two years as many people from New York and Brooklyn who have bought property and have built some beautiful homes in both Hillsdale and River Vale and the Manor; where they have all the advantages and comforts of a fine country home within easy reach of their business."

In May of 1870, the first development in Hillsdale was initiated consisting of lots and villa plots which were sold by D.P. Patterson, the president of the NY Extension Railroad Co. The development consisted of 154 lots, 50' or 100' by 200', located north of Pierrmont Avenue (Campbell's Hill) and 288 lots of the same size south of Pierrmont, encompassing all of the center of town except for a one block wide section bordered by Pierrmont and Hillsdale Avenues and going east from Broadway (then called Summit), which belonged to A.A. Hopper, G.S. Demarest and J. Tice.

The Hillsdale Manor section of town was the next to be developed. This area began as Hillsdale Terrace in 1890 and included 2257 plots generally of 25' by 100'. The area encompassed land from Lincoln Avenue to Knickerbocker and Pierrmont Ave and Broadway to St. Mary's and Raymond St.

A bit later, the "Park Lands" section was also developed. This area was west of Broadway on Park View and around the Railroad Station and consisted of 126 plots of 25' by 100'.

Glenbrook Park area was developed by the Crest Development Company between 1900 and 1910. This opened up the land from Taylor Street to Broadway (then called Summit Avenue). Seventy-five lots 25' X 100' were initially plotted, but the development of this area was delayed for a few years due to water main problems.

This endeavor was continued in 1913 by the Hillsdale Land and Improvement Company from which 26 25 by 100 lots were carved out of the land between Brookside Place to Prospect Place and Patterson Street to Broadway.
Early Land Development (continued)
Land Development (continued)
Land Development (continued)

The Clendenney homestead just prior to its demolition in 1969.

The area of town along Conklin and Large Avenues from Magnolia to Kinderkamack Road was developed from 1911 through 1913 by the W. J. Rich Development Company. This same company developed the area around Cross Street. During the 1920s, the Overbrook Manor Development Corporation developed the southwest section of the borough from Hopkins Street south to Demarest Avenue. In 1928, development began on Everdell, Midland and Highland Avenues by the Washington Park Development Company.

Development of one of the last large tracks of open Hillsdale land began in 1958 with the Chestnut Hills Project, which extended from Melville Road to Wierimus Road and from Wierimus Road north to Craig Road. The Royal Hills Development opened in 1968 stretching west of Chestnut Hills to the Saddle River border and north of Melville Road to the Woodcliff Lake border. During the 1980s, the land behind Demarest Farm, Royal Park Estates, was developed. Condominiums were built along the railroad track close to where the Manor Train Station was once located in 1990 called Colonial Village of Hillsdale. This was followed by the construction of the Stonybrook Townhouses in 1996. The most recent development in Hillsdale took place in 1996 with the sale of the property on which the Villa Caesere once stood. Twenty-two homes now occupy that strip of land known as the Villa Estates.

For the next twenty years, there was no reported land development until the Tandy and Allen Development began in 1945. This area, first known as Brookdale, then Saddlewood Hills, finally became known as the Tandy and Allen Development. Two hundred and five lots of 100 foot frontage and varying depths were laid out between Hillsdale Avenue and Pascack Road and over to Saddlewood Drive. Most of the land for this development comprised Clendenney Farm. The last six houses of the development were completed until 1972 on the grounds where Henry Clendenney’s pre-Revolutionary War farmhouse stood.

### Hillsdale’s Population:

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Hillsdale House
Land Development

In 1983, the Hillsdale Senior Housing Corporation was established by the Episcopal Diocese of Newark in "partnership" with the Fifty-Plus Club and four local churches - United Methodist, St. John's the Baptist, Holy Trinity and Pascack Bible Church. In 1984, the group received approval of a fund reservation for a 5.7 million dollar loan from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The ground breaking for the 99 apartment unit building was on July 30, 1985, and the building was dedicated on November 15, 1986.

The Hillsdale House provides housing for seniors and the disabled. The building also provides social and recreational areas which are available for use to all seniors in Hillsdale, not only the residents of the building.

Hillsdale House ground breaking ceremony in 1985.

Hillsdale House today.
Heroes and Parades

On November 14, 1943, all of Hillsdale turned out to honor one of their own, Lieutenant Colonel Frank A. Hill. The 24 year old Hillsdale native had participated in 166 combat missions in Europe and Africa during World War II and was credited with being the first American flier to shoot down a German plane during the war. Hill received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star and the Air Medal for his efforts. In total, Hill was credited with shooting down six and one half Nazi planes. Amazingly, he never lost a plane or was injured during his time of service.

In September of 1946, a “Welcome Home” celebration took place in town to celebrate the end of World War II with a big parade, games at the athletic field and a gala dance at the school auditorium.

In 1998, Bergen County memorialized a section of Kinderkamack Road from Hackensack north to New York State as the Korean War Memorial Roadway, a section of which runs through Hillsdale.

Memorial Day Parade in early 1920s down what is now Cross Street, but was then only a dirt road.
Heroes and Parades (continued)

1946 Welcome Home Parade

Civic Association's Float – 1946 welcome home parade.

Servicemen Marching in Parade - 1946

Dancers at the Welcome Home Gala Dance
Hillsdale Pools

The Pascack Pool, at the southwest corner of Piernont Avenue and Cedar Lane, was the sight of many fun summer days. The pool, which was a large man-made lake, was complete with diving boards, refreshment stand, life guards, sand and a jukebox. The pool was a popular place in the 1940s for soldiers from nearby military camps to come for a little "R & R" before being shipped off to other parts of the country or world.

Stonybrook Pool started off in the 1950s as a private club with cabanas and a ballroom. The club was purchased by the borough in 1976 and refurbished and opened to town residents the following summer.

Stonybrook Swim Club today boasts over seven acres of grounds with four separate pools. The six lane 50 meter Olympic pool is the focal point. A diving pool has a waterfall that spills over into the Olympic pool. An intermediate pool and kiddie pool are also available. The facility provides a playground and picnic grove with an on-site food court with grill.

In 1998, there are over 1,000 members. Games and activities are planned for children throughout the summer. The facility has lights for night swimming and hosts an evening splash party for adults each year. Stonybrook swimming and diving teams are top performers each year with over 100 children participating.

Stonybrook Swim Club becomes the focal point of activity throughout the summer, helping to build and maintain the close knit community of Hillsdale.
Hillsdale’s Parks

Firemen's Memorial Park, also known as Station Square or Memorial Park, is situated on land donated to the citizens of Hillsdale by David P. Patterson in 1871. Because the land was swampy, many wagon loads of ashes from the railroad yards were used to fill it. Today, two monument clusters are located in the park, the War Veteran's Memorial and the Monument to Henry J. Werner, the Borough of Hillsdale's first mayor, who was also the first president of the N.J. & N.Y. Volunteer Firemen's Association and fire chief from 1914 to 1915.

Firemen’s Memorial. The Hillsdale Fire Department’s Memorial Statue was dedicated on July 3, 1977, in memory of the departed members of the Fire Department.

In 1921, an Honor Roll Committee was appointed to create a monument to honor World War I servicemen. A large boulder was brought to Hillsdale on a flatcar. When attempting to transfer the boulder to the park, it broke away and fell to the ground. It has remained there ever since as the cost of raising the rock and moving it to the park was much too expensive. Instead, the present granite memorial was erected on the Park Avenue side of the park.

An Honor Roll for World War II servicemen was presented to the borough on Decoration Day, 1942. The Fire Department maintained this monument and added names to it until the close of World War II, when it was donated to Hillsdale American Legion Post 162, where it can still be seen at the Legion Hut.

Also located in Fireman’s Memorial Park is a monument saluting the memory of Henry J. Werner, the Borough of Hillsdale’s first mayor, who was also the first president of the N.J. & N.Y. Volunteer Firemen’s Association and fire chief from 1914 to 1915.

Postcard of Memorial Park in the early 1930s.
Hillsdale's Parks (continued)

Henry J. Werner Monument

At one time, the Civic Association, which dissolved in 1925, took care of the parks. Now the Department of Public Works attends to borough properties.

Veteran's Memorial Park between Hillsdale Avenue and Washington Avenue at Hopper Street, was purchased by the bor-

ough in 1949 after a petition was circulated by Rudolph C. Appeld which secured over 1200 signatures urging the mayor and council to buy the land for recreational purposes. The park today is home to baseball, softball and football games during their respective seasons, as well as the home of several basketball courts. A field house was erected in 1994 by a group of town residents spearheaded by Marty Mulholand, Jack Muller and Michael Gers. Concerned parents wanted to update the existing facilities and when the town approved the funds for the material, the labor was donated by a large group of volunteers. The building was dedicated in memory of Joan D'Alessandro, a seven year old Hillsdale Girl Scout who was kidnapped and murdered by another resident in 1978.

Fieldhouse at Veteran's Memorial Field

In 1971 a "mini-park" was created on the corner of Sycamore and Glendale Avenues, known as Glendale Park. A small park on Maple Avenue was refurbished in 1998.

Beechwood Park, situated along Hillsdale Avenue between Holdrum Street and Everdell Avenue, was acquired by the town in 1939. The area laid mostly untouched until 1955 when Ernest Kaye, Scoutmaster of Troop 81, made an appeal to the mayor and council to make the woodland into a public park for use by the Boy Scouts for overnight trips and for outings by town residents.
A "mini-park" was built in 1972 at the northeast corner of Beechwood Park, by the corner of Hillsdale and Everdell Avenues. This park was renovated by the Hillsdale Playground Committee in 1995 through the efforts of many town residents and a generous donation made in the memory of Rose Nelson Gross.

Once permission was given, Mr. Kaye also arranged for water, electricity and toilet facilities on the property at no cost to the borough.

In 1961, Mr. Kaye also suggested that the park be used as a center for performing arts. When permission again was granted, Mr. Kaye, an industrial designer, designed the music shell. Materials were donated and work began on the shell in May, 1961, with the masonry work being donated by Julius Carpene, Joseph Carpene and John Olley. The first performance at the music shell occurred in July of 1961 and the Beechwood Park Concert Series which takes place every July, still exists today. The music shell received a face-lift in 1998 in honor of the Centennial.

In 1963, an ordinance was passed dedicating the lands as a public park to be known as Beechwood Park.
The Hillsdale Playground Assoc.

The Hillsdale Playground Association, a group of residents who joined together to raise funds to rejuvenate the playground at Beechwood Park, assembled in 1993. Fund raising efforts ranged from softball games with radio personalities at MIX 105 to lunch with Santa, a pancake breakfast in the park, Demarest Farm Halloween hayride and the sale of T-shirts with the Association's logo. Many residents, non-residents and businesses made donations. A generous donation from the family of Rose Nelson Gross helped the Association realize its goals and the playground, named the Gross Family Playground, was constructed in May of 1995 at Beechwood Park. Over thirty town residents donated their time and talents in the construction of the playground. During this effort to provide new and safe playground equipment for the children and return Beechwood Park to a focal point of the town, over 100 families participated in this effort to provide new playground equipment for Beechwood Park.

Today and into the future, the children of Hillsdale have a wonderful place in Beechwood Park to enjoy the outdoors, their neighbors and the fun of a playground.
Hillsdale Gems

Julia Bellavita

Mrs. Bellavita, a resident of Hillsdale for over 65 years, moved to this town when she was three years old. While suffering from rheumatic fever, her family was told to take her to the country, that she would recover better there. So that is what the family did, leaving West New York and moving to the country - Hillsdale, New Jersey.

The family, whose name was Betti, moved to the Manor section of Hillsdale in 1933 and Julia's parents bought a road house restaurant. Mrs. Bellavita's mother, as noted by her daughter, "could make a souffle out of a blade of grass" and the restaurant prospered. A full eight-course meal cost $2.50. Her mother acted as cook and her father was waiter, bartender and butcher. Word got around about the restaurant and it drew many wealthy people from River Vale and the surrounding area.

The Manor area of Hillsdale at that time was considered the poor section of town. There was only one store in the Manor, a grocery store (Elecrolux store today), and the Manor Train Station was where West Coast Video is today.

After returning to Hillsdale from college, Mrs. Bellavita helped out at the restaurant, moving it beyond the Mom and Pop stage. She encouraged them to add a piano bar to the restaurant. When she got married, her husband became involved in the family business. Finally, her son took over the restaurant, called The Villa Caesare. Mrs. Bellavita just recently sold the land that the family had bought up over the years and it is now being developed.

Mrs. Bellavita remembers as a child all the chestnut trees in the area until there was a blight. She also remembers picking wild roses, snap dragons and violets in the woods by her home. She and her friends played and swam in the brooks. She walked to school through the woods since there were no paved roads past Clinton Avenue. Many of the school children that she played with during her childhood still reside in town.

Mrs. Bellavita loves Hillsdale, noting that there is "something in the air" about Hillsdale. Although she went to school out of town, including boarding school, finishing school and finally college at NYU, she still feels home is Hillsdale. "It feels like a pot of gold was buried here. Hillsdale has a magic of its own."

George and Beatrice Jepson

The Jepson's family tree has many deep roots in Hillsdale. George was born in Hackensack and moved to Hillsdale at age three months and has lived in here almost his entire life, still residing in the house where he grew up. His wife, Beatrice, has lived here since 1928.

George's grandfather brought his family to Hillsdale in 1880 after his adventures with the railroads in South America. He worked as an engineer and eventually settled in Hillsdale. which was then "Railroad Central." George's father was born in Hillsdale and grew up in the house next to George's present home built in 1909.

Both George and Bea developed a fascination with classic cars and belong to the Classic Car Club of America. George was the National President of the Club from 1960 to 1961 and served as its chairman for almost 25 years. Recently, Beatrice was honored by this organization by being named the first recipient of the Classic Spirit Award for her dedicated service to the CCCA for over 45 years. The couple has owned many priceless classics over the years, many extremely rare.

George remembers as a child playing on the trains in the lots across the street from his home. He also used to play in his fenced-in yard, now the present Amoco gas station. George's father and William Moulton started that gas station,
then called the Hillsdale Service Station, in 1930. George recalls that he worked there one day a week when he was younger and eventually became partner with William Moulton until he bought him. The price for gas when George first owned the station was 14.5 cents a gallon. At one time, during the depression, around 1935, prices fell to 7.5 cents a gallon.

The greatest change in town that the Jepsons noted was the vast development of land over the years, most notably the Tandy and Allen development on Clendenny’s farmland. The Jepsons remember Hillsdale as being very rural and paint a much different picture of Hillsdale in the days of their youth than that of today’s youth. George helps to keep the past alive through his vivid recollections of the past and his numerous slides and photos of days gone by, many of which are featured in this journal.

Having met in Hillsdale and lived in Hillsdale for most of their lives, George says it best with just a few brief words, “Hillsdale is our home.”

George and Elisabeth Demarest

It is a rare and wonderful thing when you can trace your family history back a few generations, but for George and Elisabeth Demarest, their lineage can be traced back to the members who crossed the Atlantic to America from France in 1663. George Washington Demarest, eight generations later, bought the land in Hillsdale in 1886 on which the Demarest’s farm still sits. George’s son, Lincoln, took over the farm from his father and passed it on to his son, the George Demarest we all know today. The farm was worked by horses until Lincoln purchased the family’s first tractor in 1936. One of the benefits of using the horses, however, was unearthed arrow heads left by the Indians years before.

Elisabeth Demarest, who grew up in Czechoslovakia and came to America in 1954, started the retail fruit and vegetable stand full time in 1960 in the garage in front of their 211-year-old home. Up until that point, the farm had been doing mostly wholesale business, selling to markets in Paterson and elsewhere. The Demarest Farm stand became such a success under Elisabeth’s management, that with help from their son, Peter and his wife, Marsha, in 1991, they expanded into the new, larger store across the street.

George Demarest was born in the house where he now resides, the same one his father was born in 1894. Growing up in Hillsdale, George remembers taking a taxi to the George G. White School. He recalls that they had an outhouse until he was in grammar school. Everyone knew everyone then and hitching a ride from a neighbor was not unusual. George remembers hunting where the Garden State Parkway and Anne Blanche Smith School are now located. It was an especially good area for hunting pheasant. He recalls his father telling tales of cars trying to come up the hill on Hillsdale Avenue. They had to go backwards because gravity forced the fuel away from the engine and they did not have enough power to go forward. Social events took place with the whole family’s involvement. There were no babysitters. The children went everywhere with their parents. Family and church were the biggest source of social activity.

One of the biggest changes that has occurred in Hillsdale during George’s lifetime was the addition of the Garden State Parkway. While it was in the planning stages, the state toyed with the idea of having the highway run much closer to the Demarest’s homestead. Luckily, the plans changed and it was set back from the farm.

Being famous for their luscious peaches, the Demarests have helped to put Hillsdale on the map. George and Elisabeth still own 80% of the original farm purchased by George’s grandfather over 110 years ago. Living in Hillsdale, married to his talented wife and working the farm all his life, George has had a full and happy life, noting, “Life was very simple, but very rewarding.”
Hillsdale Gems (continued)

J. Stanley Nants

In 1947 when J. Stanley Nants and his bride of six years, Carolyn, moved into Hillsdale, they had virtually no idea that almost 40 years later Stanley would become the town’s historian. But that is exactly what happened. Together, the Nants’ raised three children while Stanley commuted into New York each morning to his job at Abbott Merkt and Company where he worked as an architect. Being educated at Harvard and Princeton and serving in the Navy during World War II as a junior architect in the Yards and Docks Camouflage Unit all set the stage for Stanley’s career in architecture.

When he retired in 1980, Stanley turned his sights on the town in which he had lived most of his adult life and helped out where he could.

His love of history may have rubbed off on him from his wife’s side of the family. Carolyn’s father and grandfather were both professors of history. Stanley has been an active member of the Bergen County’s Historic Sites and Advisory Board for the past 26 years, as well as a past president and trustee of the Pascack Historical Society.

Mr. Nants notes that the greatest change he has seen in Hillsdale over the past half a century has been the development of land, especially where Clendenny’s farm once stood (the Tandy and Allen development). As for the greatest moment in Hillsdale’s history, Stanley believes it was “the day Mr. Patterson decided to move here.”

Emily Schill

Emily Schill remembers the exact day she moved to Hillsdale from Maywood with her husband, Charles. It was on February 20, 1941, and her first born son, Charles Alexander, was born exactly two weeks later. Together his family, which later increased to four with the arrival of their daughter Susan, nine years later, lived and grew up in Hillsdale. The Schills both gave of themselves over the years. Charles, is one of only four men to have served on the Hillsdale Fire Department for 50 years. Emily was also very involved in volunteering for the town. Even before she had a daughter of her own, Mrs. Schill participated in the Girl Scouts, leading Troop 18 in 1941. She was also a member of the Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Corps for over 15 years. Although she was schooled in first aid, Mrs. Schill never rode on the ambulance because when the corps started, women were not allowed to drive or go on calls. Her husband, Charles, also on the Ambulance Corps, was the first person in Hillsdale to deliver a baby on a call.

Mrs. Schill noted that when she and her husband first moved into Hillsdale, there were only about 3,000 people in the whole town. She recalls a time when you went downtown and were sure to bump into someone you knew. Being in Hillsdale was like being in the country.

Mrs. Schill remembers when Hillsdale Road from Kinderkamack east was only a dirt road. The biggest changes in the town over the years has been the population explosion and the massive increases in the number of houses that have been put up over the years.

Now, her son lives in California and her daughter still lives in Hillsdale, Mrs. Schill wants to stay where she has spent the majority of her adult life in the town where she and her husband not only raised their children, but also volunteered their time and effort to make Hillsdale better for all of us who live here today. “Hillsdale is where I belong.”

Emily A. Schill
Just a Memory Now

At the turn of the century, recreation was a bit different from today. Children went swimming in the Musquapsink or Pascack brooks in the summer. They rode in horse-drawn buggies that had tops which could be raised or lowered.

In the winter, they went sledding or skiing down Campbell's Hill (Piemont Avenue near Kinderkamack Road). Skating on the many local ponds was also a winter pastime.

Dances were held at the Fireman's Hall, which was the center of the town's social life. The Churches were the other source of socials in town. The Methodist Church would hold a Harvest Home Dinner every fall. A strawberry festival was a yearly event at Demarest Farm.

The favorite watering hole of the times (from 1850 - 1920) was the hotel and restaurant called the Hillsdale House which was owned by Reeves Werkheiser and his wife.

When movies came on the scene, they were held at the firehouse. This is also where town meetings and parties were held. Every Christmas, the town had a party at the firehouse and every child received a gift.

During the 1920s, exhibition games featuring the Yankees and other Major League teams were played on the ball fields on Washington Avenue (now called Memorial Field). The 1930s saw a short-lived racetrack on the land where Holiday Farms now stands.

A popular eatery during the 1920s through the 1940s when it burnt to the ground was Koenig's Hofbrau. This German restaurant featured Swing bands every Saturday and Bavarian bands every Sunday.

Another recreation hot-spot of days gone by was the Overlook Country Club. Located on the original homestead of Garret Demarest (where Westwood Avenue, Westwood, meets Demarest Avenue, Hillsdale), the club was established in 1915 by Theodore I. Hautner. The site included land that had been a grist mill, owned first by Garret Demarest and later by Robert Yates. When the club was established, the mill dam was restored, creating a lake ideal for canoeing, swimming and other water sports. There was also a baseball field and running track on the property. Although plans for an elaborate clubhouse had been made, this never came to be. The renovated Demarest farmhouse served as the clubhouse, which included a large ballroom where a huge Victory Bond drive took place in 1919 with a 100 piece band playing for the occasion. Canoe races, baseball games, bowling tournaments and winter hockey games were only part of the varied social and recreational events that the club supported. The club was the hot spot of the Pascack Valley during the frolics of the "Roaring Twenties". As times changed and the Depression affected the area, the club died out. By 1931, the good times were just a memory. A fire broke out at the Overbrook Country Club on the night of August 7, 1931, finishing off what the Depression had started.

In the 1940s Hillsdale had its own hockey team called the Hillsdale Wolves. Little is known of this team. In 1965, the Hillsdale Fire Department decided to look into starting a Drum and Bugle Corps. After doing their homework, they presented the idea to the town’s boys and their parents. The interest was overwhelming and the Valley Grenadiers Junior Drum and Bugle Corps was born.

In 1968, girls joined as members of the Color Guard. The Corps talent and popularity continued to increase over the years to the point of local, state and national competitions before its demise in the late 1970s.
Just a Memory Now (continued)


Broadway and Washington Avenues. Then...and today.
The Chess Club

In 1969, Jack Mol organized the Chess Club. The purpose of the club was to teach young people how to play the game of chess and then improve their abilities by playing matches against club members.

Meetings were first held at the George G. White School and membership included 40 teenagers and 8 adults. Over the years, the Borough Hall and the Anne Blanche Smith School served as the club's meeting place until it finally moved to its present home in the Montvale Library.

Today, the club, renamed the Hillsdale-Montvale Chess Club, is a member of the US Chess Federation and is associated with the World Chess Federation.

The club currently has 40 members, mostly adults and meets at the Montvale Library on Wednesdays evenings. Matches are held between club members and occasionally, the club participates in tournaments with other local clubs.

Fifty-Plus Club

In 1965, Joseph Talamo, then Hillsdale's Recreation secretary met with George Jardine and a group of like-minded citizens of Hillsdale to discuss forming a senior citizen's club for residents age fifty and older. The non-political, non-sectarian club was formed for the purpose of good fellowship and dedicated to providing programs in accordance with the interests and desires of its members. The Fifty Plus Club recently celebrated its 32nd anniversary with 156 members in good standing.

Over the years, the club has met at various town locations. Its current home is the United Methodist Church on Magnolia Avenue, where meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 11:30 A.M. After the coffee hour, the meeting is devoted to announcements, guest speakers, discussions of topics of interest, proposed trips and/or question and answer periods relating to current events affecting seniors.

The club's very active Telephone Committee keeps the membership and other borough seniors alerted to information regarding local, state and federal issues.

Among the club's many activities are the annual Anniversary Luncheon held in May, the Holiday Luncheon in December and a trip to Atlantic City. Day trips, week long trips, theater luncheon programs, pizza parties and other special events and activities round out the club's busy schedule.

Over the years, club members have been involved in many community outreach programs, including driving for the Meals on Wheels program, providing transportation for home bound seniors, serving on various town committees and marching in the borough's Memorial Day Parade.

The club welcomes all Hillsdale seniors to join the Fifty-Plus Club.

Hillsdale Girl Scouts

Girl Scouting in Hillsdale, a part of WAGGGS, (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) began in 1924. During the 1996-1997 scouting year, there were 29 Girl Scout troops in town, with over 300 members from kindergarten through 12th grade. Seventy-five adult volunteers participate in the program. Since 1984, 13 Senior Girl Scouts have earned the Gold Award, Girl Scouting's highest award and 31 girls who have achieved the Silver Award at Cadet level.

About fifteen years ago, the Hillsdale Girl Scout tradition of the Annual Hillsdale Holiday Lighting Ceremony began, in conjunction with the town's Chamber of Commerce and Department of Public Works. This event is held shortly after Thanksgiving and provides an opportunity for the community to gather together to mark the beginning of the winter holiday season and promote goodwill in the borough.

Throughout the year the scouts participate in many community service projects, among them the town-wide annual “rake-a-thon” which aides seniors and the disabled with fall raking and a town-wide sweetheart dance for fathers and daughters. The troops also participate in programs with Spectrum for Living and visit with senior citizens as well as cooking for homeless, using the facilities at local churches.

In 1987, the Hillsdale Girl Scouts made a time capsule to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Girl Scouts USA. In May of last year, the capsule was opened, marking the organization's 85th Anniversary. At that time, after reviewing its contents from the decade before, additional momentos were added. The capsule, which is now at the Borough Hall, will be will be opened again in 2012, in honor of Girl Scouting's 100th Anniversary.

Girl Scouting in Hillsdale continues to flourish, emphasizing moral development and community service.
Boys Scouts of America - Hillsdale Units

Boy Scouting in Hillsdale began in 1916 with the organization of Troop #1 under the sponsorship of the Holy Trinity Church. Scouting flourished in the town with different troops also being organized over the years.

Today, Hillsdale has three Boy Scout Troops and three Cub Scout Packs: Pack 81 and Troop 108 sponsored by Hillsdale United Methodist Church (HUMC); Pack 91 and Troop 91 sponsored by St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church; Pack 331 sponsored by General Leonard Wood Post 162, American Legion; Troop 109 sponsored by Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

Over the years, some reorganizations have occurred. There is no longer an Explorer Post in Hillsdale, Pack 108, sponsored by the parents association at Meadowbrook School, disbanded and combined with Pack 81. Troop 81 sponsored by HUMC disbanded and combined with Troop 91. Troop 109 was formed. Troop 108 changed sponsorship from the Hillsdale Fire Department to HUMC. Pack 331 changed sponsorship from the parents association at Ann Blanche Smith School to The American Legion.

Hillsdale has produced 75 Eagle Scouts: 45 in Troop 108, 21 in Troop 91, 7 in Troop 109 and 2 in Troop 81. Two of these Eagles have gone on to earn their Bronze Palm; Troop 91's Steven Leonard and Scott Bleier.


Scouting is a volunteer led organization and there would be no Eagle Scouts without the leadership, guidance, and advice of many dedicated leaders along with the parents of those Eagle Scouts. There are four Hillsdale Scouters who have received the Silver Beaver Award, a Boy Scout Council's highest award to a volunteer for dedicated service to scouting and community. They are Marion West Higgins, Paul F. Bleier, Richard A. Curran and Kathleen Mundt.

All of the units meet regularly and are very active hiking camping and learning the outdoor skills as well as learning good citizenship while performing community and church service projects.
American Legion Post #162
The General Leonard Wood American Legion Post #162, originally organized in 1920 by veterans of World War I under the leadership of Charles K. H. Riley, has grown through the years to include veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Membership in this service organization stands close 100 members at the present time. In 1927, Post #162 changed its chartered name in honor of General Leonard Wood. The Woman's Auxiliary was also formed during that year, but eventually dissolved during the 1970's.

The organization’s main objectives are to aid veterans and the remember those Americans who gave their lives fighting for freedom. The popular yearly poppy sale, which takes place over Memorial Day weekend, provides funds for the organization's work both locally and nationally. Memorial Day services are also a large part of the group's mission.

The Post holds monthly evening meetings on the first Wednesday of the month. It is with much pride the General Leonard Wood Post #162 continues to serve the community, state and nation.

Lest We Forget - In Memorial:

Veteran's Memorial in Memorial Park

Charlie Westfeld (left) and Bill Defenbuck (right) standing beside wooden Honor Roll in May, 1942. The Honor Roll now resides inside the American Legion Hut.
The Our Town Committee

Created by an ordinance on April 10, 1975, Hillsdale’s Our Town Committee provides new residents of Hillsdale non-commercial, non-partisan, and non-political information about the borough’s government, agencies, facilities and services, as well as town events and programs.

In 1986, the ordinance was amended to expand the committee’s scope to include information on programs and events in adjoining communities and elsewhere within Bergen County.

Residents new to the borough receive a welcome packet containing information on, among other topics of interest, the borough’s recycling program, volunteer ambulance service, Board of Health, and a listing of borough officials and how to contact them. Also provided are official borough bulletins.

Over the years, the Our Town Committee has assisted new residents in making a smooth transition into the Hillsdale community and will continue with these efforts to ensure that future residents feel at home in Hillsdale.

Pascack Junior Woman’s Club

In 1930, five young unmarried women met to form the Pascack Junior Woman’s Club, a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs. The club membership, which included women from Park Ridge, Montvale, Hillsdale and Woodcliff Lake, started out with no age restrictions and grew quickly to 75 members by 1934. In 1938, the club changed its bylaws restricting members to be between 18 and 35 years of age and membership dropped to 25.

During the 1930’s, the Juniors busied themselves helping the needy. During the 1940’s, interests revolved around the war effort and Juniors served as USO hostesses and Jr. Red Cross Volunteers. The Juniors also served as airplane spotters and air raid wardens during the cold war years.

Through the years, the Pascack Juniors have served their communities, which have expanded in recent years to cover Washington Township, River Vale and Old Tappan. The Juniors recently raised their age limit to 40 years of age. The Juniors hold fund-raisers throughout the year to raise money for local high school scholarships, ambulance corps, libraries, D.A.R.E. programs and many other local and national charities.

The Pascack Juniors are also involved with community improvement projects and social events for members and their families. Today’s Juniors have the same goals and principles as the five women who started the club 68 years ago and plan on continuing with their mission into the future.

Hillsdale Democratic Organization

The Hillsdale Democratic Organization has been active in the town for many years. Members have served as mayors, council members, and as members of the various borough boards. Hillsdale Democrats have also served in the State Legislature as well as the Superior Court System.

The organization sponsors dances, bus rides, theater parties, picnics, food drives and more within the town, contributing to the ambiance that helps to make Hillsdale the lovely town it is today.

Postcard of Democratic candidates for Election Day on November 2, 1937.
The Hillsdale Republican Organization

The Hillsdale Republican Organization, formerly known as the Hillsdale Republican Club, was organized in 1928 with the goal of uniting politically and socially all Republicans of the borough. Members of the Hillsdale Republican Organization serve to promote the principles of Republicans and to develop candidates for mayor and council in Hillsdale.

Each year, the Hillsdale Republican Organization presents the "Marion West Higgins Republican of the Year" Award to a person who has given of himself on behalf of the town. Ms. Higgins, for whom this award was named, was a State Assembly-person and the only woman to date to serve the State as the Majority Leader.

The Hillsdale Republican Organization has been an important political group in Hillsdale for many years and plans on continuing with its traditions and goals into Hillsdale's future.

The Hillsdale Woman's Club

The Hillsdale Woman's Club was founded in 1952. It is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide community service, as well as fellowship among women. The club has sponsored senior citizens luncheons, luncheons with Santa for local children and provided scholarship awards to Pascack Valley High School students.

The needs and lifestyles of the club membership have changed over the years. Most current members now have careers as well as family and community obligations.

The club's monthly meetings feature guest speakers, sports activities, craft projects or cultural events. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month from October through May and new members are always welcome.

Sun Dial Club

Actively engaged in promoting gardening since its foundation in 1929, the Sun Dial Garden Club's members are dedicated to the principles stated in the club's constitution, among them, "the active advancement of gardening," "environmental science" and the "conservation of the birds and wild flowers."

The proceeds from the annual plant sale at the Hillsdale Railroad Station on the Saturday before Mother's Day, fund the club's many projects. These funds have been utilized to plant bulbs and trees at local schools, the library, Borough Hall and the railroad station. With the club's membership expanding to include residents of other Pascack Valley towns, similar projects have been completed in neighboring areas as well.
The club has supported restoration work at the library and the railroad station and purchased a bulletin board for the Borough Hall, complete with planter boxes which are filled every year. The club raises and pots small plants to be distributed through the Meals on Wheels program.

To help educate the public, the club has donated books and video tapes on gardening and floral design to the library. In addition, since 1980, the Sun Dial Club has offered a scholarship to a graduating high school senior as a way of encouraging students to pursue an education which reflects the club's principles.

Tours of member's gardens have proved popular. Each year, the club joins with other clubs in the Garden Club of New Jersey, to decorate the Manor House at Skylands, the State's Botanical Garden, for its annual series of tours held the weekend after Thanksgiving.

The monthly meetings of the Sun Dial Club are held the first Monday evening of the month at Meadowbrook School and are always open to the public. Speakers ranging from professionals to talented amateurs offer information on a variety of topics which help to make gardening easier and more fruitful.

Valley Sportsman Association

The Valley Sportsman Association of Hillsdale was formed in the early 1970s as a social club for hunters and fishermen to share their experience in field, woods and stream. With current membership at 50, members enjoy pheasant, turkey and deer hunting with bow and arrow, shotgun and muzzleloaders in addition to various types of fishing. In 1993, club members wanted to do something in town for the children to develop their interest in trout fishing and the Annual Trout Fishing Contest, which takes place on the opening day of the fishing season in April, was born. Prize trout are purchased by the club through the generous support of local businesses and residents and stocked into the Passaic Brook the day before the contest. Trophies and awards are presented for the biggest fish in five different age categories.

The club meets monthly and has plans to continue with their trout contest well into Hillsdale's next 100 years.

Chamber of Commerce

The Hillsdale Chamber of Commerce was created on November 15, 1966, following a name change from the Hillsdale Business Association, founded on July 3, 1933. These organizations preceded the "Board of Trade".

No matter what the name, the mission of the organization remains constant: To beautify the main shopping area and help the town remain a suitable place in which to live. The present members and officers are diligently preparing Hillsdale for the new century. The officers meet monthly to plan action meetings for the monthly general membership meetings. Their greatest efforts are to increase the public's awareness of the benefits of shopping in Hillsdale.

While encouraging business owners to build long lasting relationships with the townspeople, the Chamber continues to promote the advantage of convenient local shops.
The Hillsdale Baseball Association was formed in May of 1953. Baseball, however, has long since been a part of Hillsdale's history under the guidance of the Hillsdale Athletic Club. Girls got on the field in 1973 when a Girls' Softball League was added to the Hillsdale Baseball Association.

In 1998, the organization counted over 600 registered participants in the program. The recreational season, which begins every March and lasts until June, offers the opportunity for the youth of this town to play baseball and softball in a structured learning environment. The boys league consists of four levels; Lower Minors (second grade), Upper Minors (grades three and four), Majors (grades five and six) and the Knickerbockers (grade seven and eight). The girls league consists of three levels; Pee Wee (grades two and three), Minors (grades four, five, and six) and Majors (grades seven, eight and nine). Additionally, the Association offers a kindergarten T-ball and first grade Coaches' Pitch League. On the other end of the spectrum, some children participate in various Bergen County all-star programs which run from late June through July.

The goal of the recreation program is to teach teamwork and improve the skill level of all the players. The Association offers a fun environment for children to play with their friends and learn the game. For the future, the Association looks forward to working with the town Recreation Department to improve the facilities. Recently, a grass infield was installed at the Little League field. Fencing has been upgraded at most of the fields. Plan to improve upon what was started are also in the works. Installing a new batting cage, as well as lights at Memorial Field are at the top of the agenda.

The Hillsdale Baseball and Softball Association is run by volunteers with children in the program. The Association meets every third Thursday of the month at the Board of Health office located in the Borough Hall.

As always, the Association wishes to thank their sponsors and all the parents that have helped the organization in the past, present and future.
Hillsdale Football Association

The Hillsdale Football Association (HFA) was founded in 1979 largely through the efforts of Bill Gallucci, Russ Blake and Dick Wolf. The goal of the HFA was to develop well-rounded football players, able to compete on the high school level.

The first registration in 1979 yielded only 35 players, just enough to cover the junior and senior divisions. Cheerleading was added a few years later.

The program has now expanded to over 100 boys in the contact football program and over 60 boys in the flag football group. Currently, there are 100 girls enrolled in our cheerleading program.

Hillsdale Soccer Association

The Hillsdale Soccer Association (HSA) celebrates its 16th anniversary in 1998. The club was formed through the collaborative efforts of Peter Biro, Phil Buccellato and Dan Sailer after its beginnings as a town-sponsored recreation program under Hillsdale Recreation Director Ed Baumback.

While it continued as the recreation soccer program, the association began forming traveling teams, starting with three boy’s teams. In 1983, Hillsdale was one of the first towns to join the Progresso Traveling League, which later became the Minolta League. Phil Buccellato served as the president of the league and Dan Sailer was secretary. When Minolta announced it could no longer sponsor the organization, officers of the HSA were instrumental in getting Lipton to take over sponsorship, a relationship that continues today.

The HSA’s traveling arm is now called the Pascack United Soccer Club. The club hopes to add players from other area towns in an effort to permit closer age and skill groupings of players, thereby increasing the number of teams and level of play. The goal is to provide the best training possible in anticipation of high school and college play.

Almost one third of all the grade K-8 Hillsdale children currently play in the HSA recreational soccer program. Professional trainers, sponsored teams, trained coaches and a recent reorganization have contributed to the surge in enrollment.

The HSA is one of the five founding towns of the youth Pascack Valley Indoor Soccer League (PVISL), an organization which has grown from six participating towns to 26.

With a history of boys and girls teams at all levels holding Lipton and PVISL championships, the HSA has an enviable reputation for excellence. One graduate of Hillsdale’s soccer program is Jesse Van Saun, presently playing with Major League Soccer’s New England Revolution team.
Centennial Events

The Centennial Store on its opening day in 1997.

Centennial Kick-off picnic complete with birthday cake.

Centennial Committee members enjoying the sun and fun at the picnic.

Hot dog anyone?

There are always smiles with clowns and balloons around.

Kids will be kids.
Centennial Events (continued)

After searching for gold during the Klondyke Gold Rush in Beechwood Park, these youngsters traded in the nuggets for treasures of the chocolate kind.

Girl Scout troop #288 members “dressed for the times” at the Expo.


One example of the many projects made by the town’s school children for the Expo.

“Little Miss Hillsdale” Aubrey, with her Mom, Joanie Postolakis, all dressed up for the celebrations.
Centennial Events (continued)

Meadowbrook students and parents singing happy birthday to Hillsdale.

This five foot tall birthday cake for Hillsdale was made by the woodshop class at George G. White School, under the direction of Fred Hartman. The cake resided near the police booth in the center of town for the remainder of the centennial year.

Can you guess how many gummy bears are in the jar?

Meadowbrook Moms and Ducktor the Clown painted many faces at the Birthday Bash.
**Centennial Events (continued)**

The environmentally conscious students at Ann Blanche Smith School joined in for the Centennial Earth Day Clean-up in June.

Mrs. Karen Santos' fifth grade class from White School planting a Centennial Garden by the Train Station.

Several Members of the Quilt Committee posing behind their work in progress. The Centennial Quilt will eventually reside at the Borough Hall.
Centennial Events (continued)

One of Hillsdale's central figures, the police booth, gets a face lift for Hillsdale's 100th Birthday. Rick Winkler, Stewart Blank and John Hering at work providing a fresh coat of paint.

The winner of the Borough Flag contest, Gerard Bourcier, and his family presenting the new borough flag to Mayor Timothy O'Reilly while Bev Rosenstein, the event's chair and Marie Hanlon, Council President and Centennial Co-Chair, look on.

Out for a fun day on the course at the Hillsdale Centennial Golf Outing.

Although no one won the Volvo for the "Hole in One" contest, all involved had a magnificent and sunny day at the golf course...

...and swinging night at the Park Ridge Marriott where the Awards Dinner was held. Just ask Mrs. Jepson!

The food was fabulous at the Senior's Centennial Luncheon held at St. John's by the Fifty Plus Club....
Centennial Events (continued)

as was the company...

...and the dancing.

The 60's Splash and Dance Party at Storybrook provided August fun with a taste of the 60's for all who attended, including everyone on line here for the free popcorn.

How many hula hoops can you keep going at once?

Live music provided by "The Gem's" entertained the large crowd

The Meadowbrook FFA provided plenty of good food for all.
Centennial Events (continued)

One of the quilts featured in the "Harvesting of the Quilts" show. September 5-12, 1998.

Quilts of all shapes and sizes, old and new, where hung in Demarest Farms for the quilt show.

Dedication Ceremony for the Centennial Tree in Memorial Park, September 12, 1998.

Plaque for Centennial American Elm Tree.


Corinne Weir, a young picnic-goer who took advantage of the free face painting, with her mom, Kara, at the picnic.

These boys appear to enjoy hanging out with Macaroni the Clown at the picnic.
The Hillsdale Centennial Quilt, which took approximately two years to complete from design to the final stitch, is pieced on a white background edged in green. The center of the quilt features the outline of Hillsdale's boundaries, with main thoroughfares, waterways and the railroad highlighted. Also in the center is a copy of "Chapter 108", the charter describing the town's borders in 1898. Each block, representing key Hillsdale landmarks past and present, was crafted by a different individual from Hillsdale. A legend of who designed each square is located on the bottom left hand corner of the quilt. The Centennial Quilt Committee, chaired by Mary Griffiths, dedicated countless hours of talented craftsmanship to complete the quilt. The quilt will take up residence in the Borough Hall Council Chambers for the enjoyment of all who view it. The Centennial Quilt is a masterpiece which will help to preserve memories of Hillsdale for years to come.
Centennial Events Calendar

Centennial Kick-Off Picnic - Saturday, September 6, 1997
Beechwood Park
Jayne Buchwald, Chairwoman

River Dance - October 4, 1997
Peggy Garbarini and Rich Curran - Chairpersons

Klondyke Gold Rush in Beechwood Park - January 11, 1998
Cub Pack 331 and Ginna Sapanara

Hillsdale’s Exposition of the 1890’s - January 22, 1998
George White School
Ginna Sapanara, Chairwoman

Meadowbrook Parade to Beechwood Park - March 25, 1998
Meadowbrook School

Hillsdale’s Birthday Bash - March 25, 1998
Pascack Valley High School
Ginna Sapanara & Jenny Frantin, Chairwomen
Sponsored by PVHS

Valley Sportsman’s Association Fishing Contest - April 11, 1998
Valley Sportsman’s Association

Smith School PTA Earth Day Centennial Clean-up - April 30, 1998
Jonathan Frantin, Chair(little)man

Centennial Town-wide Garage Sale - May 15, 1998
Marge Murphy & Kathleen Carty, Chairwomen

Antiques in the Park - June 14, 1998
Memorial Park
Ginna Sapanara, Chairwoman
Sponsored by P.J. Promotions

Centennial Golf Outing - June 19, 1998
Emerson Country Club & Park Ridge Marriott
Vic Lotito & Jenny Frantin, Chairpersons

Senior’s Centennial Luncheon - June 25, 1998
St. John’s Church
Sponsored by the Fifty Plus Club

60’s Dance and Splash Party
Stonybrook Swim Club
Sponsored by the Meadowbrook FFA

“Harvesting of the Quilts” Centennial Quilt Show - September 5-12, 1998
Demarest Farms
Theresa Walsh, Chairwoman

Centennial Picnic and Fireworks - September 12, 1998
Beechwood Park
Jayne Buchwald, Chairwoman

Centennial Pet Parade - October 4, 1998
Ginna Sapanara, Chairwoman

“Ragtime” trip - October 11, 1998
Recreation Commission

Time Capsule Ceremony and Stamp Cancellation - November 14, 1998
Borough Hall and Police Kiosk
Rich Curran & Gerry Beatty, Chairpersons

Centennial Ball - November 14, 1998
Park Ridge Marriott
JoAnne Gagliano, Chairwoman

ONGOING EVENTS AND COMMITTEES

The Centennial Store
Peggy Garbarini, Chairwoman

Centennial Monthly Movie Night
Pascack Bible Church
Gerry Beatty, Chairwoman

The Centennial Newsletter
Jenny Frantin & Ginna Sapanara, Chairwomen

The Centennial Quilt
Mary Griffiths, Chairwoman

Borough Flag Contest
Beverly Rosenstein, Chairwoman
Gerard Bourcier,Winner

Cablevision Team
Kitty Longo & Jenny Frantin, Chairwomen

Hillsdale USA Pen-Pal Program
Jenny Frantin, Chairwoman

“Hillsdale By George” Video
George Jepson, Andrew Brown & Barbara DeCaro
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1948-1998

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LIBRARY BOARD SECRETARY - 7 YEARS

Left us for eternal rest on 12/20/96. We miss you!

Congratulations to a Wonderful Town

Thom and Winnie Misciagna
Happy 100th Birthday, Hillsdale

Tim, Karen, Kristen, Meghan & Timothy O’Reilly

Congratulations Hillsdale on your 100th Birthday!

The Frantin Family
Jim, Jenny, Jon and Timmy
Happy 100th Birthday, Hillsdale

The Sapanara Family
John, Ginna, Tim, James, Daniel & Katy

The Kleister Family
Kurt & Sylvia
Joy, Gary and Jean

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HILLSDALE

THE BEARS OF CUB PACK 91
Happy Birthday Hillsdale

The Tittle Family

Nicole, Gina, Danny Jr., Karen and Dan
CONGRATULATIONS, HILLSDALE!
THE CARTY FAMILY

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, HILLSDALE
LOVE, THE ROSENBAUMS
A Great Centennial Hillsdale
The Deutsch Family

Gillespie Family - 50 Years

HAPPY 100TH
The Beatty Family
HAPPY 100TH, HILLSDALE!
MARIE HANLON, KÜCHIE AND BONNIE BELLA

THE FEUERBACH'S
MARY ANNE, MARK, CARL, CHRISANN, DIANN, & DEBORAH

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY HILLSDALE!
The Schwartz Family

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY HILLSDALE
The Scordato Family
Happy Birthday, The Swateks

Happy Centennial from the Kushners

Neil and Dorothy Peters
Residents since 1952

The Hehirs

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Louise and Robert (Bob) Hewitt
The Hill Family
Ed, Joann, Ryan and Dennis

The Daniel V. Kmiecik Family
Over 150 Collective Years in Hillsdale
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from their great-grandchildren,
Jon and Tim

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Happy 100th from RENDITIONS SALON
HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY
HILLSDALE
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Established 1902

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Secretary - Franklyn Gluckler

Chief - William Blinn
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1st Lt. Steven LaFrance
2nd Lt. Jon Najarian
3rd Lt. John Wittekind

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Thomas F. Benz
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Mark Durst
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William Franklin
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Raymond Harvey
David W. Hughes
E. Gary Hughes
Tracy Jeffery
Anthony Maalouf
Jim Martin
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Kathleen Sheridan
Kenneth G. Smith
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Fred Winkler
John Zarcone

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Walt Higinson

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Treasurer - Robert Sandt

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2nd Lt Max Arnowitz.
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John W. Costello
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James M. Domville
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Thomas Farrell
James R. Fisher
Walter Higinson
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Joseph Tedona
Joseph X. Tobin
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AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

A B C DIGITAL ELECTRONICS, INC.

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201-666-6888, Fax: 201-666-7281

Benjamin K. Cheng, COB       Chi-Hwu Wu, President
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Richard A. Curran, Manager of Customer Relations

ABCDE Designs, Manufactures, Markets and Services a line of Automatic Test Equipment. This is used by manufacturers of electronic equipment to test their printed circuit boards, wiring harnesses and cable assemblies. Our customer list includes U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, United Technologies, NASA, HP, and IBM in many U.S. locations and Canada, Mexico, England, Scotland, Italy, Germany, France & Argentina.

History: ABC Digital Electronics, Inc. moved into Hillsdale in 1977, from Westwood, and rented the top floor at 319 Knickerbocker Ave for 5 years. We purchased the 2 story building at 77 Brookside Place in 1979 and occupied the 1st floor while leasing the 2nd floor to several small businesses till 1984 when that building was sold to Franco Corp. We bought the two story building at 51 Prospect Place from the TEXWIPE Corporation in 1981 and have been the owner/tenant there ever since.
Owner Todd Deming

We at Hillsdale Jewelers are proud to be celebrating our 5th Anniversary this year. We would like to wish the town of Hillsdale and its residents well at this time of celebration.

Happy 100th Birthday, Hillsdale

Hillsdale Jewelers

432 Hillsdale Ave.
Hillsdale, NJ
201-666-1700

"Message from an old friend"

Retired Police Officer Richard Deming and his wife would like to send the people of Hillsdale their best wishes on this 100th Birthday of the town of Hillsdale.
R.J. Breitenbach & Son, Inc...

Happy Birthday Wishes

Proud to be part of the Hillsdale Business community for over 64 years.
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HILLSDALE

ON YOUR 100th ANNIVERSARY

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Broker/Manager

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Remember, Church is the “family” you belong to, not the services you attend.

Pascack Bible Church meets on Sundays at its Sanctuary building at 181 Piermont Avenue at 8:15 and 10:45 am and during the week in neighborhood homes and in neighboring communities and cities in ministries of service. Please call 666-2353 for more information.
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Harry Randall, Jr.
Lisa Randall
Tom Randall
Family owned & operated since 1929, Marsala's was started by Salvador Marsala and his son John. John's daughter Arlene now carries on the Marsala tradition of quality & service as owner, and Sal's great grandson Chris is the store's manager. Marsala Hardware has been solving the hardware problems of residents of Hillsdale & surrounding towns for almost 70 years. We look forward to serving you for another 70 years.

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Hillsdale

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