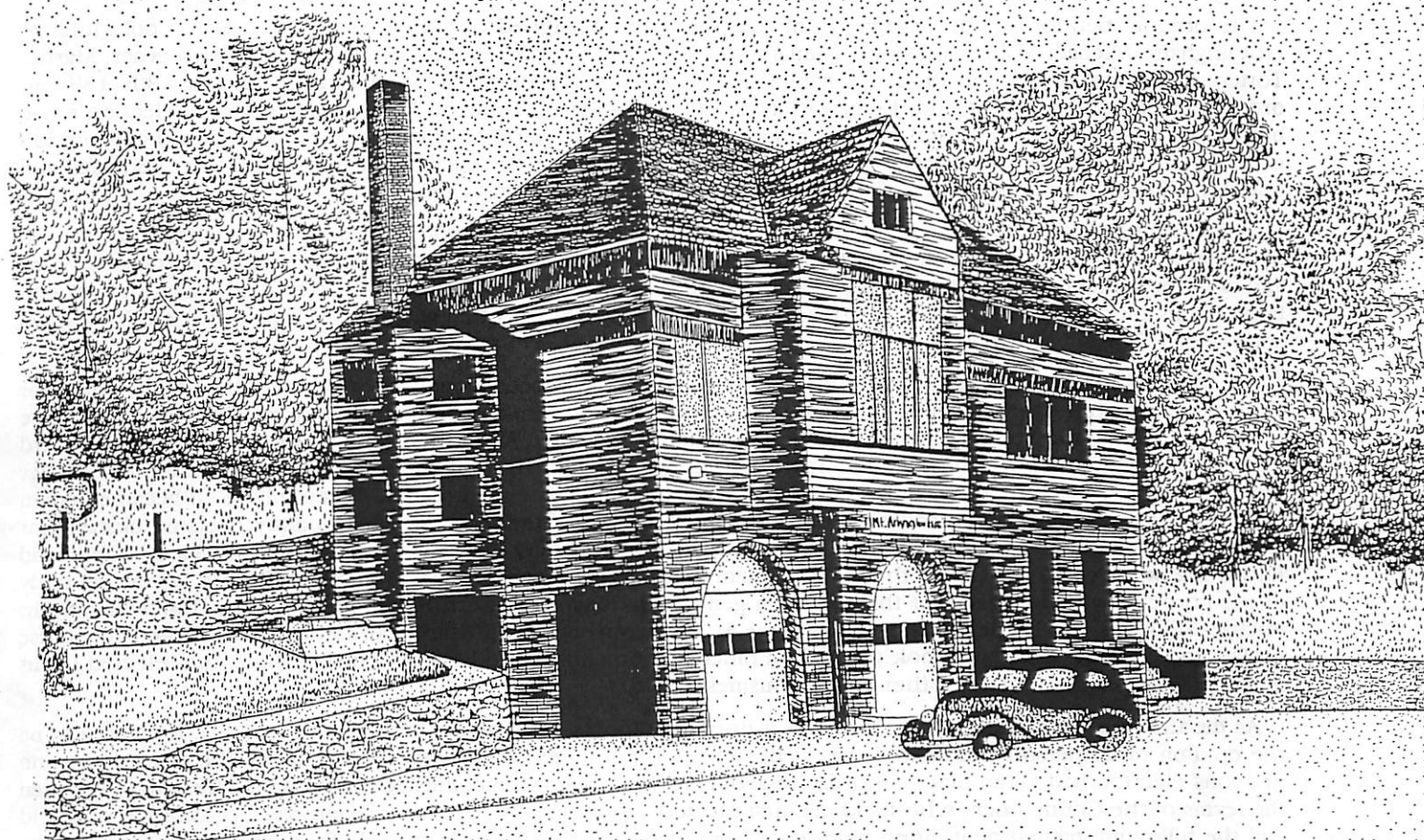


# MOUNT ARLINGTON

## *A Pictorial History*

*The First 100 Years*



MOUNT ARLINGTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Anna Travers  
with preface by Virginia Rooney

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# The Founding of Mount Arlington

*(This transcript comes from the By-Laws and Ordinance Book of Mount Arlington, which was published in 1893, shortly after the Borough was created.)*

**T**he Borough of Mount Arlington was organized and became a municipal corporation on the first day of November, Eighteen Hundred and Ninety, pursuant to the provisions of an act of the legislature of New Jersey, entitled "An Act for the Formation of Borough Governments," approved April 5th, 1878, and the several supplements thereto, by the corporate name and title of "The Mayor and the Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington.

The original petition for the formation of the Borough was signed by Daniel Schafer, Cyrus E. Cook, Julia A. Frothingham, Michael Williams, Robert Dunlap, Martha V. Furstenwarther, Emma C. Norman, John Werner, Martha Totten, Augustine Pottier and Richard Chaplin, and bore date October 17th, 1890; and on October 18th, 1890 an order was made by Francis Child, Judge of Morris County Court of Common Pleas, calling a special election to be held at the Mount Arlington Hotel on November 1st, 1890, for the purpose of voting for or against the incorporation of the Borough; and at that special election only four votes were cast against incorporation; Daniel Schafer and Michael Williams were inspectors of the election and Cyrus E. Cook was clerk.

On November 25th, 1890, a special election was held at the Mount Arlington Hotel in the Borough for the election of a Mayor to serve for one year, two Councilmen to serve for one year, two Councilmen to serve for two years, and two Councilmen to serve for three years or until the next regular Borough election to be held under the Borough laws; of this special election, Cyrus E. Cook acted as Judge, Edward F. Totten and John M. VanNortwick as Inspectors and James F. Doland as Clerk.

For Mayor but one candidate, Howard P. Frothingham was voted for and he was elected by a full vote. For Councilmen for one year, George M. Brockway and Oscar Sisco were the only candidates voted for, and they were of course elected; for Councilmen for two years, Frederick W. Zuck, Aaron D. Stephens, August Pottier and Richard Chaplin were voted for. Of these gentlemen, Mr. Zuck was elected by a full vote, and Mr. Stephens and Mr. Pottier were a tie, having each received a like number of votes and being the next highest. When this result became known Mr. Pottier very generously withdrew from the contest and Mr. Stephens was consequently declared elected; for Councilmen for three years or until the next regular election, Michael Williams, Daniel Schafer, Richard Chaplin and Edwin Lee were voted for and of these Mr. Williams and Mr. Schafer were elected; so that the first governing body of the borough was comprised of the following gentlemen: Mayor, Howard P. Frothingham, Esq.; Councilmen, Mr. Michael Williams, Mr. Daniel Schafer, Mr. George M. Brockway and Mr. Oscar Sisco, and they met at the Park House on December 15th, 1890, and took the oath of office and organized and held their first session. They elected Cyrus E. Cook, Clerk, and transacted other routine business.

As the time for the regular yearly election of Borough officers approached in the Spring of 1891, it seemed to be the opinion of all persons interested that at this election a full set of Borough officers should be elected, as if no previous election had taken place, in order to avoid any uncertainty or confusion arising under the law as to when the terms of the Councilmen, who had been first elected, would expire, and for this purpose a convention was held and the following named gentlemen were put in nomination. For Mayor, Howard P. Frothingham, for Councilmen for three years, Daniel Schafer and Michael Williams; for two years, Aaron D. Stephens and Oscar Sisco, and for one year, Frederick W. Zuck and George M. Brockway. For Assessor, Cyrus E. Cook; for Collector, Richard Chaplin, besides candidates for Commissioners of Appeals. And there being no other nominations made these officers were duly elected on March 10th, 1891, and on March 8th, 1892, at the regular annual Borough election, Howard P. Frothingham was unanimously re-elected Mayor for one year, Mr. Brockway and Mr. Zuck were also unanimously re-elected Councilmen for three years, and at the annual Borough election held March 7th, 1893, Mayor Frothingham was again unanimously elected Mayor for one year, and Daniel T. Trundy and Edwin Lee were elected Councilmen for three years, and Henry B. Schafer was elected Councilman for one year to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Daniel Schafer, who died July 2nd, 1892, and John H. Lowe was re-elected Assessor and Frank L. Schafer was elected Collector.



# Mount Arlington

## A Pictorial History The First 100 Years

By Anna Travers  
(with preface by Virginia Rooney)

On the Cover: The pen and ink drawing of Mount Arlington's first borough hall is by Jason Travers, an art major at Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA. Jason is a resident of Bertrand Island, attended Mount Arlington schools and is a graduate of Roxbury High School.

### Mount Arlington Historical Society

November, 1990

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With special thanks to Jo Basilotta for her editorial assistance.  
Also with great appreciation to the following for their generous contributions.  
Without them this chronicle may not have been possible.

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# Preface

The Centennial of our borough has served as an inspiration to delve into its history. From the coming of the Rogerene sect from New London, Connecticut, who were friendly with the Lenni Lenape Indians (Delawares), to the incorporation of the Borough of Mount Arlington on November 1, 1890, to the present, the Borough can boast to a rich history.

This pictorial review of 100 years is written to make newcomers and oldtimers alike, aware of Mount Arlington's historical background as well as acquainting them with the famous people who came here for recreational activities when it was a very active summer resort.

Millionaires came from New York, Hoboken, Paterson, Philadelphia and other areas and built their summer cottages (mansions) on the Lake Hopatcong shores and the surrounding hills. Many stand today as testimony to the grandeur that was once a part of Mount Arlington.

It is our hope that this publication will serve as a tribute to these early men of substance and that the current residents of our town will be enriched by this knowledge of the past.

This is far from being a complete history of Mount Arlington.

When the Mount Arlington Historical Society had its first meeting on May 25, 1981, uppermost in the minds of the officers were two things. First, presenting programs of interest to all people and, second, to someday write a comprehensive history of our town.

The years have passed. A heap of information has been collected. There are audio cassettes recording the comments and remembrances of old-time residents who participated in the "living History" programs of the Historical Society. Photos have been collected of school classes, hotels, mansions, recreation facilities, resort activities, and Bertrand Island Amusement Park. Periodicals have appeared, and original, yellowed, hand written documents from 1890 through the 1900's have surfaced (courtesy of Laura Speaker, deceased, who was tax collector for 33 years).

We have a leather-bound Ordinances Book dated 1893 with the first ordinances adopted by the newly formed government.

Howard P. Frothingham was the first mayor and served 10 years. He was followed by: Fred Berenbroick, 1900-1910, 10 years; Richard J. Chaplin, 1910-1922, 13 years, died in January, 1923 in the second year of his 7th term; William Griffith, 1923-1924, two years; Clarence Lee, 1925-1940, 16 years; William Hockenjos, 1941-1954, 14 years; Robert J. Rooney, 1954-1977, 22½ years; Eugene Grance, 1977-1978, one year and two months; Roger Maler, 1979-1984, six years; Laurence Arico, 1985-1990, six years. That's ten mayors in 100 years.

Richard T. Irwin, of the Morris County Historical Society, wrote a short history through his research of 15 landmarks in Mount Arlington which were placed on the New Jersey Register in 1978 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. This district is called the Mount Arlington North Park Historic District and covers buildings on Edgemere Avenue, Howard Boulevard, Hopatcong Avenue, and Mountain View Avenue.

Mount Harry (named for the son of Henry Altebrand, one of our founders) is in the area of Kil Kare Castle and was called South Park. It had a lookout tower. There was another lookout tower in the North Park District, located on the highest point of what is now Southard Road. Many residents remember seeing the crumbled bases of the two towers.

It is hoped that the buildings in the district, and others still standing throughout the borough, will remain forever and not succumb to the present era of the bulldozers.

First a 'thank you' to Anna Travers, a former editor of the **Lake Hopatcong Breeze**, current treasurer of the Historical Society, and member of the Centennial Committee, and author of this publication, for the extra-ordinary amount of time spent in collecting data, pulling it all together, doing the captions, preparing the layout for printing, following up on the printing and finally, distribution.

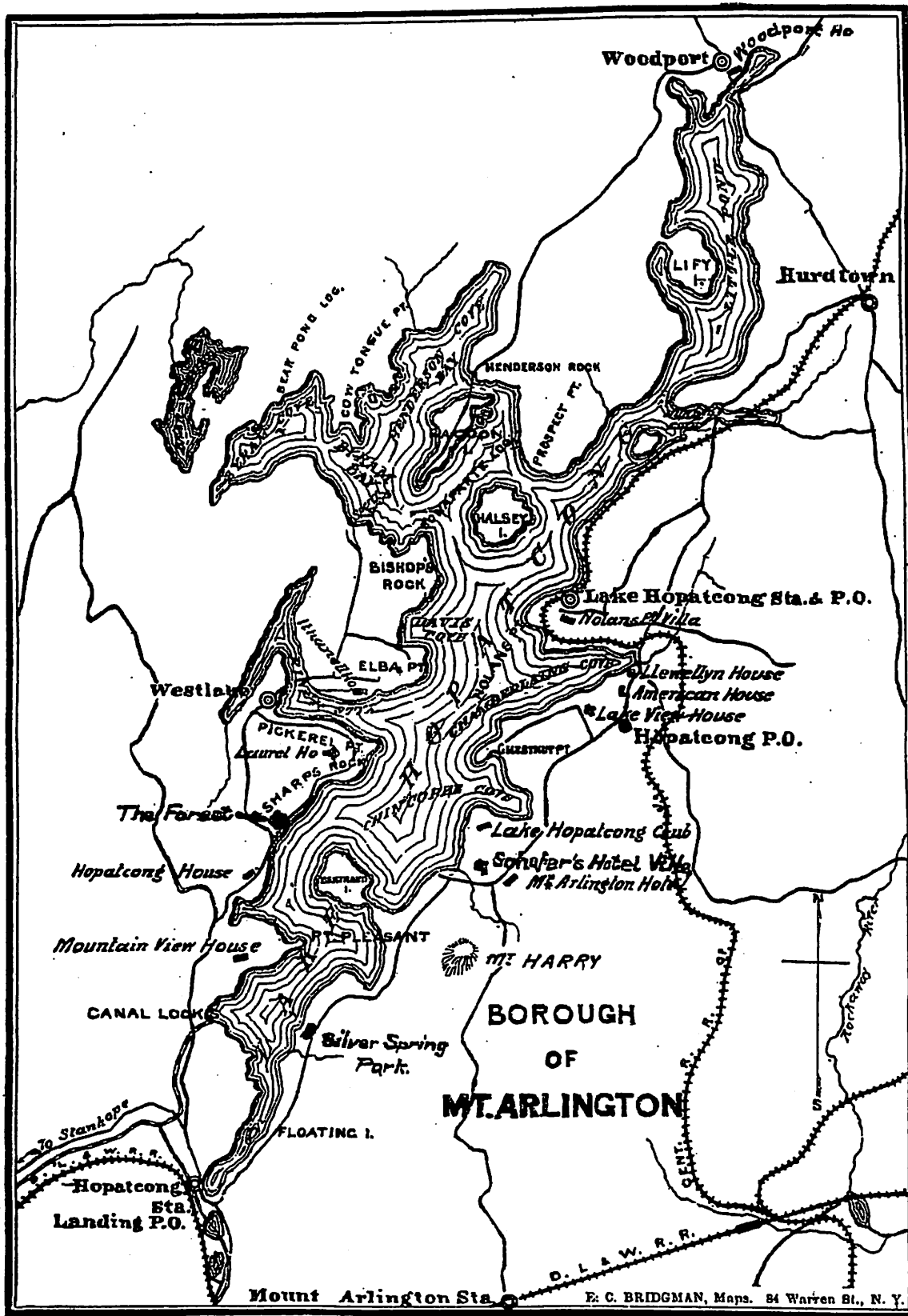
Also thanks to our families who allowed us to spend so much time doing all this work.

This book is dedicated to our forefathers who saw the need for us to secede from Roxbury Township and set up a government of our own in 1890.

There are so many 'thank you's' to individuals, clubs, all who donated money to help with the printing of this book, to the Mayor and Council, and residents, that it is impossible to make a list. You know who you are and we thank you for everyone who will enjoy this publication.

Perhaps this will inspire others to write more about the history of beautiful Mount Arlington in the future and cover areas that we missed.

Virginia Rooney, president  
Mt. Arlington Historical Society





## Chapter One

# People of the Stony Country: First Summer Visitors



Lake Hopatcong played a major role in the development of the Borough of Mount Arlington and to truly understand its history one must go back in time to the very beginning — the birth of Lake Hopatcong.

For thousands of years, the Lake Hopatcong region was, as other parts of North America, submerged under the sea. It was raised above it and subjected to three ice ages, as far as can be determined, the last one being the Wisconsin. Glaciers hollowed out valleys forming mountains, rivers and streams. Water from the melted glaciers created the many ponds and lakes in North Jersey. Indians lived throughout the area and those who lived in the Lake Hopatcong region were called the Nariticongs, a branch of the Minisi or "people of the stony country."

In those days before the white man, there was no Lake Hopatcong, just an area of ponds with the Musconetcong River running through it. There was a large pond called Huppakong, which is noted in a survey by John Reading dated 1713. He noted the pond was in some parts a mile across and five or six miles in length. Lake Hopatcong was partly created in 1750 when Garret Rapalje built a dam and forge near what is now the State Park.

The present Lake Hopatcong was at the time of the Indians, dry land, forest, and meadow where they built their villages. Main settlements were at

Sharp's Rock, Pickerel Point, Halsey Island, Berkshire Valley and Bertrand Island. An Indian causeway can still be seen under deep water, off King Cove near Bertrand Island and runs across to the west shore of the lake. Most of the trails around the lake were made by the Indians. One large trail passed down from the upper Delaware River, homeland of the Minisi, through what is now Sussex County, to the tip of Lake Hopatcong. Called the Minnisink Trail, it continued from the lake through the mountains and out to the ocean. It is reported the Indians traveled regularly to the sea along this trail.

Today there is little trace left of the Minisi who were known as the peacemakers, the tribe all others looked to as arbitrators in times of trouble. By 1721 there was a marked decline in the Indian population of the area and in 1758 the last Indians in the region relinquished their lands by treaty and headed west. The story of the last Indian to be seen at Lake Hopatcong is told in the tale of Chincoppee who returned to the area of his forefathers with his squaw. They settled at what is now known as Van Every Cove near Lee's Beach. It is said the growing number of whites in the area made it difficult for them to live in peace and in the autumn of their first year here, they were driven away. Legend describes them as quietly climbing into their canoe and paddling westward, never to be seen again.

Lake Hopatcong is first mentioned in public record in a survey dated 1714 by John Bull for the West Jersey Proprietors. The survey was of Bertrand Island for a pending sale to James Logan, which was finalized in 1715, making it the first sale of a tract of land at Lake Hopatcong.

Although this was the first official mention of Lake Hopatcong, the lake is reported to have been included on a map of New Jersey as early as 1656. Made by a Dutchman, Van der Dunk, the map had no latitude or longitude and connected the lake with the Hudson River.

Another official survey was made in 1719 by John Reading, who kept a diary of his travels which included this excerpt, "June 1, 1719 - we set forth for the upper part of Delaware, Benj. Hay being in company with us, going through an Indian Plantation called Whattalung and took the Minnesinke Path, we traveled along the same until we came to a brook which runs into Rockaway River within sight of same, then we left the path and took up the said river some distance from it four or five miles. Then we went for a large pond at the head of the S.E. branch of the Muskonetking River. This pond or lake is called Huppaking being a mile or more over, five or six miles in length well stored with fish and a very pleasant place. Here we took up our lodging in an Indian whigwam . . ."

Reading's land was passed on to John Jackson, who in 1722 built a forge. Joseph and Daniel Hurd, the sons of Jackson's foreman, Moses Hurd, later acquired the property which was named as The Two Partners and later Hurdstown. Besides the forge at the site, the Hurds built a saw mill and operated the famous Hurd Mine, which at one time produced a large part of iron ore for the area.

Other early property owners were Obadiah Seward and John Budd in 1750; Silas Dell and Ephraim Tuttle in 1751. The Earl of Sterling, James Park and Robert Norris owned parcels of land around the lake's shoreline prior to 1800 and the last return, prior to the Niles auction sale, was in 1838. In all, there were 60 such returns which included practically all of the land around the lake as well as some of the land under it. The parcels now in existence are sub-divisions of these large tracts.

In 1882, properties offered at public auction included the major part of the bed of the lake, together with any vacant uplands within 300 feet of the high water mark. The title for these was secured by Niles of Newark and Madison, who was the highest bidder.

Today, controversy still remains over the "Niles Rights," in reference to land under the lake. In August, 1922, a corporation was formed for the purpose of protecting the lake against being drained and the assurance that Lake Hopatcong would be

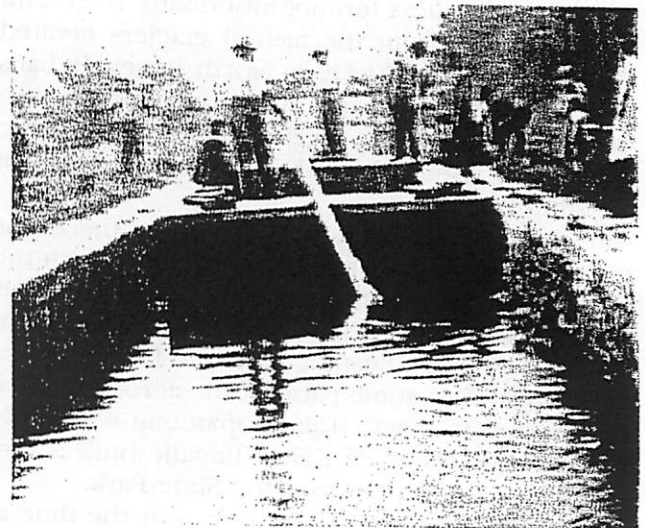
used "by the public forever freely without hindrance or molestation."

The influx of white settlers to the Lake Hopatcong area began with the discovery of magnetic iron ore. These mines and forges brought workers and their families. Iron ore was discovered as far back as 1675 and by 1850 was the main industry of the State of New Jersey. It was responsible for the growth and development of the Lake Hopatcong region. During the Revolutionary War, cannons, shots, refined bar irons, shovels, axes, guns and other products were made for the Continental Army at the Brooklyn forge and others in the Lake Hopatcong vicinity.

It is reported that during the Revolution, labor was scarce and the ironmasters were "loaned" British prisoners to work the forges.

Reminders of the old mines and forges still remain at Shippenport, Lake Rogerene, Chestnut Point and near the site of the old Mount Arlington railroad station.

The Morris Canal, built in 1831, ran from Phillipsburg on the Delaware River to Newark Bay. Its main purpose was to cart the iron ore to markets east and west and bring in coal from Pennsylvania. In 1836 the canal was extended to Jersey City. It was the greatest asset to the Lake Hopatcong area. In 1861, the canal was in its heyday with hundreds of canal boats strung in an endless double chain through cities and country, plying back and forth across the state. But within 10 years, the canal was replaced by the railroads, which in addition to hauling freight, also brought passengers to the Lake Hopatcong region.





## Chapter Two

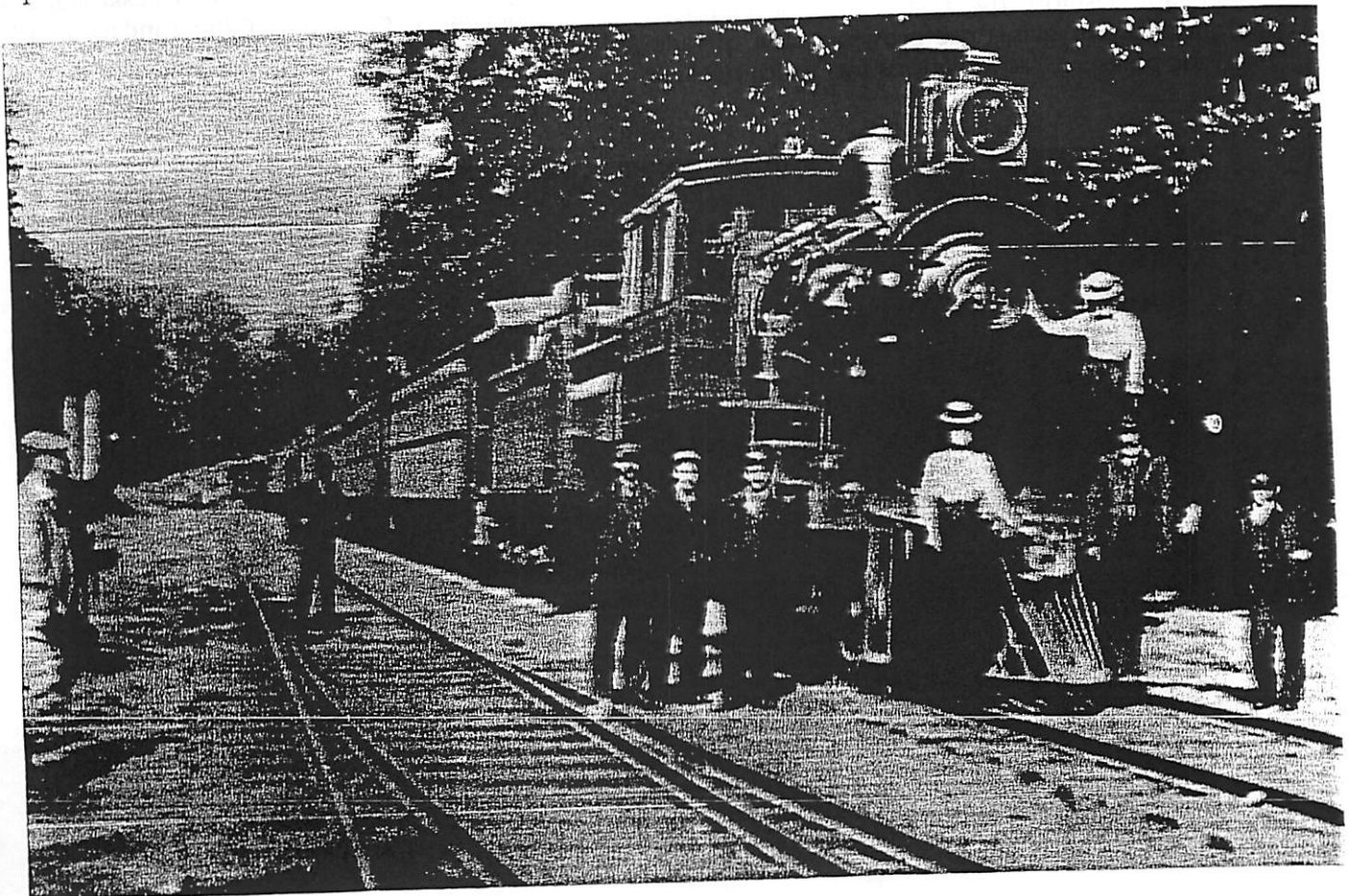
# Tourists Came by Rail and Steam

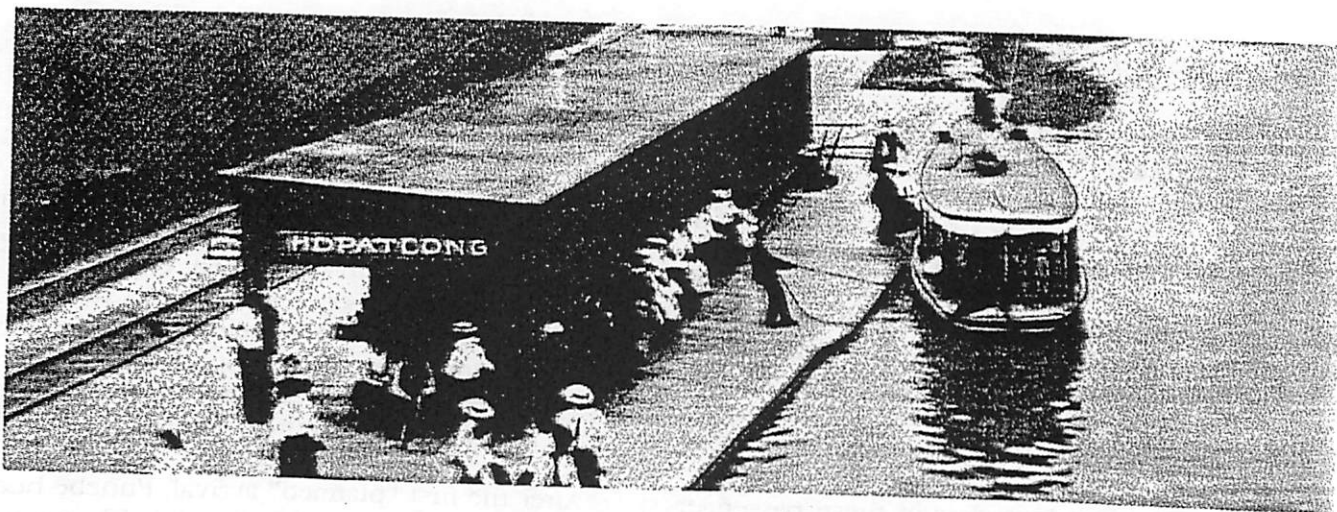
Railroads played a major role in the history of Mount Arlington, with the first carrying iron ore from the local mines to major cities east and west along the many miles of the Lackawanna. Later, passenger trains, which brought summer and weekend visitors to the area, were responsible for the boom in population, as well as popularity, of Mount Arlington, and the other Lake Hopatcong communities.

Perhaps the most legendary of these passenger trains was the "Phoebe Snow," which ran on the Delaware Lackawanna and Western line from Hoboken to Buffalo and later on to Chicago. The "Phoebe Snow" was the promotional brainstorm of the railroad whose officials were meeting at the exclusive Breslin Club in Mount Arlington in 1910 to present a bid for passenger patronage on the novel plan of public service. Phoebe Snow, the person for whom the railroad was named, had been invited to stop at the exclusive club, along with her mother, Mrs. Earl Danforth, on their return from a summertime trip on the railroad's line to Buffalo. Upon her arriv-

al, which coincided with the meeting, the railroad officials were fascinated by her poise and dress. But Phoebe's arrival had not been by chance. Her charming smile and crisp white looks were part of the calculated publicity of the railroad's conversion of the steam engine from soft to hard coal. Her portrait became widely known as the symbol of clean and gracious travel on the Lackawanna Railroad, "The Road of Anthracite."

After the first "planned" arrival, Phoebe became a frequent visitor of the Breslin Club. The passenger train which bore her name became a casualty of World War I with the government edict that all railroads burn soft coal. Phoebe, donning military attire reappeared during World War II, and later had a new diesel powered liner named after her which served the combined Erie-Lackawanna Railroad. The late Alice and Walter Apostolik of Mount Arlington were passengers aboard "Phoebe Snow's" last trip from Hoboken to Chicago on November 27, 1966.





*D.L. & W. Railroad Station and the Morris Canal at Landing.*

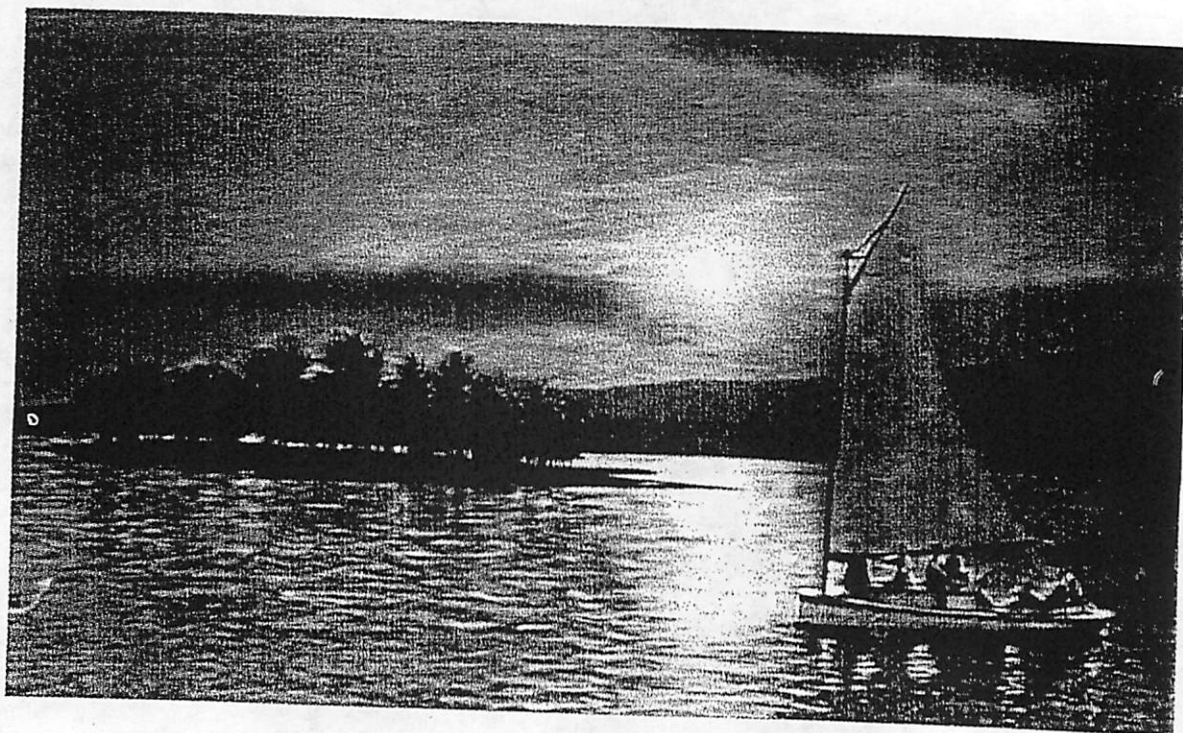
Railroad companies published literature extolling the virtues of the areas accessible by rail and investors spared no effort in attempts to attract the higher strata of society to the heart of this "wildest country."

Hundreds of passengers arrived weekly and these tourists were either guests of the many hotels or private cottage owners around the shores of Lake Hopatcong.

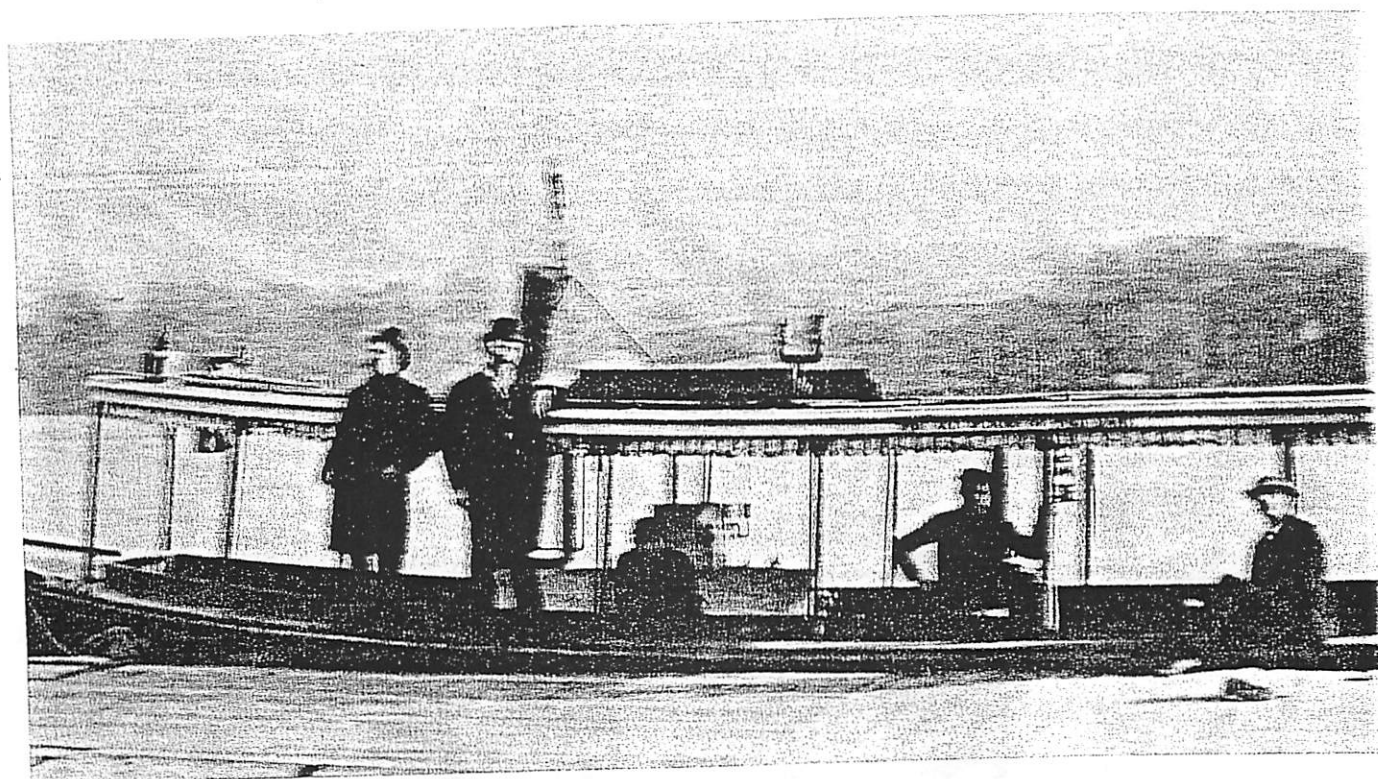
Although guests came for social distinction, romance and fashion, the restrictions of Victorian morality "acted against the growing habit of vacations for pleasure," so vacations for health became

an accepted alternative. Lake Hopatcong was advertised for its pure mountain air and a claim that "mosquitoes were no nuisance."

Oscar F.G. Megie wrote that the conditions necessary to ensure the permanent popularity of Lake Hopatcong as a delightful, healthful and accessible summer and winter resort had been supplied. Land prices after a few years were unbelievably high for the time period. The number of new residences erected were a solid indication that Lake Hopatcong had become a retreat for a refined and nature-loving class of people.







*The A. Reasoner, passenger boat on the lake in the 1890's.*

The many steamboats which plied the waters of Lake Hopatcong in the 1800's were the area's biggest boon to the tourism industry. Although the railroads brought passengers to the lake, transporting them to the various hotels and summer cottages was another obstacle to overcome.

It is reported the first side-wheel double decker steamboat was operated by Theodore F. King and was in service until 1893. Theodore Zuck's "Stella" was put into service "with flags flying and whistles tooting" in 1879. In 1885 four more steamers were put in service by George W. Campbell, the "Mystic Shrine" being the most famous.

An early history also gives "honorable mention to Jacob Speaker of Mount Arlington who tried to give our pioneers a means of transportation by steam launch from 1895-1900."

At the turn of the century the many steamboats included those of the Black and White Lines as well as several excursion boats.

Mr. Campbell of New York was manager of the Black Line boats. The Mystic Shrine, considered the most handsome boat of her proportions on the lake, was captained by Jack Gordon of Newark and Dan Hummer as engineer.

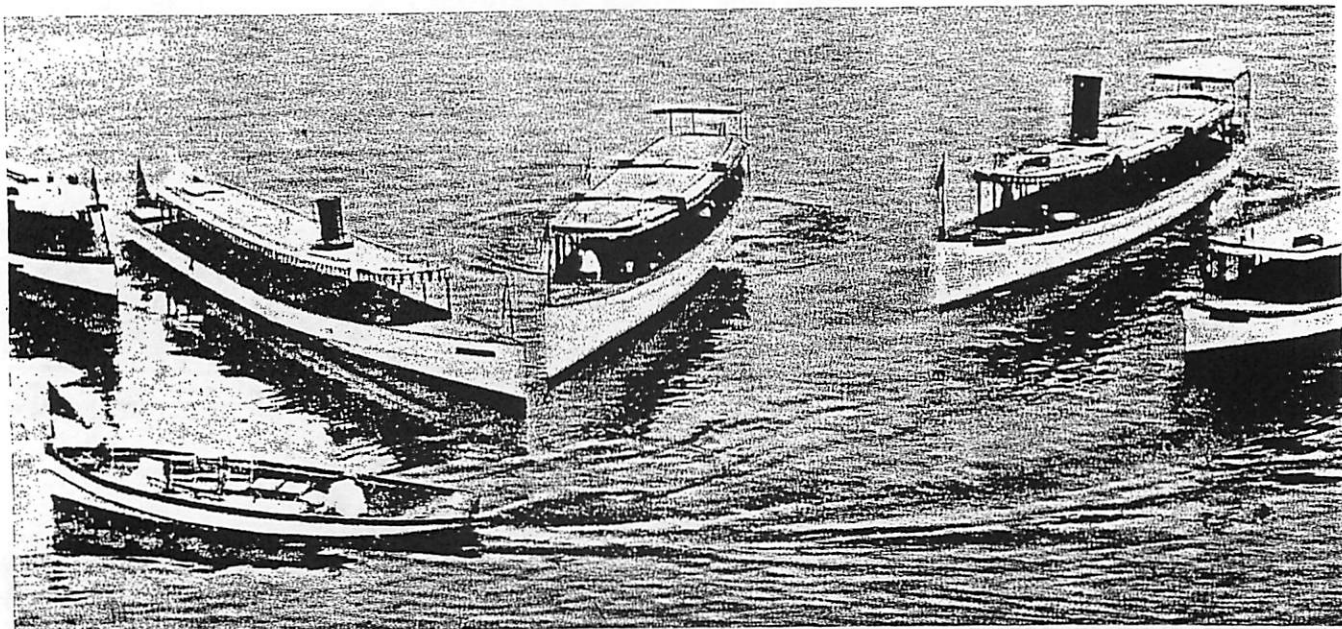
In 1903, the Delaware, formerly the A. Reasoner, was active with Thomas J. Gordon captain. The Bryant, with Frank Long as captain was another boat in this line.

Austin A. King of Netcong was appointed manager

of the White Line Boats in 1903, and was considered the "master of every part of machinery." The White Line boats were the Hopatcong, the Ada and the Nariticong. The Hopatcong was a large double-decker, with John M. Todd as captain. Captain Todd had been connected with steamboat operations on the lake since 1890. The Ada was captained by William Canfield and the Nariticong by Manning Goble.

The Black and White lines both made regular trips to the railroad stations carrying passengers to all of the hotels, cottages and camps at the lake. The White Line used the channel to get to the Landing Station and the Black Line followed the lock and canal route, which was considered a very interesting experience.

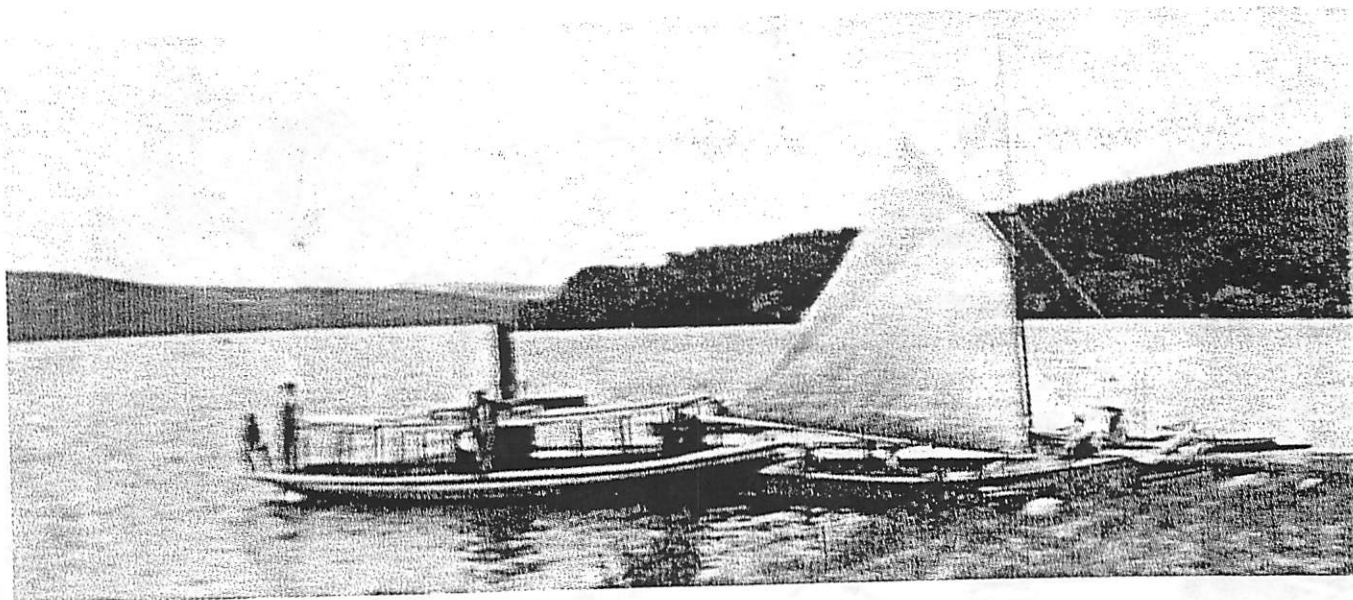
The many excursion boats included the F.W. Zuck, the oldest of the lot which was used for "picking up" and delivering passengers to the cottages and hotels. The Zuck was managed by Moses H. Spencer, a long-time resident of Lake Hopatcong. Other excursion boats included the Gladys, known as the prettiest on the lake; the Sprite; and the Times Union, the swiftest on the lake. The latter was used as a newspaper boat, as well as for charter purposes. It accommodated West Shore inhabitants arriving on the 5:50 p.m. express train. The Alametcong, chartered by Thomas Bright of Woodport, carried passengers to the northern end of the lake, described as a beautiful trip.



*The Lake Hopatcong Navy, pictured above in a mini-convoy for a photograph taken at the turn of the century, provided the only viable means of transportation for lake residents. The steamers transported passengers from the railroad station at Landing to their destinations along the lake shore. Pictured right are the men who sailed those steamers: (from the left) Franklin C. Schafer, captain of the "Fannie"; Henry (last name unknown) engineer of the "Reasoner"; Charles Edwards, superintendent of the Lake Hopatcong Steamboat Co.; Bonnie Rowe, engineer of the "Fannie"; John Gordon, captain of the "Reasoner"; Ernest Hopler, engineer of the "Clarence", and William Gordon, captain of the "Clarence."*







*Sail and steam on Lake Hopatcong.*

Passenger boat service on Lake Hopatcong continued on into the 1900's. Among these later lines the Emmie N., a gasoline boat was captained by Frank Crater. Captain Mahlon Decker had two steamboats, the Ediva D. and Edith D.

Some older lake residents may remember the Bertrand Island Transportaiton Company with "Uncle" Dan Voorhees of Morristown as president, and Fred Ruyan of Morristown as secretary-treasurer. George Humes took over the line around 1912 and ran the boats, which were both gas and steam powered, until a fire at Bertrand Island destroyed the fleet.

By 1940 there were no large transportation boats in operation. A few taxi-boat lines were running, but became obsolete when automobile transportation became the means of travel.

**I**n the late 1800's carnivals were synonymous with wakes and Lake Hopatcong was very much a part of its day.

Steamboats which had seen the last of their working days were often laid to rest amid the festivities of a carnival. The carnivals were the highlight of the summer season and everyone around the lake, residents and guests alike, participated.

A Plainfield paper gave this account of the first annual carnival:

"The carnival at Lake Hopatcong on last Saturday evening was a success; it was considered by all to be the grand event of the season, and such a sight was never seen on the lake before. Four steamers and upwards of fifty small boats assembled at Kenmore, the cottage of J. Knox Phillips, at 8 o'clock, and according to program, were decorated with Chinese and colored lanterns, and as they made the

tour of the lake were greeted with fireworks and colored fire from the different cottages, hotels and camps, which presented the appearance of fairyland with the different illuminations. The boats were supplied with a band and drum corps, and the Resolute Camp of Morristown made it lively during the evening. The program wound up with a reception and dance at the Forest Landing Club House, and with three hearty cheers for Miss Belle Phillips, who originated and managed the affair, all departed at midnight, well satisfied with the evening's enjoyment."

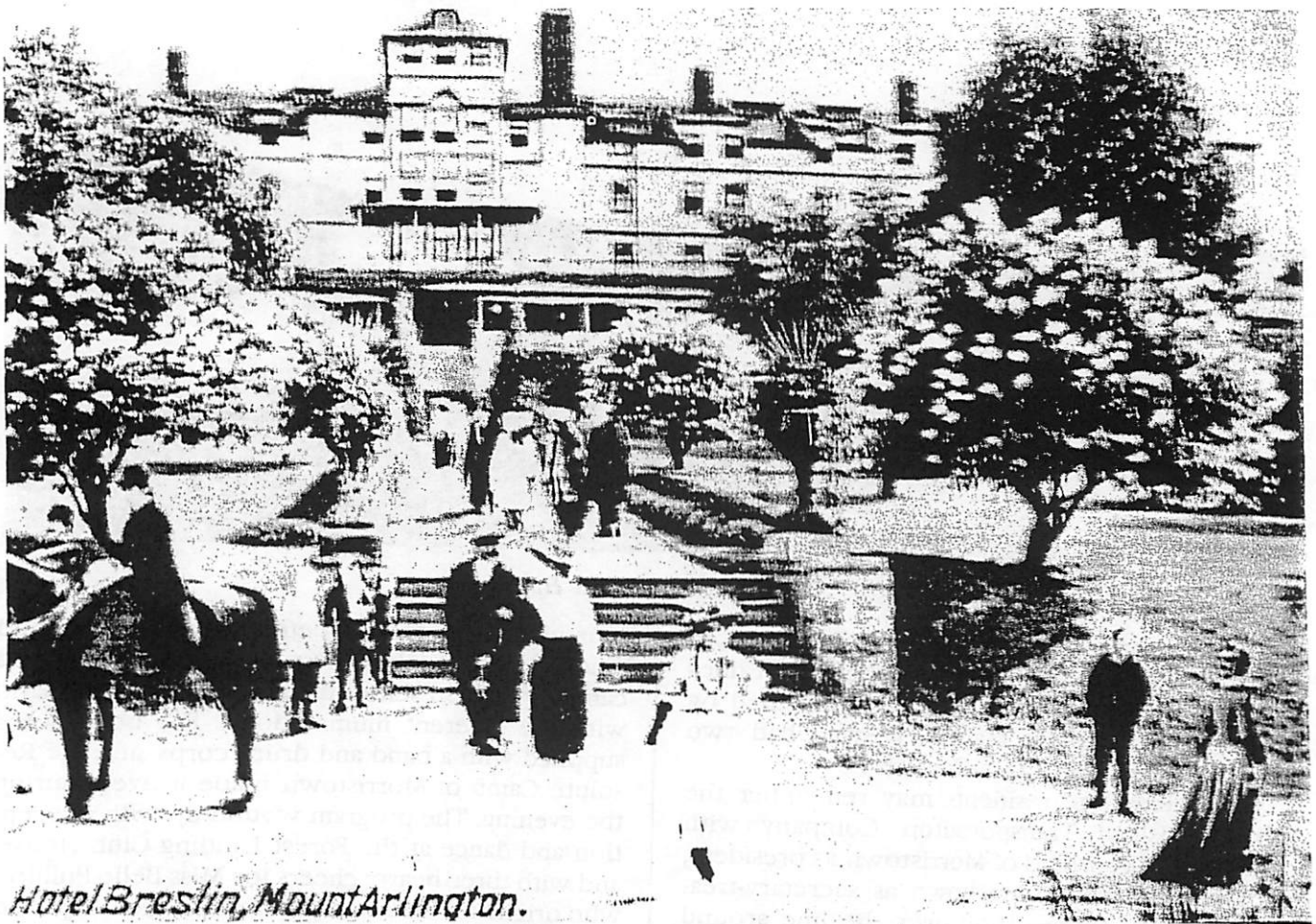
In 1891 the burial of the William A. Wood, the first and oldest steamer on the lake, took place during the annual carnival.

George Bain, who attended the wake of the "Frank J. Griffith," another early steamboat, presented this account in an early issue of the Lake Hopatcong Breeze.

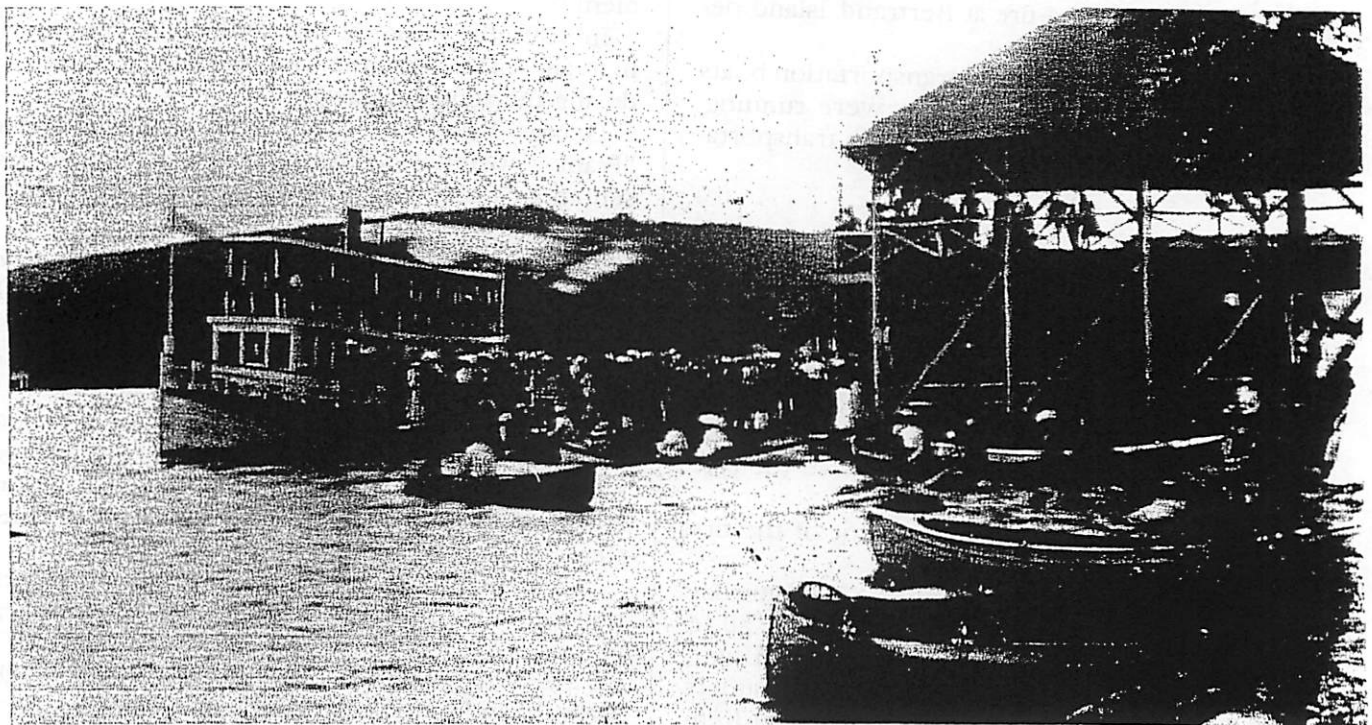
"It was that night on the 'Reasoner.' That steamer, together with the 'Matilda,' now called the 'Zuck,' went to the north shore of Bertrand Island, where the hulk of the 'Frank J. Griffith' was resting. After placing an iron chest containing papers relating to the lake in the old craft and with her between them, they steamed to a point probably two hundred feet off what is now Graystone Dock, and attaching the old whistle of the 'Griffith' to their steam, blew a final blast — the death rattle.

"According to the program, she was then to sink; but she didn't. As we had Burdette, the humorist aboard, who was due at the Breslin to give one of his performances, we placed a red light on the 'Griffith' and betook ourselves to the shore.

"She sank sometime during the night. Thus ended the wake."



*Hotel Breslin, Mount Arlington.*



*Passengers boarding a steamship from the Breslin dock.*



## Chapter Three

# Hotels and Tourism

The building of the grand Hotel Breslin on Edgemoere Avenue on the east shore of Lake Hopatcong brought the first decided boom to the area. It attracted an element of wealth and fashion to the region. The process began in 1885 when Henry Altenbrand and Delos Culver, president of the Lake Hopatcong Land and Improvement Company, invited a selected group of businessmen from New York City, Newark, Jersey City and elsewhere to visit the lake. Andrew Reasoner, superintendent of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, provided a special train. While there, a number of the guests took advantage of the opportunity to cruise the waters of Lake Hopatcong. It is reported that Mr. Reasoner hinted that the D.L. & W. would build a two-mile connection to the \$65,000 hotel that Robert Dunlap and James W. Breslin proposed to build. It is reported the hotel investors spent \$200,000 to improve their property during these years.

The Lake Hopatcong Hotel Company was incorporated on January 12, 1886, with \$100,000 in capital to build hotels, cottages, piers, wharves, docks and boathouses. Its president was James W. Breslin and Robert Dunlap was treasurer. Henry Altenbrand and Delos Culver were directors. The company began construction of the Hotel Breslin in the spring of that year. The Hotel Breslin opened in 1887 and within two years "the land of magic had transformed an area of trees and rocks, as wild and rough as when the Indians were the lone inhabitants, into a fairy-tale scene" with the Hotel Breslin at its core "situated in a cultivated part of five acres." The hotel was a four-story frame structure facing due north and situated 185 feet above lake water level. It was painted a pale yellow with its trim a darker shade and had a red roof. A series of landscaped terraces led to the lake with the highest featuring decorative flower beds, walks and lawns. The landscape architect was James Purcell of Succasunna. The imposing structure was in marked contrast to the many other points at Lake Hopatcong.

The Philadelphia architectural firm of Furness, Evans & Co., designed the hotel, with Louis C. Baker Jr., supervisor. The general contractor was John J. Miller of Elizabeth. He had a 135-man crew which was supervised by Cyrus E. Cook with Reeves as foreman. Howarth Brothers of Newark were the contractors responsible for installing the plumbing and steam heat. The water, for domestic use, was

pumped from the lake by a steam engine and pure table water was delivered from an artesian well drilled 180 feet deep. There was no running water in the bedrooms. The water closets had a Niagara flush and sewerage was skillfully forced from the building through pipes and was emptied 1½ miles from the hotel on the other side of what was known as Hoboken Hill.

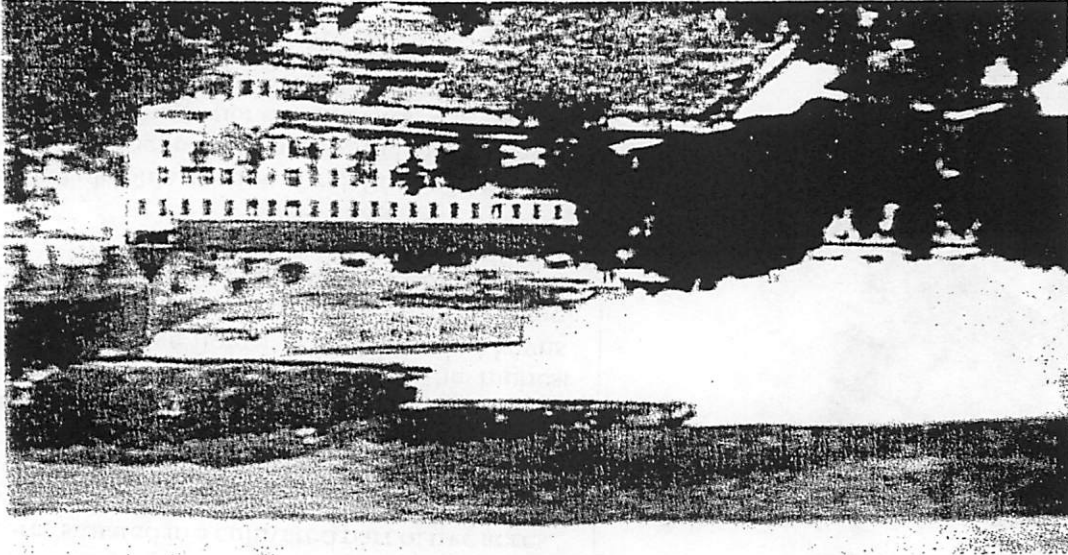
James H. Breslin was president of the Lake Hopatcong Hotel Company and George M. Brockway was the general manager. Both held positions with the prestigious Gilsey House in New York City.

The Hotel Breslin had 300 rooms, each with a view of Lake Hopatcong. "A rustic ambiance" was created by a massive stone fireplace at the entrance, and elevators saved guests "the exertion of step-walking to their rooms." Each bedroom floor had a central reception area for reading and small gatherings. Music, dancing, bowling, billiards and tennis were available to guests. The billiards room, which featured billiards from Brunswick, Balke and Co., was located in the basement bar room. The main floor dining room accommodated 200 people with sunlight streaming in by day through stained glass windows, while electricity illuminated the room by night.



*James Henry Breslin*

An early drawing of the Lake View House



from the hotel, along Edgemere Avenue. The smart a short walk away under electric lights up the hill ladies. It was obtained from a neat drug store only dances, young men suggested soda water to young provided the evening entertainment. Between expedition by boat." Professor Eppinger's orchestra riage drive, lake steamer cruise, or guided fishing then taking a nap before enjoying an afternoon car-morning before lunch, sitting on the hotel veranda, proper thing for guests was to read a novel in the in 1888 was described as follows: "each day the The genteel summer lifestyle at the Hotel Breslin per week.

Rooms rented for \$5 per day or \$28 per week. A steam launch left from the hotel's dock on lake excursions for \$3 per hour. Row boats were available for hire at \$2 per day (\$3 with a man) and \$6

The first hotel to be built within the boundaries of Mount Arlington was the Lake View House, which was located near what is now Southard Road. The original Lake View House had been built in 1864 by a man named Phillips. It was a roadside tavern built of wood and an extension of stone. In 1875, Henry Altenbrand purchased large tracts of land which included the Lake View House property. At that time the hotel was a small stone building.

#### Park.

lads ordered lemon phosphate, and when the clerk turned his back, bicorice drops disappeared from a jar on the counter. The camp fires along the lake shore at night romantically dotted the scene in a communion with the glowing street lights of Breslin



# Mount Arlington Hotel

## LAKE HOPATCONG,

Morris County, New Jersey.

This Hotel is beautifully situated on the range of the Schooley Mountains, overlooking the picturesque Lake Hopatcong. The Lake is 1,027 feet above the sea level. It is the highest navigable lake within 350 miles of New York City. It is 685 feet higher than Lake George, 447 feet higher than Greenwood Lake, and 402 feet higher than Lake Mahopac; and it is supplied with pure crystal spring water, the same as Lake George.

Its shores being rock bound, it is entirely free from malaria or mosquitoes, and it is the most attractive summer resort in New Jersey.

The Lake is nine miles long and from one to three miles wide. The hotel is 200 feet above the Lake.

Reached by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, from foot of Barclay or Christopher streets, New York City, in two hours, connecting at Drakesville station with stage and at Hopatcong station with steamboats.

The Hotel is entirely new, lighted by gas, and accommodations first-class.

### **Billiards, Boats, Fishing and Bathing.**

Address all mail to Rustic P. O., Morris County, N. J.; after July 15, P. O., Mount Arlington, N. J.

Telegraph, Dover, N. J. **F. L. SCHAFER, Manager.**

In 1879, the hotel was sold to Frederick W. Zuck, one of the lake's most prominent and early pioneers. Zuck came to Lake Hopatcong with his father, Adolph John Zuck, in 1879. The hotel was isolated and management had to rely on its own resources. The hotel maintained its own horses for transportation of guests and Mr. Zuck ran the steamer, F.W. Zuck, for the convenience of guests as well as other travelers on the lake. It was one of the first passenger boats on Lake Hopatcong. The first Lake Hopatcong Post Office was also located at the Lake View House.

Zuck was a member of the borough council of Mount Arlington for many years, and was also a member of the board of education and truant office. He held several other public offices and was always interested in the civic and social affairs of the lake. Frederick W. Zuck died in 1933 in his 74th year.

Altenbrand's purchase also included a tract of land with a large farmhouse and out-buildings lo-

cated on Lake Hopatcong midway between Bertrand Island and the Lake View House. The farm house was later enlarged into a hotel named "Mount Arlington." It was later sold along with a part of the land to Daniel Schafer, who, not satisfied with the 100-bed capacity, erected an entirely new structure.

This new structure, still called the Mt. Arlington Hotel, was built on a hill between Howard Boulevard and Mountainview Avenue. (above where Pat's Bar is today). An annex to the hotel was erected across the street at the corner of what is now Howard Boulevard and Altenbrand Avenue. When the main hotel was destroyed by fire, the annex became the main hotel. Mrs. Anna Scelsa will be remembered by most long-time residents, as one of the last owners of the hotel.

Daniel Schafer died in 1892 while serving as one of the borough's first councilmen. His brother, Henry, took over his place on the council.

Frank Schafer, Daniel's son, was born in Brooklyn, NY, June 9, 1861, and came to Lake Hopatcong as a young man, and with his father operated the Mount Arlington Hotel. Frank Schafer later owned and operated the Schafer Hotel, which was located at Altenbrand and Park Avenues. Our Lady of the Lake Parish house sits at that site today. The parish house was built on the actual foundation of the original Schafer Hotel.

Frank Schafer, like most early residents, was interested in the political life of the borough and served in public office for many years. He was clerk of the Board of Education, served as borough assessor, was a member of the local fire department and Exempt Firemen's Association. He died July 27, 1933.

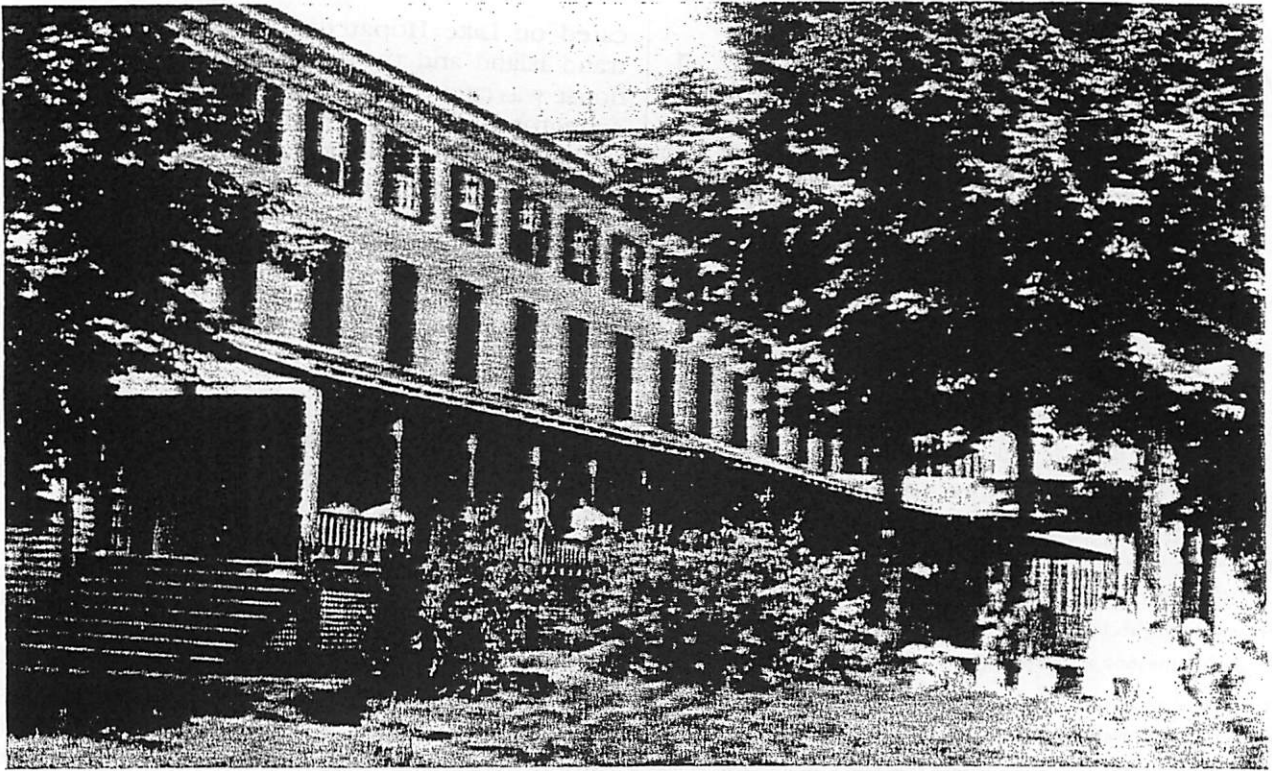
The Hotel Villa Von Campe was located on McGregor Avenue. Martha von Campe was a daughter of Carl Bertrand and later sold the four-story frame hotel to Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Vogel. The Petrillos later took over ownership and operated the hotel under the name Colonial House. It later became the property of the Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge 2109 and in later years was destroyed by fire.

Other hotels on McGregor Avenue included the Rocklawn Lodge, the Woodstock House and Forest Hotel.

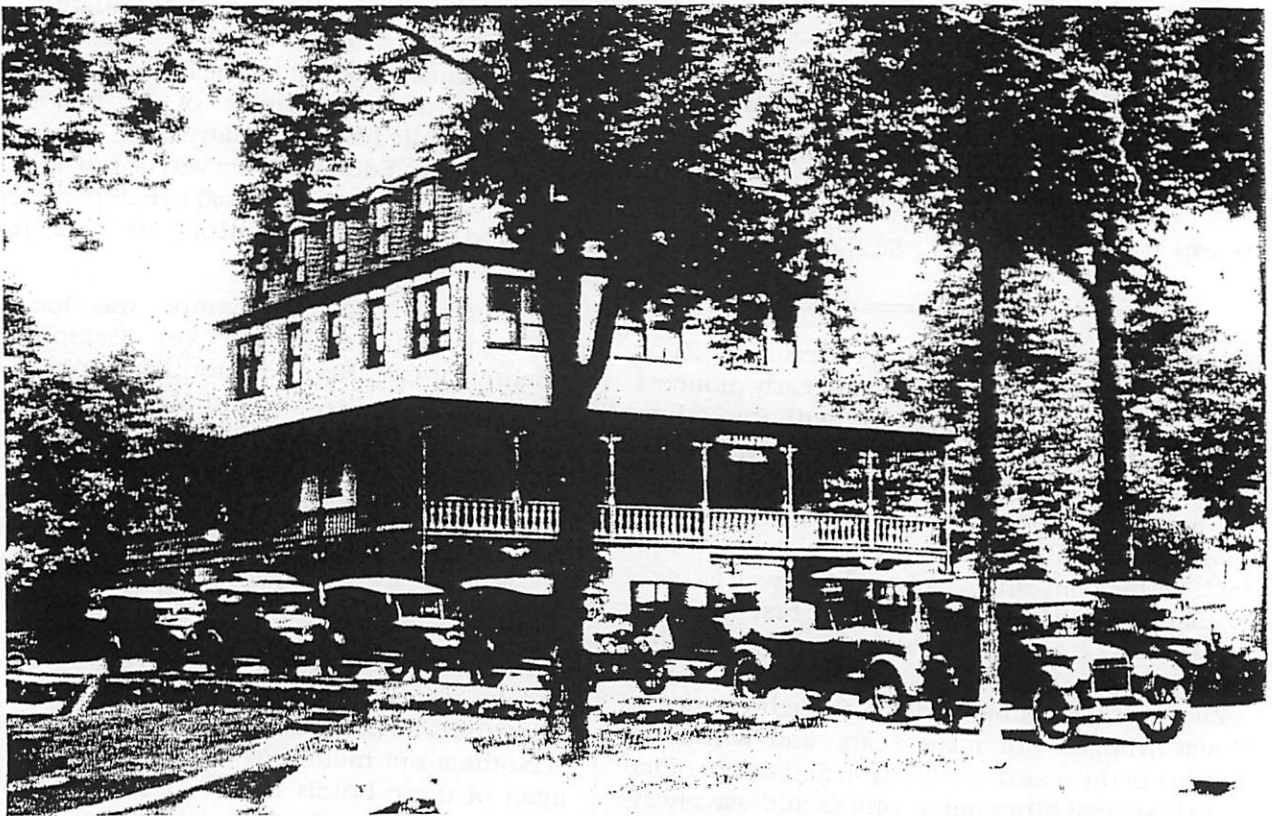
The Dawn Patrol on Edgemere Avenue, was a popular resort in its early days. Music in the hotel's Palm Room is recalled by many long time residents.

Nothing but memories and recorded history remain of these hotels today. The Breslin, later renamed the Alamac, was destroyed by fire in 1948. The other hotels met the same demise in later years marking the end of a grand era in the building of the Borough of Mount Arlington.



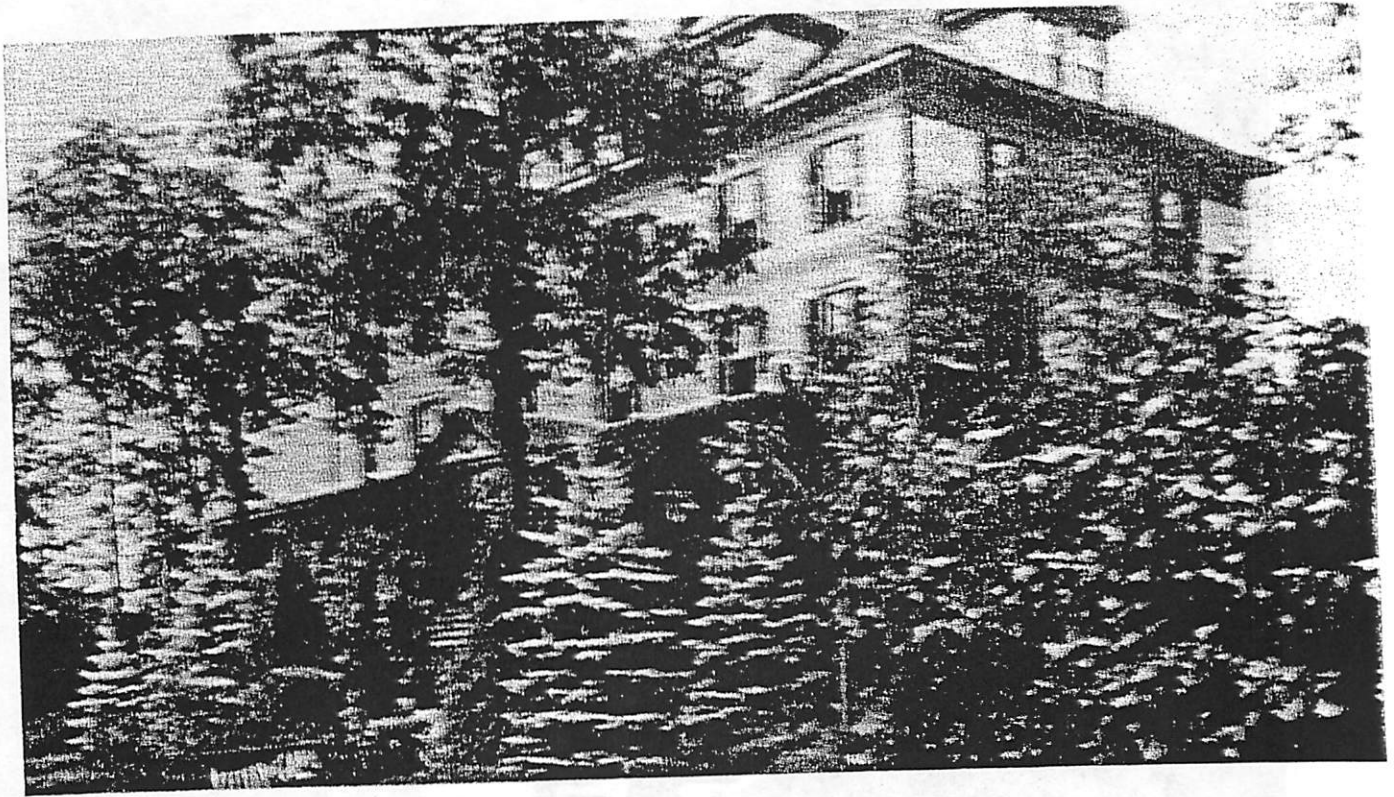


*Lake View Hotel*



*Schafer's Hotel*





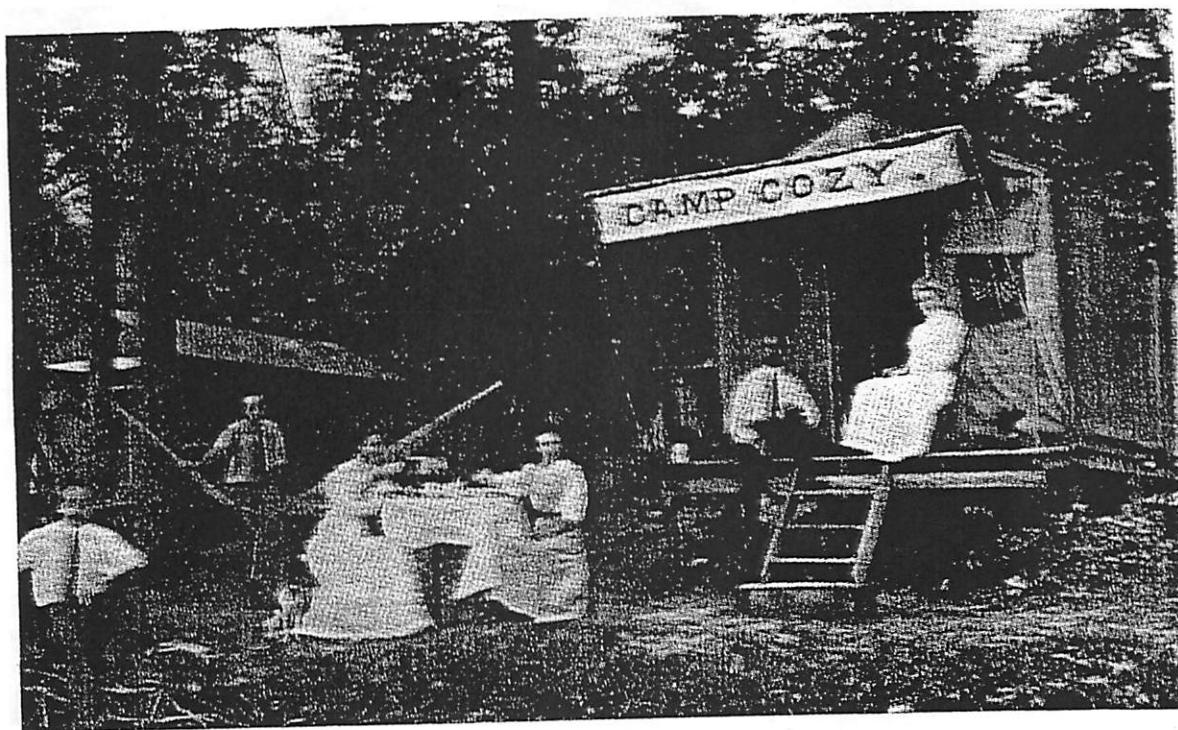
*Hotel Villa Von Campe*



Villa Von Campe  
at Arlington, N. J. Lake Hopetcong







*A typical campsite at Lake Hopatcong.*

## *Chapter Four*

# Tent Camping

Camping was a popular way of life for summer visitors who frequented the shores of Lake Hopatcong around the turn of the century.

In contrast to the grand hotels and spacious summer cottages of the "millionaires," the various camp grounds located around the lake offered accommodations that were both comfortable and affordable. Camping was an inexpensive and practical way for families to spend their summer vacations.

One such camp was Camp Village at Prospect Point owned and operated by Louis Kraus, who later developed Bertrand Island in Mount Arlington. Camp Village was run "on first-class principals only" and offered all the comforts of home and supplied most everything needed for a pleasurable vacation.

For the sum of \$68.25 a family of four could vacation at Camp Village for three weeks. The cost included fare to and from the lake via the D.L. & W. Railroad, lake steamer fare to and from the camp, express charges and carting 2 large trunks to and from the city, row boat rental, tent rental, as well as food and incidentals.

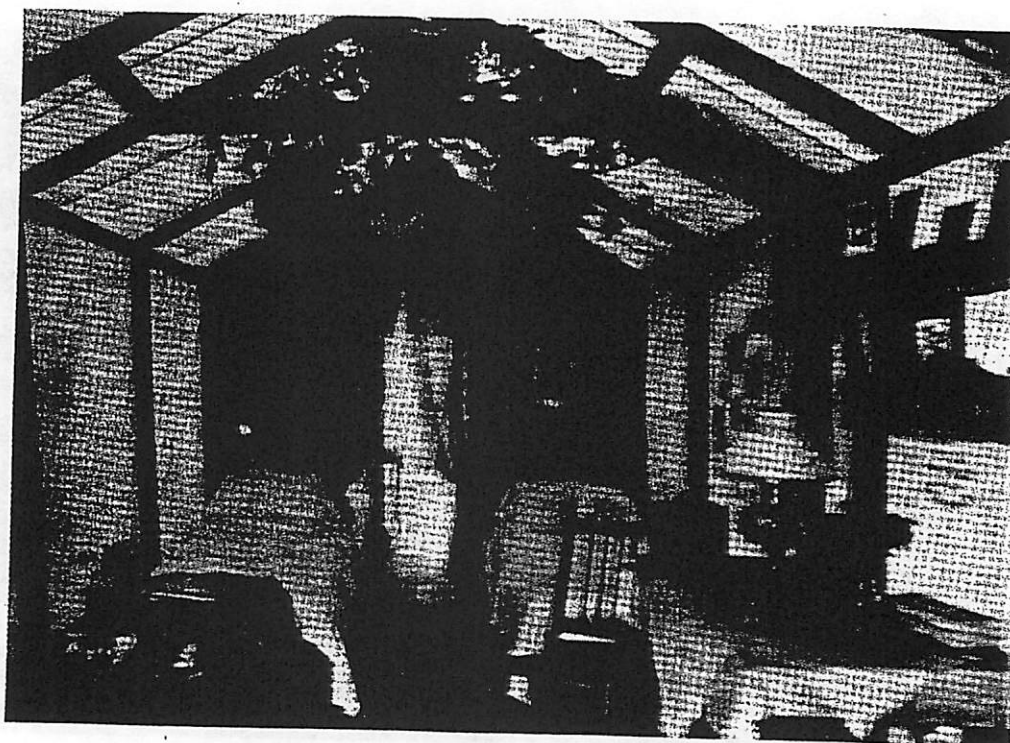
The tents sat atop platforms and in many instances were the size of a small cottage. Those at

Camp Village measured eight-feet wide by 16-feet long and had six-foot ceilings. A larger model was available which measured 24 feet in length and contained an extra eight-by-eight foot room.

The sides of the tent were made of canvas and the roof was constructed of boards that were covered with tar paper and a coating of tar and sand for extra waterproofing. The floors were tongue and groove boards. A six-foot awning extended across the front of the tent and a four-foot one across the back. A porch extended across the entire front of the structure. The swinging doors were made of canvas and two windows were located at the front of each tent.

Inside, the tent could be separated into two rooms by means of a drawn curtain. The interior was outfitted with three cots, a table, a two-burner oil stove, a storage closet and camp stools.

The equipment provided with the tent included a lantern, an oil can, a dish pan, fry pan, sauce pan with cover, a tea pot, bucket, wash basin and a broom.



*Tent camping offered all of the conveniences of home.*

Extra furnishings were available at a nominal charge. Some of these included a hammock at 50 cents per week; oven for 50 cents per week or 10 cents per day; blankets at 50 cents per week or 25 cents per day; a wash tub and board for 10 cents per day; flat irons, fry pans, wash basins, fish poles and ironing boards, each at 5 cents per week. Fishing tackle, smokers' supplies, post cards, special camp stationery, stamps, candy, peanuts and soda water were offered for sale at the camp office.

Groceries were brought in daily by boat. Orders were taken at 4 p.m. each day to be delivered at 7 a.m. the next morning. Those who wished to have their provisions earlier could meet the camp barge as it docked near the camp office.

The sites for the camp grounds were chosen so as to be free from the intrusion of strangers or excursionists, but they were by no means isolated. Nolans Point, which was the center of activity on the lake at that time was but a few minutes row from Camp Village. Located there, were several of the large hotels, dance halls, amusement places, stores of every description, a post office, telegraph, telephone and express offices, churches and picnic grounds.

There was social life of a different nature in the camp itself; the kind that appeals to all who live a simple and natural life.



*Breaking camp presented its difficulties.*

## Chapter Five

# Building the Borough of Mount Arlington

The creation of the Borough of Mount Arlington was the result of environmental concerns as relevant today as they were in 1890.

The pollution of the lake water by the Forcite Powder works damaged the fish habitat in the spring of that year. This aroused the anger of Howard P. Frothingham, a young New York investment banker and lake fishing enthusiast, and led, within six months, to a petition by a women's interest group to the incorporation of the Borough of Mount Arlington.

The American Forcite Powder Company had built a plant on the east shore of Lake Hopatcong in 1883 that produced a gelatin dynamite preferred by workers building tunnels because it was water resistant and comparatively free of fumes. The process, however, resulted in a toxic sulphuric acid waste which killed fish near dumping sites. A furious outburst of anglers was quieted by a company promise to halt the dumping.

Frothingham, as treasurer of the Mount Arlington Park Association, which held mortgages on land sold by the Lake Hopatcong Land and Improvement Company, was familiar with mortgage rules. The company expressly forbade the construction of chemical plants, iron forges and foundries, animal pens and other noxious concerns. Therefore, when the American Forcite Powder Company violated its own promise on acid waste dumping in the spring of 1890, Frothingham was outraged. As an appointee of then New Jersey Governor Leon Abbott of the State Fish and Game Commission, Frothingham vowed to prosecute those who used nets and dynamite to gather fish and to prosecute the powder works, as well.

The legal and public relations process began with tests by Columbia College chemistry Professor Mott. He found his litmus paper turned red and live fish in crates died after immersion in water near the dump sites. Lake area residents were encouraged to attend a public meeting in late July to discuss a proposal to create a borough government encircling the lake. A second meeting was held on September 12 at the Stone Chapel, now St. Peter's Church, and it was reported that state laws prohibited one municipality from crossing county boundaries. Most Breslin Park residents attended this meeting and were represented by R.L. Edwards, president; Henry Altenbrand, vice president; Robert Dunlap, treasurer, and Howard Frothingham secretary of the Lake Hopatcong Protection and Improvement Association.

Not everyone agreed to create one borough for fear the company which provided jobs at Landing for 100 with annual wages of \$600 per man, would be eliminated. Moderates suggested building cesspools to collect the acid wastes as a compromise to both the plant and the fishermen.

The critics acted first with a petition for a special election on October 12 to create only the borough of Landing with a population of 150 and 28 votes, and the proposition was approved by a vote of 18 to one. This news, excited the Breslin Park people to return to Lake Hopatcong. Hurried trips were made to Morristown and the Court of Common Pleas of Judge Francis Childs, who approved a similar petition for a similar election on November 1. The idea to create the Borough of Mount Arlington was adopted by a vote of 43 to four.

Ford Smith of Dover was appointed Borough Attorney by council action, and he promptly filed, as a legislator, a bill in the New Jersey State Assembly to create the Borough of Mount Arlington, separate from the Township of Roxbury.

The original petition for the formation of the Borough was signed by Daniel Shafer, Cyrus E. Cook, Julia A. Frothingham, Michael Williams, Robert Dunlap, Martha Von Furstenwarther, Emma C. Norman, John Werner, Martha Totten, August Pottier and Richard Chaplin and was dated October 17, 1890. The order by Judge Child was made on October 18, 1890, and called for a meeting to be held at the Mount Arlington Hotel on November 1, 1890. A special election was held November 25, 1890, also at the Mount Arlington Hotel. Howard P. Frothingham was elected mayor. Elected to the council were Frederick W. Zuck, Aaron D. Stephens, Daniel Schafer, Michael Williams, Oscar Sisco, and George M. Brockway. As the time for the regular yearly election approached in the spring of 1891, it was the opinion of the governing body that a full set of officers should be elected, as if no previous election had taken place. This was done to avoid any uncertainty or confusion arising under the law as to when the terms of councilmen would expire. This election was held on March 10, 1891. Cyrus E. Cook was appointed assessor and Richard Chaplin, collector.

As mayor, one of Frothingham's first contributions was an original design depicting an Indian in a canoe on a mountain lake, which the first council adopted as its official emblem, and still remains in effect today.

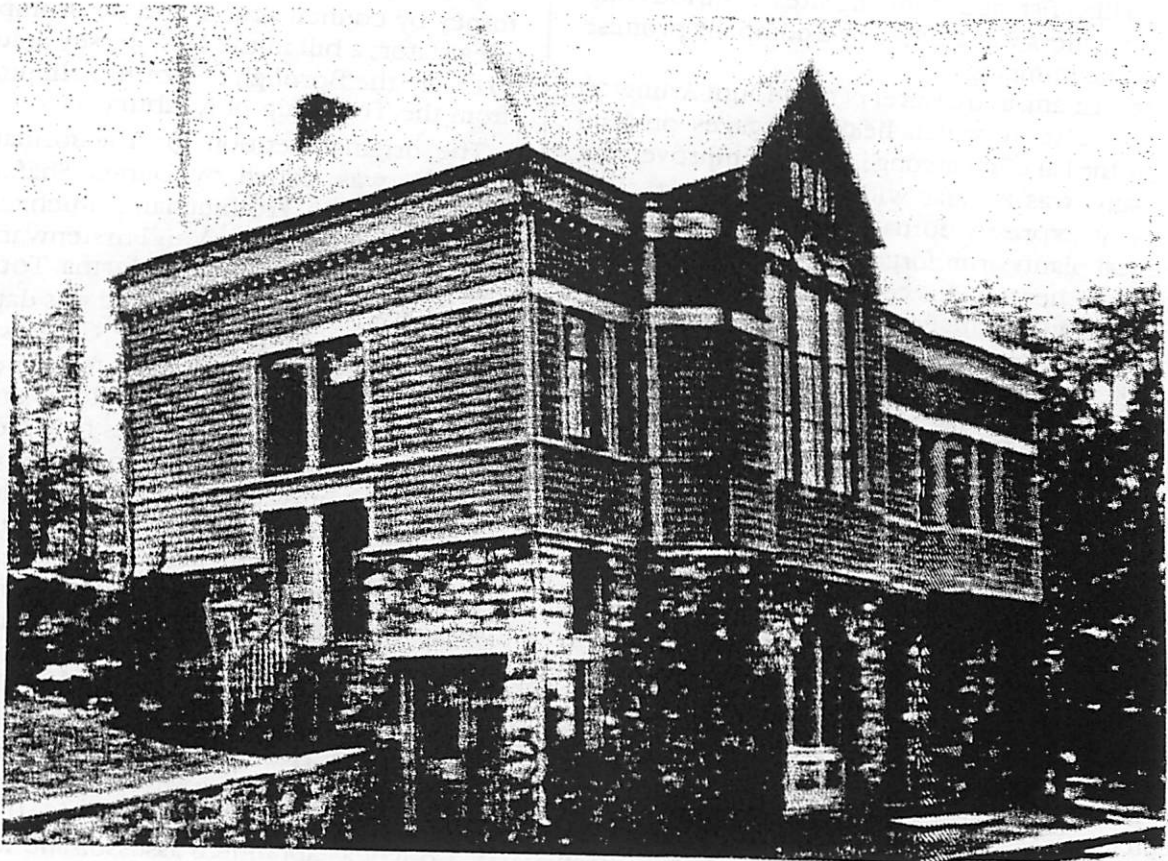


While acid waste had killed fish and angered Frothingham, who promoted the idea of borough government, the entire proposition rested upon the ladies, who, gave their approval as property owners to a question on which they could not vote. The heritage of Mount Arlington belongs as much to these women, Julia Frothingham, Amelia Dunlap, Louise Altenbrand, Emma Norman, Aline Lyon and Lotta Crabtree, as it does to our founding fathers.

The newly elected Common Council immediately took steps to improve community life at

Mount Arlington. In addition to the installation of electric lights and a \$20,000 bond issue to macadam Mount Arlington Boulevard, the Council awarded a contract to Ed Lee to build a two-story stone borough hall with offices and a council meeting room. The cost of construction was \$3,500 and was deferred by private means.

The next step taken was to establish an independent school separate from Hopatcong, which would be housed in the borough hall.



*Mount Arlington's first municipal hall and school.*

## Chapter Six

# Our Founding Fathers

The Borough of Mount Arlington was known as the "Capital" of the Lake Hopatcong region. While the surrounding areas had been settled by men who worked in the forests and iron ore mines, Mount Arlington was home of millionaires.

The transformation of the area "from forest to fairyland" began in 1885 when Henry Altenbrand and Delos Culver, president of the Lake Hopatcong Land and Improvement Company, had invited a select group of 50 businessmen to visit the lake area on September 12. Many were immediately "sold" on the area and invested in property. Choice lakefront properties were purchased by the New York contingency of investors, which included John G. Oldner, Auguste Pottier, Norman W. Dodge, Max Norman, Catherine Walsh, David Trundy, Charles Balliard of the New York Museum of Art and Lotta Crabtree. Culver, Altenbrand, Robert Dunlap and Amasa Lyon had reserved certain lots. Culver and Altenbrand were also directors of the Lake Hopatcong Hotel Company, which was incorporated on January 12, 1886, with \$100,000 in capital to build hotels, cottages, piers, wharves, docks and boathouses.

It is interesting to note that many of these early property titles were held by women including Aline Lyon, Amelia Dunlap, Emma Norman, Helen Oldner, Augustine Pottier, Louise Altenbrand and Ann L. Culver.

The Lake Hopatcong Land and Improvement Company spent large sums of money on improvements to the area. It was instrumental in opening up Mount Arlington Boulevard to the railroad station in Landing, and Howard Boulevard to the Rustic Station three miles away and extended another 1½ miles to Drakesville Village, which is now known as Ledgewood.

The Lake Hopatcong Land and Improvement Company later consolidated with the exclusive Hotel Breslin Club and the Hopatcong Steamboat and Transportation Company. Stock in the corporation was held by wealthy Wall Street brokers and bankers and other prominent business owners.

Robert Dunlap was president of Dunlap & Co., hat manufacturers with stores in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. The manufacturing factory was on Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn. Born in New York on October 17, 1834, he opened his first store in 1857. He was also on the board of directors of the Garfield National Bank, the Bank of the State of New York and the Ball Electric Light Company.

His private monetary contributions financed the first borough hall, the school's first library, St. Peter's Church and Tanglewild Glen. Dunlap died in 1900.

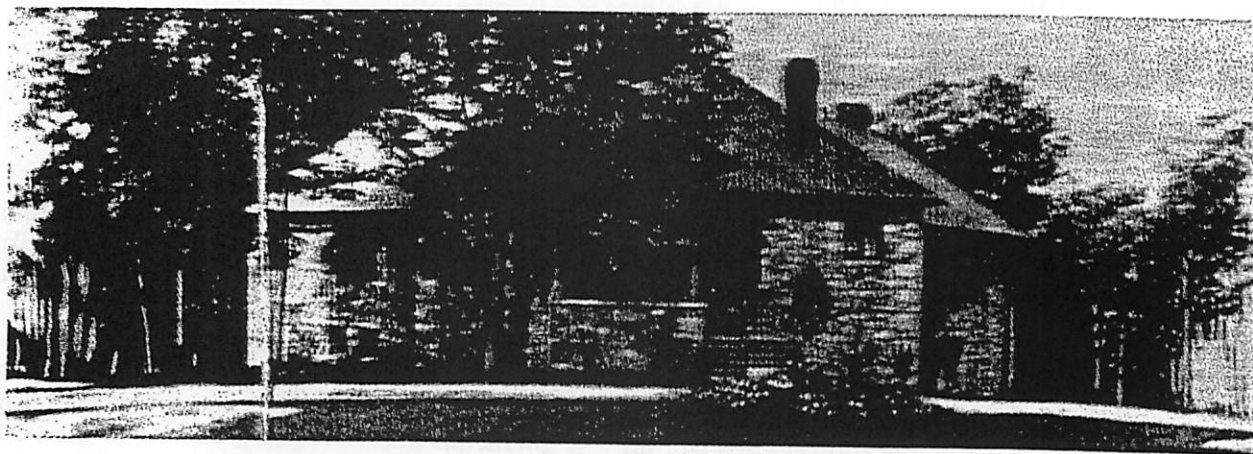
Henry Altenbrand was born on November 22, 1844 in East New York, where his father had built a hotel in 1839 which catered to excursionists and picnic parties. He was a graduate of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and upon graduation established the New York and Brooklyn Malting Company in 1873. He became president of the Manhattan Malting Company, which owned farms in Montana, in 1890. He purchased land at Lake Hopatcong and was the proprietor of the Lake View House in 1880. In 1885 he transferred his properties to the Lake Hopatcong Land and Improvement Company.

Auguste Pottier was the owner of Pottier and Stymus, furniture manufacturers at 41st Street and Lexington Avenue in New York. He purchased a lot on the lake front of Windermere Avenue. This included what is now Barnes Brothers Marina. It also included the property where the Windermere Colony bungalows are located, and extended to the parcel where Our Lady of the Lake School is today.



*Robert Dunlap.*





*Crescent Lodge, the home of Mayor and Mrs. Howard Frothingham.*

The barn and stable to Pottier's property is now owned by Robert and Virginia Rooney. The 2 Prospect Street dwelling was the original barn for the Pottier Estate. The Pottier and Stymus firm provided furnishings for the Savoy, Plaza and Fifth Avenue Hotels in New York City as well as the Ponce De Leon and Royal Poincianna Hotels in Florida. They also furnished the private residences of the Rockefellers and Westinghouses as well as the Breslin Hotel.

Howard P. Frothingham was born March 12, 1861. As a young man, he was influential on Wall Street representing numerous banks, trust and insurance companies. **The Court Journal** of New York reported that as the representative of a syndicate of prominent clearing house bankers, he raised a million pounds sterling, and was willing to raise



*Howard P. Frothingham.*

\$10,000,000 to avert a money market panic in 1892. He married Julia Bedlow on September 21, 1881 at the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest on Fifth Avenue in New York.

Frothingham, as well as his wife, was an avid fisherman, and it is reported he arose at early hours of the morning to fish the waters of Lake Hopatcong with his exclusive guide, George Decker. He was appointed by Governor Leon Abbett as game warden and member of the New Jersey Fish and Game Commission in 1890. In the pursuit of his duties, he published the fish and game laws for sportsmen. That same year he was also elected first mayor of Mt. Arlington.

Mayor and Mrs. Frothingham carried on the genteel lifestyle of the area known as Breslin Park. They celebrated their wedding anniversary every autumn with their "cottager" friends at Lake Hopatcong. Their ninth anniversary was in 1890 and Howard presented Julia with a ruby and diamond ring. The tenth anniversary began with a catered affair at the Schafer Hotel scheduled for 7 p.m. after which the 75 guests were invited to Crescent Lodge for a reception and dancing with music provided by the Eppinger Orchestra. A late supper was served at 11:30 p.m. after which dancing and socializing continued on until 3 a.m. Mrs. Frothingham's gift that year was a magnificent diamond brooch. It is reported that Crescent Lodge was decorated with ferns and flowers for the 13th anniversary in 1894 and "Mrs. Frothingham's superb figure and rich blond beauty were shown to her best advantage by a gown of exquisite black lace and diamonds."

Change came to the mayor's life in 1897, when he divorced his wife, who had run off with the chauffeur. Frothingham had gained custody of their only child, Lillian. His life came to a tragic end ten years later, just short of his 46th birthday, when he "fell" from a window at 20 West 77th Street in New York. He fractured his skull in the fall and died on February 2, 1907.

## *Chapter Seven*

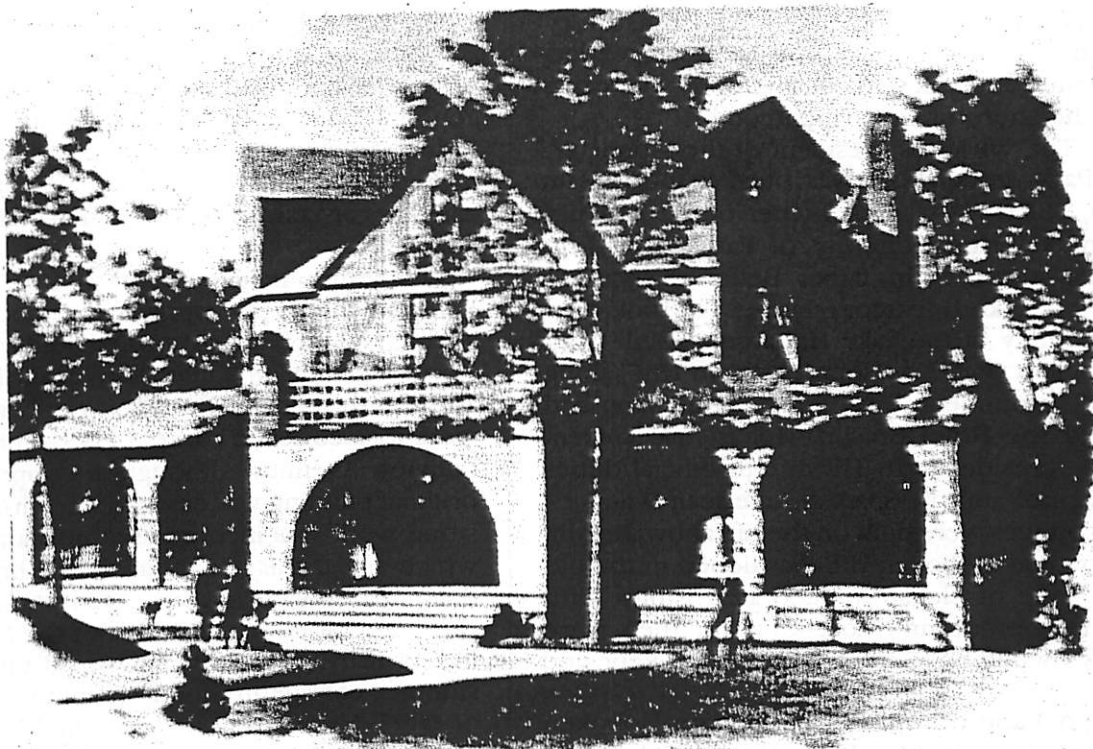
# Mount Arlington's Historic District

The Mount Arlington Historic District is comprised of the Tilt, Frothingham, Dunlap, Norman, Culver, Himpler, Crabtree, Poole, Walsh, Hexamer, Hengstler and Rabe cottages together with St. Peter's Church, Von Furstenwarther's drug store, and the original borough hall. On April 27, 1978, the District was entered onto the New Jersey Registry of Historic Sites and is now on the National Registry.

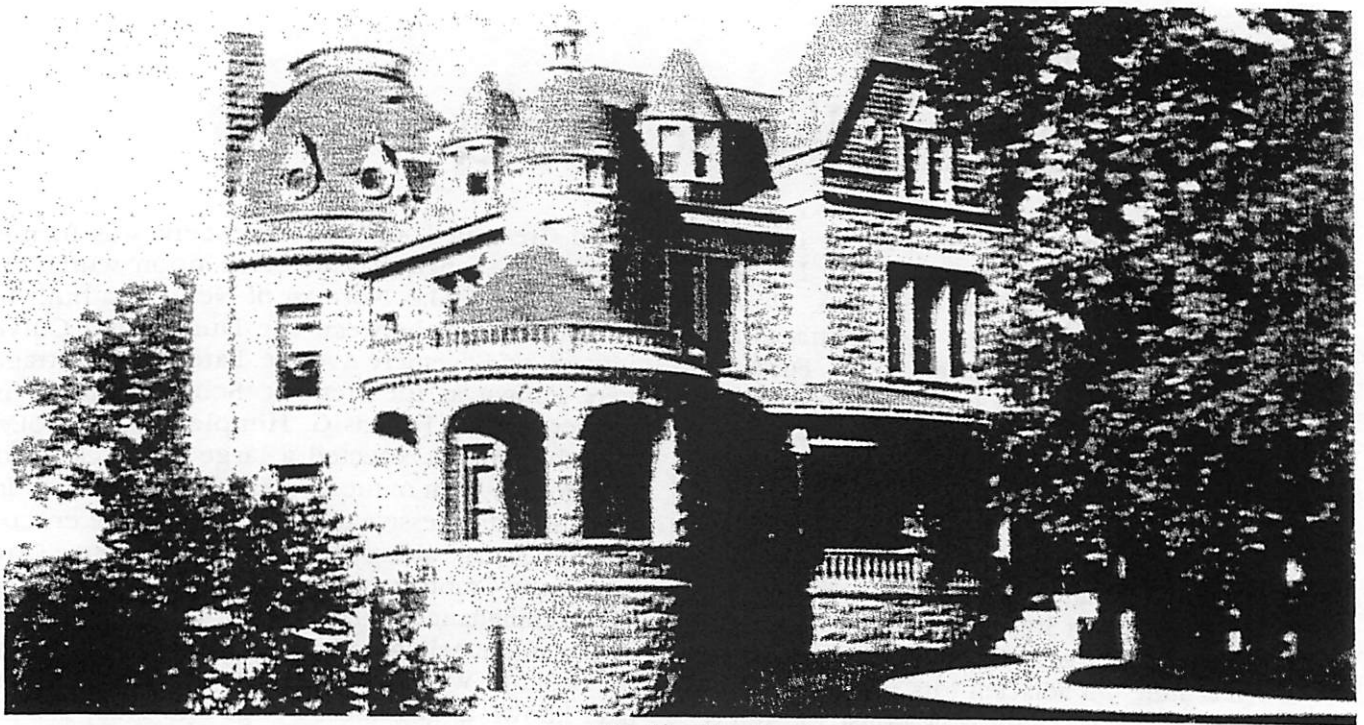
Of the six cottages built in Breslin Park in 1886 by Oldner, Pottier, Altenbrand, Dunlap, Culver and Crabtree, only the latter three have survived. All are in the Queen Ann Style.

In 1889, three more cottages in the Queen Anne style were built. On adjacent lots north of Altenbrand, Cyrus Cook erected a large house for Albert Tilt of Paterson, and then Howard P. Frothingham had a cottage built of hewn grey stone, which was

called Crescent Lodge. The crescent was formed by an arch-shaped private drive upon which the house fronted. Max Norman of New York built his cottage on a lot between the Dunlap and Culver cottages on Edgemere Avenue. Later these cottages were known as the Steneck, Schreiber and Vintschger houses. Francis G. Himpler, the Hoboken Church architect, erected a large stone castle on the shore in front of the Breslin Hotel, which today remains an impressive dwelling. S.G. Poole erected another cottage along the shore of Chincoppee Cove east of the Crabtree cottage, which was foreclosed by Frothingham and Dunlap for a mortgage held by the Mount Arlington Park Association, and which they sold to Warren Sammis of Huntington. It was later known as Edgemere Lodge and today is a private residence.



*The Albert Tilt Cottage.*



*The Himpler House*

Francis G. Himpler, a Hoboken church architect, was born in Germany in 1833. He designed the Hoboken City Hall, St. Mary's Hospital and Sacred Heart Academy in that city. His Mount Arlington cottage was called *Mira Lacum*, which means "view of the lake," and is appropriately named as every room had a view of the lake. It is located on Edgemere Avenue and still remains an impressive structure on the shore of Lake Hopatcong.

Albert Tilt, who was president of the Mount Arlington Park Association, was born in Boston on April 29, 1841. He was the owner of the Phoenix Silk Manufacturing Company of Paterson, a firm which was started by his father. Belle Vista was the name of his Lake Hopatcong home. Tilt took over the presidency of the Lake Hopatcong Club from vice president Garret A. Hobart, who in 1897 along with 167 prominent New Jersey politicians had purchased the Hotel Breslin. Hobart had surrendered the presidency to Tilt due to official duties in the Capitol and the Spanish-American War.

Four cottages were built on the hill above Breslin Park known as Hoboken Hill. Fashioned in the old German style of elegantly decorated gables with colored arabesque and coats-of-arms, they were originally owned by Hexamer, Hengstler, Rabe and Behrens.

Rudolph Rabe occupied a cottage on Hoboken Hill overlooking Breslin Park. He was an incorporator of the Lake Hopatcong Land and Improvement Company. Born in Germany on August 4, 1841, he came to America, studied at the Columbia College Law School, and was elected to the State

legislature from 1873 to 1876 and to the New Jersey Senate from 1877 to 1880. Rabe organized the Second National Bank of Hoboken in 1887 with \$125,000 in capital, and by 1892 the bank's resources totaled \$922,551.

Another Rabe neighbor in the City of Hoboken as well as on Hoboken Hill in Mount Arlington was Alexander Philip Hexamer, who was born in Hoboken in 1857. He was associated with the Hoboken Riding Academy, which rented and sold horses to prominent families in the region. His firm also made carriages or taxicabs available most all hours of the day.

Two other neighbors on Hoboken Hill were Ahrend Behrens, an importer, and Louis Hengstler, a lithographer. Behrens was affiliated with the North German Steamship Lines. The original Behrens estate was torn down. The stables and carriage house were located at the corner of Berkshire and Mountainview Avenues. Although the upper part of the original building was destroyed by fire, the original stone work was incorporated into a new building which sits at this site today. Mrs. Ahrend Behrens died in Hoboken in April 1924 at the age of 83. Born and raised in the Palace of the Hohenzollerns in Germany, she and her husband moved to their summer cottage in Mount Arlington in the spring of 1895. Mr. Behrens never owned an automobile, being a lover of horses and preferred this means of travel. The Behrens owned their summer cottage until 1922 when the ownership passed into the hands of Mr. Vintschger.

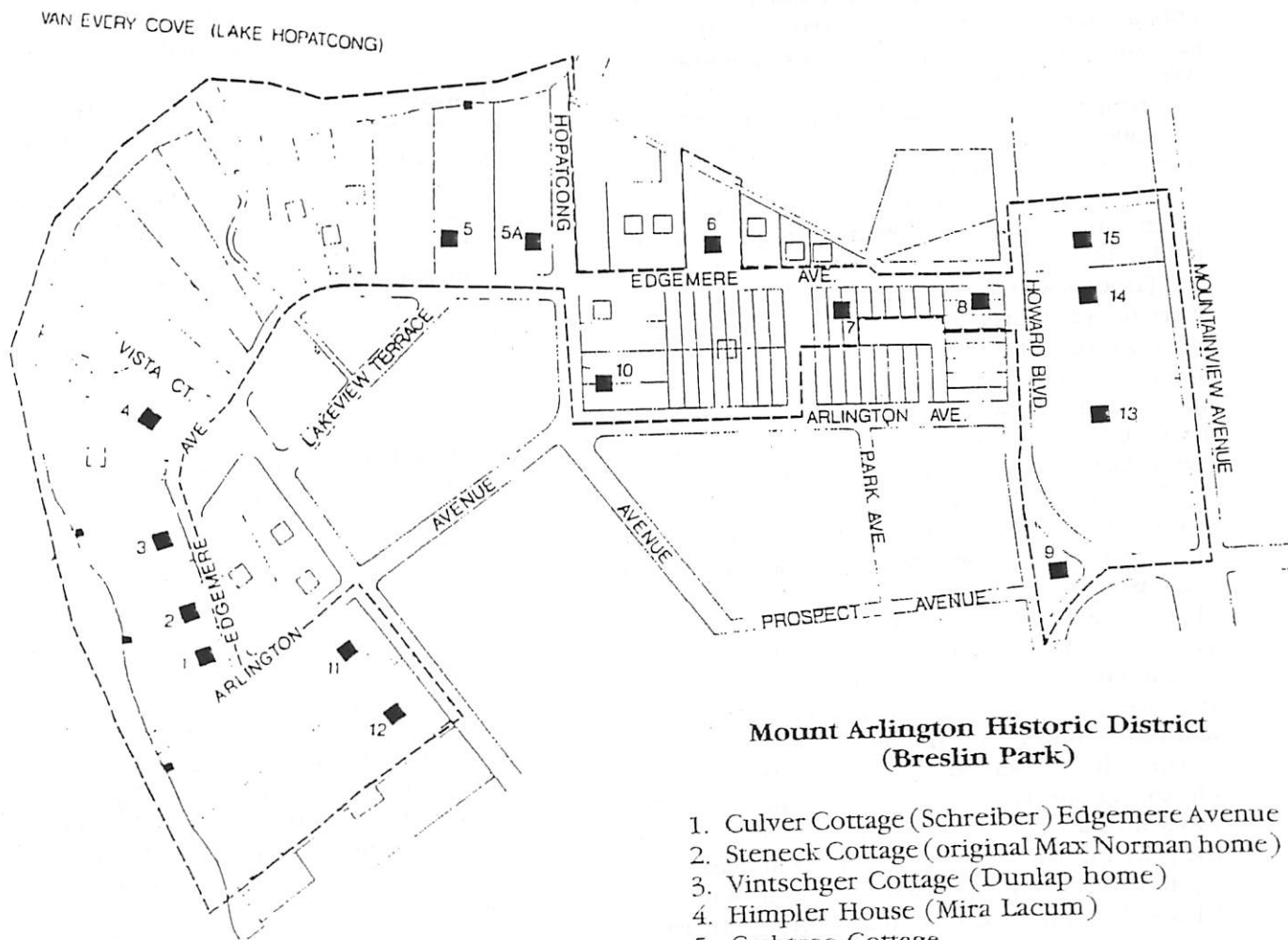


The Rabe House at 61 Mountainview Avenue is now the Mount Arlington Rest Home. The stable, which is now a garage, is still standing across the street on Howard Boulevard.

The present home of Robert and Virginia Rooney at 57 Mountainview Avenue is the last house in this row of four historical homes. It was built circa 1890 and is a four-story structure with a two-deck porch spanning the entire front of the home. It was originally owned by Hexamers, whose stables were located across the boulevard. The property where the firehouse was built, was also originally part of the Hexamer tract. A windmill still stands at the

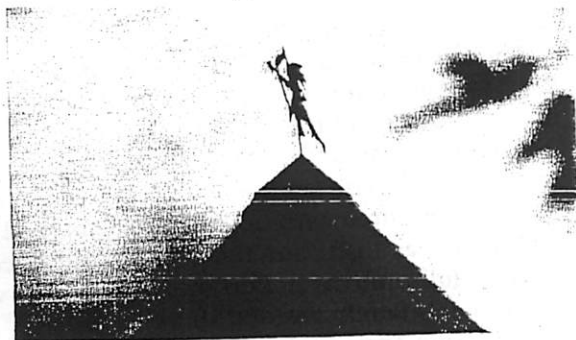
rear of the house on Mountainview Avenue. It was originally used to pump water to the house.

Other impressive structures, not included in the Borough's Historic District were on Mount Harry. Mount Arlington Park, which encompassed the entire length of Windermere Avenue and the surrounding area, included Mount Harry. The most famous building in this area is Kil Kare Castle, the large stone cottage of Colonel G.G. Green. The dwellings of W.C. Arnott and Mrs. Annie Van Dolsen, both built in 1891, are also located on Mount Harry, which was named after Harry Altenbrand, the son of Henry Altenbrand, one of the area's first residents.



### Mount Arlington Historic District (Breslin Park)

1. Culver Cottage (Schreiber) Edgemere Avenue
2. Steneck Cottage (original Max Norman home)
3. Vintschger Cottage (Dunlap home)
4. Himpler House (Mira Lacum)
5. Crabtree Cottage
- 5a. Crabtree Garage
6. Edgemere Lodge
7. St. Peter's Church
8. Von Furstenwarther's Pharmacy
9. Library (First Borough Hall)
10. Walsh Cottage
11. Frothingham Cottage
12. Tilt Cottage
13. Hexamer House
14. Hengstler House
15. Rabe House



*Indian figure weathervane atop the Walsh Cottage.*

## Chapter Eight

# Kil Kare Castle — A Model of Architecture

The summer home of Colonel G.G. Green and family was described as "beyond doubt, one of the most picturesque, novel, and complete residences anywhere." The magnificently artistic structure was built circa 1895 at a cost of \$50,000 and towered above the entire Lake Hopatcong region.

The castle has not changed much in outward appearance from Col. Green's day. Situated on the east shore of Lake Hopatcong along Windermere Avenue, and atop what is known as Mount Harry, the romantic castle stands as a reminder of the glorious life of the Gay Nineties when Mount Arlington was a "new summer resort."

Col. Green's fortune was founded on his father's invention of August Flower, a popular cure-all medicine. August Flower, Boschee's German Syrup and Green's Ague Conqueror, a remedy for malaria, were manufactured at Green's laboratory in Woodbury. Along with Green's Almanac, these products were household words around the turn of the century. August Flower was said to cure most everything from dyspepsia to heart disease. German Syrup claimed to be beneficial for lung ailments, as well as for inflammation of the bowels and intestines. The almanac, which contained such testimonials for these products, was advertised as the most expensive book ever produced for free distribution. It was a general reference book and contained a calendar with space for memos and notes. It also contained jokes, weather predictions, the phases of the moon, seasons of the year, signs of the zodiac and other useful information.

The colonel's selection of Woodbury for his manufacturing site turned what was a sleepy country town into a thriving industrial center. Green was the principal owner of twelve different manufacturing industries, several of which were in Woodbury. His assets comprised several millions of dollars and were rated as the highest by mercantile agencies.

Born in Clarksboro in 1842, he was a graduate of Pennington Seminary and Dickinson College. During the Civil War he served as a surgeon. He started his drug business in Baltimore, later moving to Athens, Ohio, where he met and married Vangie Brown. In 1874 they moved to Woodbury.

He was president and director of five banks and a trustee of several colleges, including Pennington. He contributed heavily to charitable institutions.

Although he declined the candidacy for U.S. Sen-

ator, he was twice elected to the electoral college under President Grover Cleveland.

His business interests were in every state and extended to many foreign countries.

One of his choicest possessions was the Hotel Green in Pasadena, California. The hotel, which comprised two city blocks, catered to the most prominent people and was known as one of the most magnificent and best kept hotels in southern California.

It was said that whenever Col. Green visited California, which he did by way of his private railroad car, a brass band was there to meet the train.

When in California, he lived at his Laquanta Rancho. He also owned several plantations and a 250-acre orange, lemon and almond grove. He also had a residence in Altadena, California, a place named after his youngest daughter. On the three corners opposite from his, resided Joseph Madell of the Chicago Tribune, A.C. Armstrong of the Santa Fe Railroad, and A. McNally of Rand, McNally Co., Professor T.S.C. Lowe, noted balloonist during the rebellion along the Potomac, also resided nearby.

His Woodbury residence, Gray Towers, was reputed to be the finest Victorian mansion in the East.

Green's Woodbury laboratory continued to operate until 1946. The rights to August Flower and Boschee's Syrup were sold by the family to Myers Laboratories of Warren, Pa., for a mere \$10,000, and have gone the way of all the old remedies.

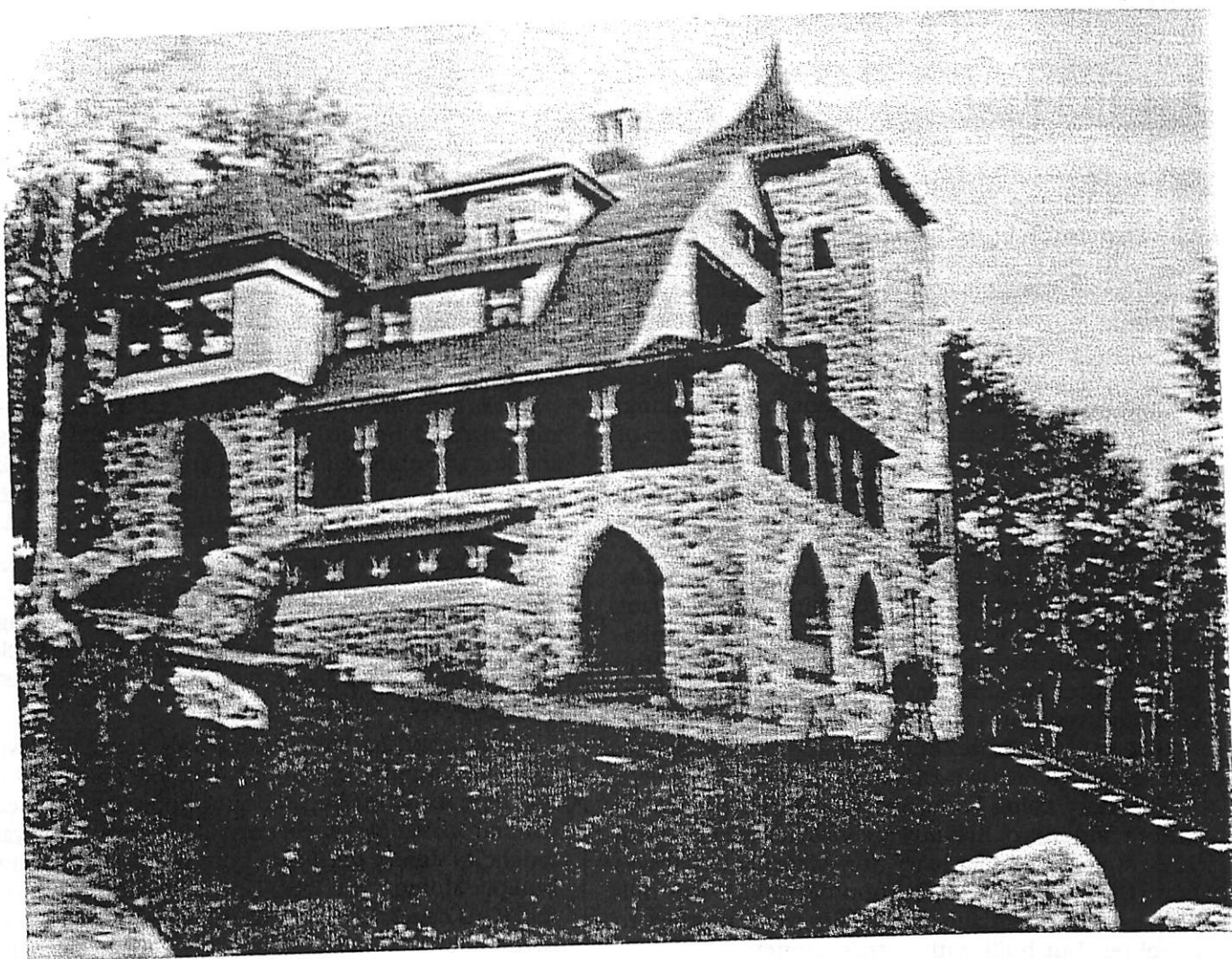
Col. Green first visited Lake Hopatcong with Governor Robert S. Green in 1888. He was a member of the Governor's staff and was in Mount Arlington for the dedication of the chapel in Breslin Park. He returned the following summer with a company of prominent friends to tour the lake and select the site for his home. He chose the point of Mount Harry.

The Greens called their summer home Kil Kare Castle.

The castle was described in *The Angler* of July 27, 1895, as "built of stone and modeled for comfort, coolness, and gazing at the scenery."

It has not changed much in outward appearance over the years. The lawn, once described as "velvet green ornamented with beds of rare plants and flowers," is not as lush, but then, the castle does not have the full-time caretakers it had in the days when Col. Green's family resided there.

A massive tower adorns the southwest corner,



while a cozy, half enclosed piazza commands both the northern and southern views. There is a tower room, referred to by later owners as the penthouse. It was glass enclosed with a porch to the rear, off which were stairs leading to the roof with its six imported English chimneys. From this point, the highest on Lake Hopatcong, virtually the entire lake is visible.

The reception room of the castle was described as "exquisite" with its handsome furnishings. Many nooks and retreats mantle this enchanting place.

"Rustic seats and winding paths lead down a gradual descent to the boathouse," where the Colonel liked to "linger and gaze at the calm but sometimes dashing and splashing waters of the lake." This unique boathouse was considered a model of architecture in its day. On the north corner is a circular tower, the interior of which is a round room. It was described in Col. Green's day as being "fitted with comforts."

Col. Green kept his steam launch, "The Altadena," housed here. It was described as the most handsome and swiftest on the lake. Like the town in California,

it was named after his youngest daughter. The white hulled boat was finished in antique oak and brass. Its cozy saloon was enclosed with sliding windows on sides and front.

The colonel lived three months of the year at Kil Kare Castle and divided the rest of the year between his residences in Woodbury and Altadena.

Kil Kare Castle was in Col. Green's family until 1945 when it was sold to the Hassmanns, who changed the name to Twin Castles, after their twin sons. When the family ran into financial difficulties in managing such a large estate, they converted it into a nursing home. That was in 1956. Twin Castle Nursing Home closed during the mid 1970's and became an apartment house. Alan and Faith Rubinstein, who had rented the boathouse of the castle for several summers, purchased the entire estate along with partners Gary and Barbara Scott and Donald Rubenstein in 1978. They operated it as Windemere Castle Gallery for a time. The Rubinsteins still own the boathouse. Kil Kare Castle is now a condominium complex.



## Chapter Nine

# Attol Tryst

The house at 33 Edgemere Avenue looks much as it did when it was one of the more impressive structures in the millionaire's colony known as Breslin Park. Situated on a steep hill overlooking Van Every Cove, it is of split-level design in an odd combination of Queen Anne and Swiss chalet styling.

Next to Kil Kare Castle, the imposing fortress built on Mount Harry by the patent medicine king, Col. George G. Green, it was the most elaborate of all the homes in Breslin Park.

Called *Attol Tryst*, it was the summer cottage of the actress Lotta Crabtree, known more commonly as Miss Lotta. (Attol is Lotta spelled backwards.)

Some may think she must have been a grand lady to have socialized with the wealthiest of Americans during the turn of the century. For those who inhabited Breslin Park, at the center of which was the grand Hotel Breslin, were "well-established, married, and without scandal."

Not so, Miss Lotta. Being an actress and single, she found life at Lake Hopatcong dull.

The only thing Lotta had in common with the other residents of Breslin Park was her wealth. Attol Tryst was her mother Mary Ann's fabrication. It was here that she could rub shoulders with the millionaires. The cottage was a gift from mother to daughter, but built with Lotta's money.

Lotta was described in later life as being eccentric. The *New York Times* called her "the eternal child" in her obituary. At the height of her career she was known as "the nation's darling." She was described by critics as mischievous, unpredictable, impulsive, rattlebrained, teasing, piquant, rollicking, cheerful, saucy, pert, gamey and devilish.

Being an actress, Lotta was all of these at one time or another. She stood 5'2" and had light red hair, which she sprinkled sparingly with cayenne pepper for her performances, and smoked thin black cigars off stage.

She always wore her skirts shorter than was the style, simply because she wanted to.

She was a comedienne who played mostly boys' parts and it was said this is what kept her young.

She broke the traditions of the stage as well as the traditions as to the place of women in life and in the theatre.

Acting was in her blood and she lived to entertain.

Lotta Mignon Crabtree was born on November 7, 1847, in New York City to Mary Ann Livesey Crabtree and John Ashworth Crabtree, immigrants

from England. The Liveseys were of solid, middle-class stock with a touch of adventure in their blood. They had originally planned to make their fortune in India, but on the voyage over, all of the male Liveseys, except the youngest, drowned when the ship sank. The widow used her savings and bought passage to New York for herself, her three daughters, and one young son.

It was here Mary Ann met John Crabtree, an elegantly dressed bookseller who did not read books and knew nothing about them and who also drank more than he should. Because she was of an age when a husband was a necessity, they were married.

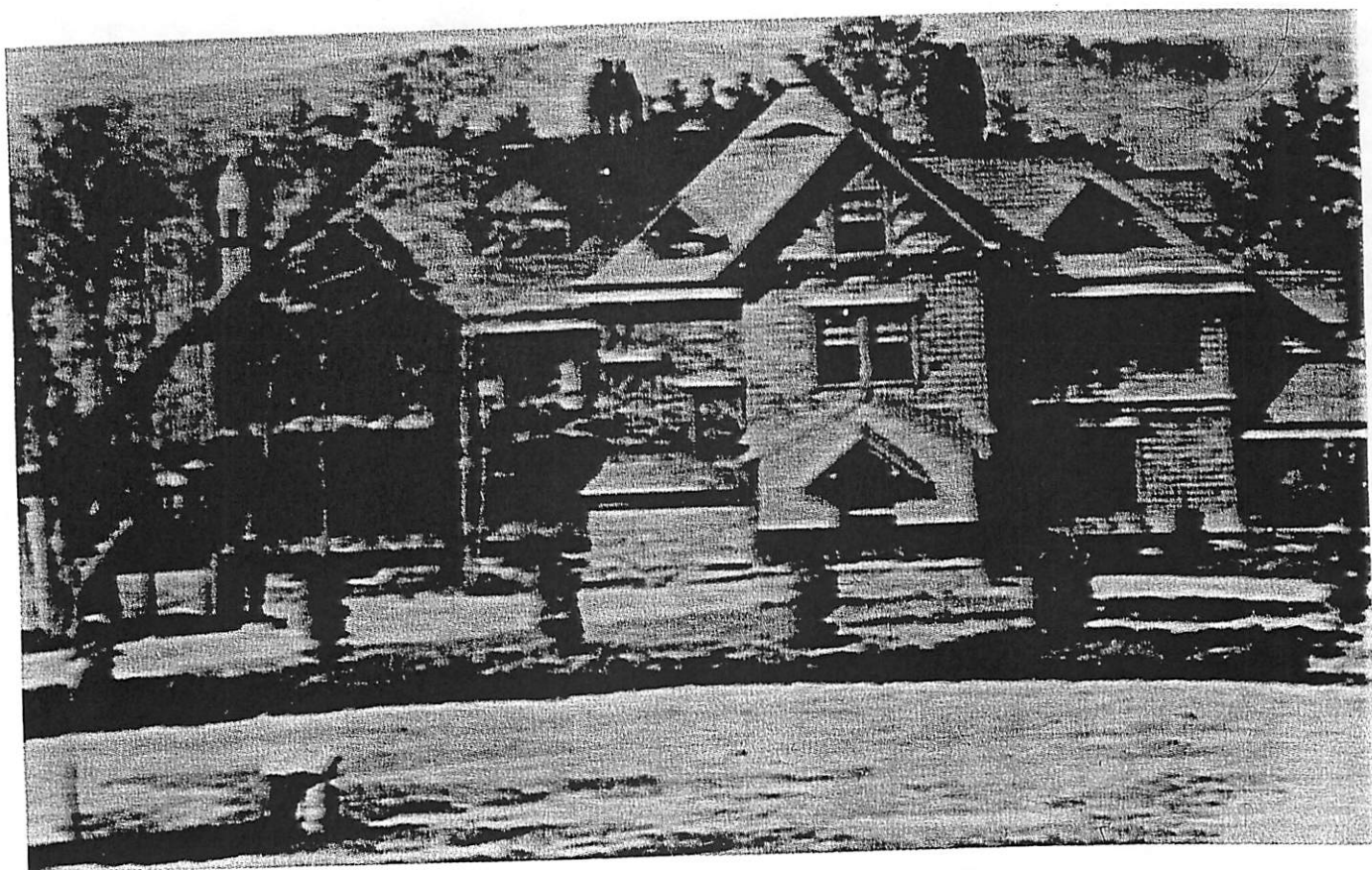
Two years after Lotta was born, John Crabtree left to join the goldrush to California. In 1853, Lotta and her mother arrived in San Francisco having made the perilous journey by boat and on muleback through the Panama route which only the strongest could survive.

It was months later when they tracked down John in a mining camp called Grass Valley and it was here that Lotta began her training. She attended dancing class held in the annex of a tavern and was taught to dance the Fandango and Highland fling by Lola Montez, the Irish-born Countess of Landsfeld. Lola danced a wild burlesque, was married and divorced five times and had a pet bear cub. The Countess had taken refuge in the mining camp at Grass Valley after her reputation drove her from more desirable areas.

At the age of 7, Lotta gave her first performance which in turn led to a tour of mining camps. They traveled over mule trails, with Lotta strapped to the horse and her mother walking alongside carrying baby John. At the mining camps, her mother collected the money from the performances in a shoe.

At one of the mining camps in Eureka, Lotta sang her character songs and danced for boarders, one of whom was Capt. Ulysses S. Grant. She would perform again for him 20 years later at Washington's National Theatre with Grant in the President's box.

Melodeons, which preceded vaudeville theater, were Lotta's training grounds. Her first tour was in 1861 through what was then the Nevada Territory. Lotta received top billing in the male and female minstrel company and the tour proved a great success. When the tour ended, she received the ultimate tribute of the day, giving benefit performances for fire companies where she was billed as Miss



*Attol Tryst was the summer cottage of Miss Lotta Crabtree.*

Lotta doing a Jenny Leatherlungs comedy of Jenny Lind in which she played Leatherlungs.

By the age of 16, Lotta was doing hornpipes, Scotch flings, polkas and Irish jigs. Irish character parts, which were usually designated for boys, were her specialty. At one time she played a one-woman show, playing all seven roles in the farce, "Object of Interest."

In 1863, she was hailed as "the most talented juvenile actress California has yet produced." By this time she was playing amusement parks by day and melodeons by night making more money than any other actress. Her final performance at San Francisco's Opera House in 1864 netted her \$1500.

Having conquered the West, Lotta was ready to try New York, but the New York stage was still serious and was not yet ready for Lotta when she first opened there in 1864. Her debut was a failure.

Never one to be discouraged by an unsuccessful performance, Lotta and her mother set off for Chicago. There, Lotta joined the Woods Stock Company and was a complete success in her role in "The Seven Daughters of Satan," which she took on tour of the east and midwest the following year. She opened in Boston in a repertory which included Uncle Tom's Cabin and "Jenny Leatherlungs." She played an extensive tour of the eastern and southern

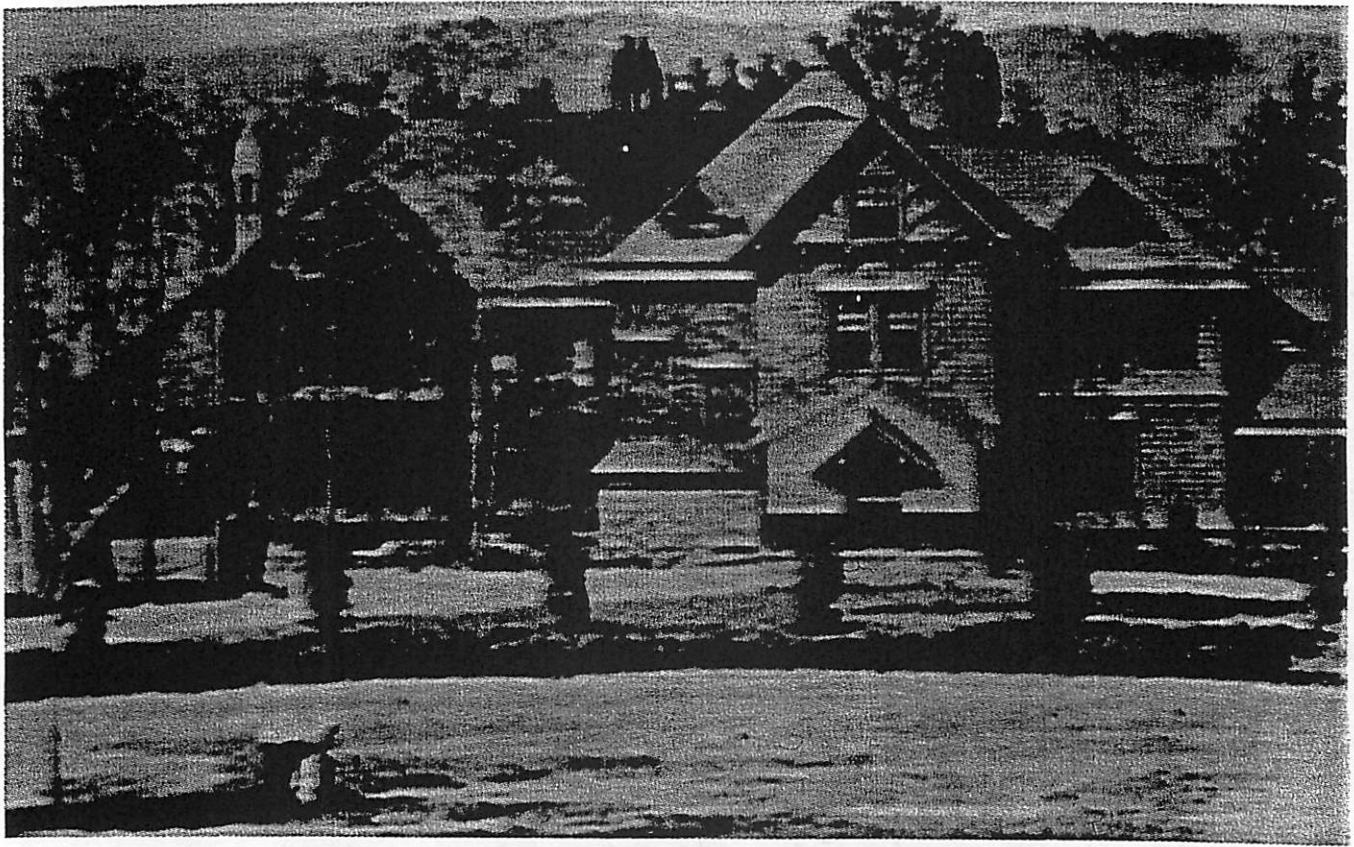
states, which included her first appearance at the St. Charles Theatre in New Orleans.

While Lotta was devoting herself entirely to performing, her mother was in the background picking up the profits, literally. Mary Ann stood in the wings offstage and as soon as the money was thrown on stage, she'd gather it up in her skirts, a shoe, or whatever else was handy. She kept Lotta's earnings locked in a trunk, which she personally saw to, and only she had the key to open it.

At a later date, she had her own husband sentenced to the Tombs for stealing from the trunk.

Lotta's success in New Orleans was the beginning of her national popularity. It was here that a play was written expressly for her: "Little Nell and the Marchioness," by John Brougham. Lotta selected her own company for the ensuing road performances of "Little Nell" becoming one of the first actresses to use the "combination system," as it is known. She would travel with her own cast, rather than rely on local stock companies for supporting players.

In September of 1867, Lotta conquered New York in a premiere performance of "Little Nell" at Wallack's Theater, which brought in an average of \$1,100 a night and brought Lotta almost \$10,000 for her 28 performances.



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"Jack," Mrs. Beatty continued, "was always borrowing money from Lotta and never paid it back. There was forever quarreling over money."

In September, 1891, Lotta's youngest brother, George, died while enroute from Liverpool to New York. He had been Lotta's business manager for the Park Theater in Boston. Upon his death, brother Jack took over his duties and Lotta and Mary Ann, retired to *Attol Tryst*.

Lotta had earlier in the year fractured a vertebra in a fall during a performance in Wilmington near the end of what was to be her most successful season ever. She netted almost \$87,000. After a lengthy recuperation at Lake Hopatcong, Lotta attempted a comeback, but after six weeks, the tour was cancelled. Lotta was 45 years old and never acted again.

Her first years of retirement were spent between New York City and Lake Hopatcong.

During her career she had amassed a fortune

close to 4 million dollars, and upon her death in 1924, her will became the subject of two trials, lasting more than four years, with more than 100 persons claiming relationship to Lotta and seeking a share of her estate.

In the end, the money was distributed as Lotta wished — to charities.

Like her mother, Lotta became obsessed with money in her later years, but she was more concerned with giving it away. She sponsored tea dances for the unemployed, formed the Lotta Dumb Animal Fund, gave generously to the Audubon Society and the ASPCA. There wasn't a humanitarian cause she did not support.

After her mother's death in 1905, Lotta never lived at *Attol Tryst*. Although she visited Lake Hopatcong frequently, she always stayed with friends. She visited Lake Hopatcong for the last time during the 1920's. The millionaires were mostly all gone and *Attol Tryst* had been sold.

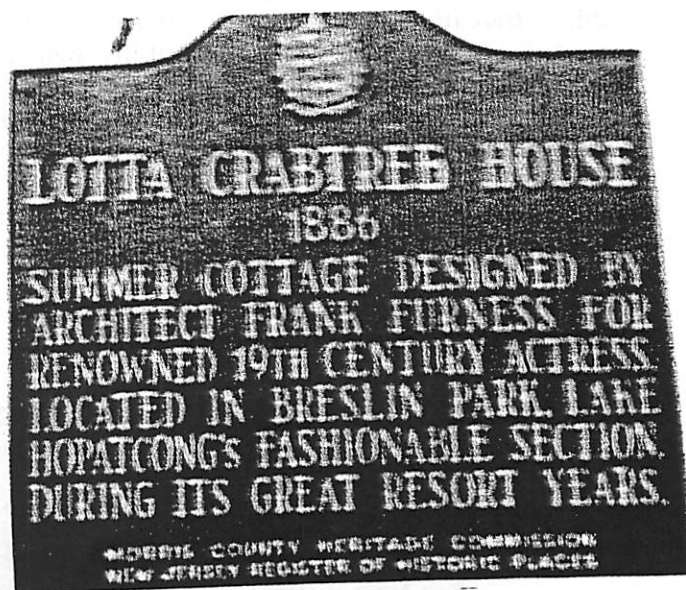
## Attol Tryst Today

The grandeur that graced the area of Mount Arlington known as Breslin Park is being recaptured by Robert and Sherry O'Donnell in the restoration of *Attol Tryst*.

Originally built as the summer cottage of Lotta Crabtree, the house was designed by Philadelphia architect Frank Furness and is considered the best design of a private home in historical architecture. Furness designed most of the buildings in the city of Philadelphia, including the library at the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, as well as several Cape May, New Jersey homes. He is best known for originality of design and the blending of different styles. *Attol Tryst* is of split level design in an eclectic blend of Queen Anne and Swiss Chalet styling.

The O'Donnells are the sixth owners to reside at *Attol Tryst*. The others have included a bootlegger, and a gambler who ran a good old-fashioned gambling house. Dr. and Mrs. Henry Rubin were the most recent long-term owners. They had purchased the house in the late 1930's as a summer home. When Dr. Rubin died, his wife, Elsie, spent summers here for a while and later rented the house year 'round until it was sold in the 1980's to a developer, who subdivided the original lot into three parcels of land. The O'Donnells purchased the Crabtree house and lot in 1988 and have been restoring it faithful to the original design, except for combining rooms which when completed will total 20 instead of the original 22.

The exterior of the original house had been



Marker placed by Heritage Commission.

brown with a green roof. Dr. Rubin had the house painted white and the wood-shingled roof and trim, red. The O'Donnells have redone the roof using cedar shakes and the new gutters are of mahogany and copper.

The main entrance to the house faces Edgemere Avenue with a circular driveway leading through a gabled porte-cochere. The original front door was a heavily wood-planked Dutch design and at one time had seven locks. That was when the bootlegger lived there.

Entering through the front door into the foyer is like taking a step back in time. In the foyer is one

of 10 carved stone fireplaces. It is said to be one of the most beautifully designed by Furness. Two carved gargoyles adorn the sides, and the fire screen shows a lily motif, a Furness trademark.

Entrance to all the downstairs rooms is off the foyer. There is an open walnut staircase, once lined with stained glass windows all along the left side. Unfortunately all of the stained glass windows have disappeared between changes of ownership.

Lotta's music room was to the left of the foyer and had an adjoining screened porch. Walls, hand-painted in a Chinese motif, were the focal point of the room to the right of the dining room. Lotta's piano, an upright with carved candelabras on either side, was the focal point of this room. The original dining room was in the center of the house and was paneled in rich walnut. There were window seats built in under the circular windows facing the lake. Off the dining room was a pantry, and a narrow stairwell led to the kitchen in the basement level. Food was prepared on a large cast-iron stove in the downstairs kitchen and sent up on a dumbwaiter.

To the other side of the dining room was the billiard room where the men retired after dinner to smoke cigars and shoot pool. The original pool table with leather pockets and ornate carved design was still in the house when the Rubins owned it. In this room is another fireplace, this one of stone block with 18 LOTTA embedded in stones above the center. Many of the original stones were shot out by a previous owner who used it as a firing range. He'd stand on the far side of the room and shoot to see how many of the stones he could knock off.

Upstairs are the bedrooms. When it was a gambling house the master bedroom was the center of

activity with the roulette wheel going at all hours. In the bedroom across the hall was a master switch which controlled all the lighting in the house and could be easily reached in case of a raid.

The servants' quarters were on the third floor and from the open balcony one could watch all the comings and goings on the floors below.

Few of the original furnishings can be accounted for today. Like the stained-glass windows, many have been lost or destroyed through the carelessness of previous owners.

One portion of the basement was once a wine cellar, and across the hall was a bar added by the Rubins. The walls were painted in oil with scenes from antique beer steins. The artist, a drinker himself, could only paint after consuming a certain amount of vodka and water. On one of the walls was a mural of the view from the lake front showing Chestnut Point.

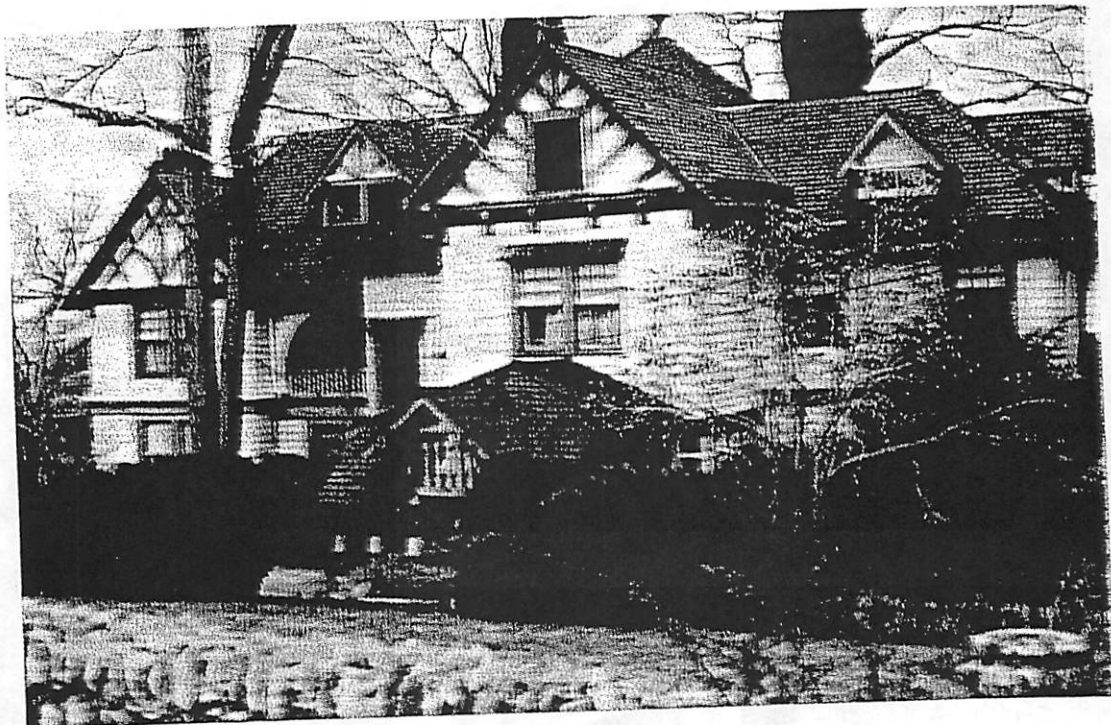
A circular porch sweeps across the front of the house originally with screened porches on either side. A stoned wall and walkway leads to the lake-front where once stood a gracious two-story boat-house that was destroyed by fire. It was replaced in later years but collapsed due to neglect.

The Crabtree cottage is as significant to Breslin Park as was the grand Hotel Breslin itself and stands as a reminder of the millionaire's colony that once was. The O'Donnells, in keeping with the original design, are truly doing their part in preserving a part of Mount Arlington's grandiose and glorious past.



*The Crabtree Cottage in earlier days.*



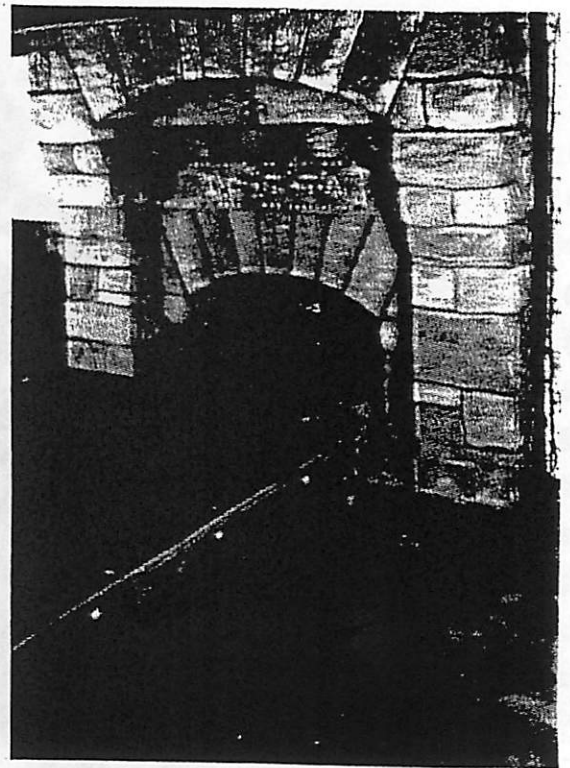
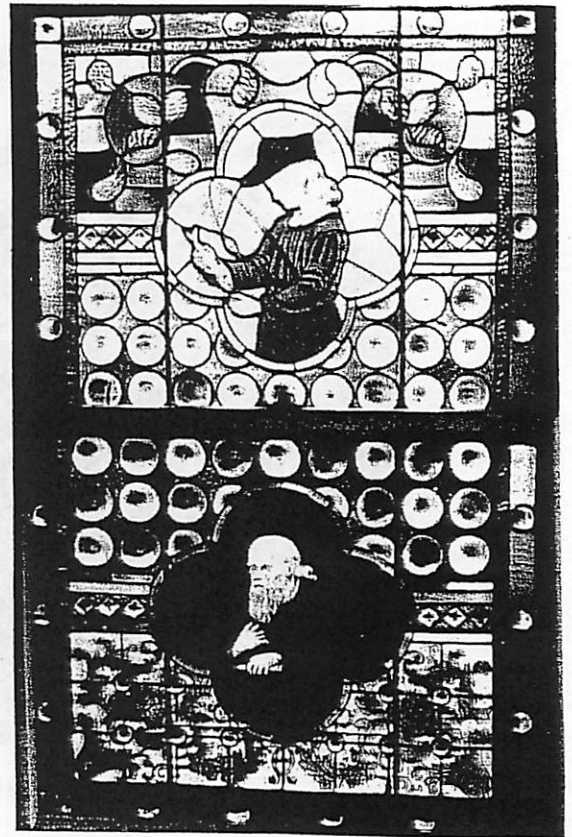


*Crabtree Cottage faces Edgemere Avenue.*



*Circular porch sweeps across the lake front of the cottage.*





*Stained glass windows once lined the staircase pictured above, right and below. Below right is the billiard room that featured the fireplace with 18 LOTTA 86.*

## Chapter Ten

# Mount Arlington School

Through the solicitations of Robert Dunlap, the Breslin Hotel and Land Company donated the valuable lot upon which the first Mount Arlington School and Borough Hall were built. The lot was conveyed by a deed dated July 31, 1891, and stated the site was "to be used solely for public purpose forever."

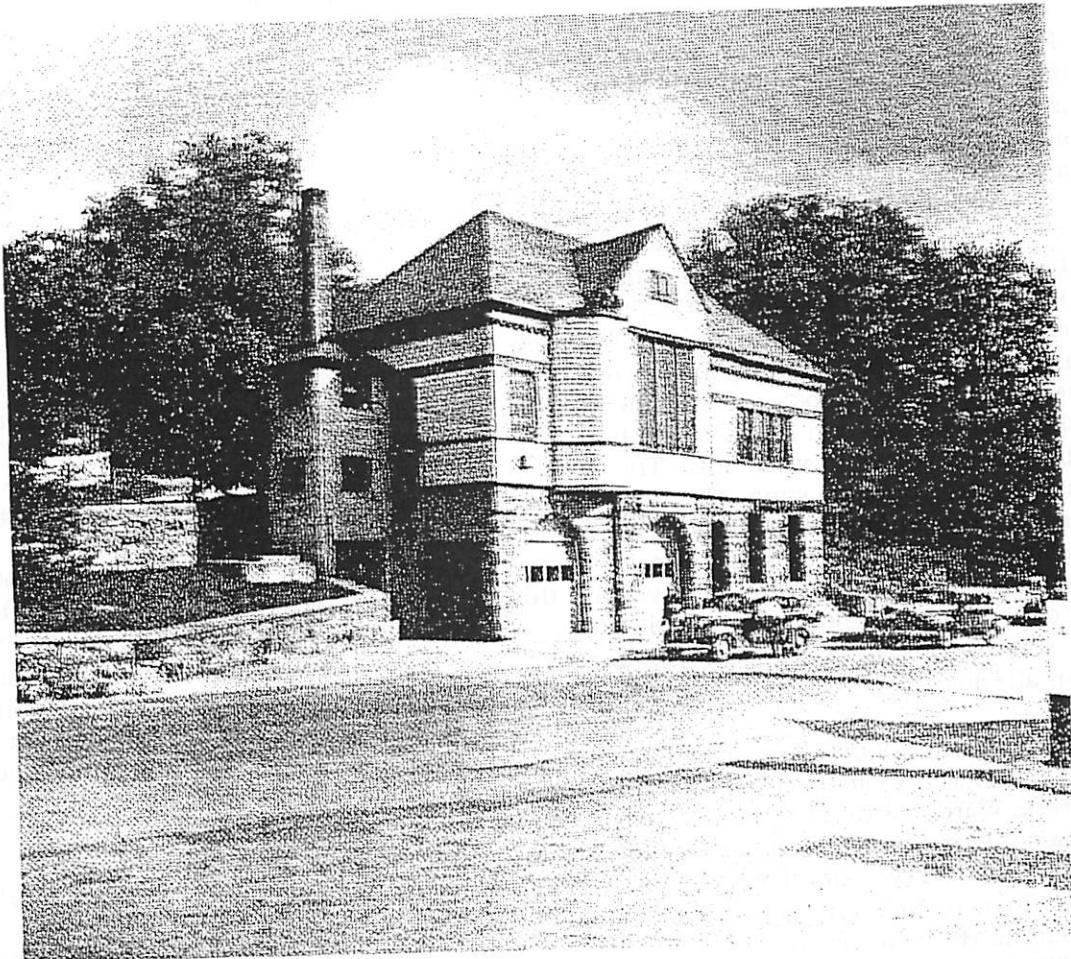
Today the Mount Arlington Library and Police Headquarters are housed in this same building.

The contract to build a two-story stone building with offices and a council meeting room was awarded to Ed Lee. The cost of construction, which was deferred by private means, was \$3,500. Mayor Howard Frothingham, and councilmen Oscar Sisco, Daniel Schafer, George Brockway, Frederick Zuck, Aaron Stephens, and Michael Williams, enacted a tax of \$600, which "the cottagers paid willingly."

The second step was to establish an independent school system apart from the Hopatcong School. County Superintendent James O. Cooper, assisted by Mayor Frothingham, Marshall Edward Totten, and Borough Clerk Cyrus Cook were instrumental in accomplishing this goal.

Two slate blackboards, individual desks with seats for the older students, and a kindergarten table with chairs for the youngest, were the only equipment. The first day of sessions was September 5, 1893.

Geneva Pruden was the first school teacher. There were 45 students who ranged in age from five to fifteen. Miss Pruden, who was born in Dover on June 17, 1868, had been highly recommended by the County Superintendent of Schools, James O. Cooper. She was 26 years old at the time.



*This scene of the first borough hall and school is featured in the pen and ink drawing on the cover.*

It was common in turn-of-the-century rural New Jersey schools, for teachers to instruct all eight grades in one-room buildings. The communities were offered free architectural plans by the state to construct frame or brick buildings costing from \$600 to \$1500, or two-room schools from \$1600 to \$3000. In addition to desks and chairs, a library book shelf and cloakroom were included in that fee. In Mount Arlington, a promised private donation, along with a State Library appropriation, and proceeds from a benefit entertainment at the Hotel Breslin performed by the students, brought the school library fund to \$96.

In 1894, Miss Pruden was retained at a higher salary, which allowed her to visit other school libraries and book selection was entrusted to her judgement. The Mount Arlington School opened that September with a new library.

Geneva Pruden served Morris County schools for 26 years. She was also Florham Park's tax collector and treasurer and a weekly correspondent for the *Morristown Daily Record*.

The first graduation ceremony of the Mount Arlington Public School System was held on June 16, 1894. The "sessions" room was decorated with ferns and laurel and against the red stage furnishings were draped snowy chains of daisies, which stood out boldly against a dark background. The date, 1894, also in chains of daisies, was the dramatic backdrop indicating the close of the school year. Set flower pieces completed the stage decorations while the whole room "was redolent with the perfume of conservatory blossoms, beautiful roses, sweet heliotrope, dainty ferns and exquisitely tinted geraniums," a generous gift of Mrs. Howard P. Frothingham. At eight o'clock the curtain rose on the 33 bright-eyed lads and lasses of the borough, who raised their voices to welcome "The Return of Spring" in their opening song. The program included songs, recitations, and a piano solo. Mayor Frothingham delivered the closing address.

The closing ceremonies were followed by the reading of the annual report which included: 200 days of school in session; 64 students enrolled; 91½% in attendance; 41 cases of tardiness; 60 visitors.

The first graduates of the Class of 1894 included: Ernest Chamberlain, John Chamberlain, John Young, Irene Ward, Martha Frye, Janie Leavens, Fannie Helmes, Mena Stumpf, Herman Decker, Lizzie Eigenbroadt, Mary Frye, Alfred Ward, Flossie Williams, Leila Brown, Ned Taylow, Vena Cook, Louie Sperry, Dannie Holly, Jessie Speaker, Louis Decker, Oscar Williams, Josephine Schafer, Henry Young, Willie Eigenbroadt, Mamie Werner, Katie Young, Mamie Tappen, Kate Werner, Rena Chamberlain,

Lulu Cook, Bertha Harnay, Susie Brown, and Harry Tappen.

Miss Rosalie Sarson of Oxford replaced Miss Pruden as teacher in 1896.

In 1897, Freeman H. Tappen was the District Clerk for Mount Arlington School District 23. The trustees were Robert Dunlap, chairman; Frederick W. Zuck and Howard P. Frothingham. A letter from Freeman Tappen addressed to the Mayor and Council read: "At our last school meeting held in the school room on June 8, 1897, our attention was called to the leakage in the roof, which is spoiling the inside of the building and also hurting the wires in the piano."

A new Mount Arlington school house, built on the site of the present Mount Arlington School, opened for classes on September 10, 1917. The two-room frame structure was described as modern, well lighted and had a pot belly stove in each room. Each of the two rooms was designed to accommodate forty students. The building was centrally located, just off Howard Boulevard. An acre of surrounding ground was designated for use as a ball field and playground. Freeman H. Tappen, William Chaplin and A.H. Gordon were the committee in charge of overseeing the construction project and local contractor George H. Beatty was the builder.

Albert Gordon was the superintendent of schools when the new school house was opened.

Also in 1917, Mrs. Richard J. Chaplin, wife of the mayor of Mount Arlington, started a fund drive for the purchase of a bell for the new two-room school house. Generous contributions totaling \$125, more than sufficient to purchase the bell, were received from the townspeople. The contributors to the "Bell Fund" were: Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Hexamer, Henry Altenbrand, Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Schafer, P.S. Dyer, Mrs. W.A. Alexander, Justus Pfeiffer, Mrs. A. Behrens, Mrs. O. Oehlschlaeger, Mrs. Robert Dunlap, A.H. Blume, John Apgar, Mr. and Mrs. George Beatty, James Leavens, Frank Sisco, B.M. Prugh, Master Richard Chaplin, Decker Brothers, Mrs. Dempsey, John Wiedman, H. Stone, William C. Danielson, C.E. Cook, J.J. Wuensch, Mrs. J.S. K., Charles Champi, J. Purcell, George Givens, R.D. Chaplin, Mrs. Adele M. Billy, George Seeger, Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Chaplin, F.H. Tappen, C.N. Chaplin, Mrs. Fancher, Miss Rae B. Cook, R.J. Rooney, Harry Cook, M. Roser, Dr. Charles D. Gordon, A.H. Gordon, A.W. Meeker, Harry Crook, Edwin Lee, William G. Meyer, James Scelsa, R.G. Mann, P.S. Delaney, W.H. Chaplin and Mrs. P. Patten.

The school bell was ordered from the McShane Foundry and installed in the belfry of the school house that same year. The bell was installed, free of charge, by George Beatty.



The bell was removed from the original school building when construction was begun on an addition in later years. It was stored in various places throughout the borough and forgotten for more than 30 years. The Mount Arlington Historical Society decided the bell should have a permanent place in the community and on December 16, 1984, the school bell rang once again. Refurbishing of the bell was done by Historical Society charter members Donald Chaplin, grandson of Mrs. Richard J. Chaplin, and Bill Carhuff, both residents of Mount Arlington. As in 1917, funds were raised through solicitation of the townspeople.

When the new two-room school house was built in 1917 the old classroom in the original borough hall, was converted for use as a general purpose room. With school enrollment on the rise, it was necessary to bring the original school room back into use. From 1949 through 1951, first and second grades were combined and classes were held in the original school room. The kindergarten class also met in the same building and Miss Mildred Markham was the teacher.

Edith Decker was the teacher for the combined first and second grade classes. She is remembered as a teacher truly devoted to her profession, but most importantly to her students. Mrs. Decker taught in the Mount Arlington School System for 50 years.

A new addition to the Mount Arlington School was built in 1952 and supplied sufficient space until 1959, when the original school room was put back into use, again for first and second graders. Edith Decker during this time was the first grade teacher. Up until 1964, when there was a shortage of class-

rooms, the kindergarten students were taught in the meeting room of the firehouse on Howard Boulevard with Barbara Frost as teacher.

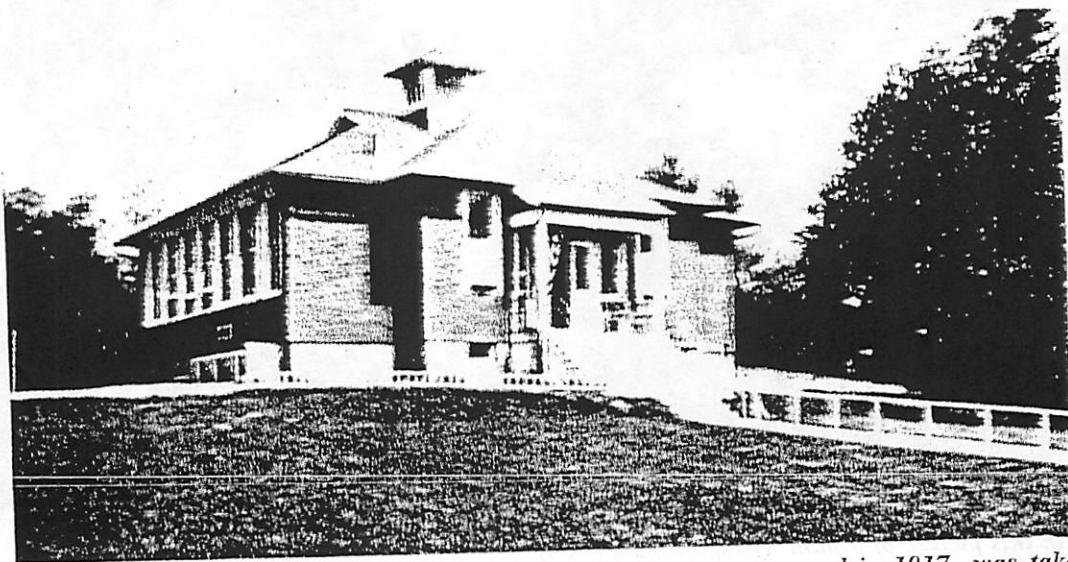
The problem of overcrowding was solved with the erection of "portable" classrooms on the Mount Arlington School grounds, and two other additions to the original two-room school house.

The Edith Decker School on Howard Boulevard was built to house the kindergarten, first and second grades and opened for classes in September, 1975.

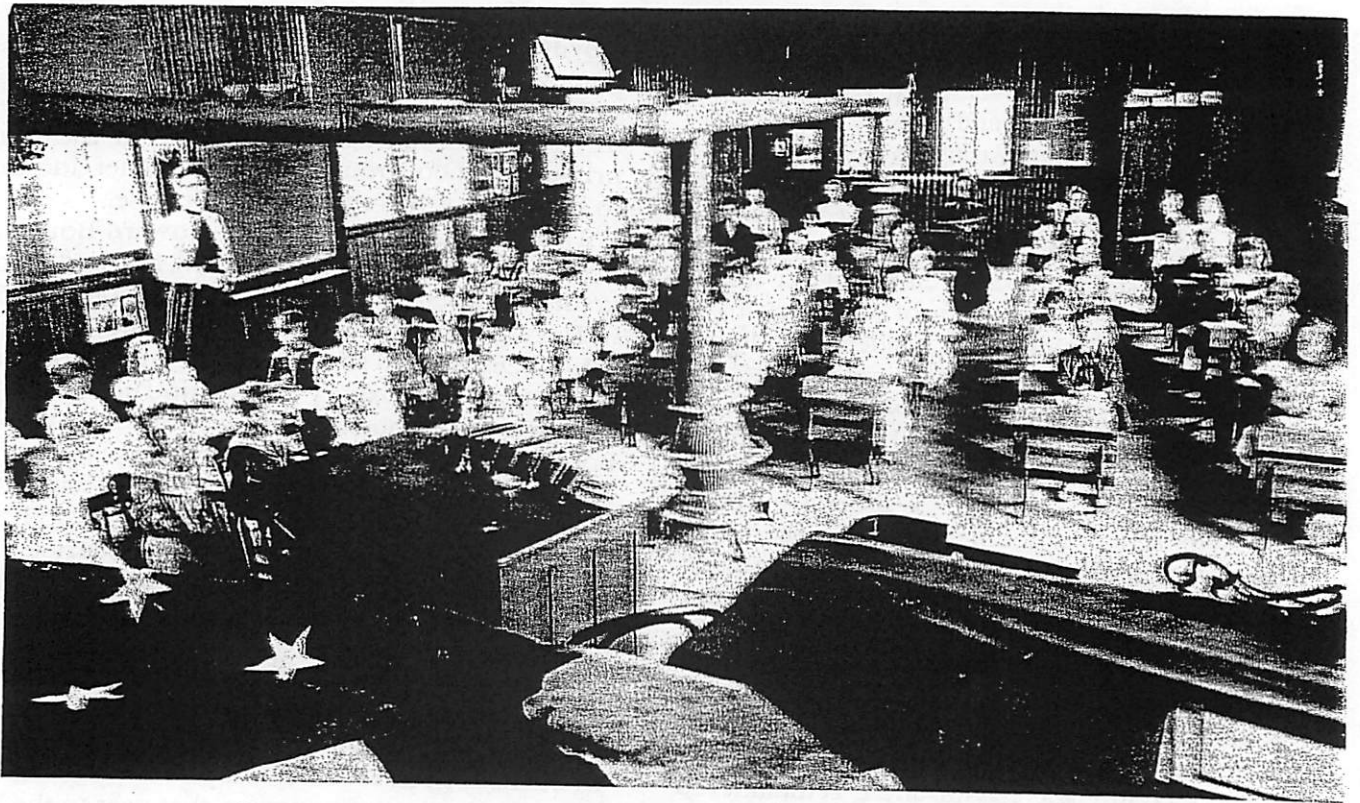
Throughout its history, the Mount Arlington School District has always sent its high school age students to the Roxbury Township High School. It is interesting to note that in November, 1954, the Borough, along with Chester Township, Mendham, Mount Olive and Washington Townships, contracted for a study to be made on the feasibility of a regional high school to serve these districts. The entire population of these municipalities was 9,158, according to the 1950 Census, with Mount Arlington accounting for 639. The borough's entire school population was 175. The study placed Mount Arlington's contribution for regionalization at \$31,014.66 for the first year. The cost per pupil would have been \$554.22 compared to the \$256.63 figure the borough was paying that year to the Roxbury School District for its 47 high school students.

In recent years, the enrollment in the Mount Arlington School System has dropped so overcrowding is no longer a problem. The two schools have accommodated an average of 350 pupils a year.

William Desmond is Superintendent of Schools and JoAnn Cowing serves as principal of both the Mount Arlington and Edith Decker Schools, as of September 1990.



*This picture of the second Mount Arlington School, which was opened in 1917, was taken around 1940.*



*Pupils in the Mount Arlington School System in 1892 were housed in one room.*



*Featured in this picture of Mount Arlington School pupils which was taken around 1918 are Elsie Apgar, Dick Chaplin, John Lawrey (Mount Arlington's first police chief). Walt Danielson in the top row standing in front of Mrs. Gordon, the teacher.*



## Edith Decker

*... 50 years of dedication to teaching the children of Mount Arlington*

Edith Decker, who taught the primary grades in the Mount Arlington School System for 50 years, truly believed "There is something special about small children."

She is fondly remembered by generations of borough residents for her discipline, dedication and the fundamentals of learning she instilled in her students.

Edith Decker began teaching in 1918 and retired at the end of the 1968-69 school year, just a month shy of her 70th birthday.

She was born Edith Marjorie Apgar on July 10, 1899, in Sparta. Her parents were John and Mary E. Ballard Apgar. She graduated from Roxbury High School in 1918 and began teaching in Mount Arlington the September following her graduation. She was also a graduate of the State Normal School in Trenton where she received her limited elementary certificate in 1919 and her permanent elementary certificate in 1922.

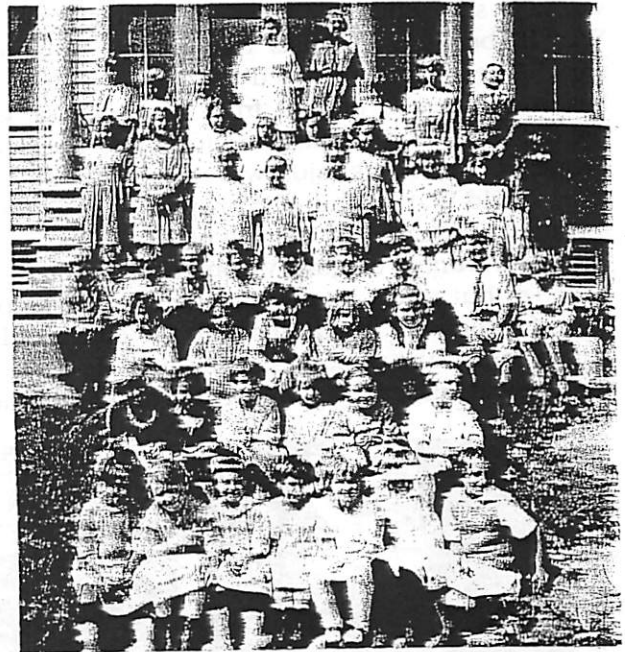
She married Charles Decker and they lived at Rocklawn Lodge on McGregor Avenue. John and Mary Apgar owned and operated Van Over House from 1906 to 1920, the Woodstock Lodge, from 1910 to 1926 and Rocklawn Lodge from 1926 to 1955. Charles Decker died on March 23, 1956, and Edith resided at Rocklawn Lodge until February of 1977 when she moved to the Merryheart Nursing Home in Succasunna, due to failing health.

Edith Decker began her teaching career in Mount Arlington's first school and continued through to see the building of the new two-room school house and later additions to the school building at this site.

Mount Arlington's newest school building is dedicated and named after this dedicated teacher. Although Mrs. Decker never taught at the Edith M. Decker School on Howard Boulevard, she was present at the dedication and offered the following words: "I cannot find words to express my deep appreciation for the honor you have bestowed upon me. The Mount Arlington Board of Education has built a beautiful school for its children. It is my sincere wish that as they go through these doors they will take full advantage of all its benefits and acquire the knowledge they will need for a successful and happy future. Good luck to all."

Edith Decker died March 12, 1979, while residing at the Merryheart Nursing Home. She never returned to the Rocklawn Lodge, which was destroyed by fire on April 25, 1977.

She is fondly remembered by all the children she taught in the Mount Arlington School System. She taught and believed in the principle, "Children are so interested in everything, and to share their delight the day they discover the meaning of reading, is a marvelous experience."



*Mount Arlington School pictured in 1922.*

## PTA

The Mount Arlington Parent Teacher Association was organized on October 1, 1947. Its purpose was "to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church and community."

During its first year, the PTA sponsored many successful programs and activities. The home and school program featured talks by William H. Mason Jr. and Fred C. McCoy. A program on safety, featured a film and a speaker from the New Jersey State Police. A program on health was presented by Dr. Leo Lewin with Miss L. Bedwell, R.N., stressing the need for dental health. Both Christmas and Easter parties were arranged for the children and included gifts, games and refreshments. The 1947-48 year end event was a covered dish supper.

It is recorded that the original officers were re-elected for the school year, 1948-49: Donald Keefer, president; Mrs. Walter Apostolik, vice president; Mrs. Sante Stella, secretary, and Mrs. Donald Keefer, treasurer. Mrs. William Murphy was the membership chairman.



## Chapter Eleven

# The Glen

In the borough of Mount Arlington is a picturesque setting where a stream runs and trees grow tall. It was originally called "Tanglewild Glen." That was in 1890. The name was later shortened to "The Glen," and after World War II, borough officials renamed it "Memorial Park." The borough owned the road down to the beach and it was bought from Anna Scelsa, who owned the Mount Arlington Hotel and the Beach Property. Bill Hockenjos was Mayor at the time after World War II when the property was acquired for a Public Beach for the townspeople.

Robert Dunlap originally donated the land to the borough but when he died his heirs received payment for the land. It was through the efforts of F.G. Hempler that the park was developed. He designed the gateway under the stone bridge on Windermere

Avenue that spans the tiny stream and also designed the concrete basin over which the water falls.

For many years, "The Glen" was neglected by the borough and many residents felt it was never fully developed as it might have been.

Earlier this year, the borough purchased a lot at the corner of Altenbrand and Windermere Avenues, which sits directly across from "The Glen." The two buildings and the lot were bought from the estate of Louella Van Essen in January at a cost of \$100,000. The borough has earmarked \$21,000 from state CDRS funds for beautification of "The Glen," which was begun this fall. It will be restored to its natural state and once again be a place residents can enjoy.

It is interesting to note the following inscriptions which are on either side of the bridge span facing the roadway. The first lists the borough officials during the first year of incorporation and the other, the men responsible for the building of the bridge.



IN THE GLEN, NEAR LAKE HORATONG, N.J.

### The Glen Bridge

*Mt. Arlington Borough  
Incorporated Nov. 1, 1891*

*H.P. Frothingham, Mayor*

*M. Williams*

*F.W. Zuck*

*D.T. Trundy*

*E. Lee*

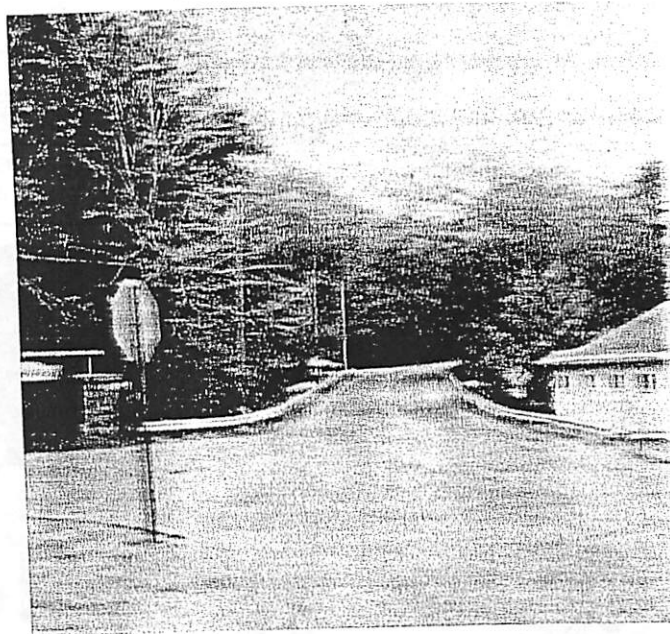
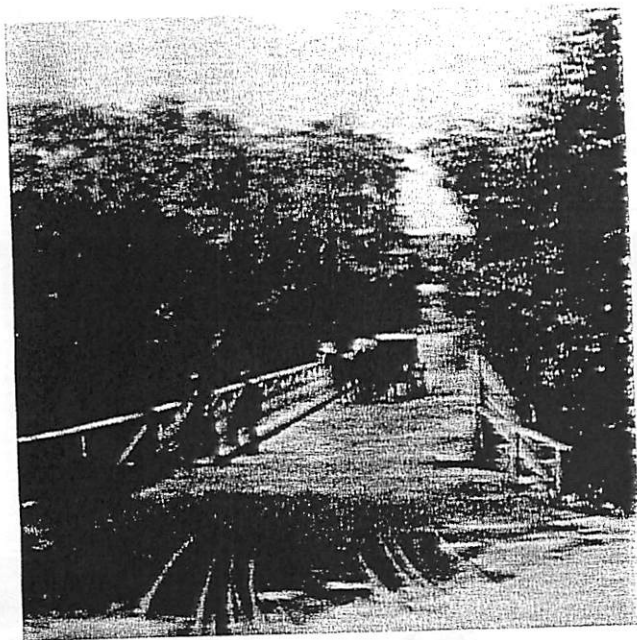
*A.D. Stevens*

*H.B. Schafer*

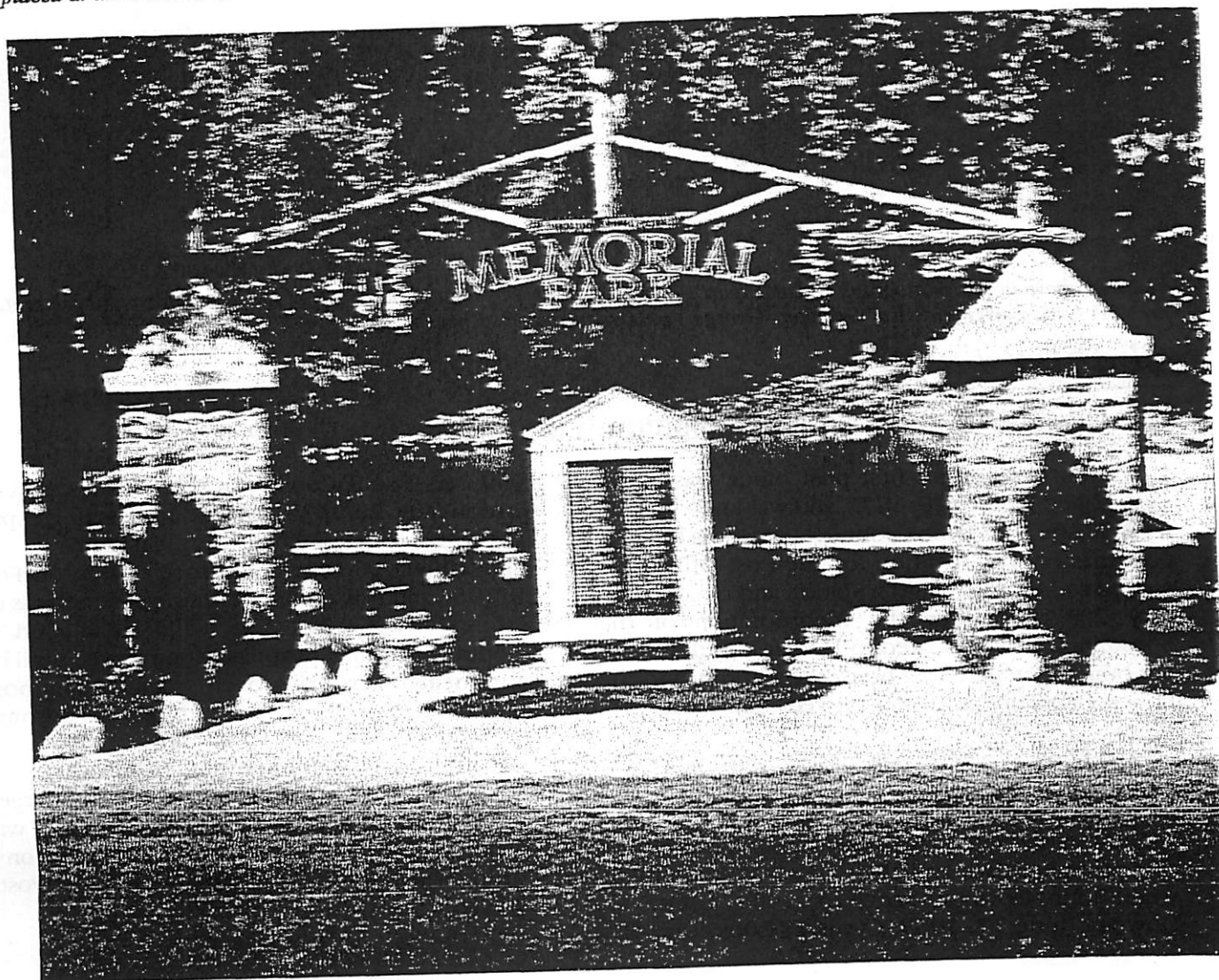
*Councilmen*

*C.E. Cook, Clerk*

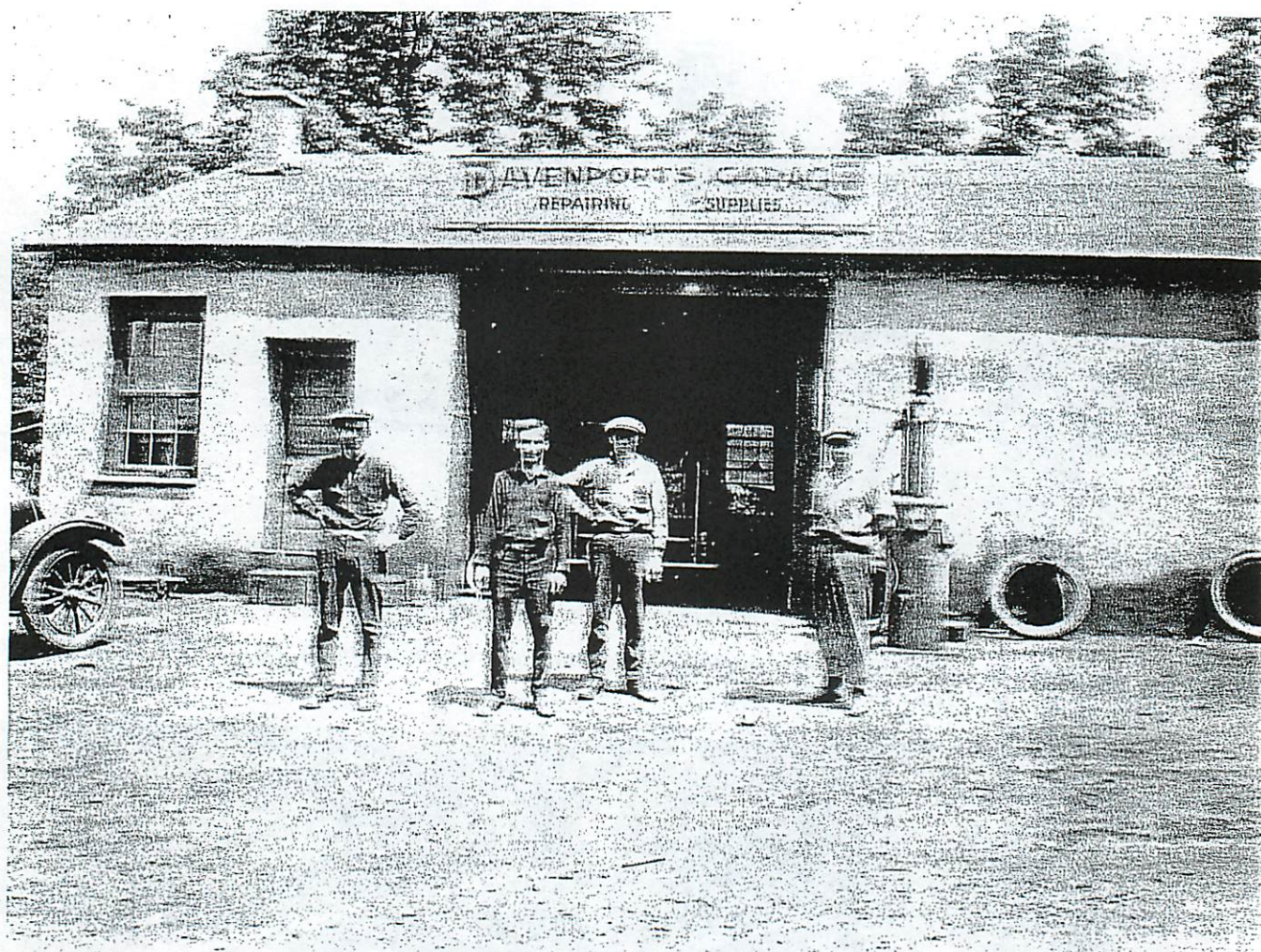
<i>W.E. King</i> .....	<i>Director</i>
<i>W.E. Gill</i>	<i>C. Pierson</i>
<i>E.A. Backer</i>	<i>M.K. Tharp</i>
<i>J.D. Smith</i> .....	<i>Committee</i>
<i>G.W. Howell</i> .....	<i>Engineer</i>
<i>T.J. Allen</i> .....	<i>Builder</i>



*The original bridge across Tanglewild Glen, pictured above left, and the bridge as it is today, right. Below is the monument placed at the entrance to "Memorial Park Pond."*







*Pictured above in this photograph of Davenport's Garage, which was located at the site of the borough's new civic center, are (l-r) Gene Davenport, Ray Speaker, George Van Orden and E. Kronenberg.*

## Chapter Twelve

### Post Office — Mount Arlington Communicates

**M**ount Arlington's first post office was established January 29, 1877, and was known as the Rustic Post Office. John H. Lowe was the first post master. The location for the Post Office was moved to Mount Arlington Station and renamed on May 20, 1891 after the incorporation of the borough. It was relocated to Howard Boulevard in the building which now houses the library and the Police Department. It was moved again to its present site, across the street, in 1988.

John Lowe served as postmaster for 20 years. On Feb. 25, 1897, James T. Lowe was appointed. The first postmistress was Miss Emilie Werner who was appointed on Sept. 15, 1898. Other postmasters and postmistresses and their dates of appointment were: John Downey, Sept. 26, 1904; Louisa M. Downey, June 17, 1908; Cyrus E. Cook, Dec. 29,

1909; Mrs. Rae B. Cook, March 22, 1922; Albert H. Gordon, Aug. 20, 1935; Rae B. Cook, (acting) April 1, 1937; Joseph R. Johnson, Aug. 20, 1937.

Mrs. Hilda M. Lawrey assumed charge on Feb. 28, 1953 and was appointed acting postmistress on March 20, 1953. On Aug. 16, 1954, Robert A. Cooper was named postmaster and served until his retirement. There have been several acting postmasters since that time. Alan Ridner is the postmaster in 1990.

The residents of Mount Arlington did not receive home delivery of mail until 1971. This was largely due to the efforts of former Mayor Rooney, who spent many hours numbering the houses on a borough map which was presented to the Postal Service.



## Mount Arlington's First Telephone

The first telephone installed at Lake Hopatcong was in the Hotel Breslin. That was 100 years ago. A pay phone, it was connected to the Dover Switchboard.

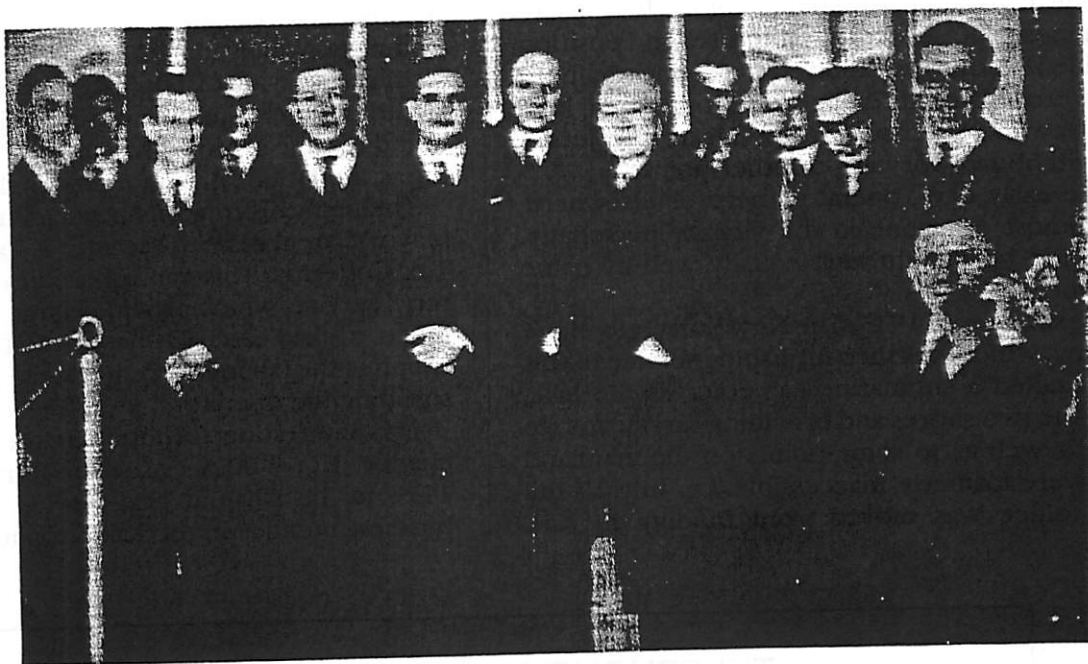
By 1898 only two more telephones in the area were added. They were the pay stations of F.W. Zuck at the Lake View House, and of Frank Schafer, both in Mount Arlington. In addition to these pay phones, Theodore F. King had built his own private telephone system. It connected his residence at Lake Hopatcong, that of his brother, William F. King in Ledgewood, and the Westmoreland Hotel in Landing, with his store, which was also in Landing and had a miniature switchboard.

After 1898, the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company installed a small switchboard in Mrs. Martha von Furstenwarther's home on Howard Boulevard in Mount Arlington. The other half of this building was occupied at that time by the drug store of Harry Crooks.

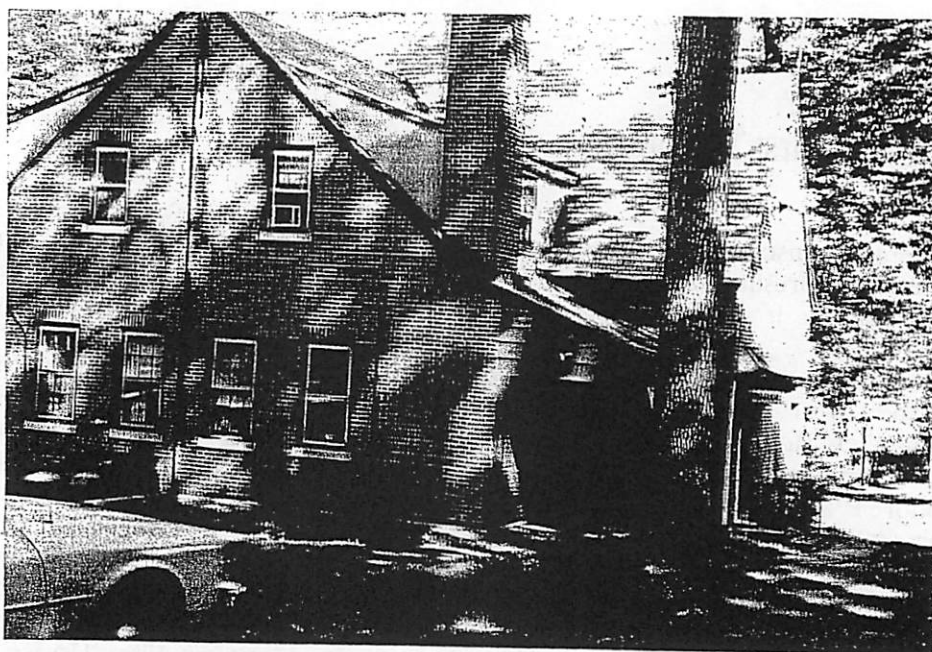
According to telephone company records, Mrs. Whitfield Gordon was agent and her daughter Jennie, later Mrs. Henry Hair, was the operator. A younger daughter, Nellie, later Mrs. Fred Peterson, sometimes helped at the switchboard and often was sent on foot to summon those who did not have telephone service in their homes.

Although this office served the 40 miles of rambling shore front, there were but a few telephones in operation. The directory of September 1, 1900 listed the following subscribers: John Aldred, S.B. Dutcher, Hopatcong House, Hotel Brooklyn, Kenvil Lumber & Coal Co., Lake Hopatcong Club, Langdon & Co., Mountain View House, G.W. Reinberg, and Lake View House.

Another small central office was established at the Hopatcong House in the fall of 1900 to serve the west shore. The only outside trunk line went to Dover, so calls to Mount Arlington had to be routed via Dover.



*Former Mayor Clarence Lee (seated) is pictured with area dignitaries as he makes the first telephone call from the New Jersey Bell office in Mount Arlington. The office was located in the building that now houses the borough hall.*



*Mount Arlington's Borough Hall was originally the New Jersey Bell Telephone office.*

In 1907 the Hopatcong and Mount Arlington offices were discontinued and service was centralized at Landing, where a switchboard was installed in the home of Mrs. Nellie Gordon, near what was Obdyke's store. Originally it was a one-position board, about the size of a large grandfather clock, with one trunk line to Dover. Before long there were almost 100 subscribers and a second position was added. Additional trunks were connected until there were two or three lines to Morristown, Netcong, Newark, Succasunna and five to the Jersey Toll switchboard for calls to other points.

In the early days, operators here, as elsewhere, knew almost everyone in the vicinity personally. Calls could be put through equally well by name or number.

In the summer of 1917, The New York Telephone Company, which was then furnishing service to this area, installed a submarine cable across the lake, linking the two shores and providing service to two islands as well as to some points on the mainland which were formerly inaccessible. On July 17 the central office was moved from Landing to A.H.

Blume's house on Howard Boulevard in Mount Arlington. Mrs. Teresa Barber was the first agent here, followed by Miss Nellie Bowden. In 1920 Miss Florence M. Rache took charge of the office.

On February 18, 1932, the 400 telephones in the Lake Hopatcong area were "cut-over" to the new switchboard of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, which in 1927 had taken over the furnishing of service throughout most of the state. The facilities were housed in a new building on Altenbrand Avenue in Mount Arlington. Today that building is the Mount Arlington Borough Hall.

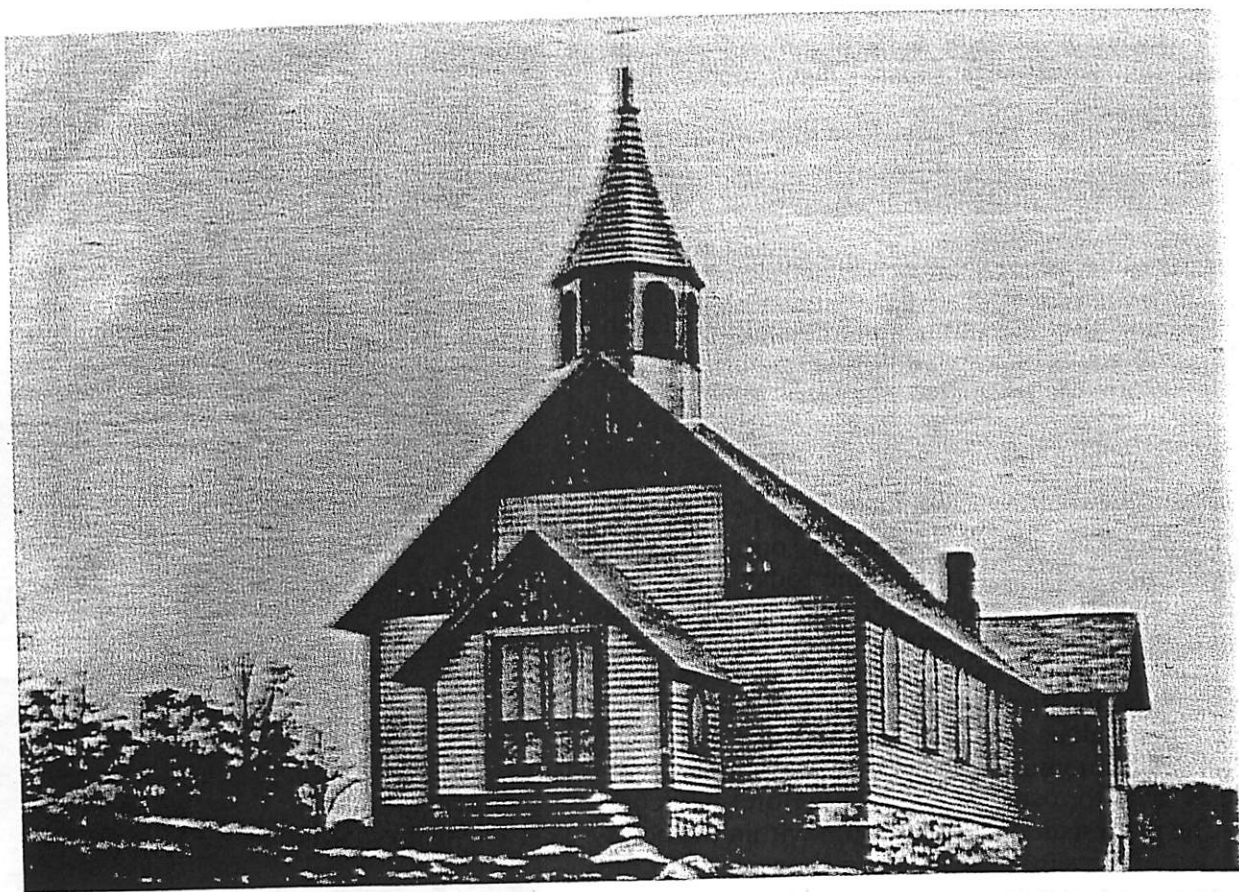
The first call from this new facility was made by Mayor Clarence Lee to Freeman F. Tappen, Borough Tax Collector. This call ushered in "common battery" service, which provided large batteries in the office, instead of small ones at each telephone, and supplied the talking current instead of cranking and signaling the operator.

It is interesting to note that the telephone exchange, HO 8-0029, issued to Elmer Chaplin in 1923 for his Chaplin Taxi Service, was the oldest business number in the Lake Hopatcong area.

### TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION

A Long Distance Telephone will be found at the Westmoreland Hotel, Hopatcong Station. Charge 65 cents for 5 minutes, with New York.

Mount Arlington — Central Office is in Haanen's Drug Store and the following places have telephones: Lake Hopatcong Club, Mount Arlington Hotel, Chaplin & Son's Livery Stable, Vortman's Livery Stable, Lake View Hotel, Mount Arlington Depot.



*The original Roman Catholic Church, 1889.*

## Chapter Thirteen

# Mount Arlington's Churches

The history of Our Lady of the Lake Church is closely connected with the famous Hotel Breslin, which opened in June, 1887. On that same date, the management, under the Lake Hopatcong Land and Improvement Company, applied to the Rt. Rev. W.M. Wigger, Bishop of the Newark Diocese, to "secure the ministrations of a clergyman for the Catholic guests and servants of the establishment." The Rev. C.P. Gillin, pastor of Mount Hope, was appointed to conduct these services and a temporary meeting place was designated at the hotel.

The Lake Hopatcong Land and Improvement Company donated four lots comprising about 46,500 square feet fronting Summit, Prospect and Chestnut Avenues, the only condition being that a church be erected and services held on or before November 1, 1888.

Ground breaking was on July 16, 1888 and the corner stone was laid on July 29 at services conducted by the newly appointed pastor, Rev. J.H.

Brady of Stanhope assisted by Rev. Gillin. The first service was held on Sunday, September 2, 1888 and on Lady Day, August 15, 1890, the church was "solemnly dedicated to the service of God under the title of Our Lady of the Lake." Bishop Wigger was in attendance at the dedication.

The list of benefactors to the church was headed by Mayor H.P. Frothingham, and included the names of most every prominent guest of the Breslin and cottager of the lake. More than \$1,200 was donated to defray the building costs and it is noted two-thirds of the money collected was contributed by non-Catholics. Lotta Crabtree donated a Wilton sanctuary carpet costing \$150. A stained glass window from the Royal Bavarian Institute, which had been exhibited at the Paris Exposition, was the gift of Mrs. A. Leavy in memory of her husband. The window depicted the Virgin Mary seated on the shore of a lake surrounded by verdure and hills, with her foot holding down the evil of the serpent. Mrs.



John Anderson donated a costly alb and a set of vestments, and altar laces were given by Mrs. Julia Frothingham.

The Rev. Brady was succeeded as pastor in 1894 by Rev. Joseph F. Dolan. In 1898 the Rev. P.F. Carew, associated with St. Patrick's Cathedral in Newark, was named the rector.

Monsignor Samuel Winters and Father O'Connor led in the celebration of the church's centennial celebration in 1988 and a special pamphlet with the church's history was published.

**S**t. Peter's Episcopal Church on Edgemere Avenue looks much the same today as when it was built as the Union Protestant Chapel just before the turn of the century.

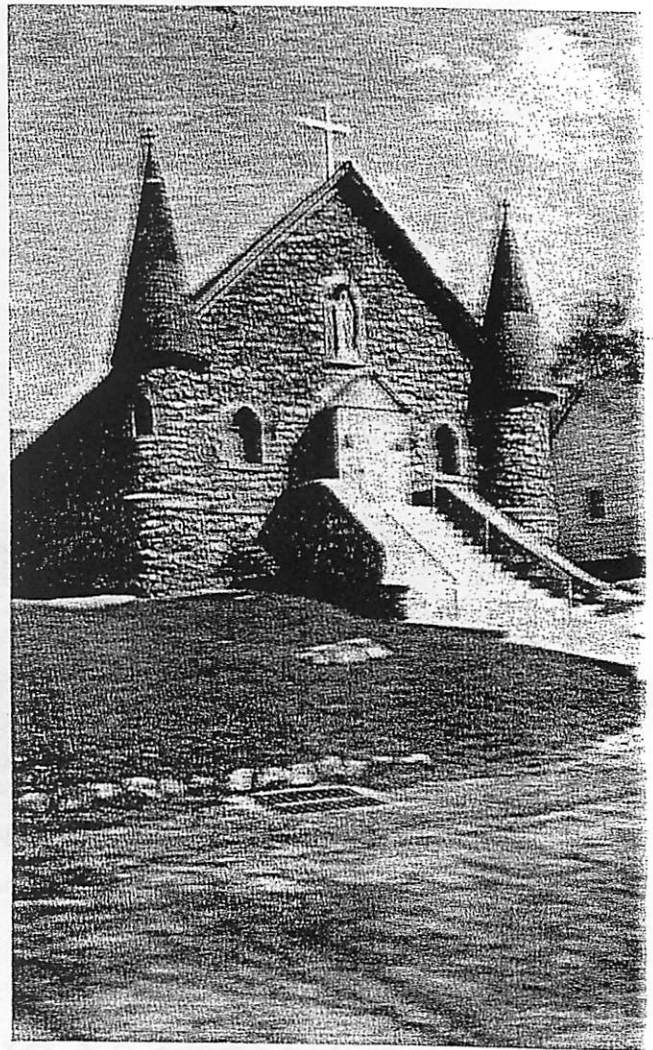
Lake Hopatcong was in the midst of its great resort era and the stone chapel was built in the most prestigious area of the lake known as Breslin Park, a community of spectacular summer "cottages" with the ostentatious Breslin Hotel at its core.

The protestant chapel was built within the boundaries of Breslin Park as an improvement to life within the community. The ground for the erection of a non-sectarian chapel had been donated by Robert Dunlap. Ceremonies marking the laying of the cornerstone were held on September 2, 1888. Just one month previous to that date a cornerstone was laid at the Roman Catholic Church on the hill overlooking Breslin Park.

The ceremonies at the Union Protestant Chapel were attended by dignitaries of the day including New Jersey Governor Robert S. Green. Governor Green, accompanied by his wife, was in Breslin Park to attend an afternoon reception and evening ball in his honor held the previous day at the Hotel Breslin. Other prominent figures attending the ceremonies included Mayor Bennet of Dover, Mayor Werts of Morristown and District Attorney John R. Fellows of New York.

The Rev. C.M. Andrews of the Rockaway Presbyterian Church conducted the religious services, which were followed by the dedication given by Governor Green. Other speakers included the Rev. Joseph F. Tuttle, president of Wabash College in Indiana, and the Rev. Burtis C. Megie of Dover.

The Union Protestant Chapel was built of stone at a cost of \$2,500 by Cyrus E. Cook, according to plans drawn by George Edward Harding. Cost was defrayed due mostly to the untiring efforts of Miss Daisy Dunlap, who by means of entertainment and by subscriptions was responsible for most of the



*Our Lady of the Lake R.C. Church*

funds raised. An Article in *The Angler* of August 25, 1894, described her work: "This accomplished lady started the 'endless chain' subscription and secured about \$500. This was commenced by writing a solicitation to three friends and they in turn copying it and giving it to a trio of each of theirs. This multiplied very rapidly and she arranged a number of entertainments in the chapel and Hotel Breslin, assisted by Mr. Arthur Lamson. Other subscriptions, both large and small, were secured by her and thus she raised the handsome sum."

A mortgage of \$1,500 still remained on the church and this was paid off by Mr. Dunlap on July 15, 1892, cleaning up all debt, as he wanted a place of worship for summer and year round residents of Mount Arlington. The church building was then



*Laying the cornerstone at the Protestant Chapel, September, 1888.*

donated by the Breslin Park Association to the Diocese of Newark and the Protestant Episcopal Church. It was renamed St. Peter's.

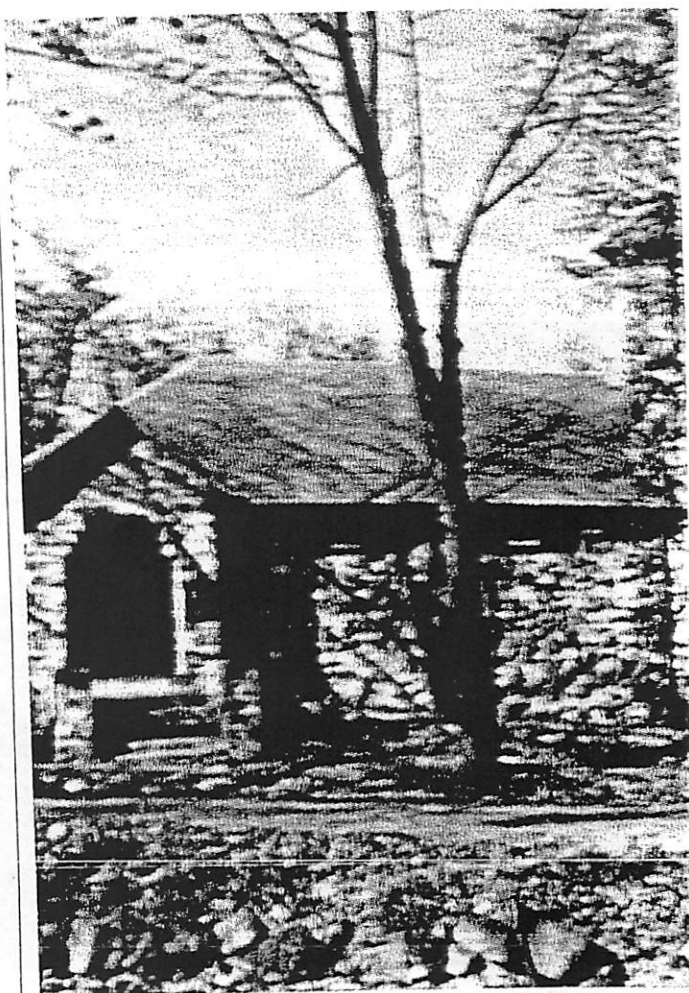
The first Holy Eucharist at the church was offered in June of 1894 by the Rev. A.H. Brown.

The Rt. Rev. T.A. Starkey, Bishop of the Newark Diocese, officiated at the consecration of the church held on Aug. 19, 1894. According to the article in *The Angler*, "the Bishop entered the chapel accompanied by Revs. Keller, Picksly and Brown, followed by Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Tilt. Mr. Dunlap presented the Bishop with the documents conveying the chapel and grounds from the Breslin Park Association to the Diocese of Newark and the services were opened by a chant from the male choir. A solo from the sweet voice of Miss Fannie Dunlap was a rendition both appropriate and impressive. Mrs. Albert Tilt also sang a solo accompanied by a violin and organ.

"Rev. Picksly of Dover read a brief history of the chapel in which he paid a glowing tribute to the citizens of the Borough of Mount Arlington for their extreme generosity in helping sustain this laudable work.

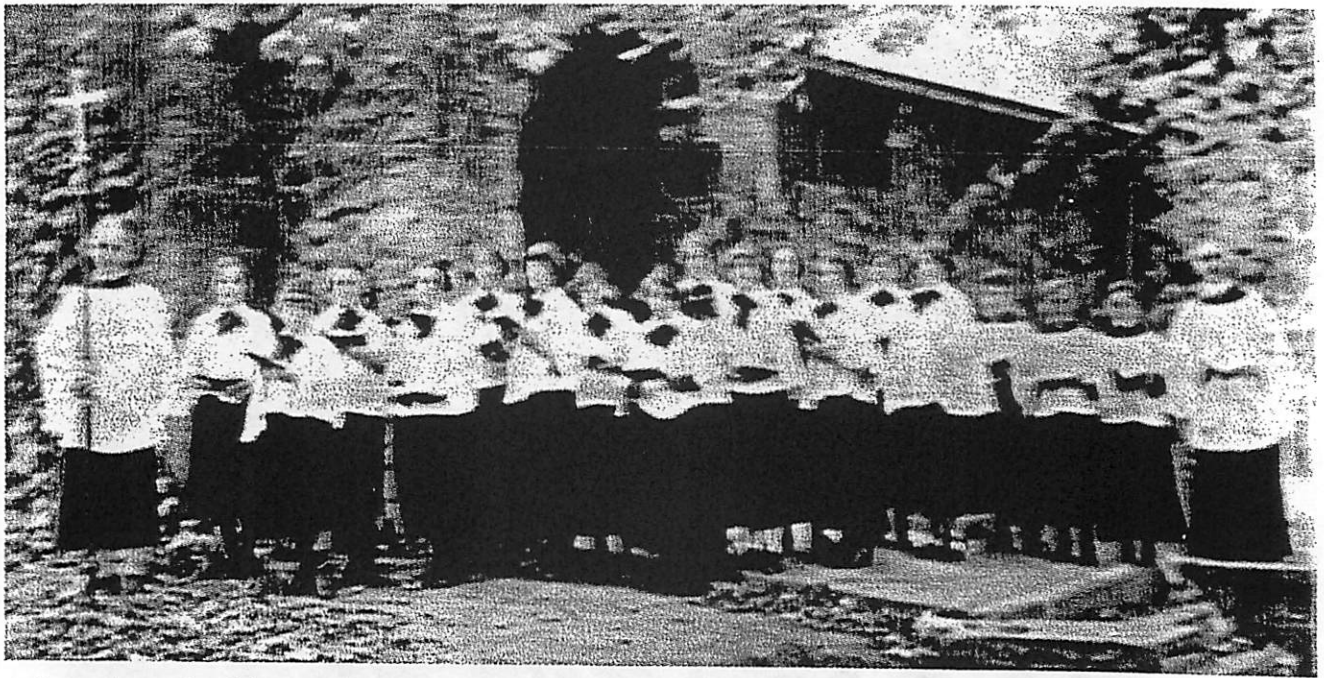
"Bishop Starkey delivered the sermon and compared the church at Lake Hopatcong to St. Peter's boat, in which and from which the Savior taught the multitudes. He also likened this romantic spot and the lake to some of the places and lakes of the Holy Land."

The Rev. Roger Snyder is pastor of St. Peter's today.



*St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 1941.*





*The above picture is of the vestal choir from St. Peter's Episcopal Church and was taken in 1924 when the church was still a mission.*

*The choir was organized and led by Mrs. I. Adams, and Miss Rae B. Cook, and generous friends furnished the choir robes and skirts.*

*The members were: Edwin Lee, Jennie Lawrey, Grace Sharrock, Harriet J. Lee, Mildred Chaplin, Ethel Lawrey, Mamie Peterson, Ethel Adams, Myrtle Booth, Mina Gordon, Gladys Lowry, Annie Laurie, Irene Ward, Rae B. Cook, I. Adams, Horace Adams, Thomas Sharrock, Freddie Peterson, and Mr. Fred W. Ashworth.*

*The choir rendered its first musical service on Easter Sunday in the year 1924, and each Sunday throughout the summer. During the fall and winter they sang only in the evenings.*

*The choir members were all from Mount Arlington and of various denominations. The Lay Reader was Frederick W. Ashworth. He commuted daily to his business in New York, and was the father of the late Alice P. Apostolik, publisher of the Lake Hopatcong Breeze. The choir continued its faithful work for many years and was an integral part of the church service.*



*The Frothingham and Tilt Cottages are now the St. Francis Convent and a Retreat.*



## Chapter Fourteen

# Bertrand Island

In 1861 Carl Ernest Bertrand purchased an island off the east shore of Lake Hopatcong. He named it Bertrand Island and built an imposing estate for his family complete with barns, greenhouses, bowling alleys, baths, kennels and a stable that housed 20 horses.

Born in Germany, Bertrand was one of the earliest and among the most prominent settlers at Lake Hopatcong. He owned an iron ore mine that was located near the Mount Arlington Railroad Station and was associated with Theodore A. Havemeyer in the sugar refinery business.

At the time he purchased his island, Bertrand was the only New Yorker at the lake. But he was by no means the first inhabitant of the island. Years, before, the Minisi, a tribe of the Lenni Lenape Indians, had a village there. They built a causeway to the west shore of the lake, a little south of Sharp's Rock, the remains of which lie in very deep water near Bertrand Island.

With his wife, Camilla, their eight daughters, and son, Ernest Jr., the Bertrands enjoyed a glamorous existence on their island estate for many years. Tragedy, however, struck three times in one year. In 1870, Bertrand died and shortly afterwards fire destroyed the homestead. A year later his daughter, Joanne, lost her life in the lake.

The Bertrand family held onto their estate until 1895 when the property was sold to a group of gentlemen from New York who formed the Ber-

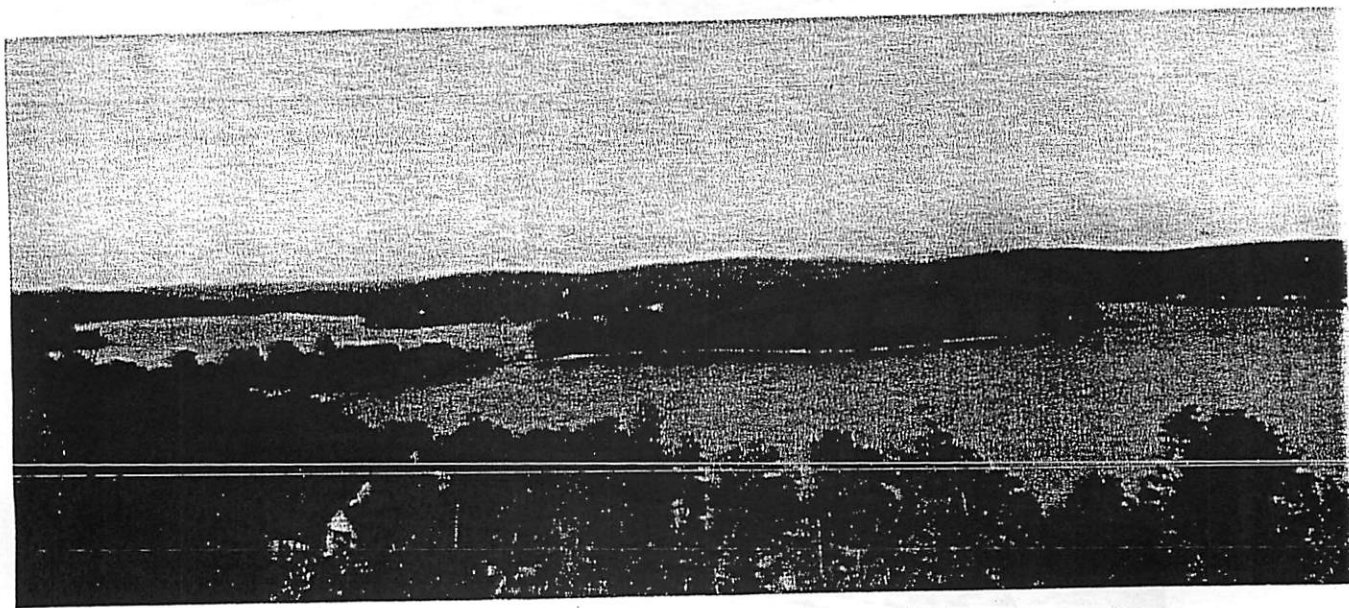
trand Island Club. They built their clubhouse on the foundation of the old Bertrand family mansion. This, too, was, in later years, destroyed by fire.

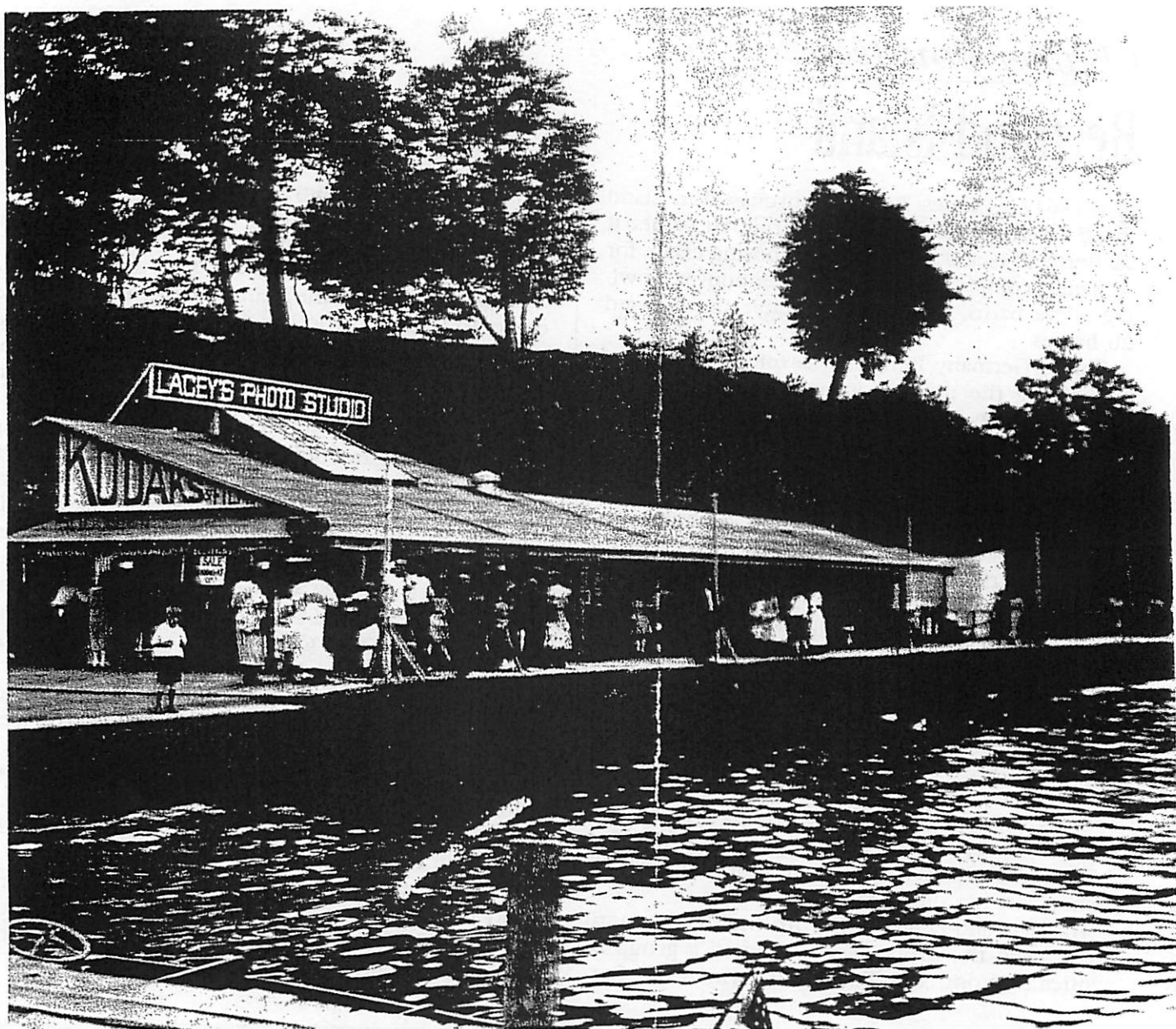
A club member, Mr. Jenkins of Boonton, had built a summer cottage on the island. He passed the house on to Mr. Dunlap who lost it thorough the ice one winter while trying to have it moved to the mainland. Pieces of the cottage were raised and used in the building of the Woodstock Hotel.

In 1909 another group, the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club, began construction of a clubhouse on Bertrand Island. Members of this club had purchased a section of the north shore of the island. The club first held its events at the Wildwood Shores estate of R.L. Edwards, their first commodore, and also the first mayor of Hopatcong Borough. The club was the result of a merger between the Hopatcong Lake and Field Club, which was organized in 1900 and met at the Hotel Breslin docks, and the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club, which had held its events since 1904 at the American House in Great Cove.

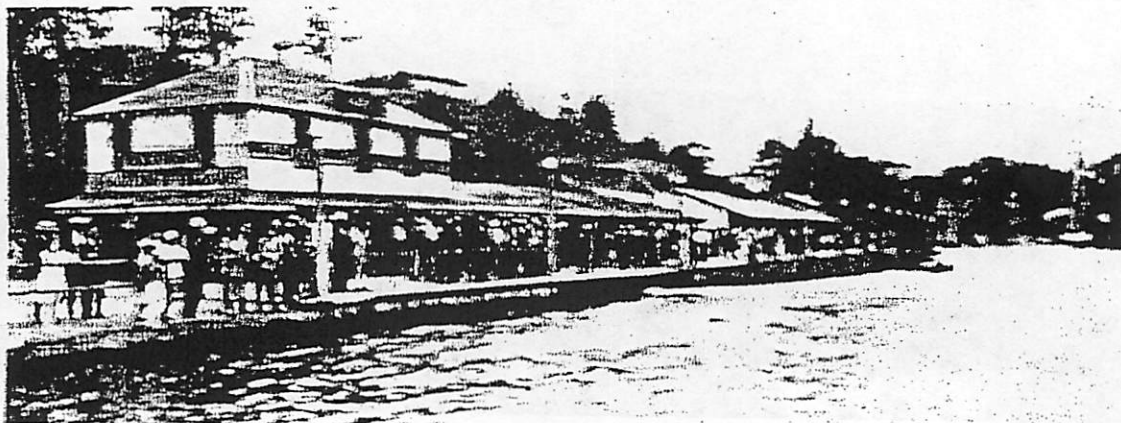
Work was completed on the impressive clubhouse in 1910. The logs for the structure had been cut at Woodport and were floated down the lake with much difficulty.

Today the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club is the second oldest inland club in the country. Each year members compete in and host national competitions in various racing classes.

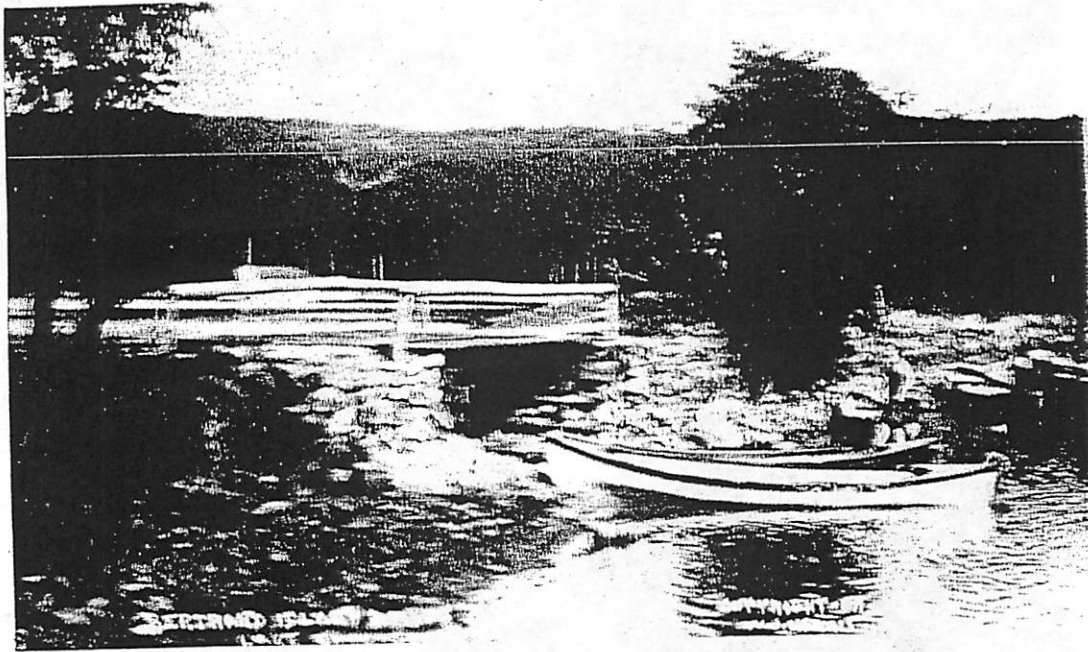




*Bertrand Island Park in its earliest days had a boardwalk which extended along the lake shore and around to the upper picnic pavillion area. Both photos were taken of the park before the roller coaster was built and show the hill that once gave the park the seclusion it once enjoyed. Louis Kraus owned the park until 1952.*





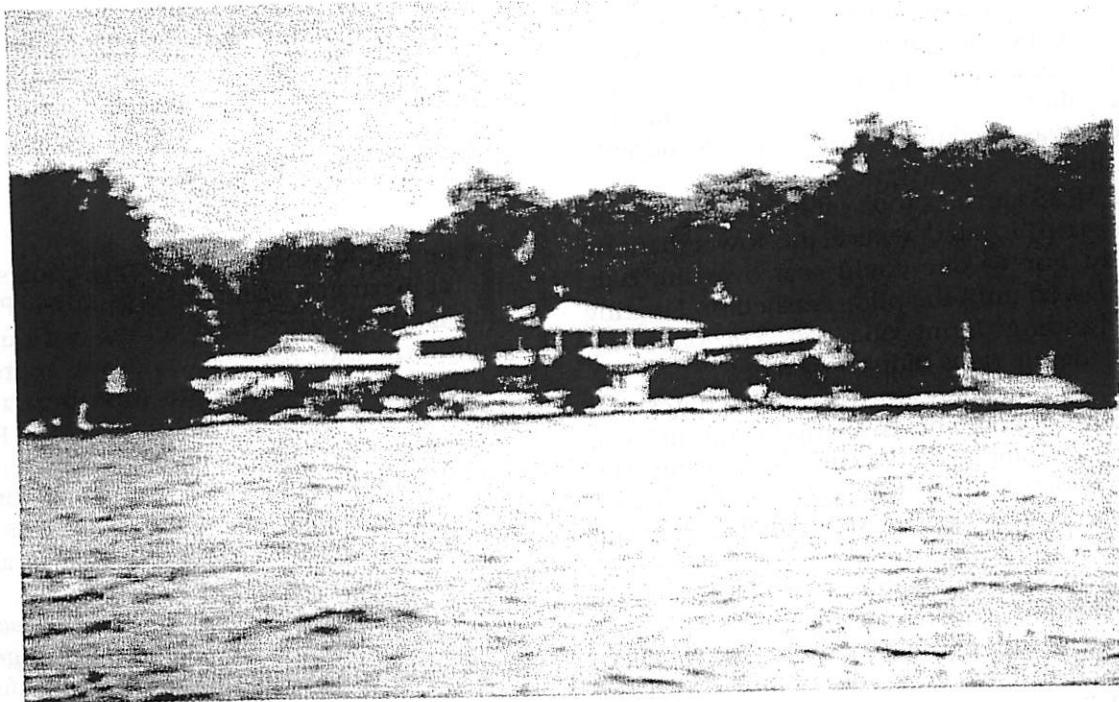


*This wooden bridge once connected Bertrand Island with the mainland.*

In 1922 the island, with the exception of the yacht club property and a few summer cottages, was purchased by Louis Kraus, a teacher at Newark's Behringer High School. Mr. Kraus had come to Lake Hopatcong in 1914 and operated the Camp Village at Prospect Point for many years. In 1919 he purchased property on the mainland just off Bertrand Island and constructed the California Lodge, a family vacation resort, complete with restaurant and dance hall.

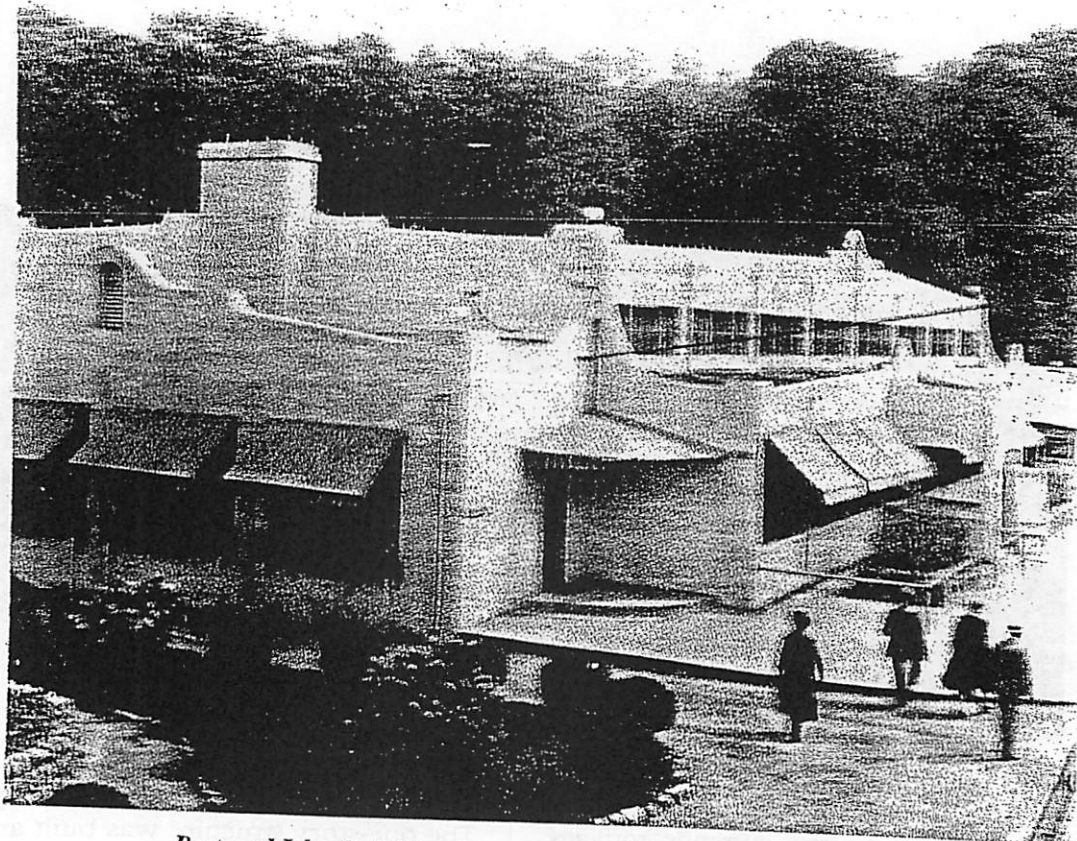
The design of the lodge was unique for its day. The one-story structure was built around a center courtyard, similar to the architectural design of the first motels. Each unit had a separate entrance and the restaurant was situated in a separate building in the center front of the complex on the lake's shore.

Over the years, many amusements were added to the complex becoming the Bertrand Island Amusement Park. The first ride was a merry-go-round owned by George Hulmes, who also operated the



*A waterside view of the California Lodge on Bertrand Island.*





*Bertrand Island's Villa was originally the June Rose Ballroom.*

steamboat line which ran excursion boats from the island. The trolley also ran from Morristown to the steamboat landing at Bertrand Island. At one time there was a boardwalk along the lake shore which extended to the upper picnic pavilion area and along the miniature golf course.

In 1927, Freddy Grant leased a site at the amusement park for the construction of a roller coaster. At that time the amusement park extended from the island to the mainland and there was a small wooden bridge connecting the two bodies of land. When the roller coaster was constructed, a narrow strip of land was filled in to connect the island with the mainland.

Around 1928 air rides took off from the Bertrand Island air strip, located where the lower parking lot is today. For \$4 one could soar over the lake. The rides lasted until the pilot crashed on Floating Island in Landing during one trip. The pilot survived, but the air rides didn't.

For many years there were beauty contests at the park with young women vying for the titles of Miss Bertrand Island and Miss Lake Hopatcong. The Miss New Jersey contest was held here for many years and in early years the Miss America Pageant was staged at the park.

Mrs. Dorothy Cuda, daughter of Mr. Kraus, remembers the old amusement park. "There was a big hill in the center of the park then," she recalled, "and we used to have great fun sliding down the sandy bank."

Her fondest memory is of the June Rose Ballroom, later known as the Villa. The ballroom had a laticework ceiling from which roses were hung and a mirrored ball glistened in the center. She remembers the dime-a-dance in which a gentleman paid 10 cents for a dance with the lady of his choice.

The Kraus family ran the amusement park until 1952 when it was sold. Mrs. Cuda today still lives in the family homestead.

### Miss Lake Hopatcong Contest

The first Miss Lake Hopatcong contest was held at Bertrand Island Park in 1924. Preliminary contests were held at the various sections around the lake, each of which was represented in the contest. In addition to Miss Bertrand Island, there was a Miss Raccoon Island, a Miss River Styx, and a Miss Glen View Colony, to name but a few.

The June Rose ballroom was the setting for the annual beauty pageant. Vaudeville shows preceded the judging and afterwards, "dancing was enjoyed to a late hour."

According to *The Lake Hopatcong Breeze* of September 1, 1934, the National Beauty Pageant, held annually to select America's most beautiful bathing beauty, was held August 28 and 29 of that year at Bertrand Island Park.

There were 36 entrants representing various cities and states. Judges were the Hon. John M. Mills, the Hon. Stephen C. Griffith, the Hon. Farquhar M. Fraser, and the Hon. Andrew F. Polite. Nick Lucas of radio and screen fame, was the presiding judge and master of ceremonies.

Miss Myrtle Richardson of Ardmore, Pa., who was entered as Miss Millbourne, was selected "America's premier beauty" to carry the title of Miss America. Described as "blonde and sweet 19 creating a delightful picture in a jet black bathing creation," she received a large silver loving cup, which had been donated by the Lake Hopatcong Chamber of Commerce and crafted by the International Silver Company.

Miss Stella Rosalie Ochman, representing the State of Connecticut, finished "a very close" second, and Miss Mildred Groff of Philadelphia, entered as Miss Pennsylvania, finished third. Miss Mary Kathryn Chute of Akron, Ohio, was the runner-up and "was closely pressed for the honor" by Miss Smiles Palmer of Elizabeth, N.J., who was entered as Miss American Venus. Miss Ochman was also judged America's "most beautifully gowned girl." Miss Chute, attired in a black velvet Grecian gown with burnished gold studded straps, placed second in this category.

JoAnn McClay of Mine Hill, now JoAnn Gardner of Mount Arlington, was Miss Lake Hopatcong of 1953. The mother of five sons and a grandmother of two, JoAnn is now a teacher at Randolph Township High School. She is also one of the founding members of the Mount Arlington Historical Society and has served as its program chairman since its inception.

"When I entered the Miss Lake Hopatcong contest, I did it as a joke," she recalled. The contest was held at Ack's Beach and "I paraded with the other ten girls ... I didn't even have the sense to feel nervous. When I smiled the crowd seemed to love it so I kept on smiling."

She was very surprised when she was selected as the girl to represent Lake Hopatcong at the Miss New Jersey pageant that year. "I was the only girl not wearing a solid color suit," JoAnn recalled. "Can you imagine wearing a striped bathing suit, the one I'd been swimming in all summer, to enter a beauty pageant?"

JoAnn won a Miss America Bulova watch for capturing the title and each contestant received "tailspin" stick cologne by Lucien Long. A new Nash Healey, donated by the Morristown Nash Healey Agency, transported JoAnn and her chaperone to Atlantic City for the Miss New Jersey contest. Although JoAnn wasn't chosen for that title, she treasures the memories. The experience she gained from that contest led her to win the title of Miss Morris

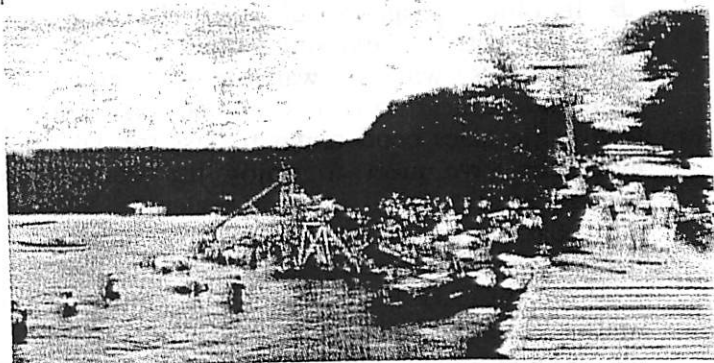
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County in 1954, and in 1957 she was named Miss 82nd Airborne.

The last beauty pageant to be held at Bertrand Island Park was in 1941. Other organizations around the lake carried on the tradition of the annual pageant through the 1950s. Towards the end, it was no longer an official preliminary to the Miss New Jersey pageant, and the contest never regained the popularity and prestige it had gained when it was held at Bertrand Island Park.

In 1937, Betty Cooper of Hackettstown was named Miss America at the pageant held at Bertrand Island Park. Many local residents remembered this when attending a "living history" program of the Historical Society held in May, 1985.



## Chapter Fifteen

# Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club

The first annual regatta of the Hopatcong Lake and Field Club, was held on August 19, 1899. Its official program welcomed "to the people of Lake Hopatcong," extending greetings and opening its doors "with the warmest welcome to all from far and near, to its first annual regatta. Here, where the skies bend down to kiss the lake and mountains, we meet to enjoy the contests of friendly rivalry. To all, hail and welcome. May the best boats win and to the victors the laurels."

It is suggested in the "Historama," published in 1955 by the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club in celebration of its 50th anniversary, that the advent of the gasoline engine stimulated private ownership of power boats and was an immeasurable factor in the development of the club.

The Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club stems from the formation of the Hopatcong Lake and Field Club, which held its water sports from docks of the Hotel

Breslin in Mount Arlington. In 1904, the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club was created and held races from the American House dock in Great Cove. The two clubs merged in 1905 and took the name, The Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club.

From 1905 to 1910 the club conducted its water sports from the Wildwood Shores estates of R.L. Edwards, who was the first commodore of the club as well as the first mayor of the Borough of Hopatcong.

In 1909 construction was begun on the present clubhouse on Bertrand Island. In a letter dated 1955 from Francis Ammon of Succasunna, who worked on the original construction when he was 23, it is noted that the logs for the clubhouse were cut at Woodport, made into rafts and floated down the lake "with many difficulties." A photograph of the clubhouse in the stages of construction dated 1909-1910, is on display at the Yacht Club today.



*Pictured above is R.L. Edwards, the first Commodore of the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club and served from 1905-1910. During that time the club held its annual water sporting activities from the dock of Commodor Edwards' Wildwood Shores estate.*



A certificate of incorporation, received September 30, 1907, names the purposes "to promote social intercourse between members; to further the athletic field and aquatic sports and contest therein, and to provide and maintain suitable clubhouse and grounds." The first record on file is a copy of the bylaws, revised, September 1908. The officers were: Commodore R.P. Edwards; Vice Commodore, Bird; Rear Commodore, M.F. Moore; Treasurer, A.C. Chase; Secretary, Howard E. Spaulding, and Assistant Secretary R.W. Brett. The initiation fee was \$15 and annual dues the same.

An amendment to the bylaws in 1913 added a Ladies Auxiliary Committee. In the 1929 revised bylaws a special woman's membership was opened "to unmarried permanent or transient female residents of Lake Hopatcong, where there is no male eligible family member." That year the initiation fee was \$20 and annual dues \$50.

The 1929 entertainment program listed dances, a commodore's reception, cards, moving pictures, a masquerade vaudeville and dramatic nights. The programs for 1931 and 1932 were merely postcards listing the social events. Members were asked to bring fireworks to the club on the 4th of July and a "Hard Times" dance was scheduled for August.

The program issued in 1936 was similar to the one used by the club today. It was somewhat smaller, being only seven pages, and had a grey cover,

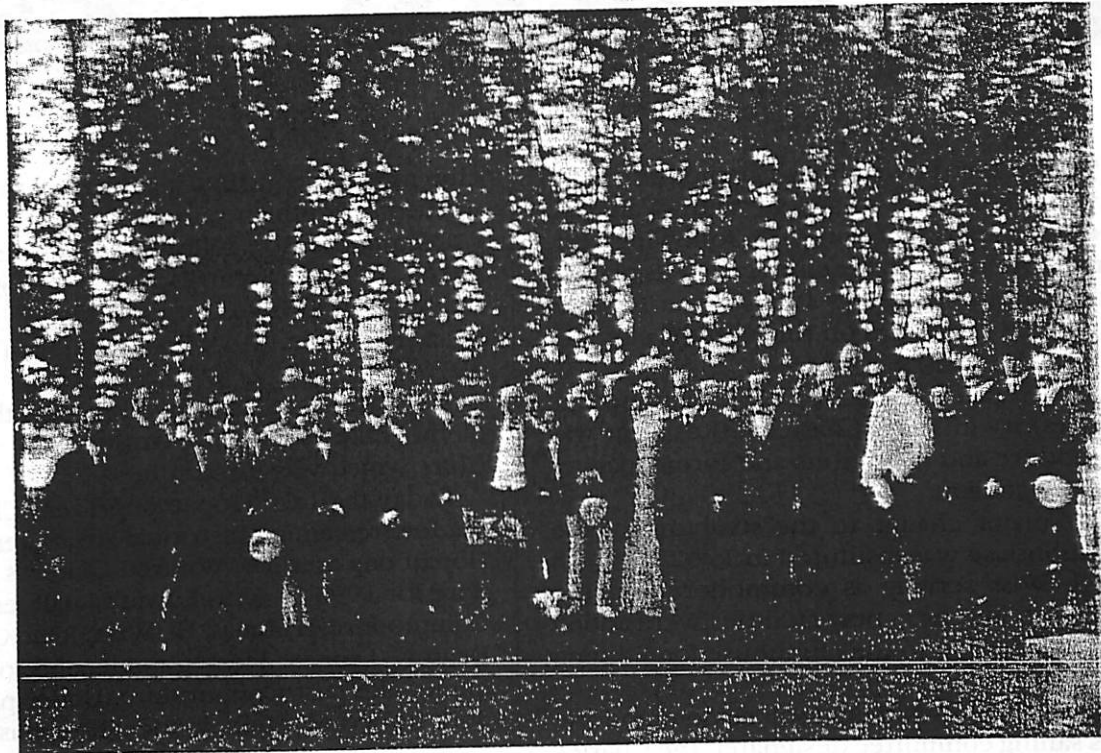
with blue printing, and red, white and blue burgee. Sinclair Adams was commodore that year as well as in 1937.

In 1938 when Ralph M. Osmun was commodore, the club hosted its first dinner dance. The first group sailors picture was also taken that year. In 1958 that same group of sailors met again at the club to be photographed.

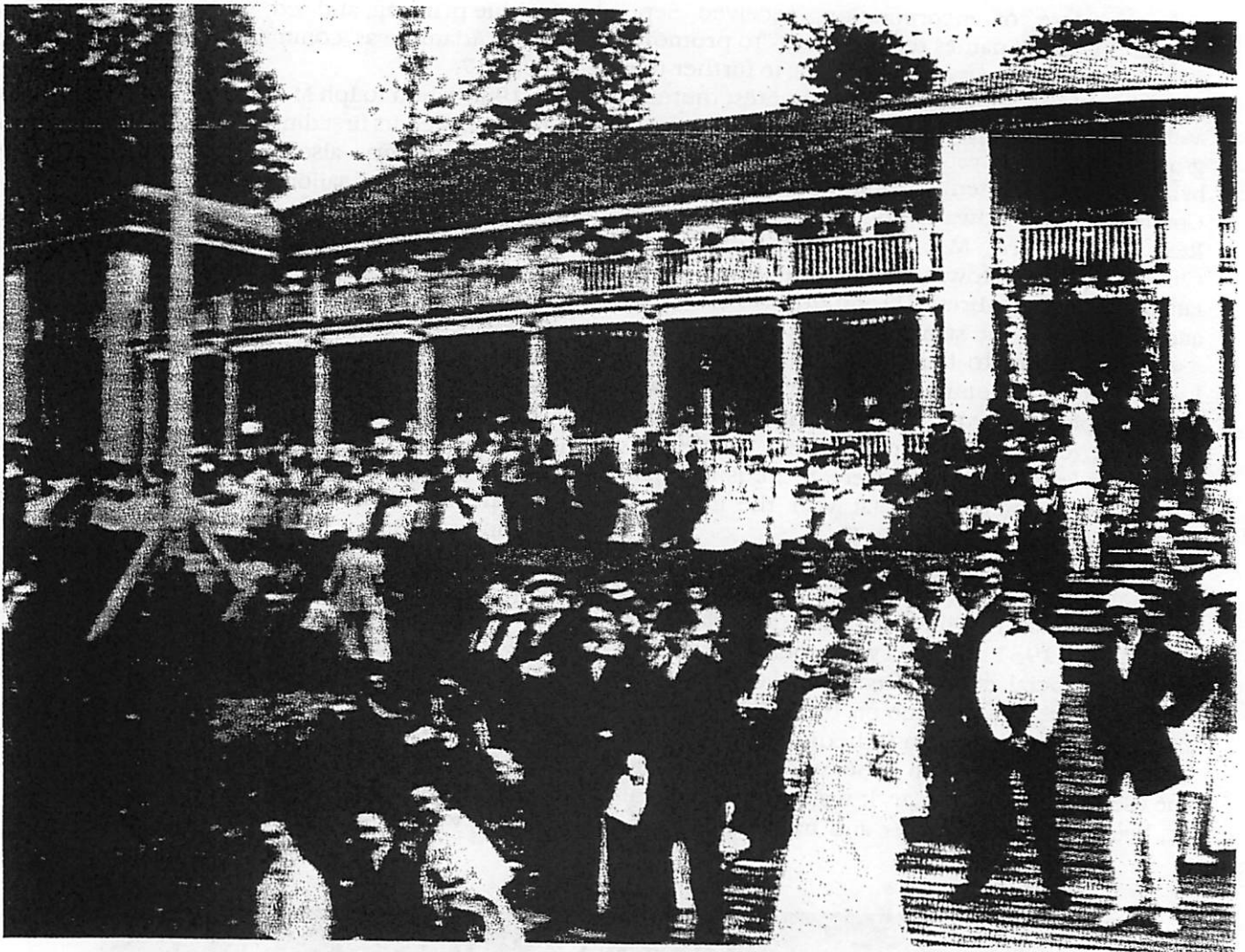
The first motor boat regatta, chaired by Vice Commodore Charles D. Pulis was held in 1940-41 when T. David Gibbs was serving as commodore.

The war year program of 1942 featured the American flag on the cover in place of the club burgee. Among the events that year, with Charles D. Pulis as commodore, were the Red, White and Blue Dinner, which has been an annual event to this day.

With many of its male members serving in the war, the club was not opened for the 1943 season. It is interesting to note that the Lake Hopatcong area, which was mostly a summer resort in those years, suffered during the war years due to the lack of tourism. *The Lake Hopatcong Breeze* did not publish and many of the hotels, bungalow colonies and restaurants remained closed through the summer seasons of World War II. The Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club opened for the 1944 season, and in 1945 and 1946 the club gave priority to dinner dances for service men and women. George Lee Knecht was the commodore during those years.



Ground breaking ceremonies of the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club September 18, 1909. Commodore R.L. Edwards is pictured center.



In 1950 the first Power Boat Championship for the Governor's Trophy was held with Walter A. Eichler serving as commodore. The following year, the Woman's Auxiliary to the club started its project of making hospital dressings for Newton General Hospital, which continued on through the summer months into the 1970's.

The Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1955. Charles R. Rosevear was the commodore and receptions and formal dances marked the occasion.

The first major change to the structure of the original clubhouse was instituted in 1962-63. With Thomas H. Wiss serving as commodore and the help of all club members new facilities were added as well as an addition to the clubhouse for a dining room and bar.

In 1964, with John N. Petterson as commodore, the club's sailing committee designated the Charles R. Rosevear Jr. Corinthia trophy as a perpetual memorial trophy to be awarded each year to the

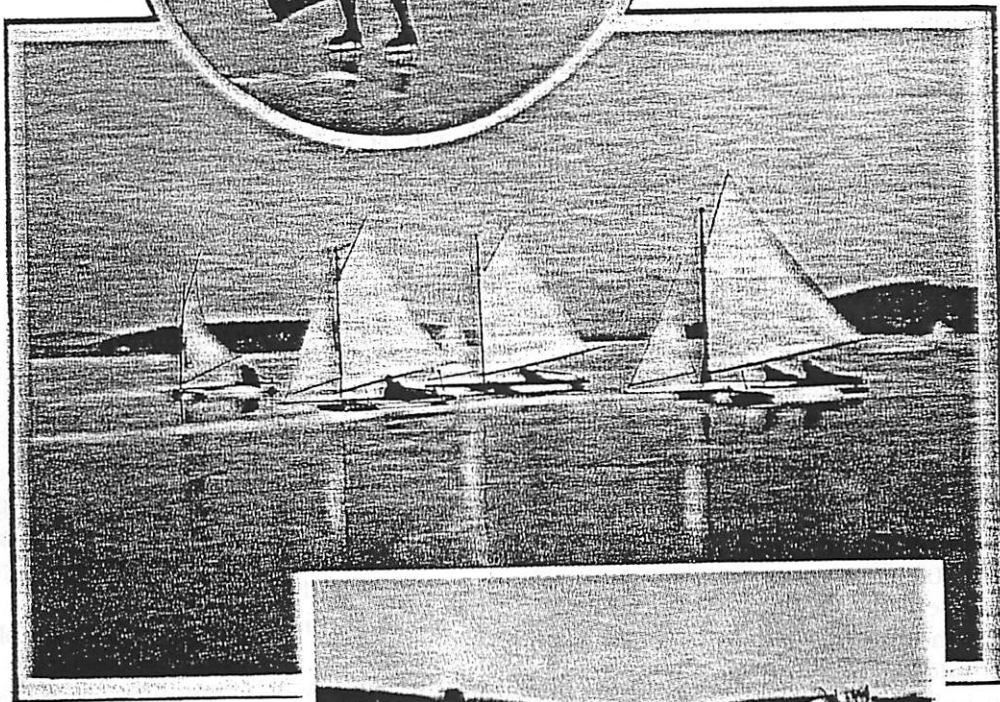
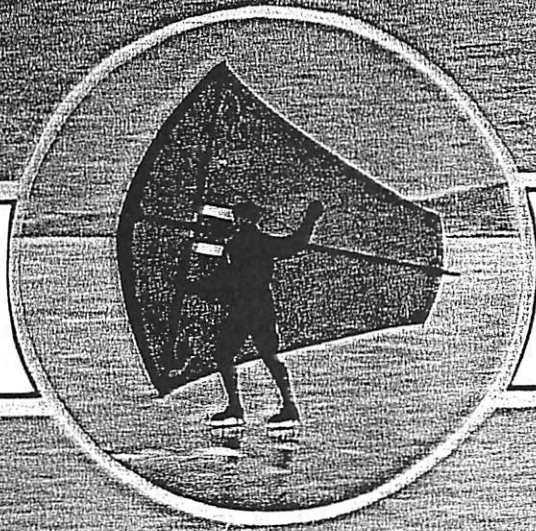
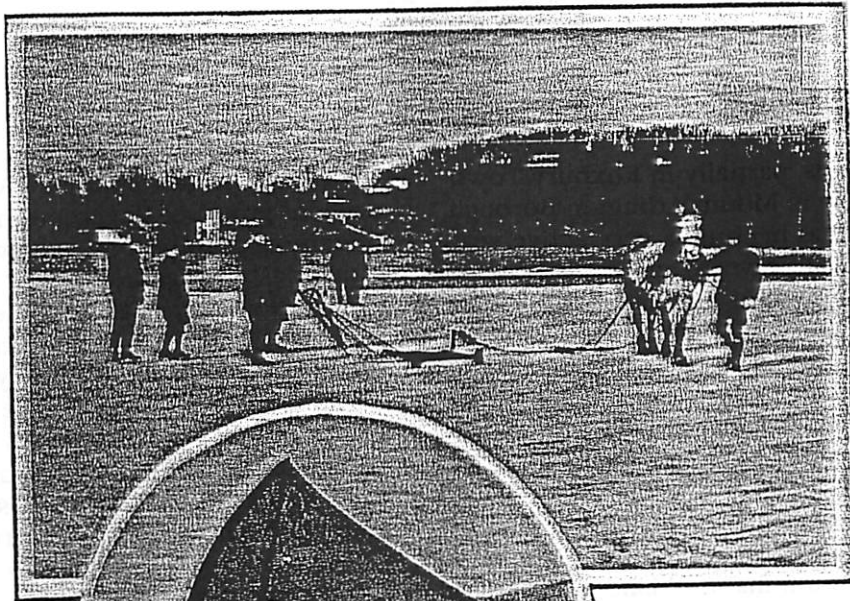
club member contributing the most to the development of Corinthian sailing.

Commodores in following years were August L. Baker, 1966-67; John A. Hoff, 1968-69; Robert M. Aughey, 1970-71; Charles D. Pulis, Jr., 1972-73; Grant H. Lennox, 1974-75 and William E. Widekher, 1976-77.

The yacht club has annually hosted the boat show of the Lake Hopatcong Antique and Classic Boat Club, which was formed in 1975.

Today the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club is one of the few remaining historical structures in the Lake Hopatcong area. Dr. Winfred Ginter is the commodore for 1990-91 with Edward J. Lill serving as Vice Commodore; Thomas H. Wiss, Rear Commodore, Dean C. Lennox, Fleet Captain, and John R. Gates, immediate past Commodore. Under past Commodore Robert M. Aughey, the club sponsored a spectacular fireworks display on July 3, 1990, in observance of the Borough of Mount Arlington's Centennial.





*These scenes from winters past feature activities on Lake Hopatcong. Pictured above are men cutting ice on the lake, one of the only means of employment during the winter months. Skate sailing (center) and ice boating were popular winter sports.*



## Chapter Sixteen

# Lake Rogerene



Located in the hills, partially in Roxbury Township and partially in Mount Arlington Borough, Lake Rogerene has become a very active year-round development. Known to many of the local residents as Mountain Pond, the lake and the area are now officially named Lake Rogerene.

The name itself comes from a religious sect known as the Rogerenes who were the first white settlers in Roxbury Township. The sect was founded in New London, Connecticut, in 1674 by John Rogers.

The first Rogerenes came to this area to escape religious persecution. They braved the dangers of the sea and this then uninhabited land, to establish the right for everyone to worship God as one pleased. The orthodox Christians in New London, thought these people were peculiar and did not approve of their beliefs, and persecuted them unmercifully. A number of families, said to be 40 or 50, escaped with a few of their possessions and traveled over a tractless wilderness seeking peace.

They settled near the little lake with Lake Hopatcong not far in the distance. Surrounded by Indians, whom they found friendlier than the pious New Englanders they had left, they set about planting fields of grain and corn as well as fruit trees. By 1709 their crops were very productive. They built their homes, all measuring 16' by 20', and their first schoolhouse, which was also used as a church, near what is now the Mount Arlington Road.

These first settlers were considered peculiar because of their religious beliefs. They were hard workers, peaceful, and worshipped in their own way. They believed it a sin to take any kind of medicine or to have a physician. Their baptisms were by immersion in the lake.

After the erection of the Presbyterian Church in Succasunna in 1762, some of the Rogerene women would go by horseback and sit astride their horses, near the open windows of the church. They would not enter the building, but would listen attentively while knitting industriously. It is said they always galloped away after the benediction.

The cemetery where these original settlers and their children were buried contained many graves. A rumor persists that this was an Indian burial ground. It is said the Rogerenes buried their dead, as was the Indian custom, on land sloping to the rising sun with the deceased buried facing the sun. The cemetery is said to have been located between Lake Rogerene and the Shore Hills Estates.

During the Revolutionary War, when all of the original group of Rogerenes had passed away, the remaining members moved away from the area as quietly as their ancestors had come.

Lake Rogerene was purchased by Charles Orben Sr. in 1892 and the development of the lake as a private residential community was carried on by his son, Charles Orben, Jr. The latter was president of the Mount Arlington Lakes Development Company with Albert G. Duerr, manager, and F.J. Britton, sales manager. It was advertised as an "exclusive summer home colony for health, romance and profit." The price of \$100 and up for a bungalow site, or bungalow which included free building stone, was advertised as the "lowest possible cost of building construction." The advantages of the lake were advertised as "pure spring water, excellent fishing, abundance of game, virgin timber on every plot, electric light now — not promised, and excellent railroad service."

Isabelle Vescio of Roxbury, is the daughter of Albert Duerr. Her mother operated a store, located at the corner of Orben Drive and Rogerene Way, where milk, butter, bread and meats were available to summer residents.

The original entrance to the lake was off Route 46. In 1960, with the construction of Interstate 80, a new bypass road was built.

Roger and Mary Ann Rousch, who are year round residents of the community, came to the lake 36 years ago. They recall the first families of the area to reside there year round included former councilmen Gerry Curtin, Bob Brady and Claude Silverton, as well as former tax assessor, Frank Menne.

Noreen Kenstler Herron, who grew up at the lake and is still a resident, recalls from her childhood "You could walk anywhere, on any road in the community and feel safe."

The community had its own clubhouse from the beginning. The Civic Association Center is on Rogerene Way. Community activities include field days, ice skating, fishing and association parties. The community also has its own firehouse, "thanks to former mayor Bob Rooney," according to Rousch.

Although there are several new homes being constructed in the area, as well as paved roadways, there are still many dirt paths, such as Maple Path and Rogerene Way, which circles the lake. Many residents have discouraged the paving of roadways preferring the slow paced ambience of the summer community Lake Rogerene once was.

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## Chapter Seventeen

# Organizations:

### Fire Department

Up until 1923, bucket brigades by neighbors were the only means of extinguishing a fire. There were no organized fire fighting units at Lake Hopatcong and fire was a real threat to the residents as all of the homes and hotels were mostly of frame construction.

It was not until 1923 that an official fire department was organized in the Borough of Mount Arlington, and it was the first in the communities bordering Lake Hopatcong. Mount Arlington's first 42 volunteer firemen were responsible for not only the immediate area, but all of the surrounding municipalities on the shores of the lake.

Organized by the borough officials under Mayor Richard J. Chaplin Sr., the Mount Arlington Fire Department was willing and ably equipped to handle its responsibilities.

William Chaplin, son of Mayor Richard Chaplin, was the first fire chief and served the department as chief for seven years. Raymond Speaker was the second chief of the department and served for one year. Fred Rademacher was the next in line and served for 12 years. It was during his last term of office that the department changed its rules limiting the time a chief could serve to no more than one year.

Chiefs of the Mount Arlington Fire Department since that time have included Oscar Danielson, Carlton Vanderhoof, R.J. Chaplin Sr., Eugene Peterson, Pat DeMarino, Charles Chaplin, Robert Rooney, Al Blanchard, Joe Santori, Robert Cooper, Marvin Forsythe, Vincent Reilly, Harry Schember, Richard Danielson, Jack Ribakusky, William Grant, Joseph Davis, Paul Wray, Robert Kadel, John Blanco, Donald Ruffcorn, Roger Rousch, Dan Bacinsky, Eugene Crance, Larry Elliott, Ralph Migliaccio, Don Smith, and present chief Bill Trenelli. Orin Barnes was never chief, but in 1985 he was named an honorary chief in recognition of his 60 years of service to the department.

The first fire truck purchased for the department was a 1922 pumper that had a 350-gallon water storage tank. It was the first motorized truck in a community bordering Lake Hopatcong. A 1922 Ford coal truck was also acquired and converted for fire fighting. The first new truck was a 1939 Ahrens-Fox, which the department still has. It consistently has won many trophies for the department at the firemen's parades. Over the years better and

more efficient trucks were bought and today the fire department has five vehicles with the newest being a 1985 Hahn, capable of pumping 1500 gallons of water per minute and carrying 1,000 gallons.

When Mount Arlington obtained its first motorized truck, provisions were made to keep it garaged at what was then the borough hall. An arch doorway was constructed to accommodate the truck. The 1922 coal truck was kept in a garage in Speakertown. When the 1939 Ahrens-Fox was purchased, a second arched doorway was added to the borough hall building. The arches can still be seen in the front facade of the building today.

The fire department shared the first floor of the original borough hall with the post office.

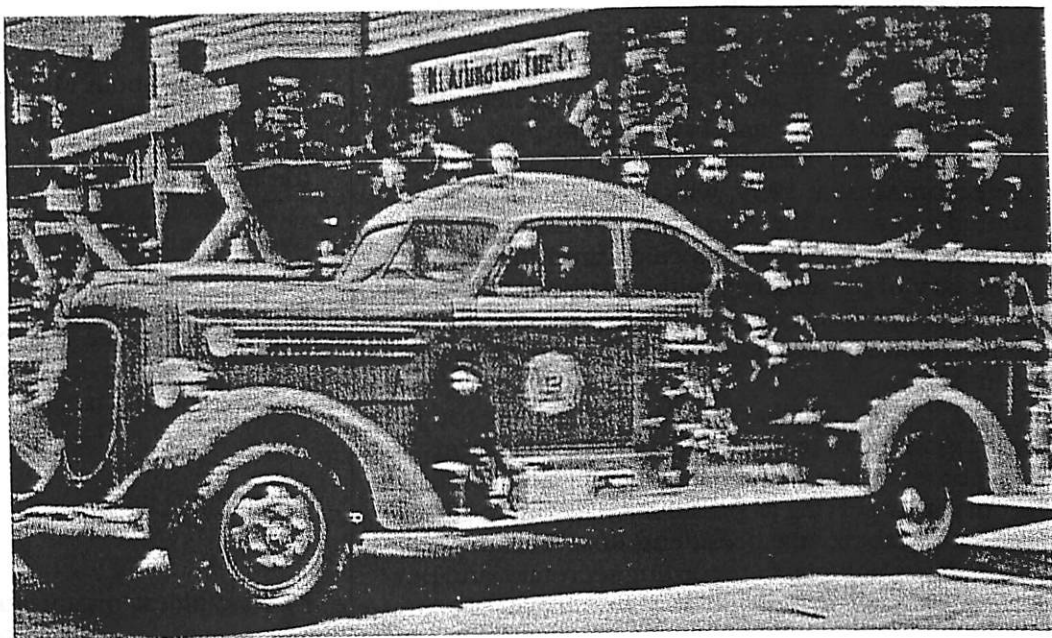
On June 18, 1958 the current firehouse on Howard Boulevard was dedicated. Robert J. Rooney was mayor at that time and delivered the opening address. William Chaplin, the department's first chief, officially christened the building with a bottle of champagne. The invocation was given by the Rev. Francis McGowan, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church, and the benediction was given by the Rev. Robert Maitland of St. Peter's Church. The Mount Arlington Community Club donated the American flag; Frank Rennere, a stainless steel sink; Al Berkenmeir Sr., a gas stove; Scerbo Brothers, \$100 for refreshments; Mrs. Marie Menne, the bottle of champagne; Chester Gill of Dover, the sound system; Bertrand Island Amusement Park and the Felician Sisters, the flowers.

Leaders of the borough organizations which would use the building for meetings were also introduced at the dedication. They were Pearl Keefer, president of the Mount Arlington Community Club; Sylvia Hafner, president of the fire department auxiliary; Marge Getelman, PTA president; Anne Craney and Florence Henkle, Girl Scout troop leaders; Marge Rogers and Ann Adams, Brownie Troop 246 leaders; Cy Roston, cubmaster of pack 46; Den mothers Mrs. Val Andico, Mrs. Ida Apostolik, Mrs. Gladys Garrison, Mrs. Hampton Goble and Mrs. Florence Stigliano; Boy Scout Troop 146 Scout master Jack Smith and James Calhoun and Ken Russell, assistants; Sydney Bernstein, Explorer Scouts, and William Vegso, fire department president.

The new building was of split-level design and masonry construction. The front was faced with red brick. The first story was designed to house



This photograph shows members of the Mount Arlington Fire Department with the truck purchased by the borough in 1939. Those pictured on the back of the truck are (l-r) John Gutman, Herbert Decker, Richard Chaplin, Oscar Danielson, Clifford Peterson, Chief F.H. Rademacher and Joseph Smith. "Chubby" Vanderhoof is the driver and the mascot, Jackie Chaplin, is seated on the running board. In the background is the scaffolding erected for renovations to the borough hall adding another bay for storage of the new truck.



three fire trucks and an ambulance. The lower rear level was designated to be the municipal garage. The total cost of construction was \$55,000, which included the purchase of the land. Today this fire house has four bays on the street level and three bays in the back below the meeting room. It is the main fire house and most of the emergency response vehicles are dispatched from this location.

In 1970-1971, a second fire house was constructed at Lake Rogerene. This was a joint undertaking between the Borough of Mount Arlington and the Fire Department. This second location was necessary to reduce the response time to that area of Mount Arlington. It currently houses one of the department's three pumpers which is the primary response vehicle to that area.

The fire department celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1972. John Blanco was chairman of the parade which had 43 fire companies represented and 10 marching bands. The line of march was from Memorial Park up Howard Boulevard to Edgemere and Windermere Avenues and on to Bertrand Island Park where refreshments were served and trophies presented. There were 50 trophies in all representing the 50 years the department had been in service. The day ended with a fireworks display and the fire trucks exited the park with sirens blaring and lights flashing.

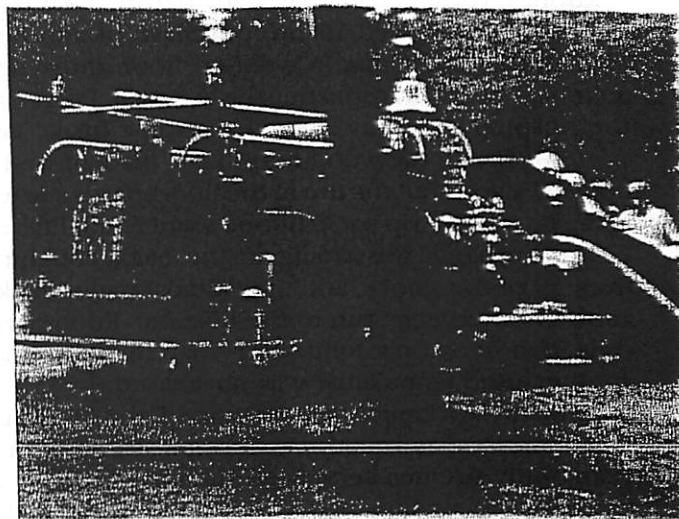
### Ladies Auxiliary

In 1925, a Ladies Auxiliary to the Mount Arlington Fire Department was started. Two years later, in 1927 it was incorporated within and renamed the Mount Arlington Woman's Club which later

became the Mount Arlington Community Club.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Mount Arlington Fire Department, as it is known today, was founded in 1958. Joyce Lewin and Irene Tasnady were the organizers. As with the first club, its main purpose was to provide sandwiches and coffee to the volunteer firefighters at the scene of the fires. It also served as a social club for wives of the firemen and was instrumental in fund raising events.

Sylvia Hafner was elected to serve as the auxiliary's first president. The other first officers were: Joyce Lewin, vice president; Lillian Hagedorn, treasurer; Edna VerBeck, recording secretary, and Mary Tappen, corresponding secretary. The first members included Daisy Barnes, Palma Andico, Ethel Forsythe, Mary Russell, Settemia Smith, Mary Ann



The 1922 Mack Fire truck with wooden spoke wheels was sold at auction in the 1980's.

Rousch, Eleanor McConnell, Grace Schafer Johnson, Alice Gryszkiewicz, Margaret Tince, Ann Danielson, Virginia Rooney, Bea Lynch, Florence Secula, Marilyn Hartman, Theresa Morch, Ruth Cook, Louise Chaplin, Mary Schaefer, Dorothy Seeley, Ellen Royce, Pearl Keefer and Faye Carlson.

The auxiliary members sponsored a buffet and dance on April 4, 1959, which has continued as an annual event on the organization's calendar of activities. In 1983, members celebrated the 25th anniversary of the auxiliary with a birthday party held at the Knights of Columbus hall. Joyce Lewin and Irene Tasnady were honored along with all charter members.

The Ladies Auxiliary continues as one of the borough's most active organizations in terms of membership and fund raising events. Fran Esposito is currently serving as president. The other officers are: Sue Mabee, vice president; Rose Trenelli, treasurer; Fran Hallowich, recording secretary, and Beverly Johnson, corresponding secretary.

## Rescue Squad

The borough's first rescue squad unit was formed in 1952 at the suggestion of fire department members Don Chaplin, Robert Cooper and Robert Rooney.

The first emergency vehicle, a used Cadillac from the Hopatcong Ambulance Squad, was purchased for \$500 and outfitted with emergency equipment through the donations of borough organizations and private citizens. The equipment was housed in a rented building on Howard Boulevard, where the Mount Arlington Shopping Center is today.

Rooney recalls problems with that first vehicle which ultimately led to the purchase of another. That first "Caddy" had a wooden floor and when members were transporting Elsie Apgar Pfister to the hospital, the vehicle's exhaust pipe broke and started a fire in the wood floor. Elsie made it to the hospital safely. But the fire in the floorboards started up again on the trip back. Rooney said Frank Pfister, Elsie's husband, was riding in the back coughing from all of the smoke, and they almost had to make another emergency run to the hospital. Rooney recalls that it wasn't long after that incident that another used ambulance was purchased.

William Hockenjos was mayor of the borough when the rescue squad was formed. In its earlier years, only firemen served on the squad. In 1972, membership was opened to those outside the department. Rooney also recalled that former mayor Clarence Lee, always keeping an eye on the tax-

payers' dollars, fought the formation of the rescue unit. In later years Lee served on the board of directors at Dover General Hospital and heard many good words about Mt. Arlington's excellent rescue squad. It was after that he annually donated a boat and motor to the fire department raffle to benefit the ambulance fund.

The Mount Arlington Rescue Squad today has two ambulances in service. Carol La Fountain is captain of the squad with members Phil and Barbara Cianciulli, Ed Gengenbach, Mercedes Casey, Gary Giacobbe, Noreen Herron, Bonnie Merring, Diane Post, Nancy Updyke, Gary Meyers, Don Michelson and Wynne Migliaccio.

## Community Club

**T**he oldest organization in the borough is the Mount Arlington Community Club.

Although its membership today numbers only 7, the club can be considered the most active in Mount Arlington's history in terms of donations and community service.

Founded in 1927 as a social club for the ladies of Mount Arlington, the Community Club has provided many services to the borough, many of which are in evidence today.

Working together in harmony, the club members, over the years, have contributed to the police and fire departments, the rescue squad, schools, library, Veterans of Foreign War, scouts, indigent families as well as the Borough Hall itself. In 1972 the club donated a monument to "veterans of all wars" which was placed at Memorial Park. The club's most recent contribution is a beautifully framed picture of the Bertrand Island Amusement Park, which was presented to the townspeople on Nov. 1, 1990, by the club's president, Mabel (Mike) Troast. It was accepted by Mayor Laurence Arico. It is interesting to note, that although membership of the club in this centennial year only numbers 7, the club was able to raise the funds through its membership for this contribution to the town, which cost \$400.

Over the past 63 years, the club's generosity extended to the county, state and national levels as well, with contributions to area hospitals, the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Heart, Mental Health and Cancer Funds, to name but a few. The contributions were either in the form of money, services, or furnishings for special rooms.

The club's membership has gone from 45 to the present seven, and members have ranged in age from 42 to 82. A brass-plated plaque on display at the Borough Hall lists the names of all past presidents and the dates they served.

## The Mount Arlington Historical Society

It was at a luncheon in the home of JoAnn Gardner that a few ladies decided that Mt. Arlington had enough history to warrant the formation of a Historical Society. So it was that the following became the first officers of this organization:

President - Virginia Rooney

Vice President and Program Chairman -

JoAnn Gardner

Secretary - Eleanor Oudshoorn

Treasurer - Anna Travers

The first meeting was held at the Mount Arlington Public Library on May 25, 1981. The late Walter Apostolik, publisher of *The Lake Hopatcong Breeze*, presented a slide program of the "Grand Hotels of Lake Hopatcong." These hotels were frequented by famous entertainers, politicians and millionaires such as Abbot and Costello, Milton Berle, Thomas Edison, John D. Rockefeller, The King Sisters, and other famous people. None of the hotels are in existence today.

Since that first meeting, the society has met every year during the Spring and Fall months. With each meeting, JoAnn Gardner, the program chairman, augmented the historic presentations with artistic posters, articles and, wherever possible, with slides or films. From its inception, the society members have been working diligently collecting photographs, data and oral histories for its records and for presentation to interested groups. Also, whenever possible, guest speakers have been invited to share their experiences.

In-depth studies have been made of the 15 historic homes which are listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. These homes are still standing although they have gone through much transformation. One of these homes belonged to the well-known comedienne Lotta Crabtree. The interesting story of Lotta Crabtree is related elsewhere in this book.

The Historical Society has presented detailed histories of: the Mount Arlington School System which was started in 1892; the Volunteer Fire Department which was established in 1923 by former mayor Richard J. Chaplin Sr., with Walt Danielson being one of its first members; the Police Department with Chief Bill Morgan sharing original records with the Society; and borough government, incorporated on Nov. 1, 1890.

Studies of families were also made and these include: Chaplin, Andico, Speaker, Rooney, Lawrey, Johnson, Plummer, Hockenjos, Peterson, Danielson, Gordon, Cuda and Begraft.

In 1984, the society embarked on its first preservation project, namely, the restoration of the original school bell which hung in the belfry of the two-room schoolhouse.

The bell, which was removed when an addition to the school was built, was put away and forgotten for 30 years. When it was found, the task of cleaning and polishing it was undertaken by Donald Chaplin and Bill Carhuff. Then it was mounted on a concrete foundation in front of the Mount Arlington School at no cost to the taxpayers. All expenses were met through donations.

The dedication of the bell took place on December 16, 1984 with Virginia Rooney delivering the following address:

"Welcome to the dedication services of the first historic preservation in Mount Arlington.

"We are gathered here today to present our restored 1917 McShane School Bell. It will now be permanently displayed as a reminder to all of us that there were many one-room and two-room school houses throughout our country where bells like this one announced the beginning of classes, recess periods, and lunch time. Heaven help you if you weren't in your seats at the second ringing of the bell!

"This bell rang for the last time in 1954 when a new four-room addition was built in front of the two rooms facing Howard Blvd., at which time an electric bell was installed.

"One of the highlights of today will be the ringing of the bell for the first time in 30 years and will be started by the children of the officers of the Mt. Arlington Historical Society. They are, Duffy Gardner, Bert, Steven and Susan Oudshoorn, and Jason Travers. Following them, if there are any of you who attended the two-room school and would like to ring the bell just one more time before the clapper is secured, please come forward and do so.

"However, before the ringing of the bell, I'd like to thank my officers, JoAnn Gardner, Vice President and chairman of this project; Secretary Eleanor Oudshoorn for sending out the invitations with the help of Sue Stavola; Anna Travers, Treasurer, who had the programs printed; and Trustee Caryl Russell and Charter member Dolores Rivinius for our refreshments.

"Following the Bell Ringing, we will enter the school building. When you come to a T in the hall, turn left and go straight ahead. Before serving refreshments, JoAnn Gardner will give a brief talk about the bell and urge audience participation.





*Former Mayor Robert and Virginia Rooney ringing the school bell at dedication ceremonies December 16, 1984.*

"As you enter the school, you will receive a program and you will see the original two rooms which are intact and used every day.

"Chairs have been set up but please give preference to an older person who needs to sit down. The space near the two rooms is limited. Thank you.

"At this time I want to especially thank our largest donor, Bill Anderson, for without his very generous donation, this day would not have been possible. Bill is a former president of the school board and now lives out of town. Many thanks to all who helped with donations and to all others for coming to help celebrate this special occasion. Our eternal gratitude goes to Don Chaplin and Bill Carhuff who restored the bell.

"And now, the Bell Ringing..."

The audience then entered the school and enjoyed refreshments.

The most heavily attended program of the Historical Society was the one given on the "Ghostbusters" at the Borough Hall. This was a slide presentation given by two people interested in psychic

phenomena and it dealt with ghosts of Morris County.

In other areas, tribute was paid to Lady Liberty with speakers and a movie on the fascinating history of the immigrants; a motion picture was shown called "Hard Winter" depicting the hardships suffered in Morris County during the Revolutionary War; the sinking of the Titanic on her maiden voyage from England was remembered with a speaker, film and memorabilia; trolleys of the past were talked about with a guest speaker giving the history of Morris County trolleys.

One of the most complete programs was the one on Lotta Crabtree. A movie was shown on her life, which spanned two continents. JoAnn Gardner and Anna Travers gave a very interesting, informative, and comprehensive account of this actress who had a 22 Room lakefront cottage in Mount Arlington.

The first fund-raising effort was made by the society through the sale of "I Love Mt. Arlington" buttons with a red heart on blue background. These were sold at the last Mount Arlington Fun Fair held at Bertrand Island Amusement Park before it closed.

After raising some money, the society sponsored a contest for the selection of a borough flag. The Mount Arlington Fire Department won first prize of \$50 which was given back to the society. Caryl Russell made the flag by hand, consisting of the borough emblem with all its colors on a blue background. It was presented to the borough at the end of the year 1984.

In addition to presenting programs, collecting historical data, and preserving old documents and artifacts, the society has sponsored many trips to places of interest which are relevant to the history of Mount Arlington. These include trips to: the Lake Hopatcong Museum at the State Park, run by the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society; the Wharton Historical Society where much was learned about the Lenni-Lenape Indians; Waterloo Village and its reconstructed Indian village on a small island, where a guide gave a wealth of information about the Lenape's way of life; the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club, the second oldest yacht club in the country on fresh water; a patio boat ride around Lake Hopatcong, courtesy of Paul and Marge Larzelere.

In the fall of 1989, an extensive program was given on the history of Lake Rogerene which is discussed elsewhere in this book. The program was followed by a trip to that area in the spring of 1990 with Roger Rousch as guide.

An interesting feature of this tour was the seeking out and visiting the locations of the old iron mines. The group trudged through woods and brush until it finally came to several openings, hidden with growth, of the old mines. The weary and exhausted group returned to the residence of Mr. Rousch where Mary Ann, his wife, had refreshments ready.

In 1986, the Society organized "A Farewell to Bertrand Amusement Park" program which was attended not only by residents but people from out of state as well. Many recalled their own experiences in this very entertaining park which was torn down to make way for condominiums.

In the spring of 1990, a walk-about was held at Bertrand Island and park grounds were revisited. The Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club was also revisited and a tour given of its lovely building. Anna Travers and Jo Basilotta, residents of the Island, reviewed its history with input from the other members.

For the Centennial in 1990, the Society sponsored a Historic Sites Calendar and a Cookbook with "100 years of Memories." Much has been accomplished by the Society, and much more is on the agenda for the future.

The present officers of the Historical Society are the same as the original ones with the exception of the secretary. After a few years, Eleanor Oudshoorn resigned and Sue Stavola took her place until the end of 1987 when she also resigned and in 1988 Jo Basilotta volunteered to take her place.

## Charter Members

### Mount Arlington Historical Society

Palma Andico  
Val Andico  
Walter Apostolik  
Kay Bishof  
Irene Carhuff  
William Carhuff  
Albert Card  
Margaret Card  
Margaret Carnduff  
Carol Chaplin  
Anne Danielson  
Walter Danielson  
Jeanette Donnelly  
Thomas Donnelly  
Cathy Edwards  
JoAnn Gardner  
Halyna Gengenback  
Doug Hamilton  
Ernest Jacobius  
Hilda Jacobius  
Robert Kadel  
Barbara Keefer  
Dr. & Mrs. Leo Lewin  
Roger Lipkin  
April M. Manning  
Virginia Noone

Joyce Ondish  
Bert Oudshoorn  
Eleanor Oudshoorn  
Ritie Plummer  
Ann Puskas  
Marie Quaranta  
Mr. & Mrs.

Wm. Richardson  
Marge Reinhold  
Robert Rooney  
Virginia Rooney  
Grace Rosenberg  
Esther Rosenblatt  
Caryl B. Russell  
Monalda Seman  
Amy Shack  
Laura Speaker  
Michael Stavola  
Susan Stavola  
Patricia Rooney Suarez  
Joan TenEyck  
Paul TenEyck  
Anna Travers  
Mike Trost  
Marilyn Viventi  
Emma May Walthers

## Senior Citizens

The first meeting of the Mount Arlington Senior Citizens was held October 24, 1973 at the Elk's Lodge. The Charter members are: Stella Apple, Dorothy Crockett, Hazel Duncan, Pete D'Auria, Charles Morhart, Mildred Morhart, John Adams, Ann Adams, Mary O'Neill, May Lansing, Harold Robesch, Madeline Robesch, Louis Christine, Ann Dalrymple, Charles Shepps, Woody Woolf, Harry Wean, Karl Steinlechner, Elizabeth Steinlechner, Ray Zucckeri, Kathleen Zucckeri, Karl Stoecker, Elizabeth Stoecker.

The first officers elected were: Stella Apple, president; Hazel Duncan, vice president; Mary O'Neill, recording secretary; Mildred Morhart, corresponding secretary; Ann Adams, treasurer.

Today, as in its beginning years, the club holds meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. A log building, facing North Glen Avenue, completed with a grant from the Morris County Community Development Fund was dedicated in October, 1989, as the Senior Civic Center. The current officers are: Fred Dennhardt, president; Frank Rostek, vice president; Lena Dennhardt, corresponding secretary; Millie Morhart, treasurer; Katherine Daley, recording secretary; Tillie Garie, financial secretary. There are 62 members.

## Knights of Columbus

**E**ncouraged by the Reverend Francis McGowan, who was pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church, a group of area men held a series of meetings in the church's rectory basement. The culmination of the meetings resulted in the establishment of Queen of the Lakes Council #5114, Knights of Columbus.

A charter was granted to the organization on April 9, 1961. Among the 75 charter members were many from the Borough of Mount Arlington, including the First Grand Knight James F. O'Donnell and financial secretary, Theodore Apostolik.

In the spring of 1971 ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the new council home to be built at 450 Howard Boulevard, at the corner of McGregor Avenue. The building was officially opened on December 31, 1971 with a New Year's Eve celebration attended by 300 members and their guests.

The council has continued to flourish over the years and presently has 185 members. Among the council's many charitable and civic interests its members have contributed to are Little League, baseball, soccer and football programs. The council has also contributed meaningfully towards the residents of Weigand Farm in Jefferson Township. Operated under the supervision of the Diocese of Paterson, Weigand Farm provides group homes for mentally and physically handicapped adults.

Council membership is open to all practicing Catholic men, 18 years of age or older.

## Police Department

**T**he history of law enforcement in the Borough of Mount Arlington dates back to 1893 when Frank Eigenbroadt was appointed the first marshal and John Downey, the second.

Samuel Holley served as the borough's third marshal and holds the distinction of being the only mounted marshal. He patrolled the borough on horseback for many years with Will Begraft serving as his deputy.

Charlie Bunn, who served as marshal under Mayor Richard Chaplin, is remembered for "chasing the young rascals of the borough" and putting them to work on his farm, which was located near what is today the Mount Arlington School. Bunn's deputy was George Gordon, who patrolled the borough on motorcycle.

John Lawrey, uncle of present Police Chief William Morgan, was appointed marshal in the 1940's

by Mayor William Hockenjos. Lawrey is remembered for his keen sense in "getting the truth from would-be law breakers," and "always getting his man."

The official Mount Arlington Police Department was organized in 1948 when "Hockey" was mayor. Robert Rooney was serving as a councilman at the time and was appointed as the borough's first police commissioner. John Lawrey was appointed as the borough's first chief of police.

Lawrey, was not only chief of police, but also superintendent of the road department. He would report to the road department at 8 a.m. each morning and delegate duties to the department road crew. At that time he was the only man on the police force. Special police officers were hired to patrol the borough during the summer months when tourists frequented the area. George Ondish holds the distinction of serving as a special police officer for 22 years. Being the only man on the force, Lawrey had to call on the State Police to patrol the borough when he went on vacation. Lawrey was honored with a testimonial at the Hopatcong House on October 5, 1957.

Edmund Secula, who served as a Marine in the Korean War, served as a patrolman under Lawrey, and succeeded him as chief.

William Morgan was appointed chief in 1975. Today's police officers now go through extensive training and testing before being hired. The current force has been cut from a one-time high number of nine officers.

The Police Department now operates from headquarters at the original borough hall on Howard Boulevard. Headquarters were for many years at the present Borough Hall on Altenbrand Avenue.

## The Lake Hopatcong Breeze

**I**n 1893 A. Van Doren Taylor established Lake Hopatcong's first summer newspaper, *The Angler*. As its name suggests, the publication was geared to the interests of fishermen. Its publisher, Mr. Taylor, was an ardent angler and considered an authority on fishing at Lake Hopatcong.

The first issue was an unpretentious publication of four pages and was considered a great accomplishment for its time. It was a weekly, published from the first Saturday in July through the first Saturday of September and sold for ten cents a copy, or, \$1 for a season subscription.

A cabin in Landing served as the office. In 1895 L.A. McConaughty took over as editor and the office



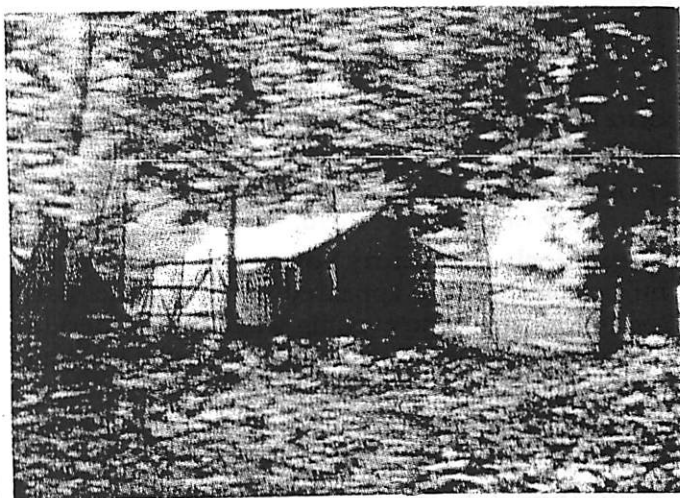
was moved to the Hillside Lodge, which was also in Landing. McConaughy hired young boys to solicit advertising, which sold for \$50 a page for the season. These boys also delivered *The Angler* to the households around the lake. In those days there were very few roadways and most of the deliveries were made by boat to the lakeshore and remote coves. Louis A. Storm assumed the editorship in 1902 and the office was moved to the Forest Inn. A year later, the editorial office was moved back to the Angler Cabin. That same year, a competitive paper, the *Lake Hopatcong Breeze* arrived on the scene which was edited by Robert T. Messler and Edward L. Keenan, who presented a larger and more topical publication thus appealing to a wider variety of readers.

In 1904 the two publications merged under the ownership of Byron M. Prugh, who bought out the interest of *The Angler* and published under the name *The Lake Hopatcong Breeze*. The circulation was doubled and in 1905 expanded its coverage to include Yacht Club regattas and more photographs. Ralph Prugh became the editor in 1919 and publication continued through the winter months reporting on ice fishing, ice boating, skating and other winter sports. The price of *The Breeze* also increased to 25 cents per issue. The winter issues were much less successful, mainly due to a decrease in population and a shortage of advertisers.

When Ralph Bayard Prugh died in 1935, his nephews, Byron Jr. and Ralph Shelley took over the publication until 1942 when *The Breeze* was purchased by Mrs. Alice Prugh Apostolik who continued the work of her first husband's family until her death in 1972. She and her second husband, Walter Apostolik, who was advertising manager, published *The Breeze* from their Mount Arlington home. The format was changed from a weekly to a summer periodical of four issues, the first a vacationers' guide which came out in June and was followed by three monthly issues.

Mrs. Apostolik liked to recall when the Prugh family first bought the weekly publication. The family camped out in tents at Lee's Park which served as editorial and advertising office, all in one. Soliciting of ads, as well as circulation, was done by "news-paper boats." The Prugh family children were reporters, copy writers and also responsible for delivery. Many a hot afternoon was spent in tents typing up the news before the children were allowed to go swimming. It was the way "Father Prugh" could provide his family with a vacation at the lake.

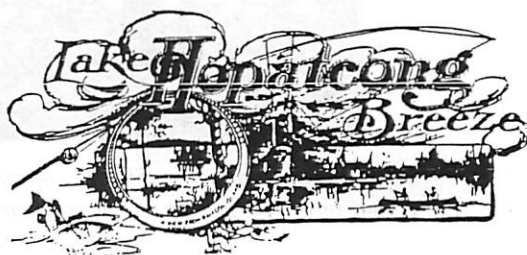
Many changes were made in *The Breeze* by Mrs. Apostolik. Its circulation grew from 200 copies at its first publication to over 15,000. College students were the reporters as well as newsboys and Mrs. Apostolik instructed them to leave the paper with



*The old Breeze camp at Chincoppee Cove*

every household "whether they have the quarter or not." *The Breeze* sponsored many charitable events, starting the Sam Goodman Fund for lifesaving and promoting the Lake Hopatcong Building and Loan Association. Mrs. Apostolik was singularly honored with a life membership in the Knee Deep Club and the Lake Hopatcong Businessmen's Association. She was a founder and officer of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society and was active in the many Mount Arlington Borough organizations including the PTA and Community Club. Her husband, Walter, was a prominent realtor in the Lake Hopatcong area. He resumed publication of *The Lake Hopatcong Breeze* in 1975. Stuart Murray was the editor through 1976. Joan Simmons served as editor for the 1977 and 1978 seasons. From 1979 through 1982, Anna N. Travers, was the managing editor. Publication ceased the following year due to Mr. Apostolik's ill health. Upon Mr. Apostolik's death, the material used in the publication of *The Breeze* and all back issues were donated to the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society for preservation.

*The Breeze*, through its 89 years of publication, always shied away from politics, sensational news, malicious gossip and scandals. Its purpose, according to Mrs. Apostolik, was to "convey to its readers the lake atmosphere with its water sports, its problems, the pranks of the summer campers, social activities and lake interests and that delicate persuasive something that captivates the imagination."



# The Famous

**John D. Rockefeller** came to the Mount Arlington Hotel.

**Thomas Edison** conducted experiments out of a laboratory on Southard Road.

**Milton Berle** and **Henny Youngman** were among the performers who appeared at the Alamac. Bob Rooney recalled one evening when Milton Berle's mother was in the audience. When no one laughed at his gags, she always would.

The family of **Sarah Vail**, niece of President **Martin Van Buren**, were residents of the Borough of Mount Arlington. Her daughter, Blanche, lived in the family home at MacGregor Avenue until her death.

**Joseph Bonaparte**, brother of the Emperor **Napoleon**, visited the shores of Lake Hopatcong about the year 1803.

**Thomas Walsh**, a noted poet, spent summers at Mount Arlington from 1892 until his death in 1928. He wrote prolifically about Lake Hopatcong and the surrounding countryside, which included such works as "Afterglow," "The Hill People," "Our Little House," "Invasion," and a book of poems. Walsh was commended by President Theodore Roosevelt when the poet completed his first book of verse, "Prison Ships" which was inspired by Lake Hopatcong.

**Baby RoseMarie** was a singer at the Lakeview Hotel. She later was called just "Rose Marie" and was on the Dick Van Dyke Show.

**Guy Lombardo** came to Lake Hopatcong and raced his boat, the "Tempo II" from the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club.

**Abbott and Costello** stayed at the Dawn Patrol Hotel.

**The King Sisters** sang at the Alamac Hotel.

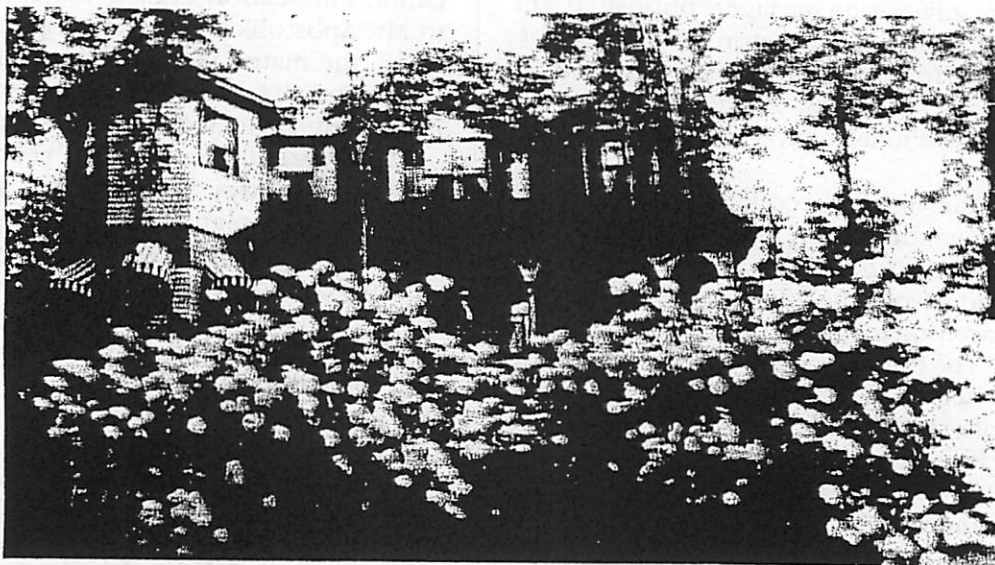
**Primo Carnero**, boxing great, trained at the Knepper Boxing ring in Berkshire Valley, but stayed at the Alamac Hotel. He'd get up on the stage and tear telephone books and also exhibited his strength by lifting women up off the floor.

Former heavyweight boxing champion of the world, **Jack Dempsey**, was often a guest at the Breslin Hotel.

Baseball 'Hall of Fame' **Babe Ruth**, visited here at the lake and would hit most of the bars in the borough.

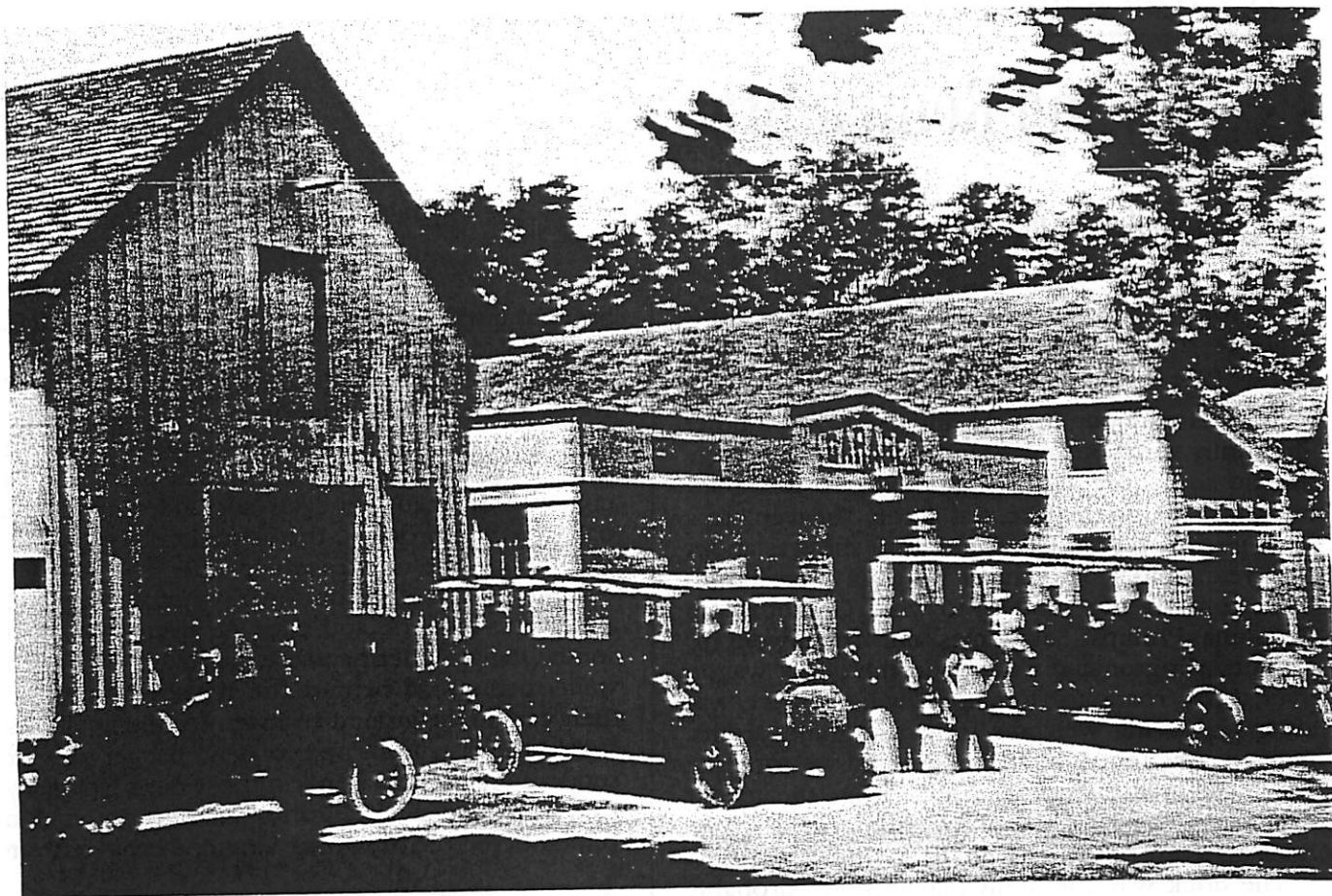
Boxing heavyweight Champion of the world **Bob Fitzsimmons** and his wife were often summer guests at the Alamac Hotel. The hotel had a ring set up and he sparred many times with local youths.

**Lou Gehrig**, before he became the New York Yankee's top player and a Hall of Famer, was a surprise ringer when a baseball team came to the Alamac Hotel and played a local team. The Columbia Boys with Lou won the game.

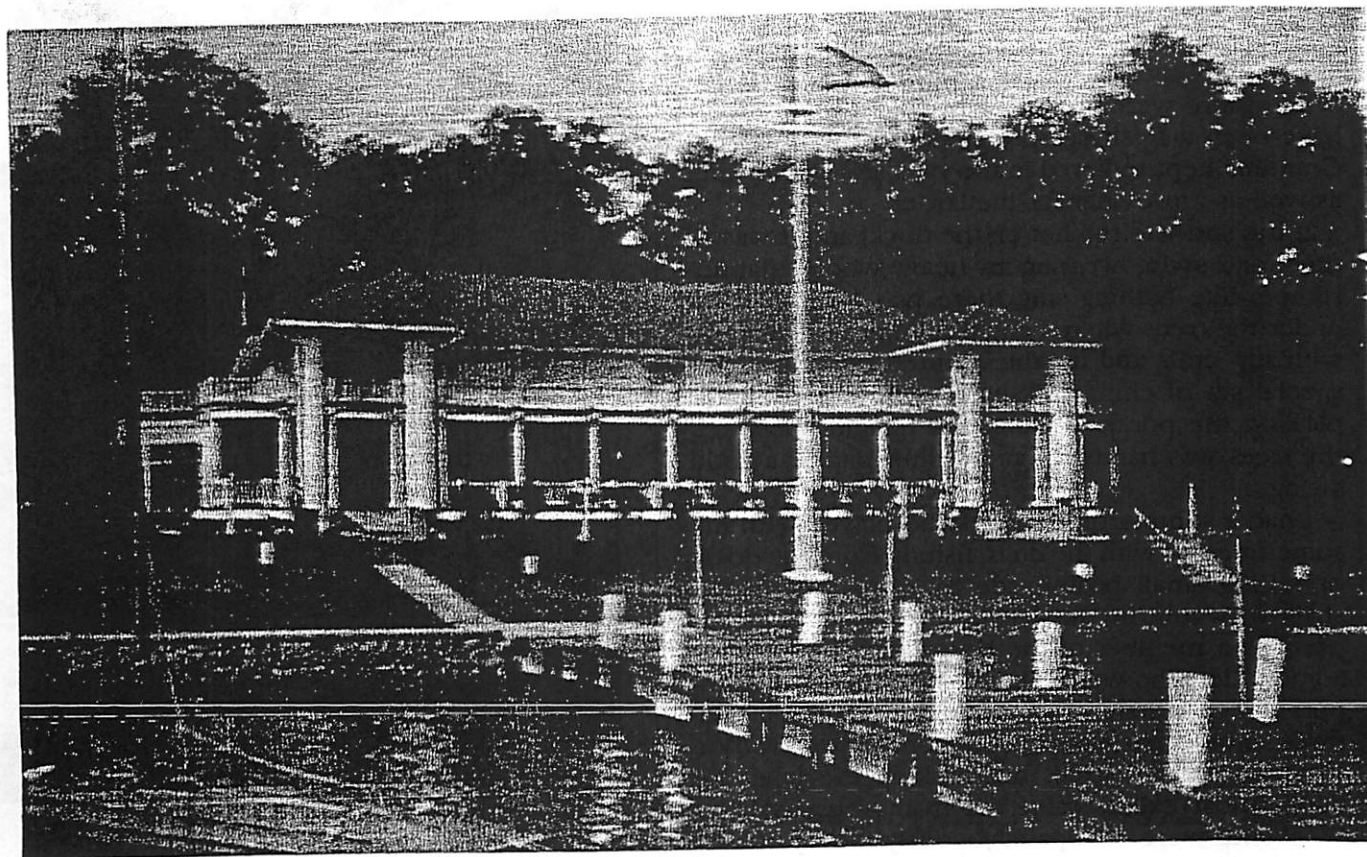


*Villa Oelschlaeger at 59 Mountainview Avenue, was destroyed by fire in 1934 and the house that now occupies that address was built on its foundation.*





*Arlington Avenue*



*Bertrands Island*



## Chapter Eighteen

# People and Remembrances

### Long Ago Summers at the Lake

*(The following was written by Janice Crowell Wheeler for the July, 1981 edition of the Lake Hopatcong Breeze.)*

Lake Hopatcong in 1911 and 1912 was a quiet family vacationland. Grandpa's summer cottage on the shore at Chestnut Point, in the trees, but overlooking the lake, was surely "heaven" to a little girl, who from babyhood until she was about five years old, could travel by train from South Orange with her mother to visit Grandpa and Grandma Phillips. Sometimes our train went to Mount Arlington and we rode in the depot wagon over dusty roads to "Kenmore" where there was always a loving welcome from my grandparents. Other trains let us off at Landing and we took the small steamer through the lock from the feeder canal into the lake and on up to Grandpa's own dock in front of the cottage.

The dock was one of my playgrounds, probably only when well supervised by an adult, for I had not yet learned to swim. There I fished for "sunnies" which Grandma patiently cooked for my breakfast. There too, I sat on a bench "visiting" with Grandpa. When there were no fish for breakfast there might have been a fresh egg produced by the little hen Grandma kept tethered in the yard as a pet for me, as well as a provider for the larder.

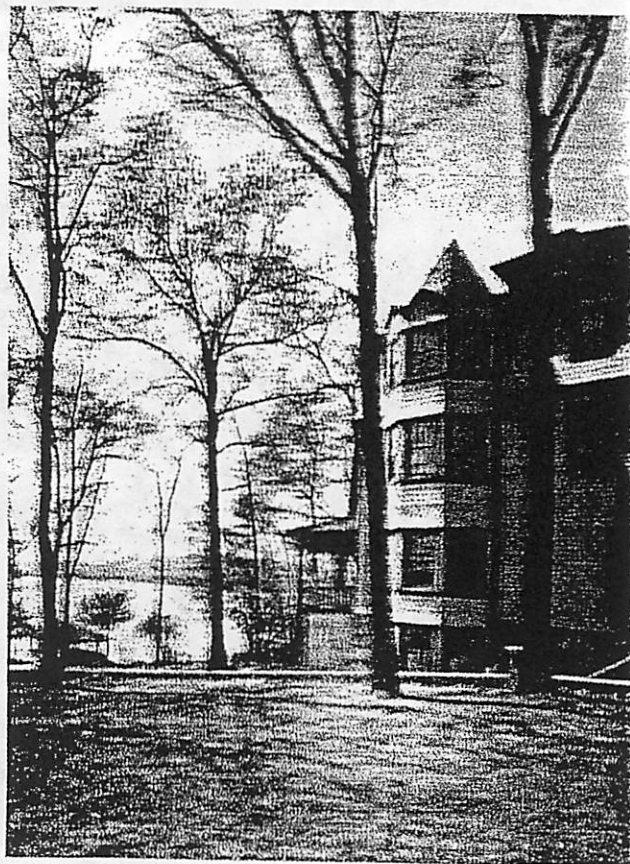
If the sun was too hot on the dock, and it wasn't time for a swim, wearing my heavy woolen flannel romper-like bathing suit, there was always shade under the trees where I could set up housekeeping with my dolls and durable painted tin dishes. My special set of china doll dishes was kept for safer play on the porch. A hammock hanging between the trees was handy for an outdoor nap or a good swing.

I had a summertime friend who played with me sometimes — with the dolls, fishing from the dock, or sailing small boats made by my father in the shallow water in the lee of the dock. She was perhaps a member of the Honeyman family from Somerville, who were friends, and I believe, neighbors in "Glenmere" cottage. Both cottages, in pictures, show their names prominently displayed on signs fastened to trees overlooking the lake. No doubt most callers came the front way, by boat. Weekends were anticipated joyously as they usually

brought my father, and more extensive fishing and boating.

Under the oak trees I collected my "puff balls" and deposited them in the dining room near a window, through which Grandma pushed them out daily when tidying. I never missed them — just collected them all over again and added more. The oak trees also provided the acorns from which the grownups made tiny teasetts for me.

In my mother's childhood, Grandpa's weekend arrival was by horse and carriage all the way from South Orange. When he was expected, the children went to the road behind the house and pressed their ears to the ground to listen for the hoofbeats still in the distance. There was no danger of a car suddenly rounding a bend in those days. Not many cars were seen in my childhood either. Mother also remembered the fireworks Grandpa brought from



*The Woodstock Hotel on Chestnut Point.*

the city for the 4th of July. How beautiful the display must have looked, set off on the dock and reflected in the water. No doubt many other people were doing the same thing all along the shore. Japanese lanterns hung from the trees to illuminate the shore at night.

Boats, Grandpa's sailboat, "Gypsy," and the row-boat, or the lake steamers and launches, or our feet, provided most of our transportation in my time at the lake. Grandpa's horses were only a legend to me. A short row took Mother and me to a store and right into what seemed like a large boathouse. We tied up the boat and went up some steps to the grocery store on the selling floor built over the lakefront marina. Now, I understand, it is the home of the Hockenjos Boat Co. Then it was a pure wonder and delight to me.

For more extensive trips or sightseeing excursions around the lake, or to reach more distant places, a flag set up on our dock signaled the steamers or launches to call for us right there. The color of the flag determined which boat line was wanted.

A trip to Nolans Point and the merry-go-round was as exciting to a four year old in those days as Disneyland or Great Adventure in these sophisticated times, and much easier on the nerves and pocketbooks of the adults, I'm sure. The dancing bears were a great attraction, glorious in my eyes, but probably poor miserable beasts, dragged around from place to place to perform.

Grandma and Mother must have had some problems with the housekeeping, with kerosene lamps to clean and fill, and no plumbing. On cool days cooking was done on a woodstove in the kitchen and a pump supplied water. When the weather was hot, the summer kitchen was almost as good as a camp. Latticework on three sides let the breeze through, and a kerosene stove gave off much less heat than the indoor stove whose warmth felt so good on chilly, cold days.

Floor length windows opened on to the porches, upstairs and down. Ceilings were high in the cottages of those "olden days," letting the heat escape and the good lake breezes come in those long windows. This cottage was built about 1888, so my mother had spent her childhood and girlhood summers there. She had her own canoe, the "U & I," and Daddy came acourting there. He was able to spend his vacations with his cousins across the cove.

One night in those courting days my parents went to a dance at an open air pavilion. Grandma had just made a beautifully embroidered petticoat for my mother. Alas, the tie string gave way. The petticoat fell. Being near the edge of the platform, Mother kicked the petticoat into the bushes. My indignant grandmother sent Mother back the next day to look for her handiwork, but it was never found.



One of Mother's older sisters was married at the lake cottage in August 1898, according to a yellowed clipping found among my mother's papers. Perhaps the notice was from an early issue of *The Breeze*.

One summer Mother and I arrived with my baby sister who was about six months old. There were no baby carriers or port-a-cribs in those days. Bureau drawers were often used as makeshift baby beds, I am told. We were met by Grandpa, who was never handy with tools, but who proudly produced a roomy wooden box he had made, and which could be lined with soft covers, and so made a splendid bed for my baby sister. Glass wind chimes on the porch enchanted her and me that summer.

Postcards, family letters, and some of my father's photographs, have helped to bolster my memories, or have added to my mental pictures of earlier times before my memories begin. One Harris postcard, without message or postmark to date it, is labeled "Peter Pan II Champion of Lake Hopatcong making 25 miles per hour winner 100 mile race." Other postcards dated 1908 show a boat carnival. On one a launch placarded "100" was decorated with vines and saplings. "Big Game Hunter Teddy Roosevelt" was standing in the bow with some "natives and wild animals" in costume behind him. Another card shows a decorated windmill with two girls in Dutch costumes. The message on the back of this one reads: "Blanche's boat won as usual.. All the Honeymans are in their launch (in the background) and Arthur (Honeyman) is sitting in the cage covered with ferns. Terrible hot in there." Probably Arthur had to sit inside the windmill base and turn the vanes of the mill.

"Blanche" was Blanche Vail, my mother's girl-



hood summertime friend. Dr. Vail's cottage was two doors west, or south, of Grandpa's, and my mother was delighted in 1949 to find Miss Blanche and her mother, who was then approaching her 100th birthday, living year round on Chestnut Point.

After another thirty years I have looked for our "Kenmore" cottage, but in vain. So many cottages have been winterized, summer kitchens enclosed, and other changes made. A deed shows that "Kenmore" was probably on Lot 32 on John McGregor's Map of Building Sites and Lots. This appears to have been just west, or south, of Lot 31 which Grandpa also owned at one time, and which, from its description was on a slight bend in the road, then, as now, I believed, called McGregor Avenue. As we drove through the road in 1980, I thought I located "Kenmore" next to a long building with its end to the road, possibly used as a guest apartment. We could not hold up cars behind us by trying to stop and explore on foot.

As happens all too often I have waited too long to ask some questions and can only fill in my memories with guesswork. Nevertheless, my memories of Lake Hopatcong are very vivid, and among my happiest. I can only hope they may recall some early happy times to others who are still enjoying the pleasures and beauty of Lake Hopatcong.

("Kenmore" was sold by J. Knox Phillips, Mrs. Wheeler's grandfather around 1913 or 1914.)

**W**hen I lived across from the Amy Spring, I remember the explosion at Lake Denmark around 1926, as I was carrying water from the spring, the glass shattering from the second floor and coming off the porch roof" says Ellie (Obernolte) Riker.

"My mother Agnes was from the Lenape Indians. Her maiden name was Boyle. Her mother (Lenape) was Grace Lozier, whose mother was Susan Delilah Nixon, whose mother was Whitehead (an Indian Squaw). She ties our family into the Begraft family and the Dan Holley family. There were three sisters. Ma was born on Church Hill (up by the current ballfield) and married Bill Obernolte, a local German barber who had a shop in the Alamac Hotel, Schafer and other locations. Some of our family still lives in the area," she says. Ellie Riker, Mt. View Avenue, worked at the Bertrand Island Amusement Park and telephone office.

**R**emember when the explosion at the Atlas Powder Company caused school to close for two weeks? Or how about the A & P on Howard Boulevard or when there was a railroad station in Mount Arlington, complete with post office and ice cream parlor?



*Freeman Tappen Home, Speakertown*

Longtime residents of Mount Arlington recall these and much more of this borough's history.

The late Laura Davis Speaker, who was born in New York state, came to Mount Arlington in 1918 with her sister and brother. Her brother came to the area to work at the Hercules Powder Company. They arrived in September but the war was over in November and her brother was laid off.

Laura would say, "We received credit at the local stores and my brother cut ice on the lake to pull us through the winter." It was a time she'll never forget.

Former mayor Robert Rooney's parents moved to Mount Arlington in 1922. He had a great uncle who owned land here and when his father was transferred from Cuba, where he worked for a sugar refinery, the family settled here.

Val Andico and Donald Chaplin are both natives of the borough. Andico was born in the section of town known as Rustic. His family's home was at the bottom of Howard Boulevard and is now a boat dealership. His father had worked for the Lackawanna Railroad and during World War I went to work at Hercules.

Chaplin's family homestead was near the borough school. His family ran the local taxi business which started with horse-drawn carriages servicing the Breslin Hotel.

Hercules was one of the main industries and one of the few places where year round residents could seek steady employment. Earlier the Atlas Powder Company, located in what is now the Shore Hills area, had provided employment for many local residents. Many also worked, in the early years, at Picatinny Arsenal.

The ice industry also provided steady employ-



ment, but only when conditions favored a long, cold winter. Longtime residents recall a lot of people being unemployed during the winter months and stocking up on supplies to last through the winter.

Locally, there were many stores where one could purchase supplies and credit was often extended through the winter months.

**W**alter Danielson, 86, served as grand marshal of Mount Arlington's Centennial Parade. His family came to Mount Arlington when he was four years old and ran a grocery store on Howard Boulevard in the building which now houses Pat's Bar. The store relocated in later years up the boulevard and was known as the Maplewood Inn.

Walt remembers delivering groceries by wagon to the wealthy summer residents. "I always got a tip of some kind, even if it was a cookie. They were all nice people."

Walt has served as the borough clerk, twice as a councilman, and is one of the founders of the fire department.

He is retired from Ivers Lee Pharmaceutical Co., Newark.

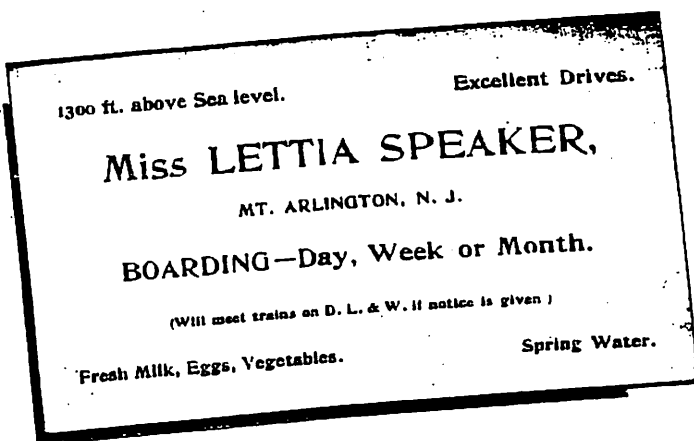
Walt met his wife Anne when she first camped at the lake as a Camp Fire Girl many years ago when she was only 14.

There was once an A & P in the center of town, located where Pat's Tavern is today. The A & P was later relocated up the boulevard across from the police station. Danielsons also ran a grocery store which was located in the same area.

Sara Matilda Speaker, sister-in-law of Laura, also ran a store. She would travel to Dover to buy in bulk, but somehow she never had much in the way of supplies. Customers would ask, "Do you have butter, flour?" Sara's reply would most often be "No butter, no flour, but we have brooms."

Laura's husband's grandfather was the first to build a house in the area known as Speakertown. Then the Tappen family came and operated a garage, then a grocery store. The Tappens now own and operate a liquor store. As young boys attending local schools, Andico, Rooney and Chaplin all recall the day the Atlas Powder Company blew up after being struck by lightning. The explosion blew all the windows out of the school causing cancellation of classes for two weeks.

Edith Decker taught the primary grades in the two-room schoolhouse and Harry S. Kincaid was the instructor for fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. "Kincaid lived in Berkshire Valley and rode his horse to school," Rooney recalls. Don Chaplin remembers Kincaid as being a "progressive teacher," one who was "40 years ahead of his time." Freeman Tappen was the janitor and there were no snow days.



With no running water system, the older boys in school had to carry buckets of water from a spring that ran near Kadel Drive or from Tappen's hand pump. Rooney remembers slipping an occasional frog from the stream into the bucket.

Lake Hopatcong, as a resort, played a major role in the lives of all these families. "We shared the lake with the vacationers three months of the year and the rest of the time it was ours," says Rooney. He remembers when the Breslin Hotel went bankrupt and auctioned off all the furnishings. "It was the biggest sale ever." The Breslin was the biggest hotel at the lake. It had a two-story dock and its own sewerage system at a time when most of the houses in town were still using outhouses. Water from the lake serviced the hotel, although tenants were unaware of this.

The Breslin Hotel was later opened as the Alamac. When the Alamac burned in 1947, this started the decline of the borough and lake as a strictly summer community. The wood frame structure burned for three hours and the only thing that saved the whole town was the snow that covered the ground, Rooney recalled.

Mrs. Speaker's most vivid memory was the explosion at Hercules in 1940. Steel from the explosion reached the houses in Speakertown. Val Andico remembers it most clearly. He had been hired to work at the plant at noon on the day of the explosion and was told to come back later. The plant blew up at 1:20 p.m. His brother had been hired the day before and was killed in the explosion. His father, also an employee, escaped injury. Fifty workers were killed in the explosion which was later linked to sabotage.

Although there were tragedies, most of the memories of growing up in Mount Arlington are fond ones to longtime residents. Laura Speaker remembered sleigh riding and skating parties in the winter and fishing and picnicking on the Bertrand Island docks in the spring. There were also quilting parties and bobsled rides down the mountain.

## Mount Arlington's Livery and Riding Academy

A prominent New Yorker staying at the Hotel Breslin in July of 1895 had to catch the D.L. & W. back to the city. He inquired of the front desk clerk when the steamer was due. The clerk responded he did not have a schedule but would check with the livery.

"Hello, is this the livery?"

"Yes, this is Chaplin."

"Do you know when the next boat leaves for Landing?"

Chaplin responded, "I have been here eight years and have never had a time card sent me yet. Would be glad to cooperate with the steamboats to make it convenient for the people. We make the Mount Arlington Station in twenty minutes, and have not missed the train in eight years. We have accommodations for carrying 250 people from any one train. Forty cents for one trip or three for one dollar."

The Breslin guest agreed to take Chaplin's stage.

Richard J. Chaplin, who was born in Norfolkshire, England, in 1851, worked his way from being a common laborer to a railroad contractor, general contractor and business man.

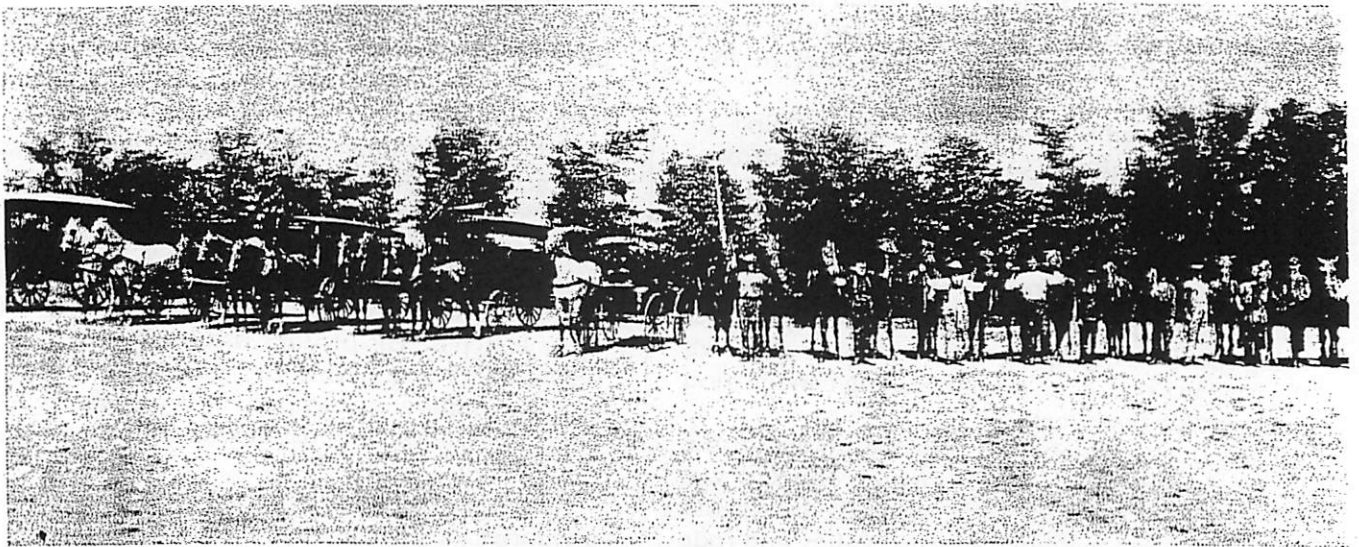
He served as mayor of Mount Arlington for 13 years, and in 1914 was the borough's commissioner

to the Lake Hopatcong Intermunicipal Park Commission. He served as its vice president, had been president of the Board of Education for 12 years and chairman of the local board of health for 10 years. He was elected to the New Jersey State Assembly 1906-1907.

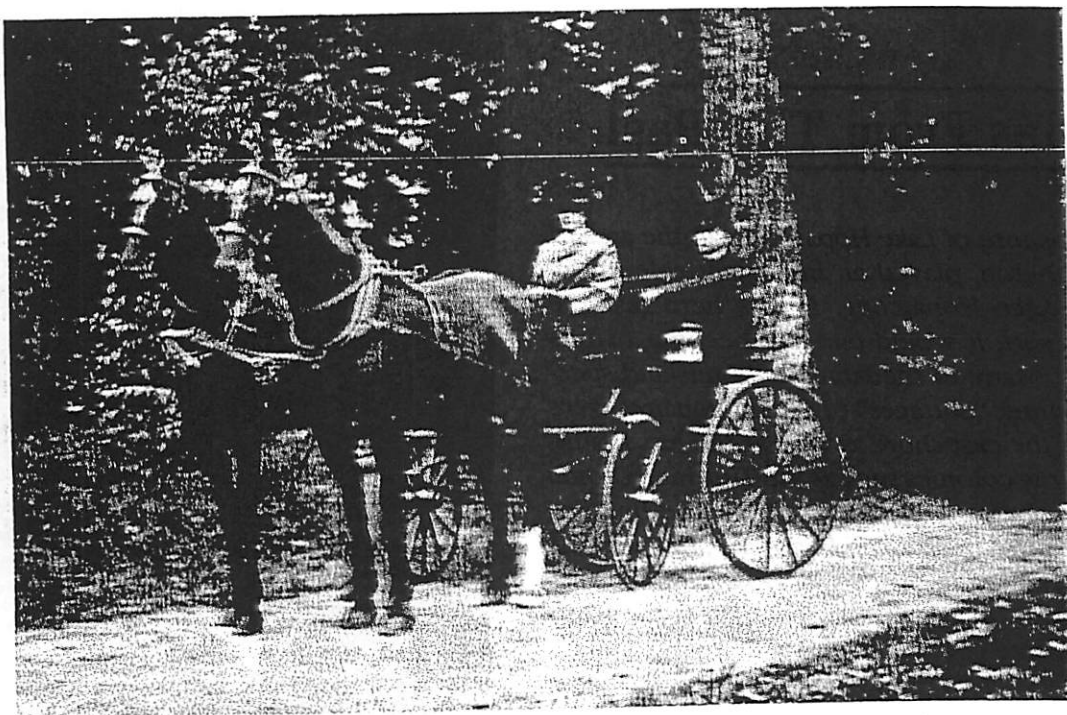
He had been a large property owner in the borough, was vice president of the Bertrand Island Syndicate and one of the owners of that property.

He founded Chaplin's Livery, which originally was part of the Breslin Hotel and had 25 horse-drawn carriages operating from the Mount Arlington Station through Landing and to Nolans Point. The business expanded and in 1905 acquired its first automobile. Between 1910 and 1915 R.J. Chaplin and Sons had eight automobiles and four buses.

The business was carried on by Chaplin's son, Elmer G., who was the second taxi driver to be licensed in the country. He operated the business as Chaplin's Taxi and Bus Service until 1969 when he retired capping off 86 years of continuous transportation service by the family in the Lake Hopatcong region.



*Chaplin & Sons, Mount Arlington Livery in 1903.*



*Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hexemer out for a Sunday Ride.*

---

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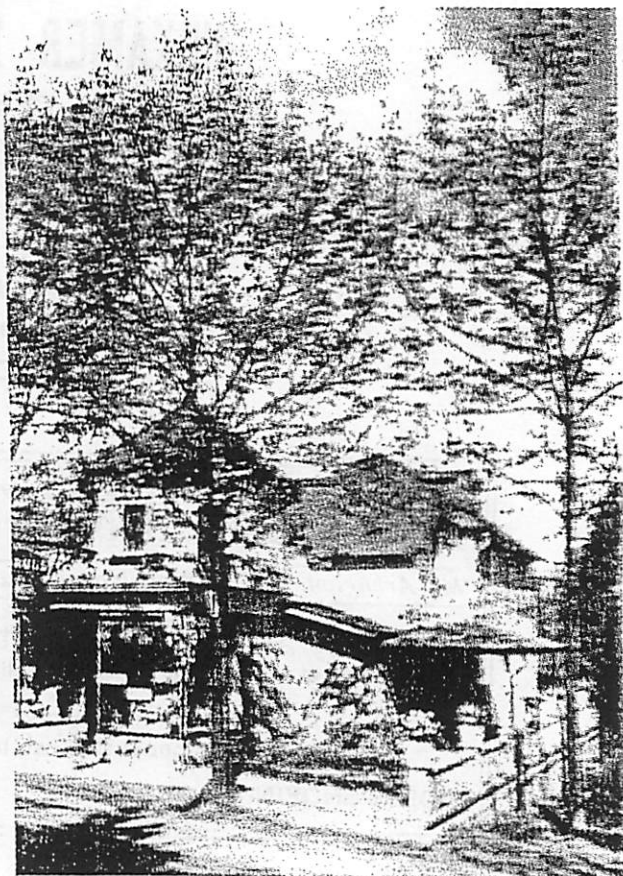
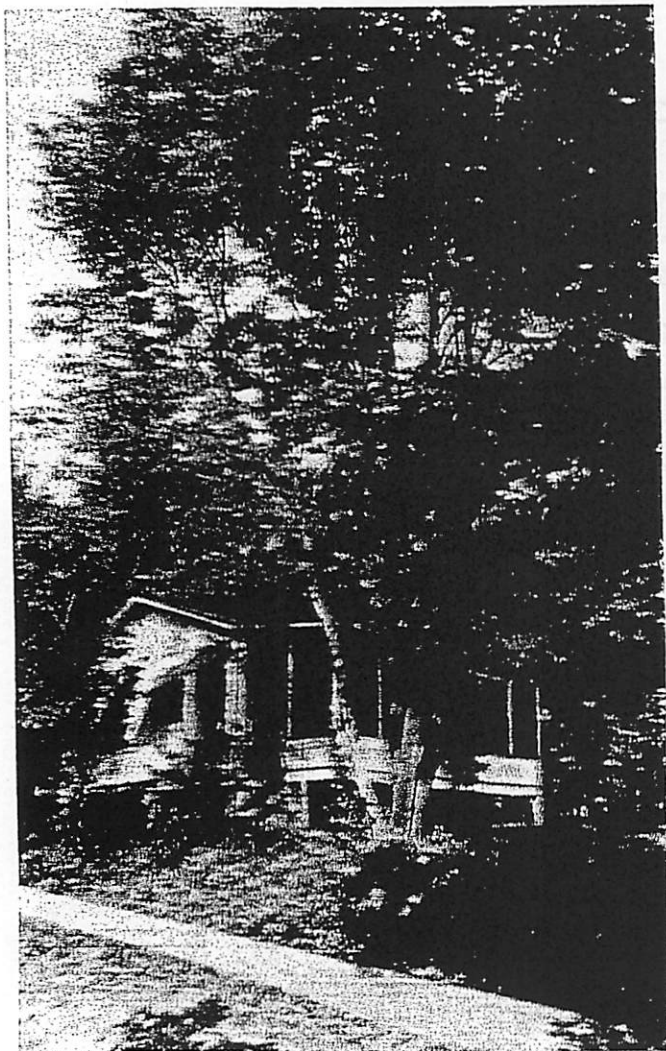
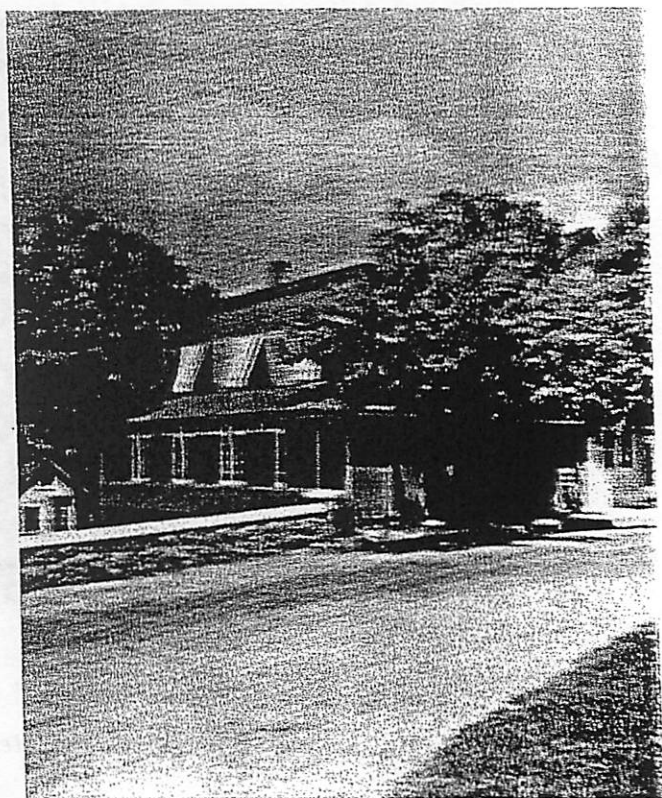
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## Scenes From The Past

*The east shore of Lake Hopatcong, in the area of Mount Arlington, played an important role in the history of Lake Hopatcong. It was here that the fabulous resort, it would one day become, had its beginnings. Many of the fabulous hotels and spectacular summer "cottages" of the millionaires were located on the east shore as well as the less luxurious bungalow colonies such as the Tuite and Cronin Bungalows, below, on Church Hill. The building that housed the Hopatcong Pharmacy, below right, is still standing at the corner of Howard Boulevard and Edgemere Avenue. Pictured right is the Hotel Boulevard.*



## *Chapter Nineteen*

# Personalities

Clarence J. Lee, who served as Mount Arlington's mayor for 16 years beginning in 1926, was born at Chestnut Point on Lake Hopatcong and lived in the area all his life.

He was the owner, and in later years served as senior partner of Lee's Park Marina.

A Navy Air Reserve veteran of World War I, he served as Supervisor of Bills for the N.J. State Senate in the 1930's. He served on the board of directors of the Lakeland Building and Loan Association. He was a member of the board of trustees of Dover General Hospital for 40 years, and served 18 years as board vice president. He also served for 40 years on the board of directors of the Dover Trust Company.

Mr. Lee died December 7, 1976 at the age of 88.

William Hockenjos served as councilman for 12 years and was mayor of the borough for 14 years. His wife, Helen Bippus, won the New Jersey State Women's Golf Championship in 1936, 1939, 1948 and 1952.

In 1949 a dinner was held honoring Charles D. Gordon, M.D., in honor of his 40 years of service to the people of Mount Arlington.

Dr. Gordon knew the true meaning of the words, "It is better to give than to receive," and made that philosophy his way of life. His medical services were given to the people either free or with minimal charge. He started his practice in February, 1910,

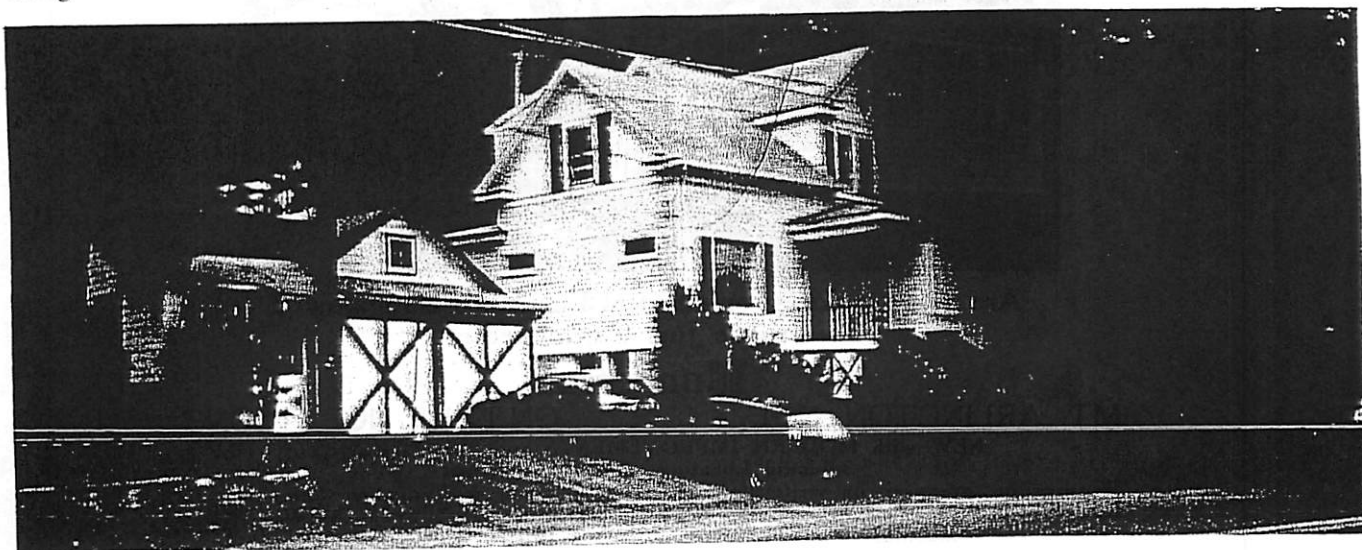
traveling by either horse and buggy or sleigh. His practice extended around the lake to Dover and Berkshire Valley, where he was born. Doc Gordon was a true general practitioner. He handled all medical emergencies from pulling teeth to delivering babies. He graduated in 1902 from Trenton Normal School and was a teacher in Jefferson Township, Denville and Green Village. He was also a carpenter and used the money earned from these professions to study medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore, where he graduated in 1909.

He became medical inspector of the Mount Arlington and Jefferson Township Schools and for many years served on the Mount Arlington Board of Health. In 1948 he was named an honorary member of the Morris County Medical Society.

Dr. Gordon married the former Lulu Taylor of Schooleys Mountain and they had three daughters. His sister, Maude Gordon, and brother, William, also lived in Mount Arlington.

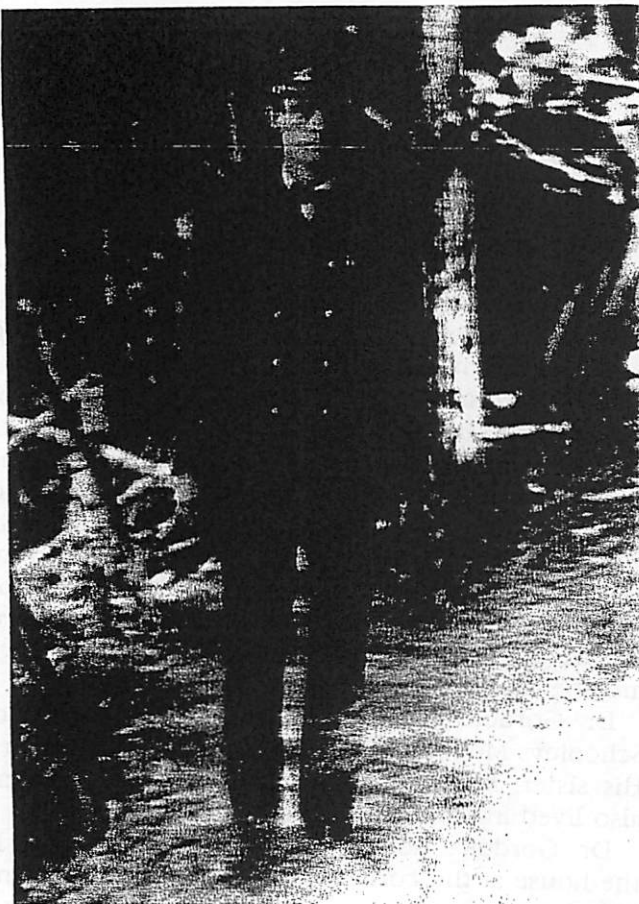
Dr. Gordon's home and office were located in the house at the corner of Howard Boulevard and Altenbrand Avenue.

Charles Canfield recalled taking his wife, who at the time was still his girlfriend, to Doc Gordon in 1941. She had injured her arm in an automobile accident. Charles was driving his father's Model T. Ford when the back wheel came off. After the doctor set her arm, Charlie asked how much he owed, to which Doc Gordon replied, "Charlie, I'm afraid I'm going to rob you. I'll have to charge you \$2."



*This house on Howard Boulevard was originally the home and office of Dr. Charles D. Gordon.*





*Will Begraft served as a Policeman in the early 1900's.*

**B**arbara Begraft Keefer and Anne Begraft Puskas have lived in the Mount Arlington area all of their lives and have many fond memories.

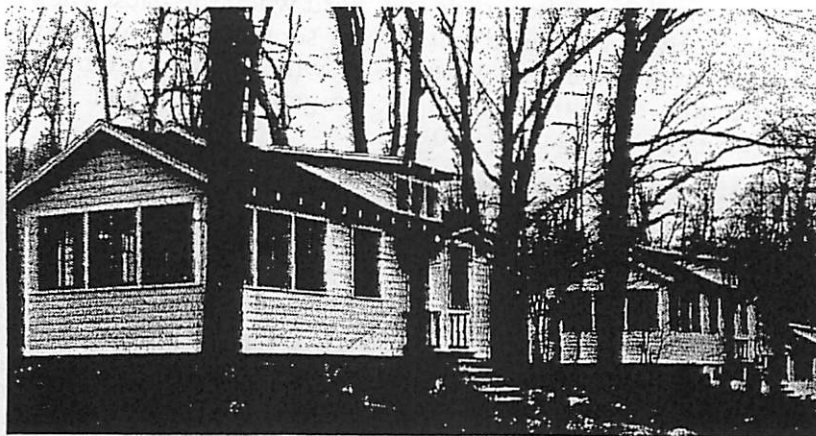
Barbara was born at home and delivered by Dr. Charles Gordon. She has the original bill of \$25. paid for the period of confinement.

Their grandfather, Harry Begraft, and father, William, worked for the summer bungalow colonies, Woodcrest Colony and Glen Colony.

Harry Begraft, father of the late Bill Begraft, tended the hotels and also the summer cottages in the borough, during the off-season. In later years, Bill helped his father in winterizing the cottages and in the spring turning on the water and preparing them for summer use. They also patrolled the properties during the winter months keeping an eye out for vandalism and damage from storms.

Barbara recalls that in the late 1950's her father dismantled the Woodstock Hotel, one of the smaller resorts on MacGregor Avenue, as a salvage measure. He used the materials to build an addition to his family's home, which is now owned by her brother Bill, and is located just over the borough line in Roxbury Township.

Anne recalls the summer days and evenings of her teens which were spent at the beach. "A nine thirty curfew was in effect and when that whistle blew, we wasted no time in getting home." The roller coaster at Bertrand Island is another fond memory. "To me the most exciting place to sit was in the last row."



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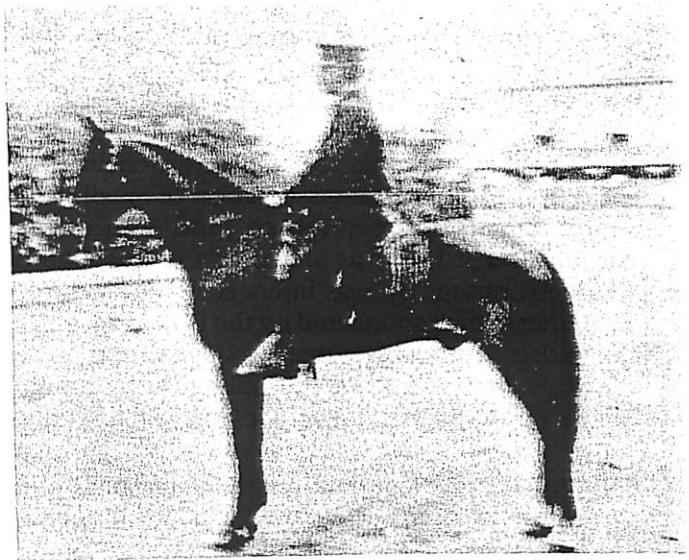


**T**he Petersons are Mount Arlington's largest family. Fred and Nellie Gordon Peterson had eighteen children, nine boys and nine girls.

Both were born in Mount Arlington and were childhood sweethearts. Fred Peterson was a carpenter by trade. Nellie was a Sunday school teacher at St. Peter's from the time she was a teenager. She also delivered messages for the borough telephone exchange, where her sister Jennie was the first operator.

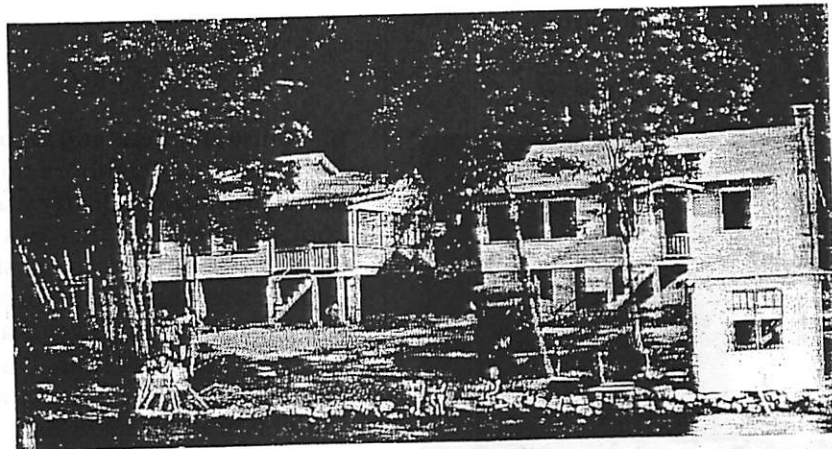
When Nellie Gordon Peterson died in 1981 at the age of 88, she was Mount Arlington's oldest resident. Fred Peterson died in 1959. They had 53 grandchildren, 54 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren, many of whom still live in the borough.

**F**rankschafer and his wife are remembered for their generosity to the borough school children, especially at Christmas. They started the collection of money from bar patrons and hotel guests which went towards the purchase of gifts for the children. These were not simple gifts, but trucks, dolls, jewelry, baseball mitts, games and books. The Community Club carried on the project with Police Chief John Lawrey playing Santa. The Community Club sponsored this fund raiser up until about 15 years ago.



*Samuel Holley was Mount Arlington's Third Constable.*

**S**amuel Holley, who was born in Mount Arlington, was the borough's only marshall who patrolled on horse back. His wife worked as a house cleaner for Lotta Crabtree. They are the grandparents of history buff Charles (Bump) Canfield and Bill Holley. The Holleys lived on what was known as Church Hill Lane. Neighbors were Mrs. Doxey, Mr. and Mrs. Will Begraft, John Lawrey and family, and Carrie Dougherty.



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Former mayor Robert J. Rooney, was presented with a plaque with the above inscription in 1977 by the New Jersey State Association of Small Community Mayors. Rooney retired June 30th of that year, in his 23rd year as Mayor of the Borough of Mount Arlington. He was honored with a testimonial dinner-dance sponsored by the Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge 2109 on October 14 of that year.

Rooney first served Mount Arlington by joining the fire department in 1946. He was elected councilman in 1947, serving for seven years, and was elected mayor in 1954. He held the distinction of serving longer than any other mayor in Morris County.

His many contributions to the community include serving as president of the Morris County Officials and officer of the Morris County Athletic Association. He organized the Mount Arlington Sports Club, is a charter member of Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge 2109 and was instrumental in the organization of the borough's first rescue squad. He worked with the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and boys' baseball league in the Borough.

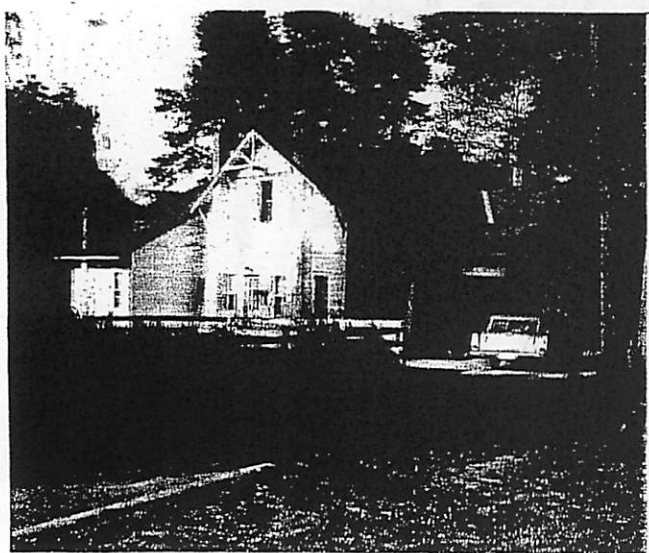
He was responsible for the formation of the borough's first planning board and initiated the Master Plan, first adopted in 1959. Through his perseverance, the exit off Interstate 80 in Mount Arlington, was approved by the State Highway Department. He was responsible for the acquisition of land for recreation use, was instrumental in the building of the present fire department headquarters on How-

ard Boulevard as well as the Lake Rogerene firehouse, the purchase of the former N.J. Bell Telephone office for use as a borough hall, and the organization of the Police Department. He worked with the Knee Deep Hunting and Fishing Club of Lake Hopatcong and for the use of Mount Arlington's Memorial Pond exclusively by children under 14 years of age.

In his years as mayor, he joined in marriage some 200 couples, never accepting a fee. Many of the ceremonies were held in front of the fireplace in the historic home he and his wife, Virginia, own on Mountainview Avenue. For many years, he also plowed the driveways of senior citizens or those with physical handicaps, again accepting no fee for the service.

A resident of Mount Arlington for 68 years, Rooney's great uncle, Robert J. Rooney was the first of the family to settle in the Lake Hopatcong area. He purchased the August Pottier Estate in Mount Arlington in 1910. The former mayor is the son of Florence and Robert Rooney. His mother worked for the telephone company and managed Rooney's Bungalow rentals in the borough. His father was a CPA in New York City.

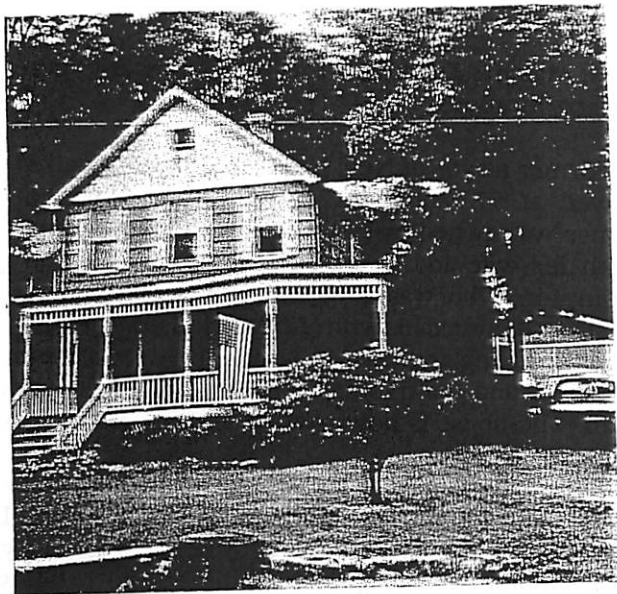
He married Virginia Mark in 1942. They were married in Washington, D.C., where Virginia was working for the government. Rooney served with the U.S. Army during World War II. He and Virginia returned to Mount Arlington in December, 1945 and have lived here since that time. They have three children, Bob, Patricia and John.



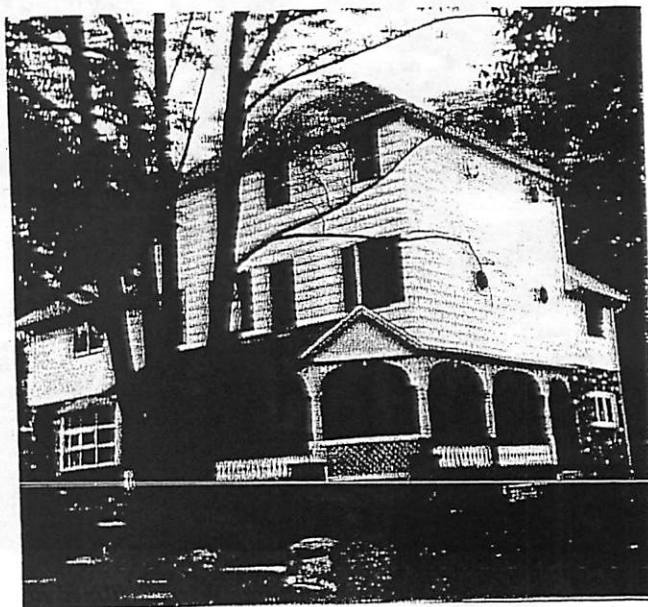
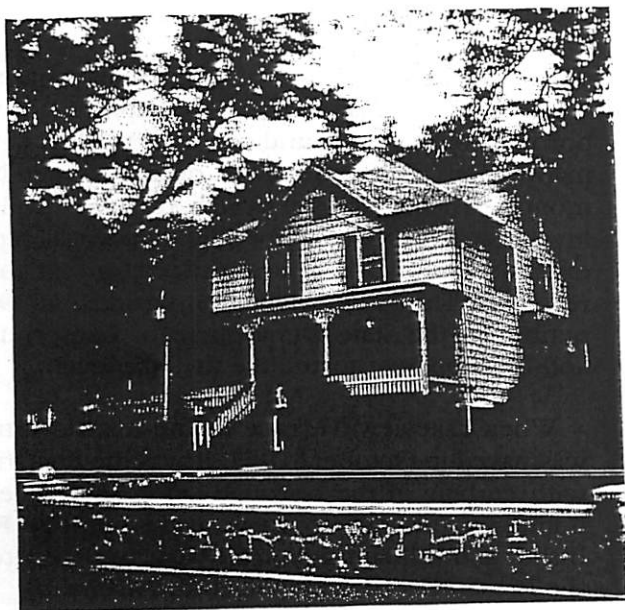
*The stable of the August Pottier Estate at 2 Prospect Street is now a private residence owned by former Mayor Rooney.*

**L**ouise Stephens and Georgiana Beatty lived side by side as neighbors on Howard Boulevard for 63 years. Mrs. Beatty was the daughter of Cyrus Cook, builder of the Hotel Breslin, St. Peter's Church and other historic structures. Her husband George was one of the borough's first councilmen. Mrs. Beatty served 28 years as the borough librarian.

Louise married John Downey who also served on the council and was the borough Post Master until his death in 1908. She married Aaron Stephens, one of the borough's first councilmen, in 1928. Louise and Georgiana celebrated their 92nd birthdays together on May 21, 1958. Georgiana lived to be 98 years old and died while living at the Twin Castle Nursing Home.



*Pictured above are the Howard Boulevard houses where Louise Stephens and Georgiana Beatty lived as neighbors for 63 years. Below right is the homestead of Cyrus Cook. Pictured below left is the house at the corner of Altenbrand Avenue and Howard Boulevard, which was originally the home of Dr. B. Finch and later occupied by Edmund Secula, one of the borough's police chiefs.*





# Did You Know?

In 1897 there were 180 horses stalled at the establishment of R.J. Chaplin & Sons. Howard Boulevard, which ran from the center of the borough to Mount Arlington Station was intentionally laid out with many sharp curves and steep grades to enhance the thrills for tally-ho parties which were numerous in the olden days.

\*\*\*

A sale of ice cream, cake and other refreshments was held on Mr. Tappen's lawn in Speakertown, on Saturday, June 21, 1917 for the benefit of the newly organized Speakertown Baptist Sunday School.

\*\*\*

There was a bowling alley on Arlington Avenue, next to the Chaplin Livery Stables. Bill Gordon was the overseer of the alley and lived with his brothers, Eddie and Bert, in the house on Hopatcong Avenue which is now the home of Joe and Settemia Smith.

\*\*\*

There was a baseball field at the corner of Arlington and Hopatcong Avenues. The field was built for the teams sponsored by the Alamac Hotel, but was a haven for the local boys and girls during the off-season.

\*\*\*

Scenes from "Virtuous Wives," a Hollywood movie production starring the actress Anita Stewart, were filmed at Lake Hopatcong in August, 1918. The Bertrand Island Beach, as well as Air Castle



Anita Stewart in "Virtuous Wives" filmed at Lake Hopatcong.

Isles, Maxim's Dock and the Castle Edward, were filming locations.

\*\*\*

Former mayor of New York City, Jimmy Walker, stayed at 57 Mountain View Avenue, when the house was owned by Philip Lenges. He first visited with his wife and later with his girl friend Betty Compton, who was a well-known movie actress. He later divorced his wife and married Betty, exiling himself to England. Lenges was in the wrought iron business and contracted work through Tammany Hall. The house is now owned by Robert and Virginia Rooney.

\*\*\*

In 1933 the Mount Arlington Borough Council joined with nearly a score of other North Jersey communities in an appeal to the Public Utilities Commission for a reduction in household and commercial rates of the New Jersey Power and Light Company.

\*\*\*

There was a murder in Mount Arlington that was never solved. On August 13, 1934, the body of Miss Anna Theresa Ulm of New York, was found tied to a tree stump in the area of Mount Harry. Many of the local year-round residents at the time remember helping to search for clues as well as being questioned as suspects. Frank Johnson, who was raised in the borough and later moved to Hillside Avenue in Roxbury Township, was one of those in the search party and recalled being questioned by George Gordon, Deputy to Marshall Charles Bunn.

\*\*\*

In 1934 there were 4,000 cottages clustered about the shores of Lake Hopatcong.

\*\*\*

The annual drawdown of Lake Hopatcong provided work for many of the unemployed of the borough. Most year round residents worked at the many hotels and resort areas during the summer months. The drawdown which reduced the lake level from five to six feet for dock and seawall repair extended the working season for many of these residents. The Mount Arlington Council, in 1933, petitioned the State Department of Conservation and Development to reduce the lake level.

\*\*\*

When Lakeview Terrace in the Alamac Estates was paved in October, 1957, it was the first street with curbing in the borough since 1893. The 30 homes in this development were built by Fred Bishof and Bill Hunsicker on what was the site of the Breslin Hotel, later named the Alamac.

The home of Dr. Leo and Mrs. Joyce Lewin on McGregor Avenue is the oldest in the area. Built in 1857, it was a lodging house for the iron ore mine workers. It was originally named "Old Fort Comfort."

\*\*\*

The construction in 1985 of a Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center brought the biggest change to the borough since the Bertrand Island Amusement Park opened in the early part of this century.

\*\*\*

Drinking water for the Breslin Hotel came from the Amy Spring, which is located off Mountainview Avenue near Memorial Park. The water was pumped to the hotel through underground pipes, some of which are still in existence. Water used for other purposes at the hotel was drawn by pumps from Lake Hopatcong. The natural stone spring also served houses which were owned by the Gordons and Traylor and other families on Chestnut Street, which was then known as Fancher's Lane.

\*\*\*

On May 21, 1958, Father McGowan of Our Lady of the Lake Church, organized a Catholic Youth Organization. The house at the corner of Altenbrand and Windemere Avenues, owned by Frank Rostek, was where the first CYO meetings were held. Previous to that, the building had housed a beauty shop.

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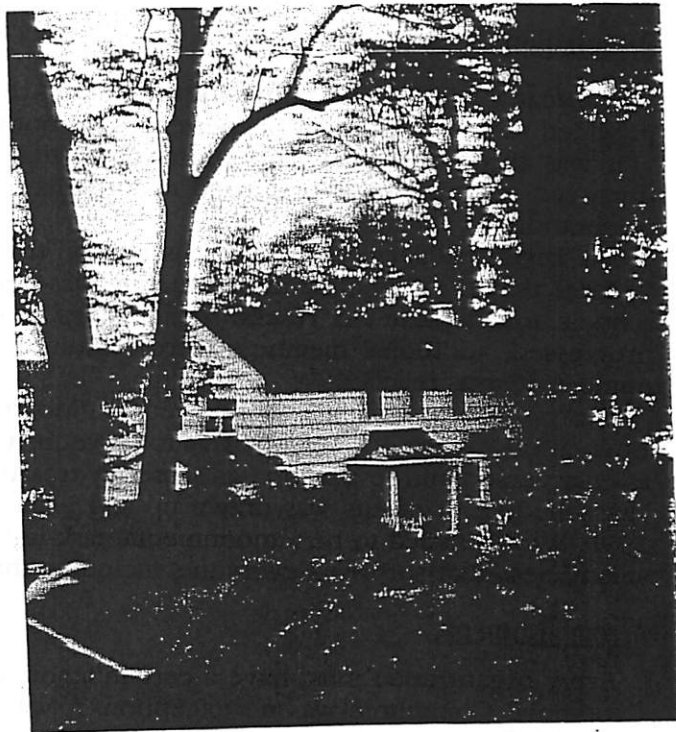
The Morris County Traction Company operated a trolley line from 1907 to 1931 connecting Bertrand Island Amusement Park to Dover, Morristown, Newark and Elizabeth.

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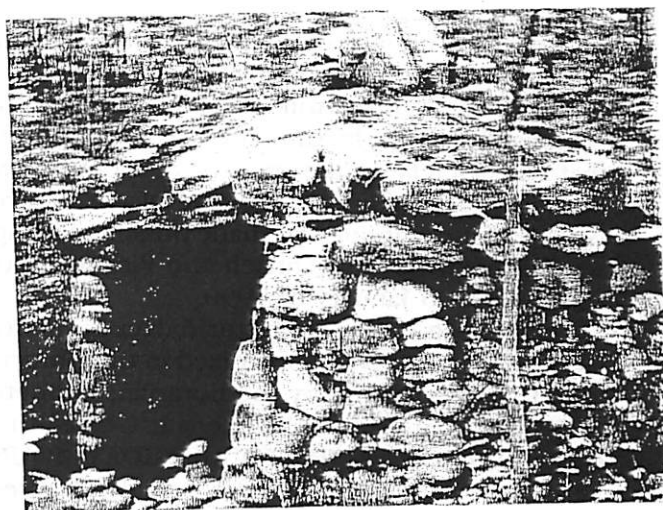
HO 8-0029. This telephone number was issued to Chaplin's Taxi Service in 1923 and was the oldest business number in the Lake Hopatcong area.

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When the State of New Jersey celebrated its Tercentenary in 1964, Alice Prugh Apostolik was appointed chairman for Mount Arlington by then mayor Robert Rooney. Members of the committee were Mrs. Virginia Rooney, Mrs. Marie Menne and Mrs. Kay Bishof. The committee sponsored a reenactment of the first council meeting of the borough held in 1890 with local boys acting as mayor, councilmen and clerk. Mrs. Apostolik and her committee presented three Tercentenary flags and a state flag to Mayor Rooney for display in front of the municipal building and Memorial Park.



*The home of Dr. and Mrs. Leo Lewin.*



*A springhouse still standing off of Howard Boulevard.*

# The Centennial

## Organization

The year 1990 was an exciting one for Mount Arlington. The commemoration of the borough's Centennial provided many activities and experiences for both adults and children.

It was through the untiring efforts of Virginia Rooney, the borough Historian, that a committee of thirty-two members was organized to formulate and supervise a stimulating program for the year-long celebration.

The Historical Society began discussions on this matter as early as March, 1989 but it wasn't until June 7, 1989 that the first committee meeting was held. Representatives from the Historical Society, library, schools, fire department, rescue squad, ladies' auxiliary and "citizens-at-large" were present. As the year progressed, additional members were recruited from other borough organizations and clubs until the number 32 was reached.

The group was officially designated as "Mount Arlington Centennial Committee" by the Mayor and Council on August 16, 1989. It was to serve for the balance of 1989 through 1990 with Virginia Rooney as chairperson and Jo Basilotta as secretary-treasurer.

A schedule of events was drawn up and plans were implemented for the celebration to start early in 1990. What seemed to be a monumental task in the beginning, gradually unfolded and proceeded with a smoothness that surprised everyone, including the committee members.

## Accomplishments

Every organization must have a certain amount of money to implement its ideas and activities and the Centennial Committee was no exception. It was through the enthusiasm, know-how and ability of John and Kelly Fagan that the committee launched its first fund-raising event. They co-chaired a flea market and crafts fair which was held on the grounds of the Edith Decker School. Many vendors participated and it was a financial success. Now, with almost \$600 in the bank, plans were made to purchase and sell "Centennial Teddy Bears" for Christmas, 1989. With their blue and white or red and white vests they became very popular. The words "Mount Arlington Centennial 1890-1990" were printed around the circular borough emblem.

There was no lack of ideas as to what the committee wanted to accomplish during the Centennial year. Some were better than others and through a process of elimination, the best were selected.

Since Mount Arlington is lucky enough to have a Historic District which is recorded on the State and National Registers, Jo Ann Gardner, vice president and program chairman of the Historical Society, suggested that said Society be the sponsor of a Historic Sites calendar. A lovely calendar with a short history of the borough and pictures of historic places was put together by Virginia Rooney, Anna Travers, and Jo Ann Gardner. The printing was made possible through generous donations and advertisements by local businesses, with Halyna Gengenbach and Virginia Rooney obtaining most of the ads. The calendar was ready for distribution in January of 1990.

A year-long display of historic data in the form of pictures, posters, newspaper articles, pamphlets and artifacts was set up and organized in the Library and Civic Center. These were contributed by the Historical Society and prepared by the librarian, Jeannette Donnelly.

On April 24, 1990, Mrs. Renate Gervis' third grade class gave a play, written and produced by Mrs. Gervis. The title was "HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOUNT ARLINGTON 1890-1990." It was evident that the children not only had fun presenting it, but also learned a great deal of their town's history.

A Centennial Parade and block party on June 30th was certainly one of the highlights of the year. It was organized by Rose Trenelli, treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Fire Department and Virginia Rooney. They worked out the line-up, decorations and entertainment. The fire department members donated and distributed free frankfurters and soft drinks after the parade. Dave and Al Ferrara also donated frankfurters.

On July 1st, an "Ecumenical Service and Victorian Tea" were held at the Civic Center. Monsignor Sam Winters of Our Lady of the Lake Church, and Rev. Roger Snyder of St. Peter's Church, led the service. A vintage fashion display was presented by Janice Chaplin who collects clothing of yester-year. The tea was well attended and enjoyed by all. Credit for this event goes to Noreen Herron, Jo Ann Gardner, Janice Chaplin and the Senior Citizens Club for its donation of delicious cookies. After the tea, a motor tour of the Historic District, formerly known as Millionaire's Row, was taken by some of the guests.



Another highlight of the year was the spectacular display of fireworks on July 3rd. This was given in conjunction with the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club. Robert Aughey was instrumental in coordinating this effort. In addition to Mount Arlington and the Yacht Club, the Hopatcong Rotary Club contributed to the cost of the display.

To the delight of the children, the circus came to town on August 12th. Vidbel's Olde Time Circus brought the crowds out despite the sweltering heat. For most of the children, sitting and viewing the one-ring circus under the Big Top was a new experience. The act by the three huge elephants was a favorite one. Many children have pictures of themselves sitting astride an elephant to remind them of this event in future years.

In no small measure the successful sale of advance tickets was due to the efforts of Maggie Schoder, Halyna Gengenbach and Virginia Rooney. The circus was held on the grounds of the Knights of Columbus with Knight Frank DeLorenzo making the arrangements.

Another accomplishment worthy of mention was the Centennial Cookbook with "100 Years of Memories." The recipes and family memories were contributed by the townspeople and friends. It was compiled by Barbara Keefer and Anne Puskas with JoAnn Gardner doing the artwork.

The cookbook was introduced at a special brunch held at the Civic Center on Sunday, October 21st. This was also sponsored by the Historical Society.

On the same day, a Centennial red oak tree was planted and dedicated on the lawn of the Civic Center with Council President Dolores Rivinius presiding. The tree was donated by the Freeholders of Morris County.

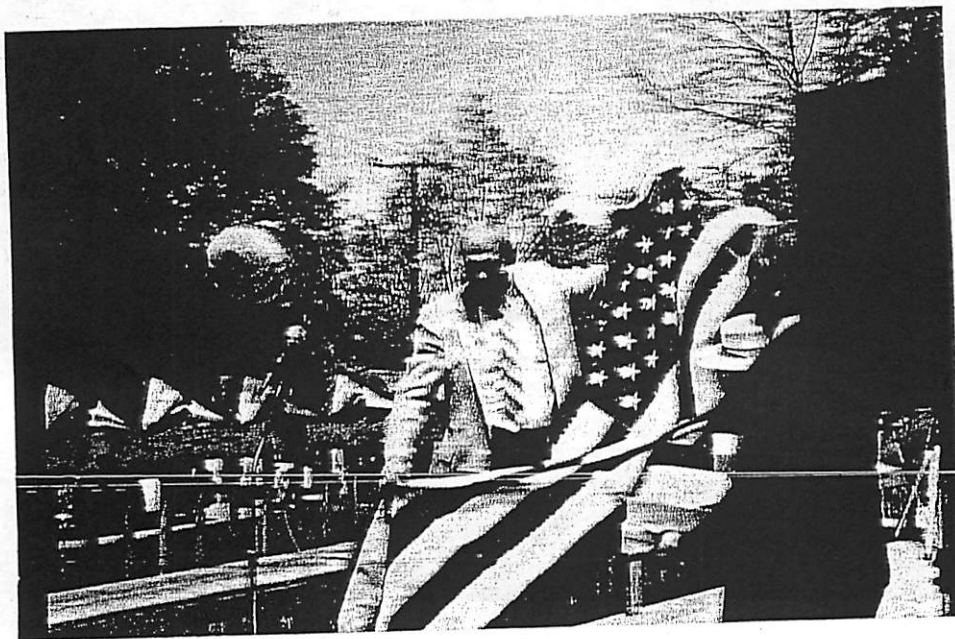
To remember the forefathers who incorporated the Borough of Mount Arlington in 1890, a special program was held on Nov. 1st at the Civic Center. Mayor Laurence Arrico, Council President Dolores Rivinius, Councilmen Jan Gordon, Robert Henion and Doug Zellman, Borough Clerk Mary Secola and Police Chief Bill Morgan, all participated in the program. They sat at the huge, original, semi-oval oak table used 100 years previously by the first mayor and council members.

Some early history was read and the history buffs who attended enjoyed the recitations.

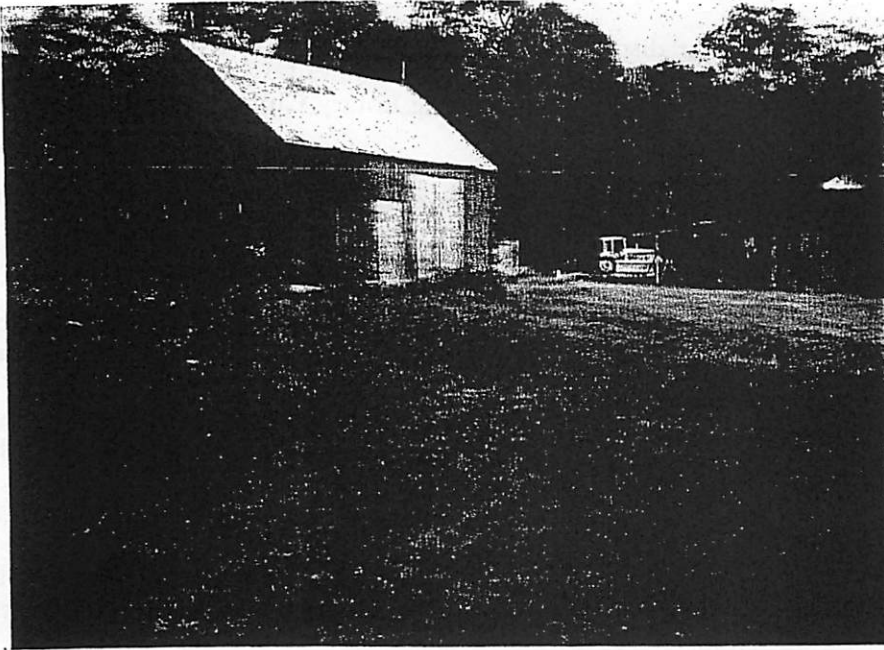
The Community Club of Mount Arlington took this opportunity to present to the borough a beautiful enlarged picture of Bertrand Island Amusement Park as it was in its hey-day. The club's president, Mabel (Mike) Troast made the presentation after which, Pauline Netzler read a short history and long list of accomplishments of the Community Club. The evening ended with the serving of a Centennial cake and coffee.

Finally, as a gala ending to the year-long Centennial Celebration, a Victorian Ball was held on the evening of November 3rd at the Sheraton Hotel on Howard Boulevard. The affair was a huge success with Noreen Herron and Lelia Pappas chairing this special event.

Approximately 170 guests attended and some wore attractive Victorian gowns. It was truly a splendid ending to a year of hard but pleasure-filled work.



*Congressman Dean Gallo presenting flag to Mayor Laurence Arrico on Centennial Day.*



*The Albert J. Ferrara family's Stoney Circle Farm on Howard Boulevard is the only farm in existence today in Mount Arlington. Originally there were some 15 farms in the borough. The Ferrara's farm was first owned by Alfred Larson who raised cows, chickens, horses and pigs as well as seasonal crops. He also sold raw milk to area residents. The Ferraras are planning to raise Black Angus beef at the farm and provide the borough with a "living farm" once again.*

*Below is the one-lane underpass on Howard Boulevard. The 57-year-old landmark was demolished in the 1960's when Route 80 was built providing a four lane boulevard, which has become a progressive thoroughway to the borough.*



### *Pictured on Back Cover*

#### *School Picture 1925*

*L to R. First Row — Carl Obernolte, ?, Margie Davenport (Larzerlere), John Tappen, Betty Seagrave, Florence Rooney, and Irene Hall (Tasnady).*

*Second Row — ?, Edward Lawrey, Val Andico, Helen Booth*

*Third Row — Bob Rooney, Gene Peterson, Bill Obernolte, Skip Peterson*

*Fourth Row — Josie Gordon (Schonfield), ?, ?, ?, Lenora Begraft (Safreed), Bill Begraft*

*Fifth Row — Cliff Peterson, Ken Chaplin, Elmer Chaplin, ?, ?, Mabel Lawrey (De Marino), Settemia Andico (Smith), Frank Johnson, ?, ?, ?, Claude Smith, and Mack Duffy.*

*Sixth Row — Matilda Harden (Garie), Dorothy Rooney (Reilly), Evelyn Scelsa (De Felice), Lucy Scelsa (Vanderhoof), Richard Johnson, Squire Headley (Principal and teacher), Edith Decker (teacher), Howard Yetter, ?, Claire Yetter, and Dorothy Kraus (Cuda).*

*Seventh Row — Ethel Lawrey (Morgan), Jennie Lawrey, Mamie Peterson (Martin), Grace Sharrock, Fred Peterson, Dick Peterson, ?, Ethel Adams, ?, Mary Andico (Albanese), Myrtle Booth, Mildred Chaplin (Richardson), ?.*

*Eighth Row — Horace Adams, Art Sisco, Tommy Sharrock and Arthur Harden.*

#### *School picture 1910-1911*

*Principal "Pappy" Gordon, Mrs. Gordon as teacher, left side of picture.*

*Can you find: Mary Speaker (Harden), Margaret Holley (Canfield), Strafford Nicolas (served 14 years as a councilman in Mt. Arlington)? If you know any other students tell your friends and call Historian Virginia Rooney, 398-1106.*



