



RAILROADS

April, 1957; the 8:13 a.m. to Weehawken arriving at the Ridgefield Park Station. Note the 4 track mainline and the railway express siding just north of Mt. Vernon Street

The most dramatic change in the history of our community began in the 1870's with the arrival of the Railroad. Prior to 1873, residents wanting to travel to New York City walked to Leonia or Ridgefield to board trains operated by the Northern Railroad, which opened in 1859, or they rode the stagecoach, which they boarded at either the Muskrat Hotel near the Hackensack River, operated by Mr. Bogert, or the Washington House Hotel, operated by Mr. Carling at the foot of Teaneck Road. In 1869 and 1870, the New Jersey Midland Railroad acquired the right of way along the east bank of the Hackensack River, and the local press reports that by April 10, 1871, the road bed had been prepared but the tracks not laid. The builders of the New Jersey Midland filled in the land at the cove in the Hackensack River, where the original Brinkerhoff House stood, and the Mid-

land Trains passed between the river and the original homestead in an area to the west of what is now the Elks Club. Interestingly enough, this first railroad — The New Jersey Midland — now legally the Delaware/Otsego System, but commonly called the Susquehanna, was built from west to east as the railroads of that time were all in competition to build into New York City. Village resident Edward K. Alburdis served as a Director of the New Jersey Midland Railroad and helped spur its construction through Ridgefield Park. Alburdis was active also in promoting the sale of building lots (from \$50.00 to \$600.00 each) and the construction of the first homes, at costs of up to \$3,000.00. The first thru passenger train traveled through the Village on August 18, 1873, from Jersey City to Middletown, New York, via Hackensack and Paterson; however, at that time there was no station in this area.

Prior to the New Jersey Midland Railroad, the farmers of Ridgefield Park were anxious to get their fruit and vegetable products to markets in Rockland County and north. In 1867 they had formed the Ridgefield Park Railroad with a capitalization of \$50,000.00. This road was to join the New Jersey Midland in an area that today would be at the foot of Central Avenue and was to be built north to Fort Montgomery in Rockland County. Construction of the Ridgefield Park Railroad began in 1872 and the road opened June 30, 1873. The name Ridgefield Park Railroad did not last, however, as one week prior to the opening of the road, the Ridgefield Park Railroad combined with the Rockland County Central to become the Jersey City and Albany Railroad. Ridgefield Park was a major connection of these two railroads and New Jersey Midland passenger trains would often

"cut out" two passenger coaches, which would then be hauled by Jersey City and Albany engines up the line, while the New Jersey Midland trains continued west to Hackensack and Paterson. Both railroads suffered as a result of the Panic of 1873, with the Jersey City and Albany being reorganized as the New York West Shore and Buffalo and the New Jersey Midland eventually becoming the New York Susquehanna and Western. The West Shore, as it was commonly known, became involved in a rate war with the Vanderbilt-owned New York Central, which traveled the East Shore of the Hudson River. The New York Central won the war, and in 1883 the West Shore became part of the New York Central Railroad. At the same time, the New York Central determined that it would end its connection in Ridgefield Park with the Susquehanna and build its own line south to Weehawken, paralleling the Susquehanna much of the way. In building South, the West Shore built over the ruins of the original Brinkerhoff House, which had burned down sometime in the 1870's, some suspect as a result of sparks from a passing Susquehanna engine. Today, if there are any remains of this Brinkerhoff Homestead, they would be buried underneath the West Shore (now Conrail) road bed behind the Elks Club.



Eastbound on the Susquehanna - around 1900

Following a collection of \$200.00, in 1883, conducted by Mortimer Smith, the first railroad station was built at the foot of Mt. Vernon Street, and shortly after that, the Susquehanna took over the Muskrat Hotel, which became known as the Little Ferry Station in Ridgefield Park. Both of these stations were owned by the Susquehanna but operated jointly by the two railroads. The West Shore later erected a passenger shed in North Ridgefield Park

and this was known as the Westview Station, in what today is the area underneath the Route 80 bridge. Thus, for many years, Ridgefield Park was served by two railroads and 3 stations. Actually, we were served by three railroads since the New York Ontario and Western operated over the West Shore tracks. During the early years of this century, two of our Village residents, Mr. J.C. Watson, Sr., and W.C. Deyo, were passenger agents for the West Shore. Also they were in charge of ferrying immigrants from Ellis Island to Weehawken and putting the immigrants on trains to the West. In the summer these two men ran "Dollar Beer Rackets" excursions from New York to Rockland County Lake. The fare was \$1.00 round trip. A major development for the railroads was the opening of the West Shore Railroad Station in 1927. Completed in July, 1927, the structure cost approximately \$100,000.00 with an additional \$50,000.00 being spent for underground passages for the Susquehanna and east-bound West Shore tracks. The station was built 4 years after the earlier frame station had been severely burned. In its time, the station at the foot of Mt. Vernon Street was one of the most modern and well-built on the entire New York Central Railroad, but the railroad considered it a wise investment since over 3,000 commuters a day traveled the West Shore to New York City, as well as nearly 300 that used the Susquehanna. These commuters went to the station by foot, by taxi, or by the #4



March 1961 - the Westview Station at Central and Railroad Avenues now the site of Route 80 bridge.

bus or a commuter bus which picked up passengers throughout the community. During the First World War an Army Detachment guarded the bridges across the creek and maintained a camp in what is now Ferris Park. Troop trains ran to Camp Merritt and in the Second World War to Camp Shanks. Sunday Schools ran regular excursions from Ridgefield Park to Bear Mountain on the railroad. Commuting was considered a pleasant way to travel. The West Shore operated ferries from Weehawken to 42nd Street and Cortland Street, while the Susquehanna utilized the Erie Station at Jersey City, where the ferries traveled to Chamber Street and 23rd Street. Inasmuch as West Point was also served

by the West Shore Railroad, we can only surmise that every major military figure who graduated from West Point must have traveled through Ridgefield Park at one time or another to and from "the Point."

The opening of Route 6 in 1934, along with the building of the New Jersey Turnpike in 1953, and our infatuation with the automobile, eventually meant the demise of passenger service on both the West Shore and Susquehanna Railroads. At one time one could board a train in Ridgefield Park and, after making a change at Paterson on the Susquehanna or at Albany on the West Shore, one could travel anywhere in the United States. But all that has ended. Passenger service on the

West Shore was cut back to limited commuter service from Weehawken to West Haverstraw, New York. This ended in 1959. The Susquehanna continued passenger service from Butler to Jersey City until June 30, 1966. Freight trains, however, continue to travel through the Village with regularity, and at least 25 trains a day can be seen on the West Shore and four or five on the Susquehanna. The four-track main line of the West Shore has been replaced with a single track, and the double track of the Susquehanna is now also a single track.

The importance of the railroads in the development of Ridgefield Park as a suburban community cannot be underestimated.



In 1956 there were ferries to "The City" on the West Shore from Weehawken to 42nd Street or Cortland Street, or on the Susquehanna from Jersey City to 23rd Street or Chambers Street.

4TH OF JULY



Photo: Diane Romano

*The Ridgfield Park Boat Club,
Ridgfield Park, N. J.*



Eighty years ago, four boat clubs were located on the waters which bound our Village. The Overpeck Boat Club occupied the site of the present V.F.W. on the Overpeck Creek. On the Hackensack River, the Ridgfield Park Boat Club was situated at the foot of Brinkerhoff Street while the Hackensack Boat Club was located to the north, at the foot of Mt. Vernon Street. Still further north, in the vicinity of Hackensack Avenue, was the location of the Westview Boat Club.

One of the early settlers of this area was David Winant, who built this home in the 1830's. Winant owned a large tract of property south of the present Rt. 46 and was listed in the 1850 census as a "Gentlemen-Farmer." This house still stands - #12 Orchard Street.



The Sunday Visitors Train, Ridgfield Park, N. J.



The "West Shore." Note the station located between the West Shore and Susquehanna Tracks. This scene is at the foot of Mt. Vernon Street. The railroad remained the principal means of transportation for Village residents until after World War II.



Though the first two homes shown here have been razed, most of the others still stand on Preston Street, looking east from Main Street. (formerly Hackensack Road.)

Peter Mehrhof owned the brickyard in Little Ferry and his home here in Ridgefield Park is now the site of the Elks Club. The original Mehrhof Estate once encompassed all the land bound by Cedar, Main and Hobart Streets, extending north to Mt. Vernon Street, west of Spruce Street.



*The Mehrhof Mansion,
Ridgefield Park, N. J.*



The Mehrhof Mansion is seen again from the Hackensack River. Boating, fishing and swimming on the River and Creek were common leisure activities for local residents.

POST CARDS

At the turn of the Century, many different Post Cards showing various aspects of Village life were published by Mergler and Stephens. The Library has an extensive collection of these cards and a representative group is shown here.



Volunteers who serve on Village Boards and Commissions and the Board of Commissioners.

Photo: Ed Hill

Front row: Chief W. Grossmann, Det. S. Tress, Ptl. T. LaTour
 Second row: Lt. L. Hatton, Det. W. Forsythe, Ptl. R. Morris, Ptl. D. Catalano, Ptl. B. Roberts Third row: Ptl. D. Donnelly, Lt. W. Morton, Ptl. E. Rose, Sgt. D. Ahrlich Fourth row: Ptl. A. Brooks, Capt. C. Greaney, Ptl. J. Maglione, Ptl. P. McEntee Fifth row: Ptl. S. Ehalt, Ptl. E. Hammond, Ptl. C. Hamblen Not pictured: Sgt. D. Barry, Sgt. F. Schwartz, Sgt. B. Adams, Ptl. T. Connors, Ptl. J. DiNiro, Ptl. C. Gneiding, Det. R. Lee.



RIDGEFIELD PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT



Left to Right: Kneeling, front: George Formoe, Sgt. Bob Horneman Back row: Matt Marczak, Alice Brown, Capt. Michael Knott, John Delaney, William Brower (not present: Joe Mueck)

RIDGEFIELD PARK VOLUNTEER SPECIAL POLICE



VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

Left to Right: Kneeling, front: Ray Noll, Harold Turner, Robert Erdman, Capt. Donald Preiss Back row: Tom Benderwald, Capt. Ed Campbell, Chief Robert Carlson, Rudy LoBoves, Gordon Scott, Howard Hendricks, Ray McCarroll Not pictured: Joe Kubat, Richard Kraus, Sonny Yotka



VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORP

Left to Right: Kneeling, front: Michael Grater, Michael Wright, Michael Cummings, Chris Hogan, Dawn Cook, Justine Lachmann, Barbara O'Brien, Caroline DeCastro Second row: John Sause, Ray Dwyer, Ray Pompieri, Eileen O'Brien, Karen Harvey, Jane Lowe, Tom Farrell, Lisa Danzo, Jane Lutz, Dolly Samus, Herb Lowe Back row: Joe Scully, Walter Mastison, Tom Opperman, Joe Samus, Lou Guyre, Kevin Coyle, Rich LaTour Not present: Bob Hofmeister, Dan Manaut, Pat Opperman, Sam Yellen, Tom Yotka, Jim Zaccherio, Rich Brown, Nancy Effinger, Lisa Noll



VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

First row (left to right): Phyllis Rosenthal, Martin T. Durkin, Linda Duncan, Mary Puleio, Guy Stark, Herbert Clark, Gerald McCloskey, Sandra Davis, Diane Lesser Second row (left to right): Gerard Garofalow, William Hillermeier, Elizabeth Hannigan, Kathleen Martin, Diane Weir, Lois Pesce, Joan Gibbs, Frances O'Brien, Mary Brogan, Harry Hansen, Lynnda Vercelli Third row (left to right): John Warren, Hyman Cohen, Geraldine Musella, James G. Pappas, Marie Langschultz, Jean Hofmeister, Nadine Herrunzie, Arlene Garofalow, Jacqueline Dudak, Marguerite Maney, Jane Black, C. Whitney Conley.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Left to Right: First row: John Meyers, Joseph Kennet, Richard LaTour, James Schmitt Second row: Harry Welte (Superintendent), Harry Freeman Third row: Alan O'Grady (Ass't. Supt.), Steve Rohlfs, George Vladick, James Ross, John Schmitt (Sanitation Foreman) Not shown: Ernest Roma, Sam Gadaleta (road foreman), William Houston, Anthony Diverita, Rudy Hanak, Richard Burke, Peter D'Ulisse, Thomas Stauffer, Charles Cumello, Herb Davison (Custodian, Civic Center), Chris Zimmerman (Custodian, Municipal Bldg.), Fran Scerra (Secretary)



RIDGEFIELD PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

1st Assistant Chief Leonard Hatton Chief Edward P. Wahl 2nd Assistant Chief James Wilson
Officers and Members of the Department and of the Association of Exempt Firemen

Photo: Diane Romano



Ridgefield Park Board of Education

Seated (left to right) Walter Grossmann, School Supt. Charles Juris, President Patricia Jacob, Lorraine DiArchangel.
 Standing: Ray Dwyer, James Keogh, Joseph Meehan, Anthony Salerno, Fred Monaghan



Construction of Senior Citizens' Building - Main and Summit Streets.

JULY 4, 1985



4TH OF JULY
COMMITTEE:
CARRYING ON A
TRADITION BEGUN
IN 1894
FRANK ROMANO,
CHAIRMAN.

TERCENTENNIAL
COMMITTEE

—
CHAIRMAN
ED COYLE



CUB PACK 4

JULY 4, 1985

QUEEN'S
FLOAT
CARRYING VILLAGE
HONOR STUDENTS



NATURE
PRESERVE
COMMITTEE

PARADE WATCHES
IN
TERCENTENNIAL
GARB





ECUMENICAL RELIGIOUS SERVICE on January 13 at St. Francis Church started the year-long Tercentennial celebration. Pictured here are Village Clergymen who participated in the service. Left to right: Rev. Robert A. Killeffer, Rabbi Steven Lerner, Marie Paterik, Rector David Brown, Rev. Roy Paterik, Rev. Walter Arkell, Rev. Francis, Rev. Andres Reyes, Rev. Vaccaro, Rev. Robert Kreisat



Virginia Kappeler, the only direct descendent still living in the Village, of our first settler, Joris Brinkerhoff, at the Commissioners' Meeting when the Tercentennial Banner was presented to the Village. Pictured seated in row in front of Mrs. Kappeler, former Mayor Ross Vogt and long-term residents, Helen and Herb Watson.



Mr. Edward Michels, History teacher at Ridgefield Park High School, and some of the students who researched the information which appears in this book.

All Photos This Page: Lois Montgomery

*Board of Commissioners
1985*

*Left to Right:
Commissioner Edward A. Alberque, Jr.
Commissioner George D. Fosdick
Mayor Fred Criscuolo
Commissioner John B. Davis
Commissioner John H. Anlian*



*Citizen speaks to
commissioners at
town meeting.*



*Mayor Criscuolo accepts
Tercentennial Hat and T-shirt*



Local firemen place Tercentennial Banner across Main St.

VILLAGE STREET SCENES



Euclid Avenue, looking north from Mt. Vernon Street.



The Bogert Vorhees House, 156 Teaneck Road at Winant Avenue (Rt. 46). Built around 1840; note gazebo at front.



*Euclid Avenue, looking south from Mt. Vernon Street.
Firemen's Memorial at Cedar Street.*

MEMORIAL DAY 1985

"THE JERSEY CHEVRONS"

AMERICAN LEGION POST
40 COLOR GUARD,
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



VIET NAM VETERANS
GROUNDBREAKING FOR
VIET NAM MEMORIAL
EUCLID AVENUE AND
PARK STREET

MONUMENT COMPLETED
AND DEDICATED,
NOVEMBER 10, 1985



GRANT SCHOOL 3RD GRADERS MEMORIAL DAY, 1985

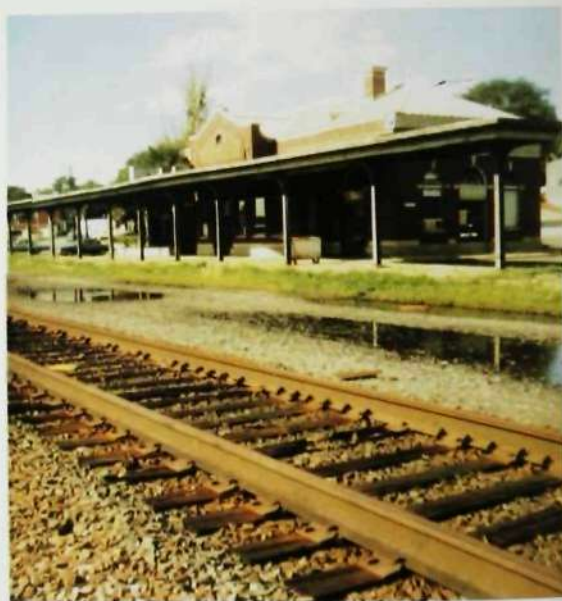
Back to front, left to right: Joseph Arrigo, Michael Rossi, Paul Quail, Maurice Johnson, Brian Kickuth, Ross Scheffler, Ronald Schaeffer, Christine Haviaris, Dawn McDermitt, Michelle Sanjek, Shannon Jaegge, Jennifer Cooke, Melissa Beeman, Jennifer Surniak, Karen Scutari, Christina Simatos, Stacy Makarewicz, Dawn Dwyer, Marissa Taffaro





Groundbreaking of Hartz Development - 1985

Left to right: Congressman Torricelli, Mayor Criscuolo, Hartz officials Stephen Cowen and Eugene Heller.



Only one track left on the "West Shore". Through freight trains only. Station now occupied by a school supply company.



Sara Kiersted's Beaded Pouch

According to legend this pouch was presented to Sara Kiersted by the children of Chief Oratam. (See related story, page 69).

IN MEMORIAM

WORLD WAR I

Joseph Colwell
Philip Ford
Oscar Gaillard
Ernest Gneiding
Carl Brosskurth
Wladek Hajdukiewicz

Lewis Herbig
Ernet Nelson
George Semsey
Lillian Ward
Robert Williams

WORLD WAR II

Emil J. Beauchamp
Frederick W. Benkin
George Brantl
Lamont E. Buranelli
Thomas H. Cameron
Charles B. Chapman
Andrew D'Arienzo
Arthur I. Diaz
Carmine DiGiacomo
James W. Duncan
Howard C. Fackiener
Elmer Eugene Feige
Wallace E. Flach
Harvey J. Fitzpatrick
Edward Louis Gehm
Frederick A. Gerstlaver
Paul Martin Glassen
Charles Gneiding
Arthur Greene
Charles E. Gutmann

John Benson Henwood
R. Hohn
George Alfred Knapp
Foster L. McMullen
Roy Richard Millar
Rudolph R. Pfeiffer
Armen Pohan
John F. Poma
John F. Reiners
Carl Rinker
William James Sands, Jr.
Philip Schaefer
Edgar B. Snell
Herbert Thorgersen
Walter Ward
Jacob H. Welker
Karl Wershoven
Edward Alexander White
Richard J. Young

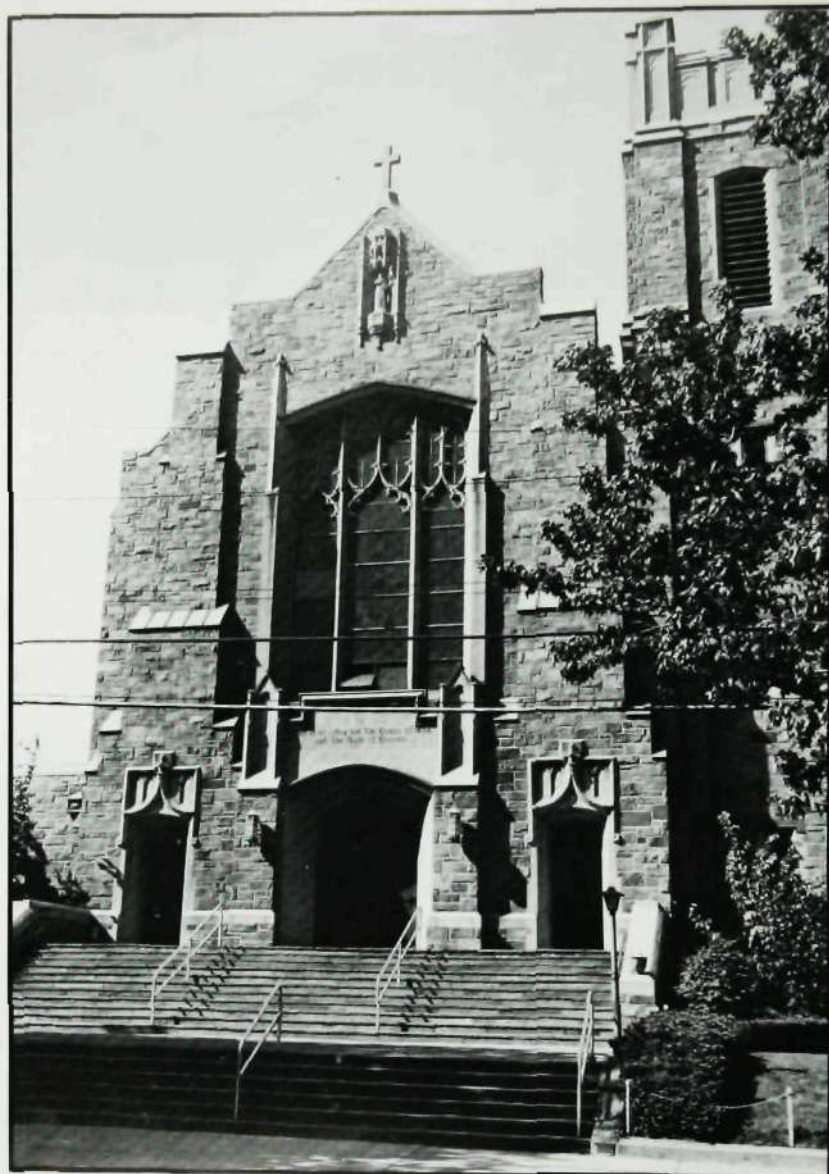
VIETNAM WAR

Spec. 4 George A. Baker
PFC Richard Boltz
PFC Robert Cuccinelli
CWO James Doran

PFC Lawrence J. LeDonne
Spec. 4 Michael Romano, Jr.
Sgt. Robert J. Hoffman

The Committee wishes to apologize to any person whose loved one may have inadvertently been left off this Memoriam. Records of our war dead have not been kept. This listing has been compiled using names appearing on monuments in town, the now defunct "Ridgefield Park Bulletin," and the "Bergen Record." We also enlisted the aid of our Village Clerk's office, The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Vorhees, the proprietors of Voorhees Funeral Home.

RELIGIONS



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

In 1885 there were approximately twenty Catholic families residing in Ridgefield Park. In 1888, this small group started their own Sunday School which was held every Sunday at Sheils Hall on the corner of Park Street and Lincoln Avenue. The attendance at the Sunday School never numbered more than twenty.

With the help of Father Hyacinthe of Fort Lee, a meeting was held on February 24, 1889, at the house of Mr. J.W. O'Brien where an official committee, to be known as the St. Francis Association, was formed for the sole purpose of petitioning the Archdiocese of Newark for permission to establish a

parish to be known as St. Francis of Assisi, in Ridgefield Park, N.J. Such recognition was immediately forthcoming, and St. Francis Parish officially came into being in April 1889. The first Parish Sunday Mass was celebrated at Sheils Hall.

Efforts to raise money to build their own Church were immediately started by a handful of Catholic families. Messrs. Sullivan and Gordon donated a piece of property on the corner of Mt. Vernon Street and Euclid Avenue. On November 18, 1889, ten months after coming into being, the cornerstone for the first Church was laid and a wooden structure was built. The official dedication of the Parish and First Mass was celebrated on July 27, 1890.

Visiting priests celebrated mass with the congregation until the Archdiocese of Newark assigned Father James M. Flanagan as the parish's first resident pastor. Immediately the parish increased their efforts to raise funds and built a rectory on Mt. Vernon Street adjacent to the Church. As the congregation grew additional property on Mt. Vernon Street was purchased and the groundwork for expansion begun.

On November 13, 1912, a new pastor Father John M. McDonald, assumed the charge of the parish. At a congregation meeting on October 20, 1914, it was agreed to construct a new building on the corner of Mt. Vernon Street and Bergen Avenue to house a new Church and grammar school. Ground was broken and the cornerstone laid on February 20, 1915, only four months after the final decision to build. The building was completed and opened its doors to one hundred seventy grammar school students in September 1915. The original school faculty consisted of four sisters from the Order of the Sisters of Charity who lived on the third floor of the building. The Church was located in the new building and served as such until the new Church was built in 1932.

By 1919 it was evident that more classrooms and new housing for the sisters were needed. The parish purchased property on Bergen Avenue with the intent of building a convent, however, on September 20, 1920 this property was exchanged with Ernest Alberque for the Alberque residence at 85 Hudson Avenue. At that time Mr. Alberque built a new house, a Spanish type ranch, on the corner of Mt. Vernon Street and Hudson Avenue. The good sisters occupied this dwelling as a convent until 1954 when a new convent was constructed on Park Street adjacent to the school building.

St. Francis' congregation continued to grow. On April 15, 1926, it was decided

to build a new Church on the site of the original wooden church. The new Church would permit the conversion of the current church to additional school facilities.

In 1926, Father John J. Butscher, was assigned as resident pastor. The cornerstone for the new Church was laid on September 20, 1931. The official dedication of the new Church took place on June 26, 1932 when Mass was celebrated. Two young priests who had been raised in Ridgefield Park, Father Justin McManus and Father John F. O'Brien, preached the sermons that day at the first Mass and dedication respectively.

In 1948 Father Butscher took ill. As a result, Father William McCann was assigned as administrator for one year. He was replaced by Father Daniel O'Reilly in 1949.

In 1950 a new administrator recently discharged from the U.S. Navy as a full Commander, Father James M. Coyle, was assigned. Father James Coyle had served in the Navy from the day after Pearl Harbor, December 1941, until April 1950, having seen action in the Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean campaigns. Father Coyle immediately began a movement among the congregation to upgrade the Church facilities. By September 1951 the old school building had been overhauled. In 1954 a new rectory and a new convent were built. School enrollments continued to grow. As a result, in 1960 an addition was added to the old school building. This addition included modern classrooms, an auditorium and gymnasium. By the late 1960's the school enrollment increased to approximately one thousand students.

Due to large crowds attending Mass it was necessary to convert the Church basement to a Chapel in order to provide additional Masses. This conversion was accomplished with volunteer help from the congregation.

In 1970 Father Francis Ignaciuos was assigned to St. Francis as Pastor. Today with two assistants, Father Ignaciuos takes care of the spiritual needs of approximately 1,900 Catholic families and supervises the operation of the large facility that St. Francis has grown to be.

The Church grounds and buildings have become landmarks of the town. The Church bell tower can be seen from miles around. Thousands of students have been educated. Thousands of weddings, baptisms, Holy Communion, Confirmations, and other sacraments have been administered since 1888 when some twenty Catholic families petitioned for their own parish.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RIDGEFIELD PARK

The Village of Ridgefield Park had been incorporated only one year when the First Baptist Church was organized on December 3, 1893. The congregation met in a number of places for worship: the Republican Hall on Grove Street, in a store on Hobart Street, and in Lyman Hall on Laurel Street. The church was incorporated in 1898 with fourteen charter members. The first pastor was the Rev. J.G. Shrive.

In January 1894 a lot on Winant Avenue (now Route 46) was purchased from Mrs. E. Wisner, a charter member, who donated the adjoining lot. In 1905 a parsonage was built next to the church. In 1910 Rev. E.C. Murphy became pastor and served until 1916. Rev. Murphy organized and was the first scoutmaster for Troop 1, Boy Scouts of America, one of the oldest troops in the country. This troop still remains active in the church. In 1922 the Winant Avenue property was sold and the present property on Euclid Avenue and Hobart Street was secured. In 1912 the cornerstone of the present building, along with the cornerstone from the old building, dated 1894, was laid. The house on the corner property of Euclid Avenue and Christie Street was purchased in 1951, and it served as the parsonage. In 1960 the basement of the church was completely renovated, and in 1967 the sanctuary was renovated and

modernized. A new electronic organ was installed, replacing a one-hundred-year-old pipe organ. In 1973 the old parsonage was sold, and construction of a new parsonage, which now adjoins the church, was begun.

First Baptist has been blessed with many fine pastors over the years: Rev. Shrive and Rev. Murphy, previously mentioned; Rev. Alexander Frazer; Dr. John Keck; Dr. Carlton T. Mitchell; Dr. Robert H. Roberts; Rev. F. Eugene Brown; Rev. Robert A. Austin; and the current pastor, Robert A. Killeffer. In 1985, the 300th anniversary of Ridgefield Park, First Baptist continues to serve God in this community.

THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD PARK

The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ridgefield Park has been ministering in the New York and New Jersey metropolitan area since 1790. The congregation in Ridgefield Park is the descendent of a congregation organized in Manhattan, New York on December 26, 1797.

The organizing pastor was Rev. William Gibson and the first elders were James Nelson, John Currie, John Agnew, Andrew Gifford, and David Clark.

The congregation has had many places of worship over the last 180 years, and at one time there were five Reformed Presbyterian congregations located in New York City. The first meetings of the church were held at the home of Mr. John Agnew on Peck's Slip, very near what is now the South Street Seaport Museum. Around the year 1818 the church started the first Sunday school in New York City. The church at that time was located on Chambers Street east of Broadway.

The church joined the Ridgefield Park community in 1979, when it purchased a building formerly occupied by the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

The Reformed Presbyterian Church is evangelical and reformed in doctrine, and presbyterian in its government.



Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ridgefield Pk.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

The 1890's were busy times for the citizens of a newly-incorporated Ridgefield Park, and the Episcopalians, who had been meeting in homes of worshippers, made a decision to officially organize the Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin. In 1895, they rented a hall in which to hold their services, and James Barber was appointed temporary lay leader. The Rev. N.T. Capel held a Holy Communion service once a month.

By 1897 the congregation had swelled to thirty families, and the Rev. Charles Kidder was appointed minister in charge. The first church building was located on the southeast corner of Park Street and Bergen Avenue, and consisted of a barn with a choir room and a chancel added on to either end. Pews were donated and an organ was purchased.

The Mission was officially incorporated in 1906. Land was acquired at the corner of Preston Street and Euclid Avenue, and the cornerstone of the new church was laid in 1908. The doors of St. Mary the Virgin opened for services in July,



The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

vices organizations raised money to furnish the interior of the church. Construction of the Parish Hall began in 1923. In 1927 a wing containing a choir room and sacristy was completed, and the main entrance was moved to Euclid Avenue. Through the years, St. Mary the Virgin has been renovated and enhancements have been added as a result of the support of its steadily increasing congregation. In 1957 St. Mary the Virgin was consecrated as a Parish and still another addition was made to the Parish Hall. During the 1960's, the present rectory was acquired and a full dormer added by

the men of the parish. This replaced the first vicarage that had been purchased in 1913.

The congregation of St. Mary the Virgin has continued to grow through the years, and improvements and modernizations were made accordingly. As in the past, many memorials continue to enhance the appearance of all buildings. In 1985 St. Mary the Virgin had a congregation of 138 families.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD PARK

The First Presbyterian Church of Ridgefield Park began with the initiation of a Sunday School on June 4, 1911, at the Masonic Temple with one hundred and twenty present. Shortly thereafter worship services were started with visiting pastors. The Presbytery of the Palisades was petitioned to organize a new Church and the Presbytery approved the request. On January 22, 1912, the Church was formally organized with one hundred and seventy-five charter members. On October 23, 1912 the Rev. J. P. Stofflet was installed as the first Pastor of the Church.

The Church continued meeting at the Masonic Temple but the growth of the Church necessitated a building program. On March 27, 1912, the property at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Poplar Street was purchased, and ground breaking ceremonies were held on May 18. The building was open for use December 28, 1913, and dedicated to the Service and Glory of God on January 25, 1914.

As the church program expanded, additional space was required. It was decided to add an adjoining building. The new Fellowship Hall was dedicated on September 23, 1937. The Church was damaged by fire on January 16, 1967. Once again the congregation pulled together to cover non-insurable costs, restyled the altar area, and created a new office area.

The Presbyterian Church is a co-sponsor, with other churches and civic groups, of the Senior Citizen apartments being built in town and scheduled for completion in late 1985. During the Tercentennial Year of 1985 the Church has purchased and dedicated a new Rodgers Organ to enhance the music of the Church.

During these years the Presbyterian Church has been serving God through the congregation and community. The mission has been to serve people. And the Church is grateful for the long list of faithful members who have supported this ministry through the years. The Church has had the following pastoral leadership:

The Rev. James P. Stofflet 1912-1927
The Rev. Robert Megaw . . . 1927-1948



The First Presbyterian Church of Ridgefield Park

The Rev. Warren L. Howell 1948-1952
The Rev. Andrew Kosten . . . 1953-1965
The Rev. W. George French 1966-1968
The Rev. Walter G. Arkell . . . 1970-

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

During the closing years of the 19th Century, Ridgefield Park was a community consisting largely of farms with a scattering of commuters, who traveled daily to New York City for employment purposes. Among these early settlers were a few individuals sharing the beliefs of the Methodist Episcopal church, who felt the need for Christian fellowship and the establishment of a community

church.

The first Board of Trustees was elected in 1891, and was comprised of two Ridgefield Park members, Mr. Charles Mansfield and Mr. D. B. Darkman, and a man drafted from the Hackensack Church, Mr. Amos Abbott. This last was necessary as it was stated that the Trustees must be members in full connection, and there were only two Ridgefield Park members willing to serve on this Board. Soon after the election of Trustees, the Church was incorporated.

Property on the north corner of Cedar Street and Bergen Avenue was purchased in 1892, and a contract to build a church building was awarded in 1895. Meetings were held in Shells Hall located at the corner of Park Street and Lincoln Avenue, and later at the Town Hall, while the new church building was under construction. In 1902 a decision was made for the church to prepare for a church-owned parsonage, and the two

lots west of the present church building were purchased. A parsonage was completed in 1909, and a fifteen-foot extension was added to the rear of the church, with a room on the side. The addition for the Primary Department, and what was to become the Fireside Room, was made in 1949.

Although this church family has suffered through three serious fires to its

church home, the congregation has weathered the storms of adversity, and has rebuilt and made improvements to these buildings. In 1980, they celebrated their 90th anniversary. The members of this congregation feel that, although they are not a church wealthy in material things, they are advancing spiritually, and are a positive influence in the town.

RIDGEFIELD PARK HEBREW ASSOCIATION AND TEMPLE EMANUEL

Bergen County's third oldest Jewish religious organization (Hackensack and Englewood predated this) had its inception in Ridgefield Park over sixty-six years ago. The first official meeting was held on March 16, 1920, at which time officers were elected by the twenty-four men present, and dues were set at \$5 a year. Those first officers were Dr. David Corn, Louis Friedman, Henry Cohen, Henry Kramer, S.Z. Brochin, Louis Rappaport, and Benjamin Heyman. Members of the congregation were prominent merchants in the Village of 1920.

The congregation met first in officers' homes. They later rented Overpeck Hall on Main Street, and obtained permission to use the West View Hose Company



First United Methodist Church



Ridgefield Park Hebrew Association And Temple Emanuel

firehouse for services. In January, 1921, the group purchased the large one-family frame home on the corner of Park Street and Bergen Avenue that houses the congregation today.

The house itself has a unique history in that it was one of the two model homes built by the Ridgfield Land Building Company in 1870 to promote the sale of lots in their planned residential development. Edward K. Alburty and his brother, Clement, had been buying up large tracts of farm land in the 1860's and began advertising Ridgfield Park as a suburban development only one hour from City Hall in New York. The Temple building was extensively renovated in 1953, at which time an addition was built, and again improved upon in 1970, on the occasion of the Temple's fiftieth anniversary.

As stated in the minutes of the first official meeting, the original purpose of the organization was "to perpetuate the teachings of Judaism, and to bring together in harmonious social intercourse the Jewish element in our community." The purposes as expressed in the present constitution refer to perpetuating Judaism; developing and strengthening the principles of the Jewish faith; and providing for and stimulating the spiritual, cultural, and general welfare of its members.

Ridgfield Park, with its close proximity to New York, became the training ground for young rabbis from the Jewish Theological Seminary who wished to gain valuable experience in the rabbinate and continue their studies at the same time. Many of them have become quite prominent in the rabbinate and in Jewish education, and have gone on to larger congregations and varied achievements throughout the country. One in particular, Richard Rubinstein, has become world renowned as a Jewish theologian; has written and has published many books; and lectures throughout the world.

At the present time, as a result of a sizable increase in membership over the past three years, Temple Emanuel has undertaken a renovation and rehabilitation of its facilities. Under the leadership of Rabbi Stephen Lerner, Temple Emanuel is recognized as a leader in Conservative Judaism, and in the forefront in Bergen County in giving equal rights of participation to women. The organization is proud of its continued service to the community, and is pleased to be serving the fourth generation of Jewish families since its beginnings.

NEIGHBORHOOD REFORMED CHURCH

The founding of the Neighborhood Reformed Church in Ridgfield Park began as a matter of concern for the safety of children. In the early 1900's a number of children in the community were killed crossing the railroad tracks enroute to the Community Church in Bogota (now known as the Bogert Memorial Reformed Church). Mr. Robert S. Sugden, the assistant Sunday School Superintendent of the Bogert Church, saw the need to start a new Sunday School up on the hill, and it was through his efforts that the Sunday School obtained permission to use the upstairs of the Central Avenue Firehouse in Bogota on Sunday afternoons.

The Sunday School continued to grow as children and adults came from Ridgfield Park, Bogota, and Teaneck to attend services. The Rev. Frank L. Shield, Associate Pastor of Bogert Church, provided ministerial services as needed. At his urging the Domestic Mission of the Reformed Church in America purchased land at the juncture of the three towns, and shortly thereafter plans for the initial church building were underway. The cornerstone was laid on July 17, 1923.

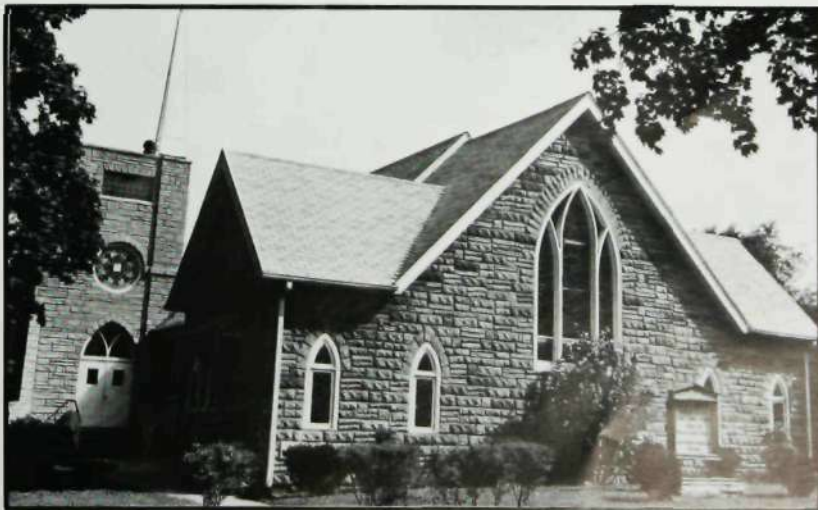
On January 6, 1924, fifty-six men and women joined the church as charter members. These first members of the church wanted its name to reflect their feeling that they were truly a congrega-

tion ministering to their neighbors in all three communities. Thus the name of the Neighborhood Reformed Church was adopted.

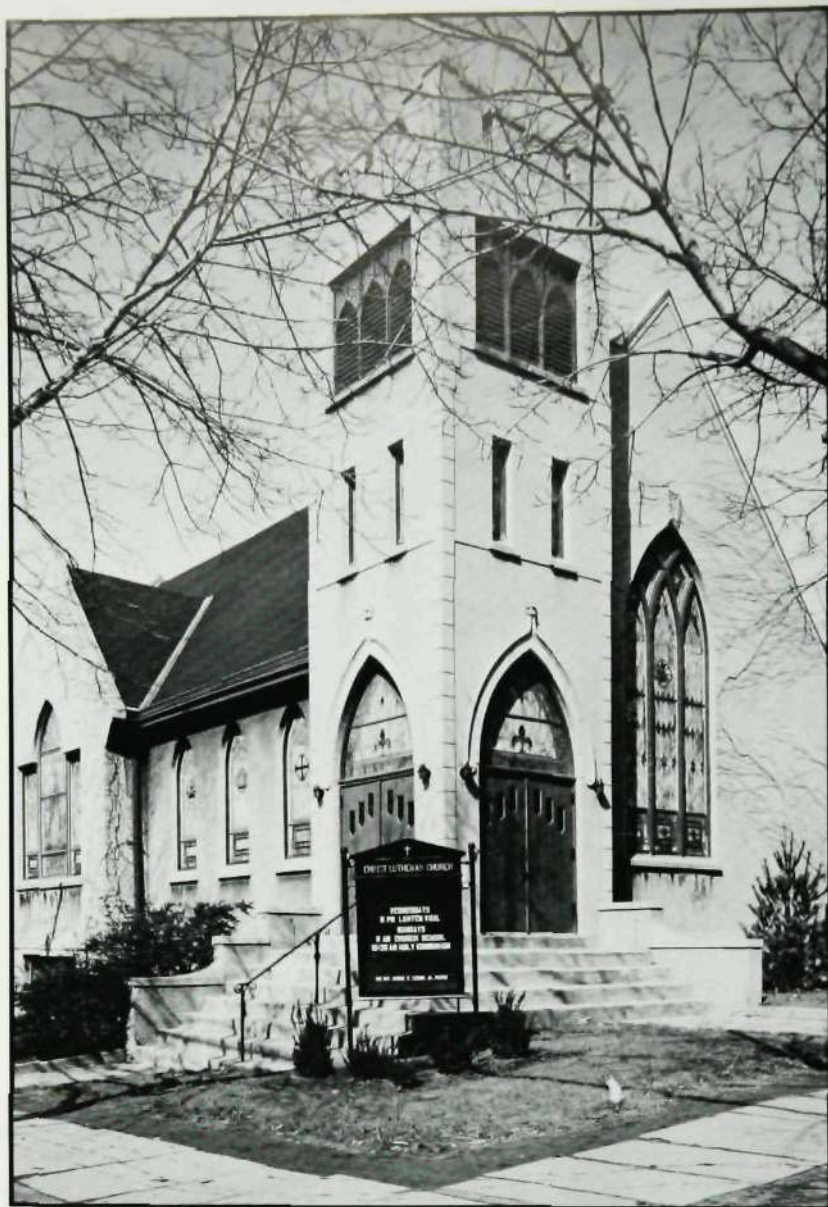
In 1925 the Rev. Theodore Brinkerhoff was installed as the first pastor. The membership of the church continued to grow steadily. The parsonage at 48 Arthur Street was obtained from the Westervelt Family in 1946. The Rev. Stanley Slingerland, who was installed as Pastor in 1946, became the first occupant of the new parsonage.

In the early 1960's construction of Route 80 dealt a harsh blow to this congregation. It was built immediately to the north of the church building, and cut through three long blocks of homes in the neighboring community, displacing at least one-fourth of the church families. This caused the church to suffer a tremendous loss of leadership and morale. At this time the church was under the leadership of the Rev. Chester Wing, who had become the pastor in 1950.

The Rev. Roy Paterik was installed on June 24, 1979. In 1985 the membership of this church was 120 with a Sunday School enrollment of thirty. The church recently celebrated its sixtieth anniversary, commending those members who worked over the years with extreme dedication, devotion, and love, for God and for the people of the neighboring communities.



Neighborhood Reformed Church



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

This congregation was organized on November 8, 1906, as the Evangelical Christ Church of Ridgely Park, New Jersey, with twenty adult members under the leadership of Pastor Max Voelker of St. Mark's Church in Hackensack. Services were held in the Town Hall. Prior to formation a few German-speaking people had held services in the Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin. On January 6, 1907, the first Church Council

was elected. A building site on Euclid Avenue, near Route 46, was purchased. The Euclid Avenue property was sold in 1909, and from 1909 through 1913, the congregation met to worship at several locations: the Town Hall, the First Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church, and the Congregational Church, which is now the Ridgely Park Public Library at Euclid Avenue and Cedar Street. Pastor Carl Krieger was called in November, 1917, ties with St. Mark's were severed, and a second constitution was adopted. Pastor Krieger introduced services in the English language which were held on the first and third Sundays of each month.

In July, 1918, the present church site

at Mt. Vernon Street and Bergen Avenue was acquired. On March 6, 1921, the church was incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on September 10, 1922. In 1925, Pastor John Schmitthenner was installed as the first resident pastor, and a parsonage was purchased at 41 Bergen Avenue. During this year the third constitution was adopted, English services were increased, and the bell tower was installed.

A campaign was launched in November, 1948, to raise money toward the building of a Parish House. On March 7, 1954, Pastor George Leedom, Jr. was called to begin the longest pastorate in the history of the church. Weekly celebration of the Holy Communion was instituted. Negotiations with the Emanuel Lutheran Church were held that year for a possible merger, but even in subsequent years those ideas never came to fruition. The Parish House building was completed in 1957.

The Rev. Robert O. Kriesat was called as pastor in April, 1972. During his pastorate many changes took place at Christ Church. The decision was made to sell the parsonage at 41 Bergen Avenue and allow Pastor Kriesat to purchase his own home. Major renovations have been made in the recent past. In February, 1981, the parishioners and friends spent nine days in the Holy Land reliving the events of Biblical times under the guidance of Pastor Kriesat. Christ Lutheran Church continues as an integral part of life in Ridgely Park, serving this community in many ways.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Christian Science was discovered by a New England woman, Mary Baker Eddy, in 1866. In 1889, Blanche Squire moved to Ridgefield Park, and thus began the history of the Christian Science Church here. Followers met in Hackensack, but early in 1911 several families met in private homes in Ridgefield Park to read the weekly Lesson-Sermon. After one of these gatherings they decided to start a church in Ridgefield Park.

At first called a Christian Science Society, the new church held its first service on November 24, 1912, in the Municipal Building. In March 1917, the growing congregation purchased a lot at Main Street and Hackensack Avenue. Herman Nichaus, a builder who had experienced a healing in Christian Science, designed and built the church. The first service was held in the new building in September 1920. The church was not dedicated until 1929, when it was free of debt.

The church's pipe organ, installed by Skinner Organ Company, is of special design to permit the use of shorter and narrower pipes to fit the available space, and resulted in exceptional tone. It is one of the larger pipe organs in this area.

During the late 1970's, due to failing membership, the church was forced to close and was purchased by The Reformed Presbyterian Church in 1979.

THE UNION CHURCH

Prior to 1890 the only church in Ridgefield Park was St. Francis Roman Catholic Church. In that same year the first Protestant church was organized. All those who were not of the Catholic faith attended the Union Church on the southeast corner of Euclid Avenue on Park Street facing Euclid Avenue. The first pastor was Rev. Alan MacNeil. Upon the death of Rev. MacNeil, the Rev. Gnagey became the pastor. Later the building was turned to face Park Street. The Euclid Avenue lot was held for a possible community building.



First Church of Christ, Scientist



The Union Church

In the 1890's other Protestant churches were organized, and the people left the Union Church to join the denomination of their choice.

In the 1940's the church closed its doors for the last time and sold its proper-

ty to the Village of Ridgefield Park. The old Union Church is now the Civic Center. It has been remodeled and now serves the community as the Nutrition Center. Lunches are served in the new addition to the building.



**EMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

In a time when life was simpler than it is today, most communities were made up of residences, shops and businesses built around a church. This was the form of community which developed in Westview (section of Ridgfield Park) at the end of the last century. On July 4, 1894, a group of Swedish people from New York got off a train at the Westview station and walked up to the church site and looked over the area. The plan was to create a Swedish community in this place. Homes were being built and families were moving in and before long the Lutherans who came here wanted to organize a church. The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Emanuel Church was organized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jeppson on the 26th day of June, 1895. At the annual meeting on January 1, 1896, also held in the Jeppson home, a building committee was elected and instructed to procure a place of worship. Plans submitted by Gustav Johanson were accepted at a special meeting on May 31, 1896 and by Thanksgiving of the same year, the

building was completed and dedicated by the Rev. Dr. Mauritz Stolpe, pastor of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in New York. At first there were no resident pastors to serve the congregation. A pastor Cunningham from the Union Church in town preached here and a German Lutheran, Pastor Erachlagen, was in charge of the congregation for a time. This caused a greater concern from synodical officials, who then sent students from Upsala College to conduct services.

The first resident pastor was the Rev. Fritlof Bjork, who began his work here in 1908. There was no residence for the pastor's use until the ministry of the Rev. Gottfrid Olson. In 1911, the parsonage was built by Ivar Johnson at a cost of \$2,489.00. In 1914, Pastor Karl A. Martin began his ministry which was to last until 1942. He brought about the transition from Swedish to English, and the name of the congregation changed to Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

During the 1950's a building was purchased at 98 Central Ave., which was completely renovated and adapted for use as a parish hall — the Emanuel Educational and Social Center. Pastor R.E. Bloomdall began his work at Emanuel in the fall of 1960. His ministry lasted until 1969, when the church closed its doors forever.



**REVEREND LESLIE LARSEN AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION-
1940's-EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH.**

TERCENTENNIAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January	6	Inter-faith Service held at St. Francis Church at 4:00 p.m. to open the Tercentennial Year.
	22	Presentation of banner and logo to Board of Commissioners. Awards to logo contestants. Reception in Municipal Building at 8:30 p.m.
February	10	Banner Day. Display Tercentennial banner across Main Street at Mt. Vernon Street at 2:00 p.m.
	23	Men's Communion Breakfast, Baptist Church at 8:00 a.m.
	24	"Dancing thru the Ages", dancing exhibition at the Elks Lodge, 4:00 p.m.
March	2	Annual Scholarship Dance (Tercentennial theme), St. Francis Gym, 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
	30	"R. P. in Pictures" exhibit sponsored by the Public Library, to be held at the Civic Center, 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
April	6	Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Board of Recreation and Ambulance Corps, to be held at Veterans Park at 9:00 a.m.
	21	VFW Ladies Auxiliary Champagne Brunch, 109 Bergen Turnpike, 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.
	21	"Music in the Park" concert featuring Eugenio Fernandi, in the R. P. High School Auditorium at 3:00 p.m.
	27	Arbor Day tree planting sponsored by the Shade Tree Commission, to be held at 1:00 p.m. at Main and Brinkerhoff Streets.
May	18	R. P. Woman's Club planting in front of Library.
	19	Rotary Run sponsored by the Ridgefield Park-Bogota Rotary Club, at 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Park, followed by Family Fun Run at 3:00 p.m.
	27	Memorial Day. Vietnam Veterans dedication and services at 11:00 a.m., Euclid Avenue.
June/July		Library Summer Reading Program: Theme "Our Town".
June	8	VFW "Old Fashioned Dance in the Park", 2:00-6:00 p.m. in the VFW parking lot.
	10	Little League Week
	14	Flag Day. Displaying of Capitol Flag.
	15	"Americanism Night", dinner-dance sponsored by the Elks, held at the Lodge.
	22	Masons 75th Anniversary dinner-dance.
July	4	Annual July 4th Parade
	28	"Fifty-Plus" reception held at the Elks Lodge, 2-4 p.m., honoring all villagers who have resided in town over 50 years.
August	24	Family Day Parade from Preston & Hudson Streets down Main Street. Dedication of plaque for Christie House as an historical site. Brinkerhoff reunion.
	25	"Fifty-Plus" reception held at the Elks Lodge, 2-4 p.m., honoring villagers who have resided in town over 50 years.
September	28	Homecoming Day for all alumni of RP High School. Open House at the High School gym at 10:00 a.m. followed by the first football game of the season (RP vs Tenafly) at 2:00 p.m.
October	4-6	St. Francis Feast
	5	Fire Prevention Display at Mt. Vernon and Main Streets.
	7-13	Fire Prevention Week
	12	75th Anniversary Hook & Ladder Company #2.
	12	Knights of Columbus and Mansons Softball Game, 10:30 a.m., Little League Field.
	12-19	Fellowship Week
	19	Knights of Columbus Walk-a-Thon for the Needy, 12 noon at Park Street and Bergen Avenue.
November	8	Tercentennial Dinner-Dance at the Tamcrest Country Club, Alpine, NJ.
	10	Dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 2:00 p.m. at Euclid Avenue and Park Street.
	15	Church of St. Mary the Virgin Birthday Celebration Fair.
December	8	Gala Christmas Concert in the High School Auditorium at 3:00 p.m. Guest artists Kathryn Grayson and Eugenio Fernandi.
	8	Community Carol Sing by the Jr. Women's Club at 4:00 p.m.
	8	Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

GOVERNMENT

From 1892 to 1912, the Village was governed by a Board of Trustees. Since 1912, Commission form of government, as provided for by the Walsh Act, has been in effect. From 1912 to 1969 there were three members of the Village Commission. Since 1969 there have been five. Members of the Commission select one of their number to be Mayor. Commissioners are elected to four year terms in May of the Presidential election year. Voters retain the right of Initiative, Referendum, and Recall. Each Commissioner has responsibility for the activities of the Departments under his jurisdiction. For many years, except during July and August when only one public meeting is held, the Commission has held public meetings the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month. Caucus meetings are held the Thursday evening prior to the public meeting. By law, all meetings except those dealing with negotiations and personnel matters are open to the public. The Commission form of government is non-partisan and this tradition has been closely followed in Ridgefield Park. The Commissioners approve all appointments to Village Boards and Agencies.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fred J. Criscuolo, Mayor

Edward A. Alberque, Jr.
John H. Anlian

John B. Davis
George D. Fosdick

BOARD OF HEALTH

Dorothy Crowl, President
Saba Bologna
Joan Hanak

Elmira Samus
Leroy Schrupp
Joseph Villanella

LOCAL ASSISTANCE BOARD

Agnes Wagner, Chairman
Dorothy Crowl
Mary Puleio, Welfare Director

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (ZONING)

James Brown, Chairman
Thomas Gondolfo
Wilbert Heinrich
Albert Knaub
Charles McCormick

Florence McGaughran
Michael Messina
John Antola, alternate
Michael Lauer, alternate

PLANNING BOARD

Frederic Rosen, Chairman
Efrem Brauer
Whitney Conley
Gabriel Cummings
Gerard Garofalow
Charles McCormack

Peter Puleio
Stephen Quinn
Albert Zaccone
Mayor Fred Criscuolo
Commissioner Edward Alberque

LIBRARY BOARD

Robin Sweeney, President
Rhoda Brauer
Doris Conley
Walter Dorgan

Steven Frimmer
Casper Lundberg
Mayor Fred Criscuolo

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Robert Perna, Chairman
Janet Ballard
Doris Conley

Lynn Conley
Frank Garofalow
Fred Hartman

POOL COMMISSION

Jane Durkin, Chairman
Fred Errion
Mary Ann Hansen
Jean McCarton

John Nevin
Thomas Reilly
Donald Vorhees
Gene Warlikowski

Mayor Fred Criscuolo
Commissioner Edward Alberque
Commissioner John Davis

BOARD OF RECREATION

Maureen Gibbs, President
Diane Catalano
Thomas DeSocia
Michael Hannigan
Breda Kirschner

Donna LaTour
Theresa Lauer
Kathy Mangano
Joyce McClintock
Lisa Noll

Homer Pollard
Harold Quimby
Walter Reverri
Michael Sinclair

JUVENILE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND YOUTH GUIDANCE COUNCIL

Stella Cummings, Chairman	Rev. Shawn Hogan
Peter Bergman	Richard LaTour
Vincent Bernaducci	Charles Mazarella
Daniel DiArchangel	Judy Morton
Lorraine DiArchangel	John Stetson

Detective Robert Lee,
Liaison

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COMMISSION

Peter Bergman
Hugh McManus

RENT STABILIZATION BOARD

Raymond Eden
Ernest Giordano
Francis Kasse
Harold Lehman
Robert Pedevill
Edwin Coyle, Alternate
Florence Hills, Alternate

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Efrem Brauer
Gilbert Gibbs
Eugene P. McIntyre
Louis J. Perna
Leroy Schrupf
Thomas Sweeney
Mayor Fred Criscuolo
Commissioner Edward A. Alberque
Commissioner John H. Anlian
Commissioner John B. Davis
Commissioner George D. Fosdick

FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE

Frank Romano, Chairman	Peter Puleio
Milton Barry	Cleo Pollard
Meg Botto	James Pollard
Michele DeSantis	Elmer Reick
Mary Fagnano	Anthony Salerno
Arlene Kubat	Jennie Scibetta
Terry Magarelli	Loretta Vorhees
Joyce McClintock	Harry Welte
William O'Connor	

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Village Clerk and Tax Collector	- Elizabeth Hannigan
Principal Deputy Clerk and Registrar	- Dolores Nealon
Deputy Registrar	- Sarah Warlikowski
Welfare Director	- Mary Puleio
Health Officer	- Guy Stark
Sanitarian	- Diane Weir
Board of Health Physician	- Nelli Lee, M.D.
Municipal Court Judge	- James Pappas
Violations Clerk	- Geraldine Musella
Deputy Violations Clerk	- Marie Langschultz
Construction Code Official & Acting Assessor	- Gerard Garofalow
Plumbing Inspector	- Harry Hansen
Housing Inspector	- Whitney Conley
Fire Official & Fire Subcode Official	- William Hillermeir
Library Director	- Phyllis Rosenthal
Superintendent - D.P.W.	- Harry Welte
Assistant Superintendent - D.P.W.	- Alan O'Grady
Chief of Police	- Walter Grossmann
Fire Chief	- Edward Wahl
1st Assistant Fire Chief	- Leonard Hatton
2nd Assistant Fire Chief	- James Wilson
Captain - Ambulance Corps	- Herbert Lowe
Chief - Rescue Squad	- Robert Carlson
Captain - Special Police	- Michael Knott
Fire Alarm Superintendent	- John Holler
Electrician	- Edward Langschultz
Historian	- Frank Romano

Village Attorney - Martin Durkin
Village Engineer - Boswell Engineering Company
Village Auditor - Laufeld & Buono

ELECTION ROUNDUP

Milt Barry has compiled the following summary of Board of Commissioners elections over the last half-century. Records prior to the 1932 election could not be located. Asterisks indicate the winning candidates for each year.

1932	
*Edwin S. Ferris	2,101
*Arthur W. Kneerim	2,060
*Herbert I. Lowe	2,021
Hugh McGowan Jr.	1,840
Alexander Kueller	1,546
Herbert Williams	1,335
John H. Doscher	1,213
Louis A. Eucker Sr.	1,006
Wm. H. Christman	353
Reg. Voters: 6,416;	
Votes Cast: 4,653; Pct: 72%	

1936	
*Herbert I. Lowe	2,275
*H. Henry Ludewig	1,783
*George F. Malley	1,749
Frank L. Chapman	1,425
George F. Wagner	1,419
Alexander Kueller	1,199
Louis J. Latzko	864
Ray M. Newman	800
William Windecker	674
Allan MacNeill	479
Thomas Chatterton	364
Hilding Hammarlund	160
Reg. Voters: 7,138;	
Votes Cast: 4,536; Pct: 63.54%	

1940	
*Ernest G. Alberque Jr.	2,652
*George F. Wagner	2,519
*Herbert I. Lowe	2,498
Frank L. Chapman	1,373
John Heck	1,023
George L. Barnes	878
Reg. Voters: 7,201;	
Votes Cast: 3,882; Pct: 53.9%	

1944	
*Ernest G. Alberque, Jr.	1,195
*George F. Wagner	1,185
*Herbert I. Lowe	1,168
(Only one ticket in race; no independents.)	
Reg. Voters: 5,860;	
Votes Cast: 1,183; Pct: 20%	

1948	
*Ross S. Vogt	1,723
*Herbert I. Lowe	1,666

*George F. Wagner	1,661
Edward Eucker	1,303
James G. Sennett	1,212
Raymond Walkemeyer	966
John F. McCann	781
Joseph S. Floyd	664
Reg. Voters: 6,307;	
Votes Cast: 3,450; Pct: 54.7%	

1952	
*Ross S. Vogt	899
*George F. Wagner	897
*Herbert I. Lowe	816
(Only one ticket in race; no independents.)	
Reg. Voters: 5,869;	
Votes Cast: 1,002; Pct: 16%	

1956	
*Ross S. Vogt	2,191
*Edward Eucker	1,816
*Daniel J. Collins	1,804
Walter R. Hespe	1,792
Joseph S. Floyd	1,652
Gerald E. Monaghan	1,473
Reg. Voters: 5,839;	
Votes Cast: 3,645; Pct: 61%	

1960	
*Lawrence A. Musella	2,150
*William A. Wagner, Jr.	2,078
*Gerald E. Monaghan	2,077
Joseph S. Floyd	2,061
Walter R. Hespe	1,974
Ross S. Vogt	1,966
Giles Brent	565
Reg. Voters: 6,284;	
Votes Cast: 4,326; Pct: 68.8%	

1964	
*Efrem Brauer	1,843
*William A. Wagner, Jr.	1,469
*Louis E. Windecker	1,199
Lawrence A. Musella	993
Daniel J. Collins	841
Robert J. Alberque	811
Giles Brent	686
Patsy Filardi	634
John J. McCloskey	609
Louis D. Magarelli	453
Philip V. Sclafani	348

Harry Young 274
 John S. Battaglia 150
 Reg. Voters: 6,028;
 Votes Cast: 3,621; Pct. 60%

1965

(Special Recall Election)

PART 1 - Shall William A. Wagner Jr. be removed
 from the office of Commissioner by recall:
 Yes - 1,931 No - 1,797
 Shall Louis E. Windecker be removed from the
 office of Commissioner by recall:
 Yes - 1,659 No - 1,532

PART 2 - Nominees for Successor to William A.
 Wagner, Jr.
 Frank A. Callahan 1,080
 *William A. Wagner Jr. 1,579
 Joseph S. Floyd 922
 Nominees for Successor
 to Louis E. Windecker
 Arthur R. Jeanos 1,065
 *Louis E. Windecker 1,568
 Richard Birdsall 909
 Reg. Voters: 6,254;
 Votes Cast: 3,810; Pct: 61.8%

1968

*Gilbert A. Gibbs 2,460
 *Eugene P. McIntyre 2,318
 *Benito A. DeLuca 2,282
 William A. Wagner Jr. 990
 Robert A. Cosmanic 786
 Henry S. Paglione 769
 Louis E. Windecker 695
 Louis D. Magarelli 606
 Robert K. Planker 576
 Kenneth J. O'Brien 312
 John S. Battaglia 284
 Reg. Voters: 6,283;
 Votes Cast: 4,048; Pct: 65%

1969

(Special Election to Increase the Commission
 from 3 to 5 Members)

*John E. Davis 1,601
 *Thomas G. Johnson 1,429
 Robert A. Cosmanic 624
 John S. Battaglia 433
 Louis E. Windecker 375
 Donald Kahrer 5
 Reg. Voters: 6,660;
 Votes Cast: 2,307; Pct: 35%

1972

*Gilbert A. Gibbs 2,040
 *Eugene P. McIntyre 2,038

*Louis J. Perna 1,867
 *Benito A. DeLuca 1,854
 *Thomas G. Johnson 1,725
 James Liess 1,184
 Alexander Bulay Jr. 1,025
 Henry S. Paglione 1,012
 Robert A. Cosmanic 951
 John S. Battaglia 787
 Richard Connolly 576
 Reg. Voters: 6,940;
 Votes Cast: 3,178; Pct: 45%

1976

*Eugene P. McIntyre 1,901
 *Gilbert A. Gibbs 1,830
 *Louis J. Perna 1,717
 *Leroy V. Schrupf 1,673
 *Thomas G. Johnson 1,449
 Robert F. Thompson 1,030
 Reg. Voters: 6,526;
 Votes Cast: 2,439; Pct: 37%

1980

*Edward A. Alberque Jr. 1,056
 William J. Donohue Jr. 853
 Victor D. Florio Sr. 753
 Richard H. LaTour 959
 Ronald Margiotta 871
 Robert A. Cosmanic 542
 Lorraine DiArchangel 371
 Doris MacDonald 483
 C. Whitney Conley 924
 *Fred Criscuolo 1,303
 *John B. Davis 1,226
 *Louis J. Perna 1,152
 William J. Beatty 985
 Thos. E. Cunningham 509
 Gregory L. Quimby 501
 *John H. Anlian 1,167
 Joan E. Pellett 692
 Reg. Voters: 6,376
 Votes Cast: 3,043; Pct. 48%

1984

*Fred Criscuolo 1,687
 *Edward A. Alberque Jr. 1,632
 *John H. Anlian 1,547
 *John B. Davis 1,697
 *George Fosdick 1,473
 David Duncan 1,190
 Catherine Houston 640
 Reg. Voters: 6,567
 Votes Cast: 2,182; Pct: 33.27%

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Patricia Jacob, President

Mrs. Lorraine DiArchangel
Mr. Raymond Dwyer, Jr.
Mr. Walter Grossmann, Jr.
Mr. James Keogh

Mrs. Catherine Mangano
Mr. Joseph Meehan
Mr. Fred Monaghan
Mr. Anthony Salerno

Mr. Charles Juris, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Hayser, Board Secretary

FACULTY LIST 1985-86

RIDGEFIELD PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Joseph Celauro, Principal
Mr. Robert Sipos, Assistant Principal
Mr. Joseph Armbruster Soc. St.
Mr. Bruce Benny Eng.
Mr. Vincent Bernarducci Eng. SPV.
Ms. Sheila Boylan Phys. Ed.
Mrs. Rhoda Brauer Math. SPV.
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Mr. Thomas Cusker Eng.
Mr. John Damis Soc. St.
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Mrs. Jane Durkin Math.
Mr. George Eardley For. Lang. SPV.
Mrs. Rachele Farnum For. Lang.
Mr. David Francisco Sci.
Mrs. Gail Frisz Math.
Mr. Hernando Gonzalez Phys. Ed.
Ms. Alyse Gutter Phys. Ed.
Ms. Simone Hilfstien Sci.
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Ms. Elisabeth Kehoe Eng.
Miss Irene Koterba Math.
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Mr. Ralph Lella Phys. Ed. SPV.
Mr. Wayne Ligas Music
Mr. Thomas Maisano Bus. Ed.

Mr. Robert Mollusky, Director of Adult Education

Mr. Ronald Marino For. Lang.
Mr. Manuel Mendez For. Lang.
Mr. Edward Michels Soc. St.
Mr. Robert Mollusky Sci.
Mr. Robert Morris Phys. Ed.
Mr. Edward Nemeth Sci. SPV.
Miss Cleo Notarides Soc. St.
Mrs. Margaret Nowicki Bus. Ed.
Mr. Blaine Papaccio Math. St.
Mr. John Parnofiello Soc. St.
Mrs. Ida Perez For. Lang.
Mrs. Crystalline Posze Math.
Mr. Anthony Russomagno Ind. Art
Mrs. Susan Salzman For. Lang.
Mr. Eugene Sampietro Bus. Ed.
Mrs. Catherine Scalese Home Ec.
Mr. Roy Schrumpf Bus. Ed. SPV.
Mrs. Virginia Shoda Bus. Ed.
Mrs. Janet Sisko Art SPV.
Mrs. Dolly Speropoulos Math.
Mrs. MaryEllen Stiehl Eng.
Mr. James Taylor Eng.
Mrs. Marney Thorsland Phys. Ed.
Mrs. Elaine Varneckas Bus. Ed.
Mr. Thomas Walsh Ind. Art

Mr. Michael Caputo Librarian

GUIDANCE

Mrs. Mary Bonney SPV.
Ms. Jacqueline Crocitto
Mr. Samuel Maczko

Mr. Richard Mola
Mrs. Elizabeth Verdoni

COMPENSATORY EDUCATION

Mr. Joseph Branda

HIGH SCHOOL SECRETARIES

Mrs. Pearl Beza
Mrs. Diane Cummiskey
Mrs. June Gallitano

Mrs. Dorothea Maciejunes
Mrs. Rita Olson
Mrs. Veronica Vercelli

HIGH SCHOOL CUSTODIAL STAFF

Mr. Alfred Rhode, Head Custodian
Mr. Wayne Graff
Mr. Michael Lupo
Mrs. Sylvia Maresca
Mr. William McIntyre

Mr. Robert Roberts
Mr. Thomas Roberts
Mr. Thomas Stauffer
Mr. Alex Wroblewski

SABBATICAL LEAVE — 1985-86

Mrs. Lucy Sodano

LINCOLN SCHOOL

Mr. John Ranone, Principal	
Mrs. Patricia Gallo, Secretary	
Mrs. Eileen Barber	2
Mrs. Edna Deutsch	4
Mr. Bryan Egan	6
Mr. Perry Marchesi	7/8
Mrs. Theresa McDonough	1
Miss Linda Messana	3
Mr. Mark Press	7/8
Mrs. Helene Richardson	5
Mr. Peter Salierno	7/8
Mrs. Cathleen Savino	K
Miss Michele Tarallo	7/8
Dr. Vincent Trotta	7/8
Mrs. Arlene Ciavarella	Media
Mr. Steve Acierno, Head Custodian	
Mr. William Willock, Custodian	
Mr. Emiel Yodonise, Custodian	

ROOSEVELT SCHOOL

Mr. Robert Censullo, Principal	
Mrs. Sophie Garvey, Secretary	
Mr. Nils Abate	7/8
Mrs. Debra Battaglia	7/8
Miss Frances Clark	4
Miss Doreen Delanni	2
Miss Eileen Murphy	3
Ms. Barbara Orrico-Holzinger	5
Mrs. Lillian Picariello	6
Mr. Elliot Pollack	7/8
Mrs. Barbara Richter	7/8
Mrs. Cathleen Savino	K
Mrs. Marilyn Shapiro	1
Dr. Vincent Trotta	7/8
Miss Joyce Ringele	Media
Mr. Robert Galbraith, Head Custodian	
Mr. Frank Cartland, Custodian	
Mr. Robert Thiel, Custodian	

SPECIAL SUBJECT TEACHERS

Mr. Dennis Bellars	Art
Mr. Ensio Danese	Music
Mr. Richard Goodman	Music
Mr. Norman Lanchart	Phys. Ed.
Mrs. Elizabeth Lockwood	Phys. Ed.
Ms. Deborah Novak	Art
Mr. Oscar Olivera	Music
Mr. Frank Shoda	Ind. Art
Mr. Paul Simeone	Music
Mr. Louis Simoni	Phys. Ed.
Mrs. Rosemary Thiel	Home Ec.

CHAPTER I

Mr. Joseph Tondi

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Ms. Marion Kamer

MAINTENANCE CREW

Mr. Guiseppe D'Ulisse, Utility Man
Mr. Clifton West, Maintenance Mechanic

GRANT SCHOOL

Mr. Kenneth Monaco, Principal	
Mrs. Emily Kroncke, Secretary	
Mrs. Gail Ahrlich	K
Mrs. Charlotte Byrne	1
Mrs. Ruth Crewe	5
Mr. Louis DeCarlo	6
Mr. Vincent Guglielmotti	4
Mr. Joseph Ippolito	4
Mrs. Peggy Knapp	3
Mrs. Maryanne Olsen	3
Mrs. Kathleen Passarella	2
Mrs. Gail O'Connor	Media
Mr. Walter Dompke, Head Custodian	
Mr. Anthony Kornelli, Custodian	
Mr. Ray Perry, Custodian	

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Mr. Daniel Morro, Director	Miss Donna Marino, Special Ed., RS
Mrs. Palmeria Crawford, Secretary	Mrs. Phyllis McIntyre, RN, Elementary
Mrs. Carol Caloras, Special Ed., GS	Miss Janet Napolitano, Resource Room, HS
Mr. Anthony Canale, Special Ed., HS	Mrs. Fran Robinson, Resource Room, LS
Mrs. Deborah Egizi, Resource Room, RS	Mrs. Pearl Roth, LDTC, RS
Miss Rita Florio, pt. tm. psychologist	Mrs. Charlotte Sampietro, LDTC, GS/LS
Mrs. Laura Freiburger, LDTC, HS	Miss Beverly Serafini, Special Ed., LS
Mrs. Barbara Frimmer, Speech Correction	Miss Carole Scardigno, Special Ed., HS
Miss Maureen Gibbs, Resource Room GS	Mrs. Lynda Starker, Supplemental
Mrs. Doris MacDonald, RN, HS	Mr. Paul Vico, Social Worker
Mr. Robert Maginn, Psychologist	

BASIC SKILLS INSTRUCTOR

Miss Zoe Savas

CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL

Mrs. Katherine Allison	Mrs. Agnes O'Gara
Secretary, Superintendent's Office	Secretary to Board Secretary
Mrs. Rose Gunning,	Mr. Vincent Vena,
Accounts Payable Clerk	Supply Clerk
Mrs. Karin MacNeill,	
Superintendent's Secretary	

RIDGEFIELD PARK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Probably no other single organization reaches as deeply into the life of the community as the volunteer fire department. After a disastrous fire in December 1891, concerned residents gathered at the general store and the opinion was unanimous that a volunteer fire company should be formed at once. From this impromptu meeting emerged Hose Co. #1, forerunner of the Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department.

In early 1892 Friendship Hook & Ladder Co. #1 was formed, followed by Hose Co. #2 in 1905. Hose Co. #3 was organized in 1906. In 1910 Hazelton Heights Fire Co. #4 was formed, but with the purchase of a hand-drawn hook and ladder truck in 1912, the company became Hook & Ladder Co. #2, which it has remained ever since. In 1911, at a meeting to discuss fire protection for the section south of the present Route 46, Active Chemical and Hose Company was formed, now known as Hose Co. #4.

The Ridgefield Park Fire Department today is one of the finest volunteer fire departments in the State of New Jersey. The six companies remain manned by all volunteers. This group has earned a B rating, once available only to members of full-time, professional paid fire departments with resulting lowered

insurance costs to Village residents. Over the years the Fire Department has fought a number of major blazes within the Town — in February 1953, Park Lumber Company at the foot of Mt. Vernon St.; New Year's Eve, 1964, Appalachian and Hudson Lumber Company on Industrial Avenue (firefighters were on the scene of this blaze for over three days); and July, 1965, Euckers Restaurant.

The six companies own and maintain the buildings that the fire equipment is housed in. Training is on-going, coupled with company and department drills, to insure the Village will always be adequately protected. This group of 120 members is on-call twenty-four hours a day.

Three Village fire fighters have died in the line of duty. In April, 1914, Conrad Scherrer Jr., a charter member of Overpeck Hose Co. #2 was killed when he was thrown from a new fire truck being tested in New York City. On February 4, 1969, Walter Dille suffered a fatal heart seizure while at a fire on Seventh Street. Firefighter Gary Molitor suffered fatal injuries in an accident while responding to a fire at Winant Avenue and Main Street August 8, 1972.

CHIEFS

1895	Fred Lyman	1926	L. A. DeMerritt	1957	Emile Schmidt
1896	C. R. Brewster	1927	George Howe	1958	Walter Humphrey
1897	A. E. Innes	1928	Robert Werder	1959	Frank Garofalow
1898	D. A. Christie	1929	William Hoppe, Jr.	1960	H. A. Hennessy
1899	S. J. Shaw, Sr.	1930	Addison S. Thompson	1961	George Kirchoff
1900	E. S. Carr	1931	Louis E. Gehm	1962	John LaTour
1901	Joseph Colwell	1932	Frank Hammell	1963	Stanley Wisneski
1902	S. J. Shaw, Sr.	1933	Thomas Chatterton	1964	Edward Booth
1903	D. A. Christie	1934	James Kerr	1965	Thomas Spinelly
1904	Joseph Colwell	1935	Louis Latzko	1966	Joseph Collins
1905	E. S. Carr	1936	George Alberque	1967	William Liess
1906	L. A. Eucker	1937	Joseph Barron	1968	Charles F. Sievers
1907	L. A. Eucker	1938	Albert Donnelly	1969	Edward Adams
1908	John Van Skiver	1939	J. C. Schmaeling	1970	William Roper
1909	Henry Dauer	1940	Benjamin Fox	1971	Vincent Vena
1910	Henry Dauer	1941	Otto Latzko	1972	Edward Reinhardt
1911	T. E. Williams	1942	Howard Alberque	1973	Albert Knaub
1912	T. E. Williams	1943	Edward Eucker	1974	Louis Schuler
1913	J. L. Forsythe	1944	Thomas Patt	1975	Andrew Scheidler, Sr.
1914	J. C. Taylor	1945	Emile Schmidt	1976	Edward O'Brien
1915	G. K. Noden	1946	Alfred Olsen	1977	Charles Graves
1916	D. A. McMullen	1947	Roy B. Wright	1978	Harry Graves
1917	N. P. Monroe	1948	G. Freeman	1979	Louis Knaub
1918	Louis N. Schnepf	1949	Jacob Emmets	1980	Charles Vigorito
1919	William P. Schlag	1950	Peter Carlson	1981	Gordon Touchette
1920	Victor Houst	1951	John Henry	1982	Martin Lennart
1921	Herman Schult	1952	Joseph Floyd	1983	George D. Fosdick
1922	T. W. Cashman	1953	Frank Kenison	1984	Joseph W. Alberque
1923	Charles Thiel	1954	Walter Rohlfs	1985	Edward P. Wahl
1924	W. M. Hunter	1955	William Stewart	1985	Leonard Hatton (1st Assistant)
1925	Henry Houst	1956	David Duncan	1985	James Wilson (2nd Assistant)



Hose Company No. 1
1962 Mack - 1000 GPM



Engine Co. 2
1975 Great Eastern - 1000 GPM



Hose Co. 3
1972 Great Eastern - 1000 GPM



Hose Co. 4
1984 Grumman - 1500 GPM



Hook & Ladder Co. #1
1979 Seagrave - 100 Ft. Aerial



Hook & Ladder Co. #2
1967 Peter Pirsch - 85 Ft. Aerial

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE RIDGEFIELD PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

A police force was officially established on June 26, 1893 by the Village Board of Trustees, and it allowed for no rank higher than captain. Police officers appointed were done so at the discretion of the Board and could be removed from their position at any time, "at the pleasure of the Board." It was not until July 1, 1916 that the office of the Chief of Police was enacted.

Not only did our newly formed police force have the responsibility to protect life and property, arrest all those guilty of felonies and other crimes or ordinances, but, they also had to impound all "goats, sheep, horses, swine, and cattle found running at large within the boundaries of the Village."

While there was no data to be found regarding salary requirements of the fledgling department it can be surmised that it was probably in the area of \$500.00 per year. In 1911 Captain William Melia was earning \$75.00 per month, plus \$125.00 per year for expenses and he had to furnish his own uniform. A patrolman was earning \$50.00 per month, with Patrolman Fred Larson also receiving \$300.00 per year as the municipal janitor. By 1923 the salaries and the department had risen accordingly, with a patrolman earning a maximum of \$2500.00 a year. Since 1923 the salaries for members of the department have slowly risen to a point where an officer no longer has to worry about supplementing his income by taking the job of municipal janitor. A newly appointed patrolman can expect to start at almost \$20,000 a year, a sizable jump since 1893.

Since 1893 the department has taken great strides in the field of law enforcement. The current contingent of officers are more career oriented and more highly trained. They are also better educated, with many officers holding college degrees. Many officers of the department continue to attend classes in all phases of police tactics at the Bergen County Police Academy in Mahwah, NJ.

While the department is still engaged in the protection of the citizenry of the Village it is now, in its present status, a link in a nationwide network of law enforcement agencies, able to communicate with them almost instantly via a sophisticated computer system. Over the years the department has enlisted the aid of law enforcement agencies throughout the country, from Phoenix, Arizona to Maine. It has worked with the FBI and Secret Service in local investigations, in addition to all County and State enforcement agencies. Persons suspected of drunken driving are now filmed on the latest in videotaping equipment, which the department recently acquired. In 1977 the department began using a K-9 unit, which has proven its usefulness over the year time and again. The unit was established by Officer Timothy LaTour and he has had two dogs, a Doberman named Sam and his current partner, Champ, a black German Shepard.

The department's mission is still the same as it was in 1893; the protection of life and property, the arrest of those guilty of criminal offenses, and service above and beyond to the Village residents. While the names of the men and women engaged in service to the community may change, their performance and concern for the Village and its people will never change. It will be, as it has always been, exemplary.

This History was compiled by:
Ptl. EK Hammond
Ptl. Dan Donnelly



Dedication of Police Department Pistol Range on Industrial Avenue in memory of Captain Donald Knowles, March 1971.

DR. CHARLES A KNOX MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

The date is forever lost in history — that on which the Dr. Charles A. Knox Volunteer Memorial/Ambulance Corps was born. The founder of the organization, Herbert I. Lowe, did not date the letter he sent to a small group of friends and members of the Ridgfield Park Rotary Club to form an ambulance corps to provide regular and complete ambulance service, available to all the people of Ridgfield Park, to supplement or replace the limited, emergency service furnished by the Police Department for many years past.

Actual operations of the Ambulance Corps began at 7 a.m. September 15, 1952, when the first tour of duty crew, consisting of three men, reported for service. Many local organizations had helped with fund-raising activities to provide the necessary funds to purchase the first ambulance (a Cadillac) and the affiliated equipment needed. On April 20, 1975, the Youth Squad came into being consisting of young men and women, between 15 and 18 years of age.

With the Corps at full strength and two vehicles to house, the garage quarters in the Municipal Building became overcrowded and difficult for operations. Early in 1975 the Board of Commissioners laid plans to erect a new building to house the Corps in a corner of Brewster Park. It was opened for use in March 1976.

Today the Ambulance Corps consists of 27 Senior Squad members, 8 Youth Squad members and two ambulances. All volunteer, they are on duty twenty-four hours a day to provide emergency service to Village residents.

CHARTER MEMBERS

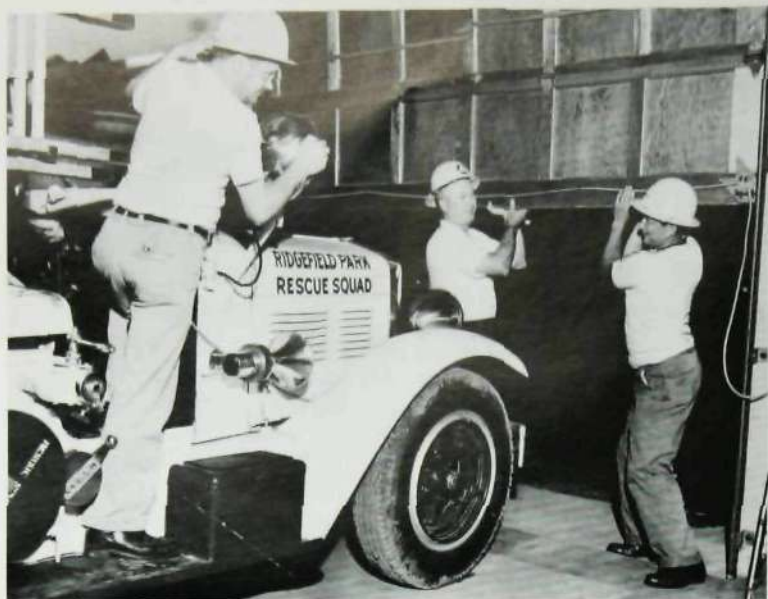
DOCTOR CHARLES A. KNOX

MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

ANTHONY ACCAVALLO	JAMES McROBBIE
HENRY W. CARHART	ROBERT B. MAHAN
ARTHUR CODY	HAROLD A. MCELROY
RAYMOND COLE	JAMES R. MOFFETT
AUGUST F. DOLL	WILLIAM R. MORGAN
ANDREW C. ERBECK	EDWARD PETERY
JOSEPH J. FALLER	OSCAR C. PFEIFFER
JOHN FASCIANO	ROBERT H. SCHRAM
FREDERICK G. ERHARDT	EUGENE SEAVEY
WILLIAM F. GETTER	DANIEL SHICKEL
WILLIAM J. HEISTERHAGEN	CHARLES F. SIEVERS
TREVOR F. JONES, Jr.	SALVATORE SPINOSA
HERBERT D. KONCHE	ALBERT SPOONER
HOWARD F. KRUG	ROBERT M. VENATOR
RICHARD H. LATOUR	ROBERT E. WALKER
ROGER W. LOWE	EDWARD WEST
Captain	DANIEL SHICKEL
Lieutenant	ROGER LOWE
President	ALBERT SPOONER
Vice President	ROGER LOWE
Secretary	EUGENE SEAVEY
Advisor	ELMER THOMPSON



First Ambulance



RESCUE SQUAD

The Ridgefield Park Rescue Squad was organized in 1951 by Rudy Lo Boves at the request of then mayor, George Wagner. With its original purpose as a Civil Defense Disaster Control unit, the headquarters were to be the garages located on the property donated to the Town by the Brewster family, now known as Brewster Park. The first truck that the unit had was a 1932 Brockway, which came from Engine Co. #2. It was outfitted with surplus equipment from the Sea Girt Training Center.

In 1953 the Main Street bypass claimed the property that was the location of the original building and funds were granted for the members to construct a new building in Brewster Park. In 1975 approval was given for an addition to the building to add a larger garage and to make the present garage a meeting room.

The Rescue Squad is still active today in aiding Ridgefield Park residents whenever an emergency surfaces. The membership is entirely volunteer and is constantly upgrading its equipment and training to respond to the needs of the Village.

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, INC.

The Senior Citizens Club was organized in March, 1960, sponsored by the Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Ridgefield Park. Open to residents of Ridgefield Park over sixty years of age, twelve people attended the first meeting and became charter members. Meetings were held in the Church's educational building on Central Avenue until 1969 when the Club moved to the Civic Center. They outgrew this facility and in 1973 moved to the K of C Building, where they still meet twice a month.

The Club now has over 300 members. It was organized to promote friendship, sociability and awareness of social, health and community problems. It lives up to these aims today.

RIDGEFIELD PARK SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING ASSOCIATION

In 1980 representatives of six non-profit groups in Ridgefield Park, convinced of the need for senior citizen housing in the Village, organized and began the process of developing a permanent Senior Citizen Housing Project. The six groups (Christ Lutheran Church; St. Mary's Episcopal Church; The First Presbyterian Church; The Reformed Presbyterian Church; The AARP Chapter of Ridgefield Park; and the Ridgefield Park-Bogota Rotary Club) contributed sixteen thousand dollars of "seed money" to help meet the expenses.

In October, 1982, they received notification of a grant from HUD to accomplish their goal. St. Francis Church joined the organization in 1983 as negotiations continued with HUD, contractors and architects in preparation for the "ground-breaking."

To help defray additional expenses the Association sponsored a "Buy a Brick" campaign. Work began on the site in late 1984. The "Ryan-Lombardi Towers," named after two deceased charter members of the organization, will open in the latter part of 1985 with housing units totalling thirty-eight.

RIDGEFIELD PARK, N.J., CHAPTER #3103 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS, INC.

Chapter #3103 was founded in March, 1978. Having received their charter in August of that year, they held their first official meeting in September, 1978, at the Civic Center.

Founded by Antoinette Gallagher and Enrico Lombardi (both deceased residents of Ridgefield Park), the Chapter sponsors many community public service programs. From its inception the organization has worked to influence the enactment of local, state and federal legislation of benefit to the nation.

Another important contribution of Chapter #3103 to Ridgefield Park residents is the dissemination of information to members and older citizens about the programs and services offered by the national AARP, which is the nation's largest organization dedicated to helping older citizens achieve retirement lives of purpose, dignity and independence.

In addition to donations to individuals in need and organized charities, the Chapter annually contributes to the Ridgefield Park 4th of July Committee and sponsors a baseball team each year in the Ridgefield Park Farm League.

RIDGEFIELD PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1894 a Reading Club was formed in the Village which met twice a month at members' homes for the discussion of books, debates, character parties and musicales. Prominent among those involved were members of the Barnes, Mehrhof, Dutt, MacNeil, Abbott, Mergler and Brewster families. This group realized that all villagers should have access to books and a Library of 500 volumes was started with donations from members of the Reading Club in a small building at the corner of Mt. Vernon Street and Lincoln Avenue donated by Mr. Mortimer Smith.

In 1895 under the Chairmanship of Rev. Allan MacNeil, the Ridgfield Park Library Association was formed with a budget of \$75 a year. Active membership was 50¢ per year and the Library was open every Saturday Evening from 7:00 to 9:00. Mrs. Diekman was the Librarian. In 1914 a fire destroyed the Library and all its books and records, but the Association was not daunted and its members, with the help of the Women's Club, held a large Carnival and Rummage Sale to replace the books and fixtures.

Under the Chairmanship of Henry Dutt, the Library moved to a room in the Municipal Building and the Village appropriated \$300. to its upkeep in 1916. By this time Mrs. Muriel Kern

Public Library, Ridgfield Park, N.



The first library building



The present library building

was hired as Librarian for \$2. per week which was quickly raised to \$3. Mrs. Kern catalogued the books, issued Library cards and kept a card catalog. In 1919, when Morton Brewster was Chairman of the Library Association, the Library had 2800 books with a circulation of 12766 and although the Village contributed towards its expenses, the running of the Library by the Association became increasingly difficult. Therefore, a referendum for a municipally owned Library was submitted to the people and on November 23, 1920 passed by a vote of four to one.

The final meeting of the Library Association was held in January, 1921, and the Library officially turned over to the new Trustees of the Free Public Library with Mr. C. Mergler as its first President. Five trustees were appointed by the Commissioners for a term of five years as is the case today. With the Library receiving village funds the operation became more routine. By 1928, the budget was \$8,080 the total circulation was 70,487.

Although the Library had moved in 1926 from the cramped space in the Municipal Building to a store on the corner of Main and Cedar Streets with much better facilities, the Trustees were not satisfied with this temporary solution. A committee was formed under the sponsorship of the Rotary Club to build an adequate library. However, in April 1927, the Trustees of the People's Congregational Church situated at the corner of Euclid Avenue at Cedar Street offered to sell their property to the Library Board as the Church was disbanding after the death

of its founder and pastor, Rev. Wilson. On May 31, 1928, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution for the purchase of the church property for \$22,500. On July 24 of that year, the Commissioners passed an ordinance for \$25,000 for the church purchase and appropriated \$7500 later that year for alterations. Louis Latzko was hired as architect and the Congregational Church gave \$5,000 from the sale to equip and renovate the Children's Department.

The present library building was officially dedicated on Friday Evening, June 21, 1929, at 8:00 P.M. C. W. Mergler was President of the Board and the other members were H. E. Miller, William Heyliger, Charles E. Abbott, Treas. and Mrs. Julia Sidman, Secy. The Library Director was Mrs. Muriel Kern and Mrs. H. J. Kohler and Miss Mable Rennie were assistants.

On Wednesday Evening, June 27, 1929, President John Johnson of the Board of Trustees rededicated the Library Building at a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of its opening, which involved as many as possible of the organizations which participated in the first ceremony. Fifty-five years after the opening much has changed in the library. New equipment and additional personnel have been added. The number of books in the Library totals 74,800 plus magazines, records, reference materials and new types of machines and equipment. Through a generous bequest in the will of Morton Brewster many improvements have been made to the library including air-conditioning and carpeting.

The Library has been fortunate to

have dedicated people working for it throughout its existence. Mrs. Kern served as Library Director until January 1, 1949, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Clarice Schmid. In September 1967 when Mrs. Schmid retired, the Trustees promoted Mrs. Marjorie Simons from Children's Librarian to Director and she served until her death in March of 1983. On May 1, 1983, Mrs. Phyllis Rosenthal was appointed to the post. Over the years we have had other dedicated employees including Pat Robinson, Helen Cederberg and Alice Hespe.

We have also had equally dedicated Trustees. The list is long but mention must be made of John Johnson, Frances Fisbeck, Marjorie Relyea and

Paul Hanway all of whom served for long terms during difficult times. The present Board consists of Robin T. Sweeney, President, Wally Dorgan, V. President, Doris Conley, Secy, Casper Lundberg, Treas. and Stephen Frimmer. Mayor Fred Criscuolo represents the Board of Commissioners and Rhoda Brauer the Superintendent of Schools.

We look forward in the near future to a new and expanded Library. On June 27, 1984, the Board of Trustees voted to purchase the adjoining property at 111 Cedar Street to allow for expansion of library facilities. The Library has again become overcrowded and more space is needed for books, new facilities and study. With the

cooperation of the Board of Commissioners plans are being formulated to make the utmost use of the new space. The monies for the purchase of the property were appropriated from the Morton Brewster Fund. Mr. Brewster was not only involved in the inception of the Library but his thoughtfulness will insure that our Library will continue to be one of the best in the County. All of the members of the Library Board and its Staff will work to insure that goal.

Compiled from notes at the Ridgefield Park Library by Robin T. Sweeney.



This store opened in the old library building

NOW OPEN

Reis' New Candy, Tobacco & Cigar Store

24 Mt. Vernon St., Ridgefield Park

THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

Perika Chocolates

Sunshine Crackers and Biscuits

Box Goods a Specialty

Public Library Building Sold By Sullivan Brothers.

Sullivan Brothers have sold the old library building on Mt. Vernon Street for \$3,500. Alterations will be made by the owner, Henry Reis, and when completed will be opened as a first-class cigar and stationery store.

ROTARY CLUB OF RIDGEFIELD PARK

Ridgefield Park in 1920 was a community of 8,575 people. Local businessmen met on Tuesdays for lunch at the Bergen House. Known as the Tuesday Luncheon Club or the Lincoln Club, they were concerned for the people of the Village and for its families. It was at a special meeting of the group March 23, 1921, that the idea of creating a Rotary Club was put forth. Two months later, May 19, 1921, the Rotary Club was born, officially, at a Charter Night dinner held in the Presbyterian Church Hall.

Since its inception the Rotary Club has contributed much to the Village of Ridgefield Park. Formed to discuss matters of interest or benefit to the group and also of benefit to the village at large, there are many tangible landmarks throughout Ridgefield Park built by the Club's members. In Brewster Park, the pavilion and ice skating shelter; In Veterans Park, the press box, the large pavilion and the cook house; in Fellowship Park, the fountain. These, among others, were built by labor donated by members of the Club.

The Rotary also contributes to many local and national charities. They were among the prime movers of the senior citizens housing project. Each year the Club awards three \$750.00 scholarships based on need rather than grades.

The Rotary Club is decidedly more than a luncheon club. Rotarians make themselves a useful element in the community, a means of extending their influence for good. Their badge is a work wheel, with strong spokes, an open core, and a rim geared for work.

CHARTER NIGHT



THURSDAY, MAY 19th, 1921



Charter Members

ROSTER LIST OF CHARTER MEMBERS ROTARY CLUB, RIDGEFIELD PARK, NEW JERSEY

Closed March 29th, 1921

JOHN O. APPLER,
Principal, Washington Irving School
EUGEN AVE.

C. FRED BREWSTER, *Vice Pres.*
Pres., C. Fred Brewster Co.—
Plumbing and Heating
217 MAIN STREET

BERNARD C. DIEKMAN, *Treas.*
Secy. and Treas., Ridgefield Park Trust Co.
204 MAIN STREET

EDWIN HALLBERG
Prop. and Partner, The Hallberg Agency—
Real Estate and Insurance
9 PAULSON AVENUE

DR. JOSEPH HAMILTON
Surgeon Dentist
210 MAIN STREET

C. GORDON LEES, *Sergeant-at-Arms*
Mgr., Economy Cash Market—Butcher
215 MAIN STREET

FRANCIS V. D. LLOYD
Partner, Morrison, Lloyd & Morrison—
Lawyers
272 MAIN STREET

JACOB E. MAVUS
Secy., Brewster and Son—Lumber
BERGEN TURNPIKE

FRANK A. MORRISON, *President*
Partner, Morrison, Lloyd & Morrison—
Lawyers
272 MAIN STREET

DR. JOHN D. MORRISON
Dentist, Extractions, and Prophylaxis
91 SUMMIT STREET

DR. WM. EARL McILLVAINE
Physician
39 MAIN STREET

RUDOLPH SCHWEIZER, Jr.
Civil Engineer
12 GROVE STREET

FRANK E. SMITH, *Secretary*
Advertising
11 PAULSON AVENUE

WILLIAM M. STIEH, Jr.
Prop., Park Auto Supply Co.—
Automobile Supplies
169 MAIN STREET

THOMAS S. TARANTO
Paper Box Manufacturing
BERGEN TURNPIKE

MOSAIC LODGE NO. 194

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

For many years prior to the inception of the movement which finally led to the constitution of Mosaic Lodge, resident Masons of Ridgfield Park traveled out of town to attend meetings. On April 26, 1907, a meeting was held at Ridgfield Park's Town Hall for members of the Masonic Fraternity residing in the Village for the purpose of discussing the advisability of establishing a Masonic Lodge. Twenty-nine Masons attended and plans began for the formation of Mosaic Lodge No. 194 and a suitable meeting place for same.

On Saturday, April 23, 1910, a simple ground-breaking ceremony was held at the site of the future home of Mosaic Lodge No. 194, at the corner of Main and Hobart Streets. To meet growing demands the Lodge remodeled the original building. The work was started in September, 1925, and in October of that year the cornerstone of the remodeled temple was laid with appropriate ceremonies.

Mosaic Lodge No. 194 still meets at Main and Hobart Streets on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Mosaic Lodge is one of the few in New Jersey that maintains an active Eastern Star organization, an active DeMolay Group, and an active Assembly of Rainbow Girls. Naomi Assembly #18, Order of Rainbow Girls was founded in 1928. Serving girls from 12 through 20 years of age, meetings are held the first and third Fridays of the month. Nathan Hale Chapter, Order of DeMolay was organized April 18, 1927, and was the 38th chapter to be organized in New Jersey. Meetings are held the first and third Mondays.



E.G. ALBERQUE, SR. COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #2229

The Council was organized January 23, 1921, and was named the Phil Sheridan Council. At the time of its organization, there were 98 members. The first Grand Knight was Ernest G. Alberque, Sr., who was a very successful businessman living in the Village and whose family was active in many aspects of Village life. Mr. Alberque was one of the mainstays of the K of C organization and on his death in 1943, the Council was renamed in his honor. The Columbiettes were originally called the Ladies Auxiliary and were also organized in 1921. Most Village residents are familiar with the scrap paper drives conducted by the Knights as part of their fund raising program. The K of C Hall at Bergen Avenue and Park Street is a center for many Village dances and activities, as the hall is made available for public use. For many years, "Shirt-Sleeve" Socials were popular Saturday night activities, sponsored by different Village organizations.



July 4, 1959 - Long time Pastor of St. Francis Church, Father James Coyle, accepts July 4th Parade Trophy from Mayor Ross Vogt, to the rear of Father Coyle is Fire Chief Frank Garofalow and Commissioner Edward Eucker.

RIDGEFIELD PARK AUXILIARY TO HOLY NAME HOSPITAL

Ridgefield Park's Holy Name Hospital Guild (as it was called then) was instituted on February 2, 1925. One hundred and twenty-five women attended the first meeting held in the Ridgefield Park Town Hall. Monthly meetings were conducted for the folding of gauze and cancer dressings. Plans were made for social events (card parties, luncheons, raffles) to provide much-needed funds for the Hospital.

Under the soon-revised name of Holy Name Hospital Auxiliary, Ridgefield Park selected the upkeep of the nursery division and the maternity section of the Hospital as its goals. Over the years they have provided equipment and furnishings for these two branches of the Hospital.

Members aid in the staffing of the Hospital's Gift Shop. Contributions have also been made to the Building Fund.

A little closer to home, the Holy Name Hospital Auxiliary aids in spreading Christmas cheer by providing home-made cookies to handicapped and 'shut-in' senior citizens of Ridgefield Park.

The Ridgefield Park Auxiliary of Holy Name Hospital is still active today. Their meetings are held in the Civic Center on the second Monday of each month.

ART ASSOCIATION

The Ridgefield Park Art Association was formed in March 1940. Anita Friend and Hector Spear, two artists then living in Ridgefield Park, felt that the Town needed an art association so they put an ad in the local paper. About twelve people attended the meeting. They decided to have a meeting once a month in each other's homes, drew up a constitution and the Association was on its way.

When membership grew too large one of the charter members, Marianne Kenison, offered the use of the barn in back of her home for meetings. Again the membership enlarged and moved several times, finally settling on the Civic Center, where they still meet today (second Monday of each month from September through June).

At many of their meetings there is a demonstration by a well-known artist, either in oils, watercolor, sculpture, etc. The Association also holds member shows of paintings. Although not a fund-raising group, they do present a bond to an outstanding art student in the graduating class of Ridgefield Park High School.

GARDEN CLUB

Started around 1961 by Mr. and Mrs. Flashman, the club was very active and boasted 100 members, and was affiliated with the Federation of Garden Clubs of Bergen County.

For many years the club had a greenhouse near the Hackensack River where geraniums were raised for the Village along Main Street and for sale. There were many flower shows and plant sales; one lovely plant was displayed at Riverside Square, Hackensack.

Small donations were made by the club to the Fourth of July Parade and to the Bate Student Loan Fund.

The oldest member is Mrs. Ursula Bock. There are but ten members left: Ms. Lily Berger (President), Mrs. Mary Corn, Mrs. Emma Decker, Mrs. Anna Kosco, Mrs. Ida Angelucci, Mr. and Mrs. Rinda, Mr. Emile Nuckles and Mrs. Theresa Lansky (who still plants flowers around the Library and Euclid Avenue).

It would be very nice if the younger people could take over and carry on an old tradition.

BLOOD ASSOCIATION

The Ridgefield Park Blood Association was formed in 1961 through the efforts of William McDowell (deceased) of the Kiwanis Club. At that time all blood transfusions had to be paid for unless hospitalized patients could obtain donors to replace the needed blood. A Bergen County Blood Bank had been established to provide insurance for patients requiring blood transfusions and blood associations such as ours were being formed to obtain blood donors.

The insurance the Blood Bank provided was that all immediate family members living together as a single household unit would receive blood replacement if one member donated one pint of blood each year. In the event no one in the family was medically able to donate blood, a donation of the cost of a pint of blood would be required. The first blood-drawing was held in the spring of 1962 and has been repeated annually since then.

The Bergen County Blood Bank is now the Bergen Community Regional Blood Center. Today through the efforts of the local blood donor groups, it is able to provide all the blood necessary to regional hospitals. Through the efforts of the Ridgefield Park Blood Association, Ridgefield Park consistently provides its full share of the life-saving supply of blood.

PLAY BALL!

Although "Little League" baseball dates back in Ridgfield Park to 1949, the organization was officially registered at the Headquarters for Little League in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on May 25, 1951. Meetings were held in the American Legion Hall and moved several times to the now present meeting hall of the Elks Club.

During the thirty-four year existence of the Ridgfield Park Baseball Organization over 10,000 children of our community have "graduated". From the original five teams the Organization has grown to seven Farm teams, six Saturday Morning League

teams, six Babe Ruth teams, one Mickey Mantle team and one Connie Mack team.

The purpose of the organization is to teach all young boys and girls from the age of 7 to 18 the basics of baseball, respect, discipline, and sportsmanship. The various teams have had numerous accomplishments and many championships. The most notable was the 1981, 1982 and 1983 District 6 Little League Championships. No other town in our district has accomplished such a record.

The original Little League field was in Brewster Park. All games are now played on the Little League field in

Veterans Park with its own field house.

At the time of its inception, first organization officers were:

President - Charles Thomas
Vice President - George Alberque
Secretary - Walter Rohlf
Treasurer - William Connelly
Some of the original team sponsors:
Overpeck Motors
R.P. Auto Sales, Inc.
Community Chevrolet
Bob Edwards Pontiac
Alford Cartons.





B.P.O.E. ELKS #1506

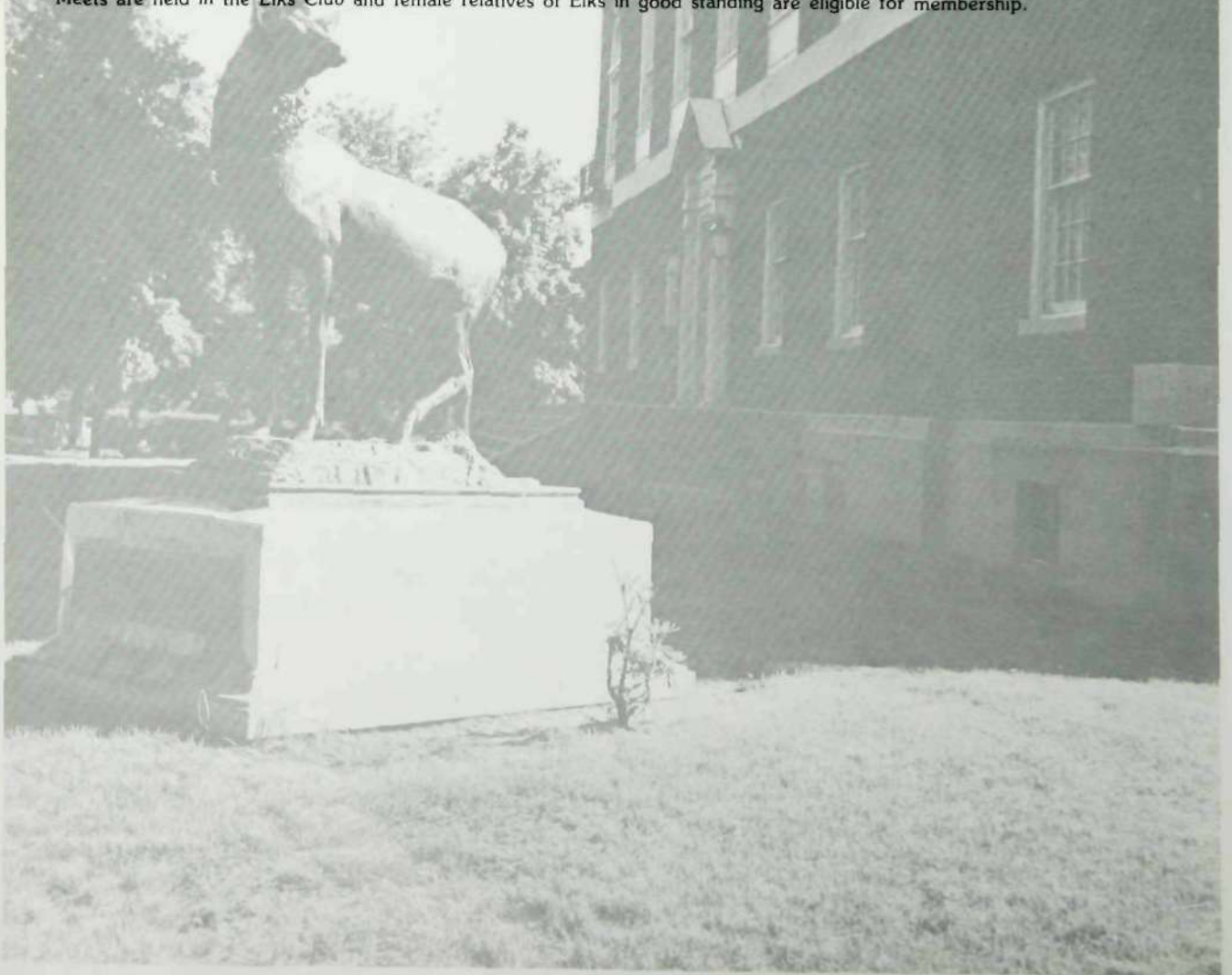
The Elks Lodge was organized June 20, 1925 with 100 members. Dr. William E. McIlvanine, Charles Carlson, and Frank Smith were influential organizers of the group. When first instituted, the group met in Vasa Hall on Central Avenue and Sixth Street. Since 1927, the Lodge has met in its fine building at Spruce Avenue and Cedar Street, the site of the old Mehrhof mansion. The Elks devote their efforts to a number of charitable activities, including raising money for crippled and underprivileged children. Each year the Elks sponsor a Youth Government Day for students at Ridgefield Park and Bogota High Schools. The group also sponsors a number of activities in support of Americanism and the American Flag. For the Tercentennial, the Elks have hosted a number of activities and have loaned the use of their building for receptions for 50 year Village residents. The Annual Carnival is a major fund raiser.

EMBLEM CLUB #101

Formed approximately 40 years ago, the Ridgefield Park Emblem Club #101 is an affiliate of the Supreme Emblem Club of the United States. Its purpose is three-fold: to perform charitable acts and deeds in the Community; to bear true allegiance to the Constitution and Flag of the United States; to further good fellowship among sister members of the Emblem Club and to assist Lodge #1506 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Ridgefield Park.

Since its inception the Emblem Club has been a participant in community affairs, notably the 4th of July celebration and support of youth activities, specially the baseball and football organizations. Two scholarships are offered each year to Ridgefield Park High School graduates. An annual essay contest is held for a grade school class in all schools. Emblem Club #101 also keeps in close contact with the Welfare Department for assistance to deserving families and annual visits are made to the Veterans Hospital to entertain the patients.

Meets are held in the Elks Club and female relatives of Elks in good standing are eligible for membership.



THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF RIDGEFIELD PARK

Founded originally in 1894 as The Woman's Bazaar Association by Mrs. E. M. Barnes, the Club had several name changes — in 1895 to The Ladies Village Improvement Association, and, in 1908, accepting an invitation to join the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, to The Women's Association. In 1912 the group was incorporated under the present name, The Women's Club of Ridgefield Park.

As stated in its incorporation papers: "The purpose for which it is formed is to awaken interest in subjects which especially concern women; the active promotion of social and civic betterment and to especially aid in the work of the Library Association."

The Woman's Club consists of three Departments: The "General" or Day Club; The Junior Woman's Club; and The Evening Membership Department (originally known as The Contemporary Club).

It would be impossible to list the many accomplishments over the ninety-year period of the existence of the Club and its Departments. They were instrumental in the establishment of the Library and the George Bate Memorial Fund for student loans, which they continue to support generously.

A note of interest: The Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park gave one of its favorite sons his first professional boost — Ozzie Nelson was paid \$5.00 to play for a dance given by the Club (his mother was a member).

Normal evening New Public Library

Friday June 21st 1936

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Equipment of Juvenile Room	Trustees of Congregational Church Miss Frances Frobeck
Electric Clock	Ladies' Village Impst. Assn. Mrs. John B. Porter
Fireplace equipment, Flag and Standard	Community League for Women Miss H. Hanks, President
Floor Globe	Woman's Club Mrs. M. M. Henschel, Pres.
"History of the Jewish People"	Bergen Co. Section, National Council Jewish Women, Mrs. Lebson, Pres.
Sun Dial	Naomi Assembly, Order of Rainbow Miss Mary S. Hawing
Flag Pole	Masonic Club, E. F. Wenzel, Pres
Flag	B. P. O. Elks 1506 David Harbo, Est. Lecturing Knight
Gift of \$25	Knights of Columbus
Library Sign	Capt. and Mrs. T. H. Bicknell In memory of Mrs. Bicknell's mother

Appreciation is expressed to L. V. Ziegler for his share toward same.

Presentation of Building	Louis J. Latzko, Architect
Acceptance	Conrad W. Mergler President, Library Board
Presentation of Building to Village	Conrad W. Mergler
Acceptance	Mayor Hugh Mc Gowan
Dedicatory Prayer	Rev. A. H. Brown



**DEDICATION OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD, JUNE
1971.**





THE JERSEY CHEVRONS AWARD WINNING COLOR GUARD

Post 40 was organized July 21, 1919 with 40 members. Over the years the group met at Sheils' Hall, old School #2 at Hackensack Avenue & Eighth

Street, at 93 Summit Street, and for many years at a building the Post owned at 79 Park Street. Recently this building was sold and the Post is without a

permanent Headquarters at present.

The Jersey Chevrons, Post 40 Color Guard, has won the "National Champion Color Guard of the American Legion" several times, bringing distinction to the Color Guard, the Post, and to Ridgefield Park. In addition to the National titles, the Color Guard has won several State and regional honors. Post 40 Legion Auxiliary was chartered July 7, 1929, and the Auxiliary and the Post help plan and participate in the Annual Memorial Day Service at Veterans Memorial Plaza on Euclid Avenue.



The American Legion Building at 79 Park Street.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #277

Ford-Nelson-O'Sullivan Post 277 was organized November 21, 1920, as the Philip J. Ford Post. Starting with 50 members, the Post grew to a membership of 150 by 1927. The VFW actively promotes programs and policies to aid Veterans and their families. For many years the Veterans met in the Municipal Building. Following World War II, the group took over the former Overpeck Boat Club on the Bergen Turnpike. The VFW today has an active Auxiliary which conducts a number of activities to aid the VA Hospitals, including the Annual Poppy Drive and a drive to support of the Jerry Lewis telethon for Muscular Dystrophy. For the Bicentennial, the VFW planted a Bicentennial Tree on a Euclid Avenue Plaza between Hobart and Cedar Streets.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

TROOP 1

In 1908 Reverend E. C. Murphy, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ridgefield Park, made a visit to his homeland, England. While there he had the opportunity of observing Sir Baden-Powell's scout movement in action. On his return he decided to adopt these ideas for the boys in his church and community. The original membership was about fifteen boys.

In 1910 the Boy Scouts of America organization was incorporated in Washington, D.C. In November of that year Troop 1 received the first charter from the newly-organized BSA. Pastor Murphy was its first Scoutmaster, twenty-five boys were registered as charter members and the First Baptist

Church of Ridgefield Park was listed as its sponsor. It is interesting to note that Scout William Orth of Troop #1 received Scout Certificate No. 1 from Washington, D. C.

In 1957 Cub Pack #1 was organized and chartered. Since then they have worked in close association with the Scout Troop and most of the members of the present troop were former members of Pack #1.

From the inception of the Troop well over 1,000 young men have been registered as scouts. In Troop #1, as in all scouting, their progress and success is due entirely to the work of volunteers who receive no compensation except the satisfaction

they feel at having performed a task in fitting boys for greater usefulness in life.

Boy Scouting started early in Ridgefield Park. Aside from Troop 1, Troop 2 was organized at St. Francis Church, Troop 3 at the Reformed Church, Troop 4 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Troop 6 at the Methodist Church, Troop 7 at the Presbyterian Church and Troop 167 at the Swedish Lutheran Church and later Lincoln School. Today, Troops 1, 2 and 7 are active. Cub Packs 1, 4, 167 and 203 offer the scouting program to young boys ages 8 to 11. Explorer Post 7 is also active.



GIRL SCOUTS

Ridgefield Park had one of the first Girl Scout troops in New Jersey. In 1915, Mrs. Muriel Kern and Mrs. Mabel Morgan organized Oak Troop No. 1.

The Ridgefield Park Girl Scout Council was formed in 1942 to co-ordinate Scouting activities in the area. One of its accomplishments was the creation of a Girl Scout camp, known as Trefoil, in Dexheimer Park which was located on the hill adjacent to the present high school. It was used for overnight camping and as a summer day camp. The Ridgefield Park Girl Scout Council was disbanded in 1959 with the formation of the Girl Scout Council of Bergen County.

Today there are four levels of Girl Scouting in Ridgefield Park. Daisy, Brownie, Junior and Cadette troops are available for girls in Kindergarten through Grade 8.



For many years, the Ridgefield Park Girl Scout Council maintained Camp Trefoil on the hill in Dexheimer Park at the east of Union Place, now the steps going down to the High School. The local council has been absorbed by the County Council and Camp Trefoil is a memory. This picture is of the leader, Mrs. Davies, with some scouts in 1955, at Camp Trefoil.

St. Francis Mothers' Guild

The Mothers' Guild at St. Francis School was organized by the late Reverend Father James M. Coyle at a meeting held on November 21, 1950. Fr. Coyle stated at that meeting the purpose of this organization would be to promote the welfare of St. Francis School and its students and that the Guild would be dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima.

Membership was and still is automatically extended to the mothers or female guardians of children enrolled in St. Francis School and to women who wish to share in promoting the purpose of the organization. One of the first projects undertaken by the Mothers' Guild was the selection of "official" school uniforms. Uniforms to be worn by the girls were done first. The price in September 1951 was \$10.50: \$9.00 for the jumper and \$1.50 for the blouse.

Throughout the years the Mothers' Guild has run various fund-raising activities. As a result of these efforts, they have been able to sponsor scholarships, buy books for the school, help financially with repairs and maintenance of the school and many other projects. The Mothers' Guild also contributes to many civic projects.

LADY FORESTERS

Star of Unity Circle #41, Lady Foresters of America of Ridgefield Park was founded by Mrs. Helena Zimmerman and officially instituted April 20, 1924 with 57 members. As it has since its inception, the group continues to meet at Hose Company 2 Firehouse on Euclid Avenue.

P.T.A.

The Parent-Teacher Associations of each Village School were organized in 1921 and 1922. Seeking to improve education, the groups have been expanded to include students as members at the High School level. Each year, the combined PTA's of Ridgefield Park and Little Ferry, and the St. Francis Mothers' Guild underwrite several scholarships which are given to graduates of Ridgefield Park High School. Funds for these scholarships are raised mainly from the Annual Scholarship Dance, a well known social event in the Village.

BATE STUDENT LOAN FUND

Friends and admirers of High School Principal George Bate organized this fund in 1935, following Bate's death. The fund provides interest free loans to deserving students at Ridgefield Park schools to further their education in any field. George Bate was Principal of Ridgefield Park High School from 1925 to 1935.

Ridgefield Park Jr. Football Association

The Jr. Football in our town started in 1966, named the R.P. Midget Football League. The first president was Ray Jahnke. It consisted of 4 teams, each team had a light squad and a heavy squad which would alternate quarters in a game.

This format remained the same from 1966 to 1982, when the registration of boys within our town dwindled to a point that made it impossible to continue playing within our town. At this time it was either cease the football program for the youngsters from fifth to eighth grades or find other ways to continue the football tradition that seems to be so much a part of Ridgefield Park.

It took a bit of research to find a league suited to our population. The Meadowlands Football League seemed to fit the bill. It has 10 teams, each with towns that don't exceed populations over 20,000. It is strictly regulated as to weights and ages of boys participating, which helps to match teams evenly. 1983 was our first year in this league.

Now known as the Junior Scarlets, we travel to 4 or 5 games and have 4 or 5 games home each year. There are 3 teams from our town that participate-a Pee-Wee squad, boys from 8 to 9 years old, a Junior squad, boys from 10 to 11 yrs. old, and a Senior squad, boys from 12 to 13 yrs. old.

The football tradition is as strong as ever and still growing in our town, thanks to a good present administration that didn't quit when the going got tough.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

In the spring of 1978 the Board of Commissioners responded to various citizen requests to look into the possibilities of creating a Municipal Commission to deal with the declining state of our Village's streets and park shade trees. An Advisory Board was set up and spent a year contacting other Shade Tree Commissions throughout the tri-state area compiling information.

In 1979 an Ordinance was passed creating a commission of six volunteers, who were given a small

operating budget. Our initial planting was ten trees but the year also saw us picking up the pieces after Hurricane David claimed 79 trees in less than 24 hours. In 1980 two forestry students made a survey of the types and condition of Village trees. With this information an active program was developed for removal of dead, hazardous trees and planting priorities. The original members were Robert Perna, Chairperson, - Gary Vanderbeck, Vice Chairperson, Janet Ballard Treasurer, - Maryann Hansen

Secretary - Doris Conley and Frank Garofalow

In 1982 the Ridgefield Park Shade Tree Commission held its first Arbor Day with the planting of a Honey Locust tree on Cedar Street, near the Post Office. This has become an annual event.

1985 In the year of our 300th Anniversary on Arbor Day we will plant a very large "Village Tree" to commemorate the event.



Lynn Conley, Doris Conley, Bob Perna, Frank Garofalow, Comm. Anlian at Civic Center 1984,

JACK DOSCHER DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATION

The Jack Doscher Democratic Association was named for Jack Doscher, a Democrat prominent in Ridgely Park politics during the Thirties. Born in Troy, NY, Jack Doscher played professional baseball with the Chicago Cubs, the Cincinnati Reds and the Brooklyn Dodgers prior to becoming a lawyer.

Incorporated under New Jersey law on March 9, 1932, the Association had 430 members by the April 1932 meeting. Permanent headquarters for the Club had been leased in November, 1931, in the Corn Building on Main Street. They currently meet at the Civic Center the fourth Monday of every month between September and June.

The Club promotes the principles and activities of the Democratic Party and provides information about the workings of the political system. It presents a forum for diverse opinions and candidates running for political office are often invited to the meetings to present their views.

WOMEN'S REPUBLICAN CLUB

On February 1, 1924, ten women met at the home of Mrs. G. Donaldson for the purpose of forming a Republican Club. The Club met in the homes of members until it grew too large (1926), when it moved its meetings to the Municipal Building. In April 1950 meetings were again moved to the Civic Center. The Ridgely Park Women's Republican Club still meets at the Civic Center on the second Friday of each month, September through June.

The Club presents programs and speakers of interest on local, county and national levels as well as aiding in many civic endeavors.

The objects of the Club are to educate Republican women politically and strengthen the Republican Party in Bergen County; to give to women an opportunity to study government; to become acquainted with all political issues so they may cast an intelligent vote; to work for the Party in general and advocate its principles; to work for the advancement of the Party in the municipality and the Nation.



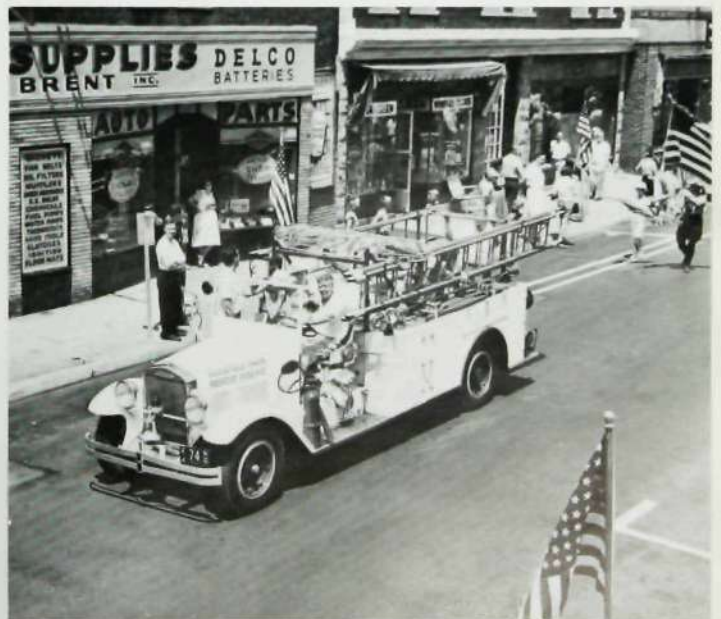
Fundraising Meeting - 1985



Packages for Viet Nam - Tri Hi Service Club Ridgefield Park High School Nov. 1966 L to R Charlotte Jackish - Lorraine Kubicek - Shelley Kaulfers - Beatrice Baldwin - Gail Gallitano - Lynn Castonguay - Betty Ann Hamilton and Josephine Mayr (advisor)



Originally the home of the Overpeck Boat Club, now the home of V.F.W. Post 277.



Ridgefield Park Rescue Squad first truck, (formerly used by Fire Department Engine Co. 2). Picture taken during the 1950s; driver is Rescue Squad founder Rudy LoBoves



Johnny Messner and his Orchestra at the McAlpin Hotel in 1940. First level (left to right): First man, Willard Cottrell from Ridgfield Park. Third man, George Ward from Ridgfield Park. Second level: Last man (trumpet) Peter Schipper from Ridgfield Park Girl Singer: Jean D'Arcy Band leader: Johnny Messner

ORCHESTRA LEADER JOHNNY MESSNER

Ridgfield Park was well represented in the era of the Big Bands. There was the Ozzie Nelson Band featuring Harriet Hilliard as vocalist, and then there was our own Johnny Messner (who still resides in Ridgfield Park in 1985) leading his band playing the clarinet or saxophone and also doing some of the singing. Johnny, the youngest Messner, started playing with his brothers, Dick, Bill, Charlie and Fred, who were billed as the Five Messner Brothers. They played at Donohue's on the Pompton Turnpike, Mountain View, N.J., and also had a radio spot on WABC. Brother Dick was the band leader in those early years. Later Johnny formed his own band with some of his musician friends from Ridgfield Park: Willard Cottrell, George Ward and Pete Schipper. The Messner band was featured at the Hotel McAlpin (now the Statler) in New York City from 1937 to 1944 when Johnny was drafted into the

United States Army.

Johnny continued playing for the men in service at Camp Shanks and other bases around the country. Upon returning to civilian life in 1946, Johnny joined the Vincent Lopez Band who held court at the Taft Grill in the Hotel Taft in New York City. He sometimes fronted for Lopez and he was also the male vocalist with the band. He also played the clarinet and the saxophone. In his later years Johnny went into the writing of commercials and also supplied the big band music as was the custom in those days. Most notable among the commercials he wrote was the jingle that boasted for the Schaefer Brewing Company "Schaefer is the one beer to have when you're having more than one." He also penned numerous other commercials for cigarette companies (Winston), soap companies (Fab) and the like.

Johnny has been a Ridgfield Park

... "Can't We Be Friends

at **DONOHUE'S**

... with **DICK MESSNER**
and HIS ORCHESTRA

... Broadcasts over **WABC**
and nationwide Columbia network

... No increase in prices
No cover or music charge

... Dinner and Supper—from \$1.00

Enjoy an informal
and gay atmosphere at

DONOHUE'S

On the Newark-Pompton Turnpike
Route 23, Mountain View, N. J.

resident all of his life, and his son, John, also a resident of the Village, is a musician, as was his father before him, and performed in the orchestra of the Broadway musical production of "Annie" for five years. He has provided musical accompaniment for Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennet, Barbra Striesand and Paul Anka.

POST CARD

COMMUNICATIONS

Planning a Dance? Show?
Party? Wedding?

The right kind of music, mixed with experience & cooperation, can help make your next affair the best ever.

Let's get together and talk about your music problems. Ideas, suggestions and material help are yours for the asking. No obligations. No agent worries.

Phone Hack. 3-5627 or drop a note to

43 Grove St. Ridgefield Park, N. J.

J. W. COFFART PHOTOGRAPHER, N.Y.C.



The Five Musical Messner Brothers in 1933 First row, sitting: Dick, Bill. Standing: Charles, Fred, Johnny

VIC FRAYSSE ORCHESTRA

The Vic Fraysse Orchestra was organized in the fall of 1936, and made its debut December 5, 1936 at the Elks Club playing for the Eastern Star Reception for Matron Eva Feige. The original group was composed of Parkites Charlie Cooper, Johnny Ernst, Pete Schipper, Clint Hough, and Walter Yoekel, together with several Bogota and Little Ferry musicians, and of course Vic Fraysse.

The band was styled to the dancing public along the Les Brown, Goodman, Miller, Dorsey and Ellington type of music, and for a short while the Kenton Progressive Jazz style.

The Rustic Cabin was home for the group where it worked as house band, as well as relief band at Glen Island and Playland Casinos and the Meadowbrook. The World's Fair of 1939 saw the group at the French Pavillion until the outbreak of the war.

While many of the members went off to service and others took defense jobs, the orchestra



1938

continued to function playing proms and other dances at Camp Shanks. In 1945 Vic Fraysse and Orchestra were presented with a scroll from the Stage Door Canteen for its work with service men at Newark and New York Stage Door Canteens, where the band was voted "Favorite Band."

The group celebrates its 50th year in 1986 and continues to provide modern as well as 'Golden Oldies' for the dancing public. Just recently it provided

music and was showcased in a TV pilot, film and became Art Imperatore's private yacht band.

Among the better known musicians who graduated from the band are Chris Connor, top jazz vocalist; Charles Albertine, composer and director of music for Fantasy Island; Don Nelson, producer (Ozzie's kid brother); Johnny Messner Jr., trombonist; Dick Albers, trumpet; Eddy Schlosser, pianist. The latter still performs with the band.



1984



1984



BOGERT WINANT HOUSE — 1793

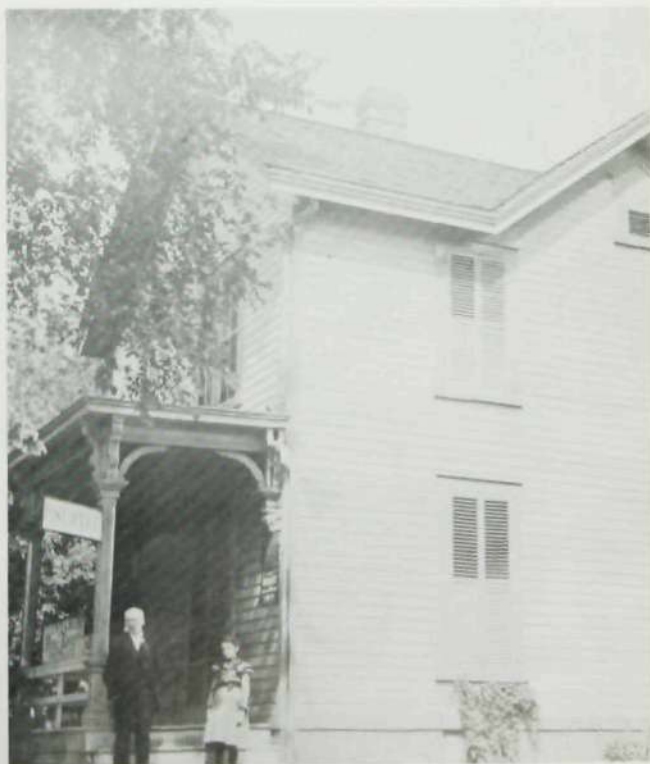
This house at 12 Orchard Street is the second oldest house in Ridgfield Park. (Christie Homestead is older.) Its construction date is circa 1793-1800. Its style is Federal-Greek Revival and it is two and one half stories high with a gable roof and chimneys at both ends. It is an unusual house in southeast Bergen which probably retains no other pre-1850 frame house of this size.

The first documentary reference to this house is found in an 1807 road return for present day Ridgfield Avenue. Jacob C. Bogert was listed as the owner (Bergen County Road Return D-199 April 11, 1807, Bergen County Court House).

The house, or likely the east wing, was probably built by Jacob around 1793, since he was first listed as a property owner in the Hackensack Township tax ratable for that year. Bogert sold the house and eighteen surrounding acres to Daniel Winant in 1839. It is likely Winant built the main block soon after, judging from its Greek revival style porch and doorway. It was in the Winant family until 1891. The present owner is Ms. Cynthia R. Cooney.



Willie Hoppe, National Billiard Champion during the forties, was a resident of Ridgfield Park. He lived in this house on the southwest corner of Mt. Vernon Street and Hudson Avenue. Previous to the Hoppe ownership, it was owned by the Kinkead family. It was probably erected around 1900. The date is uncertain. It is now owned by Ms. Rita Cuozzo.



This is the residence of Mr. George Lowe, which stood on the northeast corner of Mt. Vernon and Main Streets. It served for many years as our Post Office.

PLEASE READ NOTICE ON BOTTOM OF THIS BILL.

RIDGEFIELD PARK, OVERPECK TOWNSHIP

TAX BILL

BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

PAGE *26* **1898** NO

Mr *Lamb Block*

To the VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, OVERPECK TOWNSHIP, Dr

Map of *Western Dr* Acre
Lot No. *269* Lot
Value of Real Estate assessed. \$ *1080.*
Other Personal Property assessed. \$

Less Exemption

TOTAL

County,	Percentage, \$0.35 on \$100	\$ <i>3.78</i>
Bounty and Interest,	.. .05 ..	<i>44</i>
County Poor,	.. .01 ..	<i>11</i>
State School,	.. .17 ..	<i>1.90</i>
Road,	.. .06 ..	<i>64</i>
Village,	.. .44 ..	<i>4.72</i>
Lights,	.. .17 ..	<i>1.81</i>
Special School,	.. .09 ..	<i>74</i>
Fire, Health and Poor,	.. .06 ..	<i>64</i>
Poll used for Lights		<i>1.00</i>
Dog		<i>50</i>
Sidewalk		

TOTAL \$ *23.16*

Costs and Interest

RECEIVED PAYMENT,

Thomas Howe

Collector

The Commissioners of Appeals in cases of Taxation will meet at Town Hall, Ridgefield Park, on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1898, at 10 A. M.

You are requested to pay your taxes before the 20th day of December next, as all delinquents will be returned after that day according to law, or 6 PER CENT PER ANNUM WILL BE ADDED, if not paid.

All taxes assessed on Real Estate not paid by the FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY NEXT will on that day be returned to the County Clerk, according to law, imposing extra cost.

The Collector will receive taxes on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, at his office, Hackensack Road, and every evening from 6 to 9 P. M. until February 1st, 1899.

THOMAS HOWE, Collector,

Ridgefield Park, N. J.

Bring this Bill when you come to pay your Taxes.

NOT VALID
UNLESS STAMPED
BY MACHINE

PAID - F. G. ALVY

total of Taxes

MAY 16 34 02 83 9

BLANKS -

150.09

RECEIPT FOR SECOND HALF 1933 TAXES
DUE DECEMBER 1, 1933
DELINQUENT AFTER
DECEMBER 1, 1933
INTEREST CHARGED AT 6%
FROM THAT DATE

Taxes	<i>146.08</i>
Interest	<i>4.01</i>
Amount Paid	<i>150.09</i>

IN 1898, \$23.10 WAS A LOT OF MONEY. IN 1933, \$292.16 WAS EVEN MORE (NOTE POLL TAX ASSESSMENT ON 1933 BILL). BY 1985, \$2,269.20 IS STILL A LOT OF MONEY.

TAX BILL FOR 1933

BE SURE THIS BILL COVERS YOUR PROPERTY

SEE CHECKS
PAID TO

VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK, N. J.

PAYABLE AT DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND FINANCE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Open Daily, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Saturdays, 9 A.M. to 12M.

E. G. HOYT, Collector of Taxes

John G. Schipper
99 Grand Ave.

OLD NUMBER

NEW NUMBER

PERSONAL

41

Lot 7B-8B-8

Block 40

Lot 16

No.

ASSESSED VALUATIONS

TAXES

lands
buildings
personal Property
total Valuation
temptations
et Taxable Valuation

2065
4270
150
6485
100
6385

Property Tax
at \$4.56 per \$100.00
Poll Tax

291 16
1 00
292 16

AMOUNT DUE

READ OTHER SIDE

RECEIPT FOR FIRST HALF 1933 TAXES

DUE APRIL 1, 1933

DELINQUENT AFTER

JUNE 1, 1933

INTEREST CHARGED AT 6%
FROM THAT DATE

Taxes

Interest

Amount Paid

146 08

146 08

146.00

A Cts -

02528

JUN-233

NOT VALID
UNLESS STAMPED
BY MACHINE

PAID - E. G. HOYT, Collector of Taxes

Village of Ridgefield Park, New Jersey

TAX BILL FOR SECOND HALF 1984
FIRST HALF 1985

LAND	IMPROVEMENTS	EXEMPTIONS	ASSESSED VALUE	GROSS TAX	DEDUCTIONS		NET TOTAL 1984 TAX
					SR	CIT	
22,400	24,100		46,500	2,269.20		50	2,219.20
L 14 50X179 3.56LT							1,024.00
							1,195.20
							1,110.00

Interest at rate of 8% per annum on the first \$1500.00 and 18% on amount in excess of \$1500.00 will be added from payable date to date of payment received.

07660

YOUR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS HAVE NO CONTROL OVER SCHOOL OR COUNTY TAXES.
THIS IS HOW YOUR TAXES ARE DISTRIBUTED.

YOUR TAXES	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	LOCAL SCHOOL	BERGEN COUNTY	SEWER SERVICE*
2,219.20	588.45	1,336.51	294.24	
RATE PER \$100 ASSESSED VAL 4.88	1.2940	2.9390	.6470	
TOTAL TAXES TO BE RAISED 8,518,103.46	2,249,118	5,138,143	1,130,842	62.30

*SEE REVERSE SIDE

JEANNE SPLIETD, TAX COLLECTOR



The "Tin Triangle." The Stephens Store is on the left and the Collins Hotel on the right. This was another of the many hotels along the Bergen Turnpike. It later became known as Bausbacks. It was located on the corner of Ridgfield Avenue at the old railroad tracks. The hotel served meals at all hours and offered stable accommodations, which was an important service in those days.

EDWIN R. STEPHENS

Ridgfield Park has had many success stories throughout the years, but there is one that stands out among the rest. It is the story of an enterprising young man who came to America to fulfill a dream and his great desire to succeed. Edwin R. Stephens was born in Collington, Cornwall, England, on August 10, 1865, and immigrated to the United States in 1888. He first settled in New York State, but later came to New Jersey where he was able to secure a job as a flagman at the lower crossing of the West Shore Railroad in Little Ferry, N.J. at a salary of \$35. per month.

While working at this job, he heard many complaints from commuters about their inability to obtain newspapers, so he went to the

American News Company and ordered twenty newspapers to sell at the station. Thus began a career which made Edwin Stephens a notable figure in the Village.

This enterprising young man set up his business in a building owned by Thomas Brewster, which was situated in what came to be called the "Tin Triangle" on Ridgfield Avenue where the Bergen Turnpike and the old railroad tracks intersect. He circulated about 2,000 newspapers daily, and he steadily increased his volume. He later expanded his store to include an ice cream parlor and card store. Many of the picture postcards that have been reprinted in this volume are credited to Mergler and Stephens. Mr. Stephens went on to become a member of the Executive Board of the National

Association of Newsdealers, Booksellers and Stationers of America.

The business, however, was short-lived. Twenty-one years after its establishment, the building was destroyed by fire in 1913. His wife and children, Richard, 12, Beatrice, 7, and Willie, 5, were rescued with the efforts of the villagers. Mrs. Stephens was able to throw her three-month old daughter out a window into the arms of a waiting fireman. Edwin Stephens lost his life in the fire when he returned to the burning store to rescue two boys who had escaped out a window. Edwin Stephens was much loved in the Village, and his loss was greatly felt.

FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Ozzie Nelson was known nationwide because of his television program, *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. Outside of Ridgefield Park Ozzie's good friend, Joe Cerina, was not well known. However, within the town, Joe Cerina was well known in his own right. Among Joe's many credits is the traditional Knights of Columbus and Masonic ball game played every October in the Village. He and Harry Morrison began the first game over sixty years ago.

Below is a letter written to Joe from Ozzie, dated 1970.

December 8, 1970

Dear Joe:

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending me the picture of old R.P.H.S. Please also extend my thanks to Marden. It makes me feel old to realize that I played football during lunch hour in the schoolyard there before the high school was built. At that time, I was attending School #1 and the High School was in old School #2 across from School #4 in the West View section. I was talking to Al on the phone the other night and it is his recollection that the high school was completed in 1917 or 1918.

I am delighted that you are participating in writing a history of the old town. It is, or at least was, a remarkable community. I'd suggest you contact Al. He has a great memory and I'm sure among you, Hip and Al, you'll be able to come up with some really interesting data.

I'm sure you recall some of the fabulous characters such as Jack the blind man, Willie Platt the town midget & Ed Ewing, the Dean Martin of the old days, whose dog "Bum" used to climb the fire ladder as part of the Fourth of July celebration. Every time Dr. Weigel (I believe it was) or one of the other touring evangelists would appear for a week at the "tabernacle" that would be erected on Mt. Vernon and Main Sts. — on those occasions, old Ed would "hit the trail" and declare himself for Jesus and would sober up for at least two weeks.

Herb Gneiding's father had a horse and carriage that serviced the West Shore and Susquehanna (the Suzie-anna) Railroads. In fact when we moved out to the park in 1911, he hauled us up from the station. We played football on the U.A. Field which was bordered by Euclid and Hudson and Park and Poplar. The high school games were often played there and there was a legend (probably apocryphal) that Reggie Manaco had once hit a home run and had rung the



JOE CERINA



OZZIE NELSON

bell in the Union Church. Sunday baseball was not allowed in R.P. so the Young Men's Club used to play at Martin's Oval as I'm sure you remember. The famous high school battery of Milt and Alec Gaston went up to the big leagues.

The literary field was well represented by William Heyleger (I'm not sure of the spelling) the famous author of boys' books. His book "High Benton" is now considered a classic and the locale for the book (and some of the characters, especially Dr. Elsing) were basically Ridgefield Park.

I'm sure you know that Willie Hoppe, the pool wizard was reputed to be from the park. At least I know his sister was in Al's class and it was rumored that Willie used to shoot pool on Main St. at the old bowling casino where my father once rolled a 289, missing 300 by one pin.

The entertainment industry was especially well represented by Joe Cook, Frank Bacon and Benjamin Chapin (who went around dressed as Abraham Lincoln while he was making movies at his studio at 2nd St. and Central Avenue).

Scouting was very big in the old days in Ridgefield Park. There was a troop affiliated with every church in town. The town was well represented at the First International Boy Scout Jamboree in London in 1920 by George "Ernie" Alberque, Milt Emerson, Harry Fisher, Lawrence MacDonough, my brother Al and myself.

When I was a small boy, we all used to swim in the Hacksensack River. Al and I learned to swim at Merhoff's dock and "the Mulberries" which was a cove just south of the Boat Club. Later our father joined the Boat Club and we swam from there. Occasionally we'd hike south to the end of Teaneck Road where there was a picnic ground "Wharman's Overpeck Park" where there were facilities for swimming and boating and a saloon where a ragtime piano player called "Ragner" Johnson occasionally held forth.

There seems to have been an unusual amount of musical talent around

the park in the early days. As I'm sure you recall, my father used to write, direct and act in most of the minstrel shows which were held in the School #4 auditorium. Al and I appeared in blackface so many times (starting at age 5 or 6) that I can hardly remember them all. "Prof" Dick Ridgeway furnished the music. Most of the kids in our neighborhood took piano lessons from Prof. Hubenreizer or Mrs. Petrie and I took violin lessons from Gaston "Pat" Turian who, at the time, lived in the old Merhoff mansion.

At the end of World War I, Dick Brush, Pat, Si Wygas and Artie Lewis had a really great little jazz band and played most of the dances until 1920 or 1921 when Frank Leithner and I started a group in high school along with Ed Thorgeson who later became a well known NBC radio announcer. A couple of years later, the Messner Brothers started their orchestra with Williard Cottrell and became nationally known through their radio broadcasts from the Hotel McAlpin.

I remember my dad wrote and directed a show for the girls sodality at your church about 1917 or 1918 (it was during World War I) that was really close to professional in calibre. The Mitchell sisters, Louise Yongerman, Hip's sister, Helen Ten Eyke and one of the Hoey girls were all in it and Al and I did an act in the "Olio." We also went up to Camp Merrit in Dumont and put the show on there.

I could probably go on for hours but I'll spare you. However, if there is any information that I can fill in for you or Herb and Helen just drop me a line. I'm sure Al would be most happy to help in any way also.

Meanwhile, the best of happy Holidays to you and yours. Harriet joins me in love to all the Cerinas.

As ever, Ozzie

P.S. I have purposely omitted reference to the later R.P.H.S. athletic teams under Pop Erickson and Carl Biggs as well as the famous K. of C. basketball teams because I surmise that you are even more familiar with those exploits than I am.



First National Bank, organized 1910, later became the Ridgefield Park Trust Company. Bank later moved to the corner of Main and Mt. Vernon Streets, and the original bank is part of Oellerman's Delicatessen. Bank safe is still in the basement of that building.





Central Bergen building, northeast corner of Main and Mt. Vernon Streets; now the Schiff Philatelic Company. At one time, the basement of this building was headquarters for the local Civil Defense. Central Bergen, which was the successor to the old Overpeck Savings and Loan, has moved north on Main Street and is now Palisades Savings and Loan Association.



Old hotel, located on the triangular corner formed by Paulison and Railroad Avenues. It came to be known as Steffen's Hotel. Its last occupant was Gus Duane. It was totally destroyed by fire. It was not the original Ridgefield Park Hotel. That institution stood between Mt. Vernon Street and Grove Street, approximately 200 feet west of Main Street (formerly Old Hackensack Road). Just north of Steffen's Hotel stood the old spring house, from which water was pumped to the original Ridgefield Park Hotel.

PAGEANT OF RIDGEFIELD PARK

By Louise Seward Hanway

*Where the mighty oak and maple
Marked the centuries in passing,
Marked the seasons with their flaunting
Red in autumn, greens and yellow—
Bud and bare bough, tossed in winter—each in turn;
Where the deer once drank at sundown,
Standing in the dusky waters,
With their great eyes soft with dreaming, unafraid;
Where the rivers washed the lowlands
Flowing southward to the sea;
swept by tides from time uncharted,
led by springs long days away;
spreading softly through the marshes—
ebb and flood, since time began:
mirrored moon, and sun, and stormcloud,
took the rain;
Where the marsh grass bent and whispered
running down the wind,
Where the wild geese and the mallards,
wedged against the Autumn sky
wheeled and settled—talked awhile
in their kind's strange, ordered converse,
rose—and falling into pattern, flew away;
Where the gulls before the east wind
presaged storm, their soft, high wailing
drifting with the flood tide, inland,
rested on the quiet waters,
floated, down-like, on the waters,
hidden by the bending grasses,
rested, pondered, rode the ebb-tide to the sea:
There the Redman pitched his wigwam.*

*Wearied by his long migrations,
safe upon the wooded hilltop
where the land stretched plain before him;
guarded by the rivers flowing
south. To west and eastward open,
Here his signal smoke rose plainly,
So the Red Man chose—and wisely,
Found the ridge good ground—
and named it, called it "Haking Sak"—"the good ground".*

*To the juncture of the rivers
All the ancient trails led—land
and water—Kinderkamack and
Awapaugh—all the meetings of The Nations.*

*So the Red Man pitched his wigwam,
lit his campfires, staked his horses,
set his signals on the hilltop.
Hollowed logs, cut from the forest,
set his craft upon the waters
Blazed his trails—and on the lowlands,
sowed his maize, his corn for winter;
made his weapons.*

*Uncounted years the Overpeck
mirrored the dawning day
and the blood red track of the harvest moon
across its waters, lay.
In and out, on its changeless tide,
the slim, hollowed-log canoe of the brave red sons of Oratam
went gliding silently through.*

*There the braves, on scouting duty,
spied the white bird on the water—
great white wings aspread and floating—
flashed the signal. Called the council,
Met the white Man, face to face.*

*Dutch he was, the strange white creature—
bearded full and short of stature;
kind and quiet, speaking fairly,
and the Red Man found him friendly;
spoke in kindly greeting also,
bade him stay.*

There a young and soft-eyed maiden,
 wise beyond her years and times,
 speaking soft her elders' words,
 spoke them in the Red Man's language
 learned from playing with their children,
 learned from sitting with the young squaws,
 heard their converse—learned their ways.
 She it was who, all, translated
 from the white tongue to the red;
 bore the answers to her people,
 was interpreter and friend;
 taught the Indian strange white magic,
 traded skills and stuffs and learning,
 bound the peoples firm together.
 And to her, the fair young maiden,
 deeded they the land for homeing.
 She received, for all her people,
 grant of land from Oratam.

So the Dutchmen, strong and hard,
 scarlet coated, buckle-kneed,
 heavy shod—and all his fellows,
 wives and children, grave and gay—
 settled on the ridge commanding
 meadows, washed by tides.
 There arose red sandstone dwellings,
 there their smoking chimneys stood,
 There their axes in the forest
 Cut all day the winter's wood.

There they tilled and sowed and planted
 There red oxen tilled the loam,
 barns and churches, store and common
 rose beside the Dutchman's home.
 Stand they still, those great stone chimneys
 Bogert, Brinkerhoff and Christie,
 by the river to the westward
 Christie chimneys smoke today.

Grew the village on the ridgetop,
 straddled down the fertile slopings;
 grew, and spread—the small, new village—
 "Hackensack"—
 Grew and spread—and crossed the river,
 and the ridgetown, proud of being,
 called itself "Old Hackensack".
 Sat, content to see the spreading
 Sat, aloof upon its hilltop,
 built more homes along the rivers,
 changed its name to
 Ridgely Park.

The rustling marshgrass whispers still,
 flowing softly on the wind,
 and the wild fowl fill the valley
 with the whirring of their wings.
 Cattails shake their withered stalks
 when the cold north wind comes down.
 And lovely are the marshes when the mallows are in bloom!
 A Disney blue the Overpeck
 beneath October's sky. And moonlight
 shines on the untracked snow
 that's split by silver tides
 as if the years had not passed by
 or, passing, left no trace or any imprint there!

Uncounted years the Overpeck
 has mirrored the dawning day
 and the bloodred track of the harvest moon
 across its waters lay;
 rain and snow and time and tide
 and wars—and peace, God will—
 and the Red Man's ridge, in the white man's care
 is part of history still!

(Written in 1941 for my four children.) In '61==The meadows are changing now! Cattails give way to foxgrass and motels, there are no longer acres of mallows, so pink! And only rarely one sees the swarms of red-winged blackbirds my children loved so dearly. But there are still wild fowl—and gulls—with "soft, high wailing".

(All based on Koehler's *Three Hundred Years*, our family legend, and Smith's *History of New Jersey*, and a 1927 Commemorative Booklet on Ridgely Park.)



Fire Department Marching 1910



American Legion Color

4

TH OF PAST AND



BY PARADE IN 1910 — Mothers, brothers, sisters and fathers took de in participating in the baby parade back in 1910 as they enter floats the Baby Parade on Fourth of July celebration. Shown above is part the parade looking south on Main Street just south of Mt. Vernon St., osite Mergler's Corner. Photo courtesy of Mrs. William Poole.

Baby Parade, 1910



High School Color Guard 1961



Guard 1963

JULY

PRESENT



Commissioner's and their wives 1985



Fourth Of July Committee 1985

MILT BARRY: MAN ABOUT TOWN

In the future when people of the Village read about its history or about events that have taken place here, they will view them mostly through the eyes of Milt Barry. Milt has been reporting news of this community for almost sixty years. He and his wife became residents of Ridgefield Park in 1943 while Milt was still serving in the United States Army. Upon his discharge in 1945, Milt went to work

in the Palisade Park Post Office. He was employed there until his retirement in 1972.

Milt has always had a love for news reporting. He was the Assistant Sports Editor for the Bergen Record from 1930 until 1935, and then transferred to the now defunct New York Journal American as a sports writer.

Milt is always available to assist any local organization that needs publicity

for an activity, or to promote a worthy cause. He has been on many civic committees in the Village, and has been a member of the Fourth of July Committee for thirty-four years.

Milt still attends all the meetings of the Board of Commissioners, civic meetings and Village functions listening and, above all, reporting, these events. Milt Barry and reporting are synonymous in Ridgefield Park.



Milt, meeting one of many deadlines



Last steam train through Ridgfield Park. The Freedom Train crosses the Overpeck Creek Bridge on the West Shore Railroad, April 5, 1975.



*Topping of the Empire State Building
1931*

The men in this picture are placing a weather vane atop the Empire State Building. The man on the left is Louis Schuler, a Ridgfield Park resident and father of present residents Louis Schuler and Catherine Sievers. The folks of the Village were very diversified in their chosen fields of endeavor.



DARKNESS WAS OVER THE WORLD WHEN GOD LIT
THE LIGHT TO SHINE UPON OUR LIFE'S JOURNEY.
JESUS IS THE LIGHT OUR HOPE, AND HE TEACHES US
JESUS SAID: GOD IS LOVE.
IF YE ABIDE IN ME, BUT GOD COMETH
AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, YE DETH HIS LOVE TO
SHALL ASK WHAT WARD IS IN THAT
YE WILL AND IT SHALL WHILE WE WERE YET
BE DONE UNTO YOU. SINNERS, HE HATH DIED
FOR US.
JESUS SAID UNTO HIM: THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD
THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY
STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL THY MIND, THIS IS THE FIRST AND
GREATEST COMMANDMENT: AND THE SECOND IS LIKE UNTO IT,
THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF.

★ JESUS SAID †
COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT
LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LA-
DEN AND I WILL GIVE YOU
REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON
YOU, AND LERN OF ME; FOR
I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HE-
ART: AND YE SHALL FIND
REST UNTO YOUR SOULS.



Lou Rosdahl, Sandy De Leone, and Hatch Rosdahl are pictured here with some of the inlaid plaques made by Nils Peter Rosdahl (father of Louis). Many of these plaques were made and donated for use by the Old Swedish Lutheran Church and Vasa Order of America, reflecting the Scandinavian influence in the Westview section of Ridgefield Park. Other items were made and donated to the Hackensack Hospital, Bergen Pines Building Fund and other worthy organizations.

Sandy DeLeone has been owner and operator of Sandy's Hat Store since 1912. Hatch Rosdahl played football with the Kansas City Chiefs and the New York Jets. Louis Rosdahl came to Ridgefield Park with his parents in 1911. He attended the old wooden schoolhouse on Hackensack Avenue, which was later to become the first High School. He worked at many jobs in the Village, from delivery boy to his opening of the Rosdahl Agency.

The Bakery and Lunch Room pictured here was located where the County Discount store is today. Louis delivered baked goods from this store in his horse-drawn wagon.



HAT FACTORY, Bergen Turnpike and Union Street, 1928. This is now the home of Star Products. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Martha Balala, of Little Ferry.

The Swedish Lutheran Church
(remained standing until the 1970s)

Location: West side of Fifth Street,
about 250 feet south of Central
Avenue.

The line of low trees just beyond the church marks the course of a brook which arose in Teaneck, near Fort Lee Road and Queen Anne Road, flowed southwesterly and emptied into the Hackensack River near the foot of Summit Street. The brook passed through Martin's Woods, which lay north of North Avenue and extended almost to Fort Lee Road. The brook, after passing the Church, wound its way through Duane's Woods, which can be seen as full of trees in the distant background.

The Church was built by our most substantial citizens of Scandinavian descent, who came here in large numbers in the late 80s and early 90s. Like all of our pioneer people, like our pioneers throughout our land, when two or three were gathered together, they recognized that God was in their midst, and with completion of their own homes, a house built to honor God was the very next structure to be raised.



50+ YEAR RESIDENTS

Every effort has been made to make this list of "Half-Century" Village Residents as complete as possible. The list was compiled by Helen and Herb Watson, with assistance from Marge Floyd, Len Hatton, Helen LaTour, Marty Lennart, Rudy LoBoves, Catherine Sievers and Vincent Vena.

July 18, 1985

May Abel
Anthony Accavallo
Anne Dobler Adams
Edward Adams
Helen Engelhardt Agar
James Agar
Michael Agar
Herbert Ahrendt
Edward Alberque
Robert Alberque
Jean Aldighieri
Clara Corti Antonocchio
Jean Thwaites Armstrong
Theodore Armstrong
Mildred Ettell Atkinson
Maude Baier
William Baier
Lydia Baker
Romona Baker
William Bartel
Tecla Jensen Bayer
Margaret Bella
Mary Ripple Belthoff
Frank Berardi
Pearl Beza
Gladys Bieber
Louise Biegel
Henrietta Bisland
Ursula Bock
Judy Boita
Edna Borea
Florence Borea
Anna Boswell
Madeline Boyer
Rose Spinelly Brereton
A. Brizzolaro
Alice Fann Brown
Claire Fechtman Brown
George Guermeyer
Gladys Bugeler
Helen Caldwell
Wesley Caldwell
Frank Callahan
Connie Campbell
Ann Landusky Carlson
Antoinette LoBoves Carlson
Robert Carmen
Arthur Carroll
June Leppia Carroll
Horace Case
Jeanette Cavagnaro
Mae Cavagnaro
Helen Cederberg
Walter Cederlund
Margaret Cerina
Peggy Cerina
Eva Wrede Chakuehian
Herbert Clark
Mary Clark
Vincent Collesano
Charlotte Collins
Joseph Collins

Muriel Draffin Collins
Daniel Colombo
Margaret King Comiso
C. Whitney Conley
Doris Harkins Conley
Harry Conn
Marie McCann Cronin
Maude Crowl
Wesley Crowl
Frank Cunningham
Robert J. Daly
Rose Daly
George Damiano
Dorothy Dassler
Adele Davis
Harry Davis
Leon Denis
Marcel Denis
Doris Brown DeSanto
Austin Devine
Sandy DiLeone
Julia Dobias
Harry Dobler
Anna Fass Donly
Francis J. Dooley
Anita Boylan Dorgan
Ray Douglas
Cass Dudiez
Edna Heck Duemig
Cecilia Mahon Duncan
David Duncan
Haiguie Tozian Eckert
Dorothy Boecherer Ecklin
Victoria Cowie Ettell
William Ettell
Edward Eucker
Edward Eucker, Jr.
Ingrid Merk Fellgraff
Louis Fernandez, Sr.
Mary Reiners Fernandez
Alfred Ferrara
Frank Ferrara
Yvonne Misera Ferrara
Herbert Fleischmann
Marguerite Westerfeld Floyd
Margaret Huber Fogarty
Hazel Wetzelsberg Forsythe
William Forsythe
Carolyn Knapp Franco
Edna Leithner Frattini
Joseph A. Frattini
Harry Freeman
Mildred Eversman Freeman
William Freeman
Eleanor Kramer Friedman
Joseph Fucarino
Martha Johnson Fucarino
Meita Scheter Gabous
Frank Gadelsky
Robert Galbraith
Eileen Maher Garner
Frank J. Garofalow

Rose Garofalow
Teresa Pagliaro Garofalow
Myrtle Lorenz Garrison
William Garrison
Gloria Geiger
Eugenia Gerhold
Gilbert Alberque Gibbs
Ardeth Henry Gilchrist
James Gnecco
Joseph Gnecco
Renee Gaillard Gnecco
Charlotte Gneiding
Janice Gneiding
Richard Gneiding
Frank Going
Doris Gerhardt Graf
Edna Randall Grant
Eileen Gray Graves
Andrew Gray
Charles Gray
Rose Savinsky Gray
Joan Draffin Grimes
Thomas Grimes
Florence Montgomery Guild
Mary Gurski
John Hackett
Joan Heath Hahn
William A. Hahn
George Hamilton
Mamie Hamilton
Edward Hanak
Joan Smith Hanak
Rudolph Hanak
Harry Hansen
Louise Kuhlmann Hansen
Edward Hart
Thomas Hart
Charlotte Augspurger Harvey
Leonard Hatton
Marilyn Cameron Hatton
Marie Gneiding Haynes
John L. Heinemann
Brita Helander
Agnes Henderson
Mabel Kamp Henderson
Al Henrich
Alice Leffler Hespe
Walter R. Hespe
Beatrice Garden Hesse
Harry Hicks
Helmut Hock
Joseph Hock
Paula Hock
Betty Boulanger Houghton
Elsie LaTour Howard
John Howard
Anna Howerton
Robert C. Howerton
Henrietta Donly Huber
John G. Huber
Alfred Hummers
Millicent Hummers

Alfred Humphrey
 Raymond Humphrey
 Walter Humphrey
 George Ingram
 Charles Jacobi
 Eleanor Weber Jacobi
 Yvonne Jane
 Jean Pilat Janiszewski
 Sigmund Janiszewski
 Gwendolyn Phillips Johnson
 John Johnson
 Ethel Pente Jones
 George R. Josefy
 Virginia Keller Kappeler
 Edward Kazyra
 Gloria Colaneri Kazyra
 Walter Kazyra
 Elizabeth Rohr Kelty
 Harry Kelty
 Benjamin Kiasevicz
 Evelyn Burtis King
 Harriet LaTour Kistner
 Edward Knapp
 Josephine Jensen Koch
 Anna Kosco
 Mabel Eckert Kraft
 Freda Kramer
 Herman Kramer
 Clarence Kratz
 Rose Krausz
 Margaret Bride Krebs
 Carl Kruger
 Belle Lande
 Joseph Lande
 Helen Emmets LaTour
 Richard LaTour
 Margaret Lenhardt
 Marie Torella Lennart
 Martin Lennart
 Robert Lenox
 Katherine Lesnewich
 Margaret Lindley
 Margaret Campbell LoBoves
 Rudolph LoBoves
 Catherine Long
 Mildred Lenox Lowe
 Roger Lowe
 Ruth Greiveldinger Lowe
 Casper Lundberg
 Gullie H. Lundberg
 Richard A. Lutz
 Thelma MacAlilay
 Donald MacNeill
 Ruth Mahan
 Dorothy Mahon
 Dorothy Mallery
 Evelyn Fraser Mallery
 Virginia Mallery
 Anne Malley
 Jacqueline Mandragona
 Paolo Mandragona
 Pete Manaut
 Mary Salva Mangano
 Mary Manning
 Yolanda Manolio
 Lois Marshall
 Thomas Marshall
 Wanda Abel Mason
 Grace McCann
 Kathleen McCann
 Clarence McKay
 Rosemary Hitchman McKay
 Ginny Tozian McNulty
 Anna McManus
 Jane McManus
 Jeanette Pente Meehan
 Jacqueline Megone
 Myrtle Mehrhof
 Art Melia

Bridget Melia
 Julia Melia
 Carl Melillo, Sr.
 John Messner
 John Messner, Jr.
 Margaret Davis Messner
Mabel Metz
Ruth Meyer
 Helen Bensel Miller
 Georgie Molineaux
 Frank Monaco
 Helen Lennart Monaco
 James Monaco
 Joseph Monaco
 Grace Campbell Montgomery
 James Montgomery
 Lois Montgomery
 Albert Moran
 John Morris
 Joseph Mueck
 Josephine Myslinecek
 Ann Gray Nagy
 Wayne Nagy
 Howard Newton
 Louise Nollet
 Nellie O'Brien
 Virginia O'Brien
 Frances Moser Oellermann
 John H. Oellermann
 Jeanette Zoda O'Grady
 Sarah Bernelker Olsen
 George Ourfalian
 Agnes Pabian
 Emma Paulson
 Oscar Paulson
 Helen Perrine
 Hilda Reis Persich
 Helen Redean Pfeiffer
 Walter R. Pfister
 Agnes Phillips
 Caryl Phillips
 Anna Piccolo
 Edith Piccolo
 Rose Piccolo
 Cleo Sullivan Pollard
 Patty Powers
 Joan Profita
 Claire O'Brien Purdy
 Mary Dempsey Quinn
 Raymond M. Quinn
 Edward Reinhardt
 Minnie Metzler Renner
 George Reverri
 Mary Burns Reverri
 Agnes Reynolds
 Madeline Westfall Reynolds
 Mae Reynolds
Alice Smith Rheder
 Catherine Swartz Simon Rhodes
 Emma Rhodie
 Helen Wahrman Robinson
 Elvira Fagan Rohlf
 Richard Rohlf
 Walter Rohlf, Jr.
 Ernest Roma
 N. Louis Rosdahl
 Marie Rosiello
 Edith Della Torre Rushby
 Frances Kirby Salva
 Earl Sandberg
 Emily Thwaites Sandberg
 Muriel Miller Sandifer
 Andrew Scheideler, Sr.
 Norma Elliot Ferrie Schenk
 Ruth Arvidson Schilg
 Connie Henrich Schmidt
 Dorothy Schmidt
 Erna Schmidt
 Geneva Arvidson Schmidt

Ernie Schott
 Joseph Schreck
 Leroy V. Schrumpf
 Louis H. Schuler
 Florrie Fox Schultheiss
 Lynn Schwenk
 Jennie M. Scibetta
 Marie Thompson Sheridan
 Esther Canavan Shields
 Catherine Schuler Sievers
 Charles Sievers
 Clair Dutt Smith
 Herbert Smith
 Mary Hunt Sohn
 Thomas Sohn
 Jeane Donley Solch
 Harriet Southand
 Josephine Dorling Spellman
 Lucile Hilpert Watt Spinelly
 Thomas Spinelly
 Eleanor Kaufhold Sperduto
 Victor Sperduto
 Edith Smith Spinosa
 Salvatore Spinosa
 Jeanne Williams Splleidt
 Mary E. Stegmair
 Mildred Stubbe Stephens
 Phyllis Cowie Stephens
 Beverly Simons Stipo
 Helen Stork
 Jack Stork
 Helen Strub
 Robin Thwaites Sweeney
 Gertrude Sweeney Sylvester
 Hank Teel
 Charles Thiel
 George Thompson
 Marie Thompson
 F. Beverly Thorgesen
 Mary McChesney Solheim Tracey
 Carrie Trado
 John Tymon
 Alice Sarder Ulbrich
 Theresa Kelty Van Wettering
 Garrett Van Zandt
 Dorothy Stork Vegar
 Martha Vella
 Gloria Vena
 Vincent F. Vena
 Beverly Halton Vigorito
 Charles Vigorito
 Bonita Wiley Vogt
 Ross S. Vogt
 Lillian Pabian Waggoner
 William Waggoner
 William A. Wagner
 Sophie Johnson Wahl
 Ella Watson Wallace
 Albert R. Ward
 Helen Schult Watson
 Herbert Watson
 Joseph Watson
 Oswald Weber
 Marie Wenzel
 Edna Davis White
 Helen H. Wintringham
 Edward Yotka
 Frances Vena Yotka
 Frank Yotka
 Walter Yotka
 Harry Young
 Howard G. Zimmermann
 Mary Pasquale Zottarelli

MAYORS



ERNEST WEBBON



ADOLPH DEXHEIMER



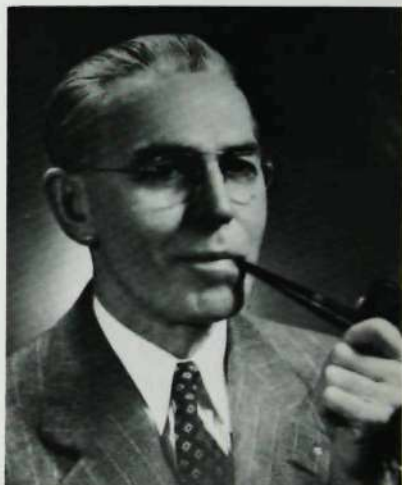
WILLIAM HUNTER



HUGH MCGOWAN



ARTHUR KNEERIM



HERBERT LOWE



ROSS VOGT



GEORGE WAGNER



GERALD MONAGHAN

MAYORS

1912-1916
1916-1920
1920-1924
1924-1932
1932-1936
1936-1948
1948-1952
1952-1953
1953-1960
1960-1962
1962-1964
1964-1968
1968-1980
1980-

Ernest Webbon
Adolph Dexheimer
William Hunter
Hugh McGowan
Arthur Kneerim
Herbert Lowe
Ross Vogt
George Wagner
Ross Vogt
Gerald Monaghan
Lawrence Musella
William Wagner
Gilbert Gibbs
Fred Criscuolo



LAWRENCE MUSELLA



WILLIAM WAGNER



GILBERT GIBBS

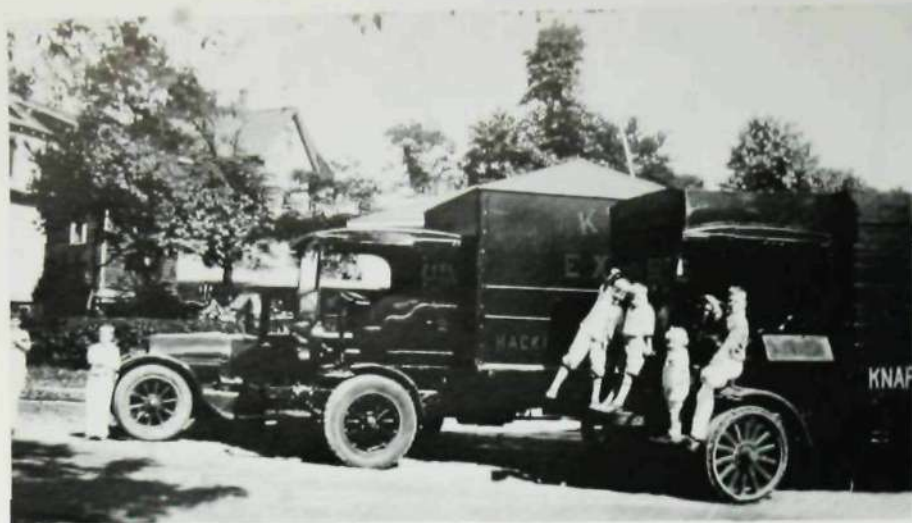


Three men who served as mayors of Ridgefield Park lead the Fire Department in the 1952 NJ and NY Volunteer Firemen's Association Parade in Maywood. Left to right: Mayor Ross Vogt (1948-1952, 1953-1960), Mayor George F. Wagner (1952-1953), Mayor Herbert Lowe (1936-1948). Leading the Fire Department is Chief Joseph Floyd and between Mayor Wagner and Mayor Lowe is Assistant Chief Frank Kenison.



FRED CRISCUOLO

GETTING TO



Knapp's truck in 1924 with his sons George and Edward and neighborhood friends.

Knapp's Trucking located on Emerson Street started business in Ridgefield Park in 1924. Mr. Edward Knapp left New York and started business in town with one truck. His business has expanded to over 15 trucks making rug deliveries throughout the east coast.

In 1942 and 1943 Mr. Knapp Sr. escorted some young ladies from the Village to Veterans hospitals in the area to visit the wounded service men. His oldest son George was killed in World War II. His sons Edward and Jack and daughter Carolyn still reside in town. Many of the Knapp children and grandchildren have been active in sports in the village.



Kern's Store as it looked in the 1920's.

Kern's store located on Paulson Avenue, served the neighborhood for many years as a grocery store, meat market and general merchandise. Today the building is an apartment house. Mrs. Boyer, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kern still resides in Ridgefield Park.

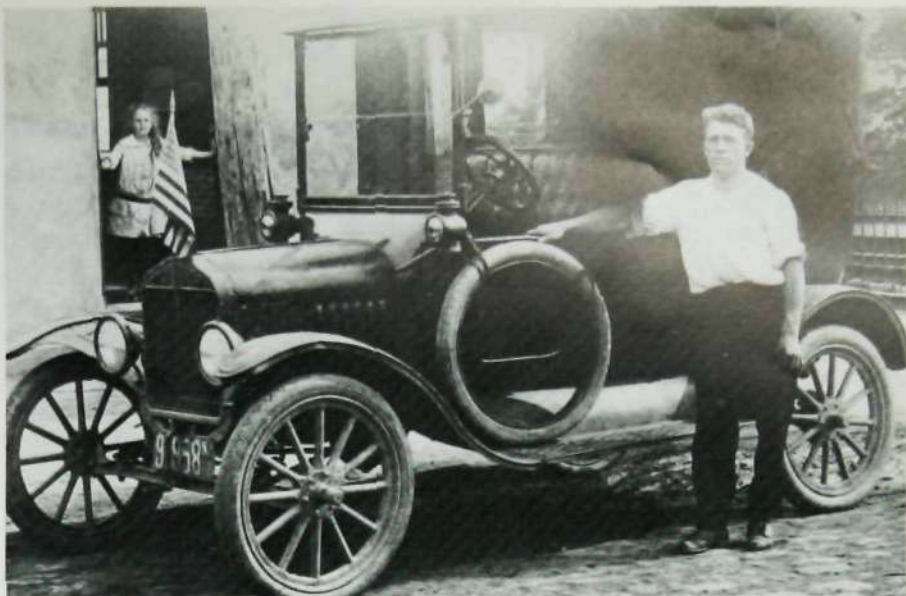


One of the milk wagons that delivered milk in Ridgefield Park. C. P. Seeley's Milk Wagon as it looked in 1912. This picture was through the kindness of Mrs. W. Garrison, granddaughter of Mr. C. P. Seeley. Mrs. Garrison still resides in our town.

DOWN BUSINESS

Gneiding's Hack Service

one of the early businessmen in the Village ran a hack service from the train station. The Gneiding Family also had a moving business, that is still in existence today with members of the family running it. The Gneidings had a large family and were early settlers in the village. The first service man in World War I to be killed was a Gneiding and the same thing happened again in World War II with the first casualty again, a Gneiding from Ridgefield Park.



Thomas Taranto Specialty Box Manufacturing Co.

opened for business in 1914 after moving here from New York where the business started in 1908. Four generations have worked in this business over the years, and are still active. The picture was taken in 1935 and supplied by Mrs. Balala of Little Ferry who worked in the factory until she retired. She is one of the ladies in the picture.



Wrede & Koop's Soda Parlor as it looked on Main Street. This was the meeting place for business men of Main Street and a place to meet after football games. At one time Ozzie Nelson worked in this store as a "Soda Jerk" After many years it became a luncheonette and went out of business in the late 70's. Today it is a store that sells baby supplies.



LOCAL HISTORIANS

FRANK AMBROSE MORRISON



FRANK A. MORRISON

Frank Morrison was born in Ridgefield Park January 30th, 1889. He attended Ridgefield Park public schools, and was graduated from Rutgers in 1909 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He then went to New York Law School where he received a Bachelor of Laws Degree and was admitted to the Bar as an Attorney and Counsellor at Law in New York in 1911. In 1915 he was to practice law in New Jersey. Frank Morrison married Althea Edna Koeller at Bound Brook, New Jersey, in 1915, they had one son Frank Alfred Morrison born September 28, 1924.

Mr. Morrison was active in the Boy Scouts, the Rotary Club, and he was a member of Fire Company #1. He was a member of the Bergen County and the New Jersey Historical Societies. A member of the Bergen County and the New Jersey Law Associations. Real Estate was his specialty, and it was the searching of early deeds that led to his interest in local history. The study of Indian lore and artifacts were his abiding hobby. We are greatly indebted to Frank Morrison for much of the material in this book. His love for Ridgefield Park transcends time, and we are glad he passed this way. Mr. Morrison died April 17, 1947. It is fitting we close with one of his quotes. "Don't forget all these organizations keep minutes to waste hours".

"HIP" MURPHY



'HIP' MURPHY

Harry P. Murphy is recognized as having been the foremost authority on the history of the Village of Ridgefield Park. Born on Lincoln Avenue, September 10, 1900, "Hip", as he was known, attended Village schools, including the High School when it was located on 8th Street and Hackensack Avenue, where he was a member of one of the early football teams. After graduating, he entered the insurance business with his father and brother, later establishing his own office on Main Street.

Hip's life was marked by boundless enthusiasm for Ridgefield Park and everything associated with Ridgefield Park. An active Rotarian, Hip exemplified the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." Through the Rotary Club and with the cooperation of the old Ridgefield Park Trust Company, Hip put together a slide program on the Village's history and this program is still shown today. Many of the photos in this book are part of the slide program.

In addition to serving for many years as Chairman of the Barbier Scholarship Fund, Hip was also Chairman of the Central Bergen Savings & Loan Association, (now Palisades Savings and Loan). In the halls and offices of that bank at 245 Main Street are many photos of early Ridgefield Park which Hip over the years collected and painstakingly had restored. These early pictures will serve forever as a tribute and memorial to Harry P. Murphy, a man who loved Ridgefield Park.

When he died, May 25, 1982, hundreds of present and former Village residents gathered to pay respects to "Mr. Ridgefield Park."



One of the many farms in the Village at the turn of the century was the Lindley Farm. It was bounded on the south by Winant Avenue, now Route #46, Ridgefield Avenue Overpeck Creek and the Hackensack River. After Thomas Lindley sold his farm he dug foundations to support his very large family. He bought a home on Hudson Avenue. He was a member of Hook and Ladder #1 for thirty years. He and his wife Mary Ann are pictured here with fourteen of their sixteen children.

Standing from left to right

Peter, Emma, Frances, John, Adelaide, Russell, Jane, Harry, Florence, Jacob, Annie, Elizabeth, Abraham and Edna.

Sitting left to right

Thomas Richard Jr. Mary Ann Lindley, Thomas Richard Lindley Sr. Mary Jane.

Not pictured are George and Clara Lindley.



DR. WILLIAM F. FITZHUGH

Dr. William Fitzhugh came to Ridgefield Park in the late 1920s, opening a general practice that spanned over forty years. During that time he served the Village as the school doctor and football team physician for many years, as well as medical advisor for the board of health and surgeon for the police and fire departments.

Many residents remember him well for his efforts in obtaining admittance of Village students to his Alma Mater, William and Mary College in Williamsburg, VA, and for assisting in job placements in Lever Brothers Company, where he served as plant physician for over thirty years.

His "Hi'ya all?", cigar, crunched hat and casual manner are remembered by many villagers with affection.



Wading Pool, Veterans Park

Win or Lose Committee Testimonial Dinner

To the

Ridgefield Park N. N. J. I. L. Co-Champions
Basketball - - 1949-50



Saturday, April 1, 1950

Ridgefield Park Civic Center

Program from Win or Lose Committee Testimonial Dinner honoring the 1949-50 N.N.J.I.L. Co-Champions.

Pictured on the cover are: Front Row: Jimmy Elvin, Coach Frank Bell, Arthur Lesemann Back Row: Rich Thompson, Wilfred Arndt, Jimmy Gleckner, Carl Frei

The Win or Lose Committee was formed by citizens interested in athletic teams at Ridgefield Park High School. Teams were honored each year at a Testimonial Dinner at which time awards were presented to the athletes for their participation in a chosen sport, whether it was a winning or losing season.

A long-time member of the committee was Joseph S. Floyd, who was also a former Fire Department Fire Chief.

DEDICATION OF THE CHRISTIE HOMESTEAD

L/R CHERYL HERMAN (owner), REGINALD
MCMAHON (BERGEN COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY) FRANK ROMANO (HISTORY
CHAIRMAN) FRED CRISCUOLO (MAYOR),
VIRGINIA KAPPELER, (CHAIRMAN OF
BRINKERHOFF REUNION).



BRINKERHOFF PARADE AUGUST 24, 1985



MEMBERS OF THE BRINKERHOFF
FAMILY



Linda Hull was the winner of the Village Tercentennial Logo Contest. She received a Fifty dollar savings bond, and her logo was used for bumper stickers, mugs, T-shirts, and the Tercentennial Banner which hung across Main Street at Mr. Vernon for the year 1985. Congratulations Linda.



LINDA HULL



Seating L/R. Nadine Herrunzie, Dolores Perazzo Frank Romano, Virginia Kappeler, Beverly Vigorito, Ed Coyle, Theresa Cahill, Ed Campbell, Standing L/R. Peter Monchino, Sue Adams, Terri Boos, Teresa McDonough, Connie Vecchione, Joan Grimes, Helen Holly, Harry Welte, Bob Lenox, Ross Vogt, Lou Fernandez, Tom Grater.

Ed Coyle - Chairman
Ross Vogt - Co Chairman
Doris Conley - Treasurer
Nadine Herrunzie - Secretary.
Historic/Parade

Frank Romano - Chairman
George Fosdick-Editor, Diane Romano, Helen Watson, N. Louis Rosdahl, Ed Palange, Doris Conley, Peter Puleio, Tony Salerno, Harry Welte, Susan Vena, Peter Monchino, Frank Terranella Joan Grimes, Virginia Kappeler, C. Whitney Conley

Fund Raising
Ed Campbell - Chairman

Journal
Terry Cahill - Chairman
Terri Boos, Mary Beth Clark,
Connie Vecchione, Sue Adams

Publicity
Peter Monchino - Chairman
Terry McDonough, Kathy Seymour,
Ika Van Staverne, Patricia Monchino
Alison Davis

Dinner Dance - Dolores Perazzo-Chairman
Fraternal Organizations - Lou Fernandez-Chairman
Civic Organizations - Beverly Vigorito-Chairman
Village-Harry Welte-Chairman.



Some committee members for fourth of July parade. Mary Beth Clark, Peter Monchino, Brian Monchino, Dolores Perazzo, Renska Van Staverne, Ika Van Staverne, Terri Boos, Connie Vecchione.

HISTORY COMMITTEE



Seated left to right: Susan Vena, Peter Monchino, Frank Terranella, Helen Watson, Herb Watson, Joan Grimes, Virginia Kappeler, Standing L/R: Doris Conley, C. Whitney Conley, Frank Romano (chairman) George Fosdick (Editor), Peter Puleio, Diane Romano, Tom Grimes.



Ed Palange



Deadline to meet.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Whether you call it a *Democracy* or a *Republic*, whether you judge its benefits by the car in your garage or by freedom to worship at the church of your choice, by the food on your table or by your freedom to speak out in public without fear, you are living under a system of government based on the dignity and freedom of the individual that derives its power from the bottom up rather than from the top down.

This system of living together has been achieved after generations of struggle against the doctrine that some men have the inherent right to rule others. It is based on the oldest written constitution in the world still in force. It has been preserved through great human sacrifice.

Like the sun in the sky and the cream in your coffee, the continuation of this system is too often taken for granted. Let us be warned! Today, in other

parts of the world, its flaws are *being exaggerated* and its benefits minimized. At home its blood stream is weakened by indifference, neglect and cynicism.

The time for rededication has arrived. Personal, active participation in the affairs of the nation, the state, the city and the community by all citizens of good will and public spirit is our only safeguard for the freedoms we have won so dearly.

Clearly, we must work at democracy to make democracy work. We must work for freedom that works for us.

During the year of 1985 it has been our great pleasure to share a year-long celebration of the 300th anniversary of the first white settlers to our Village. It has been a year when our elected officials, Village volunteers, the school and church officials and citizens of this Village have exhibited magnificent cooperation and dedication in a splendid cause.

The results of these efforts have borne success, so we'd like to thank all the people who have made this possible.

As 1986 approaches, a new challenge is posed. Will you rest on your laurels, or will you continue to strive to improve our way of life? Democracy needs everyone's effort. Freedom, with peace and justice, is our obligation. Good will, understanding and love can be accomplished by practice.

People of Ridgefield Park, you have the opportunity to become the greatest and the finest community in the United States of America if you will accept that challenge. It requires only dedication, desire and a great effort to accomplish.

Well, where do we go from here?

ROSS S. VOGT
Honorary Chairman,
Tercentennial
Committee
Mayor: 1948-52;
1953-60

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Santa Barbara

August 23, 1985

To the Citizens of
Ridgefield Park, New Jersey:

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those gathered to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Ridgefield Park.

The spirit which has built and sustained your community reflects the energy which has forged America into a land of wonder. As a community held by fellowship and goodwill, Ridgefield Park has become "home" to many who love it dearly. Further, it stands as an example of the blessings of liberty and freedom to those around the world.

My hearty congratulations on this proud, historic occasion and my best wishes in the years to come.

Ronald Reagan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With the blessing and support of the Tercentennial Committee, preparation for this book began in Spring 1984. Initially the Committee thought it could prepare a complete history of the Village. It was soon discovered that to prepare such a comprehensive document would require more time and research than was available to us. After several exploratory sessions, a format consisting of a narrative history of the Village's development was adopted. The narratives are accompanied by photographs, when available.

One of the earliest problems was to secure a printer willing to undertake such a project. Fortunately Mr. Edward Michels, whose high school history students prepared much of the research in the book, recommended Jostens Publishing Company. Jostens is responsible for printing the Ridgefield Park High School yearbook, *The Idler*. Mr. Joseph Verniero, Jostens representative, provided invaluable counsel throughout this project.

There have been some disappointments. To the best of our ability we tried to contact every organization in town for its history. Two letters were sent out, personal contact was made, stories were published in the local papers, but still some organizations did not respond. Another disappointment was being unable to include all of the material given to us. Complete books could be written on some areas that we mention in passing but, again, we have tried to cover as much as possible so readers could get a flavor of what our Village is all about.

Special recognition must be given to the First Baptist Church, where all our meetings have been held. The church not only allowed us full use of the hall, but we used tables, closets and storage areas to keep all the documents that went into preparing this book.

Many people have come forward with documents, photographs, anecdotes and details, which have found their way into these pages. At the risk of offending some whose names may have been overlooked, we would like to thank the following people who have contributed to this history book:

Marion Arabito
Mrs. Balala
Dee Morrison Booth
Marilyn Boulanger
Madeline Boyer
Ray Brower
Gladys Bugler
Carol Campbell
June Carroll
Marge Cerina
Ruth Cleveland
Doris Conley
Whitney Conley
Fred Criscuolo
Tom Criscuolo
John DeCarlo
Harold Dexheimer
Dorothy Ecklin
First Baptist Church
Carolyn Franco
Michael Gabel
Frank Garofalow
Myrtle Garrison

Gil Gibbs
Gneiding Family
Tom Grimes
Florence Guild
Harry Hansen
Leonard Hatton
Edward Hill
Ray Humphrey
Walter Humphrey
Virginia Kappeler
Ed Knapp
Jerry Komarek
Martin Lennart
Rudy LoBoves
Mildred Lowe
Reginald McMahon
Myrtle Mehrhof
Marge Messner
Bianca Miller
Frances Oellermann
Al Paglione
Cyril Phillips
Cleo Pollard

Hilda Persich
Dean Ramon
Edward Reinhardt
Ridgefield Park High School
Ridgefield Park Library
Diane Romano
Louis Rosdahl
Howard Rose
Catherine Sievers
Dolly Stork
George Stork
Jack Stork
Thomas Taranto
Carl Tenny
Dot Tenny
Charles Thiel
Vincent Vena
Bonnie Vogt
Ross Vogt
Helen Watson
Herb Watson
Esther Weil

The following students from the Ridgefield Park High School have participated in the Tercentennial research under the direction of Mr. Edward Michels:

Arlene Altounian
Patricia Brown
MaryBeth Ehalt
Solaiman Faizi
Susan Fox

Ann Hayden
Steven Hicks
Kenneth Jeanos
Judy Noll

Tim Rahmes
Andrew Roberts
Mona Schultz
Steven Sussenbach

The History Book Committee has worked long and hard to prepare this book. During the year 1985 we met once or twice a week, including weekends, to prepare and edit copy, select photographs, and plan layout. Our special thanks to Mr. Frank Terranella, who had experience as a journalist, and prepared the layouts. He was ably assisted by Mr. Peter Monchino and Ms. Susan Vena.

HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE

Frank Romano, Chairman

George Fosdick, Editor

LAYOUTS

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Susan Vena
Peter Monchino

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C Whitney Conley
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Peter Puleio
Helen Watson
Herb Watson

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Diane Romano
Lois Montgomery
Ed Hill

TYPISTS

Mary Brandt
Susan Fosdick
Joan Grimes
Diane Romano
Frances Romano

Finally, to all the residents of Ridgefield Park, present and former, who have made this book a "sell out" before it went to press, we hope you are pleased with the product. We live in a great community, one which senses its roots but never lets the past obstruct a vision of a still brighter future. Thank you all for making Ridgefield Park what it was, what it is, and what it will become.

"God Bless America and God Bless Ridgefield Park".

The History Book Committee