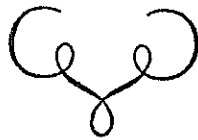


OAKLAND

Over the Years

1902 - 1988



Alexander Potash



ALEXANDER POTASH

THE AUTHOR

Alexander Potash was born in Harlem, New York City, on December 26, 1899. His parents were Max and Charlotte. He attended elementary school in Brooklyn but at the time he reached the third grade his parents moved to Paterson, where he graduated from school number four, in 1915. He then immediately went to work to help support the family.

He spent the next eighteen years on the Erie Railroad, leaving the railroad at a time when he was Superintendent of the railroad warehouse. He then went to work as manager of the Park Avenue Moving and Furniture Storage Company in Newark.

In 1937 he decided to work for himself and borrowed \$75.00 to buy a rack truck to haul topsoil and dirt. He had to shovel the topsoil and dirt by hand on to the truck, and it not being a dump truck, when he got to the point of delivery he had to shovel the topsoil and dirt off by hand.

The firm "Alexander Potash and Sons, Inc." grew rapidly, acquiring dump trucks, bulldozers, power shovels, road graders, pavement rollers, and so forth. All this was accomplished with the help of three sons: Jim, Bill and Ed; and larger and larger projects, primarily site improvement work, were taken on.

At the time he was working on the railroad he met Velma Alice Safford. They were married on Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, 1925. They spent fifty-six years together until her passing on May 5, 1981.

On May the first, 1927, Al and his Velma and one child moved to Oakland. He immediately became involved in the Borough of Oakland's affairs.

THE AUTHOR'S PUBLIC RECORD

Member of the Oakland Volunteer Fire Dept.
President of the Oakland Fire Department.
President of the Chamber of Commerce.
Tax Assessor for 21 years, at \$100.00 per year.
Councilman for 3 years.
Mayor for 8 years.

Running concurrently with the mayor's term of office:
A voting member of the planning board 8 years, and
a voting member of the library board for 8 years.
Chairman of the Committee to Celebrate Oakland's
70th, 75th and 80th anniversaries.
Voted by the then Mayor and Council in 1983 as
Oakland's Number One Citizen.
Served on many other diversified committees on
Oakland affairs.

THE POTASH FAMILY

On May the first, 1987 the Potash family will have lived
in Oakland sixty years.

The family began with the father Alexander, and the
mother, Velma, four sons and two daughters; James Robert, William
A., C. Edwin, F. Eleanor, Carol Ann, and David Henry. Since then
nineteen grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren followed.
The air in Oakland certainly must have been good for the rapid
increase in the family.

SIXTY YEARS AGO; How Oakland looked when we came here.

We lived in Union City, where our first child, Jimmy, was
born. It was close to my work on the railroad at that particular
time, at the Weehauken docks. We lived on the fifth floor, with a
self-operating elevator, and I brought home one day a package of
limburger cheese, which I like. Velma took one whiff of it and
put it out on the fire escape. The next day she caught little
Jimmy trying to get out on the fire escape and said to me: "We
have to get out of here".

Since I worked on the railroad at that time, it didn't
make much difference where we went for I got free transportation,
so we decided to go out about twenty-five miles in New Jersey. We
took the Susquehanna Railroad that had fine passenger service in

COMMENTS AS OF 4/16/98

those days. We got off the train in Oakland. Velma looked around and said to me "Al, I like this town, it reminds me of New Hampshire".

Where the Citizens National Bank now is, ^{YAPOW AVE} was a very short spur of a street called Sanders Alley. There was one wooden building, two stories high, with four families in it. Then a long wooden structure with three apartments, then the main building with the home of the landlords, Mr. and Mrs. Al Sanders. You wouldn't want to meet finer people. They had two children, Hazel and Al, and a beautiful German Shepherd dog called Flash. It was a beautiful animal.

We rented the middle apartment. It consisted of a living room, kitchen and two bedrooms upstairs. There was no central heating system. We had a large pot stove in the living room and a kitchen range. Both burned coal. The only heat to the bedrooms was whatever found its way upstairs from the pot stove. The rent was \$22.00 a month.

Our first night in Oakland in our new home, there in Sanders Alley; one might visualize that the railroad ran diagonally past our apartment. Well, we went to bed. There was one light overhead. I was awakened during the night with the covers flying off me, and hearing a thump. I reached up, put the light on. Velma was on the floor, with Jimmy in her arms. I asked what happened, well, she said, "I was dreaming as the train went by that we were on the tracks." I said "yes, but you left me on the tracks". All was peaceful the other evenings after that.

In back of the house were all open fields. Jimmy would want a slice of bread and jelly or a slice of bread and peanut butter, but he would always ask for two slices. Velma watched him one day as he went out in the fields and she noticed that Jimmy gave the second slice to Flash, the German Shepherd dog. So whenever you wanted to see where Jimmy was all you had to do was look for the dog.

I came home from work one evening and Velma said, "Jimmy's out in the field. I've been calling him to come in but he pays no attention to me". So I started out in the field after him, but Flash the dog always placed himself between Jimmy and myself and I could not get near him.

Alongside the field was another large tract of land. It was an apple orchard and boys usually went there to get an apple or two. Seeing the boys, Jimmy wandered in there one day, and the owner chased them all out. Little Jimmy couldn't run very fast,

but everytime the owner got near Jimmy, Flash the dog was between them. It was really beautiful.

There were only three paved streets at that time, Long Hill Road, Ramapo Valley Road, and Franklin Avenue. They were all county roads. West Oakland Avenue was just a little dirt road. If the town during dry spells did not place dust oil on the road, residents used to come out to council meetings and vigorously complain and also did not hesitate to let the council know they would remember it come Election Day.

During school vacation you would see a great many of the children of the community running around barefoot. Oakland's children learned to swim in the Ramapo River. You could stand on the West Oakland Avenue Bridge, look down, and see the bottom of the river. The water was that clear. Shame, the way it is today.

The firehouse, located on Yawpo Avenue, was two stories high. The upper story was a fair sized hall, and it was there that all the borough council meetings were held. It was also used for all social gatherings, whatever social clubs existed met there, masquerade dances and so forth. One masquerade, I went down to Paterson and rented a full dress suit, high hat, tails and all the rest. Velma made up a sign which read "Absent-Minded!" and placed it on the back of my jacket. I left the pants off and went to the masquerade dance. Well, I won first prize, which was one dollar.

We all had a lot of fun. Of course pretty near everybody knew one another. There were only eight hundred people in the town. The only church was the Ponds and at that time there was just the wooden structure, but it seemed that all denominations went to services. Velma's mother was a Sunday School teacher at Ponds, our children attended, and in later years our daughter Carol Ann played the church organ.

There was one general store. It was located in a building on the corner of Route 202 and Station Plaza. It was there that you bought all your groceries. All other shopping that you had to do, you had to go to Pompton Lakes. In those days Pompton Lakes was the central shopping area for the surrounding towns, until the towns grew and they acquired their own supermarkets.

Back then Oakland was the summer place for folks coming from Jersey City, New York City, and so forth. The Susquehanna Railroad ran special trains to accommodate the summer visitors, for there were four beaches on the Ramapo River. There were

1927

Bush GenStore - WISCONSIN -
NOW M^cNALLY / DR. KOCK

Mullers, Sandy Beach, Oakland Beach, and White Birch. The people would come out by the hundreds on weekends. The residents would accommodate them for overnight stays charging a dollar and a half.

There was just one school at that time, and that was the brick building that is now the front of the Valley School, with ivy climbing up the wall. Oakland Grammar School graduates had to attend high school in Pompton Lakes. Students from Midland Park also attended Pompton Lakes High. The students were transported by train to Pompton Lakes and the same way home.

It was a beautiful time in a beautiful little country town to be raising your family. As the years rolled by you saw it changing. We are told that it is progress, but it really sometimes destroys something that is very beautiful.

EARLY INDIAN LORE

The Lenni Lenape Indians were the original people of New Jersey, settling in the state between 975 and 1000 a.d. Peaceful by nature, they practiced a form of democracy with a popular government. Their chiefs or sachems were elected. They were also religious, worshipping a great spirit -- a shadow that lives beyond the body. They were monogamous, kind, and hospitable. Conquered by the six nations of the Iroquois, they were made to do the work of women re-winning their freedom in 1761. By 1786 there were none East of the Alleghenys.

The Lenni Lenapes knew Oakland as "Yawpo" (a phonetic spelling) and it was principally their hunting and fishing grounds. Quite probably it was the name of a Minnisink chieftain who signed deeds of some of the early settlers. The name Yawpo when analyzed and taken back to its root words used by the Indians had to do the water, particularly still water or more literally a pond. Hence Yawpo means, in all probability, "on the edge of a pond". The chieftain may have obtained his name from having lived on the edge of a pond. There were ponds enough -- some 14 along the course of the outlet to Franklin Lakes alone -- to make this theory possible.

It should be remembered that the Indians had no alphabet. There were many dialects and their names were further corrupted by the influence and translations of the early Dutch settlers. Indian names were always descriptive and were built around a feature which characterized the locality.

Oakland's early settlers were Dutch and came to the area in 1700. Familiar names were Bogart, Van Allen and Garrison. The Ponds church was established in 1710 in the area known as "The Ponds" at the corner of Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) and Long Hill Road (Franklin Lakes Road). Yawpo was more generally applied to the country North of that corner including the present center of Oakland. The name Oakland was a compromise reached by early settlers when the Susquehanna Railroad came there in 1869. It was then known as new Jersey Midland Railroad. Until that time, Oakland, as we know it today, was always known as "Yawpo" or "The Ponds".

The closest interpretation of the word "Ramapo" is slanting rock or rugged country where the water falls. It was originally applied to the valley running between Suffern and Luxedo, although the mountains and the river are referred to by that name on Revolutionary maps. The valley between Suffern and Pompton was usually referred to as the "Yawpo Valley". In

Colonial times, Ramapo invariably meant the territory around Ramapo, New York.

Now let us look at some other local and regional names of Indian derivation bearing in mind that transition from spoken to written word with the influence of centuries of change:

- Hohokus - Hokus meaning fox -- Mehohokus -- Place of many foxes.
- Paramus - Paraow of Parampseapus -- Wild turkey, most likely the call of the wild turkey.
- Tuxedo - Atuksitok -- Deer or where the deer are.
- Preakness - Pilkik and Ukunees -- A clean, young buck deer. Preakness was always considered great deer hunting ground in the early years.
- Singac - Skingacki -- A low, level place where water flows over sometimes.
- Hopatcong - Honey waters with many bays.
- Sicomac - A burial place.
- Wagaraw - Big bend in a stream.
- Acquackononk - (Forerunner of Passaic) Where one fishes with a net, specifically a bush net.
- Passaic - Pash -- to split. Where the water divides.
- Seacaucus - Saukus -- meaning snake.
- Hackensack - Many, many spellings for this name meaning land of many snakes.
- Hoboken - A pipe or peace pipe.
- Moonachie - Where badgers live.
- Campgaw - Kaaki Gawi -- Goose and the hedgehog. Land of the goose and the hedgehog.
- Pequannock - Broken ground where Indians farmed.

Wynockie - (Now corrupted to Wanaque) Winak-aki --
Place where sassafras grows.

Winbeam - Wimb-bi-moshi -- meaning lone tree on a
mountain.

Macopin - The pumpkin patch from Macopanacken.

Pompton - Place to catch soft fish or suckers.

Mahwah - Maa-eway -- Smiling fields -- a place for
games and picnicking.

Ashenmakapuck - Now Glen Rock. Place of the big
stone.

Communipaw - Over the river.

Lotowa - le-te-weh. The land in between -- probably
between mountains and rivers.

Wyckoff - Most likely a Dutch name from Wyck-- meaning
a magistrate of Hoff -- a court. But a
case can be made for Indian derivation
from Wik-hof meaning high ground.

I would like to thank Henry Gale McNomee for keeping the
notes and references needed to complete the above information.

THE BLIZZARD OF 1888 IN OAKLAND

I am not going to say too much about this as it has been told so often, but I was eleven years old at the time and remember it quite well.

It started on the 12th day of March 1888 and snowed and the wind blew for three days and two nights. The little house where we lived at that time is the house recently owned by Charles and Edna Howard near the gas station opposite Powder Mill Lane. It seemed at times as if you could feel the house sway with the wind. At that time we had no furnace or heat in the house except the kitchen coal stove for cooking and when that went out at night there was not heat whatever and no storm windows. I used to wake up often in the morning and shake the snow off the bed blankets, I believe they said there was between 20 and 25 inches of snow fall in it was on a level, but the wind blew so hard that it piled the snow in drifts in some places as high as 12 feet and in other places there was almost bare ground. There were no hard surfaced roads at that time, nothing but dirt, ungraded roads. There was a slight hill right in front of where we lived and the hill by the entrance of Allerman Road and the snow laid on a level from hill to hill about four or five feet deep. There were drifts from eight to twelve feet all over, but here and there where the wind had a clean sweep, it would be down to almost bare ground. The railroad from just above the crossing by the Oakland station all the way up to where Oakland Coal & Lumber Company is located, the snow lay on a level from bank to bank some places as deep as six or seven feet. It took the railroad company two weeks to plow it open with an engine and snow plow from Butler to Paterson. The engine would go back on the cleared track about two or three hundred feet and then let the engine go at full speed when it hit the snow bank it would only go about fifty feet and then get stuck in the snow. They had a gang of men there to shovel the engine out so that it could make another run. On the wagon roads they had gangs of men to shovel it by hand and a team of horses and bobsleds to cart the men around.

One incident that my sister and I witnessed was, Judge Aaron G. Garrison, his son Peter and another man made snow shoes out of shingles. The Judge at that time owned the farm and house up the Valley where Jack Heavey now lives, and he wanted to get up there to see how his live stock was. So the three started with their snow shoes made of shingles. My sister and I were looking out of the window when they went past the house and when they got just beyond where Powder Mill Lane now is all of a sudden the Judge disappeared, all that you could see was his hat above the snow. His son and the other man had a job pulling him out of the snow as he was a man of about 250 lbs. They went back home and waited till later to go up the Valley.

There was, at that time, a well known individual who was always getting into trouble with his neighbors or someone. One incident I recall was he was carting in hay with a team of mules. As they came in front of the barn they balked and would not pull the load of hay into the barn. He became angry and started to beat the mules, but still they would not move, so he took some hay from the wagon and set fire to it underneath the mules to make them move. They did, but only far enough to put the fire under the load of hay and burned up the wagon and the load of hay. He then became angry and started to beat the mules. Then one of the neighbors made a complaint to the A.S.P.C.A. and officers came and arrested him. He was sentenced to sixty days in the County Jail in Hackensack. While there he became religious and started to preach to the other prisoners. They would listen to him for awhile. Then they would start kidding him. Then he would become angry and would start cursing them, so they called him swearing domini.

He kept on getting into trouble until he lost everything he owned and the house that was his home at that time was sold with 45 acres of land; a sheriff's sale, and his furniture was set out by the road. He, at that time, also owned the house across the street, so he moved into that house. About a year later the sheriff again sold his place and again set the furniture on the side of the road. He then left Oakland and rented a hotel up on the falls in Paterson near the D.L. & W. Railroad bridge. He bought furniture on time payments and failed to make the payments, and officers went there to collect. He shot one of the officers, but did not kill him. He ran out on the railroad bridge. A freight train came along. He managed to get on one side. The officer was on the other side of the train. When the train passed he was gone. The officers did not know whether he got on the train or what had become of him.

About three years later his body came back a corpse. No one in Oakland ever knew how he died and so the end of him.

During the years of the second great war you were not permitted to construct a new home. The War Production Board was in charge of this part of the war effort.

There had been a powder factory on Powder Mill Lane in years gone by. The large wooden warehouse of the powder company was standing when we lived in Oakland.

I owned 2 acres of land on West Oakland Avenue. I had a small bulldozer, and excavated for the cellar. Over a period of days my sons and I laid up the concrete block foundation. We tore down this large wooden warehouse of the powder company, and carefully saved the lumber. We trucked the lumber to the foundation site. In fact, Mrs. Potash helped take the nails out of the lumber. There was a house in Mahwah that had to be torn down. We did that, again carefully saving the lumber, and trucking it to the foundation site. There was a house on the right of way of 208. It was a small house, consisting of 2 rooms downstairs and 2 rooms upstairs, with a stairway going up the middle. I bought this house from the state and moved it onto the foundation. Using this house as a base, we built the house with the old lumber.

We had just about completed the house when one morning, in the mail, came a letter from the War Production Board, that I was to give them the War Production permit number for construction of a new home.

Mrs. Potash got quite excited and I told her: "You have nothing to worry about. I will answer the letter." I remember clearly the last sentence in the letter. I first explained how we had torn down buildings to get the material to construct the home, and in the last sentence I said: "When it becomes a crime to put a roof over your family's heads in the manner that we did, then you can do as you damned please!" Mrs. Potash was dumbfounded. She asked, "You're not going to send that?" Well, I said, "I just related how we got the house built and that's just how I feel." I never heard from them, but the sad part of it is, surely some political enemy or jealous person must have notified the War Production Board. I guess you pay a penalty for being in office.

THE BEGINNING OF OAKLAND

Prior to April 8, 1902 the lands comprising Oakland were part of Franklin Township. At that time there were a group of men living in Oakland that felt the folks in this area should have a town of their own. They decided amongst themselves, if successful, the town should not be named after any of them, such as Bushville and so forth, after D.C. Bush. These men were, John Ramsey, Edward D. Paige, Martin Ryerson, Albert McNomee, David C. Bush, Thaddeus Garrison and E. W. Hamilton.

There were, I am told, two others, but no one seems to remember their names. By their dedication and perseverance of a number of visits to Trenton, to the N.J. State Assembly, they were finally successful and on April 8, 1902 a Certificate of Incorporation was granted establishing the Municipality of Oakland. This certificate was signed by Governor Dickenson, on April 15, 1902.

Mrs. Potash and I having arrived and made our home in Oakland on May the first, 1927, I had the pleasure of getting acquainted with four of these men. David C. Bush, Albert McNomee, Thaddeus Garrison and Martin Ryerson. We had a number of conversations. It was the wish of these men, that is all of them, that Oakland remain a residential community and it's beautiful setting in the Ramapo Mountains be preserved.

I learned a great deal from them. They were men that were sound in character, firm in their opinions, and followed their faith by their attendance in the Ponds Reformed Church of Oakland.

David C. Bush ran the general store, where the Wigwam was. Albert McNomee, prior to the D. C. Bush store, had a store also located on Ramapo Valley Road. When I was one of the three tax assessors of Oakland, we would be walking down Ramapo Valley Road and he would see us and he would invite us over to the store and we would end up in the back of the shop, where he had a barrel of hard cider. Of course all three of us had to have a glass of cider and I tell you, it was hard!

Well, he wanted to know if we were increasing his assessments and I remember telling him yes, not too much. He would want us then to show him that other comparable properties were increased in like manner in their assessments. He was then satisfied.

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THE MAYORS

Mayor Amos W. Hopper - 1902 - 1909

You will note as you read the following minutes of the first meeting of the Borough Council held on May 19, 1902, that they state it was held at Ivy Hall, with David C. Bush as the first council president, and Amos Hopper as first mayor. Amos Hopper was Oakland's first mayor. His term ran from May 19, 1902 - 1909. Ivy Hall was located on Ramapo Valley Road, just a little north of the site of the present Police headquarters. It was completely burned out and a great many of the records were destroyed, but fortunately, the minutes books were found intact. The following minutes were written by Thaddeus Garrison, first Borough Clerk of Oakland.

Did you know that Martin Ryerson served as borough clerk, I believe for the first two terms of Mayor MacEvoy?

Most of the activities of Mayor Hopper's terms of office were in getting the management of the Borough of Oakland in order.

Minutes of the first meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Oakland held in Iny Hall in said Borough on the 19th day of July 1902 at Eight o'clock in the evening. The Mayor and Members of the Council having taken oath of Office, the meeting was called to order by Comdr. M. Hooper, Mayor.

The members of the Council Present were John Ramier, Edward D. Page, Martin Peterson, Albert McComie, David C. Bush Jr. and Ezra W. Garrison. on Motion David C. Bush was elected Clerk Pro Tem.

The Council then proceeded to elect a President of the Council until the next annual Council Meeting. David C. Bush Jr. was duly elected President of the Council and filed his oath of office.

The Mayor nominated Frederick A. Garrison for Borough Clerk the nomination was confirmed by unanimous vote of the Council.

The Mayor nominated J. Willard Deyoe for Borough Counsel and the nomination was confirmed by the unanimous vote of the Borough Council.

The first Tuesday in each month at eight o'clock in the evening at Iny Hall in said Borough was fixed as the time and place at the regular meeting of the Borough Council.

ordinations of Mr. Page the by laws hereinafter transcribed were adopted as the Bylaws of the Council of the Borough of Oakland.

on motion of Mr. Page it was moved that the Mayor appoint a committee of three to prepare an ordinance fixing the salaries of the Assessor, Collector, Clerk, Marshall and other of the committee to report at the next regular meeting of the Council. The Mayor appointed on this Council Messrs. Peterson, Page & McNamee.

The Clerk presented a bill from the County Board of Elections. It was moved that the Clerk be instructed to return the bill with the request that the bill be amended as required by law.

on motion of C. W. Hamilton the Borough Council was ordered to prepare a Petition to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction requesting that the Borough of Oakland be made a separate School District.

on motion of C. W. Hamilton it was ordered that the communication from the Chairman of the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin be laid on the table.

The Council then adjourned until May 29th at 8 P.M.

Approved as read

By-Laws of the Borough Council

Article (1)

Mayor

Sec 1 The Mayor (or President in the absence of the Mayor) shall preside at all meetings of the Council.

Sec 2 The Mayor (or President) shall not engage in Debate without leave of the Council or may be necessary for regulating the proceeding.

Sec 3rd If two or more Councilmen shall rise at the same time, he shall name the one entitled to the floor

Sec 4. He shall have authority to call on the Marshal or other officer for assistance when necessary to preserve order

Article II.

Clerk

Sec 1. The Clerk shall perform the duties enjoined on him by law (Laws of 1897, Chap. 167, and the Supplements thereto) and by First By-Laws

Sec 2. He shall keep the Minutes and Ordinance Book properly and fully indexed, and he shall perform all the duties usually devolving on such officer and such special services as the Mayor and Council may require

Article III.

Quorum

Sec 1. A Quorum shall be three Councilmen and the Mayor, or four Councilmen in the absence of the Mayor; but no ordinance shall be passed, no officers appointed or removed or salary fixed except by vote of a majority of the whole Council

Sec 2. If no Quorum be present at any meeting those assembled shall have power and are hereby authorized to adjourn or to send the Marshal, or any other person by their Empowerment, for the Mayor, or absent Councilmen, or both.

Article IV

Order of Business

Sec. 1. The following order of Business shall be observed

viz:-

1. Getting Roll
2. Reading unapproved Minutes
3. Presentation of Communication, Petitions, Bills, etc, and the reading thereof
4. Reports of Committee, Mayor and Clerk,
5. unfinished Business
6. New Business and introduction of ordinances
7. Ordinances on second reading
8. Ordinances on Third reading and final passage
9. Miscellaneous Business,
10. Adjournment.

Rules of Order

Sec. 2. (a) No question or motion shall be put unless seconded, unless referring to a report, or a question put by the Mayor.

(b) Every Member previous to his speaking, shall arise from his seat and address himself to the Chair, and shall not occupy more than five minutes each time without the unanimous consent of the Council present.

(c) No Member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without unanimous consent of the Council present.

(d) While a member is speaking, no member shall entertain any private discourse, or leave his seat.

(e) When a question has been put and decided it shall be in order for any member who voted with the majority to move for a reconsideration thereof, provided, the same shall be moved the same day or at the next Regular Meeting.

(H) The deliberations of this Council shall be governed by Jennings's Manual.

Article V.

Meetings

- Sec. 1. The Council shall hold a meeting on the first Monday after each annual Election, at which Meeting the Council shall Elect a president and shall fix the time and place for holding Regular Meetings during the ensuing year; which time and place shall not be changed except by a resolution introduced at a regular Meeting and acted upon at a subsequent Meeting.
- Sec. 2. The Council shall hold Monthly Meeting on the first Thursday of each Month at 8 P. M. unless otherwise changed by the Council at the first annual Meeting.
- Sec. 3. Special Meeting may be called by the Mayor, when necessary, or in cases of his neglect or refusal, by four Councilmen; in all cases of Special Meetings notice stating the object of the Meeting must be given to each Member or left at his Residence or mailed to his address as registered with the Clerk and no Business shall be transacted other than that for which called.
- Sec. 4. The Clerk shall notify the Mayor and Councilmen of each Special Meeting at least three whole days before the time fixed for holding the same.

Article VI.

- Sec. 1. The Mayor shall appoint all committees unless otherwise ordered.

Sec. 2. The following Committees composed of three Members each shall be appointed at the first Meeting of the Council after each annual Borough Election, viz Committee on Finance, Committee on Street and Side Walks, Committee on Ordinance

Sec. 3. Special Committees may be appointed for purposes other than those embraced in the Duties of the Standing Committee

Sec. 4. All Committees both Standing and Special shall make their reports in writing and no report shall be received unless signed by a Majority of the Committee, but nothing in this rule shall prevent a minority of any Committee from submitting a report also.

Article VII

Duties of Standing Committees

Sec. 1. The Committee on Finance shall examine and report upon all Bills or demands referred to it; and also and also from time to time the financial condition of the Borough and shall at the regular Meetings next before each Annual Election, report in full detail the receipts and disbursements for the past year, and also the assets and liabilities of the Borough.

Sec. 2. The Committee on Streets and Side Walks shall report to the Council the condition of the Streets and Side Walks and any encumbrances thereon and other matters pertaining to their department.

Sec. 3. The Committee on Ordinances may prepare Ordinances or report subjects for ordinances, it may also examine and report on all ordinances and supplements to ordinances referred to it at the same or at the next regular Meeting after reference.

Sec. 4. The Finance Committee shall consider and report upon any matter specially referred to them or either of them, by order of the Council.

Article VIII.

Ordinances

Sec. 1. All proposed ordinances shall be submitted in writing at regular Meeting, read and referred to the Committee on Ordinances.

Sec. 2. The Clerk shall endorse on all ordinances and supplements thereto the time when and by whom introduced.

Sec. 3. All proposed Ordinances shall be read once at the regular Meeting at which they are introduced and shall be open for discussion and revision and shall be passed at a subsequent regular Meeting.

Sec. 4. The Yeas and Nays shall be called on the final passage of every ordinance and entered in the Minutes.

Sec. 5. Upon the passage of an ordinance and every Resolution appropriating Money or in any way tending to pecuniarily obligate the Borough or directing the payment of Bills, together with such Bills, the Clerk shall within five days (excluding Sundays) present the same to the Mayor either for his approval or disapproval and after the same has been approved

by the Mayor or passed over the Mayor's veto, on failure of the Mayor to approve or disapprove within the time required by law, the same shall be properly numbered and recorded by the Borough Clerk in the ordinance book. The Clerk shall enter in said book at the end of each ordinance the following:

Passed on the day of 19 Minute Book
 Pp. Page The ordinance so recorded
 shall then be compared with the original as passed, whereupon the clerk shall attest and affix his corporate seal to the following certificate at the end thereof

The foregoing ordinance has been compared with the original as passed, and found correct this day of 19 .

- Sec. 6. The original ordinances shall be filed and preserved by the clerk
- Sec. 7. The title of ordinance and a reference to amendments and parts amended only, shall be entered in the minutes
- Sec. 8. Original Ordinances shall be entitled as follows: "An ordinance (then add the subject thereof). Supplementary or amendatory ordinances shall be entitled as follows: "A supplement (or amendment) to and ordinance entitled" (then add title of original to which it is a supplement or amendment).
- Sec. 9. The first section of every ordinance shall begin as follows: be it ordained by the Council of the Borough of Oakland:

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Article 18
Bills of Demands

- Sec. 1. All Bills or demands against the Borough shall be well itemized and written on the regular form as provided. The claimant shall swear as to the correctness of his demands and shall present same to the Borough clerk, who shall, after examination, hand such Bill or Bills to the chairman of that committee to which they refer, before the Meeting, is called to order. No Bills shall be received by the clerk after the Meeting is called to order.
- Sec. 2. A Warrant Book shall be prepared and adopted by the Council; no Warrant shall be issued except by order of the Council passed at a regular Meeting thereof.
- Sec. 3. The resolution of audit shall direct that a Warrant issued when the funds of the Borough are sufficient to meet it.
- Sec. 4. The Date of audit and the amount for which Warrant shall be drawn, and direction to issue Warrant when funds are sufficient shall be endorsed on the audited Bill in open meeting and be signed by the members of the Committee under whose direction the Bill was incurred.
- Sec. 5. Upon the issuing of the Warrant the bill shall be receipted (or paid by Warrant) and delivered to the Borough clerk who shall consecutively number each Bill or Voucher.

Sec. 6. The Borough Clerk shall enter in a Book to be entitled Bills audited all audited Bills or demands against the Borough, setting forth the number of the voucher, the name of Creditor, date and amount of Bill a short description of the nature of the demands, date of audit and amount for which audit and the date and the number of the Warrant issued in payment thereof and upon who drawn.

Article X

Yeas and Nays.

Sec. 1. Upon every vote of the Council the yeas and Nays shall be taken and recorded, if demanded by any Member, or ordered by the Chairman before taken the same and in every vote relating to any special appropriation, the yeas and Nays shall be taken and recorded, and no Member shall be permitted to vote unless present when his Name shall be called in regular order.

Sec. 2. Each Member of the Council shall vote upon every question upon which vote is taken, unless by the Council excused, or interested personally therein.

Article XI

Seal

Sec. 1. The Seal of the Borough shall be circular in form, and shall contain the following: The Borough of Oakland, 1902

Sec. 2. The Seal shall be in the custody of the Borough Clerk, and shall be fixed only by him when so ordered by the Council.

Article XII
Amendments

Sec. 1. These By-laws shall not be altered or amended except at a regular meeting of the Council by Two-Thirds yeas and nays vote.

Sec. 2. All proposed amendments or alterations shall be submitted in writing at regular meetings, read and referred to a special committee of three, appointed upon at a regular meeting, subsequent to the reception of said committee's report.

The following is the second meeting of the Borough of Oakland, held on May 29, 1902 and you will find it very interesting as to appointments and salaries.

12

Oakland Bergen Co N.J. May 29th 1902
Special Meeting of the Councilmen of the
Borough of Oakland, held in City Hall
Meeting called to order by the Mayor

Roll called. Amos W. Hooper
David L. Bush Jr
Ezra W. Hamilton
Albert McInomle
Edward O. Page
John Ramsey
Martin Ryerson

The following Committee to be appointed by
the Mayor
Motion Made and seconded that the Bill
of the Bergen County Board of Election
be Referred to Counsellor
Carried Six Years

Committee appointed on Streets and Sidewalks
by the Mayor

John Ramsey
Albert McInomle
Ezra W. Hamilton

Committee appointed on Finances
by the Mayor

Edward O. Page
Ezra W. Hamilton
Martin Ryerson

Committee appointed on Ordinance
by the Mayor

David L. Bush Jr
Martin Ryerson
Albert McInomle

Resolved

Motion Made and seconded that The Mayor
Appoint a Committee of Two to purchase a Seal
Minute Book, Ordinance Book, Warrent Book
Assessor and a Collector Book

Martin Kyrason

Ezra W. Hamilton was appointed by the Mayor

Resolve that the Finance Committee
be empowered, to draw ampte of the Borough of
Oakland to the order of the Collector in anticipation
of Taxes for Five Hundred Dollars to be signed
by the Mayor and attested by the collector + clerk
Carried Six Years

Motion Made and seconded that the Collectors
Bond be made Twenty Five Hundred Dollars
Carried Six Years

Motion Made and seconded that Mr. Page
and Mr. Bush be appointed a Committee of
Two to confer with Collector in reference to
Bond.

Carried Six Years

Motion Made and seconded that The Franklin
Township Assessor John W. Ackerman be
notified that the Oakland Borough Assessor
Will do the assessing for said Borough and
Will meet him at his earliest convenience
Carried Six Years

Motion Made and seconded that the Clerk
Deliver Notices to Daniel Van Houten Chairman
of Franklin Township Committee and
Daniel Deper. Clerk, that our Committee Will
Meet with them for the purpose of dividing the
assets and liability of the Township on Saturday
Even. 21st at 10 am at Furthers Hotel Crystal Lake

Motion made and seconded that we adjourn
carried

Called 76 - June 5th 1902

Regular meeting of the Councilmen of the
Borough of Ashland held in City Hall
Meeting called to order by the Mayor

Roll called
Amos W. Hopper
David L. Bush, Jr.
Ezra W. Hamilton
Albert McNamee
Edward D. Page
John Ramsey
Martin Johnson

Minutes of Meeting of May 29th Read and
approved

Mr Ramsey reported from the Committee on
Streets and Sidewalks according to plans showed
by Dr Hamilton and recommended that the
Drain shown thereon be put in that repair
be made to the Highways and that trees be
trimmed up to the limit of 100. They also
recommended the appointment of a Superintendent
of Highways to act as the Council shall
direct

Report accepted and ordered on file

Resolved that the Mayor appoint a Super-
intendent of the Highways to serve under
the direction of the Street and Sidewalks Com
Henry McNamee was appointed Vote taken

Result as follows

E. W. Hamilton, aye	D. L. Bush, Nay
Albert McNamee, aye	E. D. Page, Nay
John Ramsey, aye	M. Johnson, Nay

Ticket

Motion Made and Seconded that the
Major Consult. councillor in regard to the vote
carried

Motion Made and seconded that we take
a recess for Ten Minutes
carried

The following Ordinance was introduced
fixing the Compensation of Borough officials
its provisions, The Clerk Salary Twenty Five Dollars
and such fee as allowed by Law, The Assessor Compensation
shall be 10 cents for each Name assessed which shall be in
lieu of fee, The collector Compensation shall be at
the rate 12 1/2 cents for each Bill collected which shall be in lieu
of all fees

Proposed in the Bush Seconded in 7th Page
That the ordinance fixing the Compensation of
Borough officials be amended by substituting
The Words and such fee as may be fixed
by the Council for in lieu of all fees in
the Law Section

carried

Motion Made and Seconded that the Committee
report on Collectors Bond be accepted
as reported

carried

Motion Made and Seconded that the
Committee on obtaining Prices on Books
and seal be as follows We have
obtained the Prices on Books and seal
Needed amounting to \$27-²⁵/₁₀₀

carried

Motion Made and Seconded
Resolved that the sum of Fifty Dollars be
Appropriated for the Purchase of Stationery
and Postage

carried

Motion made seconded that
Daniel J. Fox be appointed Marshal by
the Mayor

Carried Six Years

Motion made and seconded that we have
Two Marshals

Carried

Motion made and seconded that the
Mayor appoint a Marshal,
William Crisler, was appointed Marshal
by the Mayor

Carried Six Years

Motion made and seconded that the
Stationery Committee Purchase Marshals
Badges

Carried

Motion made and seconded that the
Conference Committee ratify the Chairman
of Township Committee to have the Tools
and Scraper at or near Arthur Hatell
Crystal Lake the 21 day of June at
10^o A.M.

Carried

Resolved

Motion made and seconded that the
sum of Three Hundred Dollars be
appropriated for the use of Streets and
Sidewalks Committee to be expended
during the months of June July and
August

Carried Six Years

Motion Made and seconded that
the meeting adjourn to June 12th 1902.

June 12 1902

Special Meeting of the Borough Councilman
of Oakland, held in Jrg Hall

Meeting called to order by the Mayor A. M. Hopper

Roll called

Members Present D. C. Bush,
E. M. Hamilton,
A. McMeel,
E. D. Page,
Ramsey,
M. Referson.

Minutes of June 12th Read and Excepted
as Read.

Printing Committee reports having ordered
Books and also report Purchasing Badges
for Marshalls
report Excepted as Read.

Finance Committee Reports
that a blank Book of Notes for the Borrowing
of Money was in preparation and will at the
proper time ask for an appropriation to cover
its cost. accepted as Read
E. D. Page Chairman

Motion Made and seconded that the Mayor
appoint a Supt. of the Highways.
Henry McMeel was appointed by the Mayor
for 3 years and 3 days

E. M. Hamilton Year	}	D. C. Bush may
J. Ramsey Year		E. D. Page may
A. McMeel Year		M. Referson may
See Note		

Mayor Edward D. Paige - 1910 - 1911

Mayor Paige, our second mayor, was in private life a stockbroker, and owned all that land from the corner of Rt. 202 and Franklin Avenue and Hiawatha and Franklin on up to where the large clubhouse building used to be. It was a large tract of land. Franklin Avenue, from Route 202 on up was called Paige's Hill for a great many years. The records show that it was a farm of some 700 acres. You will note that takes in the Van Allen House of the Oakland Historical Society and the building across from it, that has a brook flowing under it. The total area was called Vygeberg. There was a large field back in those days. I remember it well, for I used to cut the hay.

Mayor Paige did grow considerable vegetables, and also from the large number of hens; eggs. These were taken to the building just across from the Van Allen House, the building the brook runs under, and there they were processed for the market. The farm was also called the Vygeberg Farm Products.

The following is a copy of the first council meeting of Mayor Paige:

Borough of Oakland, N.J.
 Jan'y 1, 1910

A statutory meeting of the Borough Council was held on the above date in Oakland Borough Hall. Mayor Kopper, who presides, called the meeting to order at 11-30 A. M. after which the following members answered roll call viz Mayor Kopper, Councilmen Bush, Grossman, McRorie, and Ayerson. Councilmen Morrey and Wilkins were absent.

The minutes of the regular December meeting were read and on motion were accepted. There being no further business to transact Councilman Ayerson called on the clerk for a brief statement regarding the progress of the Borough. The clerk complied with the request and at the same time presented to Mayor, in behalf of his council a cane as a token of their esteem and affection for him, and in accepting the gift Mayor Kopper responded in a very creditable manner.

It was then moved, seconded and carried that the Board espouse sine-die.

All newly elected members were then sworn in official by the clerk and the Board reconvened at 12 o'clock noon, with Mayor Page in the chair and the following members answered roll call - viz Mayor Page, Councilmen Bush, Grossman, McRorie, Ayerson and Walton. Councilman Wilkins was absent.

This Board proceeded to organize and the following appointments were recommended by Mayor Page -

For Clerk - W. B. Romine

" First of the Council - Allet McRorie

" Recorder - Samuel B. Landest

" Borough Atty. - Cornelius Doremus

" Marshall - Aaron S. Union, and

on separate motions each appointment was confirmed by a vote and follow year. Bush

being understood that these resolutions shall not
pertain to the calling of the regular monthly
meetings. These resolutions were carried by
the following vote - yeas 10, nays none. Mr. Thomas,
Ayerson, and Hilton. Nays none. Mr. Bush
having been excused, did not vote.
On motion adjourned.

H. B. Romani Clerk

Greenwood, McComie, Ryerson and Walton. Nays none; except in the case of the vote for on the confirmation of Priest of the Council the vote was yea - Bush, Greenwood, Ryerson and Walton. Nays, McComie. After each confirmation the appointment was made by the Mayor in regular form.

Mayor Page announced the appointment of committees as follows -

Streets and Sidewalks
McComie, Greenwood and Walton.

Finance
Bush, Ryerson, and Wilkins.

Ordinance
Wilkins, Walton and McComie.

Roll
Greenwood and Bush.

Moved by Bush and seconded by McComie that the bond of Collector Kaufman be written for \$2500.00; carried by the following vote - yea Bush, Greenwood, McComie, Ryerson and Walton. Nays, none.

Moved by Ryerson and seconded by Bush that this Board adopt the by-laws of the old board. Carried by the following vote - yea Bush, Greenwood, McComie, Ryerson and Walton. Nays, none.

Moved and seconded that the matter of the Collector's Bond be referred to the Finance Committee with power. Carried by the following vote - yea Bush, Greenwood, McComie, Ryerson and Walton. Nays, none.

Our motion Collector Garrison was requested to return all money on hand, and all collected in the meantime until the next business meeting of the Council.

Resolved that when the Council adjourns from meetings it is hereby understood that such adjournment shall be subject to the calling of the Mayor at a specific time as stated.

Mayor Martin Ryerson - 1912 - 1913

We now come to the third mayor of the Borough of Oakland, Martin Ryerson. As you have read previously, Martin Ryerson was one of the men who founded the Borough of Oakland. In private life he was an estimator and accountant of a large lumber company. He was a stern man, firm in his convictions, and a devout follower of his faith as a member of Ponds Church. He was very frugal, watching carefully the expenditures paid by the council, and also watched carefully the price that was paid for merchandise or equipment with his council on the organizing of the Borough of Oakland.

Borough of Oakland
 July 10th 1912

A Statutory meeting of the Borough Council was held on the above date in Oakland Borough Hall. Mayor Page who presided and called the meeting to order at 11.45 AM, after which the following members answered roll call

Mayor Page, Councilmen McTigue, Westing,

Walton and Sage. Councilman Traylor was absent.

The minutes of an adjourned meeting held Dec 29-11 were read and on motion accepted.

Resolved that the Council tender a motion of thanks to the Mayor for his untiring services and great interest shown in the administration of his office. Motion carried.

The newly elected Mayor and Councilmen

were sworn in office by the Mayor.

It was then moved second and carried

that the Board adjourn sine die.

The Board then reconvened at 12 o'clock noon with Mayor Ryerson in the chair and the following members answered roll call

Mayor Ryerson, Councilmen Wilkins, Taylor,

Harrison & Walton Councilman Traylor

was absent.

The Board proceeded to organize and collector B. H. Bayar was sworn in office by Mayor Ryerson.

The following ^{Mayor nominated} ^{scholarship} ^{awards} ^{was} ^{recommended} by Mayor Ryerson for

Borough Clerk A. E. Bernerac

Post of Council Ludo W. Wilkins

Borough Atty J. W. Dege

Marshal Geo. H. Menon

Deputy " Frank Mason

Poor Master David L. Bush

John Jackson, Aaron G. Adams
 Deputy, Mrs. Montague

Finance Committee

Members: Taylor, ^{Taylor} and Walton

Street & Sidewalk
 Walton, Garrison & Jordan

Ordinance

Taylor & Weston

Hall

Garrison & Jordan

and on separate motion each appointment
 was confirmed by a vote as follows
 Yeas: Weston, Taylor, Garrison & Walton
 Nays: none

Moved by Mayor Johnson ~~as~~ that the Board
 adopt the By Laws of the old Board
 carried by the following vote

Yeas: Weston, Taylor, Garrison & Walton
 Nays: none

Moved and seconded that the Callahan bank
 be written for \$5,000.00 with the
 American Surety Co. The Finance Committee
 to confer with Callahan Boyer
 on motion meeting adjourned

A. E. Carreras, Clerk

Mayor A. Hobart Walton - 1914 - 1929

We now come to the fourth mayor of the Borough of Oakland, A. Hobart Walton. He served longer than any of our mayors. Eight terms. Back in those days the term of the mayor was two years.

I knew him well because he was the mayor when Mrs. Potash and I came to Oakland in 1927. He was immaculate in his dress. Every hair on his head was where it was supposed to be, and going back in those days, he wore knickers.

He also was road supervisor for Bergen County. The Republican Party in our community became well organized in the A. Hobart Walton Republican Club. He certainly was handling the job of mayor and for that reason he kept getting elected and elected.

Commuting service to Jersey City on the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad was beautiful. Plenty of trains in each direction. There was even one train that left Jersey City at 11:30 at night in case you wanted to attend a show in the city. I commuted on the railroad for about ten years. As more and more individuals elected to drive to the city in their own cars more and more of the trains were taken off so eventually all service was abandoned.

There was also a bus line that ran from Paterson to Pompton Lakes and came through Oakland on the hour.

The area between the old Railroad Station, now the site of the old Post Office Building, to Rt. 202, was just a dirt area. Mayor Walton, as road supervisor of Bergen County, had that entire area black topped. He had it done for free, but it became a political issue and in his last term of office he was defeated by Dr. Peter Demarest.

During Mayor Walton's term as mayor, 16 years, he had as his borough clerk Frank Pulis. He was a ruddy faced individual, liked by all and also served as chief of the fire department.

Mayor Dr. Peter Demarest - 1930 - 1933

The Demarest family went back into Oakland's history a very long time. It was a prominent name. Mayor Demarest in private life was an educator in New York City.

Mayor Demarest appointed William Brindle, Jr. as his borough clerk, and his son, John Demarest, as borough engineer.

There was a single tax assessor at this time and there was considerable talk that the various realty companies that held large acreage were not assessed as much as they should be. The result was that during Mayor Demarest's term a board of assessors was named by ordinance. The first members of the board of assessors were George R. Potter, Andrew Spear and Alexander Potash. As we operated as the board of assessors we were surprised to find that the assessed value on the realty companies with the large holdings was higher than any comparable holdings. I put in effect in the assessor's office, a system that is still used to this day and is presently being installed in the assessor's office in Franklin Lakes. I recently called, in 1986, an official of the railroad that worked for the railroad at the same time I did. I remember clearly what he said, "Al, you never should have left the railroad. You would have gone far, for you were quite a systems man".

Pay for the assessors was \$100.00 per year. I believe in the last couple of years I received \$250.00 a year, as secretary. I had to take care of the records and prepare the assessment books to be delivered to the Board of Taxation in Hackensack. I do clearly remember each time I delivered the books they wanted to know who wrote these books up, and I said, "My wife, Mrs. Potash". Well, they said it was the most beautiful handwriting of all the books 72 towns in Bergen County submitted. She did have a beautiful handwriting.

At the time that Mayor Demarest was in office West Oakland Avenue was just a dirt road with a few buildings. More buildings had been constructed over the years and the council decided the road should be paved. Specifications were drawn and the low bidder started work. Concrete pavement was put down. In later years it was given it's blacktop coating.

All residents and businesses up to this time had their own wells. Oakland did not have its own water system. A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor and Council was held in Brindle's Inn, owned by the borough clerk's parents. I can well remember Mrs. Brindle's apple pies. They were a good two inches thick and very juicy.

1930-33
The subject at this meeting was; Should Oakland have a water system. The answer was, Yes. The plans and specifications were drawn and work began, the laying of the water main and so forth. As an inducement to residents to tie into the water system, they were told if they did so before a certain date no charge would be made for this connection.

Most residents took advantage of this offer, but still there were not enough users and for quite a while the water system ran in the red. In those days as much as \$20,000.00 was placed in the borough budget to compensate for the deficit in the water department. As more and more users signed, by reason of more and more new homes, it was finally reduced to \$10,000.00 and eventually the water department was in the black.

It was an enormous venture. Wells had to be drilled, pumping stations, storage tanks and so forth. One of the side effects was that insurance rates on homes dropped quite a bit.

I believe it was somewhere in the 1930's. I cannot recall, but it was one of those years of the big depression. The borough council was offered, by a developer, \$150,000 for a permit to operate a cemetery on all those lands on the north side as you go up Long Hill Road. Council meeting, held at the top of the Yawpo firehouse, was jammed with people. There were a great number of them on the outside of the hall that could not get in. D.C. Bush led the opposition, to the proposed project. He referred to it as changing our town from the valley of homes to the valley of cemeteries. "He gave a very vivid picture of what we would be seeing each day - hearses and hearses and hearses." He was colorful. The result was that the council rejected the project.

Mayor Arthur Frost - 1934 - 1935

Arthur Frost followed Peter Demarest as Mayor of Oakland. Arthur Frost for a number of years was also principal of Oakland Public School and I believe about the same time, or a little later, he had his own private school in Hackensack.

Arthur Frost was an exceptionally fine baseball player. We had a number of fine semi-professional baseball teams in Oakland at that time. Arthur played in one of Oakland's semi-professional teams, I think he was a pitcher.

There existed at this time a peculiar political situation that caused harsh elections. There was the Welfare League Club and the A. Hobart Walton Republican Club. In the primary election the A. Hobart Walton candidates were successful. Then the Welfare League would pick up the defeated Republican candidates of the primary and run them as candidates in the general election and the fight would start all over.

They were paper ballots at that time. You wrote on the paper ballot your selection for whom you wanted to vote. Now,

there were only about 300 voters and the paper ballots, at the close of the polling time, had to be counted by hand.

There were always a number of controversies as to whether it was a marked ballot, one side or the other trying to get the ballot thrown out, so that some of these countings went on until midnight or one in the morning, even though there were only 300 ballots to count. What a difference today with the voting machines.

I was reappointed by Mayor Frost as tax assessor. I often think the appointment was made to keep me quiet politically.

Mayor Clifford F. MacEvoy - 1936 - 1941

Mayor MacEvoy was an exceptionally brilliant man. He was a banker and a large contractor. You will note his years of office were during the Great Depression. A bank in Newark was in trouble, as many banks were in those years. He took the bank over, brought it into a going financial institution. Eventually the bank had seven branches in the Newark area. He built the MacEvoy Court apartment building on Roselle Avenue in Newark, with 262 apartments and a swimming pool and bowling alleys in the basement. He was a graduate of the Newark College of Engineering and therefore an engineer in his own right. He formed the Clifford F. MacEvoy Engineering Company and as such built Wanaque Dam, in Haskell, which reservoir and waters now supply the city of Newark and other adjoining communities. He built the railroad in Maryland for the federal government, and there were several other large projects his company completed.

At a public council meeting someone asked why there were so many turns in Route 202 from Suffern to Oakland. His reply was that he thought the designers of the route had followed the cow path.

While Mr. MacEvoy was Mayor, a developer presented maps dividing a number of large tracks of land into approximately 1500 sixty foot frontage lots. The meetings went on for quite a few months and Mayor MacEvoy persuaded the council to reject the application. One of the reasons for the rejection was Mayor MacEvoy's questioning of the developer. Mayor MacEvoy; "What price range will these homes be in?" and when quoted the various range of prices he then asked, "Is that the cost or the selling price?" and when they replied, "The selling price" he stated to the councilmen, "If you want to waste your time on this, go ahead, I don't". It should be rejected, and it was". Unfortunately the maps were passed by the mayor and council of a subsequent

administration, May 12, 1944.

Bear in mind, Mayor MacEvoy's term of office was during the Great Depression, and the federal government, under President Roosevelt, created the Work Progress Administration, commonly called the WPA. The objective of the WPA was to approve projects by municipalities, cities and others, particularly those projects that could be done by hand, thus creating more jobs for more people. Mayor MacEvoy, being well know in the state, was instrumental in having a number of proposed projects, improving our streets, approved. I worked on some of the streets. The men shoveling the gravel received 50 cents an hour. I received 87 cents an hour for myself and my 3 ton dump truck. It was not much pay but by the same token all the food you purchased was very cheap, and it therefore gave men with families some income.

I remember working on Crosby Lane. Alongside of the road was a small pond, used as a swimming hole. It had a diving board. Most of the employees were Oakland residents, so we all knew one another, and I called for Harry Hall. I was on the diving board and I told Harry, "Look down and look at the size of those fishes". He went out on the diving board and I shoved him in the pond. He caught up with me and threw me in the pond. The foreman, Jack Bellom, was an unusually fine man. He just said, "Cut out the horseplay".

On the same job at another time, I went to Bucky Carlough. He was the man in charge of the toolshed. I told him I had an awful toothache and I had to go home. "Well", he said, "there is no one here to drive your truck. Let's go down and talk to Jack Bellom, the foreman." We went down there and I told Jack. I said, "I have an awful toothache. Just can't stand it. Jack said, "Bucky, I think there's some toothache drops in the toolshed". Bucky came back and he said, "Which one is it," and I took out my false teeth and said, "It's that one there!" We all had a good laugh.

Mayor MacEvoy, being an engineer, drew the plans for the Ponds Memorial Building, and submitted them to the Works Progress Administration. The plans were approved. He placed a few of his heavy earth moving equipment on the site, which amounted to hundreds of dollars daily rental, and credited it to the Borough of Oakland, as part of the Borough's care. He received no reimbursement from either the WPA or the Borough of Oakland. It was his gift. He encouraged all of the local craftsman, carpenters, plumbers and electricians to contribute of their time. I hit a few nails in the building myself. He was quite an organizer, and of unusual ability to get things done.

Now LIBRARY

The Ponds Memorial Building, a replica of the old Ponds Church, was finally completed in 1936. The original church building had been on the southwest corner of Long Hill Road and Route 202.

Ponds Memorial Building served for a number of years as the meeting place for the mayor and council and all of the borough boards. It also served as the center for social activities. Many a dance was held there. At the time that the school population was overflowing, it was used as a classroom. Sunday school, bowling, civil defense, and the first clinic for polio shots were held there. The building is presently the home of the Oakland Public Library. The inside ceiling architecture has been preserved. The old Ponds Church had collapsed, and Mr. MacEvoy removed the stones. They are now part of the new Ponds Memorial Building. The supporting columns of the new building also came from the old church.

A ceremony was held, dedicating the new Ponds Memorial Building, attended by a large group of Oakland residents. The program of that ceremony is in the possession of Mrs. Connie Monks, who is now co-chairman of the committee organized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the building. Behind the cornerstone of the building was placed a metal box. A number of local residents were permitted to put some memorabilia of 1936 in the box. At the time this was done it was agreed that the cornerstone and box should be removed in the expiration of 50 years, 1986. This was done by the celebrating committee, headed by Mrs. Connie Monks and Mrs. Gerri Schrier.



The Ponds Memorial Building, an enlarged replica of the 1928 Church of the Ponds, dedicated July 17, 1937. From this time until the construction of the present municipal building, this structure served both as the seat of municipal government and the center for community affairs. The red sandstone blocks used at the corners of the building date back to the 1740 hexagonal church. The weatervane once signaled wind direction from atop the octagonal steeple of the 1829 church.

HARRY GALE McNOMEe

I commuted on the railroad for about 10 years to Jersey City. It was a beautiful way to travel. Harry Gale McNomee also commuted and one day he sat by me and said: "Al, we're in trouble in the church, (meaning Ponds Church). We do not have enough money to pay the minister" and I believe he said something about coal. Then he said: "I'm thinking of organizing a committee of four men and see if we can't raise about \$3,000. Now in those days, in the big depression, \$3,000 I would say today would be possibly \$100,000. Gale McNomee asked me if I would serve on the committee and I said of course I would and to set the date when we were to meet. Pretty near all the men showed up. Gail told them the financial trouble in the church, then went on to eulogize a man who he thought should chair the committee and he named Al Potash. I got up, I really didn't know what to say, for I was not a member of the church. My wife and her mother were both Sunday School teachers in the Ponds. I then suggested if there were seven or eight or more of the men present who would want to start tomorrow, and get the job done in a week. A number of the men agreed.

I went from house to house, ringing doorbells, and I was surprised at the fine cooperation I received. Though someone made a crack, "Did the Rabbi call on you yet?" but I kept going and we finished the job and we raised about \$3,300.

While Mr. MacEvoy was mayor I was still the tax assessor and a Mr. C. E. Chapman called me one day. He had a number of tax bills and would like to see where the properties were located. The Catholic retreat on Route 202, a large, beautiful structure, was Mr. Chapman's home. I met with him, showing him the different properties that his tax bills covered. We stood on the sidewalk looking down at the land that now comprises the recreation area, and he said to me, "I wonder why my secretary ever had me buy that hole in the ground, and what could it ever be used for?" I replied that it adjoined borough properties, and suggested the town might be interested in buying it. He asked, "What do you think I can get for it?" I replied, "Forty dollars an acre", which is what it is assessed for on the tax rolls. The total area was approximately 30 acres. I suggested I might pursue it for him, which I did. I contacted Mayor MacEvoy and he and the council were quick to go in action. The borough purchased the property for \$1,200.00.

Mayor MacEvoy resigned in his fourth term as mayor, as he formed the MacEvoy Ship Building Corporation in Savannah, Georgia. We were fortunate in having him as our mayor.

Mayor Gerard Grootendorst - 1941 - 1947

When Mayor MacEvoy resigned in 1941, Councilman Grootendorst finished the year. During Mayor MacEvoy's last term of office Gerard Grootendorst and Herbert Williams were councilmen. Herbert Williams was the president of the council and in accordance with previous occasions when the mayor resigned the president of the council usually took over. Herbert Williams, referred to as "Bert" was very capable, and an intelligent man. He should have had Mayor MacEvoy's unfinished term, but who knows what political maneuvering goes on amongst six councilmen, and Grootendorst got it, that is he was Mayor MacEvoy's successor to fill out the unexpired term.

Gerard Grootendorst migrated from Holland to the United States, located in Oakland, and started his horticultural business. For his plants and trees he had a nursery on that land, still vacant, across from the First Aid Building.

He was a proud man, proud that he was mayor of Oakland. I never called him Mayor when we were together privately. I would always say, "How is the burgermeister today?" Burgermeister is a term used in Holland for mayor.

At the mayor and council meeting on May the 17th, 1944, the first section of the National House and Farm map, creating 60

foot lots, was approved.

The following is a record of the maps of the National Home and Farm, cutting large areas into 60 foot front lots, as approved by the borough council. Section 1, May 12, 1944. Section 2, December 8, 1944, May 5, 1945, April 15, 1946, February 28, 1947, May 9, 1947. All these maps were approved during the administration of Mayor Grootendorst. It is unfortunate when you remember that an attempt was made to approve the first section in Mayor MacEvoy's administration and rejected, that the following administration did not change the zoning of the Borough of Oakland from 50 foot frontage to 100 foot frontage.

Mayor Charles I. Moog - 1948 - 1951

Charles I. Moog followed Mayor Grootendorst. The Moogs lived in Oakland quite a number of years, and sent one son through college. He is now a doctor in California. Mayor Moog was in the real estate business.

During this period of time Oakland Heights and Cottage Estates Development came into being. I became a councilman in 1951 and examined the maps closely in Oakland Heights. I didn't like one storm drain coming right down the center of that entire development. I got hold of the engineer, pointed this out and said, "The storm drain system should run down the street, a catch basin on each corner and so forth or we're going to have floods". Well, there was quite a rumpus over it and the council backed me up.

A short time later, on examining the map of Oakland Heights again, I called Charlie Bartlett, the building inspector, and said, "Stop giving out building permits in Oakland Heights". Charlie said, "Al, are you drunk? They have a filed map on the property." Well, I said, "Put a stop order on them." Milkon, the developer, came to all the council and threatened to sue the town and what not, and I told the council, "Don't be concerned, I'll know when to back off, but I want some of those lots cut out and the land distributed amongst the others, making the frontage greater."

Well, Milkon came to my house and he was threatening suit, I said, "Wait a minute. What are you sounding off for? You don't know what I'm after. Look, in the back there, on Seton Hall. Why don't you cut out a number of lots, take that land and distribute it around the other lots and make the frontage greater?" He said, "Do I have to change the road alignment?" I said, "No, just cut out some of the lots." Well, he came back,

and he cut out quite a few lots and all the lots in that area jumped to 95 to 105 frontage. I guess after that things went along pretty serenely.

Mayor Arthur Vervaet - 1952 - 1953

Following Mayor Moog was Mayor Vervaet, who was not only the mayor, but also an elected member of the New Jersey Assembly, the first such member of the assembly for the Borough of Oakland. I was a councilman during his term of office.

The tennis court opposite the food stand at the recreation field was installed. Water pipe led to it so that in the winter the courts could be flooded for ice skating. A number of the baseball fields were completed, dugouts and so forth, and the road leading from the second railroad crossing to Pompton Lakes was paved. This was a state job, meaning that the bulk of the cost was paid by the state. During the construction the state had an inspector supervising the work so that all specifications were fulfilled.

Mayor Vervaet was a young man. I believe he was the youngest mayor Oakland had. Very methodical in all detail, he was a hard worker. He wanted to get things done and not prolonged.

The water system expanded. More wells were built, always seeing that there was adequate water supply to the residents.

His father, Arthur R. Vervaet, was a councilman during Mayor MacEvoy's administration. Community service he no doubt inherited. He was also a leader of the Boy Scouts in Oakland. They used to meet in the building just across from the Van Allen House.

Mayor Vervaet's wife, Rye, wrote a book about Oakland, called The Valley of Homes. For many years it was the only book about Oakland, until in 1964, when The Years Between was published.

In 1952, during Mayor Vervaet's term of office, the 50th anniversary of the Borough of Oakland was celebrated with a reenactment of the original council meeting of 1902. Two of the original participants were still alive and present for the occasion, David C. Bush, the original Council President, and J.W. DeYoe, the Borough Attorney.



In 1952 as part of Oakland's 50th Anniversary celebration a re-enactment of the first Council meeting in Oakland history was held in the Ponds Memorial Building. Where possible, each man represented himself; where not possible, either a member of the man's family or another leading citizen played the role. The main participants in the picture were - seated from left to right: Paul Schorr (as 1902 Councilman E. D. Paige), Christian Bannehr (as 1902 Councilman Albert McNomee), David C. Bush (1902 Council President), J. W. DeYeo (1902 Borough Attorney), Henry R. Hopper (as 1902 Mayor Amos W. Hopper), John Garrison (as 1902 Councilman T. A. Garrison), Alonzo Ramsey (as 1902 Councilman John Ramsey), Walter Ryerson (as 1902 Councilman Martin Ryerson); standing from left to right: H. G. Toy (1952 Councilman), John Pauls (1952 Councilman), H. Gale McNomee (Master of Ceremonies), Eugene Sensenbach (1952 Councilman), Williard L. DeYeo, Arthur W. Vervaet (1952 Mayor), William Richardson (1952 Councilman), Alexander Potash (1952 Councilman), Charles Ely (1952 Councilman), and William Malcolm (as 1902 Councilman Dr. E. W. Hamilton).

Mayor Alexander Potash - 1954 - 1961

Alexander Potash served three years as a councilman during the term of Mayor Vervaet. Mr. Vervaet was not only the borough mayor, but also a member of the New Jersey State Assembly. He called the six councilmen together one evening and told us he would not run for reelection as mayor, but would run for reelection as N.J. State Assemblyman, which he did successfully. "Therefore" he said, "you councilmen will have to get together and choose one of you to run for election to the mayor's job. But, he said, "There is one man among you that has earned it, and that is Al Potash." They agreed, but I did not give them an answer at that meeting. I went home to talk it over with Velma. She said, "Al, don't do it. You will get hurt." I replied, "I don't think so, Velma. I've worked hard at that job as councilman and I helped a great many people." I then filed the necessary petition for election as mayor. To my surprise no one else filed. I was unopposed, and therefore, naturally, elected to my first term as mayor.

Following Mayor Vervaet, I had the benefit of three years as a councilman and I was therefore well acquainted with the operations of the Borough of Oakland.

One of the first things we accomplished was to open the meetings to the public at the beginning and at the end of the meeting. It was surprising, as we heard from the residents, how many of the suggestions were good, and we would put them into practice. Of course there were also complaints, primarily drainage.

Muriel Russy was the borough clerk while I was mayor. Muriel took shorthand and that came in very handy because I was quite a letter writer. On one occasion Velma and I were on vacation in Key West, Florida. I got a phone call from a councilman. It was a very important call. I telephoned to Muriel, back in Oakland, getting her out of bed at 1:30 in the morning, and dictated a letter to all councilmen. I asked Muriel to see that the letter I dictated was delivered to each councilman by the police. In this and every other situation she was immensely helpful to me, as mayor. Thanks, Muriel.

I remember, I received, by way of the telephone, a complaint from a lady, that her neighbor's pigeons were dirtying on her roof. I asked, "Are you friendly with your neighbor?" she replied, "Yes" and I said, "You are not going to be friendly with her anymore." Of course she wanted to know why and I said,

"Because you called me!" I suggested to her that before she went any further, she go next door, to her neighbor, in a calm, peaceful way, and talk things over and call me back and let me know how she made out. She called back and said everything was fine.

After the war was over the status of the 60 foot frontage lot buyers had changed. Lots were now being sold. Builders, that is house builders, were buying them up. I wrote a letter, as mayor, to each of the existing home owners in these areas pointing out what was happening and suggesting to them that if they had a lot next to them, buy it, or if there was a lot between themselves and the neighbors, buy it and each take 30 feet. Pointing out to them that they came here to Oakland for open space and that was their best method at this particular time to keep some open space around their home. Some home owners later told me that they did that, others would say they were sorry they did not do it.

We passed a zoning ordinance making the frontage 90 feet instead of 50 feet and thereby salvaged a few lots, but the house builders were smart and if they bought two lots adjoining, they purchased them in different names. All single lot owners in order to acquire building permits, had to go before the then Board of Adjustment, and prove hardship that no other adjoining land could be purchased. The Board of Adjustment was not in a very strong position because they were dealing with an established map.

Council meetings, as well as all the boards of the borough, were held in the Ponds Memorial Building. The borough clerk's office was in one of the wings of the Ponds Memorial Building, the police department in the other. The tax collector's office was in his own home, as were the secretaries to the other boards.

The borough of Oakland had its greatest population growth during the late 1950's. We were getting as many as 200 to 250 new homes constructed each year.

The recreation field also demanded increased construction. An ordinance was passed creating the recreation commission. It was felt it was a large operation and it would be best to delegate to a commission, also help to remove it from politics.

At one point the recreation commission asked me to provide an official Little League baseball field. I looked up the Spalding Guide for specifications for such a field, placed my own company's earth moving equipment without charge. Got the field

finished, and then asked some of the builders in town if they could furnish the cinder blocks for the dugout. This they did. Then I asked, "How am I going to get them in place?" They agreed to do the masonry work.

When the field was completed and they had a time of dedication there was a large sheet held over the scoreboard. When it was unfolded it was named Potash Field. I found out later that they had asked our sons if they thought I would have any objection to it. So it was quite a surprise to me when it was named Potash Field. I think the only funds that the borough had to put into it were the backstop and the scoreboard.

The recreation commission began by running various affairs to raise funds. I called the commission's attention to the fact that any funds they raised would have to be placed in the town treasury. I suggested that they create a recreation committee comprised of three members of the Mother's Club, three member of the Father's Club and three members of the commission. Then, whatever funds they raised would not have to be placed in the town treasury. I admonished them never to let the borough council know what they had, or the council might try to spend it for them. They followed this practice. All funds raised were always used for the recreation program. It is good practice for a mayor and council, on a large project, such as the recreation, to create a board for the concentrated management without council interference.

Right in front of the Ponds Memorial Building was a large depression. Looking at it, I said to myself, "That's an awful looking mess. I'll see what I can do with it." There was a knoll behind the municipal building. It had to be removed. I contacted contractors who needed the dirt and made a deal. For every load they took out, one load had to be placed in the depression. Before this was started, I placed my own company's bulldozer on the site and stripped all the topsoil, so that when we finally got the ground elevated the topsoil could be put back.

As this area began to be cleaned up I began to see a park. I went to the borough engineer, John Brumbar and asked for some designs. He provided the design you see now at no cost to the borough.

As a contractor we were the successful low bidder of the installation of the water main along Berdan Avenue, in Wayne. There was one house with a front lawn, right out to the edge of the pavement, that was a mass of all colors of mountain pink. I rang the doorbell of the house and when a lady answered I told

her that from the edge of the pavement, ten feet back, was the borough of Wayne's right-of-way and that I had to come through there to lay part of the water main. I told her we were in the process of building a park in Oakland and would she mind if I sent men from my company in there and removed the mountain pink to our park. She agreed, and we had them planted in the bank of the park. On a Saturday or Sunday many a car stopped to take a picture of it.

The only expense to the town for the park was in providing the mixed stone for the driveway through the park. I did not want this driveway blacktopped. I wanted to keep the country appearance, and Councilman Sigler, who was in charge of Road and Water, later ran a water line down through the park so the area could be watered in times of drought.

There were two large spaces, one on each side of the monument area, that were developed for planting. The one had a number of azalea plants and was quite a beautiful sight when in bloom. On the other side Peggy Suman, leader of the Girls Scouts, wanted an area to plant the Girl Scout Emblem. The emblem was planted in tulips, and lasted for several years. There was a picture taken of it at the time. Various people in the community, including Mayor Bauer, gave plants to the park. Former Mayor Grootendorst planted the crabapple trees on the flat bordering Oak Street. They are quite large now, and a beautiful sight when in bloom.

The park was completed and the day came for its dedication. This was done in 1961. I met with three or four members of Post 369 of the American Legion. It was decided to name it Veterans Park. We went over and over again what wording to place on the bronze plaque on the large stone and again and again it always came back to what Don Dearie wrote, "A grateful community dedicates this park to the memory of veterans of all wars." This is now on the plaque.

Milton Pulis, Road and Water Superintendent, came to me and said, "Al, we have to have a new well field and it should be out in the northern part of the Borough of Oakland." The acreage picked was owned by Sidney Soons. Mr. Soons was an attorney at law and I met with him in his home in Englewood Cliffs. He was in bed at the time with an ailment, but he thought \$10,000 an acre. I said, "You'll break the town." I told him we needed about four acres. Now his home was on the knoll overlooking that area and he said, "I don't want to look down on those concrete blockhouses from my window in my home." I replied, "How would it be if we planted evergreen trees close together, that would hide the

structure." Well, he liked that. We finally agreed to \$1,000 an acre and evergreen trees. It turned out to be a beautiful well field and the wells that were drilled produced water in abundance, except that well closest to Ramapo Valley Road. I had asked Milt how we were fixed for funds on these projects and he told me we were all right. I then suggested we try a well closer to the river, which we did, and again we sure struck an abundance of water.

A number of streets were gravel penetration and at certain intervals an application of road oil had to be applied, which was then covered by fine stone, usually called 1/4" stone. When I use the term road oil, it was liquid asphalt and liquid tar, put down under great heat.

As a contractor, we were the successful low bidder for building the Stonetown Road in Ringwood. A salesman at that time came up to me soliciting some of the material that had to be placed in the road construction. He said to me, "That road superintendent you have over in Oakland is a dope." I wanted to know why. He said, "I gave him the prices on the road oil, which he said was OK and then told him there was a 1/2 a cent a gallon in it for him. He made me take the 1/2 cent off the prices submitted to the borough!" Yes, Milt was quite a man.

Later, as time rolled by, all streets were blacktopped, eliminating any application of road oil.

The Road and Water Department building was built and at one end there is a very large concrete bin that the dump trucks back up to and dump the sand and gravel onto. That is the sand and gravel later used during the winter on streets in the borough during snow or any icy condition. The office adjoining this building for the road and water superintendent was built at the same time.

Considerable equipment was bought for the road and water department, such as dump trucks, backhoes, spreader for applying sand and gravel to the slippery roads, road sweeper, and equipment for cleaning out catch basins. Additional equipment, some more modernized, has since been added by the present water and road superintendent, David Fagerlund. David Fagerlund was assistant superintendent at that time that Pulis was the superintendent.

All the wells and the water storage tanks are connected electronically to the meter clocks in the superintendent's office. This is a complete system, showing the superintendent at all times what is going on and also permits him to regulate any

one of them if conditions warrant. Considerable extension of the water main and additional storage tanks were built during this period.

A mayor, during his term of office, is a voting member of the planning board and the library board. I enjoyed each for the eight years I was mayor.

At one of our meetings application by the owner of the site now occupied by the Oakland Historical Society, was made for a gas station. Of course we rejected it. Some years later, when I was out of office, I rode by this property, and there was a sign on it, "For Sale". I felt that the borough should own this site, the Van Allen house, and I wondered how I should go about it. Well, I always knew, if I wanted to get a job done, and done right, give it to the ladies. So I gathered, I believe, six or eight ladies and after discussing it we attended the meeting of Mayor Thornton and prevailed upon him to have the borough purchase the property. He designated Councilman Essak and me to negotiate. We came back to the mayor and council and reported that the property could be purchased for \$32,000. They bought it, then followed the Oakland Historical Society.

The councilmen and I discussed one evening the natural beauty of Oakland, situated in the Ramapo Valley with the mountains on the west and the mountains on the east, with the Ramapo River flowing through the valley, and that it was the abundance of trees that played an important part in the beauty of the borough. We consulted the borough attorney as to how these trees could be protected and the result was that, I believe it was in 1956, we passed an ordinance creating the Shade Tree Commission. The members of the commission were given, in the ordinance, certain authority and responsibilities. At the present time the Commission is replacing trees along Ramapo Valley Road, where the old ones have died off. When new streets are created by developers, the maps of those streets are submitted by the planning board to the Shade Tree Commission and they in turn report back to the planning board what trees they want planted on each side of the street, thus insuring the continual planting of trees along the new streets of our town.

It was decided at a council meeting that Oakland should have it's own flag, and a request be made to a very artistic lady, Rhoda Daccurso, asking if she would take on the job of designing the flag. Rhoda agreed, so early in 1961 Rhoda Daccurso designed the flag and the cutting and sewing was done by two Oakland women, Mrs. Nelson Essig and Mrs. Thomas Grillo. The 14 Karat gold thread and the tree colors on the flag were donated by the two

women doing the sewing.

The flag was first flown on the flagpole behind the large stone monument in Veterans Park at the Memorial Day Celebration and services in 1961. It was later adopted as the official flag of Oakland at a council meeting. Rhoda Daccurso explained the colors of the flag; white represents democracy, the green of the leaves are the green of Oakland. The large center green leaf is both the past and the future. The shadow Indian rider is to remember that in the past Indians once lived here. The flag is now displayed on a wall of the meeting room of the borough boards.

Also during the years of my administration, through the hard work of the Chamber of Commerce, Councilman Harry Sigler, and my own efforts, we were finally able to institute bus service to New York City.

At a certain council meeting there came up for public hearing an ordinance, part of which was penalties on burning on the pavement, throwing leaves on the pavement, or other debris. A gentleman arose, called attention to that paragraph, and asked, "Is the Borough of Oakland violating the ordinance each time they sand the roads?" I replied, "Why don't you ask me how many angels can dance on the point of a needle?" It was a poor question, for certainly we all know that when the roads are slippery they are sanded to prevent accident and injury and to make them passable.

We thought the time had come to place all borough employees under Civil Service, including the police. We felt it was not fair to a borough employee who had put some years in service on the job to the borough and then have another administration come in and decide to let him go and put their own friends in office. This was not fair. What we did also included retirement and insurance, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield. This was a common practice in business and industry. It also had a tendency to keep employees on the job and not look elsewhere.

The time had come to do a rezoning of the entire town, to upgrade land use and maintain some open space. I recollect that those undeveloped large acres of land were concentrated on, and the zoning and the size of the lots were increased from 90 foot frontage to 150 foot frontage, and 150 foot deep. The public hearing on the new zoning ordinance did not go easily. Some felt their sons would never be able to build a home here, but on the whole it was accepted and passed into law.

As mayor I enjoyed being a voting member of the planning board, for it was a very, very important board. The Planning Board

has the assistance of a professional engineer, a professional planner, and an attorney. The board controls the orderly development as to the use of land in accordance with borough ordinances. When a developer or the owner of a plot wishes to subdivide it into lots, he must submit his plans and maps to the planning board. Copies of the plans are sent to the road and water department, the board of health, and to the board's engineer. The engineer looks them over to see that all the lots are of a proper size. The road department superintendent examines them to see if the water mains to be installed are the proper sizes and that the dry sewer pipes are shown on the plans. The public hearing is then held. All adjoining property owners to the proposed development must be notified and the proof of such notification submitted to the Board.

It usually takes two or three meetings before a final decision is made by the Board and if there are any major changes, a public hearing must again be held. Practically the same procedure takes place in the industrial or business zones.

The need for an attorney at these hearings of the board is to see that anything going forth is legal. Planning board members receive no salary, only the secretary to the board receives a salary.

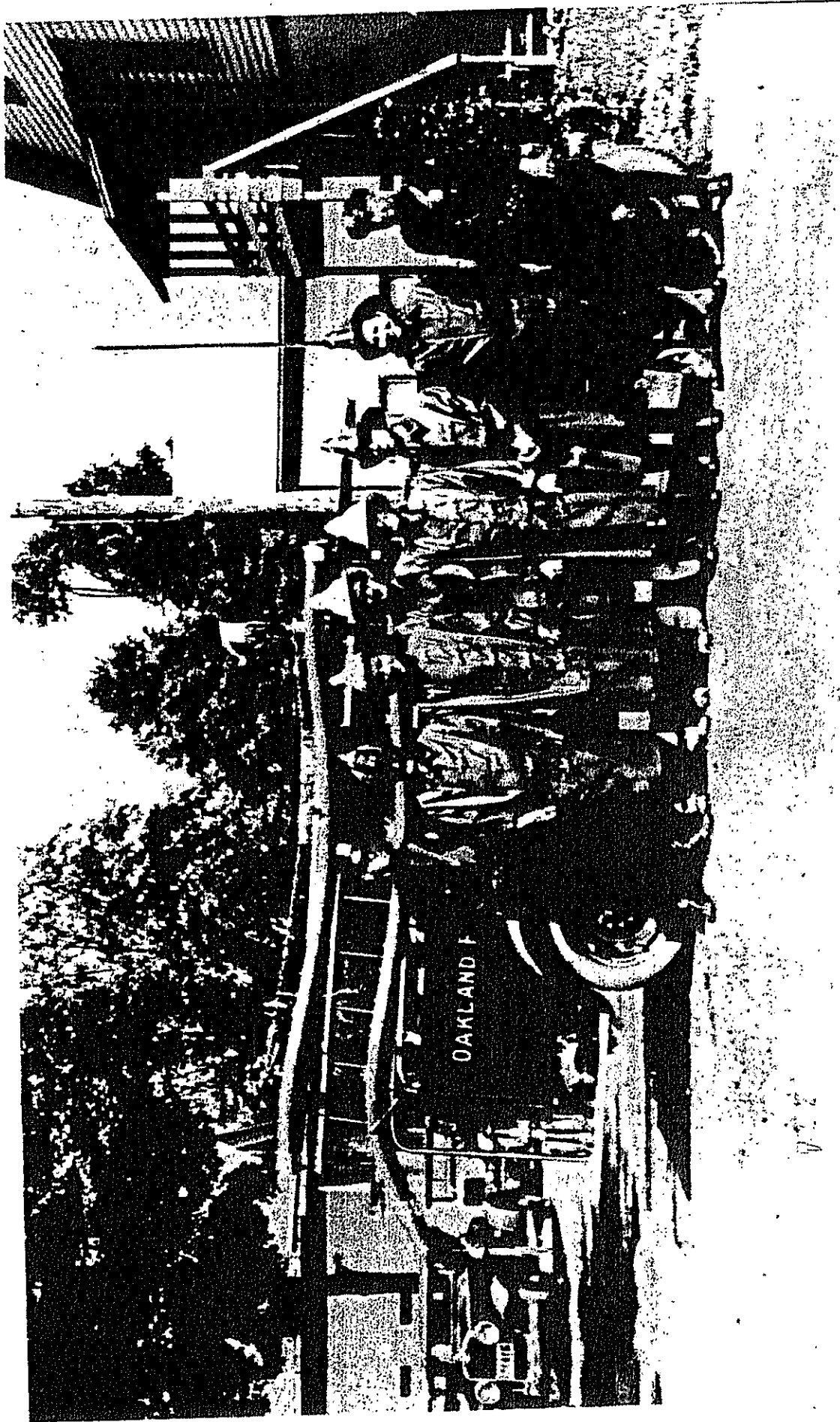
When I mentioned the plans being submitted to the various boards I left out that they were also submitted to the planner, who in his professional way could report if the plans were in order or could be improved upon. Also I omitted that the road superintendent also checks the drainage system in the streets in the proposed development.

When the proposed plans for the subdivision are completed the maps are called preliminary maps, which does not allow construction until the final maps, that is plans, are then submitted to the mayor and council, at which time another public hearing is held and again all adjoining property owners are notified. If the plans are approved by the mayor and council the borough engineer then submits to the council what the engineering costs would be, that is the expenses incurred by the borough engineer, and the developer must place in escrow that sum of money. He also advises the council of estimated cost of the streets, that is the paved streets, the drainage system, the water main, and the planting of trees is valued at and recommended to the mayor and council the amount of the bond that must be given to the borough to guarantee that all this work will be done. The borough council does not release the bond until the borough engineer certifies that all of the work has been completed. The

borough council receives then, from the developer, a maintenance bond, I believe to cover two years. During that period of time, if any defects in the work shows up, the developer is obligated to repair it.

Drainage now became an important issue. The developer in the 60-foot lot areas did not install any drainage system. Now these lots were being built on rapidly. The runoff of rainwater from the roofs and the driveways was causing some flooding. I would visit some of these areas with the borough engineer, John Brumbar, and we'd decide how much of the area, for construction of storm sewers, was put up for bidding. I believe it took us about two years to catch up, for there were practically ten miles of streets in this development.

At the time that the recreation commission was formed discussion took place as to whether any of the business people in town wished to pay for the baseball uniforms with their ad on the back. This was discarded as undesirable. Some members of the commission felt we did not want to run an advertising campaign.



Picture taken in Oakland, New Jersey on the corner of Yawpo Avenue and Vine Street (now Raritan Avenue).
Left to right: Policeman Harry Melville, Firemen Al Potash, Harold Munn, John Melville, Fire Chief Jim Munn, Elmer
Cartough, Ben Otto and Policeman Harry Farrel. Picture taken between 1933 and 1935. Photo by Harry Gate McNomee.

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE COUNCILMEN WHO SERVED DURING THE YEARS
1954-1961

Charles Ely - Investment broker. Very helpful on the
finances of the borough.
William Hutz - Retired businessman.
John Taylor - Businessman.
Eugene Sensenbach - Officer in PSE & G.
John Walker - lived in Oakland a good many years, officer in
Smoke Rise.
Kenneth McBride - Member of the Ramapo Mountain Lakes
Country Club.
Harold Munn - Born in Oakland, self-employed mason.
William Richardson - Longtime resident, also with PSE & G.
George Stephens - Movie Operator
Joseph P. VanVooren - Self-employed.
Harry Sigler - Owner of a furniture storage and moving van
company.
John Paul - Self-employed.

If my terms of office as mayor were successful then I must acknowledge, with sincere thanks, these men, for their participation as councilmen. I was fortunate in having them as partners in the management of our community those years. They were mature, intelligent men, dedicated to the welfare of our community. As matters came before us at a public meeting, there was only one question, "Is it good for Oakland?" and if it was, their answer; "Yes, let's get it done!" As a public meeting was called to order I sat signing vouchers, but when Jack Taylor or Bill Richardson began to talk I stopped and listened, for whatever they had to say was direct, and they did not mince words.

Mayor Joseph VanVooren 1962 - 1963

Mayor VanVooren served two years as councilman during Alexander Potash's term of office. He therefore came to the mayor's job with a knowledge of the organization and business of the Borough of Oakland. During his two years as mayor he served doing the borough's business in a businesslike manner. During his term of office he was also a member of the planning board and the library board.

The VanVooren family and the McBride family both had members attending school in Paterson at the same time. Mayor VanVooren was one of these members. Mayor VanVooren introduced Nevins McBride to Mr. VanDenBerg, who, at that point in time, was the owner of all that land that is now the Oakland Industrial Park. The McBride Company finally purchased all of the VanDenBerg property. A public hearing was held at the Oakland Heights School to determine the use of the land. At this hearing, if my memory serves me correctly, I believe the issue of soil mining was raised. That is that a certain amount of soil mining had to be done prior to the establishment of an industrial park. Charges flew back and forth. It was not a pleasant meeting for a mayor to sit through, and he knew that what he was trying to do was good for the Borough of Oakland.



Oakland's then Mayor and Council - Seated from left to right: John Taylor, Jr., Harry B. Sigler, Council President John C. Heavey, Jr., Mayor I. Emmet Bauer, Thomas Trainor; Standing from left to right: Frank Leone and Robert S. Marx.

Mayor I. Emmet Bauer 1964 - 1965
1970 - 1971
1976 - 1983

Mayor Bauer served over a total period of twelve years, second as to the highest number of years that any mayor served our community. The disruption of the continuity of leadership in our community, especially when that leadership is doing a superb job, is not good. The continuity of the business of the Borough of Oakland is not broken for any change in administration. There always remains four of the six councilmen to maintain that continuity.

Mayor I. Emmet Bauer and his wife and one child arrived in Oakland in February 1945. Mr. Bauer, besides being mayor, was also a member of the Oakland Board of Adjustment, the Oakland Planning Board, Oakland Board of Education and the Ramapo Regional Board of Education. He came to the mayor's job well prepared, for he was a college graduate in law and the head of a large insurance company claims department. During his terms of office Oakland Industrial Park, West Oakland Industrial Park, shopping centers,

the Medical Arts Building on Post Road and the contract for the removal of the island in the Ramapo River, with the creation of Potash Lake were begun. It was a period of rapid increase in our community of commercial and industrial building. He was always willing to listen to the residents. He was an outstanding mayor and unfortunately, due to politics, his terms as mayor were interrupted.

Nansen Development was finalized. Nansen Development is located above the Grand Union shopping area and consists of condominiums. A brook came down through that land. So the banks were rip-rapped and an extra large reinforced concrete drainage pipe was constructed from the end of the brook on East Oakland Avenue to the Ramapo River. It was a very important drainage installation.

The mayor and council, in 1970, decided to let the residents vote on whether or not they wanted the Oakland Industrial Park. Therefore on the coming election, there was placed a referendum and residents voted that they did want the industrial park.

The question of soil mining in Oakland Industrial Park was in controversy for a great many years. Mayor Bauer settled it in a unique way. For every X thousand of soil removed the developer had to produce in the construction of buildings X number of dollars of rateables. It worked out very well.

Take into consideration the industrial and business construction in our community these years, such as Oakland Industrial Park, West Oakland Industrial Park, Medical Building on Post Road, Shoprite, and those industrial buildings constructed down Spruce Street. In the year 1981, the total taxes received from the industrial and business construction approximated three million dollars. Someone said, "what good does it do me? My taxes go up every year." But please, stop and think, where would our home taxes be if it were not for this industrial and business income?

Each and every year of these projects discussion had to take place and Mayor Bauer's background in private life, placed him in a very good position to see that the Borough of Oakland got everything it was entitled to and maybe a little more.

Speaking of a little more, Mayor Bauer, in his discussions with the McBride people, prevailed upon them to build a firehouse in that area, and this they did, at no cost to the Borough of Oakland. It was a stroke of management, for it gave us

a firehouse on Yawpo, one on the north end of town, up on the hill, and now one on the south end of Oakland, up on the hill. Beautiful fire protection, for the movement of fire equipment was enhanced tremendously. Fire trucks no longer have to slowly climb the hills to respond to a fire or an accident. They are now housed in the fire houses at the top of the hills.

Mayor John Heavey 1967 - 1968

Following Mayor Bauer was John Heavey, a lawyer in his own right, and associated with a large legal firm in Newark. He was receiving so many telephone calls from the borough office that his firm offered him a proposition. If he would resign as mayor they would make him a member of the firm. The resignation took effect in his midyear of 1967.

Mayor Randolph Thornton 1967 - 1969

Mayor Thornton was a councilman during Mayor Heavey's term of office and he was appointed by the council to fill out Mayor Heavey's term. Mayor Thornton stood for election at the end of 1967 and was elected for two years 1968 and 1969. It was during Mayor Thornton's term of office that the Van Allen House was purchased and then became the Oakland Historical Society. In private life he was a banker.

Mayor Leroy Wright 1972 - 1975

The State of New Jersey changed the terms of office of a mayor from two years to four years and Mayor Wright was the first mayor in the Borough of Oakland to serve a four year term. In private life he had his own business, primarily insurance.

Mayor Wright came into office at about the worst political time any mayor could. The Oakland Taxpayers Association was successful in electing some of its members to the council. The council therefore consisted of Democrats, Republicans and Independents, each trying to embarrass the other. There was shouting and table pounding and the audience seemed to join in with their shouting. Throughout Mayor Wright's four years as mayor, conducting borough council meetings, he never sat down. He stood up the entire council meeting. Yet, some things did get done. The Grand Union shopping center moved to its present location, only after a good deal of trouble, but it did get done. The Grand Union store is now larger than at its previous location where the Sears store now is located. There were also constructed a number of smaller stores and today it is a fine shopping center,

well rounded with diversified stores. Large, national brand companies have established stores. They serve the community well.

Mayor Wright found a location and established a youth center. It functioned for awhile, but then apparently, for some reason or other, youth seemed to disregard it.

Mayor Wright was a strong party man and it was recognized in Bergen County. He was elected chairman of the Bergen County Republican Mayors Association.

Mayor Wright, during his term of office was a punctual man very methodical in his work habits.

Mayor William J. Winterhalter 1984 - 1987

In 1985 two Democrats were elected to borough council and again in 1986 two Democrats were elected to the borough council. Thus the borough council in 1987 was comprised of four Democrats and two Republicans. Mayor Winterhalter was a Republican.

With the retirement of Police Chief Hasenbalg, Mayor Winterhalter proposed the name of James O'Connor for Chief of Police. He was confirmed by the council. It was a good appointment for he was well qualified to handle the job.

To fill a vacancy on the borough council Mayor Winterhalter appointed the first woman in Oakland's history to the position. Betty Gallinghouse was confirmed by the council and became the first councilwoman to be appointed and served until the next election.

A wall between two classrooms was removed, and the area furnished for the meeting room of the borough council and all of the other boards of the Borough of Oakland.

It was during Mayor Winterhalter's term of office that the Bergen County Board of Taxation ordered the Borough of Oakland, that is the Mayor and Council, to reevaluate all the property in the borough. Bids for this work were opened at a public meeting. Qualifications for the companies bidding were thoroughly examined and the job was awarded to the low bidder for \$155,000.

It was during these years that the mayor and council took over the ownership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars building. Apparently it had been abandoned by that organization.

Mayor Winterhalter reestablished the Public Events Celebration Committee. The committee conducted an affair each Fourth of July at which food was sold and games were held. As darkness approached there were fireworks. This was held at the recreation field. The fireworks were beautiful.

Former Mayor Leroy Wright served as chairman of this committee, and large numbers of local residents attended.

In 1983 the borough council discussed the condition of the Doty Road bridge, and requested that the county engineer make an inspection of this bridge and report his findings to the borough council. This he did and declared the bridge unsafe. As the bridge carries quite a bit of traffic the Board of Chosen Freeholders reinforced the bridge in a temporary manner with a so called Bailey Bridge. In 1984 the borough was granted \$290,000 by the State of New Jersey for engineering fees to plan for a new bridge, but, before any work could be done the council was advised that there were no funds available for a new bridge. It was a good plan, for the river at that point is at its narrowest, causing flood waters to back up. The plan involved cutting back the banks and widening the channel, thus a longer bridge would be necessary. Some funds were received by HUD for the acquiring of property along the Ramapo River in the Pleasureland area. This was in line with the flood control.

In 1984, the Army Corps of Engineers also approved the plan for rechanneling the river around Potash Lake. I believe Potash Lake was declared as having no flood control benefits.

On August 4, 1985 at around 4:05 p.m., the peace and tranquility of the community of Oakland was shattered by gunfire at the FRG complex. Two rival gangs from the NYC area apparently used the occasion of Jamaican Independence Day celebration at the complex, attended by 2500 persons, to settle a dispute which had happened in NY earlier that month.

Gunmen opened fire on the crowd with automatic weapons wounding 18 people and eventually leaving three dead.

The Oakland Police Department, then Commanded by Acting Chief Joseph Eilert, Lt. James O'Connor and Lt. Daniel Pagerie and some 50 police officers on and off duty, not only from Oakland but from surrounding communities including the Bergen County Police Department. It took some 12 hours to contain them and arrest the individuals involved.

During the course of this action, several Oakland Police

Officers were the first to respond to the calamitous situation and distinguished themselves by alertness and bravery under fire, in particular Sgt. John Pianetini, Ptl. Clem Brown and Ptl. Peter Emmons.

Sgt. William Brown found himself immediately involved in armed combat against a man armed with a 45 calibre handgun. Sgt. Brown returned fire and hit the assailant on the run and eventually this enabled other officers to capture him. Ptl. Brown also captured single-handedly an assailant and held him until reinforcements arrived.

Sgt. Brown was awarded the prestigious Police award, the Combat Cross metal for performance at and beyond the call of duty and risk of his own life.

Others involved also received rewards and all who took part in containing the situation were honored by Mayor William Winterhalter with a Unit Citation for gallantry during the emergency.

The self insurance program of the borough, plus the computer were also expanded during Mayor Winterhalter's term of office.

Mayor Elaine I. Rowin 1988 -Present

Mayor Rowin was elected for a four year term, and in as much as this resume of the Borough of Oakland ends January 1, 1988, we cannot go any further then give a resume of her first few months in office.

Mayor Rowin moved to Oakland from Massachusetts in 1958 along with her parents, brother and sister. Mayor Rowin graduated from Ramapo Regional High School and her post high school degrees are: AA, Nursing, Rockland Community College, Suffern, NY. BS, Health Administration, Montclair State College. MS, Special Science and Public Administration (course work completed) William Paterson College of NJ. Attended graduate courses in Public Administration at Seton Hall University.

In 1967 Elaine married John and two children followed: Brian now age 10, and Erin now age 8.

Involvement in politics was not a planned happening. Elaine had been attending council meetings for many years, primarily as a nonparticipating observer who, on occasion spoke out about problems and concerns. Her impression of council

activities was that Oakland suffered from governmental inertia. She believes that citizens should become involved in their community if they are to help improve or at least maintain the quality of life they expect. With that thought in mind Elaine decided to accept the challenge presented to her by the Oakland Democratic Club and enter the 1985 primary election to run for a 3 year term in the borough council. Her running mate was Dr. Mark A. Needle.

Dr. Needle and Elaine Rowin set out with determination to run a truly grass roots campaign, and seek out the residents of Oakland by walking in every district. Ultimately they visited over 2500 homes.

They were both successful, in being elected with a very nice majority. Already sitting on the council was Democrat Vincent Castiglione. With the election of Needle and Rowin, both democrats, the council was really bipartisan. That is the council consisted of 3 Democrats and 3 Republicans and a Republican mayor.

In 1986 an application was before the council to increase zoning density in the Ramapo Mountains. Double density was the issue that roused hundreds of residents to form a watchdog group known as VOCCAL (Voices of Concerned Citizens Alliance.) At the now famous council meeting held August 13, 1986, in the all-purpose room of the Valley School, attended by over 600 concerned residents; the application was defeated by a split vote of the council. Three members voted for the application, three members against it, and the then mayor, Mayor Winterhalter, voted against it. As a matter of record, Elaine Rowin and Mark Needle were two of the council that voted against this question of double density.

Prior to 1986 authorization was given by the council to establish a well on Crystal Lake property. The construction of the well was not started until 1986. It was then that the people of the area and the Ramapo Mountain Lake members turned out in force at a council meeting. They even went to the extent of hiring their own engineer. What attracted the neighboring residents and the association, was seeing the test well being drilled. The borough council, recognized the tremendous number of complaints from residents who did not want the pumping station at the point, that the project was abandoned. Elaine voted with the council to abandon the project. The whole venture turned out to be a poor one, for it was a poor location for a well to be driven for the Oakland water supply.

In the election, November 1986 two Democrats were elected

to the borough council. They were supported by Elaine. This election of 1986 made the composition of the borough council on January 1, 1987 as 4 Democratic members and 2 Republican members. It was the first time in approximately 20 years that the council had a majority of the Democratic party. While the Democrats held the majority of votes on the borough council it was not always smooth sailing. There was quite a bit of dissension.

At this time, in 1987, Elaine's friends and family urged her to seek the mayoralty; that is run in the election for Mayor of the Borough of Oakland. Elaine was satisfied with being a member of the council. Weeks of intense thought and discussion with many friends and her family brought her to the decision to run for mayor. The primary election that Elaine was in, in 1987, was not an easy one, for she had opposition by one of her own party, Democrats. But she did win the primary election by a large majority. She was now qualified to stand for election for Mayor of the Borough of Oakland in November.

The time between the primary and the general election was a period of intense campaigning, for there were three individuals in the election seeking the mayor's job. There was one Republican, one Democrat, and one Independent. Elaine was the winner by a very comfortable majority of votes, carrying all the voting districts of the borough except one. Elaine felt very thankful that in the campaigns she had never felt defeat.

On January 1, 1988 Elaine T. Rowin was sworn in as the Mayor of the Borough of Oakland.

She was the first woman in the history of the Borough of Oakland to be elected Mayor of Oakland. Elaine was also the first woman in the history of the Borough of Oakland to be elected to the council.

COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND

The first lady appointed to the council, to fill a vacancy, was Betty Gallinghouse. The first lady elected to the council in the history of the Borough was Elaine Rowin.

I would be remiss if I did not write about the council members. One often hears the names of the mayors, but the men and woman that manage our community are the council. Nothing can be done without their approval. They are well organized, dividing into committees of three, with the first named on a committee the chairperson. The committees consist of finance, building and grounds, road and water, ordinance, police and fire, also sewer construction. There are others, but I've just tried to pick out the main ones.

Subjects that come before the council, in their initial stages, if important enough, are referred to the respective committees. They, in turn, hold meetings discussing the subjects and then make their recommendations to the council as a whole, and there the subject is again discussed. By this method any subject receives a thorough discussion at two different levels.

The council have the benefit of an attorney, an engineer, a municipal accountant, a professional planner and a treasurer on any technical matters that may come up. They also have the benefit of a borough clerk who acts as secretary to the board and keeps a record of the minutes of all meetings. The borough clerk also keeps the code book up to date. She also issues a number of different permits that the ordinances prescribe her to issue. She works closely with the business administrator. She is an official of the town, signs all legal documents and is the custodian of the borough seal.

Personnel to the various boards and commissions, including borough attorney, borough engineer, borough planner and so forth must be approved by the council. There is one exception, the mayor has the right to name all class four members to the planning board without council confirmation.

Council meetings are attended by the chief of police, the borough attorney, the borough engineer, the borough planner and the treasurer. The borough attorney listens to the proceedings and makes sure they are all legal. The borough engineer is available to answer questions on technical engineering problems. The chief of police is ready for any questions that may involve the police, while the borough planner is needed only in those cases where a proposed development has been submitted.

Each year the borough council constructs the budget. It is an important document, for the total figure of expenditures less revenue that they come up with, affects the amount of taxes residents pay. All department heads, submit in writing their monetary needs for the coming year to the business administrator and the finance committee of the council. They go over these papers, many questions are asked; Why do you need that? Why do you need a new piece of equipment in the road department? Why do the police need a new automobile? and on and on it goes until that point is reached when they are down to the bare minimum. We must not forget that these councilmen also pay their home's taxes.

One other man plays an important part in the construction of the budget and that is the town treasurer. The town treasurer throughout the year watches the volume of money that the borough has in its various accounts, and when he feels there are excessive amounts of funds he calls various banks, secures the best interest and invests various amounts of these funds at the best interest. During 1986 the borough received \$179,000 interest on these investments and as of July 1987 the sum has now reached \$93,000. It is a fine piece of business, instead of laying these vast sums up, earning nothing. It is a fine piece of financial management, especially as I have been advised that each \$25,000 of expenditure saving represents one point in the tax rate. Therefore, in 1986, six points in saving on the tax rate were in favor of the Oakland taxpayer. The investments are made in insured accounts.

After the finance committee, the business administrator, the town treasurer, and the borough auditor have reached what they feel is the bare minimum to be allotted in the coming year to the various departments, the budget is submitted to the whole council. It is again gone over to see if any further reductions can be made or if any additions are needed. On completion of the budget a public hearing is held.

The water department and the sewer department have their own budget in accordance with state statute.

After the public hearing, the budget is passed and in 1987 the total amount of money for municipal use in the budget was \$2,898,000. However, the borough council has to add to that the amount of money required for the year 1987 by the local Board of Education and that figure was \$7,266,000. They must add the needs of Ramapo Regional School and that figure for 1987 was \$3,277,000 but they must also add the amount of county taxes for 1987, \$2,234,000. The borough council must also add to their budget a

figure of \$782,000 which is a reserve for uncollected taxes.

We now have a round figure of \$16,000,000 and it is upon this figure that the tax rate is struck. The point I wish to emphasize here is that when you pay your taxes it looks like an awful large sum of money but only approximately 21% is for operating the town government, the balance of the money you pay is being collected by the tax collector for the local school, Ramapo Regional, and the county, and these funds, after they are collected, must be turned over to them. Putting it very plainly, for each tax dollar you pay the borough council gets .21 cents and the other three institutions collectively get .79 cents.

SCHOOLS

If you will read the minutes of the first meeting of the Borough Council in 1902 you will find the necessary resolutions and motions requesting the state to establish a school district and a board of education. This was done and on the first board of education there were nine members. Later it was changed to seven and finally to five members, which it is to this date, 1988.

The first schoolhouse was a small wooden structure, later converted to a private home, probably in 1907. The schoolhouse was located just off the westbound lane of Route 208 and quite close to Route 202. It consisted of one room and all grades, first through eighth met in that room. The teacher was a man. An old timer told me it had to be a man to maintain discipline.

In 1907 the ivy covered brick structure that is now the front part of the Valley School was built. The old wooden schoolhouse is now being demolished as it is in the path of the new Route 1287. I suppose it lost its historical value when the entire inside was renovated for a private home. A model of this old schoolhouse is in the Oakland Museum.

The graduating students of the first school were transported to a high school in Ramsey. In later years the graduating students were transported, I believe, by the Susquehanna Railroad train to Butler and eventually Pompton Lakes.

The Board of Education of Pompton Lakes High School eventually served notice on the Board of Education of Oakland and possibly a couple of other towns, that they could no longer take our students. A certain year was given when this would take effect. The Ramapo Regional High School District was created in 1957. The first students entered the Ramapo Regional High School, located in Franklin Lakes and Oakland. The cost of operation to each of the three towns was first predicated on the number of students sent from each town, then later it was changed to the total valuation of properties in each town as shown on the tax rolls.

In the 1970's it showed the need of an addition to the Ramapo Regional High School in Franklin Lakes, and in 1974 the Ramapo Regional Indian Hills School was built.

In 1962 the construction of Our lady of Perpetual Help

School was completed and opened for classes. At the same time Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church was completed. The pastor during this construction was the Reverend W. Gordon Byrne, who retired as a priest after serving fifty years in the priesthood.

I was Mayor of the Borough of Oakland during those years of construction and I came in contact with Father Byrne quite frequently. Even since his retirement in 1970, we have kept in touch and our friendship continues to this day.

When Mrs. Potash and I came to Oakland in 1927, there were 800 people in our town. Today, 1987, the population is 13,500. Let us now see what school construction took place over the years to accommodate the increase in population.

When the little wooden schoolhouse was abandoned, and the front part of the Valley School was constructed, in 1907, this construction consisted of four rooms with sliding doors, which could be opened for assemblies and entertainments. Blackboards were placed on the doors, desks were screwed to the floor. A well was drilled to provide drinking water and for washing. No indoor plumbing existed. The Board of Education tried to obtain funds to install inside toilets, but the voters, not having inside toilets in their homes, saw no need for them in the school. Finally the legislature gave permission to install them without consulting the voters and the job was done.

In 1950, 1955 and 1970 additional classrooms were added, including an all purpose room, which serviced as cafeteria and gymnasium. The original classrooms are now used as administrative offices and reading rooms.

In 1950 classrooms 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, and 22 were added. In 1955 classrooms 10-18 were added. In 1970 the 200 wing and the 300 wing were added consisting of the main office, cafeteria and gym.

In 1907 the teacher's salary was \$500 a year. Teachers only had to attend two years of college. Most were from Paterson Normal School, now William Paterson College. There were two grades in each classroom until the early 1950's. Emphasis was on the three R's; reading, writing and arithmetic. Penmanship, (the Palmer Method) was stressed and students might have to stay after school if this method was not followed perfectly. May Day and Christmas Pageants were events looked forward to eagerly.

When Mrs. Potash and I came to Oakland in 1927, teacher's salaries were \$800 a year. It took twenty years to get a \$300 increase. This date, 1987, a starting teacher's salary, with a BA degree, is \$20,000. After that if teacher's go through fourteen steps a salary of \$36,877 is reached.

In 1959 the Heights School was built. A reprint of the Dedication Ceremony follows:

CORNERSTONE LAYING
AND
DEDICATION CEREMONIES
HEIGHTS SCHOOL
OAKLAND, N. J.

September 19, 1959

2 P. M.

Multi-Purpose Room

Seminole Avenue

In 1960 the all purpose room was added. In 1961 the Manito School was built. Dedication ceremony follows:

DEDICATION CEREMONIES

of the

MANITO SCHOOL

OAKLAND, N.J.

December 16, 1961

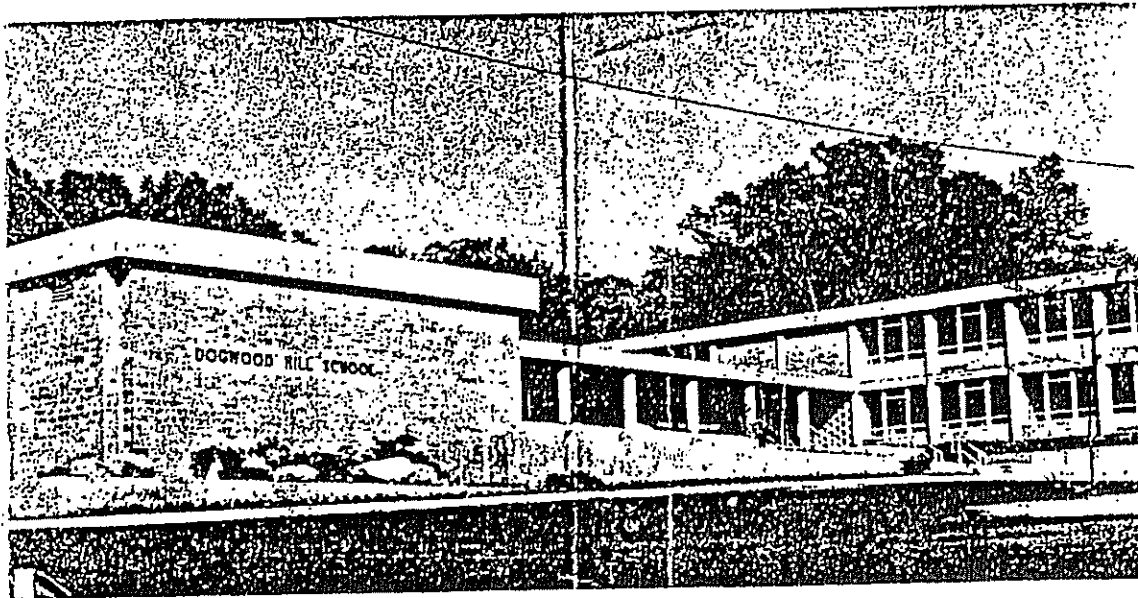
3:00 P. M.

Rooms 1 and 2

In 1970 an all purpose room was added to this school. In 1965 the Dogwood Hill School was built. It was a complete unit in itself. In 1970 the Valley School was changed to a middle school, that is it consisted of sixth, seventh and eighth grades only. It was felt by this method they could better prepare these students for high school. Also that they could better equip the classrooms for the scientific courses. The Dogwood Hill, Manito, and Heights schools accommodated, since 1970, Kindergarten through fifth grades. All students of these schools completing fifth grade were transferred to Valley School.

The dedication ceremonies of the Dogwood Hill School is printed herewith:

Cornerstone Laying
and
Dedication Ceremonies
of the
Dogwood Hill School
Dogwood Drive
Oakland, N. J.



DOGWOOD HILL SCHOOL

Saturday, November 6, 1965

2:30 p.m.

at the

Main Entrance and the Multipurpose Area

You have read that in 1927 Oakland's population was 800 and that in 1987 it was approximately 13,500. You have also read what school construction took place to accommodate the increase in school population. A resume of the school population is as follows:

In 1907 -	101	Students
In 1917 -	113	Students
In 1927 -	122	Students
In 1937 -	85	Students
In 1947 -	154	Students
In 1957 -	890	Students
In 1967 -	2815	Students
In 1977 -	2287	Students
In 1984 -	1521	Students
In 1987 -	1250	Students

I haven't been able to determine why the school population dropped. A simple explanation is that there were less children. It is estimated that the total capacity of the four elementary schools to accommodate students is approximately 3600.

There follows a resume of the rules for teachers as they existed in 1872, a little over 100 years ago!

1872 RULES
FOR
TEACHERS

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each day's pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a

barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.

9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

OLDEST WOODEN SCHOOLHOUSE
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

This is a list of the number of students graduating as the years rolled by:

In 1939	-	11	students	graduated
In 1942	-	12	students	graduated
In 1948	-	19	students	graduated
In 1949	-	23	students	graduated
In 1953	-	25	students	graduated
In 1954	-	39	students	graduated
In 1957	-	74	students	graduated
In 1986	-	173	students	graduated.

Some four or five years after being out of office I was asked to run for the Board of Education, which I did, and was elected. It was at that time we built the Dogwood Hill School. When I looked at the plans I was surprised to find that the size of the all purpose room was too small. At the next meeting, at the Heights School, where the board of education met, I took four books and I measured out on the Heights all purpose room the size of the proposed all purpose room at the Dogwood Hill School. I placed a book at each corner and before the meeting I asked the other members to come in and take a look. I said, "That's the size of your all purpose room in the Dogwood Hills School." They couldn't believe it and wondered what to do. I said, "Add another bay." I believe it was either 13 or 20 feet. They wondered about the cost and so forth. I said, "You tell the public Potash did it". That satisfied them.

I wanted carpet installed in the library at the school, and it was surprising, when children came off the hard floor onto the carpet they remained quieter in their talk and so forth. Any library should have carpet on the floors.

The following communications, issued by Superintendent L. Ksanznak, fully set forth the continual improvements in the curriculum and scholastic awards earned over the years, also the planning for the future.

Curriculum Delivery System - "An Educational Blueprint"

A quality school system remains a "quality school system" when there is a professional climate that encourages and fosters self-evaluation as a systematic procedure for revising, updating and improving the K-8 curriculum and instruction. The broad purpose of the articulation effort is the improvement of communications between professional educators, Board of Education members and the general public, which should result in an orchestrated effort to enhance educational opportunities for all of our students.

The goal of the Curriculum Delivery System for the Oakland Public Schools is to develop the means to provide continuity in the educational program for all students from kindergarten through eighth grade, and to promote an exchange of information which would facilitate a more efficient educational framework. A three-year cycle is designed to establish a plan of action that includes a review of the total curriculum over a three-year time period. Three major curriculum areas will be reviewed each school year. At the end of the three-year cycle, the process will be repeated. A plan of action for

decision-making will be developed that will include input and reaction by teachers, administrators, board of education, and parent teacher organizations.

1986/87

1. Science
2. Social Studies
3. Foreign Lang.

1987/88

1. Special Education
2. Language Arts
3. Physical Educ./Health

1988/89

1. Guidance/Personal Services
2. Practical/Fine Arts
3. Math/Computer Literacy

SAFETY TOWN

"Safety Town" is an early childhood education program designed to introduce all types of safety conditions. During a two-week program, children learn safety behavior through their own involvement. They do this by role-playing in simulated and actual life situations under the guidance of a teacher and a police officer. Safety songs, poems, art projects, stories, movies and visits with the police and fire departments make this program a fun learning experience that children eagerly look forward to attending. "Safety Town" takes place during the summer and children who will be attending Kindergarten in September of the same year are eligible to attend.

Article from The News - October 1, 1987: by Karen Fairweather

Oakland-At its public meeting this week, the Oakland Board of Education viewed a presentation on a computer system designed to update Valley Middle School's student scheduling and grading system and also heard a report on the county goals the Oakland School District achieved during the 1986-87 school year.

In a letter to Oakland Superintendent Larry Ksanznak and Board Secretary Edmund Kotula, Bergen County Superintendent M. Ray Kelly said that by the end of June 1987, based upon motivation and ability, students in grade five were to show a basic understanding with 80% proficiency of the fifth grade library skills program as measured by tests made and conducted by teachers and teacher observation class checklists. Kelly stated in the letter that the Oakland School District has exceeded the achievement level established, said Assistant Superintendent Victor Rabasca, "We exceeded 80% and we hope to continue to exceed 80%."

Kelly stated that by June 1987, also based upon motivation and ability, students in grade five were to have shown a basic understanding with 80% proficiency of the study skills section contained in the continuous progress reading levels applying to fifth grade as measured by continuous progress level tests and teacher observation class checklists. Kelly stated that the County's review of the continuous progress level test, teachers observations based on established criteria and teacher observation class checklists indicate that the fifth grade exceeded the established 80% proficiency level.

Kelly also stated that by the same date students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades were to have shown a basic understanding with 100% proficiency of their rights in the area of child abuse. Kelly stated that the County's review of the results of teacher-made tests, checklists and teacher observation of role-playing situations and class discussions indicate that students met the 100% proficiency level. Kelly stated that one major consequence was the teaching staff's increased awareness and sensitivity to child abuse. Staff awareness has resulted in problems being reported and investigated.

Rabasca said that for the 1987-88 school year, three new goals are being introduced into the school system: improving the third grade spelling program with "Write Right" which has been teacher-developed; improving the eighth grade geography program; and an effective program of AIDS instruction for the eighth grade.

Ksanznak said that two years ago the Oakland school administration looked at computer processing as a means of producing the scheduling and progress reports at VMS more efficiently. BOE and audience members listened as Chris Lane, Vice Principal of VMS, discussed the computer system proposed for handling VMS's scheduling and grading system. Land, Dogwood Hill School Principal Eugene Casaleggio, Walt Ryan (Oakland School District's Computer Specialist) and Computer Consultant Ray Sauers (of Ray Sauers Enterprises) helped put together an Omnis computer program that will record VMS's scheduling and grading more efficiently and in less time than it currently takes to record them.

The most important part of computer programming is for what purpose you can use the information you program into the computer," stated Lane. Land said that for example, in producing report cards a teacher will take a class list and put

it in his/her marking book. At the end of the marking period, the teacher will use a scantron sheet and record each individual grade on the scantron sheet. Lane said that it will take the teacher approximately 20 minutes to put the grades onto the sheet and, when the sheet is placed in the computer, the computer will read every single report card in one-half hour.

Trustee Edward Vanderbeck asked Lane if there is any security on or around the computer system to prevent anyone from tampering with the information it will hold. Lane responded that he, Casaleggio, Ryan and Sauers have played with various passwords and have found this method cumbersome. He said however, that the system has huge backup in the form of additional software that is locked up in a safe place.

The following is a list of excuses given by students for being absent or late:

1. Dear School: Pleas excuse John for been absent on January 28, 30, 31, 31, 33.
2. Chris have a acre in her side.
3. Mary could not come to school because she was bother by very close veins.
4. Joh has been absent because he had his tooth taken out of his face.
5. I kepe Billie home because she had to go Christmas Shopping because I didn't no what size she war.
6. John was absent yesterday because he had a stomach.
7. Please excuse Gloria. She been sick and under the doctor.
8. My son is under the doctor's care and should not take P.E. Please execute him.
9. Lillie was absent from school yesterday as she had a gang over.
10. Please excused Blance from P.E. for a few ,days. Yesterday she fell out of a tree and misplace her hip.
11. Please excuse Joey Friday. He had loose vowels.
12. Please excuse Joyce from jim today. She is administrating.
13. Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football; he was hurt in the growing part.
14. My daughter couldn't come to school Monday because she was tired. She pent the weekend with some marines.
15. Please excuse Sandra from being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps.
16. Ralph was absent yesterday because of a sour trout.
17. Please excuse Wayne for being out yesterday becaus he had the fuel.

A great deal of the information on the schools was given to me by Superintendent of Schools Lawrence Ksanznak. His help and cooperation were superb. I could not have written this resume of the schools of our borough without his help. Thank you, Larry.

NEWS & NOTES

OAKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Lawrence R. Ksanznak
Superintendent of Schools February 24, 1988
YOL. V. ISSUE 4

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RECOGNITION

Recently two of our veteran educators, Joseph Guzzo and Lois Sarsfield have decided to pursue career alternatives come September 1988. Our best wishes to them both for continued happiness and contentment.

JOSEPH GUZZO, PRINCIPAL OF MANITO SCHOOL, began his teaching career in the Oakland Public Schools September 1, 1953. Joe was appointed Principal of Manito School in 1961. He was instrumental in the development of the district Continuous Progress Program. During the past several years he has served as the administrative liaison for language arts and social studies, co-chairperson of the Education Committee for the Long Range Planning Model and the Bergen County Early Childhood Education Council. In addition to district responsibilities, Joe served as President of the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional Board of Education. He is an avid golfer and a former basketball and baseball star player.

The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and lovingness.

...Kahlil Gibran

LOIS SARSEFIELD, TEACHER OF MUSIC, began her teaching career in the Oakland Public Schools September 1, 1954. Lois nurtured and fostered the music program through the beginning stages. She has served as music instructor in all four elementary schools. She has worked closely with classroom teachers in helping to orchestrate the special musical presentations. Her enthusiasm and vibrancy have always been evident when watching the children perform a song or dance such as a rendition of "The Lambert Walk" in recent performances at Heights and Manito Schools. Lois is interested in pursuing opportunities for performing on stage in New York City in future years. Hopefully, within the near future she will achieve this goal.

"And she alone is great who turns the voice of the wind into a song made sweeter by her own loving."

...Kahlil Gibran

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SCHOOL AND CHURCH

Sometime in the middle 1950's I decided, as mayor, to take a census of Oakland. I was not interested in counting noses, as to what the total population was. The 5 x 8 card I made up, and had a number of them printed, had a number of questions on it, that when recapitulated, would show important statistics to the Board of Education and Borough Council. One of the questions I had on the card was, "what is your religion?" The more I looked at that question, the more I disliked it. I went to my friend Wendell Kern and he advised me to make the question read, "What is your religious preference?"

The freshman students of the high school and the 8th grade students took these cards from house to house and had them filled out. On completion of the job I turned all of them over to Mrs. Eleanora Pringle, a very capable lady, and a graduate of Barnard College. When she completed the recapitulation of the cards, it was found that Oakland was 51% Catholic.

Somehow this information reached Bishop Boland, as one evening about nine o'clock I received a telephone call from Julia Heavey that Father Byrne was at her home and would like to see me. I drove right over to her home and met Father Byrne. He told me that Bishop Boland had called him about all these Catholic families in Oakland. He remarked on his going to retreat he did not see all these houses. Of course he could not with all our beautiful trees. Father Byrne asked me if he could get the names of these Catholic families. I replied yes. Father Byrne then stated that it was quite a job and there would be five or six grown-ups who volunteered to do the job and that they also worked during the day. I said that's all-right I would open the town hall nights to accommodate them.

Father Byrne and I went around town seeking temporary quarters to celebrate the mass. It was finally settled at the American Legion Post Building on Oak Street in Oakland I assume that Father Byrne's being a veteran was helpful. I believe it was the first time in the history of the Borough of Oakland, Catholics parishioners had a place to worship in their own town.

Before you knew it Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and School was under construction.

I received a letter from (Rev.) Robert A. Connors thanking me for providing the parish with the beginning facts on how Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish was formed. He stated in his letter; "that he would file my letter in the parish archives."

TALENTS AND TEACHERS

What endless, noble talents teachers must possess-
The skill of a sculptor to shape young lives-
Mastery of the difficult balance of firmness, yet
gentleness-
A love of life-combining tolerance with wisdom and
enthusiasm
The eagerness of discovery, perceptively including
all children yet recognizing the individual needs
of each-
A genuine interest in youth-their dreams, their
problems, and their virtues-
The delicate gift of informing, yet encouraging
children's natural curiosity-
The almost lost art of leading the unsure to the open
doors of assurance and confidence in self-
An emanating warmth toward all entrusted to their
teaching and guidance-
The recognition of each child as a human being-not
"just another kid"-
The sensitivity of caring, really caring, and making
sure the children know they care-
Yes, indeed, what endless, noble talents teachers must
possess!

-Lorraine M. Halli

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following pages are a resume of the library of 1900 - 1971, given to me by Mr. & Mrs. Irving Bush. Mrs. Bush, nee Ruth Sheffield, was a daughter of Mrs. Louise Sheffield, who started a library in the year of 1900, in her own home. Ruth's father served as the borough's tax collector. Mr. Irving Bush is the son of Mr. David C. Bush, who together with other men persevered with the New Jersey State Assembly to divorce Oakland from Franklin Township, and formed the Borough of Oakland on April 8, 1902. Mr. David C. Bush also served as a councilman on the first Borough Council meeting on May 19, 1902.

We are thankful to Mrs. Ruth Bush for keeping these records of the library, which you will enjoy reading on the following pages.

Excerpts from: The Oakland Public Library-Yesterday and Today-compiled and written by Sarah Jean Swanson.

The Oakland Public Library was founded by Mrs. Charles H. Sheffield. A former school teacher concerned about her community and its culture, Mrs. Sheffield started sharing books from her own collection with neighborhood children. Her enthusiasm and desire to expand this service enabled her to interest others in the project. The Borough Council minutes of October 6, 1910 record that a letter from several local women requesting the use of the town hall for a public meeting for the purpose of organizing a library association was read. Soon after the public meeting, held on October 18th, Mayor Edward D. Paige appointed fifteen interested residents to serve on the following committees: finance, site, book, entertainment, and by-laws. Mrs. Sheffield was one of the citizens appointed.

During the first twenty-five years of its existence, the library, usually located in private homes, was run by volunteers. Two sisters, the Misses Louise and Hattie VanWagoner, were the first library hostesses. They set aside a room in their home on Powder Mill Lane to be used as the library. It was there that the book collection began to grow through gifts from friends and neighbors.

In the early 1920's, with one of the VanWagoner sisters continuing as librarian, the library moved to Mrs. Annie Meyer's home on Ramapo Valley Road, across from the railroad station. By 1926 the library hostess was Mrs. Henry Hopper, who set up the library in her home on Ramapo Valley Road opposite the Valley Middle School.

According to notes written by her husband, Mrs. Hopper was still librarian when the library was moved to the first floor of the Paige Office Building. The stone, two story building, located on Franklin Avenue, was one of the original buildings on an estate which had been owned by Edward D. Paige. With a brook running beneath it, the building stands on the very edge of Franklin Avenue, just east of Ramapo Valley Road. During the 1920's the estate was occupied by a Catholic Seminary which granted permission for the library to use the building. It was very barren housing for the library's collection of 1,000 volumes, and few of the 735 residents took advantage of the library facilities.

Ill health forced Mrs. Hopper to give up the post of librarian shortly after the move to the Paige building. Mrs. Henry P. Demarest became librarian in October 1929, and in June 1932 the library was moved to her home at 277 Ramapo Valley Road. Former Mayor Potash recalls that the library was located in a small first floor room to the right of the front entrance of the house. The library paid \$15 per month for the use of that room.

For many years the money for the operation of the library was raised by contributions, annual tag days, and social events such as musicals and garden parties, which were usually held at the Sheffield home. Mrs. Edith Sheffield Houghton recalled raising funds for the library by selling ice cream at 10 cents a slice from 20 quart tubs. This was before an ice cream parlor was in town. During one library week, children raised \$32., young people \$26., and Edith's ice cream \$17.

The first financial support by the borough was given in 1929 when \$100 was allocated in the municipal budget. The following year it was increased to \$200. Most of the money received was spent on rent, and the librarian's salary, with little for the purchase of equipment and new books.

Subscriptions may have been used during early years, as some old books have been stamped "Oakland Library Club". There is also evidence that a circulating library was in operation.

The official formation of the Library Board of Trustees occurred at the January 14, 1930 Borough Council meeting when Mayor Peter E. Demarest appointed the following persons to serve as trustees: Mrs. Henry Demarest, Charles H. Sheffield, Mrs. Sheffield, Mrs. Horton, the Rev. George D. Geres, and Mrs. Scott. Additional appointments to the library board during the

1930's included; Rev. M. K. Dietz, Mrs. Edith Houghton, Miss Helen Ryerson, Mrs. Eleanora Pringle, and Mrs. Edythe Moog. The Mayor, Pastor of Ponds Church, and Principal or Superintendent of the local public school were appointed as Ex-officio members of the board. Mrs. Sheffield was made a life member of the board.

In December 1933, after Mrs. Demarest resigned as librarian, new quarters had to be found for the library. The library trustees obtained permission from the local school board to use an unoccupied classroom in the Oakland Grammar School. This classroom was a one-room kindergarten wing located on the north side of the school, and the library moved there early in 1934. A newspaper article by Mrs. Pringle indicated that the room was the finest the library occupied to date, and in addition was rent-free.

In 1933 the Borough Council allocated an additional \$100 for the library, thus making the yearly appropriation \$300. It was decided to purchase new books with the entire allotment as no other expenditures were necessary.

During the school year the library was open twice a week, Tuesday evening from 7-8:30 and Friday afternoon from 3-5p.m. High school girls assisted the librarian at the charging desk, and a volunteer group, organized by Mrs. Pringle, provided additional help. WPA workers aided in the indexing of the entire library collection. Registration figures for December 1935 show that of 154 card holders, only 82 were regular borrowers. Approximately 1700 books were circulated that year.

Frequent social events were held under the auspices of the library. One such occasion was the annual Open House, a formal affair, which was held in February at the time of the local school board elections. Another was during the 225th anniversary of the Ponds Reformed Church in 1935 when the library had an exhibition of historical mementos from the Oakland area.

Library records state that Mrs. Minnie Johnson was librarian in 1934 - 1935, then Miss Hazel Ryerson assumed the position until her resignation on February 1, 1938. At that time Miss Thelma Fowler became the librarian. In November 1939, the school board notified the mayor and council that the North Wing room was once again needed for classes. The need for a new library location had been anticipated by the council. The preceding January, the volunteer fire department had asked for

exclusive use of the Yawpo Avenue firehouse. The mayor and council had approved this request with one exception, that part of the second floor be reserved for future use by the library. Therefore, late in 1939, Miss Fowler, assisted by members of the library board, moved all books, supplies and equipment to the firehouse, the only rent-free location in town.

The two-story, frame and stucco building, owned by the borough and located on Yawpo Avenue just east of Ramapo Valley Road, had been constructed around 1910 under direct supervision of the volunteer fire department. The original building was later doubled in size with the enlarged second floor serving as the borough meeting hall for many years.

The library was located in the front room of the second floor. It had a total area of approximately 600 sq. ft., and the book collection was less than 4000 volumes. A school notebook was used to record books taken out. The library was open seven hours a week.

In June, 1942 Miss Fowler resigned and Mrs. Herman Ahlers became librarian. She served for six years, and was replaced by Mrs. Annette Stoneton, who was librarian until January 23, 1951. Mrs. Evelyn Kenny served as the last lay librarian from February 1951 until July 1951.

In August of 1951 members of the library board asked Mrs. Florence Ridley, a retired librarian, to act as temporary librarian. She agreed and for the first time the library had the services of a professionally trained librarian. Many procedures were initiated during her "temporary" employment, which lasted nearly twelve years.

A member of the staff at the Brooklyn Public Library for 28 years, Mrs. Ridley was surprised at the scarcity of non-fiction books. One of her first purchases was a dictionary. Since most of the books had come to the collection as gifts, she soon began to examine all volumes and discard out-dated novels and old school texts. With the help of the library trustees she started cataloging the books, setting up a modern charging system and compiling an inventory of the collection. Another project undertaken soon after her arrival was the arrangement of all non-fiction books according to the Dewey Decimal System.

The rearrangement of the books on hand and the addition of many new books resulted in a need for more equipment. Mrs. Ridley's husband built numerous items including a book truck,

stools, and shelves to supplement the existing stacks. Later Mr. Beam, a library trustee, and Mrs. Ridley purchased more furnishings at an auction held at the old Montclair library. Those items included a revolving dictionary stand, four oak chairs, an oak bench, and a section of shelving for over-sized books, all for \$35. In time a card catalogue, magazine rack, and book depository were added.

During her first years as librarian, Mrs. Ridley set up records which contained information about the book stock, the number of borrowers, the adult and children's circulation, and the monies received from fines and book rentals. To insure the correctness of the registration records she required that application forms be filled out by library users. Since she was concerned about the availability of library services to school aged children, she worked out a book exchange system with the school. In addition, she initiated a program in techniques and the use of the library for older students.

According to 1953 library records, the registration that year totaled 441, approximately 1/5th of the community. With some 4,000 volumes on the shelves, only 4,337 books were circulated. By 1958 the registration had risen to 1,664, the book stock 5,685, and 17,863 books were circulated. By the late 1950's there were four general encyclopedias and a fair sized reference collection in the library.

A story hour for children was begun in 1956. Held once monthly on Saturday morning it had an average attendance of 35 children per session. In 1959 it became necessary to limit the story hour to pre-schoolers and kindergarten students. It was still held Saturday morning, but only 12 children were permitted to attend each session because of inadequate space. Eventually, in the fall of 1960, the story hour had to be dropped completely.

From 1951 until 1954 the library was only open to the public three times a week for a total of seven hours. The hiring in January of 1955 of the first part-time assistant enabled Mrs. Ridley to increase the library hours to sixteen per week. By 1958 the library was open four afternoons a week, from 1-5 p.m., two evenings a week from 7-9 p.m. and Saturday morning from 10-1 p.m. for a total of 23 hours per week. In 1959 the library hours were increased to 29 per week. By 1962 it was open to the public for 39 hours per week.

During the late 1940's the borough appropriation for the library had increased from \$300 to \$600 per year. This

allotment, the fines on overdue books, and all book rental fees were the total funds available for library use. In 1952 the borough appropriation was raised to \$900 per year; thereafter a steady increase in funds ensued. By 1956 the library had incorporated, the appropriation was close to \$4,500 per year. It was then that all fines collected were turned over to the town for borough use. During the next five years, the amount of money received by the library nearly tripled. In 1961 the appropriation was \$13,000.

The library trustees in May 1955 sent a letter to the Borough Council suggesting that the Oakland Public Library assume legal status through a public referendum. The letter was referred to the borough attorney with instructions to proceed with the necessary steps to achieve this goal.

In 1955 the mayor and council were advised by the borough attorney, Nathan Bernstein, that he had searched the records and could not find any ordinances that created an Oakland Free Public Library. He advised that this had to be done, if expenditures were to be made to the library. It then followed on August 16, 1955 the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS, in order to establish a free public library within the Borough of Oakland, it is necessary that a referendum be held, therefore, at the next general election at which the question of the adoption of the provisions of Article I of Chapter 54, Title 40, of the Revised Statutes of New Jersey shall be submitted.

BE IT RESOLVED that there shall be submitted to the legal voters of the Borough of Oakland at the next general election the question of adopting the provisions of Article I of Chapter 54, Title 40, of the Revised Statutes of New Jersey, particularly Sections 40:54-1 to 40:54-29 of the title Municipalities and Counties of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall cause the question to be submitted to be printed on the official ballots for such election in conformity with Revised Statutes 40:54-4.

ROLL CALL: All yeas. Councilmen Sensenbach, Munn, Ely and Stephens.

At the next general election in November 1955, residents of Oakland approved the resolution to establish Oakland Free Public Library. Then the Certificate of Incorporation followed.

In December, after the election, Mrs. Ridley sent a letter to the Mayor and Council reminding them that 600 voters had approved the library referendum. On January 2, 1956 the Council issued a Certificate of Organization for the Free Public library.

CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION
OF THE
TRUSTEES OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that we, ALEXANDER POTASH, Mayor of

the Borough of Oakland, WILLIAM H. RISSER, principal of Oakland Grammar School, EDWARD BEAM, of the Borough of Oakland, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, MRS. ELEANORA PRINGLE, of the Borough of Oakland, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, MRS. ARTHUR VERVAET, of the Borough of Oakland, County of Bergen and the State of New Jersey, and MRS. MARIE SARCKA, of the Borough of Oakland, County of Bergen and the State of New Jersey, are the members of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Oakland, being duly appointed in accordance with the provisions of the statutes of the State of New Jersey.

We further certify that the appointment of the said

EDWARD BEAM, MRS. VIVIAN WALKER, MRS. ELEANORA PRINGLE, MRS. ARTHUR VERVAET and MRS. MARIE SARCKA, was made by the said ALEXANDER POTASH, Mayor of the Borough of Oakland, with the consent of the Council of the Borough of Oakland, at an organization meeting held in the Municipal office building on January 2, 1956.

we further certify that the terms of the members of said Board of Trustees are as follows:

ALEXANDER POTASH, Mayor of the Borough of Oakland-for the period of his term as Mayor of the Borough of Oakland.

WILLIAM H. RISSER, Principal of the Oakland Grammar School-for the period of his term as Principal.

EDWARD BEAM - Five years from January 2, 1956

MRS. VIVIAN WALKER - Four years from January 2, 1956

MRS. ELEANORA PRINGLE - Three years from January 2, 1956

MRS. ARTHUR VERVAET - Two years from January 2, 1956

MRS. MARIE SARCKA - One year from January 2, 1956

We further certify that the said Board of Trustees duly met and convened at Municipal Office Building on the 13th day of January 1956, for the purpose of organizing as a body corporate, and that at said meeting, there were elected from the members of the Board of Trustees the following officers:

PRESIDENT - ELEANORA PRINGLE
TREASURER - EDWARD BEAM
SECRETARY - EDWARD BEAM

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, as the trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Oakland, have hereunto set our hands and seals this 13th day of January 1956.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF BERGEN

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 13th day of January, neteen Hundred and Fifty-six, before me, the subscriber, an Attorney at Law of New Jersey, personally appeared ALEXANDER POTASH, WILLIAM H. RISSER, EDWARD BEAM, MRS. VIVIAN WALKER, MRS. ELEANORA PRINGLE, MRS. ARTHUR VERVAET and MRS. MARIE SARCKA, the Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Oakland, who, I am satisfied are the persons named in and who executed the foregoing certificate, and I having first made known to them the contents thereof, they did acknowledge that they signed the same, sealed and delivered the same as their voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purpose therein expressed.

Nathan Bernstein
An Attorney at Law of
New Jersey

The Library Board of Trustees, consisting of seven members which included the Mayor, the local superintendent of schools, and five citizens appointed by the Mayor, was organized as a body corporate on January 13, 1956. As a result of this action the library came under direct borough supervision and was provided with an adequate annual budget. The By-laws of the Free Public Library were adopted on April 2, 1956 and accepted by the Board of Trustees on June 4, 1956.

Library board members during the late 1950's included Mr. Edward Beam, Mrs. Warren Gabler, Mrs. Marie Collyer, Mr. M. W. Morrell, Miss Kathryn Merrey, Mr. William Rose, Mrs. John E. Walker, Mrs. Marie Sarcka, Mrs. Arthur Vervaet, and Mrs. Pringle, who was in her second decade as a library trustee.

Anxious to improve "her" library, Mrs. Ridley joined several library organizations including the Bergen-Passaic Library Club (1954), the New Jersey Library Association (1957) and the Small Libraries Group (1960). In addition, she and members of her staff attended many meetings and took a variety of extension courses in Library Science.

During the mid-fifties it became apparent that the upper floor of the firehouse could not permanently house the library. Early in 1954 the firemen had once more sent a request to the Borough Council that they have full use of the building. At that time the council recommended that architect's sketches for a proposed second floor renovation of the firehouse be obtained, but apparently nothing more was done by the fire department to follow up their original request. The reason for this may have been either the impracticality of the renovation requested, or the lack of an available location for the library.

In the annual report of 1958, Mrs. Ridley wrote that a library has two main functions to perform; it must provide material and it must provide service. At that time neither of these functions were being adequately fulfilled. Late in 1958 it became necessary to move the service desk from the library proper into the entrance hall because of over-crowded conditions. By 1959 there was space for neither a newspaper rack or a magazine stand. The library could no longer attain the goals which Mrs. Ridley had set.

The Library Board had received an indication from the Mayor and Council in 1958 that the Ponds Memorial Building might be converted to library use. This plan had to be postponed because, in the spring of 1959, the mayor told the board of education that the building could be used by the public school

system as long as it was needed. Consequently kindergarten classes from the Valley School met there for the next several years. The postponement of the library move was a great disappointment to Mrs. Ridley and members of the library board.

In April 1959 a group of women, interested in acquainting the public with the library's value to the community and its expansion needs, formed the "Friends of the Oakland Public Library". The "Friends" group became inactive in January 1960, when the Civic League was formed. Composed of citizens interested in finding a new home for the library, it was directed by Robert Farmer.

It was nearly six months after the formation of the latter group before any constructive action was observed. In May, Councilman John Taylor, Jr. revealed that exploratory plans had been made for both a new firehouse and a new library. During the summer and fall of 1960, several Library Board members suggested, even urged, that the Ponds Memorial Building be used as the library. In October Mr. Rose, President of the Library Board, sent a letter to the Borough Council stating that tentative plans showed it would cost less to convert the Ponds Memorial Building into a library than to erect a new building. In addition, the letter pointed out, that the building would probably serve as an adequate library for the next fifteen to twenty years.

The Ponds Memorial Building is an enlarged replica of the 1829 Church of the Ponds. Constructed during the administration of Mayor Clifford F. MacEvoy, it was dedicated on July 17, 1937. The I-shaped building has an octagonal steeple topped by the original weathervane. The stone facade was patterned after the 1829 Ponds Church with sandstone blocks at the corners of the building from this church and the earlier hexagonal Ponds Church of 1740.

Early in 1961 the borough council announced that the building would be renovated for use as the Public library. Mayor Potash asked council members to support the plan which would provide new library facilities. He discussed the following three proposals:

1. Conversion of the Ponds Memorial Building.
2. Construction of a new building at a cost of about \$75,000
3. Conversion of private homes donated to the town for library use.

Since state authorities had already approved the use of the Ponds

Memorial Building as a public library, Mayor Potash indicated that he was in favor of this plan because of the low cost of renovation and the immediate availability of the site.

At the July 26th council meeting a new ordinance, to furnish bonds for the \$17,000 cost of reconditioning and refurbishing the Ponds Memorial Building for library use was drafted and approved.

At a special library board meeting in September, Mayor Potash introduced Mr. L. Bannon, the architect authorized to take over the planning of the library renovations. No visible change was to be made to the exterior of the building. The interior, however, was to be furnished in a manner which would utilize the most modern equipment yet preserve the colonial atmosphere.

In November the library board supervised the letting of bids and awarding of contracts for all equipment and construction work. The library had been given use of the major portion of the first floor, and area of approximately 3,250 square feet. Stacks accommodating the adult, young peoples and children's books along with suitably sized furniture were located on what had been the auditorium. The former stage was made into a separate reference area and work center for students.

A large mural, depicting the 1696 purchase of land, including present day Oakland, by Dutch colonists from the Minsi's Indian sachem, Yauapagh (Yawpo) hung at the rear of the stage area. During the renovation Rudy Schamberger, a carpenter, restored the painting.

The south wing, the former Civil Defense headquarters, was made into a combination office and workroom. The Edward Bead Reading Room, located in the north wing, was established in memory of a long-term Library Trustee. The colonial furnishings for this room, selected by Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Pringle, and Mrs. Potash, were purchased with funds willed to the library from the Beam estate.

The Oakland Historical Museum was located in the lobby of the building until it got its own home in the Van Allen house.

The basement of the building was not improved during the renovation and continued to be used by various town organizations.

Mayor Potash was personally concerned about the progress made in the renovation. He viewed the placing of the library in its proper setting as the most important accomplishment of his administration and that members of the council shared this

achievement with him. After leaving office in January 1962, he appeared daily to supervise the repairs, painting and assembly of equipment for the library. When the old library in the Yawpo firehouse closed permanently on February 17th, all essential equipment was in place in the new location.

On Saturday March 3rd, an open house for more than 100 guests was held by the library trustees, Mrs. Ridley and members of her staff. The library was officially opened to the public at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, March 7th, 1962.

The formal opening and dedication occurred on Saturday April 14th at 2 P.M. Invocation was given by the Reverend Robert T. Marsh, Minister of the Ponds Reformed Church. Mayor Joseph P. Van Vooren delivered the dedication address. A brief summary of the building's history, given by Mrs. Arthur Vervaet, was followed by the unveiling of a bronze table, mounted on a granite rock from the Ramapo Mountains, purchased with monies left to the library by Mayor MacEvoy.

APRIL 14, 1962

Dedication of New Public Library. Brought about by the perseverance of former Mayor Alexander Potash.

The library was established by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sheffield in the year 1900, in their own home until 1910 when it was formerly organized under the direction of Mayor Paige. It was self-supporting until Mayor Frost had \$300 dollars put in the budget for yearly support. It was moved from building to building until 1962, when it moved to its new and permanent building, of which we are very proud and for which we thank Mr. Potash.

ARTICLE FROM "THE PATERSON EVENING NEWS"
DATED 11/30/61
BY ELEANORA M. PRINGLE

Sheffield St. bears the name of the late Charles H. Sheffield and his wife, Mrs. Louise Sheffield, who played so important a part for many years in the civic and religious life of our community. We are still reaping benefits from their work, for it is to Mrs. Sheffield, a former school teacher who knew and loved books, that we owe the beginning of our public library. Sharing her own books with neighborhood children to encourage them to read, she began the first lending library here more than 50 years ago. Busy housewives in this early Dutch colony found little time for this more leisurely occupation and were more apt to encourage their children to be industrious, we suspect.

When we first got acquainted with our library about 30 years ago, it occupied the old building standing at the very edge of Franklin Ave., just east of Ramapo Valley Rd., a somewhat barren housing. There was no professional staff. It contained only a few thousand books, none of them new, and had relatively few patrons. And there was no town support. A library board, made up of Mr. and Mrs. Sheffield and a few others who shared their interests, was in charge though not officially appointed, so far as we know. We were honored to join the ranks on their first invitation. They would hold an annual tag day or sometimes a garden party usually at Mrs. Sheffield's own home, which was their only source of income. Mr. and Mrs. Sheffield both remained on the board up to the time of their deaths and never ceased to do all they could to promote the library.

The first town support came during the administration of Mayor Arthur Frost, who was principal of the school at the same time. At his urging the council allocated \$300 a year in the borough budget for the library's use and for 10 or a dozen years this was never increased. When in the early 1930's the library moved for a time into the North wing of the Valley School, a group of volunteers took over the running of it and made it possible to spend this entire princely sum on improving its contents. Thus it struggled along, always seeking to keep alive the spark, especially in the children.

More recent years with the professional services of Mrs. Ridley and the far more adequate support given by the town fathers, have brought great changes and real improvement. We now have thousands of books on the shelves and more than 2,000 people make regular use of them - and both numbers are constantly growing. Moving into Ponds Memorial Building, for which we took the first concrete steps this week when bids for new equipment were opened, will bring even greater benefits to the community. During National Book Week, which we are celebrating, it seems well to pay tribute to those of the past who built so well for our present and many others future.

OAKLAND JOIINGS
BY ELEANORA PRINGLE

Our public library can join in the observance of National Library Week in the comfortable knowledge it holds a firm place in an important community service which is constantly expanding under competent professional direction to meet community needs. There are more than 13,500 books on its shelves, almost 5,000 people have library cards, and in the first three months of this year more than 19,000 books, about 3,000 more than in the same period of last years were taken out. March holds the record. In that

month 7,000 books were circulated.

Only those who've been residents here at least 15 years can really measure the library's growth in contrast with its earlier years. Its origin more than 60 years ago is credited to the late Mrs. Louise Sheffield, a teacher before her marriage, who started the first lending library here with books from her own well-stocked shelves. Appointed to the library board in the borough's early years, she remained a member, never losing interest, until her death in 1935. The book collection grew mainly through gifts - some were even discards of housecleaning periods - and they probably numbered fewer than 1,000 volumes. These were housed at first in private homes. There was no municipal support given and funds for operating costs were financed through tag days, garden parties, and the like. Not until the 1930's did the borough make a budget grant of \$300, a sum consistently doled out without any increase for more than 20 years. No wonder the library had to limp along!

About 1933 when the school board temporarily discontinued use of the north wing of the Valley School, the library board got permission to take over. They seized upon this as a golden opportunity. Not only was the room the finest headquarters they had known to date but it was rent free. Why not spend the entire \$300 budget on new books, really bringing it up to a higher standard? Board members volunteered their time and a group of high school girls was pressed into service to help run the charging desk in shifts. This plan operated for nearly two years and while admittedly it was far from perfect, it did a good deal to bring the service up to date and provide a foundation for later days.

The best piece of luck came to the library in 1951. It was then that Mrs. Florence Ridley, a former director of the Brooklyn system, came in on a traditional "busman's holiday" visit to look things over - and remained to help. Under her guidance the library emerged from its amateur ways and became one worthy of the name. Some years earlier its quarters had been transferred to the top floor of the Yawpo firehouse, the only available rent-free location owned by the borough. Not until 1962 did it acquire a building of its own and move permanently, now a full-fledged library service, into the former Ponds Memorial building. Mrs. Lynn Wagner succeeded Mrs. Ridley as library director.

This year the library is on a full-time weekday schedule and is a bee-hive of activity. Children come to the popular after-school story hour - another in the series starts this week - and the little folks are so eager for the preschool picture book

hour, there is a long waiting list. The number in this group must be limited. There is cooperation for the children's benefit between the public school libraries and the town collection. Both Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. McDonald encourage love of reading in these formative years. A constant stream of new acquisitions finds its way to the adult shelves and to assist older students. Unlike its early days, reference books are up-to-date and plentiful and meet many needs for those researching special subjects. A special shelf has books on New Jersey and Mrs. Wagner is also gathering a local author's shelf and welcomes additions to it. Not only a suitable library budget is provided, but the library has had substantial help from its friends - the Lions Club, the American Legion, Mothers Club, Rosary Society and many private citizens. If you've never paid it a visit, heed the National Book Week slogan: "Know What You're Talking About - READ."

In a report to members of the library Board written not long after the move to the new facility Mrs. Ridley stressed that one of the goals during the library's years of existence was to attract children and start them early in the habit of reading. Among the first programs to be resumed after the move was the children's story hour. The following year the Summer Reading Club was started.

Until 1962 most of the annual library appropriation had been used for salary payments to staff. The move to the Ponds Memorial building and the consequential expenditures for heating, lighting, and maintenance of the building necessitated an increase in the library budget. Therefore the allocation was doubled from \$13,000 to \$26,000 in 1962. The borough appropriation for the library has continued to rise yearly. As of July 1970, all fines collected have been placed directly in the library's own account.

The first state aid allocation for the library was received by the Borough in 1964. Rising steadily over the years, state aid monies in 1969 totaled \$5,700. Many cash contributions have been given to the library throughout the years by local organizations, such as, the Mother's Club, the Lions Club etc. One of the largest cash donations received during the 1960's, a memorial to former councilman Wolfgang R. Hutz, was used to purchase a bookcase of reference books and a large globe. In May 1965 the Tercentary Committee donated \$350 from the proceeds of the sale of The Years Between, a pictorial history of Oakland. In addition to cash contributions a variety of items have been donated to the library by individuals and groups.

Monthly artistic displays and weekly flower arrangements have been furnished for many years by the Ramapo Art Association and the Garden Club of Oakland.

In 1964 the Library Trustees had requested that all organizations using the basement of the library find other quarters as fire regulations were not being correctly met, and the library needed the additional storage area. Thus this area became available for future library expansion.

After seeing the library well established in the new building, Mrs. Ridley requested that she be released from her duties as library director. Following her resignation on December 31, 1963 a farewell reception was held for both her and Mrs. Pringle, who had just completed her 27th and final year as library trustee.

Mrs. M. Lynn Wagner, who replaced Mrs. Ridley, had previously been employed as the children's librarian in the Teaneck Public Library. During her two and a half years as library director, Mrs. Wagner saw the circulation of books nearly double from 55,000 in 1963 to 91,000 in 1966. In 1965 the library Board authorized the hiring of additional personnel which enabled the library to operate on a full weekday schedule. The hours were increased from 39 to 48 per week.

Mrs. Wagner resigned on September 30, 1966 and Mrs. Grace Chewning became the new Library Director. Before coming to Oakland Mrs. Chewning had served as assistant to the library director in the Waldwick Public Library. Prior to that she had been part-time director of the Wyckoff Public Library. Concerned with the drop in circulation from 91,000 to 89,100 in 1967, Mrs. Chewning set up displays of "Recommended Books" and other materials available in the library. The displays were changed monthly and seemingly contributed to renewed interest in the library as evidenced by the circulation figures which had risen to 97,000 in 1968.

By September of 1968 Mrs. Chewning had the figures from the first complete inventory of all books on the shelves and in the storage area. The inventory was done almost solely by Mrs. Ridley, who had returned to work on a part-time basis. The total book stock was 18,360. By December of 1969 the book stock had increased to 21,500 with 105 periodical subscriptions.

Since 1966 the need for expansion of the library facility had been stressed by the library director and the members of the library board. In December of 1968, Ben E. Grimm, a library consultant, prepared a building survey for the library in which he offered suggestions for expansion. Mr. Grimm estimated that 7000 square feet would be required to house the library adequately as

it existed in 1968. He felt the use of the basement area could provide for improved, but not good, library service and that it would be outgrown almost immediately. After reviewing Mr. Grimm's recommendations, the library board hired the firm of E. W. Fanning as Architect and asked that expansion schemes, based on Mr. Grimm's report, be drawn up. However, by October 1969 the severely crowded conditions had created an emergency situation. Therefore, in the 1970 budget request sent to the mayor and council, the library trustees stated that an additional \$15,000 was needed for a stop-gap, minimal remodeling of the basement. After reviewing the budget proposal the Mayor and Council decided the expenditure of \$15,000 for a temporary solution would be inadvisable. Therefore they proposed a full basement expansion, which would provide suitable quarters for other borough functions if the library were to move to a new building, and requested that a scheme and estimate for a full basement alteration be drawn up. The Mayor and Council approved a bond of \$84,000 and authorized the public library to proceed with the basement renovation in June 1970. When completed in 1971, the children's section was removed to the lower level. This alteration was sponsored by Councilman Robert Thomas.

Since 1971 Oakland Public Library has constantly pursued the most modern library practices, added many new features, and worked toward a continuing standard of excellence.

The following annual report, furnished to me by former director, Patricia Hannon, will call to your attention the numerous programs and services offered. The particular one that tickles me is that you can borrow a cassette, place it in your automobile cassette receptacle, and listen to a person reading a book to you while you are driving the car.

We are indeed fortunate to have in our community a library of such high caliber, with an exceedingly helpful staff, a wide variety of research material for both children and adults, and an enjoyable collection of the best in fictional reading.

The Oakland Public Library, in the Pond's Memorial Building, has reached its physical capacity. Thought must be given by the mayor and council for the construction of a new library building.

The Pond's Memorial Building would then revert to the use it had a few years ago, a meeting place for all the boards of the borough. The lower floor could be used by the senior citizens.

FIRST AID SQUAD

In 1954 Oakland was still considered to be a small suburb. Only two doctors practiced in town, Dr. Davey, and Dr. Branigan. When residents became sick or seriously injured they had to wait until the Pompton Lakes or Wyckoff ambulance could respond and transport them to Paterson or Bergen Pines. Valley and Chilton hospitals were just coming into being.

During this time John Walker was a councilman in Oakland. His youngest son, John Robert Walker had been diagnosed as having leukemia. He required frequent transportation to Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City. When John Robert Walker passed away at the age of 9, Vivian and John Walker turned tragedy into triumph by organizing a living memorial to their son. There had been talk around about possibly starting a local first aid squad. John and Vivian generously donated and equipped a Cadillac ambulance to the town on August 14, 1954. The key to the ambulance was accepted by Mayor Alexander Potash, and at that ceremony a picture was taken that now is hanging on the wall of the First Aid Squad building.

Lucille Connors, Ethel Kestler, and Sylvia Unterstein, all nurses, were instrumental in the early months of organizing the squad. Cliff Lyons, a Red Cross instructor, was selected to take care of the training of volunteer members. Now all the squad needed was volunteers. Sign-up sheets were placed in the borough offices and around town. It seemed as though just about everyone in town signed up. Notification was put out that the first meeting would be held at the Oakland Community Building (now the library) and approximately sixty people showed up. John Walker was made President of the Board of Trustees and Vivian, Secretary Treasurer. Cliff Lyons became the first Captain, Ethel Kestler was the Captain in charge of female attendants, and Frank Mannino, Lucille Connors and Sylvia Unterstein were made Lieutenants. Nelson Longee, a state inspector and ARC trainer, also made his services available to the squad. Training schedules and lists of roster assignments were also discussed at the meeting. Immediately the huge list of potential members lost half of its names. Everyone wanted to be on the Squad, but very few were willing to make the sacrifices of training, meetings and roster duty. Connie Monks and those stout hearted people who remained were given a standard first aid course by Cliff Lyons and advanced training was taken care of by Maurice Metzler from the Haledon Squad.

The most pressing problems facing the new squad was where

to keep the rig. Initially the rig was parked at various gas stations around town, but since none of these stations provided 24 hour service, the duty crews had to call the captain or a lieutenant to come open the station doors whenever a call came in during the night. Finally in March, of 1956 Mayor Potash made space for the rig in the new municipal building. As Connie remembers, "We had room for the rig and a row of cabinets plus a small room with a sink. We put in a hot plate and a jar of instant coffee and thought we were millionaires. The borough office even sent down two chairs. With these and the chairs to sit on we held small meetings in our own home for the first time." The key to the borough garage was kept in Connie's garage. Night time crews would have to stop there first, scoff up the key and then go down to pick up the rig. It was difficult to improve response time, but it sure beat relying on Pompton lakes.

The minutes from those early meetings were somewhat like reading our current rules and regulations. The firm foundation we have today is based on the wise practices instituted back then. The minutes of the November 1954 meeting are a good example. They read in part, "Never sign any papers when taking patients to the hospital. Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month at 8 P.M. The rig should be scrubbed out after each call. Duty rosters will be made up on monthly basis. No consumption of intoxicating beverages while on duty." It was also the first time that members were reminded to make sure the trip sheets are complete. Not all of the recommendations were serious ones. Lt. McKowen suggested that refreshments be served at the monthly business meetings, and it was at this time that the tradition began. If a crew delivers a baby, they will buy 1/4 keg of beer for the squad members. Of course, some improvements have been made in procedures over the years.

Another early problem was the absence of a two-way radio. Once the ambulance was dispatched on a call the crew had no contact with the police department. There was no Route 208, and the duty crews avoided detours and short cuts. Instead they stuck to the main roads so that if the rig broke down, someone might come along to help them. This lack of communication caused problems even during drills. On one occasion Connie Monks and Pearl Hopper planned a drill at the old entrance to the Scout Camp on Skyline Drive. Pearl's son, John, was supposed to be the victim of a motor vehicle accident. The rig arrived and promptly applied a traction splint and all kinds of bandages to their victim. Then John was to be transported back to the garage like a real patient. Unfortunately, on the way down the mountain, the crew met up with the fire chief, Denny Clark. It seems there was a real accident on Ramapo Valley Road and the police had sent the

fire chief to find the rig. By the time the rig reached the railroad crossing, the crew had removed the traction splint and John Hopper was dumped out and left to untangle the rest of the bandages himself. Because all communication with duty crews was done by phone, crew members had to stay home throughout their tour of duty. Many early members had phone bells installed outside so that they could go out in their yards and still be sure of hearing the phone.

Greater organization and growth took place during the remainder of the 1950's. During 1955 the Sunshine Committee was formed, Squad patches were designed, initial C.D. procedures were established and we joined the Sixth District of the New Jersey State First Aid Council. The First constitution and bylaws were accepted on September 6, 1955, and some new rules were added. Only members over 25 years of age could drive the rigs and everyone was expected to pull weekend rotation even back then. The finance committee was formed to organize and run the first fund drive. It was decided to use coin cards which were designed to hold \$4.00 in quarters. The first fund drive netted \$2,265.10, most of which was saved toward the purchase of a new ambulance. Our first two-way radio was installed in October and our first dinner-dance was held that same month at the Oakland Chalet.

During the months between August 1954 and May 1955 the Squad responded to 55 calls - an average of 5 calls per month. In 1956 we purchased our first new rig, a Miller Cadillac, which cost \$10,500. The squad was able to buy it by selling the old rig for \$1,000, taking \$3,200 from Squad funds, and getting a bank loan of \$6,300. The new rig was delivered on July 27th, but with money being scarce in those days the Squad wasn't able to completely pay off the loan until October 1958. It was also in 1956 that the Squad established the 7 to 7 tours of duty. In 1957 it was decided to have an annual birthday picnic. The Squad was firmly established. The birthing process was over and now it was time to grow.

In June of 1958 a committee was formed to find a place for a squad building. A letter was sent to the Mayor and Council requesting an acre of land on the corner of Route 202 and Chapman Drive. In September, 1958 the squad officers met with borough officials to discuss the land. In January, 1959, squad members who had turned out in force at a council meeting were given a tentative okay on the property. But it wasn't until June that the deed for the land was drawn up and not until October 1959 that the property was officially theirs. Of course, we couldn't really complain about the delay. We were only paying \$1.00 for the entire lot. Our friend was Mayor Potash. A building committee

was promptly formed and a sketch of the building was made. All contracting would be done by the committee members. Andy Unterstein would take care of the carpentry and William Potash would do the excavation. On May 15, 1960 the ground breaking ceremony was held.

The new squad building was far enough along that the members could hold their first meeting there in January of 1962. Squad headquarters was formally dedicated on May 19th of that year. Alexander Potash served as master of ceremonies and 44 rigs from various squads around the state came to help celebrate the occasion. Members had laughed at Marie Schaefer when, in 1961, she wrote to U.S. Representative William Windall asking for a flag which had been used at the Capitol Building. But she had the last laugh--as the Oakland Bulletin reported on April 12, 1962, "Congressman William Widnall will dedicate the Oakland First Aid Squad building and present a flag flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C."

In 1962 the squad had a full 50 members, the largest membership since it was founded. Others volunteered for the new job of squad dispatcher. Residents who didn't join the squad did try to help us financially by raising money in various and often unique ways. The fund drive of 1962 was publicly supported by the Mayor and Council, and the first donation of the year came from three brothers who lived on West Oakland Avenue. They held a carnival in our behalf and earned \$5.67. The Oakland Boy Scouts volunteered to help us distribute the fund drive coin books, and the Jaycees sold tickets for a NY Giants-Philadelphia-Eagles game and gave the proceeds to the squad. Children in Pleasureland raised \$17.50 from a carnival, \$8.50 was received from children on Chuckanutt Drive who had put on a play, and the Squad Cadet Corps, which had been formed in August 1961, earned \$56.50 by running one of their now infamous car washes. Even the Chamber of Commerce chipped in by donating 2,500 Blue Stamps.

All of these community efforts added up, and Capt. Harold Wilke decided it was time for us to look into becoming a two rig squad. We had our 1000th call in January, and Oakland had grown to the point where second rig calls were no longer rare occurrences. Harold felt that we couldn't keep borrowing Pompton's rig to cover our calls. In July, 1962 the squad voted to buy a second rig, another Miller Cadillac with a two-way radio and resuscitator. The squad put \$3,600 down and took a \$9,000 loan. Payments would be \$562.50 per month plus 5% interest. After its dedication on August 10th, the new rig was proudly displayed at the traditional Fireman's Carnival the following Saturday.

As the town's population increased, so did the squad's services. Shortly after the building's dedication, we began allowing the Board of Health to use the premises for baby clinics. In response to the Cuban missile crisis Harold Wilke took courses on nuclear survival and gave talks to various groups on home survival. Connie Monks headed the medic alert program to help register people with medical problems. We became the official medical unit of the Oakland Civil Defense program. The Cadet Corps began practicing their first aid by entering various competitions which, over the years, earned them several first place trophies.

As the squad's financial stability increased, so did it's need for new equipment. The members voted to purchase Stephenson resuscitators, resusci-annies, a movie projector for training films, and new furnishings for the ready room. These were paid for out of squad funds. But when members voted to buy new wool jackets for themselves, they decided that they would each pay for their own. Concerned about possible town reaction, the squad requested the following to be printed: March 30, 1962 - "Paterson News" - Oakland Jottings - "Have you seen the handsome new red jackets the First Aid Squad members are wearing, all suitably bearing their emblem? Each purchased his own, so don't get any ideas about misuse of funds collected for ambulance use. We can't believe anyone would, but the squad asked us to tell you."

Even though the squad now had a few dollars to its name, the members could still stretch a dollar to its limit. Art Swain, the 1964 maintenance lieutenant reported "It sure took a month of Sundays on the old rig, but with lots of bailing wire and a little chewing gum we kept her in business for another year."

The 1960's also saw the first steps toward equipping members with their own radios. The Fire Department donated a few Instalerts in 1966 and we gradually purchased more, two at a time, until each member was able to have a radio in his home.

1969 was the 15th anniversary of the squad. Throughout the decade the squad had grown, prospered and maintained the highest level of patient care and training. We again purchased a new ambulance which was dedicated on March 28, 1969. The year's fund drive netted \$10,528. We had been instrumental in forming the 17th District of the NJSFAC and by 1969 the initial work had begun on having a 911 emergency number for the town. Oakland was now home to more than 14,000 people and the squad had carried 7,180 patients over the years. The squad celebrated its accomplishments with a parade, and the Oakland Observer reported, A motorcade of 25 ambulances led by Sgt. John Cooper of the

Oakland Police Department drove through borough streets with sirens wailing Happy Birthday to the local first aid squad on its 15th birthday.

The 1970's proved to be a time when squads were forced to band together in order to maintain the advancements they had made in previous years. Initially the state wanted to charge squads \$200 for a permit to conduct fund drives. Then, in 1970, Bill A-163 was introduced. If the bill had passed, it would have given the state control over all local squads. When the bill was defeated, Bill A-1384 was introduced. Its main premise was that all squad members would have to be licensed by the state. At this point the NJSFAC called on all local squads to rally against unfair proposed licensing requirements. A motorcade to Trenton was organized and Oakland sent one of its rigs in support. The bill was defeated and the NJSFAC introduced its new 5 point training program to insure that all squads were being properly trained. Still the state continued to try to raise revenues for itself by proposing other bills throughout the decade. One such bill would have required each squad member to pay \$2. per year for the honor of volunteering. Bill A-1389 moved squads out of the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation and into the Department of Health. The state plan was to divide the state into 10 regions and put all local first aid squads under regional state control. Had that bill passed, the state would have received \$2 million in federal funding which would have gone toward administrative salaries and communication equipment for hospitals and paramedic units. Once again NJSFAC squads, including Oakland, banded together to fight the bill which would have meant the end of their autonomy. Another motorcade to Trenton was organized and again Oakland sent one of its rigs complete with a porta-potty for emergency pit stops. It was during one such pit stop that Vicki Kaye performed another first in the Oakland First Aid Squad. She accidentally "mooned" a trucker on Route I-287!

The motorcade was again successful and to date, with the help of our state council, volunteer squads have been able to maintain their independence and to provide patient care without state interference.

Whenever new members joined the squad they brought with them new ideas on how to raise funds, generate interest, and have fun. It was during the 1970's that squad members began to work the ticket booths at the Peddler's Fair at PIME to sell what was then termed as unusable junk. Cut-a-thons and skate-a-thons became new ways to earn money. We even began to charge crews .25 cents whenever they made a mistake on a trip sheet. New members got to know old timers at socials like the first corned beef dinner in 1970.

Still, the foremost priority was first aid and the continual improvement of services to the people of Oakland. In 1971, Oakland was one of the first area squads to install hospital radios. In 1972, it was determined that loan out had saved the townspeople \$6,488. and in 1978 the Vial of Life was initiated by the squad. Safety and oxygen committees were formed, recorder-annie and childbirth mannequins were purchased to upgrade training, and an electronic street map was donated to help us improve response time. By 1974, the squad had purchased enough Instalerts so that each night-time member was able to have one and could now respond without being dispatched by phone. By March of 1976, the 911 emergency number, sponsored by Councilman Angelo Lacetena, was fully operational in town, and by September 1977 the entire squad was able to shift to a 24 hour Instalerts system.

The squad's ambulances were continually updated too. A 1972 M&M Cadillac was purchased. It was the last Caddy we would own and it would give us more trouble than all the others combined. This was the first time the squad would be able to pay off a new rig in less than one year, but we soon found out that we had purchased a maintenance lieutenant's nightmare. In one year we had to replace the brakes, drums, hydraulic pressure regulators, transmission, both batteries, and the rig still didn't run well! However, we fared better with the new vans purchased during the decade.

Through careful financial planning we were able to pay off the last of the building's mortgage in June 1977. Another big celebration was planned for the mortgage burning. Finally the squad truly owned everything it had.

Over the past thirty years there's been many changes in Oakland and within the squad. We've progressed from a small town organization which proudly acknowledges that it owned two small oxygen tanks in 1954, to a sophisticated corporation which now boasts such equipment as the XP-1 and cardiac monitors. In many ways the squad was much stricter with its members in the old days and what little money it had on hand was carefully managed and sparingly spent. Because of the wise planning of early members, a strong and stable foundation was laid down for future members to build on. Yet some things never change. On Thursday, January 29, 1959, the "Oakland Bulletin" printed the following article, "Recruits for the Oakland First Aid Squad are urgently needed if they are to continue to serve the borough without undue hardship on present members. The rapid growth of Oakland during the past few years has been accomplished by a corresponding increase in demands upon the squad, and additional volunteers would permit a reduction in the shifts covered by the individual members. Anyone

interested in contributing some time to this worthwhile community service may contact the squad membership committee for further particulars."

Volunteers today, just as in 1954, are expected to have the same commitment to high standards, the same dedication to service. And with the history of the squad in mind, we can look forward to our next thirty years.

AMBULANCES OF THE OAKLAND FIRST AID SQUAD

1948	Cadillac	donated by Vivian and John Walker	
1956	Miller Cadillac	-----	\$10,500 minus trade
1962	Miller Meteor Cadillac	-----	\$12,600
1965	Custom S&S Cadillac	-----	\$20,595 minus trade
1969	Custom S&S Cadillac	-----	\$18,000 minus trade
1972	M&M Cadillac	-----	\$16,465 minus trade
1974	Dodge Starline Van	-----	\$15,344 minus trade
1976	Dodge Star Max Van	-----	\$18,000 minus trade
1977	Dodge Star Max Van	-----	\$19,000 minus trade
1980	K&S Chevrolet Mini-Mod	-----	\$30,750 minus trade
1981	Ford Econoline Mod	-----	\$31,050 minus trade

Number of calls from August, 1954 through June, 1984 = 16,464.

From the time as mayor that I accepted the key to the first ambulance, a gift to the squad by John and Vivian Walker in memory of their son John Robert Walker, I kept an interest in the first aid squad, for I admired the men and women that were involved in the work of responding to ailing people and others injured.

I was amazed at the strict discipline they imposed upon themselves and the rigid training in first aid work they had to go through.

They are well prepared. When a call for an ambulance is received by the police dispatcher he/she relays it electronically to the ambulance duty crew, and whether it be day or night, away they go. They deliver the ailing or injured person to the hospital and return. Never, but never, do they ask the individual or the family to pay for the trip. Whoever may wish to give a donation may do so.

I remember this service so vividly that when it was brought up before to the mayor and council we agreed to make a yearly donation to the first aid squad. I know this practice

still carries on through this year, 1987.

I am proud that for this past approximately 20 years the squad has elected me to, and I have served on, the Board of Trustees of the First Aid Squad.

John Walker served as President of the squad, and president of the board of trustees from 1954 until his passing in 1987. Vivian Walker served as treasurer of the first aid squad, and treasurer of the board of trustees from 1954 to the present year, 1987, and what a superb job she has done with the handling of the squad's finances. Vivian Walker and Connie Monks are the only two charter members still active in the squad at this time, 1987, 33 years of service. Thank you.

Those members of the squad who served as Captain 4 terms or more were Harold Wilke, Ray Shattuck, and Bob DeBoer. Bob DeBoer I believe is now serving his 6th term as Captain of the squad.

I am thankful to Lila Timpson, who was captain of the squad, and its historian, for the fine resume of the squad's history, parts of which you have read. Thank you Lila.

What words of praise can one write about a group of men and women, and now the cadets, that render service to the residents of our community in our time of medical emergency? Thank you, with a great deal of feeling, and there must be a few thousand folks in our town that feel as I do.

One word of caution to the residents of Oakland. Give the squad all the help you can when they are threatened, with other first aid squads, by state control. Keep them as our own. We know what they are doing and we do not know what will happen if the state controls all first aid squads. Keep the state from interfering with all first aid squads.

THE GARDEN CLUB OF OAKLAND

As we drive down our business section on our main street there are a number of large concrete bowls, each containing flowers, and these flowers are changed by the season. All of this is done by the members of the Garden Club of Oakland, but this is not all. It's quite a program that they carry out, and the continuing club projects participated in by all members is as follows:

Civic Beautification: Plant and maintain two Blue Star Memorial Byways on Route 208 North and South, Bush Plaza, Chadney Memorial Park, two Van Allen House gardens (herb and old fashioned) and Library garden.

Oakland Public Library: Provide weekly flower arrangements and/or educational exhibits.

Garden Therapy: Provide flower service to east Orange Veterans Hospital patients in October and at Christmas. Christmas gifts for local nursing home patients, monthly programs at local nursing homes and plants for local shut-ins at Easter.

Plant Sale

Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony

Memorial Day Wreath at Veterans Park

Scholarship to Indian Hills High School Senior proficient in the field of natural sciences.

Christmas Wreath on Municipal Building.

Seasonal Wreaths on Van Allen House.

All of this is done on a volunteer basis. None of the members receive any pay for what they do.

Mrs. W. Stutz was the first president in 1949-1951. I knew her well. She was a great worker for the club, and loved nature, particularly flowers and shrubs. She did a superb job.

The 1987-1988 president of the club is Mrs. C. Imming.
First Vice President - Mrs. M. McNally.
Second Vice President - Mrs. C. Curran.
Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. J. Henry.
Treasurer - Mrs. G. Mobayed.

One wonders when one examines the projects they take care of year in and year out where the funds come from. The source of all the club's projects are dues of \$10 a year per member, \$15 a year for sustaining members. Also, twice a year plant and flower sales are held, and these monies also go to support club projects.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF OAKLAND

The following is excerpted from information given me by Mrs. Peg Sumner, President of the Woman's Club.

The Woman's Club of Oakland began on January 29, 1953, at a meeting at the home of Mrs. Salvatore Daccurso. It has served the community since then by promoting education, supporting public

welfare, and striving for a higher social and moral standard. The club is non-political and non-sectarian.

The club became a vital force within the community. The first project was collecting old toys, rebuilding them for distribution at Christmas to the needy. The club distributed food baskets to the needy, drove people who were in need of medical care, spent hours in nursing homes, gave parties for children, assisted at local health clinics - whatever needed to be done. In 1966 and for the following seven years many club members spent long hours patterning a brain-damaged child.

The club has sponsored essay and poetry contests, awards annual scholarships to high school graduates, and presents a science award to eight grade graduates. Since the 1960's the club has sponsored a high school junior to attend the Girls Citizenship Institute at Douglass College, sponsored by the New Jersey Federation of Woman's Clubs.

The club has contributed to the historical preservation of Oakland. It has donated sight-saver books to the public library, and sponsored the first glass recycling drive in 1970. The Mayor and Council asked the club to form a street naming committee and all new streets have been named by this committee since the 1970's. Mrs. C.B. Harding conceived the idea of naming a Woman of the Year to honor an Oakland resident for outstanding service to the community. This award has been given since 1961.

The Woman's Club of Oakland is a member of the New Jersey Federation of Woman's Clubs.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Police Department in 1978 - Left to right front row: John Williams, Lt. Clarence Kehoe, Capt. Joseph Eilert, Chief Donald Hasenbalg, Lt. Robert Covert, Joseph Zimmerman. 2nd row: Det. Michael Madonna, Richard Eldridge, Daniel Hughes, Sgt. John Pianettini, Sgt. Daniel Pagerie, Sgt. John Cooper, Sgt. Jerry Tobia, Sgt. James O'Connor, Det. Robert Knapp; Al Petito, Det. Clem Brown, Albert Jacobs. Back row: Wayne Harz, Richard Augustitus, Bruce Carota, Ronald Beattie, John Cavener, Frank Territo, Robert O'Keefe, James Gaul. Not included in Picture: Albert Reischel, William Brown, and William Philpot.

OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prior to 1925, Oakland had three marshals; first Aaron Henning, second F. L. Merrion, and third Henry Hopper. The Oakland Police Department was formed by ordinance on August 19, 1925. James E. Munn police chief. Successive chiefs have been; Henry Burns 1929, John G. A. Johnson 1932, F. L. Merrion 1935, Joseph Wood 1960, Donald Hasenbalg 1974 and James R. O'Connor 1986, the present chief.

The Oakland Police Department consists of 29 sworn officers and 2 civilian employees. Specialization compartmentalizes the Department personnel into the following units; Patrol Division, Detective Bureau, Youth Bureau, Records and Identification Bureau, and Traffic Safety Bureau.

Of the 29 officers of the Police Department, 12 are college graduates, holding Baccalaureate Degrees in Police Science (Criminal Justice Administration) and 4 hold Associate Degrees in the Criminal Justice field. Oakland's Police Department is one of the best educated in Bergen County of the departments of comparable numerical strength, and the officers are constantly compiling more and more in service training and on-the-job training credits in addition to their college background.

The motto of the Oakland Police Department is "To Protect and Serve".

Many of the Department's officers are well along in their police career, and most have between 10 to 25 years of service experience to their credit. The Youth Bureau Officer is very involved with the youngsters of the community and with school authorities, and very instrumental in promoting safety-related programs for the youngsters.

In 1978 a new Police Headquarters Building was constructed. It is a large building of two stories and contains the most modern of police electronic equipment. When a patrol car brings to headquarters a suspect the patrol car enters a special section of the building, escape proof and again containing modern electronic equipment. If necessary, the suspect can be placed in one of the two cells in the building. If the suspect became unruly all the policeman has to do is kick the wall, and it electronically then calls for help.

Upon entering the building you are in a large lobby with chairs and so forth, in case you have to wait awhile, and seated in the rear of this lobby is the police dispatcher and quite often another policeman. They are seated behind a bullet proof glass partition. They are available to any resident that may come in and possibly report an incident or seek advise. The public is well accommodated.

In the building is a large meeting room for seminars of police, the chief's office, captain's office, lieutenant's office, and an interrogation room. All these are electronically connected.

When a patrol car stops a car on a highway and asks for the driver's license and car registration, the policeman calls it in to the dispatcher via 2-way radio. The dispatcher has at his hand a computer that is connected with the state motor vehicle department in Trenton. Within minutes the answer comes back and

is relayed by the dispatcher to the patrol car seeking the information. This information gives the officer confirmation as to whether the driver's license and the car registration compares with the one the driver has.

There are approximately five cars patrolling our streets 24 hours a day with a 2-way radio system that keeps them in direct contact with the dispatcher. In addition, the head of the detective bureau has his car, as he usually operates in plain clothes. Of course the chief, and captain, and lieutenants have their cars.

The computer system that I previously mentioned gives the Oakland Police Department direct contact with any town that has this system in the state of New Jersey, and I believe including Rockland County in New York State.

The borough is well protected by our well organized and trained police force. I don't believe the Borough of Oakland will ever have to construct another police headquarters, for the present one certainly should take care of police needs for 50 years or more.

I must add, previous to the construction, Congressman Bob Roe was instrumental in getting Federal Aid for the construction, by many thousands of dollars, which the federal government contributed. The building was constructed during Mayor Bauer's term of office.

RECREATION COMMITTEE-MOTHER'S CLUB-FATHERS'S CLUB

You have read how the Recreation Commission was formed by ordinance during my term of office and how the members of the commission were advised in any affairs they ran, the funds would have to go into the town treasury as they were an arm of the government. The result was that the Recreation Committee was formed consisting of the Mother's Club, the Father's Club, and some members of the Recreation Commission. The committee does not always act as a whole. The Mother's Club or the Father's Club may decide to run some affair for funds on their own.

Let us examine the contribution to the recreation program that the Mother's Club has given and is still giving. This organization was conceived in the minds of a small group of women who were interested in the uniform football program, primarily because they either were mothers of players, or wives of coaches. They realized the need for additional uniform equipment

and decided that they should do something to help since it was their youngsters who benefited from the recreation program.

In September of 1957 fifteen women gathered at the home of Marian Swenson and decided to form a club to raise funds to supplement the recreation program. Several names were suggested. They finally agreed upon Mother's Club of Oakland and proceeded to elect their first officers. Mary Kelly was chosen as the first President and her fellow officers were Marian Swenson Treasurer, Mirian Self Vice President, and Flo Sullivan Secretary. An executive meeting was held the following month at the home of the new president and at that time the by-laws were prepared under the direction of the Parliamentarian Adelaide Kirchner.

The first project undertaken by this new group was to sponsor the cheerleaders and provide their uniforms. Shortly thereafter the majorettes were organized under the direction of Joan Cromie and their uniforms were purchased from the twirling fund.

That first year the club ran a dance, their first fashion show and talent show. From the profits realized from these affairs they purchased not only the cheerleaders uniforms, but also a tackling dummy, a blocking machine and a public address system. At a football banquet trophies were given to a large group of youngsters and they also held the first Halloween party on the tennis courts.

1959 saw Adelaide Kirchner as President with Mirian Self Vice President, Flo Sullivan Secretary, and Marian Swenson Treasurer. During that year they had another successful fashion show and also ran a large selling sale in July and August. The special projects were the Easter Egg hunt, Football program, Halloween party, children's Christmas party and purchased equipment for the girls football team. Donations were also made to the newly formed bowling program. The first sewing group was organized that year and a sewing machine was purchased.

In 1960, Kay Ross served as President, Marian Swenson Vice President, Adele Henrich Secretary, and Grace Machs Treasurer. The club ran a dress club, cake sale, stocking and umbrella sale, and a bazaar. In addition to the Easter Egg hunt and Halloween party and Football program they gave out the first Sportsmanship Award to two members of the graduating class of the grammar school. Additional cheerleaders uniforms were purchased when the program was enlarged and a ping pong table was donated to the youth canteen. A tree was planted in Veteran's Park on Memorial Day.

In 1961 Carol Mahler was elected President, Kay Mansher Vice President, Flo Clause Secretary, and Joan Cromie Treasurer. Two dress clubs were conducted that year plus the annual fashion show and a hoedown, and also sold fruit cakes. The first baby parade was held that year and in addition to the graduation award and Halloween parade they bought two more sewing machines and letters for the cheerleaders, Donald Duck swings and other playground equipment for the Recreation field. A donation was made to the library for Children's books and benches were bought for Veteran's Park. Since there was still a surplus in the treasury at the end of the year, it was voted to establish a sewing account for some future needs.

This brings us to 1962 when the officers were Leslie Weiss President, Kay Danaher Vice President, Betty Geisslmon Secretary, and Marian Swenson Treasurer. The annual fashion show was again a success and they conducted another dress club, not to mention their first Luau. In addition to a merry-go-round for the playground of the recreation field they and also bought hats for the girls softball teams.

I have had this resume of the activities in the Mother's Club furnished to me by the President Judy Filyaw. Print it, print it in full for it shows the perseverance and dedication to the recreation program by these ladies. Judy's report covered activities of the Mother's Club until 1962. We now come to the update of their activities.

Since 1962 they continue their yearly activities, running affairs, making a profit at these affairs and purchasing needed equipment at the recreation field. From the monies they have earned they have purchased a bus for the transportation of baseball, football and so forth teams to other towns to play games. They also purchased a basketball score board at the Heights School. They continue to make donations to the Helping Hands and the Senior Citizens Programs.

There is no question, by their activities, that the residents of our borough have been saved a good many thousands of dollars, thanks to the Mother's Club of Oakland.

OAKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

One evening, driving home, as I passed the Van Allen House, I saw a large sign reading "For Sale", by the owner Alex Doig. I got thinking about it and I felt, that in as much as the building had a historical background, that the Borough of Oakland

should own the property. I called a couple of ladies. I told them what I had in mind and if they could get a few more ladies that believed the borough should own this property, that we would go to a council meeting and prevail on the council to purchase the property...I wish I had remembered their names. Well we walked into a public council meeting, presided over by Mayor Thornton. Mayor Thornton listened to their appeal that the borough buy the Van Allen House. He designated Councilman Esak and myself, Al Potash, to enter into negotiations with Mr. Doig. I was not in office at that time as mayor. I believe I was a member of the board of education. Mr. Esak and I visited with Mr. Doig and after dilly dallying on the price, it was finally settled at \$32,000 and on October 1966 the borough council appropriated the money for the purchase of the property. Again I spoke to these ladies and suggested that the Oakland Historical Society be organized and that the property be in the society's care for its preservation and improvement on the interior; that it would shelter a museum of Revolutionary War days and also some of the borough's history. This was done.

Mrs. Potash and I donated a picture to the society that was believed to be a picture of the first meeting of the society on November 16, 1966. I am listing herewith the names of those present:

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE OAKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This list of names is taken from a photo that was presented to the society by Alexander Potash on May 21, 1972 and titled as:

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE OAKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOV. 16, 1966.

Since to the best of my knowledge, there is no other list available, it is presumed that this list is all of the charter members.

Ronald Little	Edith Trim
Eleanor Little	Mrs. Clete Polsk
Valantine Wander	Audrey McIntyre
*Ruth Knapp	Dorothy Avenseo
Dorothea Whitney	Margaret Summan
Joseph Sprain	Gerard Greetenderest
Virginia Knapp	Betty Restusci
Wallis Dix	Mary C. Cleary
Irene Morin	Jordan C. Kern
William Morin	Shirley I. Kern

Clete Polsk
*Alexander Potash, (First President)

Jacquelin Kasica

*In 1988 these two were still on the membership roll.

On the left hand corner of the photo is a statement "Present at the meeting but not in the picture." They are as follows: Marie Evans, Barbara Lucia, Barbara Rieneckey and Pat Anthony.

The above requested by Alexander Potash during January 1988 and prepared by Alexander John, House Chairman and former president of the Society, February 1988.

Relative to the history of the Borough that you are about to compile and your inquiry about the accomplishments of the Oakland Historical Society, be assured that the project is worthy of serious detailed study. Unfortunately, there is not a "log" of events available to refer to in so far as the Society is concerned. However, the following information is gathered from recollection, publicity and public knowledge - during the past 15 years that I have been a member. Hence, it is being furnished to you from the individual position of a member and not officially from the Society.

While you are a member of long standing, you probably are unaware that the show got on the road after a new set of By-laws were adopted 4/28/76. Prior to this, a minority - the Executive Committee - had all the power hence there was a lot of hedging from the members. The new By-laws provided the impetus so necessary to get stalled activities going again but some wreckage was left in that a few resignations occurred. However, with the infusion of additional member power, most of the volunteer activity, fund raising and spending was accomplished soon after; the result is as you see the house today.

Twelve years later - the house is buttoned up against varmints and the weather: all rooms are almost fully furnished with Society funds, regular open house schedules are effective, the grounds are in good condition and frequent programs are produced. Incidentally, to date approximately \$5,000 of the Society's funds have been used for improvements and furnishings for the Van Allen House.

Anyhow:

1. The first meeting of the Society was November 16, 1966. This information is taken from a photo that

- you provided on 5/21/72. Heresay has it that there were some preliminary meetings prior to this.
2. The incorporation papers were certified during February 1967 and witnessed by four trustees.
 3. Alexander Potash was the first President of the Society.
 4. Elementary By-laws were established.
 5. Volunteers cleaned the house of debris caused by the removal of old plumbing and a faltering steam heating system. Sometime thereafter, a hot air heating system was installed. Thanks to the funds provided by Budd Parr.
 6. A Flag pole was erected.
 7. The green paint was sandblasted from the stone wall of the house.
 8. Volunteers painted the exterior of the house.
 9. A fund-raising program was established.
 10. Interior painting was done on only a limited basis.
 11. Rummage sales were established but abandoned about 1974.
 12. A new power line was installed.
 13. By-laws were revised giving exclusive power to the membership.
 14. Extensive volunteer activity resulted and all interior rooms were gone over and painted.
 15. The Society funded the re-finishing of all floors.
 16. The Society funded the placement of window guards.
 17. Several antique design lighting fixtures were donated and installed.
 18. All rooms were furnished with temporary or final period furniture, funded by the Society. (Some furniture will be upgraded as funds are available)
 19. A craft Guild was formed to particularly cover the Bicentennial activity.
 20. A minuteman Unit was formed to particularly cover the Bicentennial activity.
 21. A Speakers group was formed to particularly cover the Bicentennial activity.
 22. A colonial design of a house opening sign was obtained.
 23. A "blue marker" sign was funded and installed after the house was placed on the state and national register as a historical landmark.
 24. The first, very comprehensive, antique show was arranged through Stella Promotions. It was extremely successful dollar wise.
 25. Ordinance 76, code 644, concluded February 1977 accorded considerable rights to the Society in

- regards to the Van Allen House. In essence, it became the headquarters for the Society and the Society became a custodian. The ordinance expires 3/1/97.
26. An old grist mill stone was relocated from the banks of the Ramapo River to the Van Allen House grounds. This was by Mr. & Mrs. Kern, former residents, on whose property it was formerly located.
 27. An Oakland history museum room was opened and furnished, located next to the keeping room. (Al Potash take note - this more or less complies with your desire to make the Van Allen House a museum, per your letter of July 25, 1966 to Congressman William B. Widnall).
 28. In 1979, the first comprehensive work was done on the Van Allen House since its purchase by the Borough in 1966. The majority of funds were by the Borough, some federal and \$1,000 by the Society. The total came to approximately \$29,000 primarily covering stabilization and preservation projects. Rather than pay \$100 per day extra for supervision (to the architect), a member took over this chore gratis. (Incidentally, the high bid for the job was about \$6,000.) We sure made some saving. The society funded the upgrading of the lavatory and the hot water system.
 29. A Farm Museum was funded and established by the Society in a adjacent out building. One of its first acquisitions was a two wheel dump wagon still in better than fair condition. This "grass roots" item was donated by Mrs. McCoy of the McCoy farm. She was about 99 years old at the time. Sled runners are also exhibited as coming from the Scardo Farm - donated by Frank Scardo. Many other items came from out of state.
 30. In 1985 a new cooking fireplace was partially funded by the Society and constructed in the keeping room. The Society also supplied all the necessary cooking equipment.
 31. In 1987 the Society partially funded the purchase and installation of a new main, overhead, parlor beam. Formerly the supporting arrangements for the upstairs floor was a 4" x 4" plate supported by two widely spaced 3" x 4" oak wood, acting as columns.

Relative to the museum, item #27, it is interesting to note that exhibits from four Oakland families are lodged here. They are, Henry Hopper - Blacksmiths items, drawings & school

model; Mandigo family - blacksmith items; Munsinger family - foot warmer with initials P D, presumable Peter Demarest and Mrs. McNomee - basket work and pictures from other members of the family, as well as maps. If memory serves me, you also furnished some items but it does not appear to be recorded.

And now, Al, we are into 1988. We have submitted a request to the Mayor and Council to budget funds to paint the exterior of the house. The members plan on painting the inside. It is anticipated that Benjamin Moore will supply the paint free of charge.

I trust that this will provide enough information to enable you to cover the Society in good and complimentary terms.

P.S.-relative to donations of items for the museum, perhaps other families have donated but I cannot recollect the circumstances, item or date. Our records in this respect are not the best.

An herb garden was planted by Florence Ridley.

Thank you Al John, for your very informational letter.

PRESIDENTS OF THE OAKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Alexander Potash.....	1966	-	1967
Ron Little.....	1968	-	1969
George Hardman.....	1969	-	1970
Charles Bertini.....	1970	-	1971
Geraldine Schrier.....	1971	-	1973
Roy Wright, Jr.....	1973	-	1977
Alexander John.....	1977	-	1981
Christophor Curran.....	1981	-	1985
Michael Held.....	1985	-	present

OAKLAND RECREATION COMMITTEE

What is the difference between the recreation committee and the recreation commission? The recreation commission, during Mayor Potash's term of office, was created by an ordinance and they have full power of administrating the recreation program.

The recreation committee consists of three members of the Mother's Club, three members of the Father's Club and three members of the commission. It is a private organization, not under the control of the borough council. Whatever affairs, and there are many, that they foster to raise funds are spent in different ways on needed equipment, uniforms and so forth of the

recreation program. They control their own funds and they make the determination how the funds should be spent, on the recreation program. The recreation commission, being an arm of the borough government, could not do this, for any funds they may raise would have to go into the town treasury.

The recreation committee therefore has the freedom of what they wish to do. The recreation Commission was created in 1954 and the recreation committee was organized in 1959.

Occasionally the Mother's Club or the Father's Club will go off on their own to run some affairs to raise funds for the recreation program. You have read a resume of the Mother's Club. I understand the Father's Club in two different years raffled a car, and from the profits of these affairs the money was used for lights on two of the fields. The beauty of these night light installations is that it make it possible for adults, after work, to organize teams and come down to the field to play ball or any other sport.

I have received the following information from Lorraine Murray, who joined the committee in 1973, and has assembled a list of the expenditures of the committee since 1969:

They made repairs of the tennis courts, purchased a football tackling dummy and football rain capes, installed a trophy case, paved the recreation parking lot, equipment for refreshment stand, first tennis lights, football lights, football sled, making of field #8, wrestling equipment, purchase of lights from Yankee Stadium, startup costs of soccer program, bleachers for recreation field, pitching machine, football helmets, new refrigerator for stand, stereo equipment for teen canteen, Truman field backstop and fence, baseball equipment storage boxes, Field #8 dugouts, on deck batting cages, sending teams to regional tournaments, football rib pads, fencing equipment, support of pass, punt & kick contest, and the overhang of the recreation stand.

In addition the recreation committee has appropriated funds for the following projects: \$10,000 toward additional lighting at the recreation field complex, \$5,000 to fund the startup of 10 new traveling soccer teams competing statewide, \$3,000 to provide a badly needed new backstop at the recreation complex, \$2,000 for a long awaited football/soccer electric scoreboard at the recreation complex, \$7,000 loan to the Borough of Oakland to provide emergency repairs to Truman Field, damaged by floods, \$3,000 toward defraying expenses of town-hosted baseball tournaments and \$350 to the Safety Town project.

These are just some of the projects they have financially sponsored. Remember your taxes could never buy the program your children enjoy. It is through fund raising events such as the dinner dance and the volunteer efforts of these members of the recreation committee that the people of Oakland enjoy so much excellent recreation program and some of the finest recreational facilities available in Bergen County. There follows a list of members past and present of the Oakland Recreation Committee:

George Cromie
 Pete LaBarba
 Sal Mattera
 Bob Shutte
 Dick Vernotica
 Marion Swenson
 Ted Langstine
 Ella Hicks
 Roberta DeMao
 Lois Viscosi
 Loretta Lippens
 John Cleary
 Len Oshinski
 Betty Naumann
 Marion Isaacs
 Alliene Schultz
 Ed Delmour

Anne Atkins
 Pat Plumb
 Marilyn Lungren
 Ed Sauer
 Harry Pierce
 Vinnie Rex
 Joan Kolkka
 Tomi Martellaci
 Joe Letchford
 Danny D'Elia
 Lorraine Murray
 Don Plummer
 Marge Quinn
 Mildred Casselli
 Helen Heavey
 Joe Kwederis
 Dick Brodeur

Gordon Vemrillion
 Ed Bullis
 Joyce Varga
 Frank Seegers
 Roy Klinger
 Ida Rex
 Gene Enright
 Larry Kazmierczak
 George Thompson
 Don Gruno
 Arlene Gorla
 Pat Iynan
 Frank Monaco
 Geroge Gerney
 Vinnie Letizia
 Tom Few

We must visualize the time and energy that the members of the recreation committee spend to create what they do and of course they receive no pay, just the satisfaction and pride as they see the children enjoy the recreation program.

The team managers, coaches, umpires and referees are also volunteers. If ever there is an example for the borough council to follow it is the recreation commission. When the borough council is faced with a project, a very large project, such as sewers and so forth, then they must not attempt to handle it themselves. They should create an organization prescribed by law to manage such a project.

I must pay tribute to Herb Jacobs. Herb is the man who has kept the grounds and other parts of the recreation field in condition for the games. Herb is now retired. He has earned it. Herb, thanks for the beautiful job you have done.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Oakland's Fire Department 1978 - left to right, bottom row: President Vernon Yeomans, 1st Asst. Chief Robert Artus, Fire Chief John DelCorpo, 2nd Asst. Chief Edwin Kimmel, Chaplin Henry Wanderwall. 2nd row: Frank Marcucilli, Joseph Gallup, Raymang Blum, Frank Palumbo, Charles Wyant, Emil Reith, District Fire Warden Frank Scardo. 3rd row: Raymond Goelz, Capt. Bernard Hickey, Frank Adami, Arthur Bunger, James Lynch, Joseph Toscano, William Woodward, Chester Konicki. 4th row: Edward Proskey, Timothy Flannery, Joseph Boganian, Irving Otto, Edward Siefert, Robert Schwartz, Robert Healey, Richard Prichard, Dennis Gusman. Top row: Capt. Leonard Janis, Bruce Murphy, Thomas Burke, Donald Ryan, Edward Costigan, Lt. Lester McClure.

OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Oakland Volunteer Fire Department was founded on June 10, 1909 with little more than bucket brigade methods, that is passing pails of water from one to another from streams and ponds. At this point in time there were no water mains, thus no fire hydrants in the community.

June 10, 1911 the borough passed an ordinance officially establishing the Volunteer Fire Department. In that same year the

Yawpo Firehouse was built, largely by the labor contributed by the firemen themselves. In those days, huge iron locomotive rings, erected on posts and struck with sledge hammers sounded the community fire alarm. And so it was a major advancement when an electric siren was installed on top of the firehouse, supplanting the call of the struck iron. During 1925 the firehouse was doubled in size and equipment such as a motor truck with pumper to utilize water from brooks, streams and ponds was purchased.

In April, 1937, upon application, the fire department was accepted as a member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association. With membership in this organization, the Oakland Firemen's Relief Association was organized to serve as a liaison between the Volunteer Firemen of Oakland and the New Jersey State Association. This entitled a fireman, upon serving 7 years with a minimum of 60% attendance at all fires and drills each year, to a State Firemen's Exempt Certificate. This certificate, by law, makes possible several benefits for firemen and their families.

The need for equipment and facilities - It was in 1954, when the new Ward LaFrance fire truck was purchased, that again it became necessary to enlarge the Yawpo firehouse. With materials furnished by the borough, the firemen set about on a large scale do-it-yourself project. A two-story masonry addition was constructed at the rear of the building. The project was more than one of wall stretching. Floor reinforcement to accommodate the new truck required the installation of basement lolly columns to carry the additional weight. The first signs were appearing that the Yawpo firehouse was becoming incapable of adequately storing modern fire engines.

During the years 1954-1961 the firemen had a friend in Mayor Potash. He had been a fireman and president of the fire department, so was fully aware of the service these firemen performed. Practically all of their requests in the budget each year were approved.

On July 15, 1960 the Buffalo fire engine (vintage 1944) was replaced by the FWD fire truck carrying a 750 gallon per minute pump. The old Yawpo firehouse now showed more visible stress signs for housing modern apparatus. For over a year the truck, by necessity, was garaged in the basement of the Municipal Building. Housing the FWD truck a half mile away from the Yawpo firehouse created numerous problems. Once again the floor of the firehouse was repaired and strengthened by installing steel beams and numerous columns in the basement, and the FWD truck was returned to its firehouse headquarters.

Hiawatha Firehouse - In the decade between 1950 and 1960 Oakland grew from a population of 1,817 to 9,446. Due to this rapid growth, a new firehouse was erected at the corner of Hiawatha Boulevard and Calumet Avenue. Thus, the second fire house in Oakland, known as the Hiawatha fire house was completed in 1960, during Mayor Potash's term of office.

Fire Prevention Bureau - It was realized by the volunteers that in addition to extinguishing fires there was a need to stopping fires before they started, through community fire prevention and alertness. An active fire prevention bureau was formed in 1961. The mayor and council passed an ordinance adopting the Fire Prevention Code of 1960 as recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. This ordinance created a Fire Prevention Bureau with the task of enforcing the Fire Prevention Code of Oakland.

In 1964 the firemen, with money raised from their annual fund drives purchased an Instalert Radio System. This increased the efficiency of the department. In addition to 8 fire sirens strategically located throughout the borough, each fireman had an Instalert radio installed in his home. When the sirens are now activated each volunteer is notified, via radio, that his services are immediately required.

In 1967 a new 1967 Chevrolet emergency fire truck was dedicated. The purchase of this truck by the volunteers was made possible by the generous contributions of Oakland's citizens.

Retracing the milestones in the progress of the fire department reveals that the tasks were arduous and the demands unrelenting. The firemen have met their challenge. The Fire Department is no longer a fledgling. Organizationally strengthened, augmented by modern equipment, the days of striking iron are now reminiscence and to pay tribute to the many firemen who pioneered the way.

The dedication of the new Yawpo fire house on April 16, 1967 was made to Ben H. Wood, a former member of the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department.

ARTICLE FROM "THE RECORD" - MAY 16, 1984

When flames blazed through Farmer Calder's barn in 1903, his Oakland neighbors helplessly threw buckets of water on the huge fire. This tragedy spurred the creation of the town's first volunteer fire department in 1909, complete with a hand-drawn 50-gallon tank mounted on wheels.

Saturday, Oakland's fire company celebrated its 75th anniversary. The 54 volunteer firemen now have six fire trucks, complete with extension poles and rescue baskets, or snorkels, which reach 75 feet, and three smaller emergency vehicles. They responded to 130 fire alarms and 40 rescue calls in 1983. They are moving to a new firehouse later this year.

"When a fire department celebrates, it's like a wedding anniversary," explained Irving Otto, chairman of the Oakland Fire Department's history committee, and an active volunteer fireman for 33 years. "So for this 75th landmark, we invited neighboring communities and 103 fire departments to join in the events."

A panel of eight judges marked parade participants in several categories - Best Appearing Hand-drawn Apparatus, Best Appearing Horse-drawn Apparatus, Best Appearing Fire Department in Uniform, Longest Distance Traveled By Any Participating Unit, and Best Appearing Snorkel. Marching bands accompanied the fire departments, and the parade ended at Oakland Recreation Field.

"It's still neighbor helping neighbor, though in the early days everybody knew everybody else," said Otto, who's also chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau. "Soon as the sirens sound, anyone who's in Oakland and not working responds. We're on call 24 hours a day."

Hand-drawn and horse-drawn carts were replaced in 1917, when a Ford Model T truck was used. But its rear scraped along the ground if more than three people climbed on. After an alarm sounded, Hazel Sanders, living across from the firehouse, used to run out, hand-crank the truck, and drive it to the fire to meet the firemen. Once she and two women friends put out a small brush fire before the men arrived.

"I joined the fire department in 1951," said Otto. "Up until then, you dialed the operator, and she would ring Arthur Seel's store, which was by the firehouse. He'd run outside and pull the fire-alarm box, wait for the firemen, and tell them where the fire was. At night the operator called the fire chief."

"But in 1952 they installed a phone-alarm system for the fire chief, his assistant, the police, civilian defense director, and the firehouse, and a button on the phones set off the alarm," he said.

A Fire Prevention Bureau, established in 1960, aimed to alert residents to ways of preventing fires. This program, still active in the community, visits homes, offices, and schools to teach safety methods.

Today, there is a 911 phone number to the police department, eight fire sirens strategically located throughout the borough, and nine up-to-date trucks and emergency vehicles.

Today, Farmer Calder's farm would have a good chance of survival.

Story written by: Evelyn Kaye

This year, 1987, the Borough of Oakland has a fine fire department. The firemen are well trained, dedicated to their work and are furnished with modern fire engines and other equipment including a snorkel and 3 fire houses located for the quick response to a fire. We must remember that firemen are volunteers. They do not receive any pay. They are proud to be firemen and the danger exists from the time they respond to an alarm, speeding to the firehouse, manning the fire engines, and speeding to the fire as quickly as possible. I recommend to the residents that you visit the Yawpo fire house and see the number of trophies Oakland's firemen have won in competition with other fire departments.

I also want to pay tribute to one of the firemen: Vernon Yeomans. He has been chief of the fire department a number of times and he has served as a fireman for fifty years.

During Mayor Bauer's term of office our third firehouse, on Long Hill Road was built, free of cost to the Borough of Oakland, by the developer. With this third firehouse response time to any fire, anywhere in Oakland has been greatly enhanced.

FIRE CHIEFS WHO HAVE SERVED THE DEPARTMENT

1909 - 1915.....	Ludo W. Wilkens
1916 - 1922.....	Henry R. Hopper
1923 - 1932.....	Frank D. Pulis
1933 - 1935.....	James E. Munn
1936.....	Charles Meredith
1937.....	Robert Allen
1938 - 1939.....	Edward Eve
1940 - 1942.....	Harold J. Munn
1943 - 1944.....	Edward Hanney
1945 - 1946.....	William A. Richardson
1947 - 1952.....	Lester W. Marion
1953 - 1956.....	Dennis Clark
1957 - 1965.....	Vernon Yeomans

FIRE CHIEFS CONTINUED

1966 - 1967.....Robert Haemmerle
1968 - 1969.....William Woodward
1970 - 1971.....Vernon Yeomans
1972 - 1973.....William Woodward
1974.....Edward Costigan
1975 - 1976.....William Woodward
1977 - 1978.....John Del Corpo
1979Robert Artus
1980 - 1981.....Bernard A. Hickey, Jr.
1982 - 1983.....Vernon Yeomans
1984 - 1985.....Edwin Kimmel
1986 - 1987.....Edward Proskey
1988 - Present.....Bernard A. Hickey, Jr.

OAKLAND COMMUNITY BLOOD ASSOCIATION

The Oakland Community Blood Association was originated in 1959 under the auspices of then Mayor Al Potash, who was at that time in need of blood for a resident of Oakland and there was no blood bank here. Mr. Potash contacted Mrs. Betty Mawson, who at that time was connected with the Wyckoff Blood Bank. Mrs. Mawson started to go to other meetings of nearby towns who had blood banks and acquired by-laws and constitutions from other groups. Then a meeting was held for clubs in Oakland and people asked to be trustees for the soon-to-be organized Oakland Blood Bank. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department decided to sponsor the Blood Association.

The first meeting was held in the old borough hall and seven trustees were sworn in, of course Mrs. Betty Mawson was elected the first President of the Oakland Community Blood Association.

In the spring of 1960, the Oakland Blood Association received its charter and was incorporated. Mr. Nat Berstein, who was the Borough Attorney at that time, volunteered his services and drew up all the legal papers.

The first blood drawing was held in the old firehouse on Yawpo Avenue, that stood across the street from the Ben H. Wood Memorial Firehouse. Vern Yeomans, who was chief at that time, said that he would move the fire engines out of their bays and the drawing could be held there.

In February 1971, the Association revived their by-laws

and added four more trustees, for a total of eleven, which it still stands at today.

The Oakland trustees set up all the appointments for the drawings by calling residents who would like to donate. They call former donors who have given in the past and try to reach new residents who have never given. The Oakland Community Blood Association is affiliated with the Bergen Community Regional Blood Center in Paramus and the Federal Blood Program.

Over the past years other organizations have helped both financially and physically to aid the Blood Bank. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department after 29 years, still sponsors the group, both with monies used to defray the costs involved in the drawing and in pledging a quota of their membership in giving blood. The Oakland Road Department, under the leadership of N. David Fagerlund, every year sets up the beds and tables for the drawing. The Oakland Fire Department has their members volunteer to take all the beds and tables down after the drawing each year. Without these dedicated men, who help in the drawing, there could not be a drawing, because Paramus does not have the manpower to set up and take down all the facilities. Also many clubs have donated homemade cakes for each drawing.

The trustees have also been responsible for having a Bloodmobile at the Indian Hills High School on the same day that the drawing is at Pond's Church. This gives the high school students an opportunity to help their town.

The trustees that serve on the board now are: Mrs. Alice Smith, President, Mrs. Jackie Kasica, Vice President, Mrs. Barbara Ebert, Secretary and Mrs. Dorothy Gormley, Treasurer; other trustees are Mrs. Sue Steuerman, Mrs. Vivian Walker, Mrs. Elaine Pearson, Mrs. Ann Fisher, Mrs. Dorothy O'Connor, Mrs. Gerry Barth and Mrs. Carolyn O'Neill.

THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE OAKLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Oakland Fire Department was organized in July 1940 with 12 Charter members:

Madelyn Richardson	Dorothy Munn
Alice Bush	Elizabeth Cox
Elizabeth Gray	Eleanor VanDerWall
Blanche Hanney	Wilhelmina Reyenga
Alice Walton	Margaret Burns
Grace Sachse	Nellie Spear

The Officers were:

Alice Bush - President
Madelyn Richardson - Vice President
Dorothy Munn - Secretary
Elizabeth Cox - Treasurer

The only active charter member of the organization today is Mrs. Eleanor VanDerWall, who joined in July 1940.

The Auxiliary continues today with many fund raising activities, many of which have continued from the time the organization was formed, such as, rummage sales, working at the men's summer carnival, clam chowder sales, card parties, luncheons and strawberry festivals. The Auxiliary has printed two cook books, with member's favorite recipes. The ladies would also march in the town parades, and in Fire Department parades in other towns and would participate in Firemen's Competitions. The Auxiliary was formed then as it is today to help whenever and wherever possible to aid the Fire Department.

The officers today are:

Barbara Ebert - President
Rosemary Frapaul - Vice President
Doris Ryan - Secretary
Lois Smid - Treasurer

AMERICAN LEGION POST 369 AND
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT POST 369

The auxiliary unit consists of ladies, mostly wives of veterans, and some veterans themselves. Here again, as in other of our local volunteers, we find perseverance and dedication over a period of some 40 years. Their cause is Americanism and patriotism and the welfare of veterans. They also conduct the annual Memorial Day parade and the services that are held in Veteran's Park. The members often change hats. By that I mean over the years one will be a commander, then take some other office, and then the first thing you know he'll be commander again, always keeping the organization alive. The present commander is Carmen Parete. Carmen has a lot of energy and I'm sure he will be helpful.

The post was organized on March 6, 1946 with 19 charter members. The first commander of the post was William Brindle. I

knew William well, for at one time we lived across the street from each other. Bill was a Democratic party leader at the same time as I was the Republican. He was a worthy political opponent. The first president of the Auxiliary was Evelyn Kass.

The post is interested in, and keeping the subject alive, of the MIA, that is the Missing In Action in Vietnam. One Oakland veteran, Peter Kressman, is one that is missing in Vietnam. In 1983 the new West Oakland bridge was completed, and in that same year the dedication of the bridge took place and was the Peter Kressman Bridge. Congressman Robert Roe spoke at the ceremony at the dedication.

There is a bronze plaque on the bridge setting forth the name of the bridge: The Peter Kressman Bridge.

In early days the meeting was held in member's homes, the fire house and the community building. The post built their new home on Oak Street. It opened with a St. Valentine's dance in February, 1960. The hall was packed with celebrators. The official dedication of the hall took place on July 4, 1960. Veteran's Park was dedicated on May 30, 1961. The commander of that time was Austin Peck. I knew him well.

I must get back to the American Legion Post 369 on Oak Street. My sons and I, that is: Alexander Potash & Sons, Inc., worked on the contract with a developer in Wayne to install the streets and the underground utilities. On the site was a three-story dairy barn. It was a tremendous structure and well built. I brought some of the members of the post to see this structure and suggested to them that there was more than enough lumber in the building to frame and enclose the building now located on Oak Street, on land that I as mayor and the councilmen agreed to deed to the post. The land was owned by the Borough of Oakland. I prevailed upon the developer to allow us to tear down the building. He agreed, and away went members of Post 369, carefully tearing down the structure and preserving the lumber. I furnished the trucks to carry the lumber to the site in Oakland that the building was to be constructed upon. There were many loads.

I remember one night, when I lived on West Oakland Avenue, I wondered what all the electric lights were over on Oak Street. Well, I went over and there were the American Legion Post 369 members putting their building up.

Yes, the home of American Legion Post 369 on Oak Street, built with their own hands, is a wonderful demonstration of determination and perseverance by the members of Post 369.

It is unfortunate that more veterans of Vietnam, not only of Oakland but of the area, do not join Post 369. The officials of the post have indicated that these veterans could have their own private meetings.

I must pay tribute to George Eskholme of the post, who puts out the publication Eagle. It is the official printing of the post, and this he does approximately four times a year. It is mailed to all members he knows, that may be as far away as Arizona. The Arizona member is Tom Duke. He was one that helped in the construction of the building. George served as commander a number of times and always has the job, each year, of putting together the Memorial Day Parade and the services in Veteran's Park.

The building, on occasion, is rented to organizations for one of their own affairs, and there are various affairs run during the year, the funds of all help to defray expenses. The building was used by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at it's beginning, and by the Church of the Nazarene. The Senior Citizens Club made use of the building for a considerable time, and usually made a token donation annually.

The post does keep alive all patriotic events of the year. Some members are delegated to attend the American Legion Convention.

You no doubt have noticed as you read that I have paid particular attention to some of the organizations in our community such as the Mother's Club, Women's Club, Recreation Committee, Fire Department, the Father's Club, the Oakland Historical Society, and the First Aid Squad. I think also we should include the Recreation Commission. Each have their own sphere of operation and the beauty of it is that many women and men spend a great deal of time, run affairs, raise funds from these affairs, and the monies they raise are then placed in the projects they each center their attention upon. All are volunteer organizations. They receive no pay and I'm sure, as you read of each one, you will realize that thousands, yes thousands of dollars of tax payers money is saved. We are fortunate to have them.

In writing this book, I have attempted to be correct. However, if there are any errors or omissions, I assure you they were not intentional.

I hope you enjoyed reading this book as much as I enjoyed writing it.

George Burns, at the age of 92, sang a song entitled "Old Bones" and each time his words were of the past he would say: "I'd like to do it again". Well. I'm now 88 years of age, 56 of those spent with my wife, Velma, and 61 of those years spent in Oakland, and, if I could, I too would like to do it again.

From:

Dr. Michael Guadagnino
161 W. Franklin, Toke
Ramsey, NJ 07446
(cell) 825-6601

To:

Hi!
I just called the office while I've been on vacation and found out that you still haven't made an appointment for your free Summer Spinal Re-Evaluation. Since Mickey Mouse has put me in such a good mood, I'm going to make you an offer you sure can't refuse!
If you call before I get back, I will offer you a free Spinal-EMG Test (the revolutionary exam) without needles, that takes minutes and usually (cost \$450). This test will enable you and I to determine and pinpoint the exact cause and exact relief method for any discomfort.
- So call before Aug 28th (201-825-6601) -
See you soon.
Dr. G.

PS: If Nancy is unable to take your call, simply leave her a message

PPS: As a BONUS, Everyone that comes in for the FREE EMG Test will be put into a drawing for a FREE 1 Hour Massage with Toke.

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