

Mr. H. Hopper Interview

NOV. 5, 1959

Mr. H. Hopper a native of Oakland was interviewed by Mr. H. Rienecker and Mrs. T. Bade on Thursday evening November 5, 1959 as to some of the old historic sites and stories Mr. Hopper experienced during his stay in Oakland.

BECAME A PRIVATE RESIDENCE. DESTROYED BY RT 208

The old school house used to be on Allerman Road under 8 to 10 large maple trees. At the time of Mr. Hopper, a school teacher received \$40.00 per month and did his own sweeping and tended the coal stove.

Where Sandy Beach now stands, was formerly a grist and lumber mill. The river was used for the power. Later it became a mattress and brush factory 1890's. He remembers when the horse and pig hairs had to be cut by some one with a delicate touch, with a razer blade saw, into specific lengths.

In the late 1880's at the end of Powder Mill Lane, stood the American E-C Power Co., owned by Capt. Albert W. Money. A railroad spur went directly to the factory. There were several minor explosions during the life of this factory, with the last one concurring in 1899, killing 3 men, and destroying the building.

THE BLACKSMITH SHOP (Oakland's last Blacksmith)

* At the other end of Powder Mill Lane, where the Chevron Station now stands, was the town Blacksmith Shop 1878; Cost - \$1.00 a horse (Now a days \$12.00 a horse).

Now EXXON

Cannon Ball Road, located up in the mountains on the north side of the River North west of Bear Swamp Lake, was so named because it was along this trail that the cannon balls were carried on their way to West Point. These Cannon balls were made in the Pompton Lakes Foundry, opposite the falls. Mr. Hopper recalls tales from his childhood, that many of the cannon balls were sold to the British, and smuggled under manure to Suffern.

Among his recollections of the Church of the Ponds, most of which are common knowledge, was the interesting fact that a Minister was buried under the rear of the old church. Also Albert Payson Terhune's father was a supply Minister at one

The Pease Atlas / map of page 122 shows a Hopper at what is now # 5 Maple Ave, and location of present Oakland Mower. It also has the Blacksmith Shop symbol of BSS at this site. It is possible that Henry Hopper never opened the shop at this site after 1918 but relocated to Powder Mill Lane. A daughter-in-law, widow of his son told me he hardly did any smithing then.

* Noted by Al John, 1980. (copy of aforementioned of unknown origin) Carl Burns of Burns Hardware, related to a Hopper, told me that the location of the shop was essentially correct. Because Route 208 caused a change in the end of Powder Mill Lane, the exact spot is questionable. " Perhaps under Route 208, in its embankment or partially on the property of the Sunoco Gas Station" This would place it on the East side of Ramapo Valley Road. The C.C.

My Life as I lived it.

Born Nov 26 - 1877 in what is now Wayne Township. It was at the time of my birth called Pompton. The house was a stone house and stood on the bank of Pompton Lake where the bungalow of Mr. Bates now stands and it belonged to Jacob S. Rodgers the locomotive builder in Paterson. Mr. Rodgers owned a large tract of land and had a large dairy farm where the place Green Sable was recently. Large barn, Aldermy cattle, Oxen, Horses, Shepard dogs, very various Peacocks & hens about 50 swans on Pompton Lake. His property extended across the lake taking in what is now Pool Hollow and the mountains including Potten Pond now Ramapo Lake and running almost or to the Hohokus Township line. So I was born not far from the Oakland Borough line. My father at that time had his blacksmith shops across ~~the~~ ^{Pompton} lake on the Schuyler farm on a road that followed the west side of the lake near the West Oakland road on right along the top of the bank near the lake and coming into West Oakland Ave. at the entrance of Pool Hollow. When I was ten months old my parents moved to Oakland and we built the little house where Charles Howard lives opposite Powder Mill Lane and father built the shops where the garage now is opposite Powder Mill Lane. I started to go to school when I was seven years old and left school in the summer of 1890 and went to work for the American C. C. Powder Co. in the factory in powder mill lane and worked there for over ~~three~~ ^{four} years. I worked in every department in the factory.

and used to help the chemist loading shells
and firing guns and rifles for testing
That is where I learned to handle guns and
rifles and to shoot. The Manager of the
powder works was a professional trap shot
and also a hunter. He used to take me
from the mill and we would cross the river
with the boat and we would hunt
grouse or partridge nearly all day, and
that is when he taught me to shoot.
There was one explosion while I worked there
The drying house blew up and burned two
men to death. This happened in the next
building to where I was working. I worked a
little more than ~~two~~ ^{four} years in the Powder Mill
I then quit the Powder Mill and went to work in
Wilhelm Bros brush factory located where
Sandy Beach now is for one dollar a day
Worked there about six months and then quit
and worked for Bush & Shurt in the General Store
They handled Groceries, Fertilizer, food for cattle & horses
and coal also some dry goods. Besides the Post Office
was also in the store. I worked there about six
months and then quit and went back to Wilhelm
Brothers hair factory, stayed there about six ~~more~~ ^{months}
and on the 20th day of June 1896 started to learn
the Blacksmith & Wheelwright trade with my Father
and ~~my~~ ^{eldest} brother. Father was killed July 17 - 1896
on the R.R. crossing ^{by the station}
~~some~~ ^{one} month after I started to work
with him, so I continued to work with my
brother and finished learning the trade. Later
I went in partners with him for a couple of
years and then he quit and opened a shop
in prompton Gales. I continued from then
on for myself until the U.S. entered the

first World War, there were only about eight or ten horses left in Oakland at that time so I closed my shop and went to work for E. J. Dupont Co in Haskell. Took care of the shoeing of 42 horses & mules for them. Stayed there until in December after the contract was signed and they were dismantling the plant. Did nothing but stay at home from December until the 1st Feb the following year, and then went to work for Roy Terhune of Redwood in the Blacksmith shop. Stayed with him for seven and a half years. Then went back to Slayback at the Cape works Pompton Lake on a construction job. They were building new buildings to combine the Cape and Lase works. I worked there as a Mill Right until the buildings were completed which was about two years then was at home and at that time the janitor of Oakland School now Valley School quit the job in February and left the school without a janitor for the remainder of the school year. At that time Mrs Hazel Taylor now Mrs Arthur F Frost was a member of the School Board and a very good friend of my wife & I and she caused me to take the job temporarily to finish the school term which I did and I stayed on the job for over 20 years until the State School laws stated when a person reached his 71 birthday he or she was automatically out of the school. Too old to work. That was in November 1948. From 1944 to 1948 I was janitor of the Community Building a part time job with the school job.

So in 1948 I continued as janitor of the Community Building until I retired June 1st 1960.

Going back to my school days on vacation time, from the time I was 9 years old until I quit school I used to work for the farmer hoeing corn and potatoes and working in hay for 50¢ per day. And used to also pick straw berries, Raspberries for 2¢ per quart.

My favorite sports in my young days was hunting, fishing, base ball, I caught in base ball for seven years, skating, swimming and also ran in a few foot races. In 1898 entered three races at Ivy Hall in Oakland. 1 Hundred yards, 1/2 mile. 1 mile. I won the Hundred yards running against a young man from Oakland another from New York, one from Spring Valley I also won the 1/2 mile against a young man from New York and another from Suffern and one from Paterson. I lost out on the one mile was beaten by my cousin from Bloomingdale.

The following year I entered a half mile race in Pompton Lakes. There were six entries besides myself I finished second. Then the following year I entered a One Hundred and fifty yard race. There were six entries including myself and then William De Wille a brother to the movie producer Cecile B De Wille who was at that time a student in Columbia College. ^{in my charge} When the other entrants saw De Wille enter they all dropped out saying they did not have a chance running against him, so I told him that I would not run against him alone but no one would enter, so he knew me and caused me to run as the crowd

expected to see the race. Finally he agreed to give me five yard handicap (fifteen ft) so I decided to run against him, and I beat him out, but if I had to go fifteen feet farther he would have passed me like nothing as when I hit the finish line you could hardly see between my body and his. He came to me several times afterward and wanted me to go to the training school they had in Sompton Lakes where the Shering Home now is on Terhune drive. He said I would make good on short races up to half mile, but I did not go and I did not bother any more with foot racing.

The reason I am giving you a brief history of my parents is to show you that their friends at that time were descendants of the families that were the first settlers in the Pompton section. The Schuyler, the Colfax in Pompton, the Wortendyke of Haverhill what is where it got its name. And in what was the Pond now part of Franklin Lake was the Boyde, Vorhies, and Blawetts. Mr Blawett was the Grand Father of Mr Alex Hoig and Mrs Malcolm Richardson, The Vorhies family adopted a girl by the name of Cynthia de Witt she was the Grand daughter of the Rev. de Witt who was buried under the altar of Pond Reformed Church.

Mother was born in 1833 first married when she was seventeen. Her first husband died in 1860. In 1863 she remarried to farmer Hopper which was my father. In 1865 my oldest sister was born, and in 1867 a second sister was born, and in 1869 my oldest brother was born in the home to day known as the Hopper Home in East Cahoon. In 1871 my second brother was born in the old stone house at the corner of what is now Colonial Road. The home of Albert Blawett was on the opposite corner of Colonial Road, across Long Hill road and about three hundred yards down at home was the home of Albert Vorhies a relative of the Schuyler of your

Prompton Lake. Both Mr. Blauvelt and Mr. Verbeke
wanted my brother named after them so mother
and Dad named him Albert Blauvelt Verbeke Hopper
Some year later my brother for some reason discarded
the Blauvelt and from then on signed his
name as Albert V Hopper or Albert Verbeke Hopper
Beside the Blauvelt and Verbeke families there was
at that time the Boyd family living in a house just
before you come to the stone house where my brother
was born that is as you go from Oakland.

They were all friends of my parents.
I was told that my Grand Father Hopper
is buried in the little cemetery just as you pass
the Dutch Sanctuary on the left of the road as
you go from Oakland. In 1873 a third sister
was born, and in 1895 a fourth sister was born
and then on Nov 26th 1897 the last of the family
was born Henry R Hopper the one who is writing ✓
this book

School Days

The one room school that I attended was on Alberman road. It had a spot belly stove about in the center of the room a hallway or cloak room in the front. The toilet was one building one side for girls and the other for boys. There was a mill pond in the back of it, ^{at the school} and a saw mill on the left side of it as you stood facing the school and a slaughter house to the right of the school about three or four hundred feet away. We used to fish ~~at~~ and skate on the pond. One incident happened that I recall. The channel of the pond was open no ice, but on the school side there was a cove and that was frozen over and we were playing on the ice. When Gale McNamee came running down the bank and when he reached the ice he could not stop and slid off into the channel into a bout eight feet of water. He was clinging to the ice but was unable to pull himself out. I called to three or four of the boys who were there to grab one another legs and so formed a chain and I crawled to the edge of the ice and grabbed Gale's arm and pulled him from the water. Not long before his death he pointed me out and remarked that if it weren't for me he would not be there talking. I was pulled out of the same pond but right by the mill by the son of the owner of the mill. My first teacher was Miss Laura Ackerman, ^{then} Miss Jennie Ward, Miss Schachtel Albin and Miss Anita Thompson. At that time the teachers had to do their own sweeping and care for the stove.

Miss Allen paid me three cents a day
for sweeping the room and taking care
of the stove. When Mrs Thompson came she
gave me five cents a day. Her salary for
teaching at that time was \$45⁰⁰ per month.
Another incident happened which was funny
but I had to do a lot of explaining to clear
myself. When they used the saw-mill the ice
would settle down ^{on the channel} and sometimes there would
be a couple of inches of water on top of the ice
on the channel. We used to ride down the
bank and across the channel through the
water to get on the other side to skate.
This day I had a horse made sled made by
my father. It was quite a large sled.
I was just going across when the teacher
Mrs Thompson came out so I told her
to get on my sled and I would take her across.
But just as we got to the bottom of the
bank near the edge of the ice, the one
runner of my sled caught on a bare stone.
The sled turned side ways and dumped
us both off in the water. It struck me
so funny that I couldn't help but laugh
outright. Mrs Thompson sitting in the water
and every time she tried to get up
her feet would slip from under her.
I got up and helped her to get off the
ice, but her clothes were so wet she
had to stand with her back to the
stove to dry out as she lived in
a kitchen and no stove until about
five o'clock. I still have a book that
I wrote songs in and a piece that
I had to recite on Arbor Day April 1888.

That same Arbor Day I dug a maple tree
out of the woods above where the Oakland
Coal & Lumber Co. was in, and carried it to
the school and planted it on the school
ground. I believe the tree is still standing
there.

in I recall it in the latter part of the 1880's

	#1	Stephen Fox	34	Martin Van Houten
	2	Amos W Hopper	35	Unknown
	3	Judge A B Harrison	36	Belcher or Doty
	4	Theodore Fox	37	Thomas Doty (Post) (Hollow)
	5	Amos W Hopper	38	Doty
	6	Theodore Bortchme	39	Lloyd & Porter
	7	John W Ackerman	40	Jacob A Terhune
	8	James Ackerman	41	John Bush (Calowood)
	9	Raymond Herion	42	John Bush
	10	John Hartwick	43	Wm Winter
	11	John J Fox	44	Barney Winter
	12	John Storm	45	Martin Nyerson
	13	Henry McNamee	46	John Winter
	14	John J Fox	47	John or Jacob Manoligo
	15	John Ramsey	48	W J Fox or George Doty
	16	John P Ramsey	49	Samuel P Demarest
	17	John P Ramsey	50	David H Spear
	18	Wm Custer Herion Wason B Harrison	51	Albert H Bizart
	19	John Carlough	52	Catherine M. Spear
	20	Anthony Harrison	53	W. F. Lowrance
	21	Levie Betsger	54	William Doty
	22	Christum Wassner	55	James Post
	23	Henry Winter	56	Abram Van Houten
	24	Wm Winter	57	Rev King
	25	One Room School	58	John Post (Miller)
	26	John Van Blarcom	59	Porter
	27	William Van Blarcom	60	John Post
	28	John Carlough	61	John H Spear
	29	Unknown or Christie	62	Peter Friedrich
	30	Ackerman	63	Peter Herring
	31	Mc Coy Rd Buffalo Post Samuel W Hopper Martin Herion	64	Hogankamp
	32	James H Van Blarcom	65	Gayst Littlefield
	33	David S Bush	66	Henry A Hopper
			67	Wm Hughes

Ganges Rd
 How Valley Rd

Cambridge Rd
 near Franklin Ave

Wilson Rd
 near
 Fair Rd

High
 Main Road

Kelly Rd

West Oakland Rd

Ramapo Valley Rd

Penn
 Hill Rd

Hill Rd

Long

68 Mrs. Montanya

69 Jacob Dickerman

70 Samuel Plomarek This was a small house
in the middle of the field
across the road from the
Plomarek house

71 Lemmie Clark

This was a small house
in the middle of the field
across the road from the
Plomarek house

#69 Jacob Dickerman

This was a log cabin on what is now
Mac Coy's golf course.

68 Mrs. Montanya a log cabin about half
way up to Mac Coy's entrance on
Skyline Drive

71 Lemmie Clark was a log cabin opposite
Mac Coy's entrance on the face of the
Mountains

72 When you cross the old river bridge
and turn right off of Geneva Lane there
were 3 small houses near one another along
the foot of the mountain. There was an
old road running along the foot of the
mountains on that side of the river
1 house was occupied by Forty the shoe
maker
and 1 occupied by a John Steele
the other I can't recall

73 Ponds Reformed Church When I first
remember it it only had one door front
entrance. I have a picture of it at that
time.

at least as I recall it between 1885 and
1890 Henry P Hopper

RAMAPO VALLEY RD

1. Stephen Fox was a farmer
2. Anne H. Hopper " " " also First Mayor of
the Borough. Her wife was a school teacher taught
in the Ramapo School House just beyond the
borough line going north. Her maiden name was
Kate Thompson.
3. Aaron S. Garrison was a farmer also judge
in Bergen County Court.
4. Theodor Fox was a farmer and in spring
time February used to tap maple trees and
make maple sugar and maple syrup
The cakes of sugar he used to hold raffles
for on certain nights two cents a chance
and ten cents for a cake of sugar.
5. Anne H. Hopper same as # 2 ^{she was a brick house} had a kitchen in it there
6. Theodor Schochiner occupation don't recall
7. John Cushman was a farmer also had
a large grape vineyard on the opposite side
of the road from where his house was.
8. James Cushman was a farmer used to
raise lots of onions also lots of berries such
as Black Currant called black raspberries also
had his own blacksmith shop on the opposite
side ^{of the road} from his house. That place is now owned
by Robert M. William Cushman

7. Raymond Herriman was a carpenter.
by trade ^{He had a tread churn and a large black} ^{dog that used to run it to do the churning}

" 10. John Hartman occupation do not recall

11. John J Fox was a blacksmith and Wheelwright
by trade and did some farming. Had his blacksmith
shop in what is now occupied in the rear of
Lloyd and Mc Home barn.

12. John Stone occupation do not recall

13. Henry Mc Home Carpenter by trade

14. John R Ramsey Has a farmer used to
cart vegetables to Paterson and Newark markets

15. John Ramsey

16. " "

17. John J Fox same as #11 the road leading
past this house was a place where they used
to ford the river.

18. Aaron G Garrison same as #3 farmer
and judge in Court.

#9 Mrs P Van Blarcom was a farmer owned
over four hundred acres of land and an
old fashion house like three sections with
double a half door top and bottom and an out
door ditch over on the kitchen end of house

The neighbors used to bring their bread there to bake. Inside ~~side~~ the dining room there were about five or six steps up to go into the hallway and parlor and on the right side of steps as you were going up was a Grand Father Clock that reached from floor to ceiling. Their water supply was a one inch lead line running from there across the fields up to the woods above what is now Oakland Coal & Lumber Co. to a spring in the woods.

20. James Hopper was a blacksmith and Wheelwright. Father and three sons carried on the blacksmith business from 1878 until 1916 when W.S. entered the 1st World war.

21 James H Van Blarcom farmer and brother of Mrs P Van Blarcom he also owned four hundred or more acres of land. He also had a saw mill, sawed lumber for all kinds of building also kindling wood which they carted to Paterson. He also had a hotel and bar room on the home ^{where} of the late

Arnie Meyer lived. Their water supply at that time was a one inch lead line from the spring in the field near the railroad near where former Police Chief Merion lived.

22 David L. Bush was a farmer that the first Post Office in his home. His water supply was a one inch lead line from his home across the railroad and fields up in the woods opposite where Everett Johnson now lives on Yawps Ave.

23 Lloyd and Porter later Lloyd & McHome General & Grocery Store.

24 Jacob A. Terhune was a Butcher used to buy cattle, sheep, and pigs. Had a slaughter house near the one room school on Allerman road where he both butchered them and carted the carcasses to Paterson.

25 John Bush was a farmer. ^{this was later the} Caldwell Property.

26 John Bush Occupation not recalled except he used to saw and split kindling wood and cart it to Paterson.

27 William Winter Occupation do not recall.

28. Barney Winton Occupations do not recall

29. Marten Pyerson Was a farmer also used to saw and split bundling wood and cart it to Paterson. He also had a large apple orchard in the field where the First Aid Building now stands also owned all the ground where the recreation field now is also on the opposite side of the road where Mrs. Hazel Deppou lived he owned about twenty acres of woodland at that time.

Down on the recreation field there was a crossing place where they forded the river before the dam was built near Sandy Beach

30. John Winters A Carpenter by trade

31. John Mandigo A farmer owned the land from Valley Road to the Ramapo River where Public Oakland Beach now is and where Kutuck Beach now is, and on the east side of ValleyRd where Herald Johnsons place now is. He also had his own blacksmith shop on the left hand corner of Bailey Ave.

32. H. J. Fox or George Hoty Trade unknown

33 S P Demarest a Farmer also had a saw-mill where Sandy Beach now is, also owned a large tract of land on the east side of Valley Road extending the entire length of what is now Grove St. His son Dr P. C. Demarest was one time Mayor of Oakland

34 S P Demarest same as above. A small house situated in the middle of the field opposite the Demarest home and occupied by Theodore Hayble better known as Lory Hayble and ^{an} employee of S P Demarest

35 Albert P Bogart a cabinet maker had his place of business where Sandy Beach now is.

36 David H Spear a Farmer and also had a saw-mill near where David Spear now lives owned the property where the Jewish Community Center now is

37 Katherine M Spear the place where Haidinger now lives, I believe that was once a hotel but before my time. She also owned the Cemetery which at her death she gave to the Church (Ponds Reformed Church)

Now a private
the school

FRANKLIN AVE
FRANKLIN AVE
FRANKLIN AVE

Between Lawrence and James Post
was the Ponds Reformed church it stood
on what is now the Haven Home parking lot

38 Lawrence A watch maker

39 James Post A farmer and deacon
of Ponds Reformed Church also Sunday School
teacher

X40 William Doty Occupation cannot recall

41 Abram Van Houten A farmer also
kept a boarding house for summer
boarders. The place where Edward Gerth

now lives
Franklin Ave

42 John Barlough A Farmer

43 Anthony Harmon ^{Grand} Father of former Police
Chief Harmon was sexton former to repair
tractors for the N. Y. S. & W. R.R. until his retirement

44 Peter Schlocter brother to Wm Dietzer

45 Christian Hassner did farming and
had a cider still where they made cider.

X46 Henry Winters Farmer

47 William Winters Farmer

Long Hill Rd

48 Rev. King pastor of Ponds Reformed Church

49 John Post & Miller had a grist mill
where the water fall is on the Hitchel place

50 Horn of Wm Porter partner of John Lloyd
in the grocery business

- 51 John Post. Occupation can't recall
- 52 John ^{W. Hays} Spear Farmer
- 53 Peter Fredericks Occupation can't recall
- 54 Peter Herring Was Bergen County Constable
- 55 Hogenkamp Occupation can't recall
- 56 Capt Littlefield Capt in the U.S. service
- 57 Henry A. Hopper Farmer
- ^{High 4th rd}
58 John Barlough Same man as #42 soldier's place and moved to #42.
- 59 Christie. Occupation can't recall
- 60 David Ackerman "Farmer"
^{Unknown rd}
McCoy Road
- 61 Buffalo Post Had a saw mill on what is now the McCoy property. Was a buffalo hunter
- 62 Daniel H. Hopper. Occupation can't recall
- 63 Martin Hinch Laborer
Adelman Rd.
- 64 John Van Blarcom ^{and wife} ^{of} ^{the} ^{property} ^{from} ^{the} ^{state} ^{of} ^{Ohio}
^{was} ^{of} ^{the} ^{land} ^{the} ^{farm} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{state} ^{of} ^{Ohio}
- 65 Martin Van Houten ^{of} ^{the} ^{state} ^{of} ^{Ohio} ^{and} ^{the} ^{state} ^{of} ^{Ohio}
^{of} ^{the} ^{state} ^{of} ^{Ohio} ^{and} ^{the} ^{state} ^{of} ^{Ohio}
- 66 Unknown
- 67 Belcher. House where Demarest Romaine now lives
- 68 Thomas Doty 1st House across the railroad in Pool Hollow. The little pond by that house was at one time filled with Gold Fish

69. Loty This was a servant house called the Loty Home
70 ~~Skylm Home~~ William Montanya a veteran of the Civil War. Was paid to go to take the place of P. G. Homarost.

71 Hennie Clark Laborer ^{one time, worked} on Oakland Powder Mill
72 ~~Jack~~ John Hickerman His log cabin was on ^{Now STATE FOREST} what is now MacEvoy's golf course. At that time it was a large swamp called the Hickerman Swamp.

73 - 74 - 75 These belonged to John R Ramsey and were across the old river bridge facing an old road that followed the foot of the mountain one was occupied by a German called Frity (a shoemaker) another was occupied by John Steele the other was empty.

76 Was a house where the MacEvoy spring now is. That spring was in the cellar of the house. Not far from this house against what is known as Spear sand hill was quite a large pavilion which had been used for dancing and other purposes.

Going up Glen Gray road from the river
bridge was the home of William Sindle,
Joseph Edwards, ^{John} Storms, John Sanden,
Mary Post, and Yella first name unknown.
The son of Governor Brice "General Francis Brice"
lived with Mary Post.

Going north of the Borough line toward Suffern
N. Y. about two or three hundred yards and on
the left of the Ganpo road on a little knoll
was the Ganpo school house a one room school
The last teacher who taught there was the
wife of the first Mayor of Oakland
Mrs Kate Hopper maiden name Kate Thompson
Next on the left of the road was the home of
Peter J Ramsey the father of the two old
maids who lived in the Hopper House on
Glen Gray road Deliza and Kate Ramsey
Beyond that on top of hill was the home of
James Bartholf better known as (Laughing Jimmy)
on the left of the road. Next was a building
built in the side of a bank on the left side of
the road right near the road ^{stream} called the Fort
Next on the right side of the road was the

home of Abram Ryerson. He was a singing school teacher, used to come ^{evening} night to the school on Allerman road and give singing lessons. Next on the left of the road was the home of John A. Garrison and father of Thaddeus Garrison the first Borough ^{clerk} ~~clerk~~ of Oakland. John A. was a farmer. Next was the home of Abram Garrison father of John A. Garrison. Next was the Cleveland bridge across the Ramapo river and the road leading to Bear Swamp. Almost opposite the bridge or a little more north on the right of the road was the home of ~~Samuel~~ Rodman H. Price the son of Governor Rodman H. Laury Price once governor of New Jersey from 1854 to 1857 who's residence was about half mile north of Cleveland bridge and on the left side of the Ramapo River. There was a lane going from the road to river and a bridge across to his residence.

Going up Long Hill road beyond the borough line. The road used to go around to the right of Crooked pond instead of crossing it as it does now, and just beyond the pond to the right of road was the home of William H Hughes. Then the road turned back to the road as it is now. Just after you passed the Hughes place and about half way back to the road as it is now was the home of Squire Actonman. Then coming back to the road as it now is on the left was the home of Adam Boyd next was stone house near what is now the entrance of Colonial Road. About opposite the stone house on the right side of road was a driveway leading to a house probably 2 or 3 hundred yards of the main road, which was the home of Albert Vorhies a relative of the Schuyler sisters Hattie and Betty Schuyler of Compton who owned the farm where Bear Training camp was.

On the right side of the entrance ^{to} of Colonial road was the home of Albert Blauvelt.

father of the first Mrs E. M. Terhune
his maiden name was Jennie Blauvelt
and he was the Grandfather ^{of} Mrs Marie Doig
the organist of Ponds Church. Mr Blauvelt
used to play the organ in ^{also Mrs Madeline Probst} Old Ponds Church
when it stood on the corner ^{where} the Henson
house now is. After he stopped ^{in 1840} Mrs Terhune
took over and then Mrs Doig.

Rotten Pond. The original name given that
place by the early dutch settlers was
Ratten Pond because it was the home of
plenty of Muskrats, but the natives called
it Rotten Pond because of the color of the water.
Years later the New Jersey State fish and game
Commissioner Howard P. Frothingham
bought it and he called it Lake La Grande.
Then still later it was taken over by
a group of people known as The Ramapo
Mountain Lakes Club and they changed it
to Ramapo Mountain Lake as it is now.
Lake Todd was formerly known as the
Springer place I think originally owned
by the Van Bladen family and later

owned by Lloyd S. McNamee the Oakland
 grocer who sold it to the scouts.
 Lake Tamarack was called Black Ash
 swamp until the scouts took it over.
 One house I omitted should be between
 20 and 21. James H. Von Blarcom it was
 an old fashioned long stone house with
 half door top and bottom. The original home
 of James H. Von Blarcom.

The Oakland Powder Mill switch was built in
 the latter part of year 1888. The first car that
 entered the switch was on Nov-12-1888.

The Powder Mill was built in 1889
 and was called The American L. L. Powder Co.
 afterwards it became The American L. L. & Schultze
 Powder Co. and was known by that name until
 the Gaffin & Rand Powder of St. Mary bought it
 and dismantled it.

The Annie Meyer House

This was originally the James H Van Blarcom ~~house~~ ^{home}. He lived there when I was a small boy with his family Annie, Jennie, William Andrew Bertha Ella and Richard. His wife Ellen was a sister of Jacob A Testhne.

He ran a hotel there at that time. Between 1885 and 1890 he moved back into the old original home stead which stood where the little house of Mr. Sheffield was. That was an old fashioned stone house long in shape with kitchen dining room and living room. It stood length way to Rammapo Valley Road. It had the old fashion double doors top and bottom. The water supply came from a spring up in the field near where Chief of Police Marion lived. This supplied the Annie Meyer home also. About 1885 he rented the Annie Meyer home to a man by the name of Richard Banta who also ran a hotel while he lived there. On holidays Mr Banta used to have all kind of races and dancing. I recall one fourth of July he had about five hundred people there. That was a very large crowd at that time. When Mr Banta left Mr Van Blarcom moved back into the now Annie Meyer house. He also had a saw mill near the one room school on Altemon Road now route 208. Used to saw all kinds of lumber for wagon and ship building, mostly oak, ash and hard wood. He also split kindling wood from the remnant of the logs and carted it to Paterson and sold it by the barrell. After he stopped the lumber business he started a cider mill was making lots

The picture of the graduating class of 1898
 It mentions Marten Pyron & Gra Terhune
 & Ed McHume Ernest McHume
 Andrew Spear Mary Post, Hattie & Hannah Merwin

Marten Pyron	was	26	years	old	in	1898
& Gra Terhune	"	21	"	"	"	"
Andrew & Spear	"	21	"	"	"	"
Mary Post	"	24	"	"	"	"
Hattie Merwin	"	24	"	"	"	"
Hannah Merwin	"	21	"	"	"	"

The Vernam home was originally a farm
 house owned by a man named William Doty,
 a farmer.

The Vernam spring ^{still in woods} as I first remember it
 was a spring in the cellar of a little old
 home which was occupied by a family by
 the name of Marten. He used the overflow
 from the spring to make water cress beds ^{still}
 and used to sell it in Paterson. ^{GREENS WILD} And the first
 water that was bottled from that spring
 was bottled in the Spear Sawmill. Later it
 it was piped across to the railroad and
 bottled in the building now occupied by
 Chemical Engineering Laboratory.

McBEIDE PROPERTY
 Woods / SAND PITS
 Behind Grace ST

Now called Valley School

The original Oakland Grammar School was not opened in 1907. It was opened in October 1908. And the first principal was not Arthur F. Frost, as he graduated a class from the one room school on Alameda Road in June 1908.

In speaking of the Page Residence that Chapel was part of the Page residence and the building now occupied by the Ramapo Mountain Lake Country Club was the Page stable and the coachman living quarters combined.

I worked in the Bush grocery and general store for about six months in the early 1890's

The Oakland Firm on the corner of Yawps Ave. and Ramapo Valley Road was managed by Mr & Mrs Alexander Hafels. Mrs Hafels later became the wife of August Meyer (Mrs Anna Meyer)

The Oakland Military Academy when I can first remember it, was a large boarding house managed by Mrs Julia A. Calder and known as the Calderwood Boarding House

Mrs Calder was superintendent of the Children

Now
STAIR MALL

Now
Grand Union
Shopping Center
Condos behind
17

Home in New York City. The Calderwood Barn
burning down was the cause of our starting
a fire department in Oakland.

DESTROYED BY
ENTRANCE RAMP
ON TO RT 2875

The Annie Meyer building which is now
Oakland's newest Professional Building was
originally the home of James H. Van Blarcom
Mr. Annie Meyers' Father.

Oakland is trout country

Twenty five or thirty years ago there was
no trout in the Ramapo River.

NOW
STOCKED BY
STATE

Frank Barron first came to Oakland
as a night watchman and fireman in
the Oakland Powder Mill in the 1890's
His brother in law was foreman in the
Powder Mill at the time (Alfred Moore)

After he quit the Powder Mill he bought the
property across the river where he lived until
he passed away. He used to raise chickens and
sell eggs for a living. He did not give his
property to the Borough of Oakland. He gave
it to a man by the name of Frank Warner
a silk manufacturer from Paterson who had a
home in West Oakland. Mr. Warner used to
look after Frank Barron and took care of him

for the last six months or so of his life
and Frank Barron gave his property to
Mr Warner. Mr Warner in turn said that
he did not feel as if he should have the
property so he asks the Borough Council
if he gave them the property would they name
it Barron Park.

The Ballet Class of 1911 Miss Logan was teacher
and there is two other teachers who was
teaching in the Valley School ~~at~~ in that picture
Miss Gertrude Jennings who later became
Mrs Porter and Miss Serena Brown.
Steve Jackson ^{rural} mail carrier

I signed as substitute for Steve to get
that job, and served two years as
substitute for him.

The Oabl and Powder mill and Wilkes Hair
Factories going out of business on account of
lack of water power.

As for the hair factory the water power is there
just as it was when the hair factory was there.

As for the Powder Mill it never did run by water
power. It ~~was~~ ^{was} at least 35 feet above the River

The James Hopper blacksmith and
wheelright shop stood opposite powder mill
lane on the east side of Rainago Valley road.
It was built in the early 1880s. First just a
blacksmith shop and then a few years later the
wheelright shop was added on the north end.
This part of the shop extended beyond the line
of James Hopper property and was built on a strip
of land thirty feet wide, which was recorded
as a right of way to the James Van Blarcom
property and afterwards became the Powder Mill
road and switch. When the Powder Company purchased
the property Capt. Albert H. Mow, manager for the
powder company came to my father (James Hopper)
and told him the wheelright shop would have to
be moved off the right of way, but said that the
powder company would move it and put it where
father wanted it, at the company expense,
which they did. As near as I can recall it
this was in the early spring of the year 1885.
On November 12th 1885 the first car entered the
switch with material to start building the
powder mill. The mill was completed in year
1889. He also used to put shoes on ~~an~~
open Hada stall on the south end of the
blacksmith shop to shoe them in

I worked on the Powder factory for about four years or more, beginning in the summer of 1890. There was one explosion while I worked there. Two men were killed. The building which blew up was a drying house. I at the time was running the mill room, where they mixed ^{the dry powder} the ingredients for making the powder. It was about three or four hundred feet from the mill room. This happened about fifteen or twenty minutes after we started work at seven A.M.

I helped strip the burning clothes off the one man. He lived about five hours and the other about four hours after the explosion. This happened in the year 1893 or 94. There was one other explosion some years later. I had then started to learn the blacksmith trade with my father and older brother William. I started in June 1896 and on the 14th of July 1896 my father was killed on the railroad, at the crossing by the station on the Vally Road but I continued to learn the trade with my brother. This second explosion occurred about year 1900 and there were eight killed six men and two boys. The two men who the company thought were responsible for the explosion were blown to bits all that could be found of the two, was a hand and the breast of one of them. They were unloading a load of powder in cars in a magazine. The horse was also killed and the wagon blown to pieces.

One of the wheels of the wagon was blown in the air and came down through the roof of the office building. The young lady whom I later married went there for one day to take the place of the girl who worked in the packing house for that day. She was in the packing house waiting for the wagon to bring powder for her to start work.

The explosion tore the side of the packing house to pieces, but luckily there was no powder so she came out with just a slight scratch on the cheek.

Stephen Jackson

He was our rural mail carrier in the early 1900's. At the time he applied for the job, he had to have some one to sign as a substitute in order to get the job. I signed as substitute for him and served two years as such. Then I had the blacksmith shop myself, and when Steve would take his two weeks vacation I had to run his route for him, and as that care had to leave my business in order to help him so I told him that as he had the job and I had helped him for two years that he had better get another substitute as I could not leave my business to take care of him and so he got Henry Fisher in my place. His route was to go up Yampouvally road to the Fyke Road which cut across and came out in upper Campgaw near what was called Warck corner and then come out of our Mountain Ave. to Campgaw Road near Franklin Ave. and so back to the Post Office. And then he would pick up the mail and deliver up Long Hill Road to Colonel Road through to Crystal Lake and High Mountain Mountain Road and so back down ^{near} Franklin Lake road to the Post Office say days or more. I believe Steve held it for over twenty years.

Explored twice
Closed on advent of
Electricity
Powder mill Lane

Frank Barron

He came to Oakland in 1890 and worked in the Oakland Powder Mill. He was night and fireman took care of the 3 furnaces. His brother-in-law Alfred Moore was foreman in the powder mill and Frank lived with them. They lived at that time in the second house down powder mill lane the house which later was the Henry house and still later was the home of Joseph Hatton son of former Mayor Walton. Frank was a very jolly fellow. He played an accordion and used to sing. When he left the powder mill he bought the property that is now known as Barron Park (26 acres). He built a little cottage at the foot of the Mountain and started to raise chickens and sell eggs. He lived there for the rest of his life time. In later years he became quite feeble and unable to take care of his self. A man by the name of Frank Warner who lived in West Oakland at that time used to go over and take care of Frank. When Frank passed away he left every thing to Frank Warner. Mr. Warner was a silk manufacturer of Paterson, N. J. and did not feel that he should take the property. So he went to the meeting of the Borough Council and told them that he did not feel that he should take the property and that he would gladly turn it over to the Borough in memory of Frank Barron and ask if they would call it Barron Park which they did.

Walter Van Houten

He was a farmer and owned the property from the north side of Oak St. to the south side of Valley School - and from now Ramapo Valley Road to the top of the mountain in West Oakland. He used to raise all kinds of grain and potatoes. I have seen Oak St. from Ramapo Valley Road to the railroad growing in all kinds of grain and one season the entire place in potatoes. The pine grove across the railroad from Oak St. was a picnic grove with a large dancing pavilion and tables and benches strung out the grove - also in the lower end towards the Van Houten buildings was a well the water was like ice water so cold. Picknick parties used to come there by train from Paterson Jersey City and New York and ^{other} other places. I have known as many as 12 carloads to be there in one day. There was two side tracks which extended from just below Oakland Station to the lower end of the grove. The railroad company used to leave the empty cars on one of the side tracks for the day. Mr. Van Houten also had a sweep power saw, that is where the two horse boys walking in a circle to run the saw. Later he got a tread power where the horse boys walking as if he was walking up hill. He used to saw & split chard wood into firewood and sell it in Paterson. I believe Mr. Van Houten gave the property that Valley school stands on to the Board of Education. Not the whole school ground as it is now, but the part that the school

Master Van Houten continued

stands on to just in front of where the flag pole stands. The hollow in front out to Ramapo Valley Road the Board did not want at that time but later. I am not sure whether he gave that to the Board out right or if they bought it at half value as Mr Van Houten was always ready and willing to do what he could for his home town. I have heard quite a number of times that the Old Pond Church was at one time sold at sheriff's sale and that Mr Van Houten bought it, and held it for a couple of years and then deeded it back to the church but I could not swear to that as it was before I could remember or only know what I was told years ago.

1972 PRINCE OF HENRY R. HOPPER Village Blacksmith Recalls Early Years Of Borough

Henry R. Hopper, who had been considered by many residents to have been a native son of Oakland, moved here with his family in 1877. According to the "The Years Between," Henry, a charter member of the Oakland Fire Department, was well remembered for his personal attention to the grounds of the Ponds Memorial Building until he passed away in 1968 at the age of 91.

A colorful pillar of the earlier days of our community, Henry was a runner up for "Oakland's Outstanding Citizen." We would like to share with our readers Henry's autobiography supplied by the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department.

June 10, 1909 we organized the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department, I, Henry Hopper, was secretary of that meeting held in Ivy Hall. Ludo Wilkens was named Chief and Aaron G. Henlon Assistant Chief.

We held dances, dinners and affairs to raise money for our uniforms and equipment. We continued as an independent department until January 1, 1912. In 1911 we bought the ground that the fire house stands on and presented the deed to the Borough Council and asked them to give us a firehouse, which they did. It was dedicated to the Fire Department on January 1, 1912.

In 1914 Assistant Chief Aaron G. Henlon resigned from the fire department and I was appointed to take his place as Assistant Chief. In August 1916 we had two fires at the same time. First, the Page barn and not more than half an hour later the Sheffield barn. A pony and a cow burned to death in the Sheffield barn, as we could not get there quick enough from the Page barn. The following morning I received a letter from Mayor Walton notifying me to take full charge of the Department until such a time as there was a new Chief appointed. I continued as acting Chief until January 1, 1917 when I was appointed Chief. I remained as chief until January 1, 1922.

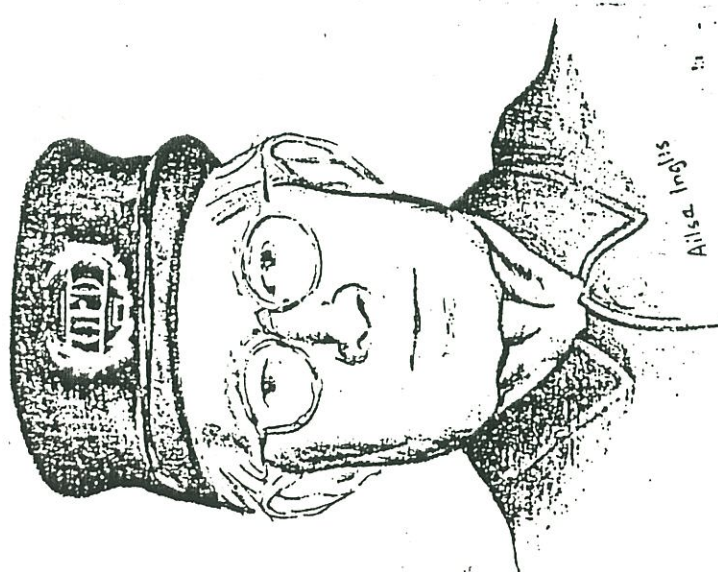
In December of 1921 I wrote Mayor Walton stating that I did not know whether I would be appointed the next year or not but advised him that he appoint someone who was in town most of the time, as I was working in Ridge-wood at the time and out of town all day and could not do justice to the Fire Department. The Mayor wrote me a very nice letter saying that he agreed with me and so appointed Frank D. Pulls to take my place. I did not quit the Fire Department but continued to work with them until December 1938.

I was appointed Marshall #3 of the Oak. Hist. Soc. has photo of presumably Hopper at where Oakland Mower is now, #5 Maple Ave. It does not show a Hopper or a BSS* symbol "at the end of Powder Mill Lane" as quoted by Henry in an interview 11-5-59. The inside of #5 Maple Ave has all the earmarks of a Blacksmith Shop. (A. J. 1980)

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Oakland's last Blacksmith
Henry R. Hopper (1877-1968)
(Photo copy from The Years Between)

Oakland, N.J. May 25, 1972

Blacksmith Shop of 1878-1916

Blacksmith Shop of 1878-1916

The three Marshalls were Aaron G. Henlon #1, Frank L. Merrion #2 and Henry R. Hopper #3. Later when they formed the first Police Department I worked with them one way or another until the year 1959.

I served on the Board of Education from 1911 to 1920. From 1914 to 1920 I was District Clerk as one member of the Board, according to the law at that time, had to be the District Clerk. From 1911 to 1914 it was a nine member board and then Ludo Wilkens had it changed to five members.

In 1920 I was a Democrat and was appointed Tax Collector by a Republican Mayor and Council because the Republican candidate who was elected failed to qualify. The Republican Mayor coaxed me to take it. I was Tax Collector from 1920 to 1934.

I was member of the registration board to register all persons eligible for the draft for the first World War, whether aliens or not. I still have a copy of that list. I served quite a few years on the Election Board. I was Tax Assessor for one year.

In 1927, the janitor of the Valley School quit the job and left the school without a janitor for the last three months. A good friend of my wife and I was on the Board of Education at the time and she coaxed me to help them out until the end of the year, which I did. I stayed on the job until November 1948. From 1944 until 1948 I had

joined the Ponds Reformed Church. The Reverend Samuel R. Cunningham was Pastor. With the Rev. Cunningham and the young people of the church we organized a Christian Endeavor Society which grew to 40 or 50 members. We joined the Tri-County Christian Endeavor which included Pompton Lakes, Pompton Plains, Bloomingdale, Midvale and Oakland. The League met every three months at one of the other of the towns. Our Society and the other towns held meetings once a week, ours met Fridays from 8 to 9:30 p.m. We continued as long as Rev. Cunningham was the Pastor which was about 12 years.

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