BELMAR

in

RETROSPECT

Grace Trott Roper

Grace T. Roper (signature)

SPECIAL THANKS

TO

MY HUSBAND, IVAN

AND

CO-WORKERS, DENISE AND LOIS

For the many people who have asked for information on the History of Belmar and had to wait while we waded through a series of booklets, pamphlets etc., this compilation is dedicated in the hope that here in one place may be found a few of the answers as to how The Borough of Belmar came to be.
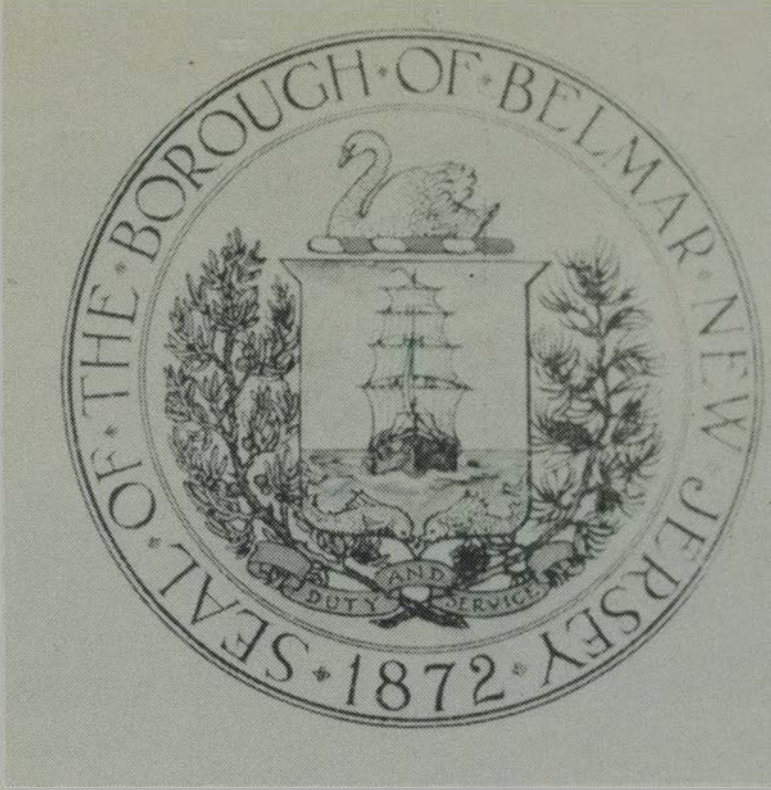
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Lenni   -   Lenape
(Original People)

UNAMI - TOTEM, TURTLE

(Poke - Kov - Un Go, The Crawler)

When the waters were so mighty
As to reach the mountain high,
And it seemed that all creation
Surely then was doomed to die,
Came the Turtle to our rescue,
Brought us safely unto land,
For The Manitoa had sent him;
Now we're called "The Turtle Clan."

anonymous

COAT OF ARMS

The Belmar Coat-Of-Arms was adopted by the Borough Council on the second of April, 1918. The design originated with Major William B. Bamford who submitted preliminary sketches to the Borough Council. These sketches were worked up for reproduction by Mr. Raymond Everett, an artist who also worked out the design of the Book Plate formerly used at the Belmar Free Public Library.
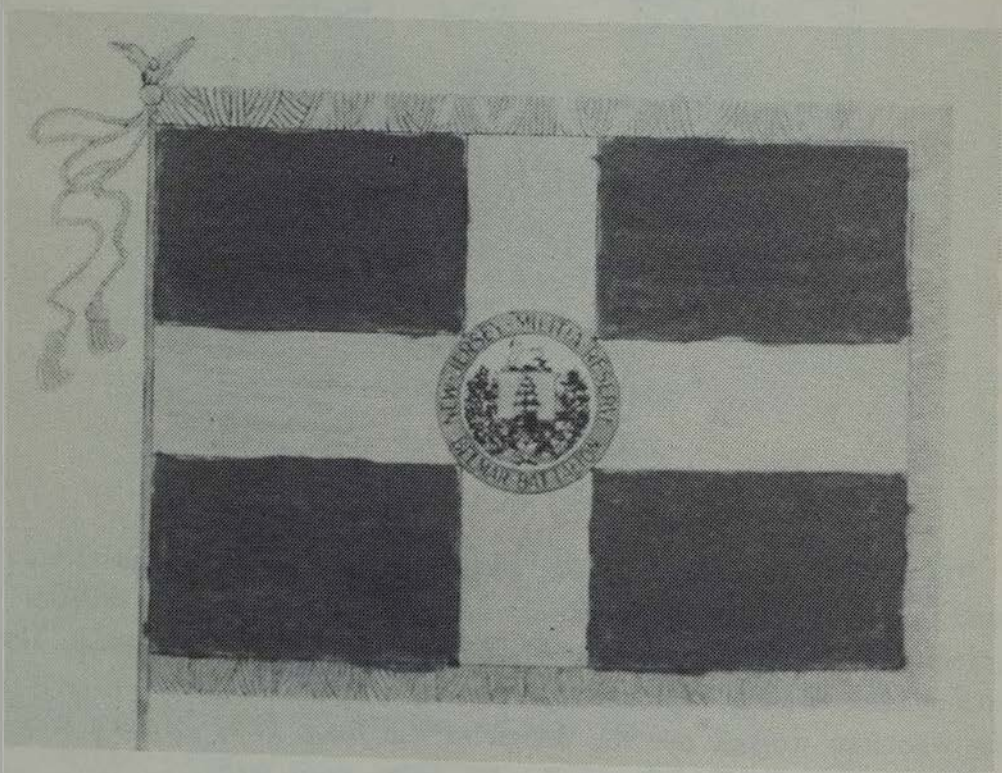
The shield has a brig in full sail to represent the maritime location of the municipal and bow on to typify that a course set for this haven of refuge will assure equal opportunity and justice.

The Dolphins are symbolic of Love, Diligence and Swiftness. Three attributes striven for by all conscientious municipal officials.

The Shield is supported by a Pine and Cedar Branch to denote that Belmar relies on its Natural Beauties for Strength and Vigor.

The motto "Duty and Service" indicates the test for all municipal actions.

The Crest, a Swan has long been recognized as a Royal Bird noted for its Grace and Beauty of figure.
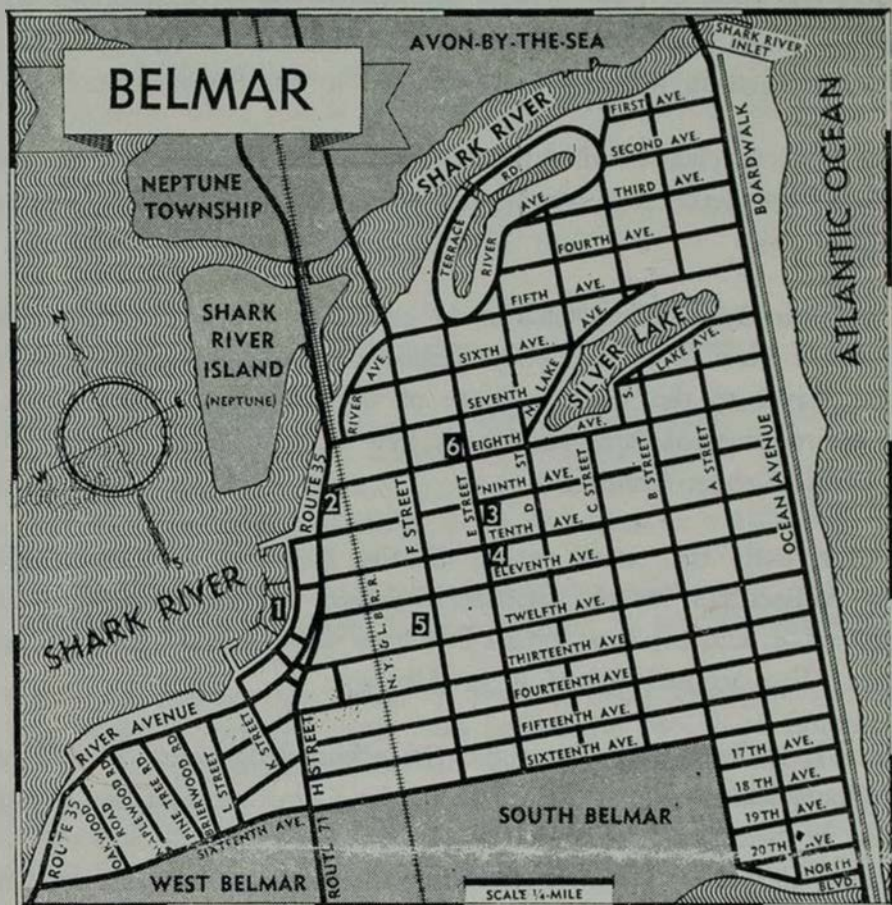
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THE BELMAR FLAG

The first flag was the one carried by the Belmar Battalion, N. J. Militia Reserve and was made by Mrs. Wm. Ripley Cobb. The painting of The Coat-Of-Arms on the Flag was the work of Philip Brunin.

This Flag was first shown to the public on the evening of April 18th, 1918, when it was formally entrusted to the Battalion by his Honor Mayor George W. Van Note.

The colors of the Municipal Flag are Jersey Blue and Colonial Buff. These are distinctly New Jersey colors and were first selected by George Washington, because New Jersey as well as New York was originally settled by the Dutch and Jersey Blue and Buff figured in the Netherlands Insignia.

LEGEND—1. Marina. 2. Borough Hall. 3. Police and Fire Headquarters. 4. Library. 5 Grammar School. 6. St. Rose School.

BELMAR (THE NAME)

In 1885, the Ocean Beach Commission decided to change The Borough's name. Avon, Wallmere, Malta, Elbro, Stratford and Shade were the suggested names. Avon became the name of the neighboring community to the North. Stratford showed an interest in English Literature, Wallmere referred to the Sea Coast of Wall Township and Shade was a tribute to the trees planted along the avenues. Elbro and Malta were the names of two ships wrecked off the Belmar coast. Since none of these were acceptable, the name "City Of Elco" was chosen in 1889. This only lasted a month when the name Belmar (French for Beautiful Sea) was given to the town on May 14th, 1889.

THE BEGINNING

No one really knows what white man first saw the coastline of Belmar or entered the Inlet to Shark River. It is believed that Henry Hudson, an Englishman employed by the Dutch East India Co. sailing the ship the "Half Moon," was the first to drop anchor on the shores of Monmouth County. His ship's log made note of an inlet with high hills in the distance. As there were no other inlets in the area it is assumed it was Shark River Inlet.

Henry Hudson, claimed all this territory for the Dutch when he returned home. Thus New Jersey was owned and settled by the Dutch before coming under English rule.

In the year 1664 King Charles II executed a charter which granted to the Duke of New York the whole region from the Western Bank of the Connecticut River to the Eastern Shore of the Delaware. The Duke then gave the entire tract of land known as The State of New Jersey to Lord Berkley and Sir George Carteret.

However, early that same spring Charles II had Col. Richard Nichols seize New Amsterdam for the British. This was in 1665. Nichols became the first governor, and the first Indian Purchase was made by deed on January 25th, 1665. The original record is in Albany.

It must have been a curious sight, the acknowledgement of these deeds. Sixteen Indians and Thirteen White men, the Governor and his Executives. The Indians in their primitive dress and the whites in the dull drab of Quakers, Puritans, and Long Island Dutch and the Governor and his men in the uniform of their rank.

No land in the state was actually seized from the original owners, however the amounts paid to the Indians for their land were pitifully low, and in most cases the Indians were not aware that they had given up all rights to their land forever. When they found out it was too late.

Popomoro, Chief of the Nevsink Indians, his brother Mischacoing, Manavendo, Emerdesolsee, Checawsen, Shenhemun, Cramanscum, Winegermeen, Mecca, Taplawappamund, Mattamaluckanick, Zawpochammund, Kackenhaw, Cattahoh, Norchcon, and Qurrmeck, were the sixteen Indians who sold the land to James Hubbard, John Browne, John Tilton Jr., Richard Stout, William Goulding, Samuel Spicer, Richard Gibbons, James Grover, Walter Clarke, William Reaps, Nathaniel Sylvester, Obadish Holmes and Nicholas Davis. With the exception of James Hubbard these were the men mentioned as the first proprietors in The Monmouth Patent.

"THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE"

The Indians of Shark River were The Lenni Lenape Nation with Traditions that showed they came from the Hudson Bay Area. They were of The Algonquin Race and the tribe's name was the "UNAMI" or "TURTLE CLAN". Lenni Lenape when translated means Original People. The Lenni Lenape family was distinguished for its gentleness, its inate spirituality and its reverance for nature. They wore very little clothing and it was made from animal skins. The furside was worn out in the summer and turned in, in the winter. The squaws sometimes wore skirts made from Turkey feathers. They wrote on birch bark in what was a pictorial shorthand. They did no weaving or decorative pottery work.

The Indian chieftain was Wanamassoa. The records show he sold land to Galvin (Gowan) Drummond in 1687.

The names of the permanent Indian Camping Grounds back of the hill and the summer campsite in Belmar are no longer known.

The tribes dwellings were long, low arched structures called wickams. During times of famine, the natives ate snakes, eagles, and skunks. The usual food however was fish, wild game and bread made from corn meal and water. This was made into a thick mush and hung in a skin bag. This was later made into a little cake when needed. These cakes were later used by the early settlers on their long journeys and who called them "Journey Cakes." Later the name became Johnny Cake according to our grandparents.

Migratory Indians descended on Belmar every Spring and stayed until Fall, thus it was a summer resort long before the advent of Columbus. It is not strange that the Indians chose this as their campsite. Because of its geographical position the Indians in their periodical wanderings, between the Great Lakes and the Coast crossed New Jersey by a direct route from Pennsylvania to the Raritan Bay and from there they just wandered down the coast.

The only permanent village site in the Shark River District in 1722 so far as the records show was a farm owned by a Hurley, located on Shark River. This was the home of Indian Will who died in 1800. What is now the section of Belmar along the river was at that time used as a temporary village and campsite.

A map of 1881 shows but three farms on the land directly south of Shark River. One belonged to Dick Newman, one to Dennis Newman and the third to Peter White. However, in May 1872 when Wm. L. Heyniger came to this district he recalled four farmers, the three mentioned and a fourth, Joseph Newman. All this land was purchased in 1820 from Andrew Bell. This same land was later sold to the Ocean Beach Association. Peter White one of the original owners of more than half of the Belmar Area died in 1884.

It is to be noted that as late as 1887 Indians under Chief Masta were encamped at 9th Avenue doing basket waving and fortune telling.

"A TOWN IS BORN"

In 1872 a group of twenty-five men decided they would like a summer community of their own. They chose the southern shore of Shark River because of its cool ocean breezes, good fishing and the type of isolation that would keep its original charm.

Early in the year Mr. Abram Bitner Jr. was appointed purchasing agent for the new group. He first bought fifty-eight acres of land from various men who had settled and whose locations do not appear on early maps.

The twenty-five original members grew so rapidly to the forty-one who bought the first sixty shares of stock at $500 each, that their names have since been lost.

The first agreement which led to the organization of the Ocean Beach Association was dated August 31st, 1872 by forty-one persons. The town was then "Ocean Beach."

Most of the land had been purchased and was held under articles of agreement and covered an area of 3937 6/100 acres. It cost $101,508.70. The greater portion of the land had been occupied since 1701 when it was deeded to William West and Robert Drummond by the Board of Proprietors of Eastern Division of New Jersey. The first distribution of land was made April 29th, 1873 to the original shareholders who paid $30,000 into the treasury for 161 lots.

The second distribution was made August 17th, 1874, also to the shareholders who paid an additional $30,000 for 166 lots. This constituted the capital stock of the corporation.

By an Act of The New Jersey Legislature the Association was incorporated on March 13th, 1873.

Ocean Beach now Belmar was originally laid out on a very liberal scale with a great regard for the health and comfort of those who occupied it during the summer months. The twelve main streets had this peculiar feature, each one begins at the Ocean and ends at Shark River.

In September of 1872 Abram Bitner Jr. bought among other properties the farm houses of Stephen Bennett, John Brown and Isaac Newman but allowed Peter White to occupy his homestead until his death in 1884. All these farms were set back on the Manasquan Road now "F" sreet. The Peter White house still stands at 703 7th avenue and was in the White family since 1800. The house was a regular stop for the circuit riding of Bishop Asbury.

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The John Brown house is also still standing at 504 13th avenue. It was moved from Adelphia by oxen and flat boat down Shark River in 1840.

One of the Newman farmhouses, a little one story house, built about 1819 stands in the rear of 500 11th avenue at the corner of "D" street.

The Stephen Bennett homestead built in 1829 stood at the corner of "D" street. It burned in 1907.

With only these few houses to consider the Ocean Beach Association found it simple to plan and lay out its community. They built a bridge across Shark River and the Manasquan Road. This was a sandy, heavily wooded lonely passage, which had a toll turnpike with a white gate just north of Shark River (In Avon). An old lady came out to collect the ten cents per horse and carriage before she would open the gate. A similar gate stood between Ocean Beach and what is now Spring Lake.

Strawberry Hill a Map of 1873 for Ocean Beach shows Strawberry Hill as the land vicinity of 12th avenue between Shark River and the Railroad.

Yards addition was the area of 12th thru 16th avenue and 15th avenue east of "F" street to "H" street. This tract still marks part of the South West boundary along 16th avenue and Shark River and is the line between Belmar and the extensions of Rhode Island Point.

EARLY HOUSING

Many people built their own homes and bungalows. Winter work was not always certain nor plentiful. Some conceived the idea of employing their spare time by joining together and building. These houses could then be rented in the summer for income to cover the winter. This however left them with no place to live while their houses were rented. They solved the problem by building bungalows on the rear lots or else by building apartments over the stables. This enabled them to own their houses and use them rent free for eight months of the year.

By 1926 there was an influx of Boarding Houses, and by 1939 they were located in nearly every block. About 1939 Belmar began developing a migratory group of Commercial Activities.

In 1915 Paul T. Zizinia, whose family were summer residents bought all the low lands along Shark River from Ocean to "F" street. The land was filled in and a residential restricted development was laid out. The homes built there were expensive. It was known as Inlet Terrace. The Inlet Terrace Club was built and it was the center of social activities. The club is now a private home and the Terrace is a row of Brick City Houses.

HOTELS

The first hotel, The Ocean Beach House was built in the summer of 1873, It was on the south east corner of "F" street and Fifth avenue, just south of the Shark River Bridge. It was a large three story structure and was built by the association. In May 1891 the house was called the Maple Shade and lasted a few years after which it was relocated at 207 13th avenue and became the Kensington Home of Rest, the vacation home of the Salvation Army. It is now a private home.

More than seventeen hotels were in operation before 1890 and thirteen were established favorites before 1885. Six of these hotels were originally part of the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition Fair of 1976. There is no record before 1885 for the following four. The "Windsor" on the southeast corner of fourth avenue and "A" street, The "Woodbine" at third avenue and "B" street, The "Girard" at seventh avenue and "F" street and The "Buenavista" on second avenue between Ocean and "A".

The "Columbia" became the most fashionable and drew the most spenders. The "Atlantic" which took up the entire block between 15th and 16th avenues was Machinery Hall at the Expo before being brought to Belmar. As the Atlantic Hotel it catered to a literary and cultural class. In later years it became the Hotel McCann and then The Silver Edge. It burned to the ground in February 1972.

The Crystal Building which displayed the latest styles of pressed glass and french mirrors became the Crystal Cottage a small building on 14th and Ocean.
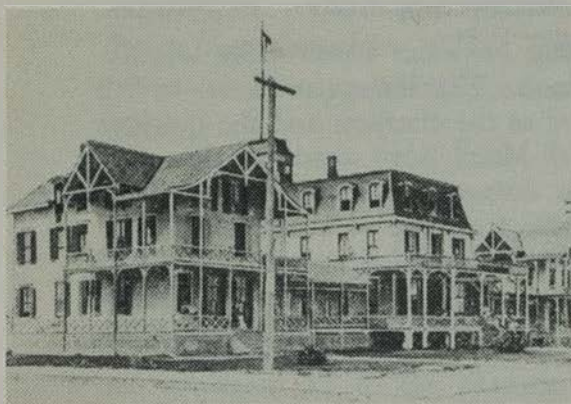
The Delaware House so named because it was the old Delaware State Building. This small house stood on the northwest corner of Thirteenth and Ocean avenues. It was renamed the Marlborough and for several years displayed Delaware's State Coat-of-Arms above its front porch. It appealed to the landed gentry and attracted mostly aristocrats.

Two other state buildings brought to Belmar from the Expo were the Kansas and the Colorado. They were joined together and became the one hundred room Colorado Hotel, this hotel covered the entire block from Fourteenth to Fifteenth and Ocean Avenues.

The Bankers Pavilion opened as a hotel under its own name and accommodated thirty-five people. It was operated by W.S.B. Shields and was on the north side of Sixth avenue beween "D" and "E" streets.

The Spanish Building bought by Henry H. Yard was put on the north side of Fifth avenue between Ocean and "A" street. He rented it to A. A. Tatem who ran it as the Brunswick, a forty-room hotel.

Of all the hotels to be mentioned, the most fashionable was the Columbia House. Opened in 1878, it was built in the most approved style of architecture. Located on the corner of 3rd and Ocean avenues, it had the capacity to accommodate about two hundred and fifty people. It became very popular and drew the most spenders.

THE ATLANTIC HOTEL
15th & Ocean Aves.
Date: 1910

GRANDVIEW HOTEL
10th Ave. & D St.
Date: 1900

THE CARLETON HOTEL
9th Ave. near Ocean Ave.
Date: 1910

MARLBOROUGH HOTEL
13th & Ocean Aves.
Date: 1920

Because the damage of the August 23rd, 24th, 1893 storm was so extensive the hotel had to be rebuilt and an additional story was added. It continued to be the most fashionable for many years and in 1911 was advertised as "The House of Quality." It was completely rebuilt in 1917 and lasted until Oct. 22nd, 1939 when the entire New Columbia Hotel was destroyed by fire.

Among the other hotels there were The Neptune Hotel with seventy-five rooms. This stood at Sixteenth and Ocean. The European House at 9th and Railroad was built in 1880 and advertised as the cheapest and the quickest meals in town. The beautiful Belmar Hotel Motel now stands in this spot. There was the East Lynne at the southeast corner of "E" street and tenth avenue. The white beacon tower of this house was used as a direction finder and landmark by boat pilots. The New Irvington at Twelfth and Ocean still stands, but the Goldstein Carleton, 9th avenue near Ocean was razed in 1969. The Harbor Apts. occupy this area now. The Grandview Hotel at tenth and "D" street is now The Hotel Leon.

PAVILIONS

In 1893 James R. Warren opened a Ladies & Gents Ice Cream Parlor. By 1900 the place was run by eight local men who formed the Shark River Amusement Co. A Chute-the-Chutes was erected, Shooting, Gallaries were opened and a large fleet of boats were rented by the hour. Bait and fishermen's supplies were for sale and crabbing was the most popular sport.

The Fifth Avenue Pavilion on the ocean front leased by James Gordon in 1881 was reopened in 1894 in the name of Wm. F. Gordon. By 1905 there were 305 Bath Houses and many stores included a Souvenir Shop, a Barber Shop and Photography Gallery.

The 10th Avenue Bath Houses built in 1879 were rented to Wm. H. Sanborn in 1903. He rebuilt the whole pavilion to include 198 Bath Houses and the same variety shops offered by Gordon ten years later.

Joseph Mower followed Sanborn as Mower pavilion, a second story dance hall was opened with three piece orchestra. In 1939 entirely new baths were built in this spot.

In 1902 T. J. Murphy bought the pavilion and built The Belmar Casino. Warrens place was moved around facing 5th avenue and it became a Bowling Alley.

On "F" street was the Famous Captain Kidd's Pavilion and Boathouse. John W. Kidd developed what was known as Fort Conduct Park and Pavilion. There were Refreshments, Row Boats, American Box Ball Alleys, a Carousal Shooting Galleries and other attractions. At an unknown date this amusement spot burned down and was replaced by the Haven's Fishery.

Buhlers Pavilion at the spot of 10th avenue and Shark River was a large pavilion with a grove for Picnickers, Boats for hire and a full line of fisherman's supplies. This later became Carpenter's Casino. It burned down and the borough took over the site. This is now the marina site.

The New 13th Ave. Pavilion opened on August 20th, 1929. Camp Kelty, a fine shore dinner place was at Rhode Island Point. This is where the Belmar Yacht Club is now. This Club formally opened in May 1929.

LAKES

Silver Lake wholly within the boundaries of Belmar was once called West's Pond. So named for the family of "West" who owned the lake for generations. The name was changed when it was acquired by the Ocean Beach Association in 1872. The lake and the square at its head have been preserved from commercialization through the fighting spirit of some civically minded men.

One of Belmar's leading attractions is the home of Swans, Geese and Ducks. The birds are cared for and fed by a Boro Caretaker. The Island in the middle of the lake was built as a winter home for the birds and to give an improved air to the municipal area.

The Belmar Swans gained a national reputation as the first flock bred in America. As a result the N. Y. Zoological Garden, Central Park, New York City, Central Park, Brooklyn and several other municipalities requested and were each given a pair of breeders by the Boro. The Duke estate in Northern N. J. purchased twelve pairs for research purposes. Many other requests for sale were received but due to some unnatural disturbances the breeding fell off and the Boro has since refused to part with any more of the Swans.

The Lake is fed by two fresh water streams, and occasionally at high tide, it receives the salt water from the ocean in sufficient quantities to keep it always highly impregnated with salt. It covers an area 2,500 feet long and 500 feet wide, and has a depth of about three feet.

The flower bed at the foot of Silver Lake was the pride and joy of Carl Schroeder. His ideas for arrangements delighted and surprised local residents and visitors. The bed carried out the Red, White and Blue motif of the 1976 Belmar Bicentennial celebration.

Lake Como separates South Belmar from Spring Lake and was once called Three-Cornered Pond from 1700 to 1800. Mr. H. H. Yard gave it its present name. It is mentioned by its old name in the deed of 1701 to Dawan Drummond.

SHARK RIVER

Shark River is said to be the only river in the United States to be crossed by two vehicular bridges. Both have won national awards for their beauty and design. The bridge that connects Main Street Avon with "F" street replaced the old wooden span that was constructed in 1896. Trolley tracks crossed the river a few feet west of the old bridge.

This bridge was designed by Morris Goodkind, who was employed by the Highway Commission. The estimated cost was $400,000. It was fabricated and erected by the American Bridge Company and dedicated on Oct. 12, 1933.

In a National Contest sponsored by the National Business Magazine in 1934, the bridge was awarded first prize for spans costing between $250,000 and a million dollars.

The Highway Commission in 1921, considered constructing a new bridge over Shark River on Highway 35 west of the railroad bridge. The cost would be approximately $300,000 to $400,000. There was much resistance on the part of Belmar but the Commission won and on January 27th, 1927 construction on the new span was begun by Parker and Graham Inc. of Paterson. During the construction, the skeleton of a whale and a cannon ball from the Revolutionary period were found.

In 1935 the War Department sent notice that the bridge across Shark River Inlet must be altered within a year to provide greater safety to boats. A contract was awarded to Merritt and McLean Corp. and the bridge was completed and dedicated on Memorial Day 1937. The new bridge is known as the double leaf bascule type and was built to stand the violence of the ocean as well as the tides of the river. It has a clearance of 18 feet. It is raised with electric power and has reserve gas power. The lifting is below the bridge deck.

This bridge was awarded honorable mention in 1937 for beauty and design by the American Institute of Steel Construction.

The Railroad Bridge runs parallel to the "F" street and the route 35 vehicular bridges. It was newly constructed after much debate between the company, the War Department and the Township during the year 1935. It was officially opened in August 1937.

SHARK RIVER - THE NAME

Shark River is the name the Colonists picked for the river called Nollectquest by the Indians. It is referred to by this name in a deed dated July 25th, 1689.

The first attempt to change the name was made by James A. Bradley of Asbury Park. He bought a large tract of land in what is now South Belmar. This was situated between "B" and "F" streets extending from Lake Como to 17th avenue. Because he was so impressed with the beauty of the site he had a sign painted "St. Peter's Bridge" placed over the bridge that crossed over Shark River. Peter White, one of the original owners of Ocean Beach became insulted and ordered the sign removed.

CHURCHES

The nearest place of worship for the early settlers of Belmar was The Old Newman House on Eighteenth ave. Here were held prayer meetings. The building was built in 1825 and was used for meetings every Thursday for sixty years.

There were a few churches in Wall Township. Belmar was to eventually incorporate as a borough from this township.

One of the churches was the Independent Methodist Church. It was located in what is now Glendola, but was then known as Chapel Town. This church almost directly west of Belmar was erected in 1851.

There was also the Presbyterian Church to which the people of Belmar travelled three miles on the Como-Allaire Road. The Methodist Episcopal Church was in Shark River Village.

The First church in Belmar was organized by the Methodist Episcopals in 1873. The building was donated by the Ocean-Beach Association and was located at 10th avenue and "D" street. It was dedicated July 4th, 1873, and for about twenty years was known as the 10th Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church.

Between 1891 and 1894, the church was moved from 10th and "D" to 9th and "F" streets. The organization was re-incorporated in 1893 and the name was changed to First Methodist Episcopal Church of Belmar.

In 1903 701 "D" street became the parsonage and the site of the present church 7th and "D" was purchased. The church was dedicated on July 19, 1903 and it had five stained glass windows.

The addition in the rear of the church was built in 1921 to accommodate church suppers and other affairs. A fire on Aug. 22, 1964 severely damaged the church and it had to be reconstructed and at that time it was completely modernized.
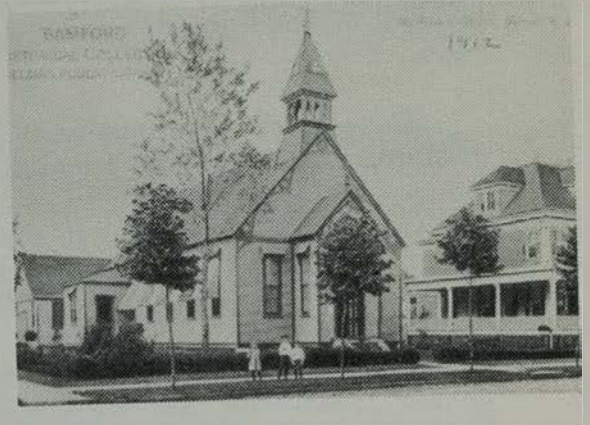
After the Methodists came The Protestant Episcopalians. This group was called the church of The Holy Apostles and is known to have organized before 1877. The cornerstone for the church was laid at 303 Fifth Avenue, between "B" and "C". This church was dissolved in 1940.

Since the First Presbyterians of Belmar had no building, they held their services every other Sunday in the Methodist Church.

The church was incorporated as the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Beach on July 19, 1880. In June 1880 a pavilion from the Centennial Expo in Philadelphia was brought to Ocean Beach and set up as an Undenominational Summer Tabernacle at 7th and "A" street. There was an unsuccessful attempt to call the building Westminster Chapel, but the title Tabernacle stayed throughout its existence.
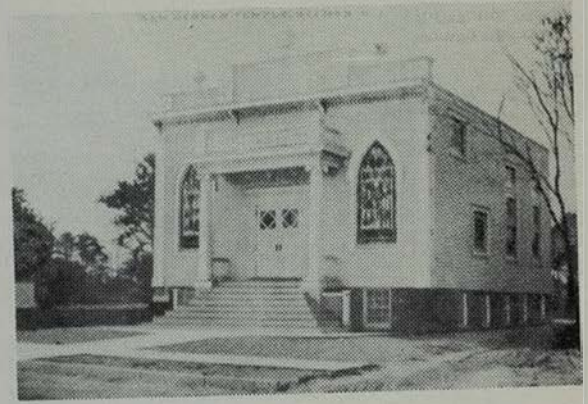
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SAINT ROSE'S
CHURCH

METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

NEW HEBREW
TEMPLE

The Presbyterians started to plan a church of their own in the fall of 1880. In 1881 The Ocean Beach Association donated two lots, at 9th and "E"' street. The cornerstone was laid on Oct. 18th and the building dedicated in 1883.

St. Rose Roman Catholic Church was organized in Belmar in 1888 as a mission. The first services were held in a rented building on second avenue. In 1890 the cornerstone was laid at 601 Seventh Ave. Present church was erected in 1906.

The stone from the first church was used in the construction of a parish hall after the completion of a larger church in 1926. The certificate of incorporation of the church of St. Rose of Belmar was received and recorded on Dec. 28th, 1897.

The church celebrated its Golden Jubilee on Oct. 30th, 1938 with a Solemn High Mass. Three Bishops, Three Monsignori and Thirty-six Priests assisted at the celebration.

The First Baptist Church was begun in July 1889 and services were held in Hoylers Hall on 10th Avenue until the church was built in the Spring of 1906. It stands now at 410 Ninth Ave.

First begun as a Sunday School The Calvary Baptist Church group was organized on the 17th of June 1896, as Gruelle Memorial and the meetings were held in a building on 10th Avenue between River and "F" street. A small church was built at the corner of 12th and "F". It was called the 12th Avenue Baptist Church. In 1906 the bigger church was erected and the smaller building was transformed to a Social Hall. In 1925 the two buildings were moved to the corner of 13th and "E" street. The smaller building was attached to the larger one. When its location was changed its name became The Calvary Baptist Church.

St. Rose Parochial School, a two story red brick building at the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and "E" street was completed in 1921. The grammar school with eight grades opened in 1921 and the high school in 1923.

CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL

Twelve Jewish families formed the Congregation Sons of Israel. They held their services in a room at the Volunteer Fire Company on 11th Avenue. A Hebrew Temple was built in 1907. The cornerstone was laid on July 12th, 1908 and services have been held there ever since.

The community building is used to hold classes for the instruction of children in Hebrew Language. Clubs and other organizations affiliated with the congregation also use the building.

Among the groups connected with the organization are the Ladies Aux., The Y.M.H.A., The Y.W.H.A., and the Junior Y.M.H.A.

BELMAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The first schoolhouse was a one room structure started in 1875, and was built on two lots at 12th and "F" streets. Barrabus Barr was the first teacher. This school was enlarged to three rooms and then moved to 8th avenue and "F" street in 1884. For a number of years it stood as a Taylor Shop and is now the location of Freedman's Bakery. When it was moved, a new eight room brick school of two stories copied after the Hall of Independence was built on the 12th avenue site.

In 1909 the school building at 12th and "F" street was found to be inadequate and unsafe. In May of that year an election was held to decide if a new school should be erected. Women at that time were only allowed to vote for Trustees but not for appropriations. Ninty-seven votes against it. The exciting margin of two votes acquired the new school at the cost of $57,000.

It was used as a high school but the growth of the grade school made it necessary to send Belmar pupils to the Asbury Park High School. This was started in 1912. The tuition then being $40.00 a year. As of 1975 it costs $2,200 a year per student. The first graduation class had five students.

The First Parents Day held in the Belmar School was on Jan. 9th, 1939 at 2:30 P.M. Mrs. Ella Rickets, the Principal conducted the meeting and Mr. Thomas B. Harper County Supt. was the speaker.

In 1929 the school was enlarged and improved, eleven classrooms were added making twenty-two in all along with a Gym and an Oil Burner. Over the years an Auditorium and portable classrooms have been added. It is equipped with movie projectors, over head projectors and film strips, projectors. Audio-visual material having become a vital part of the teaching program, all efforts are made to keep the school abreast of the time.

The school has a Library with a professional Librarian in charge, an Art room, Shop and Home Economics rooms where Cooking and Sewing are taught. The school now serves hot lunches in the cafeteria.

THE BELMAR BOARD OF EDUCATION

A board of nine members was elected in 1894 and divided into three groups to serve 1, 2 and 3 years respectively. Three members of the board are elected at each annual school meeting for a term of three years. The board elects from its membership a president.

Within the limits of State Legislation and the ruling of the State Board of Education the Local Board establishes its own procedure for the administration of the school district's affairs. It makes all appointments to the administrative, teaching and maintenance staff. It fixes the compensation for all its employees. It enforces the regulations of the State Board of Education, selects textbooks and purchases school supplies and together with the County Superintendent of Schools, prescibes the course of study to be followed.
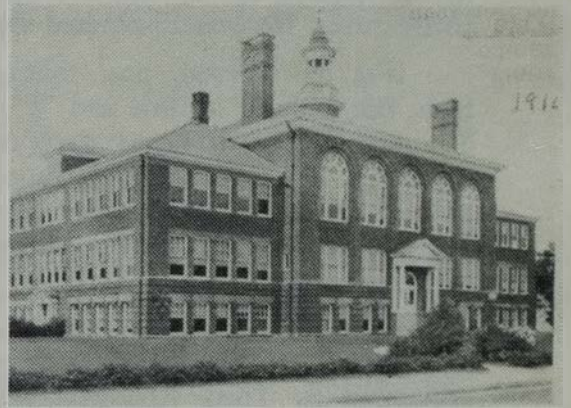
INLET TERRACE CLUB
Date: 1917

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

UNION FIRE HOUSE
Date: 1910

PUBLIC SCHOOL
Date: 1910

The Board of Education is a corporate body having the right to sue and be sued. It has title to all school property. When authorized by the voters it may acquire or dispose of school grounds, provide for school buildings and borrow funds necessary for such purposes. It can float bonds to cover any extension or improvement of education; provided the voters agree. The Borough Clerk as custodian of school moneys has charge of all schools funds in the Belmar District.

POST OFFICE

Belmar's first Post Office known as the Ocean Beach Post Office was established in 1875. Before this the area had been serviced by three different post offices during the time mail was sent by stagecoach. Mail was not sent by railroad until 1861.

Abraham Bitner was appointed the First Postmaster by President U. S. Grant. Mr. Bitner was then superintendent of the Ocean Beach Association and President of New Egypt and Farmingdale Railroad.

The Post Office was located at Sixth avenue and "F" street. This is now the location of the "A" & "B" Cleaner. Mr. H. H. Yard became postmaster in 1877, appointed by Pres. Hayes and reappointed by Pres. Garfield.

In 1893 with Charles Clayton as the postmaster the office was moved to 8th avenue at "F" street. Mr. Clayton was the first Government paid postmaster. He was appointed by Pres. Cleveland.

Wm. S. Jackson, post master from 1897-1905 moved the post office from 8th and "F" to 9th and "F", moved it again in 1897 to 10th and "F". The first lock mail boxes were used at this time. Rural Delivery was inaugurated in 1902. Mr. Jackson appointed by Pres. McKinley and reappointed by Pres. Theo. Roosevelt was followed in 1905 by Samuel Gillian. Mr. Gillian was also appointed by Pres. Roosevelt. He served one year and then resigned.

W. M. Bergen took over in 1906 and in 1907 moved the Post Office to what became the American Store later on "F" near 10th Avenue. He was appointed by Theo. Roosevelt and reappointed by Pres. Taft.

Appointed by Pres. Wilson, Cyrus Honce was postmaster from 1914 to 1922. Free delivery to homes in Belmar was started in 1915. Mr. Edward Conover was the first letter carrier as Parcel Post was established in 1916.

Geo. C. Titus, appointed in 1922 moved the post office in 1924 between the railroad station and "F" street on 10th avenue. Appointed by Pres. Harding he was reappointed by Pres. Coolidge.

In 1930, Pres. Hoover appointed Charles Keiderling with Joseph Capibianco as his assistant.

Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Everett Antonides in 1934.

The New Post Office located at 13th and "F" opened on July 29th, 1936 was the First Government owned Post Office in Belmar. The others had been rented by local real estate owners.

Mr. George Ross became acting Postmaster in 1965 and was appointed Postmaster by Pres. Lyndon Johnson in 1967.

FIRE COMPANIES

In 1888 on New Year's Eve James Freeborns Market burned down. The Masonic Hall which occupied the top floor was completely destroyed and by dawn 1889 the entire block on 9th avenue between "F" street and the railroad lay in smoldering ruins. Damages totaled $20,000 and the worried property owners circulated a petition seeking a Bond Issue of $5,000 to purchase a "Steam" fire engine. The Bond Issue was voted on Feb. 19th, 1889 and in June a bright yellow fire engine came to town. This was the entire equipment of the first fire company formed in January of that year.

Prior to the fire The Ocean Beach Association owned a small hook and ladder wagon, purchased on April 10th, 1883. This was manned by the unorganized men available and was rounded out by the protection given by barrels of water kept ready throughout the community and the privately owned fire buckets which hung in each family's "back entry" or wood shed.

The Union Fire Company was organized and incorporated on Jan. 31st, 1889. Two other companies followed, The Volunteer Hook and Ladder in May, 1894 and The Goodwill Hose Company in Jan. 1900, when an ordinance creating a fire department was adopted.

Since their organization these three companies have worked in close harmony and have so combined their efforts that they operate at each fire as one unit. The Union Company with its modern engine takes over the pumping. The Volunteer Company mans the hook and ladder and The Goodwill operates the hose lines.

FACTS ABOUT THE
FIRE COMPANIES

The first home was "F" street between Eleventh and Twelfth avenues. Later moved to 9th and "F". Its present headquarters is 519 Ninth Avenue. The first building used as a fire house was moved to 10th and Railroad.

The First Fire Chief was Milo H. Crego, known as the "Squire" because he also held the office of "Justice Of The Peace."

In May 1890 the official uniform consisting of a Fire Hat, Belt, Red Shirt and Black Scarf was adopted.

The first motor truck was purchased in 1920.

The Union Hose Company tested a new triple combination pumper.

The apparatus was termed a "Canopy Cab" and at that time was the newest Seagrave product. It offered protection for three firemen within the cabs and six comfortably on the rear.

Major, The Union Fire Company's firehorse was retired in May 1938. He was purchased for the company from Wm. Bergen who owned a livery stable in Belmar. Major's mate Harry was bought at the same time but died. Major was half the team that first pulled the Union Company's Fire Engine. He hauled the engine until 1922 when he was replaced by a motor. Until his retirement he pulled a municipal wagon.

Members of the Goodwill Company are active socially and in charitable work. Funds used to carry on their work and the other two companies are raised by an annual envelope solicitation. Envelopes for donations are distributed by firemen among the residents and business places and collected at a later date. Monies raised are devoted to the kiddies Christmas Fund and other worthy causes.

FIRST AID SQUAD

The Belmar First Aid Squad was organized in November 1927, through the efforts of the late Daniel Traverso a former Belmar physician. Dr. Traverso served as the squads physician until his death. A bronze plaque was unveiled at 417 9th avenue, the squad headquarters in his memory on Memorial Day 1936 by Frank H. Mihlon Jr.

It was this same young man Frank Mihlon Jr. who at age 13 agreed to give up Christmas Gifts so that the money could go to an ambulance fund. In March 1928 Mr. Mihlon Sr. authorized the purchase of an ambulance at his expense. It was the first ambulance to be owned by a First Aid Squad along the Jersey Coast.

The Ambulance was later traded for one that is still in use. Mr. Mihlon also donated the ground and building for the squad's present headquarters.

The Squad was once governed by 2 Boards of Control. Each Fire Company elected three delegates, and three trustees who served a three year term. The squad has since split from the Fire Dept. and is now the Belmar First Aid Squad Inc. The squad also has charge of the life guards at the Belmar Beach during the summer.

POLICE FORCE

In August 1896 Officers and Directors of the Ocean Beach Association appointed most of their own number and a few friends, eighteen in all as Special Beach Officers. In June 1885 a regular-irregular policeman or as Boro Law called him a marshall, was appointed. This was Wm. H. Cooper, who fired himself in 1887.

The current form of Police Department was established by the Commissioners in 1934. At present (1978) there are Twenty-one Regular Policemen and approximately 20 Summer Specials in the town of Belmar. There is a Chief, three Captains, three Sergeants, two Detectives and twelve Patrolmen. The department has two marked cars and two unmarked cars. It also has one motorcycle and two scooters.

During the summer months the bars in Belmar receive extra protection from Special Officers. These men are not on the city payroll but are paid by the establishment in which they work. They are, however, sworn police officers and have the power of law enforcement.

Police headquarters is located on "E" street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues.

BOROUGH LAWS

Because of the litigation of H. H. Yard vs. Ocean Beach which began in 1881 and finally ended in 1887, The Ocean Beach Association was largely responsible for the passage by The Legislative of the peculiar form of law under which it was incorporated. Out of this local conflict of the ideas of private gain versus the public welfare, grew the body of laws which in 1897 became The Boro Acts Of New Jersey and for which the State is now famous, and also under which over 300 of its municipalities are being governed. In Jan. 1922 Chief Justice Wm. H. Taft wrote an article in the National Geographic describing the unique form of government which had existed for many centuries in British Bermuda. The Chief Justice stated such form of government had many advantages but had become obsolete except in Bermuda. He was peculiarly unaware that The Boro Act Of New Jersey provides for a form of government very similar to that of Bermuda as described by him.

1890 — under a new law "The Mayor and Council of The Boro of Belmar was incorporated."

1897 — under New Boro Act The Boro of Belmar was re-incorporated with the adaptation of a new name on May 6, 1897 and a new seal on June 29th, 1897.

Boro Managers — new form of government 1921-23 First Boro Manager in the State of New Jersey. 1928 Belmar adopted the form of Commissioner Government under which it operates today.
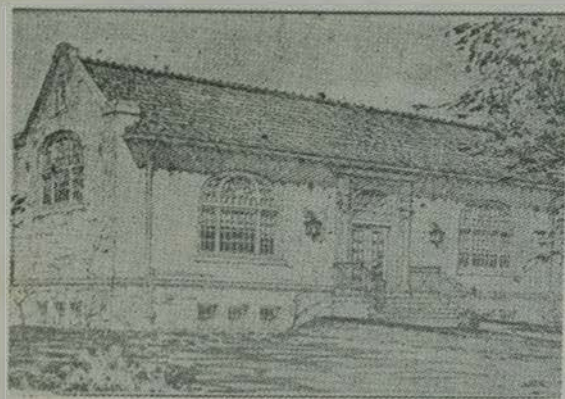
THE BELMAR PUBLIC LIBRARY

On August 11, 1911 a group of ladies met for Tea and Cake at the home of Miss Louis Phillips. Miss Phillips and her friends were greatly interested in giving to young people the highly organized activities that could be obtained through a Public Library. With this goal in mind the ladies got together and opened the First Belmar Library on Sept. 23rd, 1911. It was located at 802 "F" street and contained approximately 407 books.
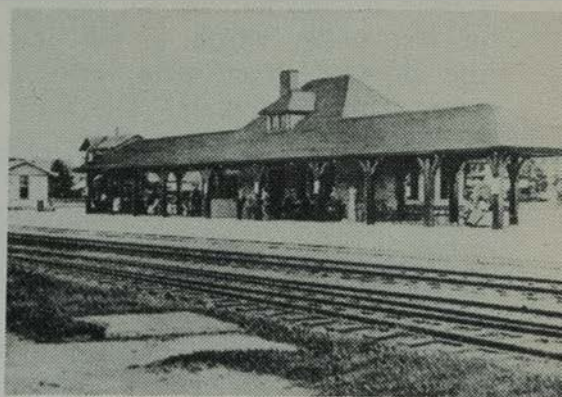
During that year the library grew so rapidly that on May 1st, 1912 it had to be moved to 819 "F" street. As interest became greater it finally was decided that even this space was too small. A letter was sent to the Borough Council by the Library Board that stated:

"The phenomenal growth of the Library and the demands which have been made for books convinces us that we will not be able to adequately meet the needs of our citizens in the future". We could well say the same today.
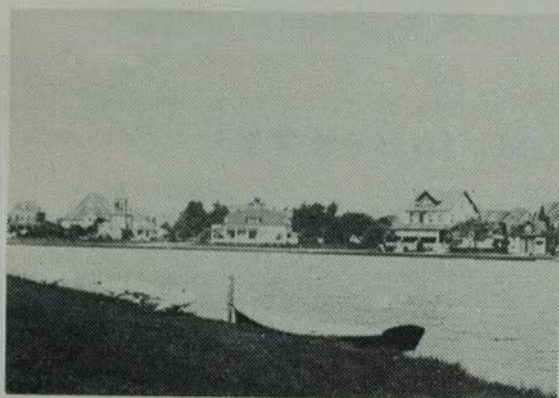
The present building stands on a lot that was purchased with funds raised by the Ladies of Belmar Library Association during 1913-14. They had Card Parties, Teas, Dances, Recitals and any number of money making projects. The cost of the lot was $2,500 and with the exception of filling it in from time to time it did not cost The Boro of Belmar one cent, the
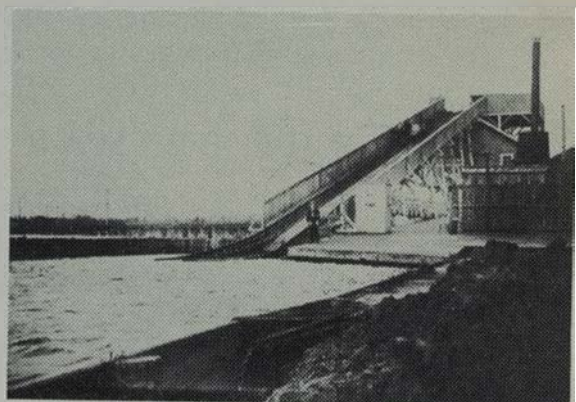
PUBLIC LIBRARY

BELMAR RAILROAD STATION
Date: 1910

SILVER LAKE
Date: 1924

MURPHY'S CASINO
Date: 1910

adjacent lot belonged to the Women's Christian Temperance Union. They sold it to Mayor Gibbs who gave it to the library.

The Belmar Public Library as it stands now was opened to the public on Dec. 4th, 1914. The building is Colonial in style and Edward L. Titlon of N. Y. was the architect. He was considered one of the foremost specialists in efficient and economic designing.

The plans for the Library were thought to be so excellent by the Carnegie Corp. that they adopted them as the standard for future libraries all over the Country. $13,000 was given by the Carnegie Corp. of N. Y. for the erection of the building complete for occupancy.

The corner stone was laid July 31st, 1914 by the Grand Lodge of Mason's under the auspices of the Ocean Lodge of Belmar. It was a festive occasion.

The Carnegie Law required that:

1. A Board of Trustees be appointed by the governing body.

2. All given sums of money must be collected each year for the maintenance of the Library.

The First Christmas Eve at the new library was an exciting one. A tree was lighted with electric bulbs and the library was hung with garlands and wreaths. Boxes of Candy, Popcorn and Nuts together with an Orange or Apple were given to over 300 children.

The Library in 1914 had a collection of over 2,700 books which included a fine selection of reference books. These made the library one of the best equipped of any its size in the state.

The Library in 1978 has a collection of over 19,000 books which includes one of the finest reference sections in the area. It services people from Spring Lake, Wall and Avon and on occasion Neptune. All of these towns have libraries. Offered for circulation are records, large print books, magazines and papers. There is a story hour for children to which parents and other adults are welcomed.

With the world as it is now, containing so many new things and still changing, the job of supplying information becomes greater. The Library is not only a place for finding entertaining reading (ex. love stories, mystery stories), it is also a depository of facts.

Until 1964 the Library had an odd door in front of the Library which served as a mail box. It was also used as a book return. This was replaced by an old mail box which after a few years of hard weather fell apart. As of this printing the library has not replaced the book drop.

Upon entering the Library one sees a large bronze memorial plaque on the vestibule wall. This was presented by the building contractor, Horace H. Moore of Spring Lake.

There are two flags connected with the library, one hangs inside and was donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the other hangs outside and was placed there by the Belmar Kiwanis July 4th, 1974. This was a special wish of Augustus Regan, former Kiwanis Treasurer now deceased. The original pole was vandalized and the present one was procured by Joseph Berger and installed by the Street Department.

In 1935 a portrait of Andrew Carnegie was presented to the Library by the Carnegie Corporation. It is a copy of the portrait painted by Luis Mora. One was given to each of the Carnegie Libraries in the Centennial.

POINTS OF INTEREST

During the Revolution, the Continental Governor established many salt works along the Jersey Coast. One was located on the South Bank of Shark River about where the Bridge now enters Belmar. Salt was necessary for the use of the Continental Army.

HOSPITAL

Belmar had only one hospital which opened in 1890. Dr. J. W. Hassler had it in his Fifth avenue home. Dr. Hassler's Sanitarium began with a single room where he did his operating. In 1927 Miss Gladys Rue took over and renamed it The Physiotherapy Institute and allied it with the Home-opathic Society. It later became a nursing home and later apartments located at the Northeast corner of Fifth avenue and C street.

THE FIRE BELL

The bell of The Presbyterian Church was used to sound the fire alarm for about three years. On July 14th, 1892 The Union Fire Company of Trenton presented the company with a bell. The 500 lb. bell was a relic of the Civil War dating back to the capture of the New Orleans in 1862. It was considered too valuable to sacrifice, when the confederate ship on which it was found sank.

It first rang July 4th, 1862 in Trenton where it had been presented to The Union Fire Company by Commander Watson Smith U.S.N. Its ringing was to proclaim the victories of the Union Armies. After a Trenton parade in which the Belmar Union Fire Company participated, the bell was brought to its new home.

MOVIE SHOWS

In the early twenties open-air movies were only lots with wooden seats, enclosed by a wooden fence. There was one at Ocean and Fourth Avenues. It later became the Fourth Avenue Bathing Club. There was another at 8th and Ocean which became a regular moviehouse, at present it is an empty lot. The Rivoli on Main Street between 9th and 10th is now The Mini-Mall. The only movie house in Belmar at present writing is the "Belmar Cinema" located in the Belmar Shopping Mall.

SWIMMING MEETS

Swimming meets were held for the benefit of the Red Cross in the Inlet Terrace Lagoon on Aug. 16, 17 and Sept. 2nd, 1917. Three world champions "Duke Kahanomoko, Clarence Lame, and Harold Kruger," all from Honolulu and a number of women swimmers were among contestants.

BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scouts of America Troop 40 was founded in 1912 under the sponsorship of the 1st Presbyterian Church. Scout Mothers of Troop 40 organized in 1926 to help the troop with accessories they were unable to obtain without help.

GIRL SCOUTS

The First Girl Scout Troop in the Shore Council was Troop No 1. It began in April 1940 and Miss Betty Flood was the leader.

PARKS

Maclearie Memorial Park was named for the former Mayor Peter Maclearie. It was dedicated Aug. 5th, 1974 and is now the site of the Belmar Tennis Courts.

Ferruggiaro Park located in an area around Silver Lake has a playground for tots. It is at the corner of eighth and South Lake Avenues. The park was named in honor of a former Commissioner Alfred Ferruggiaro.

There is hope for a future park at 16th and railroad avenues. Here will be such activities as Basketball, Soccer, Football and another playground for tots.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

The First Community Christmas Tree was donated by the Belmar Women's Club, in 1925. The Club also planted the tree in Memorial Park.

JEWISH RESIDENT

Belmar's First Jewish Resident was Solomon Weinstein. He came to Belmar in 1878 from Russia at the age of 19. He conducted a clothing business for many years. At his death in 1928, the fire bell tolled 69 times to denote the age of the deceased, and the esteem in which he was held by the community.

SILVER LAKE CARNIVAL

The first Silver Lake Carnival was so successful that it was decided to make it an annual event. There were decorations for Cars, Boats and Houses. Contests of all kinds were held. These carnivals were held in Mid-August. No Carnivals are held on this Lake today.

SKATING RINK

A Skating Rink was opened at the corner of 11th and "C". After the Merry-Go-Round behind the Ocean Beach Houses burned in 1889, another roller skating rink was erected there. There are houses and empty lots there now.

MERRY - GO - ROUND

This amusement was built behind The Ocean Beach House at 5th and "F". It was operated only a year before it burned down. It was the first blaze to summon The Borough's First Fire Company.

CAPTAIN KIDD LEGEND

Captain Kidd was known to have been a frequent visitor to this section of the Coast. Some people believe that some of the gold from the Spanish Main was buried on Snake Hill or County Neck on Shark River.

GAS COMPANY

Belmar's first Gas Company organized on May 6th, 1902. Streets were lighted with gas at 22 candle power. A lot 74/100 of an acre was purchased for a gas plant at 16th avenue, Belmar.

1939 found the last of the Old Welsbach Gas Lamps installed by the Coast Gas Company in 1903, being removed from Tenth avenue and "A" street. Four of the original lamps had been used until May of that year.

TELEPHONES

June 12th, 1900 saw the First Belmar Telephone exchange put into service by the New York-New Jersey-Bell Telephone Company, predecessors of the present New Jersey Bell Telephone Company.

An addition to the home of Milo H. Crego, Justice of The Peace, 805 "F" street housed this new utility. A shoe repair store is now in this building.

The first switchboard was small, but large enough for fifteen original subscribers. A switchboard about three times as large was installed in 1904. It had a ringing machine that enabled the operator to ring subscribers by touching a button instead of turning a crank. This was a great improvement but a noisy one. Eva Newman was the first day operator, night operators were boys.

CEMETERIES

There are no cemeteries or burial grounds in church yards in the entire borough.

AUTOMOBILES

The automobile offered opportunities for a new type of recreation to shore visitors. "Touring" used to mean taking nearby drives. In 1904 special Tally-ho autos accommodated groups of people offering drives along the shore.

TRAINS

On Sept. 7th, 1875 the first passenger train arrived in Ocean Beach from Long Branch. At that time stage service furnished transportation between Ocean Beach and Sea Girt.

In 1876 twenty trains stopped daily at Ocean Beach, coming from N. Y. and Philadelphia. In 1879 the number of trains stopping daily had increased to twenty-eight. Now in 1978 the number is thirty-five counting North and South Bound Trains.

WATER SUPPLY

Originally each property owner had a shallow well about 60 feet deep and provided himself with a windmill or other pumping system for "Hard Water." The rain was collected in cisterns to provide "Soft" water for washing.

The first deep well for artesian water was sunk as a test to 270 feet between 6 and 7 Avenues near "C" Street in Jan. 1884. Prof. Clark, State Geologist reported a flowing well could be obtained at about 500 feet deep. In July 1884 Dr. E. C. Hayne sank a well 480 feet and obtained water.

In 1897-98 Belmar installed a municipal water system. This was one of the first municipal systems along the coast. The semi-annual test of this water has always shown an ideal analysis for drinking water.

BELMAR NEWSPAPER

The Ocean Beach Crab 1881-1884 was the first paper published in Belmar. Its editor was H. H. Yard, one of the early settlers. The Ocean Beach Paper, was not really a newspaper as it was only published once a year from 1874-1879.

The Beach Patrol was published on Saturdays, The Shore Gazette published weekly and the Democratic Weekly published on Saturdays 1894-1904.

The Belmar Star was published for a time in 1903.

The Coast Advertiser was established in 1892 under the name The Coast Echo. It became the Coast Advertiser in the early 1900's during World War I, Rev. Fayette S. Berggren of Calvary Baptist Church published the paper. Llewellyn Berggren was the operator of the Model K Linotype used for the setting of its type.

This paper was published until 1974 when it went out of business. There is no local newspaper in Belmar today.

BOROUGH HALL AS
COMMUNITY CENTER

The Herbert-Worthington-White Post number 151 of the American Legion in Belmar was named for Raymond Herbert, Robert Worthington and Stephen White. These were the first three men of the Belmar District to lose their lives in World War 1. This post was organized and chartered by E. Donald Sterner who was its first commander.

The American Legion Building was built in 1925 at 8th and River Avenues on Highway 35. The building was a Spanish type architecture. It had a Lounge, a Ballroom, a Billiard Room, Bowling Alleys, Gymnasium, Basketball Court and Lodge Rooms. The building was vacated in 1933 and in 1938 the Boro took possession and turned it into Belmar's Community Center. It is also The Borough Hall or Municipal Building.

MEMORIAL FIELD

In 1921 the entire block from 12th thru 13th Avenues on the West Side of "F" street was bought and dedicated as a War Memorial and in 1922 it was called The Worthington Memorial Field.

There are two plaques in front of this field. One is in honor of the Veterans of World War II (1941-45). The other is in honor of the Firemen of Belmar 1959.

STERNER COAL AND LUMBER CO.

In 1919 Mr. Willard J. Sterner took as his partner his son, E. Donald Sterner and started The Sterner Coal and Lumber Co. They bought the business from Geo. Titus who formerly sold coal and feed.

At that time they had three employees, three horses and a second hand truck. Mr. Donald Sterner worked in the yard and Mr. Willard Sterner worked in the office.

Coal is still being sold today although not as much as in the earlier years.

The Sterner Inc. Oil Company was formed in the early 1950's to accommodate the changes in heating.

Lumber sales increased and over the years additional land surrounding the original property has been acquired. The business is now one of the largest lumber companies in the area today. It also has a complete home repair and remodeling division, which was started in 1925 and employs over 30 people.

The company is situated at 12th and Railroad avenues and was the scene of a fire for the second time in fifty years. The first fire was in 1934 and the damage was great. The second in 1975 was equally costly.

Mr. E. Donald Sterner eventually took over the business and now runs it with his two sons George and John.

BELMAR KIWANIS

In April of 1937, forty business and professional men of Belmar met at a luncheon in the American Legion Home to launch a Kiwanis Club in Belmar. The club was to be granted a charter when it had thirty-five members. The club decided to meet at 12:30 each Wednesday. Within three weeks the club had the required membership. This was the second Kiwanis Club on the shore, The Asbury Park Club was the first. Edwin R. Smock was the first President and E. Donald Sterner was the first Vice President.

BELMAR WOMEN'S CLUB

On September 22, 1914 twenty-nine women met at the home of Mrs. W. H. Sheppard to consider the desirability of forming a Women's Club in the Boro of Belmar.

The Club was organzed for the purpose of creating an organized center for thought and action that might advance the interests of the Boro. This mighty work could be done through united effort in civic and philanthropic work. Mrs. Sheppard was the first President. With a charter membership of one hundred, the Club was incorporated on September 29th, 1914 and was federated in February 1915.

BELMAR TERCENTARY FESTIVAL

The Festival was held the week of August 15th, 1964. The women's organization offered a variety of items for sale in four large tents. There was a Nautical Fashion Show under the direction of Mrs. Saul Sokolow of the Belmar Fashion Corner. The show consisted of fashions from the turn of the century 1864 to 1964.

The parade which consisted of bands from all over, organization floats, and local people marching, began at Lake Como in South Belmar and ended at the Belmar Marine Basin.

The evening all came to an end with watershows and fireworks.

BELMAR MUSEUM

Belmar Museum was begun as a project of the Bicentennial Committee 1976. It is run during the Spring and Summer months by ladies of the town. It contains all kinds of Belmar memorabilia contributed by the townspeople and is of great interest to those who visit.

BANKS

There are three Banks in the town. Belmar Wall National which became the First Jersey on August 2nd, 1974. Belmar Savings and Loan on January 1st, 1976 became a division of Shadow Lawn Savings and Loan. The Belmar Branch of Jersey Shore opened in what was formerly the A & P in March 1977.

From the beginning with the disappearance of the Indians and the birth of a town Belmar has continued to grow. There have been new houses built, and some old ones destroyed. We have weathered hurricanes, fires and undergone many man-made changes There are still those who come for a visit and decide to stay, for there is in Belmar a tranquility which encourages the seeker of peace and beauty.

There is much that can be included in The History of Belmar. The omissions are not intentional, however, this compilation is ten years work so I leave the rest to be done by the next interested party who wishes to donate ten years of time and energy.

Thanks to those who have contributed to the information of this book.

Sincerely,

GRACE T. ROPER

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