







*This is a very, very short history of our town, a town that it is hoped will always live up to its name "a light in the woods", a light that will forever beckon us forward and onward.*

JULIA A. TRAPHAGEN

## FOREWORD

Some years ago "Our Neighborhood, A History of Waldwick" was written by Miss Julia A. Traphagen and published by the Parent and Teacher Association of the Waldwick School. At that time Miss Traphagen had completed fifty years of service to this community as a teacher and was vice-principal of the Waldwick School. She is now actively engaged as the school librarian there.

Since the appearance of that first history many changes have taken place and the "light in the woods" shines on an ever increasing number of families, an enlarged school system, and many additional community services and activities. Residents who recall Miss Traphagen's booklet have expressed their interest in reading it again. Copies have become scarce and those few still available are well worn. Newcomers may not be aware of the rich history of this area nor the details of the growth of Waldwick. For these reasons it seems most appropriate that the history of Waldwick be published again.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. Louis Schlivek, assisted by Mrs. Jay Duston, for recording the developments of recent years and to Miss Traphagen for her original presentation. We would also like to thank the various citizens and public officials who aided by providing information and statistics.

We are pleased that this booklet is available now as we join in the year of New Jersey's Tercentenary celebration. It has been written for all the citizens and friends of Waldwick and is published by the Parent and Teacher Association of the Julia A. Traphagen School.

September 1964.

## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Before its discovery by Europeans, America was peopled by a nation of men having different languages but so many similar characteristics that all were called Indians. The tribe or nation living in the greater part of New Jersey was known as the Delawares or Lenni-Lenapes meaning in their tongue "The Original People."

These Indians had their origin in the neighborhood of Hudson Bay and began migrating southward perhaps three or four thousand years before the Christian era.

The Delawares have been sub-divided into several tribes. Those who occupied and roamed over Bergen and Passaic Counties were known as the Unalachtgo or Turkey, and the Minsi, or Wolf tribes. A further division was made into what might be called sub-tribes. These were known as the Hackensacks, Pomptons, Tappans and Haverstraws and occupied the localities which are now designated by these names.

In 1643 the earliest white explorers of the Hackensack and Passaic Valleys found scattered villages all known as Hackensacks and varying in size from one to four or five wigwams.

Actual evidences of Indian occupation have been found along the streams and creeks of the Bergen County water shed. In the immediate vicinity of Waldwick, the banks of Saddle River and of Hohokus and Sprout Brooks have proved the most promising localities for Indian research. No doubt most of you remember the Indian graves found when they were excavating for the foundation of this school building, (Waldwick Elementary School).

The largest village here was situated about 500 feet north of the site of the old public school.

"Gentlest of all their neighbors  
Proud race of the Delaware,  
They lived in the land where their fathers dwelt,  
They killed the game and they cured the pelt,  
And marked the blue in the wampum belt —  
The purple and blue so rare."

After the whites settled New Jersey the Delawares however did not have so pleasant a time of it. They were pushed here and there until they gathered near Trenton. Still the colonists encroached upon this last settlement and the Indians were starving. Help came from northwestern New York State. New York had given their Indians a reservation and from this refuge the Empire State Indians sent an invitation to their brothers in New Jersey.

The invitation was accepted and for long years things were agreeable. Then the New York Indians decided that Wisconsin was a pleasanter place to dwell than New York State. Green Bay land had to be paid for. Therefore, although the New York Indians said: "You are welcome to come with us," the New Jersey Indians had no money to purchase land. A delegation of Lenni-Lenapes came to Trenton to try to establish ownership to their former lands. This was impossible as the lands had changed hands time after time; therefore the State granted the Indians twenty-five thousand dollars. With this they purchased land at Green Bay in Wisconsin where they are at present living.

The few Indians who lived in this immediate vicinity had their camp site at the old ball field (about three blocks up what is now Waldwick Ave.) but when this became too dirty they moved to the location of the old school (corner of Franklin Turnpike and Prospect Street) or the site of the present Erie station. They would hold dances occasionally. Then Henry Hopper would be invited to attend. All the braves were expected to become intoxicated. This did not include Mr. Hopper and the Chief. As the Indians dropped it was Mr. Hopper's duty to help the chief gather them up and place them in a circle about a fire — heads out, feet in. When all were so arranged Mr. Hopper was requested to depart although up to this time it was mandatory for him to remain.

The first real settlements by Europeans in New Jersey were made by some Dutch, a few Danes and a number of Norwegians who crossed the Hudson as early as 1618 and settled along the Hackensack and its tributaries. The Dutch element remained and became dominant in all of this part of the state.

The first permanent English settlement was made in 1660 on the site now known as Bergen Square, Jersey City. This had formerly been the old Dutch trading post. From this site the English followed the water ways into the more remote districts.

## HISTORIC HOMES, FARMS AND CHURCHES

The first grant in this vicinity of which there seems to be a record was in 1687. Lord Carteret gave a grant of 500 acres to Samuel Kingsland. In 1698 this land was sold for thirty-two pounds and ten shillings (about a hundred fifty dollars) to Johann Van Emburgh who built a house upon it in 1700. This site is in the present village of Ridgewood.

The second house of which a record is found is the Jacob Zaborowski home which was located on Paramus Road. The events leading up to the building of this house are of interest. In 1662 a young Polish man who had been traveling in Holland, not being able to return home because of a European war, came over here in the Dutch sailing ship, *Det Vas* (The Fox). He came to New Jersey, married a Dutch maid of the Van Der Linde family and established a home in a little trading post called Ackensark. His oldest son Jacob, when a small lad, was stolen and carried off by the Indians. Fifteen years later the boy was returned with the explanation that

he had been taken in order that the Indians might teach him their ways and language so that he would be able to act as interpreter between themselves and the settlers. Because of this Jacob's father was given, by the Indians, a tract of land of about two thousand acres known as the "New Paramus Patent" or "Wearimus Tract."

The house spoken of was built in 1713 on this land. The door stone bearing the name "Zaborowski" and the date 1713 is now in possession of a "Mr. Zabriskie" of Ridgewood. They changed the original Zaborowski to Zabriskie. The location name was also changed from the old Indian name of Peremessing meaning a country where wild turkeys abounded to Peremesse then to Paramus.

Another old house is the "Stone House" at Hohokus built by the Hopper family. There were three brothers. Henry Hopper received a 700 acre grant including what is now Hohokus and part of Waldwick but named by him Hoppertown. His brothers received grants of the same extent in Saddle River and Ramsey.

The old "La Rue" tavern, later known as "Bamper House" was famous long before the Revolution. It is not known when or by whom it was erected. It came into the possession of Captain Bamper about the time of the Revolution. His son, G. H. Bamper, was the last proprietor of a long line who had entertained stage drivers and their passengers on the way to and from Albany and New York. These stage coaches used four horses. Mr. Bamper owned four complete outfits using this route. Slaves did the work at this Inn.

Until very recently one of the slave houses stood in the field back of the American Legion Hut. This property is still owned by the Bamper family.

Other houses might be mentioned such as the beautiful and picturesque residence of the late Joseph Jefferson of Rip Van Winkle fame. Another that must not be forgotten is the Hermitage situated on the west side of Franklin Turnpike a few hundred feet south of the Waldwick line. It was, prior to the Revolution, the home of a wealthy English family but was sold at about the time of the war to a French nobleman, Philip De Visme, whose stepdaughter was the beautiful and accomplished Theodosia Provost.

It was while living here that Mrs. Provost met Col. Aaron Burr who was then stationed at Ramapo. Only a part of the original building, which was a first class country house, remains. On a stone at the front is inscribed Masonic emblems which has led to the idea that the house was erected at an early date by the Masonic Lodge.

In 1807 the house was bought and remodeled by Elijah Rosencrantz and has been in possession of that family ever since. The present owner is Miss Elizabeth Rosencrantz, a very lovely lady who occupies the house with a companion. The home is beautifully furnished with antique belongings of the family. It is old English style and is built most substantially. The walls are constructed of hammer dressed red sandstone. The timber is of oak and chestnut and the roof of cedar.

The present owner is of the opinion that Aaron Burr was married in the dining room of the house but the general belief is that the wedding took place in Paramus Church although no record is found in the church books.

In this vicinity you come across many Dutch names — Ackerman, Bogert, Banta, Hopper, DeBaun, Terhune, Van Der Beck, Van Houten, Van Dien, Westerveld, Van Dyke. Many of the holders of these proudly trace their lineage to the "Mayflower of the Dutch." Many French names appear in the Dutch records. These are easily accounted for. In pre-American days, Holland was a refuge for the oppressed and many persecuted French Hugenots took up their abode in this liberty loving land and if records are true, out-Dutched the Dutch in loyalty to Holland. Of course these French accompanied their adopted countrymen to this land. Hence the French names like De Marest.

In early times, agriculture was, necessarily, the principal occupation of the people. The farms were large and scattered over so extensive an area that development was slow.

In the fall, wagons laden with farm produce and drawn by sturdy oxen went to New York markets. The roads were worked at small outlay but what mattered it to the strong patient oxen if ruts were a little sandy or soft. In winter, however, sleds piled high with logs for the fireplaces of New York were a common sight along Franklin Turnpike. These proceeded to Huyler's Landing. At this point after the Civil War, these farmers would be smilingly met by an old time steamboat captain who would ask after their families and carry the lot, including the owner, to "Bear Market" (now known as Washington market) for the sum of 72 cents all told.

In regard to churches about here, volumes could be written. Paramus Church is especially interesting with its colonial and Revolutionary War stories. Headstones of both English and American soldiers can be found in the old cemetery.

This church according to records written in the Dutch language had its first stone laid on April 21, 1735 but there was a church organization much earlier than this.

Waldwick's oldest church is the Methodist Episcopal. It is not known when this church body was organized but records go back to 1791. At this time the minister was a circuit rider making his rounds on horseback. The first church was near Koole's Pond as far as anyone can find. The second building was a frame building on Franklin Turnpike a few hundred feet north of the Bamper house. This was sold in 1867 and used as a dwelling house until 1915 when it burned. Mr. Monroe's house was formerly Old Dissenters Church and the grave yard is still there.

The corner stone of the present building was laid in November 1866 and the building was dedicated one year and one month later while in the following year a bell was installed. This bell became cracked and the present one began its duty in 1894.

The old building was a most beautiful one. The windows of stained glass were imported from England and of most gorgeous colors, deep and rich. The interior was finished in rough grey plaster decorated with darker tones of grey. The woodwork and seats were of stained chestnut. The decoration or frescoing of the pulpit alcove was such that on entering the church it appeared that one could walk for miles thru a court flanked with

stone columns. The old church was truly noted for its beauty.

In "New Prospect" days camp meetings were held annually in the grove back of the present church property. These meetings were real Methodist ones and famous for miles around.

In early days the church was lighted by candles, later by whale oil lamps, camphene, coal, oil—then to the present electric.

The First Reformed Church was established in Waldwick in 1908 in a building on West Prospect St. that had originally been built as a Baptist Church. At that time the congregation did not have a regular pastor. Services were held by *itinerant ministers and seminary students*. In 1947 the Sunday school building was built.

## REVOLUTION

During the Revolution, Bergen County was the gateway to New Jersey and the west so both Tories and Patriots tried to hold it. The Patriots it is said far out-numbered the Tories.

No battles of great importance were fought here but the tread of marching feet was heard over its entire length and breadth while its well kept and well stocked farms often invited foraging parties during the time New York was held by the British.

The Americans were camped in many places in Bergen but the Paramus camp-ground is most often referred to. It was at Paramus but extended four miles toward Hackensack and to the north beyond Waldwick.

Letters and papers dated from Paramus indicate that Washington and his army were at this place several times.

At Hohokus on Franklin Turnpike the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a granite marker on May 30, 1914 as marking the route of the American troops under General Washington from Fort Lee to Ramapough. The French were also here, one division passed thru on its march to Yorktown.

In 1777 a detachment of the Americans was located at Hoppertown (Hohokus and Waldwick). Officers stopped at the Bamber Hotel. This was when the proprietor sent his slaves thru the countryside buying supplies with which he fed some two hundred soldiers breakfast. Part of the army camped on the old school grounds.

British and Tories raided and plundered. On April 21, 1779, a force of Tories under John Van Der Roder took possession of a mill belonging to Jonathan Hopper. Mrs. Hopper, hearing the noise, awakened her husband telling him someone was in the mill. He went to the door demanding to know who was there and was shot by the light of a candle held by his wife to guide him down the steps.

## AS TO THE RAILROAD

You are all familiar no doubt with Joyce Kilmer's poem "The Twelve-Forty-Five" the midnight train and its journey from Jersey City to Suffern. It reads in part:

"I Feel . . .  
That Glen Rock welcomes us to her  
And silent Ridgewood seems to stir  
And smile because she knows the train  
Has brought her children back again.  
We carry people home — and so  
God speeds us wheresoe'er we go.  
Hohokus, Waldwick, Allendale  
Lift sleepy heads to give us hail."

When the New York and Erie Railroad obtained its charter there was a clause that forbade it to connect with any railroad of another state. At once the people of northern New Jersey saw the wisdom of building a rail line across their state which would carry one from Suffern to Jersey City and from there by ferry into Manhattan. Charters for two lines were obtained, one from Jersey City to Paterson, known as the Paterson and Hudson River Railroad and the other from Paterson to Suffern and known as the Ramapo and Paterson Railroad. The first was built in 1836 but the other waited until it became certain the Erie would extend to Suffern.

Erie passengers would detrain at Suffern, walk a short distance, and board the Jersey train to Paterson, which came in about where the Hamilton Hotel is at present. It was a short walk again to the site of the present Paterson station where they bought a Jersey City ticket.

In 1851 a union was allowed and the Erie leased the New Jersey roads and a thru ticket could be bought. At first we had no station nearer than Ridgewood. The first New York train left at 6:29 A.M., the next at 7:29, a third at 8:12 and another at 9:00. If you missed this you waited until 3:00 P.M.

## CIVIL WAR

When the Civil War developed, feeling ran high. Two large buildings were erected for drill purposes. Union Hall was built by the Republicans. Horace Greeley delivered the first speech within its walls. The second hall was erected by the "Society for Promulgation of Education in Bergen County." The national guard drilled here under Captain Abram Van Emburg. These men became part of the 22nd Regiment and took part in the battle of Chancellorsville.

During Civil War times a paper mill located on Hohokus Brook at the foot of White's Lane made from 15 to 20 barrels of paper twine daily. This mill was burned in 1880 and a sawmill built upon the site. This fell into a state of ruin some years ago and was never repaired. Another paper mill was

located where the water works now stands and a building used for many industries stood on Wyckoff Avenue where it crosses Hohokus Brook. This structure ended its career as a sheet and pillow case factory.

## NAMING OF THE BOROUGH

On April 20, 1895 there was carved out of the southern part of Hohokus and the western part of Washington Township a new one known as Orvil. In 1894 there was so much trouble over the school situation that Allendale, Saddle River, and Upper Saddle River formed separate municipalities. This left Undercliff, Hohokus, and Waldwick as the three small villages of Orvil Township. *Hohokus and Undercliff united to form Hohokus Borough.* Orvil continued a township until April 7, 1919 when it "succumbed to an attack of borotitis" and was incorporated as Waldwick Boro.

Waldwick was formerly known as New Prospect but when the people petitioned the Erie for a station it was suggested that a new name be given. Mr. Orvil Victor, a historian of Saddle River and the man for whom Orvil Township had been named, was asked to suggest an appropriate title.

He and his committee took "Wald" the German word for woods and tacked "eck" to it — Waldeck. This did not meet with general approval, so at the suggestion of Miss Elizabeth Rosencrantz of the Hermitage, it was changed to Waldwick — Wald meaning woods and wick meaning light — "a light in the woods."

## WALDWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The earliest records obtainable place the site of the Orvil District School, later called the Waldwick School, at the intersection of Franklin Turnpike and Prospect Street. This is truly a historical spot for here in times long past, was located, occasionally, tepees of the Algonquin Indians. Along Franklin Turnpike marched Washington's army, resting, it is said, on this very site while two hundred of the first arrivals were given breakfast by Captain Bamber of the Bamber Hotel.

There are no written records before 1891-1892, but in the dim mist of memories a few strands of a web are found revealing the children of New Prospect — later Waldwick — either trudging to the old Union Hill School at Wyckoff or traveling to Allendale. At first there were few but later a full score and a half followed the Pied Piper of knowledge from the village each day. Many were small and the way was long even for the sturdiest of little legs. Surely, something must be done. It was. Three trustees were elected: Matthew White, Henry Hopper, and George White. Mr. Garrett Bamber offered the gun room of his home as a temporary meeting place and working with the trustees, procured as teacher, a Trenton Normal graduate, Fannie Cosine. Miss Cosine rang the bell each morning for her thirty-five little captives until early May when they escaped for a delightfully long vacation.



THE OLD SCHOOL

In all probability, the first real school building — now the double house across the way from the old school site — had been erected during the year, and in September, reluctant feet came by highway or woodpath to assemble under the tutelage of Annie Morris.

This building consisted of one large room and cloak hall stringing along the side and a huge pot-bellied stove in the center. This was still the building in use in 1891-92 when Edwin Bebout became principal, sole teacher, and janitor and wrote complainingly in his year's report that the room could seat forty-five comfortably but was crowded with fifty-one.

School was kept ten months of twenty school days each, the school month ending whenever the said twenty days were up. Not a pupil had perfect attendance but eight did appear for an entire 10 months. Mr. Bebout taught twenty-four classes each day. At the end of the records he rather loconically states, "No home work required."

The next year, 1892-93, there was an eighth grade also, so Mr. Bebout increased the lesson periods to twenty-eight each day but even so found time to raise thirty dollars for a library. The State gave thirty more and one hundred twenty-five books were purchased. The salary at this time was fifty-five dollars a month.

Sixty-seven pupils this year and more houses being built, more families moving into the town. A new building was absolutely necessary; hence the old school was moved across the turnpike and far back into the swamp. Planks were laid in the ooze to enable the pupils to reach the school door and here Walter M. Sage was dictator to the ninety-one pupils enrolled for 1893-94. For teaching this large number he received a raise of fifty cents a month.

Ninety-one pupils in a room for forty-five, a schoolhouse on stilts, and no playground — but a fine new building was taking shape on the old site and next year there would be two teachers, William MacKenzie as principal and Olive H. Seabury as assistant. Their salaries were \$675 and \$400 respectively.

At Hohokus, School Number 2, (Waldwick and Hohokus were then Orville Township) S. Perzie Wilson presided over sixty-three pupils until March 25 when Miss Fannie Higham took charge for the remainder of the year.

Still the school population grew and in 1895 another teacher was added. This necessitated the furnishing of the upstairs rooms. A piano, pictures, and other articles were needed. Cake sales, entertainments and socials were held and these requirements filled.

In 1900 a fourth teacher was added to Waldwick's faculty and the pupils of the higher grades of Hohokus were transferred to Waldwick. There were two graduates.

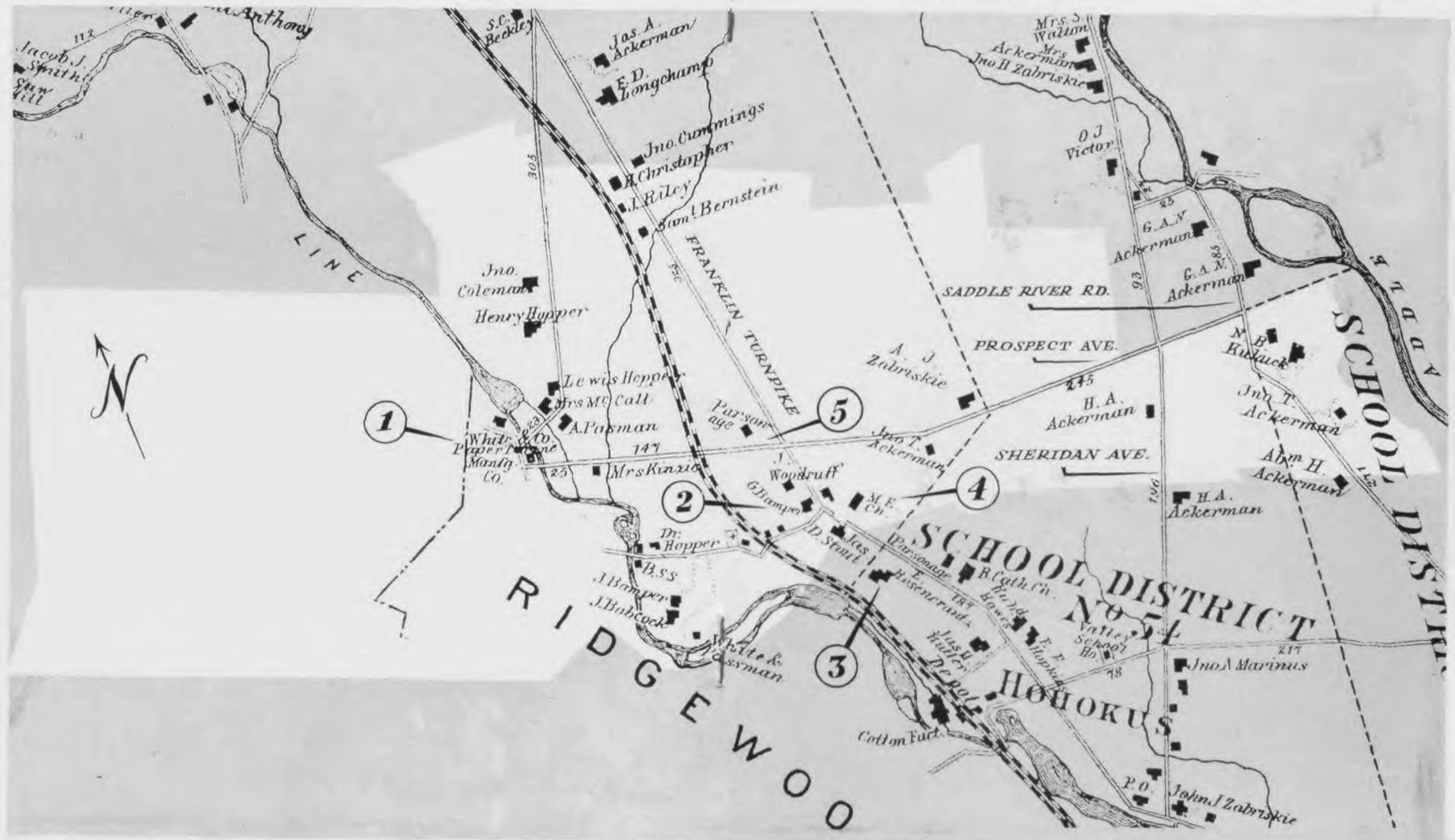
When Hohokus severed political relations with Waldwick her pupils left, hence the teaching staff was reduced by one. The following year Mr. Barnes was made supervising principal and this brought our teacher quota up again.

# MAP OF WALDWICK AREA, 1876

This map is a reproduction of a part of a map of Hohokus Township included in an "Atlas of Bergen County" published in 1876, which was loaned by Mrs. M. H. Cannon of Waldwick.

The following buildings are mentioned in the text of this booklet: 1. Present

school across the street from the Paper Twine Mfg. Co.; 2. G. Bamber house originally an inn during Revolutionary War period; 3. E. Rosencrantz home, owned and occupied by the same family, at one time home of Aaron Burr; 4. M. E. Church; 5. Site of old school, Indian Village, camp of Colonial soldiers.





JULIA A TRAPHAGEN SCHOOL

## MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Waldwick's Volunteer Fire Department celebrated its fortieth anniversary in 1947 with the acquisition of a new American-LaFrance pumper. A second pumper was replaced four years later, and in 1961 the Department acquired the latest in emergency vehicles. All of its equipment is housed in Fire Headquarters at the Municipal Building, which was erected with the aid of PWA funds during the 1930's.

There are still a number of men living in town who can remember answering the alarm hammered out against the steel rim of a locomotive engine wheel and then pulling the hook and ladder by hand to the scene of the blaze. Today the 45 active members of the department are summoned to the fire house by the blast of siren and horn; but very soon fire calls will be flashed directly to the fire fighters' homes by means of a Plectron home alerting system.

Waldwick is a member of the Northwest Bergen Mutual Aid Association which was organized in 1959. This includes 13 departments, one paid and twelve volunteer. Waldwick's Fire Prevention Bureau inspects business and industry for compliance with the National Fire Prevention Code, and is empowered to enforce this code under borough ordinance.

Today all emergency calls for fire, ambulance, or police aid go through Police Headquarters in the Municipal Building, which is manned around the clock. As recently as 1950, however, there was no police headquarters and no regular police force. Ten marshals, part-time workers paid by the hour, were on duty when available, and all calls for assistance had to be routed through County Police Headquarters. The borough's police car could receive messages but could not transmit them. In 1951 a professional force of two full-time men and two part-time "specials" was established, and three of its original members continue to lead the force: Chief Pat Pratico, Captain Francis McGrogan, and Lieutenant George Bunning. Serving under them are a Sergeant and six Patrolmen, one of whom doubles as a Detective.

The Police Department equipment includes two patrol cars, both equipped with two-way radio, a surveillance car, radar control for speeding and a photo lab and fingerprint bureau. Before assignment every member of the force must take a twelve-week basic training course at County or State Police schools, and the men also take advanced courses at Bergen County Police Academy. Each man must shoot at least 30 rounds a week at the Police Department's pistol range in Borough Park. As a testimony to their proficiency, Waldwick's police team has consistently been tops in pistol competition in this area.

Waldwick's public safety agencies work in close cooperation. For example, in case of traffic accidents, the Fire Department's emergency truck is at the disposal of the Police Department. Every member of the police force is also a member of WALVAC, the American Legion Volunteer Ambulance Corps, manned by thirty active volunteers.

In earlier days each of the police marshals also played the role of sanitary inspector when on active duty. In those days Waldwick had its own Board of Health and operated out of the homes of its officials. Since 1957



WALDWICK MUNICIPAL BUILDING

*Photograph by Patrolman Dan Lupo  
Waldwick Police Department*

the borough has been a member of the Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission, which also serves Midland Park, Franklin Lakes, and Upper Saddle River. The Health Commission compiles the borough's vital statistics, conducts regular laboratory tests of milk and water, tracts down contamination in cases of food poisoning, supervises septic tank installation and ground water drainage, is responsible for mosquito and rodent control and conducts an annual rabies clinic. It also conducts a Child Health Conference twice a month which provides physical examinations and immunization for pre-school children. In 1963 some 5,000 citizens of Waldwick attended the Health Commission's Sabine vaccine clinic.

In 1955 a Recreation Department was established by the Borough Council. Its facilities include the borough pool, 38 acres of beautifully wooded land in Borough Park, and 17 additional acres of play space owned or leased elsewhere in town. Each summer about 750 children receive swimming lessons at the pool and 800 attend the department's playground program. A series of concerts by the Fire Department Band is also sponsored by the Recreation Department. During the winter months there is an indoor recreation program at the schools for adults and a junior after-school basketball program. The ball diamonds at the Borough Park and the Waldwick Elementary School are also the site of extensive Little League activity sponsored by the Waldwick Baseball Association.

The borough's water is supplied by its own wells. Two of the six now in operation were dug since 1950 and two more are now in the process of preparation. To keep pace with the building and maintenance of Waldwick's expanding system of roads the borough has purchased since the mid 50's a front end loader for snow removal and dirt lifting, a back hoe, a road sweeper, a roller, a suction cleaning machine, a road grader, and three trucks.

## BUILDING, BUILDING, BUILDING

It has been estimated that Waldwick gained almost half of its 43 miles of roads and some 80% of all its homes and business structures in the years following World War II.

In 1945 there were less than 700 homes in the Borough of Waldwick; by 1964 the number had risen to above 3,000.

During the 1940's the main shopping area was to be found along West Prospect Street between Franklin Turnpike and the railroad tracks. There were also a few stores on the west side of the tracks, but all of these shops together added up to only about a dozen, and all of them were small. In 1950 a dozen new stores were erected further east on Prospect Street directly across from the Municipal Building. And a few years later Waldwick had acquired its first supermarket, the Grand Union, at the corner of Franklin Turnpike and Wyckoff Avenue. The "Golden Block" with 13 more stores soon stretched north of Wyckoff Avenue along the Turnpike, and behind this Waldwick's first bank and a new and larger U. S. Post Office were erected.

The 1960's saw still further expansion of the commercial center: ShopRite built a large supermarket on the site of the old public school; Grand Union moved to new and larger quarters along Wyckoff Avenue in company with a strip of six other new stores; another six went up on Prospect Street to the east of the Municipal Building and the Library; and as this is written the foundations are being poured for still another group of stores on East Prospect Street.

Commercial and industrial development has also expanded north on Franklin Turnpike, and a pharmaceutical packaging plant and an indoor tennis club have inaugurated a new industrial park along Hopper Avenue.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Nearly 50 different organizations cater to the interests and needs of Waldwick's citizens including veteran, church, political, school, health, athletic, civic and business, and scouting groups.

In 1940 a Public Library had been established by the Waldwick Men's Community Club with quarters in the basement of the Waldwick Elementary School. In 1950 the Woman's Club of Waldwick undertook as its project "Expansion of the Facilities of the Public Library." The Borough Council set aside a piece of land beside the Municipal Building for a new library, and an appeal went out to all of the town's organizations for assistance in realizing this goal. Over the next five years a successful fund raising drive was completed; many offers of professional assistance were received, many local craftsmen offered donations of labor and materials, and the Borough Council set aside \$5,000 for library construction from its capital improvement fund. At a dedication ceremony in June 1956, Henry A. Spies, Borough Magistrate and President of the Library Board of Trustees, could sincerely state, "Your new library truly represents an effort contributed by virtually all members of our community."

During the first year of the new library's operation Mrs. Grace Sutherland, librarian, was assisted by seven women who served on a volunteer basis. Today the library staff includes two full-time, salaried assistant librarians. Over the past ten years the number of borrowers has risen from 1,200 to 4,100 and the number of books on hand from 9,000 to 15,000. In 1963-64 the shell for a new children's wing was contributed by the Waldwick Lions Club.

Since Miss Traphagen finished her account in 1954 both of Waldwick's churches have undergone some memorable changes. By 1960 the Methodist Church had constructed a new educational wing with seven classrooms and in addition had completely modernized its kitchen facilities. In 1962 a new organ was installed in the church and the chancel was renovated to resemble as closely as possible that in the historic original building.

In 1954 the first permanent pastor was installed at the First Reformed Church, and in 1957 a building program for a new church and Sunday School was inaugurated. The first services in this uniquely modern structure on Wyckoff Avenue were held on Christmas Eve in 1961. The First Reformed Church is now known as the Community Church of Waldwick.



WALDWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Photograph by Patrolman Dan Lupo  
Waldwick Police Department*

In 1961 the North Jersey Seventh Day Adventist School Center was completed on Wyckoff Avenue. This provides educational and recreational facilities for children in grades one through ten of that denomination from 25 surrounding towns.

Churches of all the major faiths and denominations are available to the borough's residents in the neighboring communities.

## AND ONCE AGAIN THE SCHOOLS

Waldwick is not only a rapidly growing town; it is a town of young families. For example the 1960 National Census showed the median age in Waldwick as just above 25 years of age as compared to 35 years in near by Ridgewood. 44% of all the people in Waldwick were under 18 years of age . . . a proportion matched by few other towns in the entire New York Metropolitan region. With 3.9 persons per family Waldwick was tied for first place as the town with the largest family size among the 70 municipalities of Bergen County in the year 1963.

Also in 1963 a local census taken by the Citizens Advisory Group to the Waldwick Board of Education showed that there were 5,154 children under the age of 18 in the borough.

A Teachers College, Columbia University Survey in 1951 had shown 541 Waldwick children attending public schools in all grades from kindergarten through high school. By 1963 this figure had jumped to 2,636 for an increase of over 400 per cent. 953 Waldwick children were attending parochial school, the majority of them at St. Luke's in neighboring Hohokus. 53 were attending other schools, and 1,512 Waldwick children were still of pre-school age.

Classes had been conducted on a split session schedule; from 1960 to 1963 space was rented at the Methodist and Reformed Churches to ease the strain. Inevitably the schools continue bursting at their seams as the Board of Education examines the means to a permanent solution of the elementary school problem.

In September of 1963 the most impressive structure in the borough's history was dedicated . . . the 2.6 million dollar Waldwick Junior-Senior High School. The first high school class will graduate in 1966 and at that time all of Waldwick's public school children will finally be contained within the town's own borders.

Here we end our brief history of Waldwick. We hope we have provided an insight to the past which will serve as a foundation for understanding the future growth and development of the community.



WALDWICK JR.-SR. HIGH SCHOOL

*Photograph by Patrolman Dan Lupo  
Pilot, Patrolman George Shedler  
Waldwick Police Department*





