



Seems Like Only Yesterday

Two years ago members of the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society began indexing back issues of the Millburn Item which are on microfilm at the Millburn Public Library as far back as 1930. Led by Liz Howe who was president of the Society at the time, and joined by Jenks Schachter and Bernadette Wagner, the task was begun. A large box of 3 x 5 file cards attests to the diligence of the three women, reading the old newspapers and culling from their columns the names and events of significance in the Township's past. Now that they have advanced as far as the issues early in 1935, Liz, Jenks and Bernadette are beginning to feel like authorities on the subject of Millburn in the Thirties. A half century is a long time to most of us, but those days may seem like only yesterday to some Thistle readers.

Millburn Township had a population of 8,548 in 1930, and the Item, for one, did not consider it a classless society. The Depression was felt here if we can believe the figures on relief assistance and unpaid taxes, but the pages of the Item describe debuts and horse shows and concerts that were surely the the activities of the well-to-do. This was the decade when FDR gave his "fireside chats", when the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped, when refrigerators and electric ranges were replacing ice boxes and wood stoves, and the Hartshorns were still a presence in town. In 1931 the round trip train fare to Newark was 35¢, to New York 65¢. At the A and P coffee was 25¢ a pound, top round 33¢ a pound, fresh carrots 6¢ a bunch, and Wheaties 10¢ a box. In 1935 Buick automobiles sold for \$795 and up, midwives still delivered Millburn babies, and there were tea rooms and millinery shops on Millburn Avenue. The mayor

threw out the ball at the opening game of the 1930 Lackawanna Baseball League at which the Millburn Blues met the Summit Red Legs at Taylor Park. The American Legion, the Sons of Italy, and the Boy Scouts marched in the pre-game parade.

A lot of things have changed since then but others seems to remain constant. Here are some excerpts from the indexed Items to let you judge for yourself.

January 23, 1930 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET SHOWS INCREASE OF \$26,000

"Millburn voters will be asked to sanction a budget of \$207,000 by the Board of Education at its annual meeting Tuesday evening . . . Major increases are teachers, incidentals, library and transportation."

February 5, 1931 TOWN CRIER

"That if the American Telephone executives living in Millburn Township were laid end to end they would reach from the municipal building to the high school.

That Stewart Hartshorn, grand old man of Short Hills, is a regular attendant at Saturday matinees at the Broad Street Theatre, Newark."

April 9, 1931 TRAFFIC LIGHT PLACED AT BAD CROSSING HERE

"Millburn motorists saw their first robot traffic signal. It was put in operation yesterday by State traffic engineers at the intersection of Hobart Avenue and Morris Turnpike, Short Hills. . . Efforts are continuing to get a traffic light at the intersection of Millburn and Wyoming Avenues."

April 9, 1931 WHITTINGHAM IS OPPOSED TO LIBRARY: "BREEDS REDS," HE SAYS

"As to this library question, I don't think we want a public library in Millburn. They are nothing but hot beds of anarchists and Communism." W.R. Whittingham, former president, declared at last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Trade.

'Go into any large city and you'll see these Reds sneaking out of the libraries with books under their arms. You stand there as a 100% American and wonder what this country is coming to.' Members present applauded."

July 2, 1931 MILLBURN MOVES TO BAR GANGSTER MOVIES IN THEATRE HERE

"The Millburn Township Committee has taken the initiative in barring gangster movies from the influence of Millburn youth as a result of the recent tragedy in Montclair in which a boy's death by shooting was traced directly to the bad example of this type of movie."

October 15, 1931 ANTI PROHIBITION MASS MEETING WEDNESDAY IN SUMMIT

"Plans have been completed for the mass meeting on Prohibition reform sponsored by the Short Hills and Summit committees of the Women's Organization for Prohibition Reform and the Crusaders . . . Crusaders are World War veterans who feel that Prohibition was 'put over' while they were overseas fighting for their country."

June 23, 1932 ENTIRE COMMUNITY MOURNS DR. CAMPBELL'S PASSING

Loss of Veteran Physician Keenly Felt by All Classes

"Since the death of Dr. Wellington Campbell last Friday, one of the most common topics of conversation among residents . . . has been the life - and more particularly the personal traits - of this physician who was often spoken of as the best known and most beloved citizen of the community . . . Dr. Campbell's childhood home is the mansion now known as the 'Chanticleer.' In the valley nearby was the paper mill which his father owned and operated. A water power mill on the same site had been owned by his grandfather."

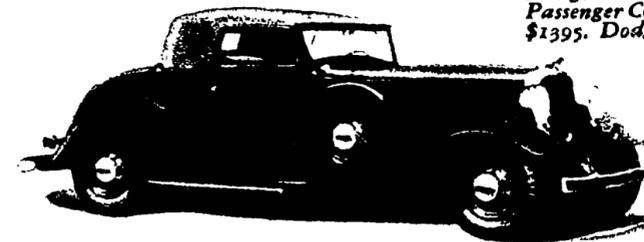
September 1, 1932 RELIEF TOTALS ANNOUNCED

"Up to August 1 emergency relief expenditures in Millburn Township had reached a total of \$20,956.56 of which sum the municipality has contributed \$11,688.23 and the state \$9,268.43."

March 10, 1933 BANK HOLIDAY EXTENDED, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT PROCLAIMS Moratorium is Indefinite, President Announces. Optimism Preserved

"Officials and patrons of the First National Bank of Millburn . . . are taking a cheerful and hopeful view of the unusual banking situation. During the holiday the local bank has been making change for customers, taking money for safekeeping but not for deposit, and answering numerous questions . . ."

Dodge "8": Coupe with Rumble Seat \$1115... Sedan \$1145... Five-Passenger Coupe \$1145... Convertible Coupe \$1185... Convertible Sedan \$1395. Dodge "6" \$595 to \$695. (All Prices F. O. B. Factory, Detroit).



DODGE "8"

WITH FLOATING POWER

An Aristocrat From Bumper to Bumper

April 21, 1933 EVERYTHING IN READINESS FOR CIRCUS GALA OF JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE TOMORROW NIGHT

"Members of the Short Hills Junior Service League report everything in readiness for their Gala Circus Party tomorrow night under the big top in the ballroom of the Community Center."

December 22, 1933 \$410,047 IN BACK TAXES SAYS LOCAL ASSOCIATION

"Millburn residents have a justifiable pride in their town; its hundreds of charming homes lend a suggestion of material well-being which perhaps lull us into a false sense of security and a natural feeling that a community in which prosperity seemingly abounds has no difficulty in collecting taxes . . . A study of our tax collection record, however, is not so reassuring . . . Let the figures for the past four years speak:

Year	Total Tax Levy	Collections to December 8, 1933	Uncollected taxes on Dec. 8, 1933
1930	\$854,658	\$851,423	\$ 3,235
1931	901,251	881,080	20,171
1932	934,668	820,571	114,097
1933	846,109	573,555	272,554

December 22, 1933 NEW RECREATION BUILDING FOR TAYLOR PARK APPROVED

"Work will probably start Friday morning on a small recreation building which will overlook the lake in Taylor Park. The Shade Tree Commission, under whose control the building will be constructed, has secured the approval of C.W.A. authorities for more than 6,000 man hours of labor to complete the project."

January 5, 1934 WATSON GREET'S NEW YEAR WITH FIRM OPTIMISM

Short Hills Resident, Business Leader Says Foundation Solid
 "The nation 'can face the immediate future with confidence that is built on solid foundations,' Thomas J. Watson, president of International Business Machines Corp., said this week in a New Year's message to the public. Mr. Watson is a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, president of the International Chamber of Commerce, and a world business leader."

January 26, 1934 BIRTH CONTROL MEETING

"The Short Hills and Summit committee of the New Jersey Birth Control League and interested friends met January 23 at Miss Cora Hartshorn's . . . Mrs. J.C.Luitweiler of Short Hills gave a lively account of the sessions of the National Birth Control Conference in Washington last week . . . the conference brought out forcefully the fact that the taxpayer foots the bill for unrestricted child-

bearing. \$5,000,000 was spent for relief in the United States last year which is more than was spent for the public schools . . ."

May 4, 1934 COMMUTERS GET NO NEW MORNING TRAINS

"Commuters to and from Short Hills were disappointed when the new train schedule went into effect to find that . . . there had been no change in service. At a meeting of the Short Hills Association announcement was made that assurance had been given of improved eastbound service in the morning, and Lackawanna officials were committed to betterment of service."

May 25, 1934 TWO HOMERS BY MILLBURN END SLUMP

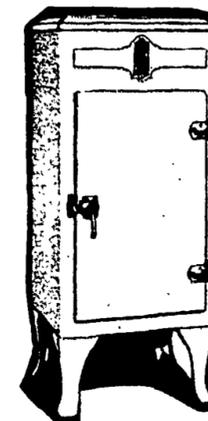
"After eight consecutive defeats Millburn High School suddenly snapped out of its slump and pounded a 5 - 3 victory over Westfield's baseball team last Friday at the High School stadium."

September 14, 1934 SEEK CLOTHING FOR NEEDY

"Millburn residents are asked to canvas wardrobes at this time to bring out all available clothes for the needy. The Neighborhood Association and the local ERA and relief authorities are cooperating in a drive to procure clothes for children and adults, and the need is urgent."

October 5, 1934 DEDICATE TABLET AT WASHINGTON ROCK

"A bronze tablet was dedicated Wednesday at Washington Rock by the Essex County Park Commission to commemorate the Battle of Springfield. Tradition places George Washington observing his troops there in 1780."



We urge comparison of the G-E Junior with any other flat-top refrigerator carrying a 1-Year Warranty. Prices as low as

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THANKS,
LIZ,
JENKS,
BERNADETTE!

SEEMS
LIKE
ONLY
YESTERDAY!

TRUSTEE COLE DIES - Society Trustee, C. James Coles, who died at Overlook Hospital on November 14, 1984, will be succeeded by his wife, Aline C. Coles. Jim was elected to the board of the Society only last spring, but he and Aline have been members for many years. Jim was a retired Army colonel who established Grapevine Antiques at the Old Bonnell House in Chatham in 1982. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Aline and their daughters.

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DURAND-HEDDEN RE-CAP - If you were unable to attend the Society's December tour of the Durand-Hedden House, we recommend that you go there on your own. As their brochure says: "Your visit will afford you a glimpse of American history from revolutionary times through the early years of the 20th century." The February quilt exhibit may interest you, or perhaps you would prefer to go in the spring when the bulbs, azaleas and rhododendron in the garden make a glorious show. The house and three other structures stand on 1-3/4 acres at 523 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood. Phone 763-7712.

The holiday tea in conjunction with our tour of the Durand-Hedden House was provided by our Society hospitality chairman, Peggy Denise. Here is the recipe for a delicious 18th century cake that she served.

GLAZED ORANGE CAKE

Rind of 1 orange, chopped	2 cups flour
1 cup golden raisins	1 tsp baking powder
1/2 cup butter	1/2 tsp salt
2 cups sugar	1 cup buttermilk
2 eggs, beaten	Orange juice for moistening
1 tsp vanilla extract	Brandy for flavoring

Combine the chopped orange rind and the raisins. Cream butter and 1 cup of the sugar. Add eggs, vanilla and chopped mixture. Sift dry ingredients and add to the blended mixture alternately with the buttermilk. Turn into a well-greased 9" square pan or two loaf pans. Bake at 350 for 30 or 40 minutes.

Moisten 1 cup sugar in orange juice and flavor with brandy. Spread sugar glaze on warm cake and "sizzle" with a red hot salamander. * If this utensil is not available, place cake briefly under the broiler until glaze sizzles. Slice into small squares and serve warm with herbed tea sprigged with orange mint.

* The salamander is the reptile in mythology that can go through fire unharmed; thus the 18th century name given to the glazing tool.

WHAT DO YOU THINK about the Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society? The Society wants to serve the interests of its membership and to involve them in its activities as well. To help the Society do so, won't you please complete and return the following questionnaire to Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society, P.O. Box 243, Short Hills, NJ 07078.

What are your particular historical interests?

_____ Antiques	_____ Local history
_____ Architecture	_____ Restoration/Preservation
_____ Genealogy	_____ Other

Do you have a collection of historical items? _____
 Would you be willing to speak about your collection at a Society meeting? _____

Do you have an area of particular historical interest about which you would write an article for the Thistle? _____

Would you be interested in serving on a committee of the Society? _____
 If so, please indicate one/s you prefer.

_____ Carriage House Tour	_____ Marketing
_____ Hospitality	_____ Oral History
_____ Indexing Millburn Item	_____ Publications

Do you approve of Society programs and activities as now offered? _____
 Any recommendations for improving them?

THANK YOU

CALENDAR

February - American History Month

February 9 and 10 - Quilt Exhibit. Durand-Hedden House, 523 Ridge-wood Road, Maplewood. 1 - 4 p.m. (763-7712)

February 19, 21-23 - Children's 18th Century Open Hearth Cooking Class for children 6 and older. Montclair Historical Society, 110 Orange Rd., Montclair. 9:30 a.m. (744-1796)

April 21 - Summit Historical Society Program. "A Sunday Stroll Down Kent Place Boulevard" led by Sandy Brown, architectural historian. 2:00 p.m.

Membership Chairman - Carol Webster 467-0840

Editor - Roldah Cameron 273-0943



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