

# **TOWNSHIP OF MATAWAN**

**1857 — 1957**

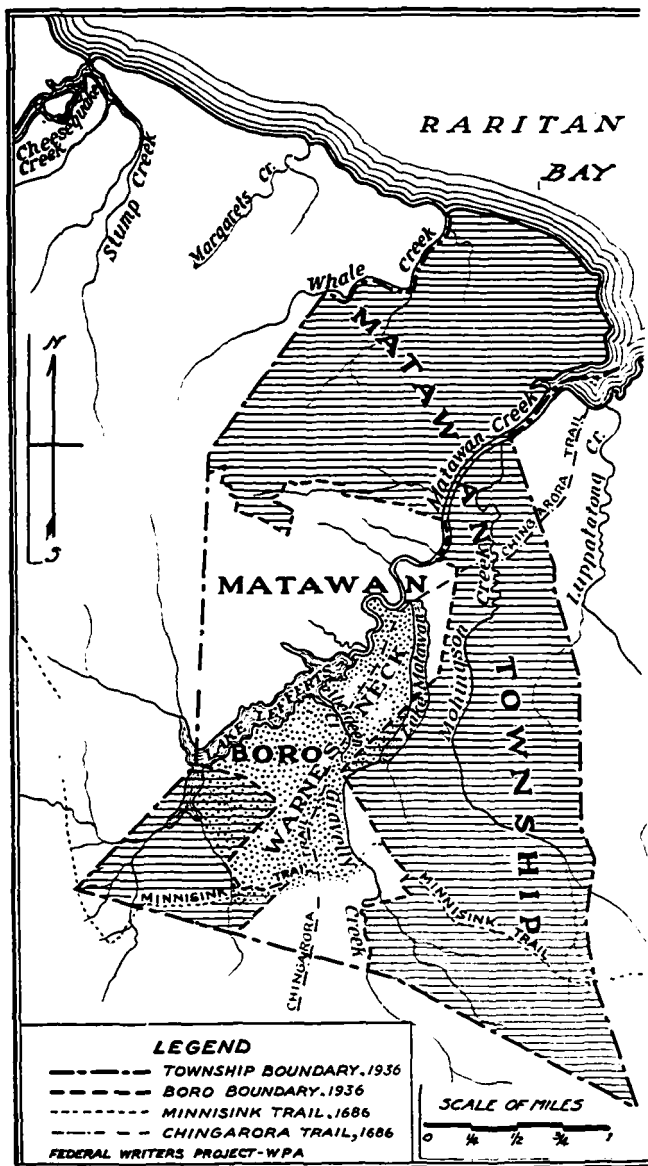
*Compiled By*

**MRS. FRANK TIEMANN**

*Published By*

**Matawan Township Centennial Celebration Committee**







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MAYOR JOHN MARZ, JR.





## HISTORY OF MATAWAN TOWNSHIP

### TOWNSHIP CREATED BY AN ACT IN 1857

Matawan Township was carved from Raritan Township on February 23, 1857. Originally it was called Matavan. The name Matawan was taken from Matawan Creek. Communities within the boundaries of Matawan Township include Cliffwood, Oak Shades, Genoa, Cliffwood Beach, Atlantic Avenue and River Gardens.

The extreme Northwest Township of Monmouth County, Matawan Township's West and Northwest boundaries are the County Line of Monmouth and Middlesex. On the Northeast it is bounded by Raritan Bay, on the East by the Townships of Raritan and Holmdel and on the South and Southwest by the Township of Marlboro. The only stream of any importance is Matawan Creek, which flows through the Township from the Southwest to its Northeast extremity where it enters Raritan Bay.

On a line nearly parallel with the general course of Matawan Creek, the Freehold and New York Railroad traverses the Township, connecting at Matawan Village with the New York and Long Branch Railroad, which crosses Matawan in a Southeasterly direction from the Middlesex line to that of Raritan Township.

Matawan Township was created by an Act passed in 1857 which also created the Township of Holmdel, both being formed of territory taken from the Township of Raritan.

The part of the Act having reference to Matawan Township states:

"Also, all that part of the Township of Raritan contained within the following boundaries and lines that is to say, beginning in the division line between the Townships of Marlboro and Raritan at the Northeast corner of said Township of Marlboro, near the house of Samuel Beers from thence running in a Northerly direction in a straight line to the intersection of the road leading from Beers Corner to Mount Pleasant, with the road leading from Brown's Point to Holmdel, thence north along the center of the last named road to the intersection of said road, with the road leading from Mechanicsville to the Middletown Point, and Keyport Plank Road, Northwesterly direction in a straight line to the North of Mohingson Creek, where it emptied into Matawan Creek, down the middle of the Creek where it empties into Raritan Bay and Middlesex to the Line of the Township of Marlboro, East on the division line between the Townships of Marlboro and Raritan to the place of beginning is set off from the Township of Raritan and made a separate Township to be called Matawan."

In 1857 when the Township of Matawan was formed the President of the United States was James Buchanan. He was the fifteenth president and served until 1861.

## FAMOUS INDIAN TRAIL IN TOWNSHIP

Before the white men came the Indians in New Jersey were the Delaware (Lenni Lenapes) Indians. The three main tribes were the Unami (Turtles), Unalachtos (Turkeys) and Minsi (Wolves) and they in turn were sub-divided into local families. These included the Navesinks, Assanpinks, Matas, Shackamaxous, Chicheguaas (Cheesequakes), Raritan, Nanticokes and Nariticongs. Some of these names were given to locations in this area and are still familiar today.

The famous Minnisink Trail is perpetuated as nearly as Indian Authorities can calculate by a pleasant rural road stretching across the Southern part of Matawan Borough and Matawan Township for four miles, East and West. This is the old path from the mountains to the sea.

The Trail passes through Freneau, where it forms the main intersection with U.S. 9. The section West of U.S. 9 is now known as Wilson Avenue, and on the East is the Mill Road, which continues to Crawfords Corner as Valley Drive and then as Dogtown Hill Road.

Avoiding the swamplands, the trail is a good example of Indian engineering. Several branches of Matawan Creek are crossed and points were selected that were shallow enough for easy fording.

From Crawfords Corner the route of the Indian Highway extends to Middletown and Navesink River. Indians bound for Southern points used a Trail from Matawan via Wickatunk to Freehold, where it joined the Burlington Path. There were branch Paths from Matawan to Seapeckameck (Keyport) and to Arewence (Cliffwood Beach). Another path ran to Machayis, near Marquis Creek, which is a variant of this name.

## ROLE OF RARITAN BAY IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

During the Revolutionary War Raritan Bay was crowded to capacity by British war ships at anchor, cargo-carrying ships and transports of the largest size, augmented by the almost daily arrival of swift rum, salt and sugar laden schooners from the West Indies and furrowed by the keels of countless enemy supply boats and tenders to which were added the confusion of about 150 small sloops and schooners and numberless barges and whale boats belonging to Tory traders of New Jersey, Staten Island and Long Island whose greedy owners had stooped to the lure of British gold and were selling their precious birth-right for a sorry mess of pottage.

It was this very heterogeny of men and vessels that gave the opening key of success to the three small flotillas of whale-boats, less than a score in all, that formed the striking arm for this new country.

These boats were especially built for tide-water operation by tide-water men. They were 26 to 30 feet, double ended, broad of beam and shallow of draft. Regular crews of fourteen to twenty-four iron-disciplined, machine-drilled men were always in

training. The smallest breach of discipline, the slightest indication of weakness or indecision was the signal for dismissal. Their battle cry was "There's fightin' blood in Monmouth boys, there's fightin' blood in Monmouth."

Their equipment was of the slightest. They were always stripped for action. The long oars were muffled with leather



British Fleet in Lower Bay in 1776. This fleet is what the Militia sailing from Browns Point dock had to sneak through to reach Long Island.

Picture Courtesy of John Mills

where they came in contact with tholepin or rulloek. They carried a few pike boat hooks and several grapnels. The larger boats mounted a swivel in the stern to discourage pursuit. The men had muskets or long duck-guns, but the chief reliance was on pistol and cutlass.

#### PHILIP FRENEAU AND REV. DR. CHARLES MCKNIGHT

In Matawan, or Middletown Point, the people were stirred by Philip Freneau, poet and editor, their neighbor, who voiced the spirit of the time in many ballads. For nine years leading up to the struggle, they also had been led and encouraged by a fearless Presbyterian Pastor, the Reverend Charles McKnight, whom they shared with the churches at Middletown and Shrewsbury.

When the Stamp Act was announced by the British Government, imposing heavy burdens, the Rev. Dr. McKnight assailed the measure boldly.

Dr. McKnight became a marked man among the Tories who clung to the Crown. These British soon became refugees under the bitter resentment of the people. Enlisting with the British in New York, the Monmouth Tories guided the foe in raids scourging every town they could reach. They pointed out the homes of patriot leaders for invasion and destruction, harrying,



*Philip Freneau*

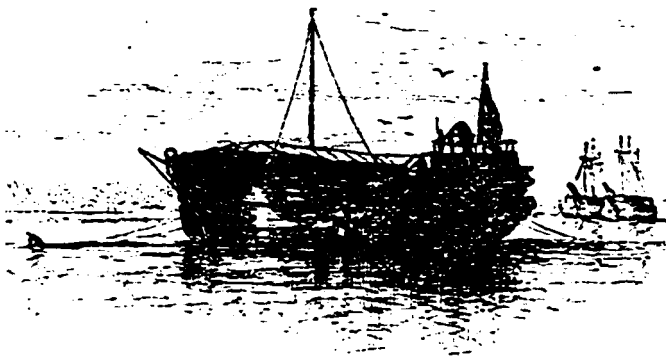
PHILLIP FRENEAU

burning, carrying off prisoners to die in prison hulks where disease lurked. Dr. McKnight was among the victims.

Carried off by soldiers, he was thrust into the notorious sugar house prison in New York. There, like thousands of others, he became ill. He was released too late to recover his health and died January 1, 1778. Friends found a grave for him in Old Trinity Church Yard, New York.

His church in Matawan was burned the same year. This act was laid to British troops who fell upon the town, burned its mills and warehouses, carried away several milita officers, fought with the Minute Men and fled when the country was aroused.

Freneau suffered too in the British prison, but he lived to strike back with his pen in scorching indictment of the inhuman treatment of American prisoners. He was sailing a supercargo of his own ship, *Aurora*, which was captured by the British in 1780. After confinement in a fever-ridden hulk, *Scorpion*, he



THE PRISON-SHIP "JERSEY."

Picture Courtesy of John Mills

Prison Ship and prison hospital hulks *Jersey*, *Scorpion* and *Hunter* in Gravesend Bay in the summer of 1778.

was sent to the *Hunter*, so-called hospital ship, at Brooklyn. Thousands of American prisoners died on the prison fleet of fifteen ships.

Freneau, denouncing the wanton cruelties laid upon the prisoners wrote:

"Better to sleep on ocean's oozy bed,  
At once destroyed and numbered with the dead,  
Than thus to perish in the face of day  
Where twice ten thousand deaths one death delay."

Freneau used the pen name, Robert Slender. After the Revolution he published the *Jersey Chronicle* at Mount Pleas-

ant in 1795-1796. He also published a volume of poems and the Monmouth County Almanac of 1795.

One night during a blizzard, Freneau left the Village of Freehold for his home two miles away. He fell into a ditch, broke his leg and died in the snow on December 18, 1832. He was eighty years old.

His grave is in one corner of the farm on the east side of U.S. 9 at the Southern end of Freneau, where he lived and had his printing press. In his honor the name Mount Pleasant was dropped and Freneau substituted in 1890 through the effort of Milton A. Fardon. The railroad station and the section are still called Freneau, although the land is within the limits of the Borough of Matawan.

#### OFFICIALS PAST AND PRESENT

(According to records available since 1916)  
Chairmen of Township Committee  
(Now Designated As Mayor)

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| January 1, 1916 to January 5, 1916 ..... | Thomas J. Sinnett |
| January 5, 1916 to January 1, 1917 ..... | Walter D. Brown   |
| January 1, 1917 to January 2, 1922 ..... | Thomas J. Sinnett |
| January 2, 1922 to January 1, 1923 ..... | Paul R. Dolan     |
| January 1, 1923 to January 1, 1934 ..... | Lewis H. Stemler  |
| January 1, 1934 to January 1, 1935 ..... | William Hyer, Sr. |
| January 1, 1935 - Present Mayor .....    | John Marz, Jr.    |

#### Township Committeemen

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| January 1, 1916 to January 1, 1934 ..... | Lewis H. Stemler   |
| January 1, 1916 to January 1, 1917 ..... | Walter D. Brown    |
| January 1, 1916 to June 6, 1922 .....    | Thomas J. Sinnett  |
| January 1, 1917 to January 1, 1923 ..... | Paul R. Dolan      |
| August 3, 1922 to April 2, 1931 .....    | James A. Powers    |
| January 1, 1923 to January 1, 1932 ..... | William C. Pengel  |
| April 2, 1931 to January 1, 1936 .....   | William Hyer, Sr.  |
| January 1, 1932 to June 25, 1945 .....   | Paul R. Dolan      |
| January 1, 1934 - incumbent .....        | John Marz, Jr.     |
| January 1, 1936 to January 1, 1947 ..... | John D. Kearns     |
| July 10, 1945 to January 1, 1947 .....   | Joseph McQuarrie   |
| January 1, 1947 - incumbent .....        | Stephen J. Kalieta |
| January 1, 1947 to January 1, 1950 ..... | William J. Regan   |
| January 1, 1950 - incumbent .....        | Salvatore F. Vena  |

#### TOWNSHIP CLERKS

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| January 1, 1916 to January 1, 1919 .....       | Daniel W. Martin       |
| January 1, 1919 to February 1, 1923 .....      | Stephen J. Sullivan    |
| February 1, 1923 to July 9, 1935 .....         | Ruth P. Sullivan       |
|  | Ruth P. Sullivan Mills |
| July 9, 1935 to January 1, 1936 .....          | James A. Powers        |
| January 1, 1936 to April 2, 1937 .....         | Rcymond F. Warnock     |
| April 2, 1937 to January 1, 1938 .....         | James Warnock, Jr.     |
| January 1, 1938 - Present Township Clerk ..... | Rose K. Wenzel         |

## TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

### TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS, BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS

The government of the Township of Matawan is entrusted to a Township Committee of three members who are elected for terms of three years. The present Township Committeemen are John Marz, Jr., Mayor, Stephen J. Kalieta and Salvatore F. Vena.

Mayor Marz was elected as a Committeeman in 1933 and served in that capacity from January 1, 1934 to 1935 when he was appointed Chairman of the Committee. He served as Chairman until 1952 when this office was officially given the title of Mayor.

Mayor Marz has served eight consecutive terms of three years each, and is continuing to serve the Township of Matawan with the same interest in the people and their requirements evidenced throughout his tenure of office.

Other elected officials include Rose K. Wenzel, Township Clerk; John B. Kenner, Assessor and Charles J. Kelly, Tax Collector. The following are appointive officers: Charles J. Kelly, Treasurer; Luther A. Foster, Municipal Magistrate; Ezra W. Karkus, Township Attorney; A. A. Captanian, M.D., Township Physician; Homer Matteson, Building Inspector and Ernest E. Hodgson, Public Works Superintendent.

### TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS

The Board of Health, composed of five members, is headed by John Marz, Jr., President. Charles R. Short is Health Inspector and William H. Collins, Registrar of Vital Statistics.

The Local Assistance Board has three members with Thomas J. Sinnett as Chairman and Mary A. Hyer, Welfare Director.

The Planning Board is composed of seven members of which three are Township officials and four are citizens appointed by the Mayor. Harold J. Dolan is Chairman.

The Matawan Township Sewerage Authority has five members appointed by the governing body. John Marz, Jr., is chairman.

The Recreation Commission was created in 1956 and consists of five members with Dr. Frederick C. Zobel as Chairman.

The safety and welfare of the community is safeguarded by a Police Department which was created in 1935. There is a force of five regular policemen, headed by Police Chief Adolph Menzel. J. Edgar Wilkinson is Police Captain. The department operates two radio-controlled cruiser cars to patrol the Township and there is a Police Reserve in case of emergency or disaster.

In the year 1929 a Volunteer Fire Department under municipal control was created by ordinance and the Department now consists of two companies, The Matawan Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1, Inc. and the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Co.

## Township Committeemen



SALVATORE VENA



STEVE KALIETA



## Township Officials



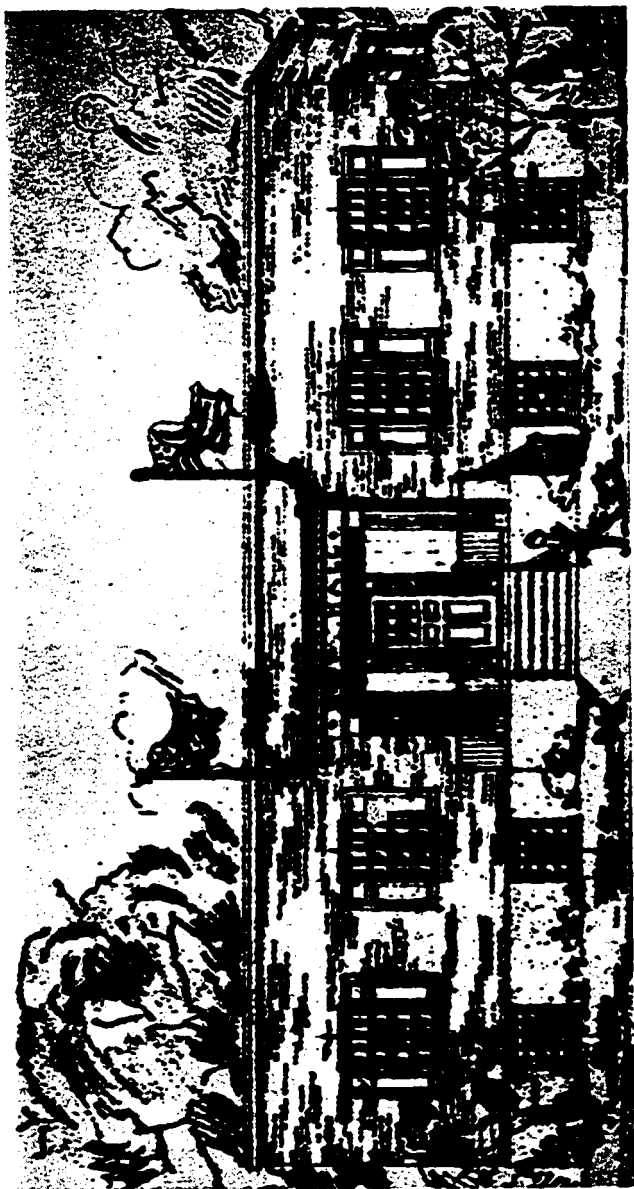
ROSE K. WENZEL  
*Township Clerk*



CHARLES J. KELLY  
*Tax Collector*



JOHN KENNER  
*Tax Assessor*



PROPOSED TOWNSHIP HALL

1, Inc. Alfred Pouzenc is Fire Chief of the Department. The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 2 was established in 1953 and Peter C. Vena is Chairman of the Board.

The health of the Township is protected by the Matawan Township First Aid & Rescue Squad, Inc., which was organized March 4, 1954 by Roy S. Matthews who is still serving as its President. Both the Fire Department and the Squad are assisted in their work by Ladies Auxiliaries.

A visiting nurse services the municipality, for a nominal fee, through the co-operation of the Matawan Public Health Association.

The Civil Defense Council was organized in 1951 to assist the community in time of air attack or any national emergency and to care for injured persons and damaged property. The Council has nine members, directed by Peter C. Vena, and is integrated with similar units throughout the State.

#### TOWNSHIP HALL, PRESENT AND PROPOSED

The present Matawan Township Hall, which is located at 93 Atlantic Avenue, Matawan, was built at the turn of the century in 1905 and is still used by the Township for meetings and offices and houses the Police Department. The small wooden building is proving too small for the business of the Township. Previous to 1905 the meetings of the Township of Matawan were held in a piano factory on Church Street, Matawan.

Plans have been drawn for a new municipal building with the completion date tentatively set for October. The proposed structure, which will be a one-and-one-half story unit, will be erected on Suydam Place and Lower Main Street. It will provide space for a meeting hall, police headquarters, jail cells and other municipal offices. Robert C. Edwards, Fair Haven, was retained by the Township to draw plans and specifications for the new Township Hall and funds have been set aside to construct the building.

A detailed census report was made by Township Assessor Benjamin Griggs, dated June 27, 1885, as follows:

|                           | Males | Females |
|---------------------------|-------|---------|
| Native white .....        | 1061  | 1136    |
| Irish .....               | 114   | 124     |
| German .....              | 46    | 33      |
| Colored .....             | 86    | 97      |
| Mixed nationalities ..... | 34    | 25      |
| Total .....               | 1341  | 1415    |
| Grand Total               | 2756  |         |

## CLIFFWOOD AND CLIFFWOOD BEACH

Two of the largest sections of the Township are Cliffwood and Cliffwood Beach. Cliffwood, East of Matawan Creek, was part of a thousand acre grant from the proprietors of East New Jersey to A. Bowne prior to 1685. In 1860 it was chosen for an abortive real estate development which included a dock and steamboat service on Raritan Bay to the North.

Cliffwood Beach once was called "Money Island," and is located on the shore line of Raritan Bay between Matawan Creek and Whale Creek. It includes a lake, which now is known as Treasure Lake, and according to a legend Captain Kidd buried a treasure near this spot.

Cliffwood Beach is one of the highest points on the Jersey Coast and from this area there is a beautiful view of New York across the Bay. This property, mostly wooded, was for many



TREASURE LAKE, CLIFFWOOD BEACH

years a favorite spot for camping, picnics and bathing and in winter for ice skating on the Lake.

In 1923 this entire tract of uncultivated land and woodland was purchased by the Cliffwood Beach Co., Inc., and a plan was made for laying out winding streets and dividing the property into lots. In April 1924, the first lots were sold to people looking for both country and seashore summer homes, or as a location for year-round homes.

Many improvements were made rapidly on the shore front. In 1924 jetties and bulkheads were built as well as a mile-long boardwalk, bathhouses and lockers.

In 1926 the Country Club was built near the Southerly end of the boardwalk at the edge of Treasure Lake with wide verandas and an esplanade on the opposite side of the boardwalk overlooking the Bay. The Cat 'n Fiddle Restaurant also was built in 1926 at the Northerly end of the boardwalk. It still is operated as a cocktail lounge.

Started in 1928 the Cliffwood Beach Pool was completed early in 1929. It still is known as one of the outstanding salt water swimming pools along the coast.

Two large concession buildings, one for refreshments and the other as an arcade and for skee ball and bowling, were erected in 1928. The next year a Recreation Park was built



CLIFFWOOD BEACH POOL

and included two miniature golf courses on the shore front, where the playground now is located, and in the area near the bathhouses and lockers were handball and tennis courts.

The hurricane in 1950 destroyed most of the boardwalk and washed away tons of earth from the cliff, which years ago extended more than five hundred feet further out into the Bay.

Cliffwood Beach built up rapidly. Many veterans of the wars and their families purchased homes as well as a large group of older people retired on pension. Small homes now cover what was originally a large farm owned by the Clark Estate before the development by Morrissey & Walker, Realtors.

Sea Cois, or summer cottages, were located across the road from the beach in long rows, and are occupied from June to September by city vacationers.

The Pirate Ship, a replica of an ancient pirate ship and a landmark in the area, originally was situated at Shore Concourse and Amboy Road. It was moved to its present site when Highway 35 was built.

#### CLIFFWOOD—AS I KNEW IT

*A thumbnail sketch by George Birch, Jr.*

Cliffwood originally was called Matavan and the point opposite Keyport, Matawan Point. Extending out into the bay at the foot of Cliffwood Avenue (I believe you now call it West Concourse) was a dock at which the steamboats from New York docked and discharged passengers and freight. Parts of the old dock were still visible a few years back, but now are covered by a sedge bar. At the top of the hill stood a large double house, once owned by a Mr. Chadwick. One side of the building had been a general store and there is where my parents moved from Keyport when I was three-years-old. My sister, Myrtle, now Mrs. William Sexton, was born there. With us lived Great Grandmother Van Pelt and Grandfather Van Pelt.

Henry L. Clark, an industrialist from New York, owned all along the beach and bay front from Matawan Creek to Whale Creek. The farm contained about 160 acres, including the meadow land and extended Southwest to the Martin Noonan line. My Grandfather told me that Mr. Clark named Cliffwood. He, with his family, used to spend the summers in Cliffwood. They lived in a large rambling house, since destroyed by fire, about where the present water tank stands. Mr. Clark coined the name from the cliffs on the North end and the woods. I never knew any of the Clarks, but did know their last three tenants. They were Mr. Klusendorf, Peter M. Barber and Robert Menzel. Mr. Menzel was the grandfather of your Chief of Police Dick Menzel.

My father, George Birch, Sr., had a paper route and picked up the papers at Cliffwood Station and peddled them in Keyport. As I grew older I helped him, especially on Sundays. I remember him starting out the day of the 1888 blizzard, using barrel staves for snow shoes, but he had to give up and return. Perhaps it was a good thing as the train never came through. I had a good time sleigh riding down the hills after the blizzard!

Coming up the hill, close to the beach, Dr. Henry B. Kent owned about four acres on the South side of West Concourse. It was mostly covered with large red cedars, where hundreds of robins nested in the Spring. This is the place my father and mother had as a picnic ground. They built a covered pavilion and stage. A three-piece orchestra provided the music for dancing Wednesday and Saturday nights. On Saturday nights they also had vaudeville acts. It was called Birch's Big Elm



SKETCH BY GEO. BIRCH

Tree Grove. My father named it for a large Elm tree, about five feet in diameter, which stood in the grove. He gave clam bakes, rented boats and bath houses. People used to come over from Keyport by boat when the tide was right for landing.

Dr. Kent erected a three-story frame hotel at the brow of the hill and called it, "The Cliffwood House." I still have a sketch of it. It was destroyed by fire sometime between 1875 and 1880 and people in trying to salvage the furniture tore the large doors off on the inside of the hotel. Some of them were stored in our barn. At one time the hotel was leased to two men by the names of Howe and Ponisi.

My father abandoned the grove in the late 1890s and rented Barber's Grove on the North bluff, along the Duck Pond, now called Treasure Lake. It had been called Duck Pond, because so many ducks used to light there.

Barber's Grove also was called "Money Island," because it had been reported that Capt. Kidd had buried treasure along the bank. It also was called Big Rock and Black Rock. When my father rented the grove, you could drive through the woods and at the narrowest part, it was over one hundred feet wide. The bank, due to the ravages of the sea, now has washed away. This grove was a great place for picnics.

We had a nice grove in the pines (I was in the business then,) boats and bathhouses for rent and a large closed-in pavilion for dancing. Sunday Schools held their outings there and the big day was the second Saturday in August, called Salt Water Day. People, especially the farmers, started coming in the middle of Friday night so as to pick a nice spot, rent a table and be already for Saturday. We ran this place for several years until Mr. Barber moved from the farm. Then Mr. Menzel built a pavilion and operated it with his sons.

Grandfather Van Pelt was a carpenter and builder. We built many houses in and around Cliffwood. Some are still standing. He, at one time, owned a farm along the railroad at Cliffwood Avenue and deeded gratis, the right-of-way to the New York and Long Branch Railroad. He and my Mother often told me how the Indians used to visit and stay at their home. They must have belonged to the Lenni-Lenapes Tribe. The Indians, when they moved to the seashore, used to camp on the banks near their home. I can remember the piles of oyster shells there. We boys used to hunt for and find lots of arrow heads, etc., when the ground was newly plowed. My Grandfather was a good hunter and taught me how to handle guns. I learned to shoot with a muzzle loader, and still have it. The old gun is in good shooting condition. The woods and fields at that time abounded in small game.

My Dad was a good swimmer and oarsman. He taught me how to row and swim and I often helped the Barbers and Menzels haul their seines along the shore. The Bay was a paradise, clean, no pollution, full of fish, clams, oysters, crabs



and I have seen my Grandfather pull lobsters out from under Black Rock, which only goes bare at extreme low tide.

I well remember at one time when large schooners used to go up Whale Creek, nearly to where Highway 35 is now located, and load brick from the brick yards and cart them to New York.

No story would be complete without mentioning some of the neighbors who lived down near the shore. There were only a few, the Barber family, Jane Scott family, the Dobsons and Wallaces, the last two were actors. I must also mention the little "yellow" schoolhouse where we learned the three Rs. I have a picture of it and doubt if there are many in existence. I also have a group picture of some of the children. Our teachers at different times were Margaret Winters, Edith Disbrow, Ada Poole and Stephen LeQuier.

### THE MATTESONS

*By Mrs. Alice Tiemann*

In 1925 Mr. Homer Matteson, a construction foreman for an industrial building firm, a brother and Mrs. Matteson's father erected a building on South Concourse, Cliffwood Beach where the Mattesons opened a delicatessen, grocery and general merchandise store on May 30th of that year and continued to operate



MATTY'S STORE

the store for 22 years as "Matty's." In 1947 the business was sold to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. James Burlew.

In an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Matteson, who are frequently referred to as "The Mattys," they said: "Oh yes, it was hard work, but we met so many nice people and there was so much activity all the time we were kept busy." They recalled that every Sunday for the last few years there was a band concert in the Esplanade, a covered pavilion extending out over the water from the boardwalk. There was dancing, under strict supervision, in the Country Club Casino on the Boardwalk overlooking Treasure Lake. On the beach young and old enjoyed the hand-ball courts, tennis courts, miniature golf and there was a well equipped children's playground. There was excellent bathing with a lifeguard on duty every day.

"The lifeguard made himself quite unpopular one day," the Mattesons said, "The weather was perfect for bathing and swimming and the water was crowded with happy vacationers when a shrill whistle and voice over the megaphone called all in the water to make for the beach with haste. The reason—a shark was spotted just off shore, but thanks to the alertness of the guard no one was harmed."

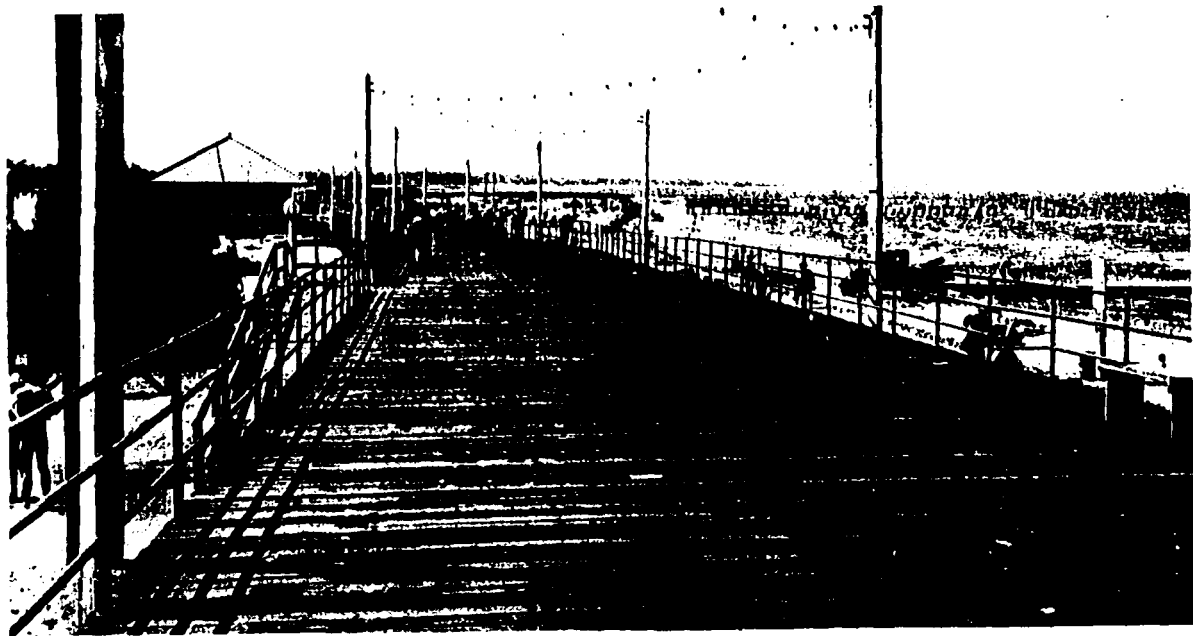
"One afternoon a group of boys came into the store and there were so many we wondered who this group could be. We found out when the adults arrived that the group was a Sea Scout Ship. They had crossed the Bay from Staten Island to camp on the shore under the cliff for a few days. They were a fine group and returned here for several years.

"Another time there was a bus load of boys from a school in Tennessee, who were returning home after a tour of the country East of the Mississippi River," they said. "They stopped at the Beach to eat and relax for a while. They were very interested in the legend of Captain Kidd, Money Island and Treasure Lake and they took many souvenirs and pictures of Cliffwood Beach home with them."

The Mattesons reminisced that there were some real cold winters in the early thirties and skaters from Matawan, Keyport and nearby places enjoyed skating day and night on Treasure Lake, or the Duck Pond as some called it.

"We used to make sandwiches and hot coffee for them to eat and drink around their bonfires," Mr. Matteson said and added, "There was one week in the early thirties when the temperature stayed at zero for several days. As I looked out of the window, I saw a wild doe standing at the corner of North and West Concourses. The bay was frozen solid from Cliffwood to Keyport and it was presumed that the doe had crossed over from Keyport in search of food as it had been reported that one was seen there also. I believe this was the last time a wild deer was seen in this part of Matawan Township."

"There have been many changes in Matawan Township in the past century," Mr. and Mrs. Matteson concluded, "and we



CLIFFWOOD BEACH BOARDWALK BEFORE HURRICANE DESTRUCTION

have seen many improvements. The township population has tripled since we came here thirty-two years ago."

"We must tell you about the baby parades on the Boardwalk. Here is one of the pictures we took of it and you can see for yourself, they were cute."



BABY PARADE

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#### SHARKS IN MATAWAN CREEK

A twelve-year-old boy, Lester Stilwell, was bitten by a shark in Matawan Creek near the old Propeller S.S. Wyckoff dock while bathing with friends on the afternoon of July 12, 1916. His body, badly mangled was recovered two days later.

Stanley Fischer, a young man seeking the body of the Stilwell boy, also was attacked and died a few hours later.

Shortage of food at sea was held responsible for the shark's presence in the Creek. There have been periodic shark scares since that time, but no one has been injured.

Matthews Fishing Station and Yacht or Boat Basin stands today near where the tragedies occurred.

## CHURCHES

### CLIFFWOOD COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH

Cliffwood M. E. Church, which has been officially renamed Cliffwood Community Methodist Church, is the oldest church in Matawan Township, having been organized in the early 1840s. The first meetings were held in a little schoolhouse within sight of the Cliffwood Station.

Later, as the congregation grew, meetings were held for a number of years in the Morristown School. When the decision was made to build a church, property was purchased from John Ivins and in 1854 the church was erected, very similar in design to the present church. The money to build the church was obtained by subscription and church festivals, with much of the labor for the actual construction of the building being contributed. Those credited with being most influential in bringing about the establishment of the church were Thomas Porter, Jefferson Rogers, Steven Bogardus, Mrs. Thomas Porter, Henry Young, D. H. McAlpin, William Hughes and Hendrick Van Cleef.



CLIFFWOOD COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH

During the pastorate of N. W. Wickward, the Cliffwood Church was struck by lightning and so seriously damaged that it practically had to be rebuilt. James H. Ward was in charge of the new building enterprise.

The parsonage was built at the time of J. B. Adam's pastorate in 1893. In a general way the Church has not been changed, but there have been many improvements, including new windows, pews, entrance and an adjoining Sunday School building.

A pipe organ was given to the church by St. James Methodist Church, of New Brunswick, through the effort of their pastor, the Rev. Harry S. Henck, who previously had served at the Cliffwood Church. The organ was dedicated October 27, 1940 with Rev. Albert L. Baner giving the address. Harold Weber was guest organist and the Matawan Men's Glee Club sang at the service.

During the pastorate of the Rev. E. Jay Amey, a church paper, "The Community Call," was started. Robin E. Van Cleef was the editor and remained in this position until 1953 when he became contributing editor while away at school. Miss Isabelle Ivins then was named editor and others assisting with the paper are Mrs. Robert Ward, Mrs. Elmer Hammond and Mrs. Harry Van Cleef.

Robin E. Van Cleef, son of Mrs. Harry Van Cleef, has gone forth from this church into full time Christian service and presently is serving the Greenville Methodist Church, Greenville, New Jersey.

The Rev. Richard A. Yaussy, the present pastor, came to the church in 1955. Other pastors who have served this church since the middle of the nineteenth century are:

|                  |           |                           |           |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| J. T. Price      | 1867-1869 | L. L. Hand                | 1909-1910 |
| R. B. Sutcliffe  | 1870-1871 | Jos. Moore                | 1910-1911 |
| Jos. Garrison    | 1872-1873 | Wm. A. Cobb               | 1911-1912 |
| L. A. Beamore    | 1874-1875 | Rowland Hill              | 1913-     |
| W. W. Moffett    | 1876-1877 | Mr. Carhart               | 1913-     |
| G. C. Maddock    | 1878-1880 | Edward Sterling Boyer     | 1914-1915 |
| J. G. Crate      | 1881-     | Oliver Cromwell Bowne     | 1916-1918 |
| L. O. Manchester | 1882-1883 | Ira J. B. Hill            | 1918-1919 |
| H. G. Williams   | 1884-1885 | Frank Gunson - Dr. Muller | 1920-     |
| J. Stiles        | 1886-     | Jacob S. Smallwood        | 1921-1922 |
| H. S. Gascoyne   | 1887-     | Harry S. Henck            | 1923-1924 |
| G. W. Pine       | 1888-     | Harry D. Hummer           | 1925-1926 |
| B. O. Hill       | 1889-     | Herbert W. Sanders        | 1927-1928 |
| W. C. McBray     | 1890-1891 | Harold Knappenberger      | 1929-     |
| E. C. Peterson   | 1892-     | Elwood C. Hoey            | 1930-1931 |
| J. B. Adams      | 1893-1894 | Franklin Bowen            | 1932-1934 |
| G. C. Poolton    | 1895-1897 | Edward D. Hyrne           | 1935-1941 |
| B. F. Sheppard   | 1898-     | William E. Webster        | 1941-     |
| N. W. Wickward   | 1899-     | Paul S. Williams          | 1942-     |
| M. R. Eastlack   | 1900-1901 | Joseph E. Uncle           | 1943-1949 |
| H. L. Burkett    | 1902-1903 | E. Jay Amey               | 1950-1951 |
| C. M. Johnson    | 1904-     | Robert H. Irwin           | 1952-1953 |
| J. N. Brown      | 1905-1906 | Charles S. Gray           | 1953-     |
| H. J. Root       | 1907-1908 | John F. Fleischman        | 1954-1955 |
| John J. Neighbor | 1908-1909 |                           |           |



ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

There is no Roman Catholic Church in Matawan Township and persons of Catholic faith worship in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Keyport, on the Matawan-Keyport Road just beyond the Matawan Township boundary.

St. Joseph's was organized prior to 1854. Two acres of land were purchased in Keyport and the Church was affiliated with the Diocese of New York. The Rev. John Kelly, of South Amboy, was the priest in charge for more than 20 years. Under his pastorate the first church was erected and later an addition was added.

In 1850 services were held in a public hall in Middletown Point, now Matawan. The services were attended by residents from Matawan Township, Matawan Borough, Keyport, Madison Township and Morganville. The Rev. Patrick McCarthy was the first priest.

Father Kelly earned a place in Catholic history of Monmouth County for successful efforts in church buildings in Red Bank, Long Branch, Keyport and South Amboy and also for missions in Asbury Park, Highlands, Sea Bright and Sandy Hook. He was called the St. Paul of New Jersey and died in February 1891, in St. Mary's Rectory, South Amboy.

The present Church was erected in 1879, the former Church being used as a school until 1928. The new building was dedicated on June 27, 1879. A new school was built in 1928 and the capacity of the school has been enlarged greatly in recent years.

The Rev. Patrick McGovern served St. Joseph's from 1876 to 1877 and was succeeded by the Rev. A. G. Spiering. The Rev. Michael O'Donnell served the pastorate for thirty-three years and died February 3, 1923. In 1923, the Rev. Joseph P. Linnane became St. Joseph's priest and during his pastorate the parochial school and convent were built and the rectory and Church cemetery improved. The Rev. John P. Burke, who took charge of the parish after the death of Father Linnane in 1929, built a new rectory. The Rev. Cornelius J. Kane now is in charge of the parish and during his pastorate the size of the school has been expanded.

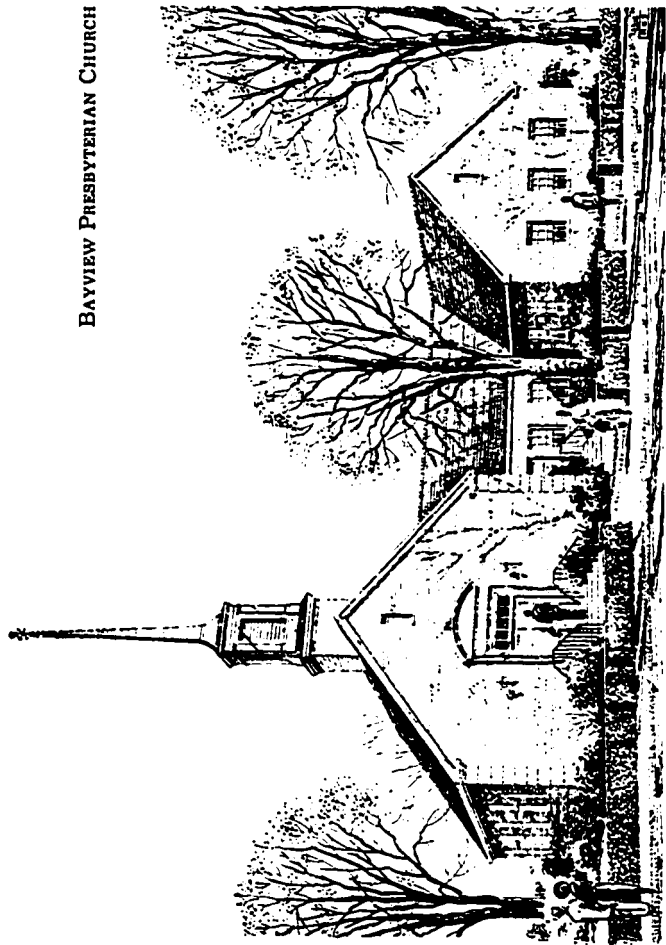


### BAYVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In 1948 under the Rev. Thomas Wilson's supervision a canvass was made by Herbert Smith for funds to buy land and build a Presbyterian Church in Cliffwood Beach overlooking Raritan Bay. He and his committee set out to raise funds going



BAYVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



from door-to-door, but there were few homes and they realized only enough to purchase the four lots on West Concourse and Greenwood Avenue.

The Rev. Mr. Wilson was called to another pastorate in Arkansas and the Presbytery assigned the Rev. R. Douglas Merriam to Cliffwood Beach to organize a Presbyterian Church.

The covenant was signed March 21, 1950 in the Civic Building and on October 14, 1950 the cornerstone was put in place. In May 1950, a meeting was called at the Manse on Woodmere Drive, and a finance committee was appointed to canvass for funds for a church. The committee included Mrs. Alice M. Tiemann, chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Grabow, co-chairman; Mrs.



BAYVIEW CHURCH CORNER STONE LAYING

June Sutton, secretary; Ernest Hubbard, treasurer; Mrs. Nellie Rieth, Miss Shirley Rieth, Miss Florence Watts, Myndert Bonnema and Robert Hummer.

After an extensive campaign \$8000 was collected or pledged and with the Presbytery assisting, ground breaking exercises were held July 1, 1950. Several ministers and Congressman James C. Auchincloss officiated at the ceremony.

Charles Ashe, chairman of the Building Committee, supervised the volunteer labor after the exterior of the church was finished. The electric wiring, heat, plastering, flooring, painting and all the interior work was done by members and friends of the Church. The Ladies Aid Society, now called the Catherine Close Circle, was instrumental in furnishing the kitchen.

Mrs. Emily Walk donated a brass altar cross and two candlesticks in 1951 in memory of her son, daughter and husband.

There are sixty-six charter members of the church. Mrs. Walk, the oldest charter member, celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday on May 18, 1956.

The Rev. Merriam accepted a pastorate in Clinton Presbyterian Church in 1952. The Rev. O. Bell Close, of Cliffwood Beach, filled the pulpit until the Rev. William Lehr, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, was ordained and installed in July 1953.

In October 1955, the Rev. Frances Osterstock, also a graduate of Princeton Seminary, was installed by the Presbytery of Monmouth as pastor of Bayview Church.

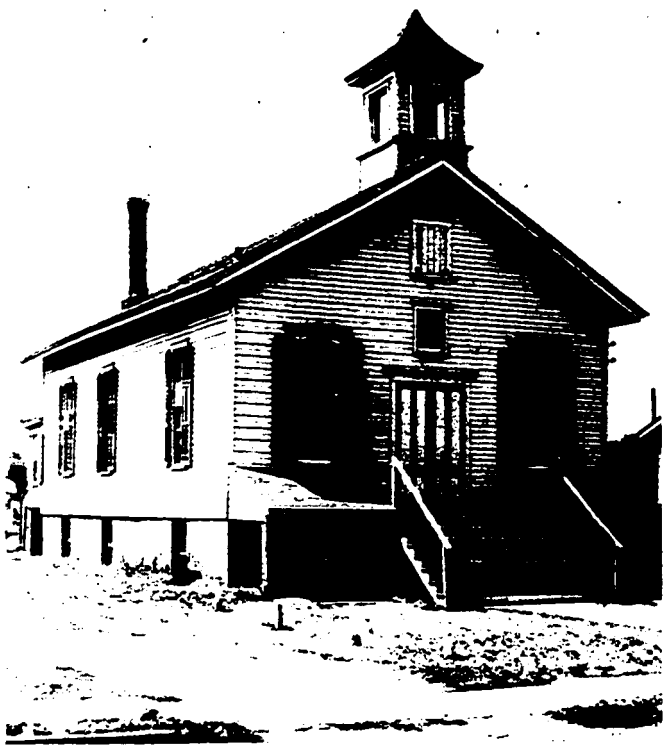
On March 1, 1957 the Manse was completed by members volunteering their services and it now is being occupied by the pastor and his wife.

There are 151 members of the Church.

The Women's Association of the Church provided a substantial amount toward the purchase of an organ which was installed in June and will be dedicated in July.



SCOUT TROOP SPONSORED BY BAYVIEW CHURCH



ST. JAMES A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

#### **ST. JAMES AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was formed in 1843 at a meeting held in the home of Mrs. Matilda Conover. Subsequent meetings led to the decision to build a church which was erected in 1851 on Atlantic Avenue. The Rev. Pinder is the pastor.

●

#### **PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Providence Baptist Church, Cliffwood, was organized at the home of Mrs. George Smith in Cliffwood. Plans for building a church were formulated at this meeting and construction was started. In 1927 Providence Baptist Church filed incorporation papers at the Bureau of Records in Freehold, N. J. The Rev. B. B. Burgess was the first pastor.

Progress of the church has been steady, but slow, until recently under the leadership of the Rev. J. C. Bentley and the officials of the church, R. A. Bethune, chairman, and H. M. Fleming, secretary. Providence Church is located on Third Avenue, Cliffwood, off Cliffwood Avenue and near Highway 35.

●

#### **ST. MARKS A.M.E. ZION CHURCH**

St. Marks African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was organized in 1921 by Edward Wortham. Church services were first held in a tent. Later a wooden structure was built and this was used for ten years before it was replaced by the present cinder block church building and the parsonage located on Delaware and Bayview Avenues, Cliffwood.

The pastor is the Rev. J. T. Goode and there are approximately 50 members. The officers and members of the Board of Trustees include Philip Gumbs, president; Charles Wynn, vice president; Otis Washington, secretary; Nathaniel Johnson, treasurer; James Hughes and James Richardson.

●

#### **MT. MORIAH CHURCH**

Mt. Moriah Church is located on Center Street, Cliffwood. The Rev. James Carter is pastor.



CLIFFWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## SCHOOLS

The public school system of Matawan Township dates from 1895 when it was established under an Act of the Legislature in 1894 providing for the consolidation of all school districts in townships, boroughs, towns or cities. In the 1800s schools were classified as Districts and the Cliffwood school was Number 45.

The present members of the Matawan Township Board of Education are William McGraw, president; Karl Schneck, Robert Bentley, Harold Dolan, Walter Swanson, Mrs. Hilda Tomasello, Mrs. Ethel Boyle, and Roy Matthews. At present one vacancy exists on the nine-member Board. The Secretary to the Board is Harry Troller.

Russell A. G. Stetler is the supervising principal of the schools in Matawan Township school district.

Matawan High School was built in 1924 at a cost of \$175,000. It was erected on an eight-acre plot at Broad and South Streets in the borough. Of Georgian architecture, it is a two and one-half story brick structure. Luther A. Foster is the high school principal. In the 1956-57 school year there were 540 high school students and 28 teachers.

The Cliffwood Elementary School on Cliffwood Avenue had an enrollment of 767 in the 1955-57 school year. There are 13 classrooms in the Cliffwood school, 25 teachers and the principal is Anthony J. Nuccio. This is the only school in the Township section and it stands on the site of one of the old district schools. Originally a wooden structure, brick additions were made in 1912 when two rooms were added and in 1922 when four rooms were added.

At the present time, because of overcrowded conditions, the entire Cliffwood school is on two sessions per day. Grades one through seven are in the Cliffwood School, but the eighth grade presently is housed in Matawan High School. There also are 22 elementary pupils from the Township, excluding the eighth grade, attending the Matawan Elementary School.





MATAWAN HIGH SCHOOL



## POLICE DEPARTMENT



ADOLPH MENZEL  
*Chief*



J. EDGAR WILKINSON  
*Captain*

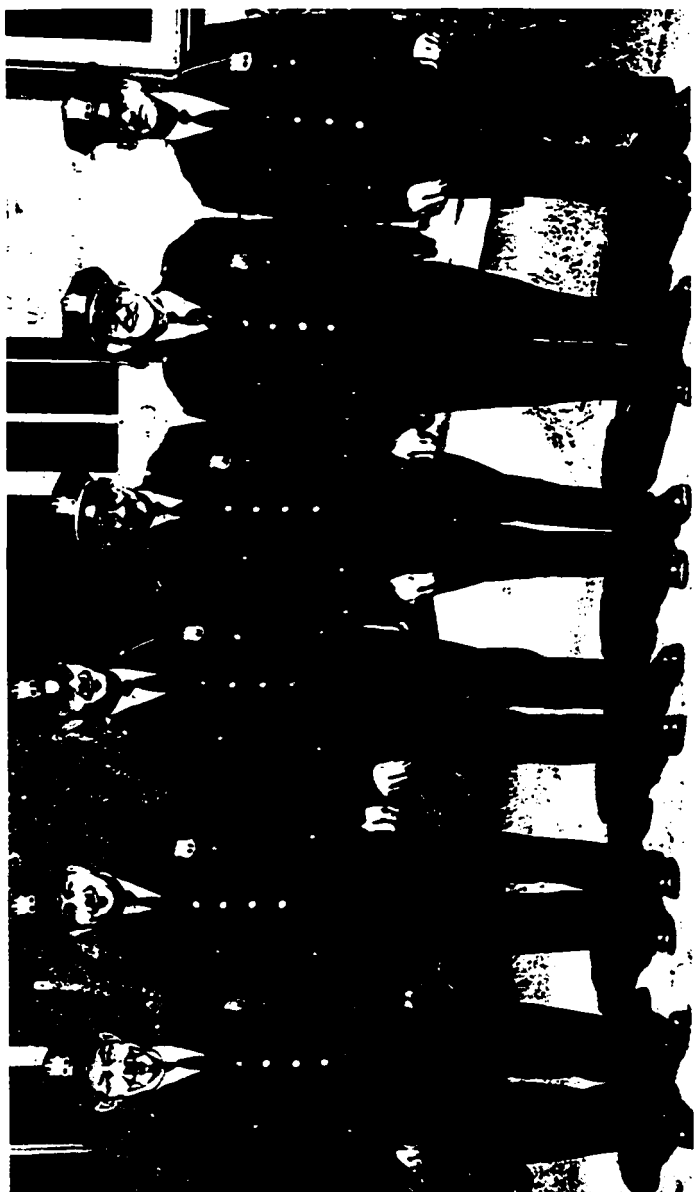
The regular Police Department was organized in Matawan Township in 1935. Thomas F. Powers was appointed chief on January 1, 1936. In January 1935, Adolph Menzel and William Furey were appointed "First Grade Patrolmen." Patrolman Furey died August 9, 1937, and Charles Ariano was appointed patrolman in 1938.

The two-man police force worked 12 hours a day without a day off until 1939 when J. Edgar Wilkinson was named special officer and was assigned to duty weekends to allow the regulars a day off. In 1942 Special Officer Wilkinson was placed on regular duty and the force began working an eight-hour tour of duty.

Chief Powers served in the United States Navy from December 17, 1942, until April 4, 1946, and during that period Thomas Sinnett was appointed acting chief. On March 20, 1947 Chief Powers resigned and Mr. Menzel was appointed chief on April 3, 1947, and Mr. Wilkinson, captain.

At the present time the police department consists of the chief, captain, four patrolmen and 45 special police.

Prior to the organization of the regular Police Department, Mr. Menzel was appointed Special Officer on April 2, 1925. He was assigned to traffic duty on weekends and holidays



and was paid at the rate of two dollars per day, a day consisting of 12 to 14 hours. Mr. Menzel was named captain in 1927 at an extra salary of \$200 a year and served on that basis until 1935.

The first traffic light in the Township was erected in 1923 at the intersection of Cliffwood Avenue and Highway 35.

The Matawan Township Special Police Association was organized in 1953 by John Armitage, Jr. The members give eight hours patrol duty to the Township each month. The Association meets regularly and some of the members belong to the Monmouth County Police Reserves Association. The first officers of the Township Association were Ralph Coward, president; William Meier, vice president; Raymond Grosholz, Sr., recording and corresponding secretary; Edward Anderson, secretary; Thomas Anderson, treasurer; John Armitage, Jr., captain; Samuel Gumbs, sergeant-at-arms; John Ruff, Jesse Hummer and Kenneth Schneider, trustees.

| POPULATION IN THE TOWNSHIP |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| YEAR                       | POPULATION |
| 1920 .....                 | 1856       |
| 1930 .....                 | 2496       |
| 1940 .....                 | 2633       |
| 1950 .....                 | 3888       |
| 1956 .....                 | 6360       |



#### MATAWAN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Left to right: Patrolman, Charles Ariano; Patrolman John Kinnane; Patrolman Ralph Wallace; Chief Adophe Menzel; Captain J. Edgar Wilkinson; Patrolman Frank Cherney.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Matawan Township Volunteer Fire Department under municipal control was created by ordinance in 1929 and consists of two companies, the Matawan Township Hose & Chemical Co. No. 1, Inc., organized in 1918, and the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1, Inc., organized in 1927.

### MATAWAN TOWNSHIP HOSE & CHEMICAL Co. No. 1, INC.

For many years the residents of the Oak Shades section of the Township discussed the need of additional fire fighting equipment in their immediate vicinity, but no concerted action was taken until December 3, 1918, when Thomas E. Kearney spear-headed a drive to organize a fire fighting company.

With the United States involved in World War I, and the nearby Morgan disaster fresh in their minds, a group of civic-minded citizens met in Mr. Kearney's work shop on Maple Place (then known as Mott Street) and proceeded to organize under the name of the Oak Shades Fire Company, No. 1. The company was to be self-supporting until such time as the Township of Matawan was in a position to aid with finances.

The charter members, L. Arose, Thomas Martin, William Whalen, George Whalen, Steven Sullivan, James Short, Charles A. Ariano and Thomas E. Kearney, elected the following officers: Thomas Furey, president; Thomas E. Kearney, vice president; George Whalen, secretary and Steven Sullivan, treasurer.

The enthusiasm of the members and the co-operation of the community is reflected in the fact that during the following month, January 1919, a lot had been purchased on Lower Main Street and a firehouse erected.

In November 1922, the Company purchased its first motorized equipment, Seagrave pumper, from the City of Long Branch, N. J.

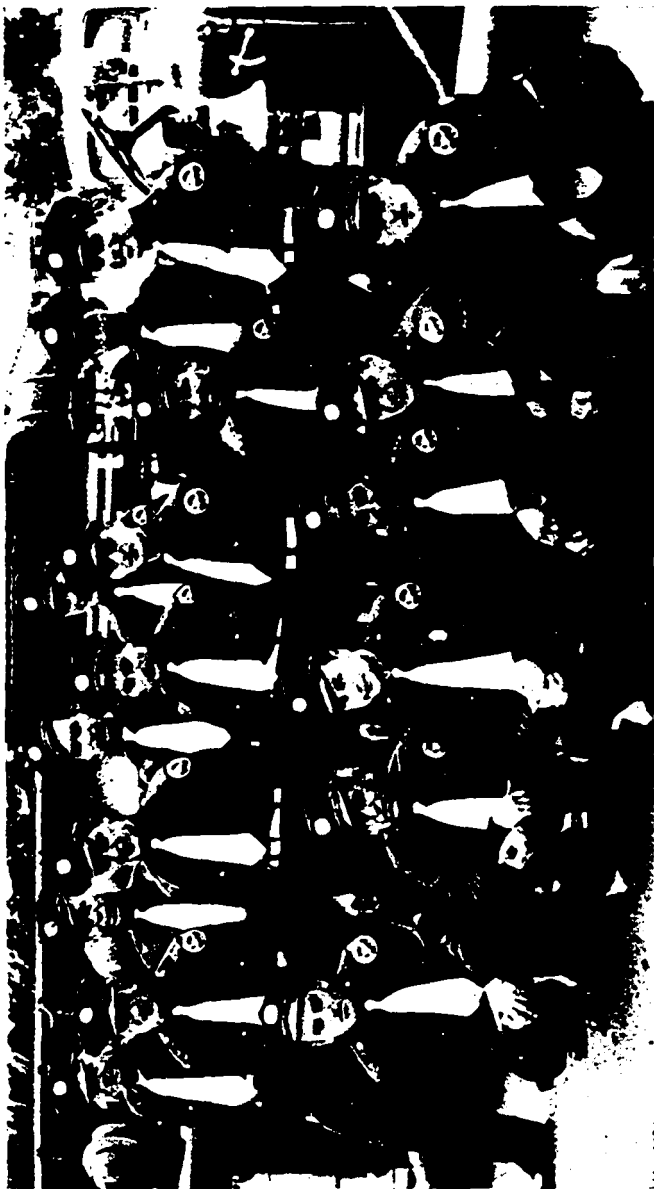
On December 6, 1928, the Company was officially recognized and accepted for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

Housed in the new firehouse on Lower Main Street, built by the members in 1951, is a 1955 Ford, 750 gallon Hale pumper, and a 1933 Schacht, 500 gallon pumper.

The present officers are:

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| President .....           | Louis Varca        |
| Vice President .....      | Nicholas Longette  |
| Secretary .....           | Anniel Gargiulo    |
| Treasurer .....           | Samuel DellaPietro |
| Financial Secretary ..... | Thomas Falco       |

An organization's worth can easily be weighed by what it does for its members and the community and the Matawan



MATAWAN TOWNSHIP HOSE & CHEMICAL CO. NO. 1, INC. — TAKEN — ?

Township Hose & Chemical Co., No. 1 (Oak Shades Fire Company No. 1) has devoted almost 40 years to the protection of life and property in Matawan Township.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Matawan Township Hose & Chemical Co., No. 1, Inc. was organized in 1932 and assisted in raising funds to purchase fire fighting equipment. They also completely equipped the kitchen in the firehouse at a cost of \$500.

#### LADIES AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary met in the old firehouse and in the homes of members at which time they planned dinners and fund raising events.

Due to the fire, which burned the original firehouse, all records of the Auxiliary were lost or destroyed. The first president was Mrs. Emma Arose and Mrs. Frank Weber was the first secretary.

#### CLIFFWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE CO., No. 1

During the early part of 1927 a member of the Matawan Township Committee and residents of Cliffwood held a meeting to plan for the formation of a fire company. On March 31, 1927, the first regular meeting of the newly formed company was held at the Cliffwood School. Michael Collins was chosen acting chairman of the meeting and regular officers were elected for the following year.

The new Company then purchased a one-ton Dodge-Graham truck with a 150 gallon pumping apparatus, 80 gallon booster tank and 500 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose. The apparatus was housed in Tom Ryan's garage. Mr. Ryan was one of the first men to actively work to start the fire company.

June 14, 1927 the company was incorporated and adopted the official title of Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Co., No. 1, Inc. A



CLIFFWOOD VOL. FIRE CO. No. 1 — 1927

*"Hizzoner," Mayor Marz — standing second from left*

firehouse was badly needed and through a very kind offer from Mr. Ryan a plot of ground was obtained. An exempt fireman from New York, George Craigen, owner of Craigen Brick Co., at Cliffwood, donated brick for the firehouse. A capable Building Committee was named and with the co-operation of Homer Matteson, a contractor, the building soon was underway.

Work on the new building was under the supervision of Charles W. Davidson, a Keyport contractor. The firehouse was completed July 1, 1928, and a dedication dinner and dance was held July 18, 1928. The dinner was in charge of the Ladies Auxiliary of the fire company, which was organized early in 1928, and members were Mrs. John Marz, Sr., Mrs. Fred Kortenhau, Mrs. John Smith, Mrs. Harvey Stillwaggon, Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Charles Metting, Mrs. Samuel Dilks, Mrs. Christine Ziegler, Mrs. Anne C. Johnson, Mrs. John Kearns, Mrs. Anne Fischer, Mrs. Jane Clark, Mrs. A. Krammer, Mrs. Watson Barber, Mrs. Augustus Heuser, Mrs. Homer Matteson, Miss Nellie Collins, Miss Martha Marz, Miss Mary Powers, Miss Loni Martens, Miss Catherine Stillwaggon, Mrs. W. Martens and Mrs. James Waters.

The Auxiliary proved to be an important addition to the company and has sponsored many successful social affairs and given financial assistance to the company.

Early in 1947 the Ladies Auxiliary had a re-organization meeting and assisted the fire company in a plan to raise funds to pay off their debts and purchase needed equipment. At the end of 1947 the company decided to buy an additional piece of fire fighting equipment and to conserve money, purchased a Ford chassis on which was installed a 500 gallon pumper, 300 gallon booster tank, plus additional equipment. This truck also was painted white, which had been adopted as the standard color for the company equipment. Both trucks are equipped with two-way radios.

*The present officers of the Ladies Auxiliary are:*

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| President .....           | Mrs. Thomas Vena     |
| Vice President .....      | Mrs. Betty Brzezniak |
| Recording Secretary ..... | Mrs. Norman Wood     |
| Treasurer .....           | Mrs. Ethel Boyle     |
| Financial Secretary ..... | Mrs. John Nicholson  |
| Property Clerk .....      | Mrs. John Bunger     |

The first fire alarm was a railway iron tire, which was placed on the Regan property at Highway 35. Later Eagle Hose Co., Keyport, loaned the company a bell which was used for many years. As the need for a modern fire alarm system developed a fire alarm committee was appointed consisting of Watson Stillwaggon and Dr. Thomas F. Powers. So successful was the committee in their fund campaign that early in 1934 a Gamewell alarm was installed on the 60-foot tower in the rear

of the firehouse. In 1950 the alarm system again was modernized by the installation of a remote control fire alarm box near the school and provision made for additional fire alarm boxes as needed.

In 1941 the company purchased from the Mack Truck Co. a 500 gallon pumper with a 300 gallon booster tank equipped with 200 feet of three-quarter inch booster hose and 1000 feet



CLIFFWOOD VOL. FIRE CO. No. 1 (1952)

of two and one-half inch hose. The truck was painted white.

The membership of the company, which had been closed for a number of years, was opened in 1940 and many new, young members were admitted. However, after the outbreak of World War II, many of the younger men left to serve their country and the fire company was left with practically a skeleton crew. With the aid of junior and auxiliary firemen they managed until the young men began returning from war service.

*The first officers of the fire company were:*

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| President .....           | Frederick W. Kortenhaus                             |
| Vice President .....      | Charles W. Bogart                                   |
| Recording Secretary ..... | James A. Powers                                     |
| Financial Secretary ..... | Rutledge P. Gulden                                  |
| Treasurer .....           | Michael Sayben                                      |
| Property Clerk .....      | John J. Cox   |
| Sergeant At Arms .....    | Frederick R. Hegeman                                |
| Trustees .....            | John D. Kearns<br>Lewis H. Stemler, Charles Metting |
| Foreman .....             | John Marz, Jr.                                      |
| First Assistant .....     | Wilbur Kuhns  |
| Second Assistant .....    | William Kearns                                      |



The Company is a member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Relief Association, the Monmouth County Firemen's Association, and observed its 25th anniversary celebration and parade in 1952.

#### CHARTER MEMBERS

Charles W. Bogart  
Ferdenound Christ  
Michael Cox  
John J. Cox  
William H. Collins  
Michael H. Collins  
Wallace Conklin  
Dennis Crowley  
Henry W. Dane  
George DePaul  
George Dunham  
Rutledge P. Gulden  
Edward Hussey  
Robert Hazlett  
Fred Hegeman  
Russell Ivins  
Stanley Johes  
Thomas Kane  
Harry Keller  
John D. Kearns  
William J. Kearns  
Frederick Kortenhaus  
Hyman Kramer  
Arthur Kuhns  
Wilbur Kuhns  
George LaBell  
Michael Lenggell

Gus Marz  
John Marz, Jr.  
Homer E. Matteson  
Mathew McBreen  
Edward Meinzer  
Adolph Menzel  
Charles Metting  
John Murphy  
Michael O'Hearn  
Bert Oswald  
Dr. Thomas F. Powers  
Joseph Regan  
William Regan, Sr.  
Anton Reinhardt  
Thomas H. Ryan  
Thomas Ryan, Jr.  
Frank Savitsky  
Michael Sayben  
Lewis H. Stemler  
Watson Stillwaggon  
Arthur Sulzman  
Vincent F. Tracy  
Peter C. Vena  
Thomas Vena  
Michael Wagner  
Joseph Wagner  
James J. Waters

#### MATAWAN TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEFS 1918—1957

Thomas E. Kearney  
Joseph Allocca  
John Marz, Jr.  
Joseph Ariano  
William Collins  
Charles Ariano  
John D. Kearns  
James Mauro  
John J. Cox  
John Di Santo  
Peter C. Vena  
Joseph Morgello  
Thomas Vena  
Sabato DellaPietro  
Martin Frey

Edward Smith  
Sebastiano Rizzo  
Stephen J. Kalieta  
Christian Ziegler  
Anthony Devino  
Frank Boyle, Jr.  
Anthony Granato  
Frederick Stringer  
Asperino Dalfonzo  
John Brzezniak  
Charles Stringer  
Samuel DellaPietro  
John Kenner  
Alfred Pouzenc  
(present Fire Chief)

#### THE REASON

"Why did Matawan Borough firemen break away from the Township?" Many times the question comes up.

One reason given is that the Matawan Fire Company, made up of volunteers, was called to a fire in Cliffwood. The Com-

pany had to pull the apparatus all the way by man power, secure water by suctioning from streams and lakes and by bucket brigades. On this Cliffwood call, the house was burned to the ground, but the Company after all their effort and good intentions expected a donation, which was customary, and the owner "refused to give them a dime."

This incident so angered the volunteers that they voted to break away from the Township. This occurred in 1876 at the time William Rodgers was the Fire Chief. Cliffwood and Oak Shades later formed their own companies of volunteer fire fighters.



In 1853 in the Village between Matawan and Whale Creek there were six houses. Where the drawbridge now stands a ferry crossing was operated by Clarke & Van Deven (or Van Derveer) to New York.



According to the United States census of 1880 the population of the Township was 2699.

## MATAWAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Matawan Borough and Township operate a joint library district with funds for the library appropriated by both municipalities and membership of the Board composed of members of the Borough and Township.

The main branch of the Matawan Free Public Library is housed in a quaint cottage on Main Street in the Borough, but a branch is operated in the Cliffwood Elementary School. Until 1954 a classroom was used for the branch library, but because of crowded conditions the library room was taken over for use as a classroom and now the library books are dispersed in classrooms throughout the school.



MATAWAN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

*The officers of the Library Board include:*

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| President .....      | Miss J. Mabel Brown      |
| Vice President ..... | Luther A. Foster         |
| Secretary .....      | Miss Eliza B. Arrowsmith |
| Treasurer .....      | Philip L. Neidlinger     |

Representatives from the Township on the Library Board are Mayor John Marz, Jr., ex-officio; Luther A. Foster and Mrs. Alice Tiemann.

The officers of the Library Board include:

Mrs. Mae B. Dominick is the librarian.

## ORGANIZATIONS

### GUADALCANAL POST 4745, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Guadalcanal Post 4745, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was mustered December 10, 1945. The purpose of the organization is fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen the comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of the deceased and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States and fidelity to its constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institution of American freedom and to preserve and defend the United States.

To be a member of this organization a person must have served honorably as an officer or enlisted man in the Armed Forces of the United States in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service shall be recognized as campaign-medal service and governed by the authorization of the award of a campaign badge by the Government of the United States.

Guadalcanal Post had its headquarters in Matawan until 1950 at which time it transferred to its present location in Cliffwood. Meetings were held for one year at the Cliffwood Civic Association building until the present Post Home on Hawthorne Street and Cliffwood Avenue was purchased in 1951. Plans are being made for the construction of a new modern Post Home at the present location to be used for the rehabilitation of veterans and for various community services.

Some of the Post's community services have included annual Christmas party for children; Hallowe'en parade and party for children; donations to various charitable organizations; donations of blood to Matawan Township Blood Bank; the recent formation of V.F.W. Junior Drum and Bugle Corps; use of Post Home for the Public Health clinics and meetings of the Brownies.

In 1953 Guadalcanal Post gave a Good Citizenship Award to the Cliffwood Civic Association for outstanding community service. In 1954, through the efforts of the Post, a plaque was presented to Billy O'Shea, of Cliffwood Beach, by the Sixth District V.F.W. for his outstanding work in entertaining hospitalized veterans.

A trophy was awarded by the Post in 1956 to the Monmouth County Champions of The Little League and a trophy also was awarded to the Cliffwood Indians for good sportsmanship throughout the season.

Roy Matthews, president of the Matawan Township First Aid and Rescue Squad, was awarded the Good Citizenship Citation in 1957 for his outstanding community service.

In the near future a Veterans Memorial Park will be dedicated to the memory of all veterans who gave their lives for their country.

## HONOR ROLL

ROBERTO A. JERRY R  
 WILLIAM M. COLLINS  
 ANTHONY P. DEAN  
 MICHAEL HENRY DAYTON  
 PHILIP ANDERSON  
 GEORGE BRIDGEMAN  
 SAMUEL DALE PIERCE  
 RICHARD J. HENNINGSEN  
 CHARLES PERRY WATTS  
 CHARLES H. STANLEY  
 CONNOR R. ROBERTS  
 JAMES J. HENNINGSEN  
 MICHAEL J. HENNINGSEN  
 STANLEY BRIDGEMAN  
 EDWARD BRIDGEMAN  
 WILLIAM M. BUTLAND  
 DONALD T. GREGORY  
 LEO MCCARTHY  
 RALPH MCNEIL

World War II  
1941 - 1945

The first of officers were:

The Past Commanders who have served Guadalcanal Post include Warren Van Cleif, Amos Stultz, deceased; Paul Dell, Michael Kidzus, Alfred Pouzenc, Joseph F. Lovero, Myndert Bonnema, Charles Candiloro and Robert Fletcher.

Newly elected Commander Frank Pagliaro and his staff of officers were installed April 27, 1957, at the Cliffwood Fire House.

The V.F.W. Junior Drum and Bugle Corps was formed in November 1956. The Corps participated in the Loyalty Day celebration held in Asbury Park on April 28, 1957.

The Drum and Bugle Corps committee includes Robert Fletcher, James F. Moffat, Joseph Lovero, Charles Hobby and Charles Candiloro.

Officers of the Corps are Miss Carol Vena, president; Miss Eileen Wolf, vice president; Miss Edith Ellison, secretary and Tony Gallo, sergeant-at-arms.

#### GUADALCANAL LADIES AUXILIARY

The Ladies Auxiliary to Guadalcanal Post 4745 was formed August 8, 1950, at the home of Mrs. LeRoy Umschied, assisted by Past District President, Mrs. Emily Levering, of Port Monmouth.

There were twenty five charter members and on October 1, 1950, the officers were installed in the Cliffwood Fire House.

#### *The first staff of officers were:*

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| President .....             | Mrs. Edna Umschied                        |
| Senior Vice President ..... | Mrs. Ethel Volpe                          |
| Junior Vice President ..... | Mrs. Michael Kidzus                       |
| Treasurer .....             | Mrs. Dorothy Haley                        |
| Chaplain .....              | Mrs. Alice Hausmann                       |
| Conductress .....           | Mrs. John Kelly                           |
| Guard .....                 | Mrs. Walter Iseman                        |
| Secretary .....             | Miss Angelina Guigliano                   |
| Color bearers .....         | Miss Jean Calamari                        |
|                             | Mrs. William Gratton, Mrs. Mildred Sanis, |
|                             | Mrs. Edward Cooper                        |

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Patriotic Instructor ..... | Mrs. Charles Maurer    |
| Flag bearer .....          | Mrs. Alfred Pouzenc    |
| Musician .....             | Mrs. Alida Chete       |
| Historian .....            | Mrs. Catherine Schwarz |

#### *The present officers, installed April 27, 1957, are:*

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| President .....             | Mrs. Joseph Bienkowski                 |
| Senior Vice President ..... | Mrs. Irene Meeham                      |
| Junior Vice President ..... | Mrs. Harry Kern                        |
| Treasurer .....             | Mrs. Raymond Grosholz                  |
| Chaplain .....              | Mrs. Elizabeth Hubert                  |
| Conductress .....           | Mrs. Ernest Schar                      |
| Guard .....                 | Mrs. Roberts Collins                   |
| Trustees .....              | Mrs. Bernard Dunne                     |
|                             | Mrs. Charles Hobby, Mrs. Joseph Lovero |

## THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER SPEAKS

*By Rev. R. D. Merriam*

Former Pastor Bayview Presbyterian Church

I am the Unknown Soldier. Today, from hundreds of pulpits, my sacrifice will be mentioned. This week, from hundreds of rostra, my praise will be extolled.

I am the Unknown Soldier. No mortal man can say my name. Here and there an aged, weeping mother believes I am her son. Here and there a bent and grey-haired father considers he once held me on his knee. But none can be sure, for I am unknown. In fact, there is no need that I be known because my name is legion. I did no more than thousands of other boys. I deserve no more recognition than they. We shared a bloody field together, we marched and ate and fired side by side. I am they, and they are me. What you say of me, you say of them. When I speak, I speak for them.

My buddy, Johnny, was a Canadian boy, with a gift for poetry. I recall these lines he wrote before his death early in 1918:

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below."

The din was terrible. Often I would rear up in my bunk at night and yearn for the quiet, peaceful farm where I lived, the hillside nearby where once I roamed. But now all was changed, and Jerry's shrapnel was bursting on every side, while death stalked grimly in its wake.

"We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields."

I loved my childhood companions. I loved my teachers in the school, my household pets and animals. One day a strange family came into our village, and what good times I had playing with Friedrich, who was almost exactly my own age! He spoke very poor English at first, and made everything he could into a guttural, as is done in his own native tongue, but he was such fun that all the gang idolized Friedrich. Then came the war in Europe, and Friedrich and his family suddenly became ostracized. We were in the last year of high school, and for a time it looked as though my friend would not be allowed to graduate. Men said: "The Kaiser's men are devils. We must go over there and bomb them into submission. We must kill their wives and children, cripple their industries. Then, and then only, will the world be safe for democracy."

At first this all sounded strange to me. I loved, and was loved. Hate, destruction — these things were alien to my experience. But as men talked, cold logic conquered my con-

science, and I became convinced that in one final stab of the sword, the sword could be sheathed forever.

"And now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

"Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields."

That's what Johnny wrote. I fought the harder. I fought to avenge his blood, poured out on the altar of democracy that bitter January day. Then one day I fell too. Jerry sniped me as I went to a buddy in distress — but I'd go again, I would, to try to help a pal. A cross went up on a sombre French slope: this time for me. Then came the Armistice, and bells rang out in wild acclaim that peace had come at last. Three years later my remains were taken from the friendly soil of France and placed in this hallowed spot overlooking the Potomac. I still remember those kindly words of our President, Warren Gamaliel Harding, spoken at the dedication of that huge tombstone which commemorates the noble deeds of not one boy but all of them who paid the price I paid:

"The name of him whose body lies here took flight with his imperishable soul. We know not whence he came, but only that his death marks him with the everlasting glory of an American who died for his country . . . We do not know the eminence of his birth, but we do know the glory of his death. He died for his country, and greater devotion hath no man than this. He died unquestioning, uncomplaining, with faith in his heart and hope on his lips that his country should triumph and its civilization survive."

I was very happy that day. I loved life, and I wanted to live, but if dying could mean the greater, fuller life for others, I was proud of my part in ushering it in. As the sun went down that evening, the footsteps of the sentinel, as he strode back and forth on the treadway, made sweet music to my ears and I remembered the joys of my childhood, which suddenly seemed real, sweet, and pure as never before.

The years sped by. Faster and faster went the wheels of industry, higher and higher went the spiral of prosperity. And then one ominous day in the fall I heard some visitors at Arlington say that the bubble had burst. I learned of the plight of children without bread, of soup lines, of wild shouts abroad when food trucks drove up to the square. I heard some professors saying that the ancient symbol of the swastika had taken on new meaning. Then one day the earth seemed to shake as an army marched into Poland. There was the outrage of Lidice, the shuddering tremble of Dunkerque, and I knew my country could not escape. Then on the day of rest, God's



sabbath, came the treacherous assault of Pearl Harbor, and all the world was at war. In that frightful hour, I realized that the war to end war was lost. I thought of the words of my English buddy, Geoffrey, which went something like this:

We are like a bunch of bullocks  
In a blarsted china shop,  
Bustin' everything to pieces  
'Cause we dunno 'ow to stop.  
Crumbling centuries of labor  
Into dust beneath our feet —  
And the one that does most damage  
Swears that victory is sweet.

The new war made ours look like a pigmy. And also rather silly. The cost of World War II (we will never know it fully) was \$400,000,000,000. Enough to provide a \$2,500 house, with \$1,000 worth of furniture and five acres of land, for every family in the United States, Canada, Australia, England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany, and Russia, with enough left over to provide a \$5,000,000 library and a \$10,000,000 university in every city of 20,000 people or more. That is only from the economic side.

What of the 30,000,000 human lives that were snuffed out? Not physical wrecks, weaklings, but the flower of our youth and young adults! How can their vigor, their enthusiasm ever be replaced? What of the maimed, the deranged, the living dead! That is only from the human side.

What of the deepest cost, the cost to our sonship with God. That, dear patriots, is the crucial price. It is not just the stink of the trenches with boys' brains all about. It is the nightmare of hatred and sin. It is the robbery of God's precious children, stamped with His image, bought with Christ's blood. Oh, I know we have glorified warfare, dressed it in robes of white, called it a holy thing. But is it, *really*?

"If God is thrilled by a battle cry,  
If He can bless the moaning fight,  
If when the trampling charge goes by  
God himself is the leading knight;  
If God laughs when the guns thunder,  
If He yells when the bullet sings —  
Then, bewildered, I but wonder  
God of Love can love such things!

"If you must kill me — why the lark,  
The hawthorn bud, and the corn?  
Why do the stars bedew the dark?  
Why is the blossom born?  
If I must kill you — why the kiss  
Which made you? There is no why!  
If it be true we were born for this —  
Merciless God, goodbye!"

As you lay the flowers on my grave, remember what war really is. "War is hell." Nothing less than hell, Satan's greatest triumph. War may be inevitable. It may be necessary. But it is never Christian. It is the Devil's own tool. You're starting a war when you clench your fist, when you hold a grudge, when you tell a lie. Then war is inevitable! But the open hand, the forgiven grievance, the proclaimed truth can conquer these inevitables. They can conquer war.

I am the Unknown Soldier. That I mind not at all. But if I am also the Unheeded Soldier, with Johnny, my buddy,

I "shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields."

## **MATAWAN TOWNSHIP HONORED DEAD**

### ***World War II***

ROBERT H. BENNETT  
WILLIAM T. GROSS  
GEORGE A. DURANTE  
CHARLES A. KALEDA  
JOHN J. SHORT  
WILLIAM F. STARKEY, JR.

### ***Korean War***

CHARLES P. MILLAR

## **GOLD STAR MOTHERS**

There are seven Gold Star Mothers in the Township and several are members of the Gold Star Chapter in Keansburg. Monmouth County honors the Gold Star Mothers at a dinner held annually in Asbury Park.

## **THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

The Civic Association, Inc., was instituted in 1922 and celebrated its 25th anniversary in the former Association building on West Concourse, Cliffwood Beach. The Association building was sold to a cleaning and dyeing concern in 1955.

The Association was instrumental in securing a traffic light on Highway 35 at Cliffwood Avenue. It also requested mail service through the Keyport Post Office and now rural type mail boxes line one side of the main roads all over Cliffwood Beach and mail delivery is made daily.

The Civic Building also was used for church services under the pastorate of the Rev. Thomas Wilson.

## CIVIL DEFENSE

The Matawan Township Civil Defense Council, organized in 1951, is composed of nine members under the direction of Peter C. Vena.

The Unit took part in its first alert, Operation Valentine, on February 14, 1953. The alert was sounded at 3 p.m. and all vehicles on Highway 35 stopped, the occupants remaining inside their cars and trucks as directed by the Township Civil Defense Police Squad, in charge of Deputy John Armitage, Jr. Wardens, in charge of Homer Matteson, were stationed at posts consisting of 35 families or homes.

At 3:15 p.m. the all clear sounded and communications, in charge of Deputy Peter Vena and Arthur Russell, were relayed to headquarters that the Civic Association, Inc., building had been hit. The Rescue Squad truck, loaded with stretchers, tags, first aid equipment, members of the squad, and Deputy of Welfare Mrs. Alice Tiemann, in the capacity of recorder and photographer, arrived at the scene at 3:17 p.m.

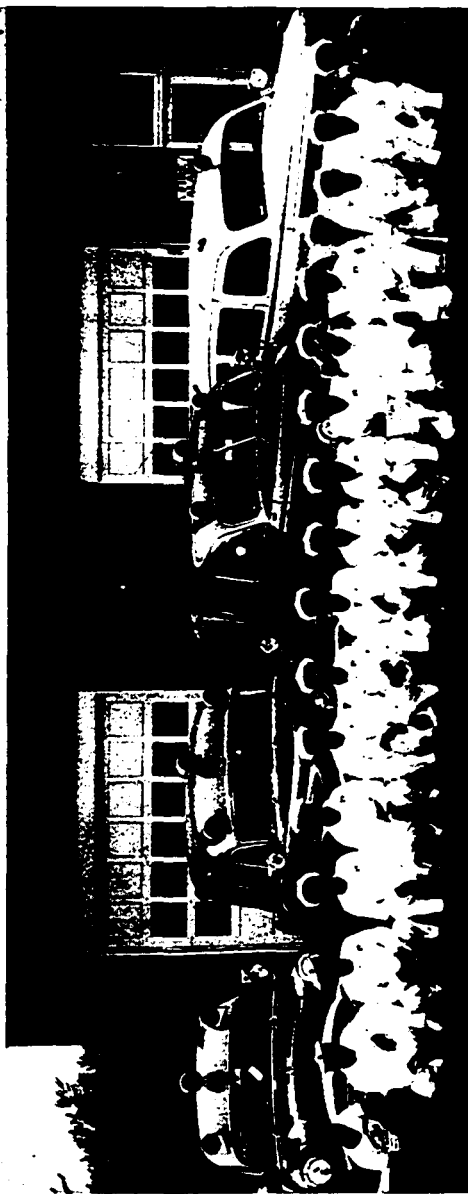
Fog had been pumped into the building to give the setting for the drill of fire and casualties. Robert Wallace, in full uniform and gas mask, entered the building with an assistant using foam spray to put out the fire and brought out the "acting" casualties. They were 15 teen-agers, all tagged as to the extent of their injuries by Assistant Director Roy Matthews, in charge of the Rescue Squad. They were placed on stretchers and taken in the squad truck, stationwagons and private cars to the First Aid Station, in charge of Mrs. Janet Schauffle, which was set up at Bayview Presbyterian Church. At 3:28 p.m. the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Co., in charge of Fire Chief Frederick Stringer and Capt. Frederick Wehrle, arrived and at 3:30 p.m. started fighting the "fire."

Area Director, Commander W. Walter Wynne, and Director John Kenner inspected the operation and Mr. Kenner was complimented on his staff by Commander Wynne, who said, "You have done a good job on your first alert."

The Welfare Committee, in charge of Deputy Tiemann, was divided into two sections; one group was stationed at Bayview Presbyterian Church and the other at headquarters at the Cliffwood Fire House, with Auxiliary members of the fire company assisting the committee in serving hot coffee.

Communications Deputy Peter Vena was assisted by Arthur Russell at the scene of the incident, with Mr. Vena and Walter Karniewski operating at Control Center and Anton Till, Matawan, operating Mobile at the scene of the incident. Arthur Wellbrook operated the First Aid Station in Bayview Church. The operation lasted for one hour.

CLIFFWOOD VOL



MATAWAN TOWNSHIP FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUAD SECOND ANNIVERSARY

## MATAWAN TOWNSHIP FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUAD

The Matawan Township First Aid and Rescue Squad started March 4, 1954, with \$150 capital and a 1931 LaSalle ambulance. Members purchased needed supplies with their personal funds.

The Squad now has three modern ambulances, fully equipped, and a boat. The LaSalle is used to carry heavy equipment such as stretchers, litters, pole climbing apparatus, ropes and tackle, crowbars, etc. Each ambulance is equipped with a two-way radio.

In addition to supplying first aid and ambulance service to the Township, members also answer fire calls. The Squad maintains a blood bank, available to any resident of the Township, at Monmouth Memorial Hospital, Long Branch.

A report on the first year's activities of the Squad showed 393 calls made, 1599.5 manhours contributed and 3134 miles traveled. There were 76 fire calls, 10 accident calls, 155 emergency transportations and 152 transportations. In addition many persons were loaned wheel chairs, canes, crutches, hospital beds and portable inhalators.



### SQUAD MAINTAINS BLOOD BANK

On March 10, 1954 the certificate of incorporation was signed and on October 5, 1955 the name of the Squad was officially changed from Matawan Township First Aid Squad to Matawan Township First Aid and Rescue Squad, Inc. The Squad owns property on Amboy Road and plans to build at this site in the future.

*The first officers of the Squad were:*

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| President .....      | Roy Matthews  |
| Vice President ..... | John Kenner   |
| Secretary .....      | Edward Cooper |
| Treasurer .....      | James Frost   |

Trustees ..... Peter Vena, Karl Schneck  
 Charles Maurer, George Morgan, Robert Savage  
 Peter Kucherek, Charles Eiflander  
 Captain ..... Karl Schneck  
 Assistant Captain ..... Robert Savage  
 First Lieutenant ..... Thomas Wheeler  
 Second Lieutenant ..... Charles Eiflander



**TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY HONORED FOR ASSISTANCE TO SQUAD**

#### **LADIES AUXILIARY**

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Matawan Township First Aid and Rescue Squad was organized April 26, 1954. There were fourteen charter members, Ellen Morgan, Ethel Boyle, Gloria Bunker, Jennie Cherny, Evelyn Kucharik, Florence Mauer, Dorothy Morris, Evelyn Smith, Leota Savage, Dolly Wheeler, Louise Cooper, Joan Thompson, Claire Taggart and Beatrice Schneck.

*The first officers were:*

President ..... Gloria Bunker  
 Vice President ..... Beatrice Schneck  
 Treasurer ..... Dolly Wheeler  
 Secretary ..... Leota Savage

Since organization, the Auxiliary has added eleven members, Marie Meeker, Carol Prisk, Betty Dilks, Claire Derechailo, Irene Drugas, Dorothy Bainton, Catherine Matthews, Jane Eiflander, Beatrice Sutton, Grace Ryer and Gladys Anderson.

In order to be an active member of the Auxiliary, a woman's husband must be an active member of the squad. The Auxiliary was formed to assist the Squad.

The Auxiliary has participated in parades, civic and social affairs of the Township, Hallowe'en parades and children's Christmas parties. On September 18, 1954, the Auxiliary won a trophy for having the most members in the line of march at the Matawan First Aid parade.

## CLIFFWOOD PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Cliffwood Parent-Teacher Association was formed in 1932 with a membership of more than 100. The Association observes its 25th anniversary in the centennial year of the Township. During that period of time it has expanded due to the increasing interest of the parents of the public school children.

The Association sponsors dances, parties and other forms of entertainment for the school children and it emphasizes the need for closer understanding between teachers and parents to improve the education of children.

For a period of time interest in the Cliffwood P-TA dwindled, but it was reactivated in 1946 when the following officers were elected:

The 1957-58 officers of the P-TA were installed at ceremonies conducted in the Cliffwood Elementary School. The new officers were installed by Mrs. Frank Yapps, vice president of the Monmouth County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. They are:

|                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| President .....               | Mrs. Edmond Bindel      |
| Vice President .....          | Mrs. Michael Collins    |
| Secretary .....               | Arnellon Hunt           |
| Treasurer .....               | George Meny             |
| President .....               | Mrs. Weldon P. Sams     |
| First Vice President .....    | Mrs. John Savitsky      |
| Second Vice President .....   | Mrs. Thomas Vena        |
| Recording Secretary .....     | Mrs. Samuel Dilks       |
| Corresponding Secretary ..... | Mrs. Henry Klein        |
| Treasurer .....               | Miss Antoinette Cerrato |

## BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts in Matawan started in November 1931, with Ira Shepard, of Freneau, a Newark school teacher, as scoutmaster and J. A. Rush, a teacher in Matawan High School, as his assistant.

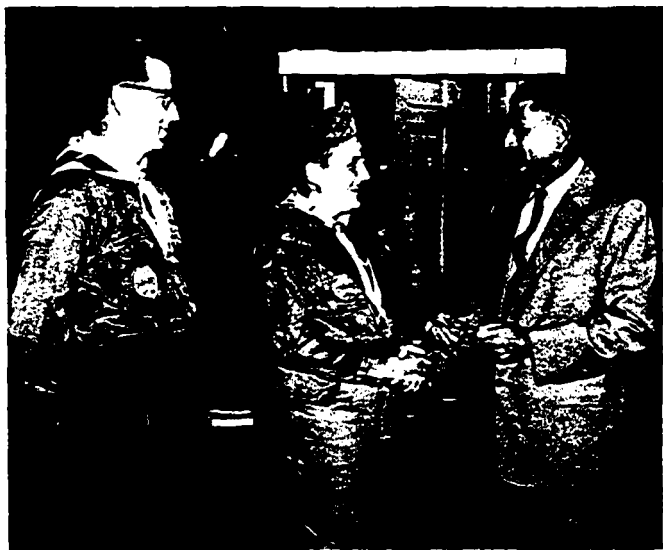
Boy Scout Troop 10, Cliffwood Beach, was started in 1951 by Bayview Presbyterian Church as one of the youth programs. Since the start of Troop 10 there have been a total of 401 boys registered.

Some of their activities have included assisting in National defense, taking a 15-week course in first aid under the direction of the Matawan Township First Aid and Rescue Squad, assisting the Church in all activities and also in helping Monmouth Council in constructing a new summer camp in New York State.

Two boys have received their "God and Country" awards.

The Scouts have attended at least seven camping trips a year, have made trips to Asbury Park for indoor swimming, to Keansburg for skating and numerous beach parties during the summer months.

At a Court of Honor held at Bayview Church by Troop 10, of which Willard Nye is scoutmaster, Roy Matthews, head of the Matawan Township First Aid and Rescue Squad, presented first aid certificates to 29 members of the Troop who completed the junior first aid course given by the Squad. Scoutmaster Nye



SCOUT RECEIVES FIRST AID CERTIFICATE

stated that as far as he knows this is the first time a Boy Scout Troop in Central Jersey has qualified so many members for merit badges in first aid. The American Red Cross approved the awarding of the certificates to the scouts.

The Troop also received a troop flag from Guadalcanal Post 4745, V.F.W., and an American flag from the Cliffwood Beach Men's Club. The Troop has the first 40-piece Boy Scout Band in Monmouth County.



## RARITAN BAY LIONS CLUB

Raritan Bay Lions Club was organized in 1951. Charter members of the Club include John Armitage, Jr., Henry L. Hendricks, Jr., Stephen J. Kalietta, John B. Kenner, Gus Marz, John Neilsen, Norman J. Currie, George M. Kurica, Edward Rapp, Giles M. Wiggins, Harold Dolan, George D. Fleming, LeRoy Erickson, Thomas Ferrante, Weldon P. Sams, Andrew Ulrichsen, Myndert Bonnema, Samuel Guisti, Charles J. Kelly, John Marz, Jr., Roy Matthews, William T. Regan, Paul Smalley, Salvatore F. Vena, James R. Burlew, William Hyer, Sr., Benjamin B. Lufburrow, Fred Wehrle, Fred Schein, Joseph Ferrante, John L. Claus, Philip Serpico, Harry May.

### WHO IS A LION?

He who achieves success lives well, laughs often, loves all  
human kind,  
Gains the respect of intelligent men  
And the love of little children,  
He fills his niche, does well his work  
And makes God's world a better place than it was  
By just a brighter flow a perfect poem,  
A human soul awakes to it own loveliness;  
He feels the glow of beauty in all life  
And never fails to voice his praise of it;  
He sees the best there is in fellow men.  
And gives to them the best there is in him;  
His life is one vast inspiration.

### THAT MAN IS A LION!



### KEYPORT LODGE No. 2030, B.P.O. ELKS

The institution of an Elks Lodge at Keyport has not been an easy task. Twice in the past few years strenuous efforts were made to no avail. On November 8, 1956, at Freehold Lodge, Walter Meseroll, D.D., tackled this task, assisted by Jack Glassford, William Thorne, Joseph Burns, Cecil Daley and Ernest Jemison. Arrangements were made with Mayor Charles E. Applegate, of Keyport, to use the Borough Hall for a temporary meeting place.

The first meeting was held on November 25, 1956. At the December 16th meeting William Burlew offered his restaurant on Highway 35 in Laurence Harbor as a meeting place. January 10, 1957 found potential members meeting at Burlew's and on January 17th temporary officers were elected: Benjamin

Kleinberg, chairman; Lawrence Beatty, secretary and Joseph O'Keefe, treasurer.

On March 14th the group received their greatest incentive in the form of a telegram saying, "Dispensation granted today Keyport Lodge 2030."

Dedicated to the purpose of helping their fellow man and to uplift all mankind to higher ideals, a group of ten men known as the Jolly Corks met one day in New York City in 1868. From this meeting, which took place on February 16th of that year, the organization known as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks emerged. At the present time there are over 1800 lodges in the United States with a membership of more than 1,200,000.

A charitable organization, Elks has contributed \$100,000,000 since 1880. The Order of Elks maintains a National Home in Bedford, Virginia, where 280 brothers are permanent residents. The treasury of the Elks National Foundation maintains a sum of \$4,500,000 with only the interest and earnings being spent for worth-while projects. A few of these projects are the Crippled Children's Rehabilitation, Scholarship and Student Awards, and Cerebral Palsy. The National Service Commission of Elks also is an integral part of Elkdom. Since 1946 their expenditures on such worth-while projects as a Veteran's Hospital Service Program, Fraternal Centers Program, Overseas Cigarette and Stationery Program have exceeded \$1,600,000.

*The first officers of the Keyport Lodge are:*

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Exalted Ruler .....                                | Benjamin Kleinberg            |
| Leading Knight .....                               | Joseph O'Keefe                |
| Loyal Knight .....                                 | Dr. F. W. Holman              |
| Lecturing Knight .....                             | John Armitage, Jr.            |
| Secretary .....                                    | Lawrence J. Beatty            |
| Treasurer .....                                    | Eugene Hulse                  |
| Tiler .....  | Francis Leonardis             |
| Inner Guard .....                                  | Joseph Gambino                |
| Esquire .....                                      | John Cecci                    |
| Chaplain .....                                     | Walter Vohdin                 |
| Organist .....                                     | William Schreiber             |
| Justice of the Subordinate Forum, Charles Morrison |                               |
| Trustees .....                                     | William Burlew, Harry Roberts |
| Edward Wierzebeski, Roy Matthews, John Roberts     |                               |

*Charter Members*

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| David R. Anderson    | Frank Becker          |
| John Armitage, Jr.   | Eugene A. Bedell      |
| Frank Atkinson       | Joseph J. Biczio      |
| John L. Bachman, Sr. | James Boland, Jr.     |
| John Bacho, Jr.      | Vincent S. Brand, Jr. |
| Carl Bachstadt       | Vincent S. Brand, Sr. |
| Ellsworth R. Barker  | Miguel L. Bravo       |
| Edward H. Bayles     | Alphonse Brusch       |
| Lawrence J. Beatty   | William C. Burlew     |

## CHARTER MEMBERS CONT.

William L. Burlew  
 Paul T. Cahill  
 Anthony Calazzo  
 Edward Carroll  
 Francis T. Caruso  
 Daniel Casey  
 John Cecci  
 Robert J. Chenoweth  
 John W. Cimboric  
 Dominick Collucci, Jr.  
 Anthony C. Dalfonzo  
 Edward Dingler  
 William Di Poalo  
 Frank J. Domino  
 F. E. Dymond  
 Lawrence A. Downey  
 John Mack  
 Kenneth W. Mackenzie  
 Bernard E. Maliszewski  
 George Mancini  
 Norman S. Mantz  
 Gerald Marlis  
 Roy Matthews  
 John W. Mehlenbeck  
 Thomas F. Miller  
 Victor R. Martins  
 Theodore Matthews  
 Aloysius McKeon  
 Alberto Montenero  
 Charles T. Morrison  
 David A. Murray, Sr.  
 John T. Nieland  
 Joseph A. O'Keefe  
 Patrick O'Reilly  
 William O'Shea, Sr.  
 Philip A. Paxton  
 Anthony Perise  
 John Petrucione  
 Joseph Pitrizzo  
 George J. Pouzenc  
 Paul Pouzenc  
 Harry S. Pozychi  
 Frank D. Prestage, Jr.  
 William A. Ralph  
 Vernon E. Ralph  
 John Reese  
 John H. Roberts  
 Harry F. Roberts  
 Emil C. Eggers  
 James L. Ellis  
 John Eulo  
 William Farber  
 Seymour A. Feinman  
 Thomas A. Finn  
 George D. Fleming  
 Allen Frenchman  
 Fred H. Fritsche

Milton J. Gale  
 Joseph Gambino  
 Isadore Garber  
 John T. Glacken, Sr.  
 Charles Z. Goldstein  
 Paul Griffith  
 Alfred T. Hennessy, Jr.  
 Francis W. Holman  
 Eugene R. Hulse  
 Albert Janwich  
 David L. Janwich  
 Harold W. Johnson  
 George S. Kapushy  
 Steven A. Kapushy  
 John B. Kenner  
 Wilbur Kilcomins  
 Benjamin Kleinberg  
 Charles O. Koenig  
 Julian I. Kubisiak  
 George Kurica  
 Harry P. Lang  
 Frank T. Leonardis  
 Jules A. Letts  
 Ted Lester Litwinski  
 Salvatore Lo Sapio  
 Lawrence C. Rossi  
 Richard E. Rowe  
 Paul W. Scherzer  
 William Schreiber  
 Charles F. Shlmak  
 William Siegel  
 Daniel Skoczypiec  
 George N. Smith  
 Herman Stein  
 Russell Stillwell  
 Jerome Stolz  
 Antonio Straniero  
 Theodore Strobel  
 Fred T. Suden  
 J. Frank Sullivan  
 William Thomas  
 George Torres, Jr.  
 John Trabachino  
 Frank Trivigno, Jr.  
 Fred Varlese  
 Lawrence Vecchio  
 Albert Venziak  
 Charles A. Vogel  
 Walter J. Vohdin  
 Edward A. Waluk  
 Joseph A. Waluk  
 Henry R. Way  
 George L. Wells  
 Edward J. Wierzebeski  
 Frank Wrobel  
 Stanley J. Zelehoski  
 Benjamin R. Zelinski  
 Edward J. Ziegler

## WOODMEN OF THE WORLD

White Oak Camp, No. 51, Keyport, was organized by Michael Dietrich, Keyport. The home office was in Omaha, Nebraska.

The charter to the Camp was issued March 24, 1908, and the following were officers:

|                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Counsel Commander .....  | George Smith                        |
| Advisor Lieutenant ..... | Phelps Cherry                       |
| Banker .....             | William Thompson                    |
| Secretary .....          | Michael Dietrich                    |
| Escort .....             | Samuel Wharton                      |
| Watchman .....           | George Mason                        |
| Secretary .....          | Louis Smeads                        |
| Auditors .....           | F. Palmer Armstrong                 |
|                          | William Wharton, William W. Conklin |
| Physician .....          | Dr. H. S. Cooley                    |

The organization engages in various types of charitable, patriotic, civic and other projects in Camp communities. History medals and certificates also are presented at the graduations in various schools.

After the death of Michael Dietrich, William Hyer, of Matawan, was duly elected as secretary and field man of this district and is credited with the growth of the Camp up to the present time.

Woodmen of the World, Life Insurance Society, is a legal reserve fraternal life insurance institution and has been operated for 67 years. Basic certificates provide permanent and total disability benefits, retirement income, cash surrender and loan values, extended and paid up insurance and other withdrawal equities.

Free hospitalization and treatment are provided for members with pulmonary tuberculosis.

### *The present officers of the Camp are:*

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Past Consul Commander .....  | Anthony DellaPietro         |
| Consul Commander .....       | Murray Bottari              |
| Advisor Lieutenant .....     | John Armitage, Jr.          |
| Banker .....                 | Attilo Comer                |
| Financial Secretary .....    | Herbert Hyer                |
| Escort .....                 | James Farrell               |
| Watchman .....               | Walter Truskowski           |
| Sentry .....                 | John DellaPietro            |
| Auditors .....               | John Armitage, Jr.          |
|                              | George Wells, John Sakowski |
| Physicians .....             | Dr. J. P. Cooper, Matawan   |
|                              | Dr. F. W. Holman, Keyport   |
| Captain of Degree Team ..... | George Wells                |
| District Field Manager ..... | John Armitage, Jr.          |
| Field Assistants .....       | George Wells                |
|                              | Mrs. Mary Hyer              |

## CLIFFWOOD ANGELS FIELD CLUB

The Cliffwood Angels Field Club was first organized in 1934 by a group of young boys. The "club house" was anyone's cellar or garage, or an old house, in fact, any place that could be found. For the next six years, until 1940, the group had ball games, boxing and all sports for young boys. The main purpose of this organization was eventually to help the younger children of the Township. The goal was to see that the young children would not have to beg for baseballs, or bats, or a place to play without being chased, as were the members who founded the club.

During the years of World War II most of the members entered the armed services and for five years the organization was inactive. By 1945 most of the members were lucky enough to return to the homes. For the next five years until 1950 the club members played semi-pro football, baseball and other sports. The Club reorganized with ten members and with a few new applicants and built a club house on Angel Street, Cliffwood.

A Little League team had been started in the Township, with sad results and was about to given up as a bad idea. The Cliffwood Angels Club was asked to take over the team and accepted. The Little League team continued playing baseball and within three years won the Bayshore Championship.

The Cliffwood Angels Field Club also played semi-pro football and the first year finished within the first four positions.

The only benefits the members receive in the organization is a yearly dinner when new officers are installed and a summer picnic for the wives and children. The Club also has a bowling team in the Matawan-Keyport Merchant League.

The Angels, with Dan Downey as chairman, originally organized the yearly Hallowe'en parade in the Township.

Past Presidents included Bud Ryan, deceased; Bill Regan, Dan Downey, Gene DiGiambattisti, Gene Dorl, Al Pizzi and Ed Billia.

The club members are John Hanson, John Bonger, Norman Wood, Dan Downey, Fred Pizzi, John Trabachino, Al Pizzi, Ben Guisti, Sam Guisti, Gene DiGiambattisti, Angelo DiGiambattisti, Vitale DiGiambattisti, Bob Rosato, Gene Dorl, Tom Fryer, Norman Bruce, Bill Collins, Walker Freelove, Ed Billia, Frank Carmichael, Andy Malanconico, Bill DePoalo, Joe Savino, Tony McVey, Vincent Raffa, Frank Raffa, Carmen Raffa, Larry La Rea, John Brzezniak.

### *The present officers are:*

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| President .....        | John Hanson     |
| Vice President .....   | John Bonger     |
| Treasurer .....        | John Trabachino |
| Secretary .....        | Norman Wood     |
| Sergeant at Arms ..... | Daniel Downey   |

## CLIFFWOOD ROYALS

The Cliffwood Royals Social and Athletic Club was organized in 1946 by Laurence Rogers, Henderson Causby, Joseph Causby, Samuel Gumbs and John Reed.

The organization meeting was held in the home of John Reed on Center Street, Cliffwood and the officers elected at the meeting were Laurence Rogers, president; Joseph Causby, vice president; Henderson Causby, treasurer and Samuel Gumbs, secretary.

The Club organized its first baseball team in 1946, with John Reed as manager. It was very active until the Korean War when eight of its members went into the armed services. In 1953 the Club was re-organized with a membership of 50.

The aim of the Club is to provide athletic and social activities for the boys in the Cliffwood area and its goal is to build a large club for recreation purposes for the young people of Cliffwood.

## BUTLER LODGE No. 42, A.F. & A.M.

Butler Lodge No. 42, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Scottish Rite of Cliffwood, was granted a warrant of constitution October 1, 1927.

Grand Lodge officers officiated at the installation of the first officers who included Worshipful Master, Love L. Adams; Senior Warden, Arthur Mouring and Junior Warden, Edward W. Wortham.

### *The 1957 officers of Butler Lodge are:*

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Worshipful Master ..... | Charles L. Wynn      |
| Senior Warden .....     | Philip N. Gumbs      |
| Junior Warden .....     | Thomas L. Huntley    |
| Treasurer .....         | James M. Richardson  |
| Secretary .....         | Samuel L. Gumbs      |
| Chaplain .....          | Nathaniel Johnson    |
| Senior Deacon .....     | Earl A. Gumbs        |
| Junior Deacon .....     | Alfred O. Richardson |
| Tyler .....             | Ernest Fraizer       |

There are 43 members of Butler Lodge. The Lodge is named for Archie Butler, who at the time of its founding was Deputy District Grand Master for the State of New Jersey. At the present time Mr. Butler is one of the Trustees of Butler Lodge in Matawan Township.

## DOMINO CLUB

A Domino Club was formed in Matawan Township in 1896. The weekly membership dues were ten cents.

## PERSONALITIES

### TWIN NURSES

Three-year scholarships to Monmouth Memorial Hospital School of Nursing were awarded in 1951 to the Misses Vivian and Josephine Grabow, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Wendelin H. Grabow, Cliffwood Beach. The scholarships were awarded by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Monmouth County



VIVIAN AND JOSEPHINE GRABOW

Medical Society. The Grabow girls were graduated from Matawan High School in June of that year and entered training in September.

After three years training, the twins were graduated from the School of Nursing in 1955 and continued together, both accepting positions as nurses at Perth Amboy General Hospital.



## THOMAS SINNETT RECALLS

*By Mrs. Alice Tiemann*

Early this spring Thomas J. Sinnett, seated in a comfortable chair at his home on Clinton Street, near a window overlooking trees and bushes full of buds, and a Pussy Willow tree in full bloom, told of his memories dating back 66 years of railroading in this area.

The first rails were laid from Freehold to the Long Dock in Keyport in 1875. At that time boats were loaded at the dock



THOMAS J. SINNETT

in Raritan Bay and sailed to New York. Farm produce and bricks were the chief commodities hauled by rail to and from the dock. The trains had a hard time getting close to the dock so a "crossing frog" was added which saved time and labor in loading and unloading.

In 1881 the second section of rail was laid and covered the Southern part of Freehold and extended to Barnegat and the rest of the Southern shore section.





"The engines were fueled by coal purchased in large chunks," Mr. Sinnett said, "and the fireman had to break up the coal by hand and shovel it into the firebox, which created the steam to get the engine in motion. This was an important part of railroading in those days and a good fireman was an asset to his engine."

The coal was in a large square compartment at the rear of the engine called the tender. Steam was created by water over the firebox. The water was taken on along the route from water tanks. The tanks had heavy burlap covers over the openings so that the water would not splash over the engine, but would be funneled into the water tank as needed. These tanks were at every station along the tracks and Mr. Sinnett added "were invaluable in that time."

Mr. Sinnett started with the railroad in 1891 and remained in railroading until he retired on pension in 1937. When he retired he was an assistant supervisor.

An accident which occurred during a heavy snow storm in 1905 is still vivid in his mind. Mr. Sinnett said the train involved in this particular accident was a "double header" of two engines, one used to pull and the other to push the train through the snow. The first engine jumped the track, but the second engine continued to push as the engineer did not know what had happened. Both engines upset and ripped up the track for quite a distance and the engineer in the first engine was killed.

Shortly afterward Mr. Sinnett was assigned to a "double header" to make a run through "Baker's Cut" to what is now Monmouth Race Track, Oceanport. He pointed out the hazard of the "double header" and railroad officials agreed that the second engine was a major factor in the wrecks that had occurred. Mr. Sinnett recalled that this ended the practice of using "double headers."

A short distance from Mr. Sinnett's home a single track runs to Freehold. At one time sixteen to eighteen trains made the trip every day and now there is only one train every three days to the New Jersey State Hospital at Marlboro.

"Where River Gardens is located," he said, "there used to be a round house for engines and eight to ten engines were stationed there."

After his retirement from the railroad, Mr. Sinnett worked as a contractor at Fort Monmouth and later for the U.S. Navy at Earle as superintendent of maintenance. While he was employed at Earle, 45 miles of track were laid up to 1954. He received offers to continue his work at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, or in Connecticut. Mr. Sinnett observed that the offers were tempting, but he decided "a comfortable old age, with family and friends in Matawan" was what he wanted.



## AVIATION AND CLIFFWOOD BEACH

*By Mrs. Alice Tiemann*

An interview with Mrs. Theodore Vervoort and her daughter, Mrs. Alida Chete, former residents of Matawan Township, revealed an interesting story on the part of the late Mr. Vervoort and Cliffwood Beach played in the advancement of early aviation.

In 1927 when aircraft was in its infancy Mr. Vervoort, a master craftsman of Holland Dutch descent, submitted models and plans to the Uppercu-Burnelli Aircraft Corp., then located in Keyport.

Many tests were made from these scale models. Seventeen were tested in Cliffwood Beach before final testing in New York University's wind tunnel.

Many prominent fliers of that time made the flights on several types of planes, from single cockpits to 20-passenger transports. Some of the flyers were Commander Lewis Reichers, Commander Pond, Lieutenant Brown, Captain Stewart, Bert Acosta and Roger Williams. Mr. Acosta crashed in a plane in Raritan Bay, near Sunset Bay, but escaped without serious injury.

Mr. Vervoort was a coppersmith, machinist and designer. He suggested and designed many improvements for planes. He designed a compass for the cockpit of the plane used by the Transatlantic flier, Roger Williams, for his flight to Bermuda. Mr. Williams made the flight in an open cockpit plane. He later presented Mr. Vervoort with a pin with two golden wings to express his appreciation of the instrument.

Mr. Vervoort was an humble man and lived for his family and home on South Concourse, Cliffwood Beach. His inventions and designs were made with the thought of helping advance planes and making them safer for business and pleasure travel. Many of his ideas were used, at his suggestion, without thought of payment.

The small inventions, applied to instruments used in the 1930s, led to the ability to fly planes by sole use of instruments.





ALIDA VERVOORT (ARROW) IN NEWARK PARADE 1943

Miss Alida Vervoort (now Mrs. Alida Chete, Broad Street, Matawan Borough) was one of the first women from Cliffwood Beach to enlist on October 1942, with twenty-two others from New Jersey, in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

The service wasn't quite ready for them at that time and the uniforms were general issue for men. The new women enlistees appeared for a time in oversized coats and hats, but it wasn't long before they were outfitted in well fitting skirts, blouses and jackets, complete with ties and peaked hats.

Thirteen of the group of twenty-two were assigned to radar, servicing New Jersey and New York. On one shift which the group worked, odd signals were received from the South Jersey seashore. This was reported and traced by a seaplane. It was



ALIDA VERVOORT IN BERMUDA

discovered that a Dutch oil tanker had been attacked and sunk by a submarine. The Air Craft spotted and sank the submarine.

Miss Vervoort later was transferred with the rest of the women's Corps of New Jersey to Bermuda. They were mustered out in December 1944.

### CHARLES BOGART

Charles Bogart, a former resident, took an active part in the civic affairs of Matawan Township during the thirty years he resided in Cliffwood Beach.

He assisted in organizing the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Co. Inc., the Civic Association, Inc. He helped to get improvements such as mail route delivery, which was started in 1950, street signs, the traffic signal on Highway 35 placed on full time operation, instead of an amber blinker light, except over weekends or during heavy traffic when a policeman controlled the operation.

Mr. Bogart served on the Matawan Township Board of Education for twelve years and during that time supported many improvements in the school system.

Mr. and Mrs. Bogart moved from Cliffwood Beach in 1953 and are now residing in Lincroft, New Jersey.



## **INDUSTRIES IN MATAWAN TOWNSHIP**

Hanson-Van Winkle-Munning Company, Church Street; Engineers and Manufacturers of Electroplating and Polishing Equipment and Supplies; 500 Employees.

Atlantic Tile Manufacturing Co., Atlantic Avenue; manufacture ceramic wall and floor tile; approximately 125 employees.

Marlboro Tool & Manufacturing Co., New Brunswick Avenue; manufacture machine tools and special machinery for aeronautic industry, the radio tube and electronic tube industry and for manufacture of the electric light lamp; approximately 22 employees.

Ernest Zobel Co., Inc., Harrison Avenue; manufacture paint, glue, varnish, brewers pitch, and Naval stores; approximately 12 employees.

Monmouth Container Corporation, formerly Muelhausen Cooperage Co., Harrison Avenue; manufacture fiber drums; 25 employees.

Cochrane Chemical Co., Lloyd Road; manufacture insulating material, waxes, asphalts and resins; approximately 25 employees.

Salmon Paper Box Company, Line Road; manufacture set-up paper boxes; approximately 25 employees.

U.S. Tar Products, Lloyd Road; manufacture tar products; approximately 10 employees.

ABC Foundry Co., 332 Wilson Avenue; manufacture aluminum, bronze and copper castings; approximately 14 employees.

Industrial Associates, Line Road; Manufactures of Machine Tools.

Hess Welding Inc., Mathiasen Place, specializing in building boat trailers.

Keyport Lumber & Supply Co., Amboy Road, Cliffwood.

Cliffwood Lumber & Plumbing Supply Co., Highway 35.  
Cliffwood.

Matawan Builders Supply, 138 Lower Main Street.

Jannarone Engineering Co., Lloyd Road.

M. H. Collins, Construction Material, County Road, Cliff-  
wood.

Manzo Contracting Co., Highway 34.

Donminick Manzo, Construction Contractor, Willow Avenue.

Savitsky Bros., Inc., Construction material and heavy haul-  
ing, Matawan Road.

Matthews Boat Basin (Matawan Creek), Amboy Road.

Gale Gas Co., Highway 35, Cliffwood.

Downes Pontiac Co., 62 Lower Main Street.

Matawan-Keyport Bowling & Recreation Center, 1 Lower  
Main Street.

Matawan-Keyport Press, Lower Main Street.

White Gate Inn, Restaurant, Highway 34.

Bayshore Fishery & Restaurant, Highway 35, Cliffwood.

Kortenhaus Mink Ranch, Lloyd Road.

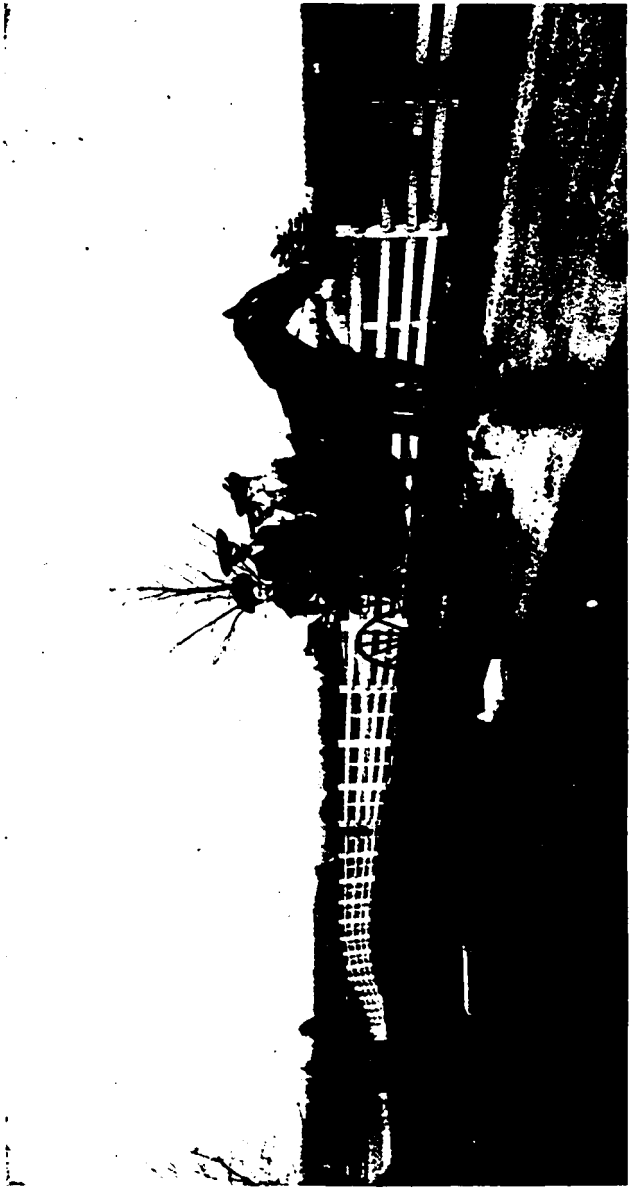
Gibson's Poultry Farm, Amboy Road.



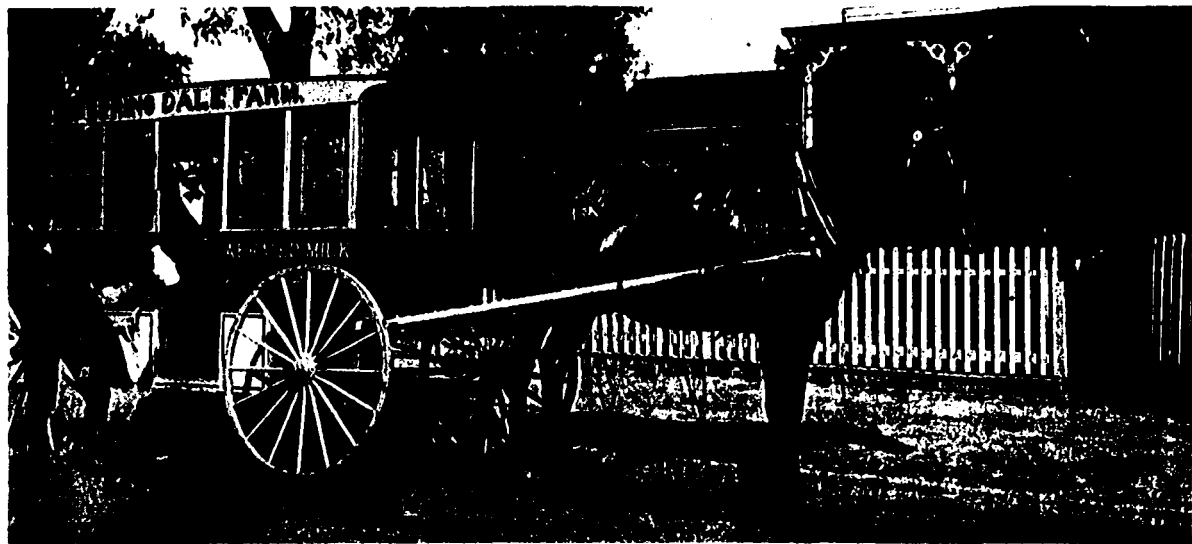
#### NEW WATER TANK

A new water tank, five feet higher than the former tank, located near Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Co., was placed in operation in June 1957. The new tank was erected to alleviate the water shortage situation in the Cliffwood area, particularly during the summer season.





THE SUNDAY DRIVER OF THE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS



Delivering the milk in summer. Old "Dobbin" with fly net that swayed under his body and around his legs brushing off the flies that followed the horse. A horse-fly bite caused many accidents and run-aways. Catching a run-away horse was a very brave act in the early 1900's.

## TRANSPORTATION

From the horse-drawn carriage, which took hours and sometimes days to travel comparatively short distances, came the horseless carriage, which was a novelty in the early 1900s. The horseless carriage was run on batteries, which had to be recharged after every trip.

Next came the "gasoline buggy." Due to the dusty, dirt roads, the occupants of the buggy had to wear dusters, and the feminine ones, veils. The driver usually wore leather gauntlet gloves and the outfit for a drive was quite picturesque. Top speed was 15 to 20 miles per hour.

The addition of air inflated tires and tubes made riding more pleasant, but flats caused by leaky valves or punctures, made it necessary for everyone to get out of the car while the tire was taken off the rim of the wheel. A vulcanized patch of rubber was placed on the tube and after a hour or so the car could get underway again. It was not uncommon for a car to have four or five flat tires on a single trip of twenty-five or thirty miles.

It was a vast improvement when the spare tire in the trunk, or adjusted to the back of the car above the bumper, became standard equipment. Instead of patching the tube at the roadside, the "spare" was used and the flat tire patched later. The addition of the tire and tube to the spare wheel saved many hours of hard work on "pleasure" trips.

The Model A cars, Model T and convertibles were next, also motorized trucks of one and one-half tons carrying capacity loads over cobbled, brick and wooden roads.

The car of the early 1900s was boxy in design, with front and rear seats. Springs were built into the cushions. The cost of the cars ranged from \$500 to \$1000-\$1200 for the deluxe models.

In 1957 the design of automobiles is low and streamlined and the cars drive easily at speeds of 80 miles an hour or more. The majority of the roads are smooth concrete or asphalt.

The Garden State Parkway in New Jersey was completed in 1955. The speed limit is 60 miles per hour, under normal conditions, on the toll road, which runs the entire length of New Jersey, North to South.

At approximately the same time the New Jersey Turnpike was built from Northern New Jersey, near New York City, to Delaware Memorial Bridge. This high speed toll road makes it possible for motorists to drive through the state in much less time than was formerly possible.



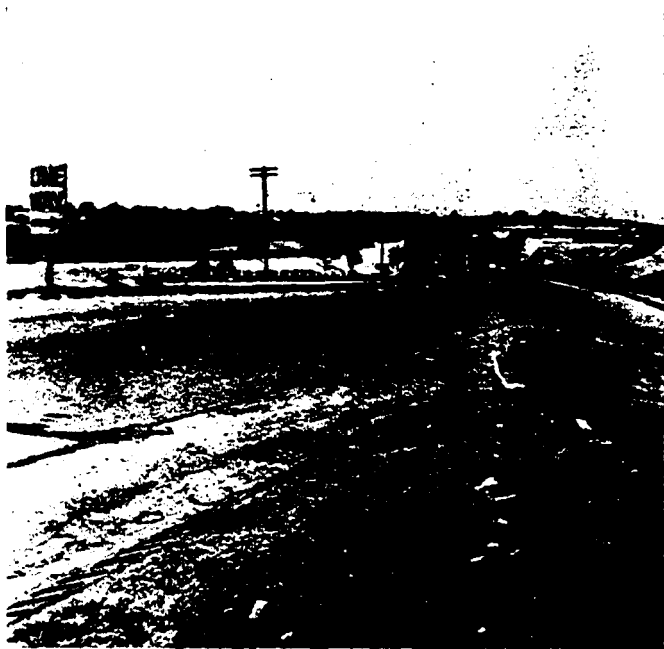
PARKWAY LOOKING NORTH FROM MAPLE PLACE BRIDGE

### PARKWAY CHANGES TOWNSHIP

Natural barriers did not deter engineers of the Highway Authority from building New Jersey's \$285,000,000. Garden State Parkway from Bergen County to Cape May.

The unusual engineering feats included changing the courses of rivers. In Matawan Township dredges dug a new stream bed for Matawan Creek to provide better foundation sites for the Parkway bridges.

The relocation of Matawan Creek required the excavation of 156,000 cubic yards of material. The new channel is 3000 feet long and 75 feet wide. The new Matawan Creek bridges are 145 feet in length.



ENTERING PARKWAY



## THE MATAWAN JOURNAL

In 1869 "The Matawan Journal" was started by David Bell. It was first published as a four-column monthly newspaper. It was changed to a bi-weekly in 1870 and then later to a weekly newspaper. The subscription rate was \$1.00 a year for 24 columns of news. When the news columns were increased to 28, the rate was increased to \$1.25 yearly.

Originally the newspaper was named "The Journal and Matawan Advertiser" and the masthead had an engraving of a ship sailing on a troubled sea. Afterward it was called "The



BENJAMIN F. S. BROWN



MISS J. MABEL BROWN

Matawan Journal and Monthly Advertiser" and then the name was changed to the present name, "The Matawan Journal."

Benjamin F. S. Brown bought "The Matawan Journal" in 1890. He also purchased "The Keyport Weekly" in 1906. The two newspapers have been published by the Brown family since that time. Miss J. Mabel Brown, the present publisher, has headed the publishing firm since the death of her father in 1920.

# TOWNSHIP OF MATAWAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

## OFFICERS

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| John Marz, Jr. ....     | Honorary Chairman       |
| Roy Matthews .....      | General Chairman        |
| John Armitage, Jr. .... | Vice Chairman           |
| John Nicholson .....    | Secretary               |
| Joseph Lovero .....     | Treasurer               |
| John Caracciolo .....   | Corresponding Secretary |

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| John Marz, Jr. | Roy Matthews   |
| Jack Armitage  | John Nicholson |
| Joe Lovero     | Philip Gumbs   |
| Paul T. Cahill | Steve Kalieta  |
| John Kenner    | Salvatore Vena |

## TROPHY COMMITTEE

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Daniel Downey, Chairman | Ethel Boyle   |
| Ben Guisti              | Gloria Bunger |
| Charles Eiflander       | Philip Gumbs  |

## DECORATION COMMITTEE

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Frederick Zobel, Chairman | Ann Savitsky |
|---------------------------|--------------|

## REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Jack Armitage, Chairman

## PARADE COMMITTEE

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| John Kenner, Chairman | K. Schneider     |
| William Meier         | Sam Della Pietro |
| Peter Vena            | James Richardson |

## SOLICITING COMMITTEE

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fred Zobel, Chairman | Paul T. Cahill, Co-Chairman |
| District 1           | District 2                  |
| Mrs. Stella Anderson | Dan Downey                  |
| John Marz, Jr.       |                             |

## District 3

Virginia Hellegaard  
Gertrude Loeffler  
Rose Vena

## ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Ellen Kenner, Chairman

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Charles Candiloro, Chairman

## HISTORY COMMITTEE

Alice and Frank Tiemann

## PAGEANT

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Elizabeth Gittins, Chairman | Ethel Boyle |
| John V. Caracciolo          |             |



MAYOR  
JOHN MARZ, JR.  
*Honorary Chairman*

ROY MATTHEWS  
*General Chairman*







**JACK ARMITAGE**  
*Vice Chairman*



**JOHN NICHOLSON**  
*Secretary*



JOHN CARACCILO  
*Corresponding Secretary*

JOSEPH LOVERO  
*Treasurer*





ALICE TIEMANN  
*General Committee*



FRANK TIEMANN  
*General Committee*

PHILIP GUMBS  
*General Committee*



PAUL T. CAHILL  
*General Committee*

## **MATAWAN TOWNSHIP CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1857 — 1957**

To mark the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the Township of Matawan, a Centennial Celebration was held July 4, 5 and 6th. The celebration, culminating months of plans and preparations, included a parade, block dances, a Miss Matawan Township contest and an elaborate fireworks display.

In the Cliffwood section of the Township there was a week-long carnival, starting July 1, and including exhibits and the presentation of a pageant in ten parts.

Then Centennial Celebration opened officially on Fourth of July when a block dance was held on the South Concourse in front of Burlew's Store. A section was blocked off from Shore Concourse and Cliffwood Avenue to Woodbine Drive. On Friday, July 5, another block dance was featured in the Oak Shades section of the Township on Lower Main Street from the Downes Pontiac Agency to Gerard Avenue.

The winner of the Miss Matawan Township contest was feted at the various Celebration events.

On Saturday, July 6 local and visiting organization participated in a parade covering four miles starting at Atlantic Avenue and Oak Street to the Six Corners, Keyport; to Amboy Road and Prospect Avenue, Cliffwood, to North Concourse to Cliffwood Avenue and to the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire House where it disbanded. The units marching included fire companies and their ladies auxiliaries, bands, drum and bugle corps, veterans post and auxiliaries, first aid squads and auxiliaries, scouts and civic organizations. Refreshments were served to the marchers after the parade.

The celebration was concluded with a fireworks display from a barge off-shore at Cliffwood Beach Saturday evening, July 6.

During the three-day Celebration the fire houses of Matawan Township Hose and Chemical Co. and the Cliffwood Volunteer Fire Co. remained open. A judges' stand was erected by the road department of the Township on the Ziegler property at Cliffwood Avenue, Cliffwood. Prizes were awarded to various divisions of the parade.

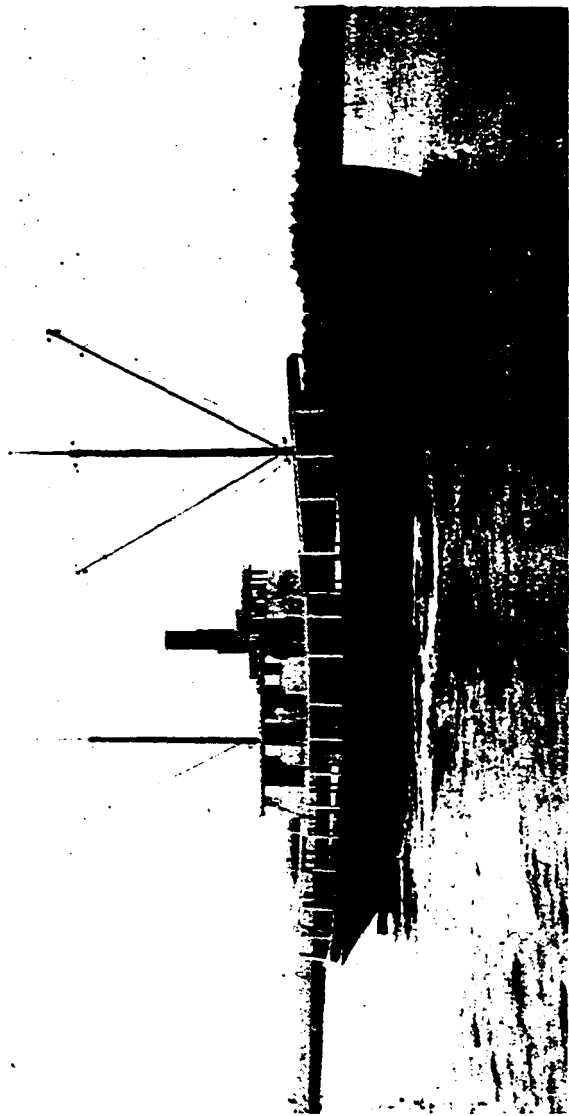
Maroon, gold and white were used as the official colors for the celebration and a large banner with the crest of the Township and noting the observance of the Centennial Celebration was flown over Highway 35 at Cliffwood Avenue. The official colors and crest formed the motif for the Celebration and were used to decorate business and official places throughout the Township.



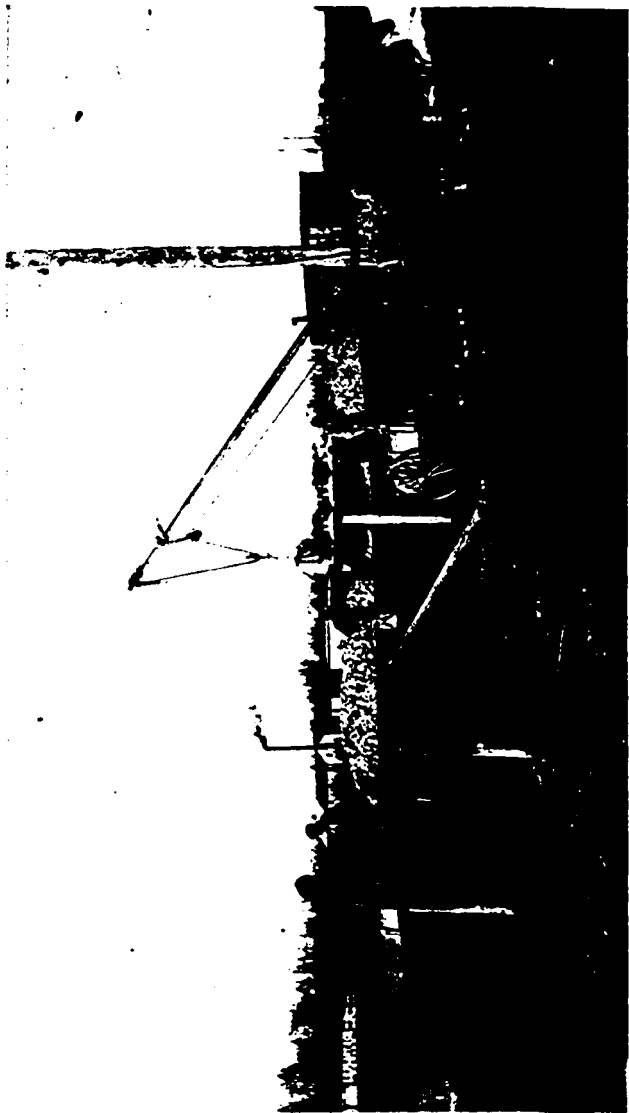
WINTER — NEAR TREASURE LAKE, CLIFFWOOD



SUMMER — AT RARITAN BAY, CLIFFWOOD



STEAMER JOHN B. COLLINS ON MATAWAN CREEK (ABOUT 1915-16)

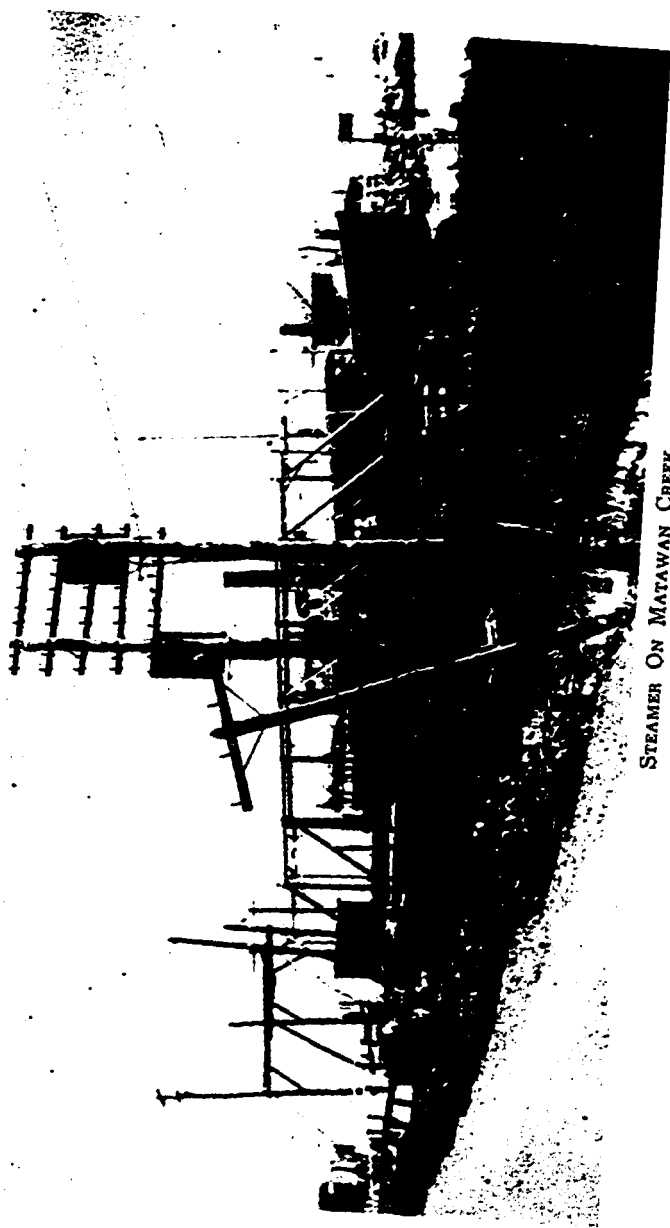


LA PLATT COMPANY OF NEW YORK TAKING ON A LOAD OF SHELLS TO BE MADE INTO FERTILIZER.





**MATAWAN TOWNSHIP CIVIL DEFENSE IN A PRACTICE OPERATION**



STEAMER ON MATAWAN CREEK



OLD SPORTS' F.C.  
CLIFFWOOD N.Y.  
June 18<sup>th</sup> 1903

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This book was written with the material, pictures, kind understanding and sincere interest furnished by the residents of the Township, its official family and many friends, who were former residents of Matawan Township.

My most sincere thanks to them and to my committee, who spent many hours poring over the huge volume of material, sorting and suggesting ideas.

All items were typed by Mrs. Dorothy Coward and Mrs. Betty Ziegler, both of Cliffwood.

My committee consisted of Frank Tiemann, co-chairman; Mayor John Marz, Jr., the Rev. Francis Osterstock, Dr. Frederick Zobel, Township Committeeman Stephen Kalieta, Alfred Pouzenc, Township Clerk Mrs. Rose Wenzel, Mrs. Dorothy Coward, Mrs. Emma Metting and Charles Metting.

Alice M. Tiemann

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