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The Great Depression

As the 1930s took hold, it was evident that not Cresskill, not Bergen County, not New Jersey were to be spared the agony that gripped the country--the Great Depression. Starting with the October 1929 stock-market crash, the nation soon came to a standstill. Facial expressions changed from reflecting the mirth and elation of the high-living twenties to revealing the gloom, fear, and deprivation of the thirties. So desperate were the times that townspeople took to foraging for coal in piles they knew had been buried during the Camp Merritt days. And they went "up in the mountains"--the Palisades--to cut firewood.

As happens during periods of adversity, the townspeople drew closer and supported one another as much as possible. The borough paid teachers and town employees in scrip. The Works Progress Administration, the W.P.A., expanded the building that

had housed the Young Men's Association, which flourished in Cresskill for many years, the building that would become the "old" Borough Hall on Union Avenue before the present-day Borough Hall was built. Some Cresskill boys worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps, the C.C.C., on the Palisades. Their parents received their paychecks. The butcher, grocer, baker, and druggist extended credit. But Margie, Park, and Morningside avenues, prepared for houses, would not be developed for several more years; there was no money for anything except survival.

In the absence of other affordable recreation, Cresskill's folks turned to reading books borrowed from their new public library, located in a house on Orchard Street, just west of the school. Nearly 2,000 books had been donated by stained-glass designer Charles Lamb to Camp Merritt Post 21 of the American Legion, which

had just been formed. The Post, in turn, gave the books to the Library Association, established to begin the new library as a home for the books.

The town's population in the early 1930s remained stable. Consequently, the school on Orchard Street was closed shortly after the Merritt Memorial School opened in 1928 and didn't reopen until 1934. The town had expected an influx of new children in the new school, but when enrollment increased only from 286 students to 309 two years later, the older Orchard Street School was considered unnecessary. Later, when more children came into the school system, the Orchard Street School was reopened, two rooms at a time.

Businesses failed in the bleak cloud of the Depression, but they weren't replaced even when the nation's economy improved. As the decade progressed, the nation's financial situation recovered, and employ-



This photograph was taken in the 1930s during the Great Depression. Coal was used for heating, but coal sold for \$10 a ton, far out of reach for many families. These children were collecting scrap wood at the site of the old Cresskill Lumber Yard near the railroad station. Their family lived at 6 Madison Avenue.

ment again became available. As did other workers, builders began plans to work again, with their energies now directed at home building. The town moved from welcoming industry and business toward re-

taining itself as a residential community. There was still much undeveloped acreage in town--the entire portion west of the railroad and north of Madison Avenue, all of which had been occupied by Camp Merritt,

as well as most of the East Hill. But before anyone could contemplate opening these lands for houses the decade came to an end. The world again turned to war. And again, Cresskill would be changed forever.

Sam Loman, Small-Town Doctor

Television shows and movies have been written about men like him. He might have been played as a Richard Chamberlain's Dr. Kildare or a Jack Klugman's Quincy. But he didn't need anyone to act out his story. He did it himself, and he did it by putting his heart into his work and into his patients and his town.

Sam Loman came to Cresskill in 1935, not yet married, fresh out of an internship at Jersey City Medical Center. He wanted to be a doctor in a town like Cresskill. He rented a small house on the southeast corner of Jefferson and Magnolia avenues, and for several months he was alone. He wanted to take a bride, and he knew the bride he wanted to take. But it took a while more to convince his father that he, a Jewish boy from New York City, should marry Evelyn, the pretty Christian nurse from Pennsylvania whom he had met at the medical center. Finally, his father relented, the young couple visited a friend who was a rabbi, and the following Sunday they were married in Sam's house. And so began Sam Loman's 50-year medical practice in Cresskill with his wife beside him.

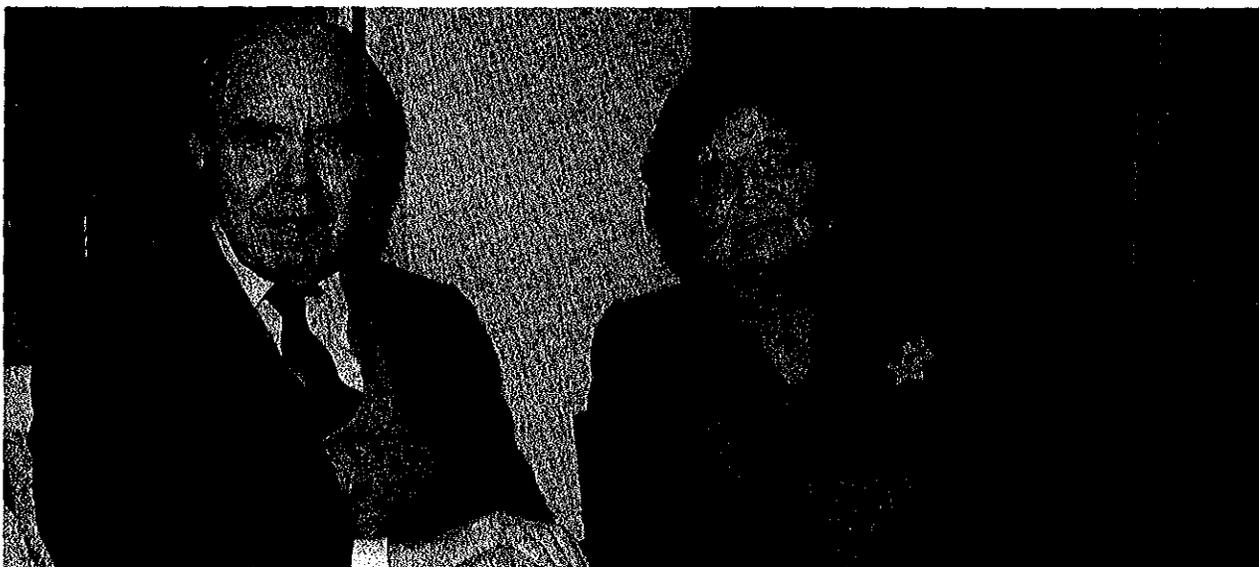
They paid \$35 a month for rent on the house, but that was just as well, because he made just \$1,900 the first year they were married. "There were very few patients," Evelyn Loman says. She took the train at 5:30 each morning, back to Jersey City to her nursing job, and she made \$80 a month. When, one day, a man with a gun confronted her in the medical center, Sam Loman said, "No more," and that was the end of his wife's nursing career.

But Sam's practice picked up. And picked up. Everyone knew Sam, and almost everyone knew him as his or her doctor. But Sam was a cautious

man, and he said he wouldn't have children until he had enough insurance. Then he did. And David was born, in 1938. By the time Sam went off to war, Tommy had joined the family, and they had moved into a larger house, which was also the practice, across the street on Jefferson Avenue, on the southwest corner. During the war, while Evelyn was alone with her two boys, she rented out the top floor of the house and moved into the bottom floor. She managed alone, as did the other war wives, but she missed Sam, just as all his patients did. Actually, as his son Tom remembers it, his patients hadn't wanted him to go into service at all and had signed a petition to try to keep their 35-year-old doctor at home, where he was needed. Tom remembers that the "local-people-in-suburban-town-plead-for-return-of-their-doctor" story made the front page of *The New York Times*, but it didn't keep Sam home.

He started over after the war, delivered babies, at least one of whom was named after him, cared for people's illnesses, had another son, Andy, and acquired a medical assistant. Joan Williams, who became Joan Arrigoni later, was a young woman who had grown up in Cresskill, on Cresskill Avenue, and had just completed school for medical assistants. She loved Dr. Loman, which wasn't hard to do, and she stayed with him for thirty-five years, until he retired. She remembers having to telephone him when he was making house calls--and he did make house calls, every day--to give him the name of yet another call he had to make, and another, sometimes well into the night.

Many of Evelyn Loman's memories of Sam's practice involve births, in the days when he was still delivering babies. There was the woman who



knocked at their door, she says, in terrible pain, sure she was suffering from kidney stones. It wasn't kidney stones; it was a baby. She hadn't known she was pregnant--is the way Evelyn Loman tells it--hadn't gone to a doctor during the previous nine months.

There was the delivery in a car near the monument. When there was nothing around to tie the cord, the doctor took a shoelace from a nearby police officer.

And a woman who was in the throes of labor, but was up in the country away from her doctor and her hospital, called him from all along the way on her trip back, reporting to him the extent of her labor. She made it back in time, but only as far as the doctor's office, where she gave birth.

In the late forties, he moved his practice to the corner of Madison and Brookside avenues and moved his family up to Engle Street. It was good timing. The town's population swelled shortly afterward and his hours and need for more space grew along with it.

When there is talk about the Cresskill of the forties and fifties and sixties and seventies, Sam Loman's name comes up. People talk about the small-town doctor who listened and cared and understood. They

talk about a man who always had time for them. He probably didn't have time, but he never let on; he made time.

He finally made his last house call, knowing he had a debilitating illness, in 1986. He knew he had to retire after that house call, on Smith Terrace, because he had no longer been able to carry his doctor's black bag from the car to the house.

It seemed fitting that by then Tom Loman had opened a law practice in an office he built on land just behind his dad's office and that Sam Loman's medical practice and office were taken over by the son of his longtime friend. Martin Abrams was Mike Abrams' son, and Mike Abrams had been a pharmacist in Cresskill for many years--even before Sam Loman came to town--and had been instrumental in getting the young doctor to open his practice in Cresskill. It seems fitting, too, that there's a plaque in his memory at the Volunteer Ambulance Squad building and that there's a street named after him--Loman Court. It's a little hard to find--way up in Tammy Brook Hills--but it's another reminder of Cresskill's small-town doctor.

Not that a reminder is needed.

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World War II

War raged in the hemispheres to the east and the west of America. Cresskill's men, and women, this time no longer "outsiders" housed in an army camp, but residents--husbands and fathers, sons and brothers; sisters and daughters--left for Fort Dix in central New Jersey or Camp Shanks in Rockland County, New York, and then off to Europe or the Far East. The men's wives and daughters, mothers and sisters were left to do the work at home. Some took on jobs, wartime jobs in defense industries that had been the province of the men: at Curtiss-Wright in Wood Ridge, which made parts for war planes, and at Alcoa Aluminum Company in Edgewater.

In May of 1944, at the time of Cresskill's fiftieth anniversary of incorporation, 267 of Cresskill's men and women were fighting in the war. Among them were four women: Catherine Fehr, Barbara Finnan, Rita Frati, and Lu-

cille Rizzo; two future police chiefs: Nicholas Short and Warren Smith; two Blases, three Campolis, three Cassers, three Cioffis, two DeMarrais, two Deckers, three Finnans, two Flotards, three Glydons, three Greens, three Gunthers, four Krausses, two Lauxes, two Martins, four Millers, two Muellers, three Mullallys, five Murrays, two Oberers, two Pages, two Pratts, two Rauschs, two Schnells, three Schweikarts, eight Smiths, two Springers, two Strandbergs, two Sutoriuses, two Tallmans, two Thistles, three Tietjens, four Westervelts, two Wilsons, and two Wegners.

The children knew how to conduct themselves during air raid drills. In school, they learned to dive under their desks when the air-raid-drill siren sounded. At home, at night, they turned off lights and sat in darkness at the first sound of the siren. They bought defense stamps for ten or twenty-five or fifty cents

each, pasted them into a book, and traded the book in for a war bond, a way they could aid the war effort. Their patriotism knew no bounds. Every schoolday began with a salute to the flag--which at that time had forty-eight stars on it and which even the smallest child revered. And they knew better than to talk about what little they knew of their soldier/sailor/airman fathers' whereabouts. "A Slip of the Lip Will Sink a Ship" was a warning they all knew.

Troop trains, their shades drawn at night so as not to betray their movement, chugged south through Cresskill on their way from Camp Shanks to Weehawken, where the troops shipped out. When they came through during the day, small children raced alongside, to catch the candy bars the soldiers threw to them from the windows of the daytime troop trains. Joan Arrigoni and her sister, Dottie Campoli, remember running

with their brother, John Williams, from behind their house on Cresskill Avenue. And they remember the kindness of the young men who, though apprehensive of what lay ahead, had time to think of children.

The troops were also moved by trucks. Gerry Vukasin recalls truck after truck packed with soldiers as they lumbered up Hillside Avenue in front of her home on their way from Camp Shanks to the ferry at the foot of the Palisades in Alpine. "The soldiers waved," she says, "and said, 'Bye, see you soon!'"

Trains came through the other way too, going north. Then, they carried German and Italian war prisoners up, to Camp Shanks.

Women and older men

served as air-raid wardens. They donned their white helmets and patrolled their blocks at night, warning residents to pull down their shades and turn off their lights during a drill. Headlamps on automobiles were blacked out to keep the enemy's planes, should they fly over, from seeing the lights. Residents filled the rooms and halls of meetings held by home front organizations. The Orchard Street School was the site of a "base hospital," and a motor corps was put in effect.

As they had during the Depression, mothers sent their children out to look for coal--scarce during the war--to heat their homes, most of which still used coal, not oil. The kids took their little red wagons to

the railroad tracks, where coal dropped from the coal cars of the trains. Not only coal was scarce. Ration books were issued for such items as sugar, butter, meat, and gasoline.

On East Madison Avenue, which was not yet developed, between New and Oak streets, an anti-aircraft station operated, its huge searchlights and two anti-aircraft guns mounted to protect the skies of the New York City area. When the fifty or so men stationed there were off duty, they crossed the street, County Road, near to Broadway, to a restaurant and bar.

It was during the war, in May 1944, that Cresskill commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation. The program for that day of celebration

Their Lives Were Taken

There is a stone marker at Veterans Square, facing where the town's railroad station once stood. On it are listed the names of the men who gave their lives during World War II and the Vietnam War.

Four men, all under the age of twenty-three, died during the Vietnam War.

Richard Buszko was born in New York City on January 16, 1946, and died on June 19, 1966, nearly three years after he enlisted. Part of his service was on the USS Intrepid. He lived at 108 Palisade Avenue.

Keith Michael Jackson was born on August 25, 1949, in New York City and lived at 56 Pershing Place. He died in combat in Vietnam on February 1, 1971, some three years after he enlisted. He was attached to the 57th AVN Company, a unit of the 1st AVN Brigade, and was a helicopter pilot. His helicopter was shot down.

John Kapeluck, who lived at 368 Eleventh Street with his father, John, and his mother, Priscilla, was attached to the 173rd Air Brigade of the 503rd Infantry. He was born on September 15, 1946, and

was killed on November 8, 1968. He was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously for exceptional bravery and devotion to duty.

William McKim, son of William and Helen McKim, was born on July 21, 1947, in Bergenfield and died on February 14, 1966. He lived at 277 Highland Street. He was attached to the First Infantry Division, 93rd Brigade.

During the Second World War George M. Clark, Joseph Forsythe, James A. Harold, Ray Huber, Francis O. Kraus, William J. Redmond, Fred Tietjen, and Paul Tyler gave their lives. The First World War's deaths included a woman, presumably an army nurse, Margaret W. Worth. Also killed were George F. North, Eugene V. Ring, and William B. Schulz. Their names are memorialized on separate plaques in front of the Merritt Memorial School.

James L. Gray, born in 1929 in South Carolina, was a navy veteran of both the Second World War--for which he must have enlisted at a very young age--and of the Korean Conflict. He died in November of 1961, of wounds he received in Korea.

included a parade and a baby parade, children's field events, an old-timers' reunion, a softball game, prizes for the best costumes of 1890 vintage, and an old-time exhibit of photographs, furniture, and clothing. In the evening, on the porch of Borough Hall, Miss Mary Murray led the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner"; there were songs by the Girl Scouts, the Cresskill Music Club, and by group singing; Edward Do, Frank Key, and Bruno Butti presented an accordion selection; the borough received a new ambulance; and there was a jitterbug contest.

The Public Service bus line operated a terminal at the corner of Union Avenue and County Road, at the site of present day NVE Savings and Loan. It provided bus transportation for the Northern Valley; Laverne French could catch the 122 nearly in front of her house to get to a job in Jersey City. It provided something else: Richard Barretta, who is the father of Cresskill councilman Frank Barretta, recalls that on hot summer evenings kids could get hosed down and cooled off when the men in the terminal washed the buses.

During the late thirties and early forties, despite the war, the town's children led what Barretta calls "an idyllic life." They enjoyed the carnivals sponsored by the Cresskill Fire Department, the movies for children at Merritt Memorial School, and the circus

that was brought in for several years to the Orchard Street School field. Barretta remembers that one boy ran off with the circus one year--the stuff of adventure stories. It's likely that while the youngsters were having all this fun they were chewing a bubble gum called Yank, says Gerry Vukasin. It was good, she said, before the war and was wrapped in silver foil then, but when the war began the silver foil could no longer be used and, puzzling her still, the taste was never again the same. There was a Youth Council--something youngsters in the sixties would fight hard to get but that never really succeeded--sponsored by the Recreation Committee, which by 1944 had run three dances, each of which was attended by 100 young people.

The tallest altar boy at St. Therese, Barretta recalls, got to pull the ropes that rang the church bells. During the war, when nearly all the firemen were in the armed forces, eighth-grade boys were enlisted to help put out the fires that burned frequently in the Tammy Brook area, which was undeveloped--and they got to miss school without playing hookey. When the fire siren sounded, the boys ran to the firehouse to hop on the truck, with the biggest boys using Indian tanks on their backs to fight the fires. "We felt like heroes when we returned to school," Barretta says, "with our faces soot-smearred, to tell of our adventures."

During the war the boys

also helped out the road department during snowstorms by shoveling the borough's streets. But it didn't take a war, Barretta says, for kids to take up snow shovels to help out others. If there was an elderly woman living in their neighborhood, he says, they knew on their own that she would need to have her walk shoveled or her lawn mowed. They weren't paid; they just did it.

Adults didn't lack for recreation and a social life. The PTA ran minstrel shows, in blackface. Several women met to form a branch of the Lady Foresters of America. Other women made plans to study with a music appreciation group. Nearly every organization in town that was run by men--firefighter, American Legion, VFW, police, Lions, and so forth, had a Ladies Auxiliary whose members helped their men in every way possible.

On Memorial Day, Barretta recalls, it was not only Cresskill and Dumont people who marched to the monument: As many as six towns used it as a memorial of war, including Cresskill, Dumont, Bergenfield, Tenafly, and Demarest.

There were semi-pro baseball teams in town. Ray McGrath, who was a postmaster and later mayor of Cresskill, managed one of them, the Cresskill Indians. Gill DeMarrais managed the other, the Cresskill Royals. Barretta also recalls Willie Smith, who, though a short man,



During World War II there was a severe shortage of metals for the civilian market. As a result of rationing, such items as "church keys" (can openers) became communal objects. Bruno Bethman is shown using such a public device.

ran fast and "drove the pitchers crazy because he kept moving . . . and stealing bases." On Labor Day, when the playoffs were held, with printed programs, at the Orchard Street field to determine the town champs, five hundred people would turn out to cheer on their guys. Little kids were water boys, fetching bucketsfull from Harry Swanson's Oil Company, in a house across the street.

Swanson's Oil Company consisted of one oil truck. Its competition, of sorts, was the Westervelt coal yard, which was located on Railroad Avenue, now Piermont Road, where the apartments are today.

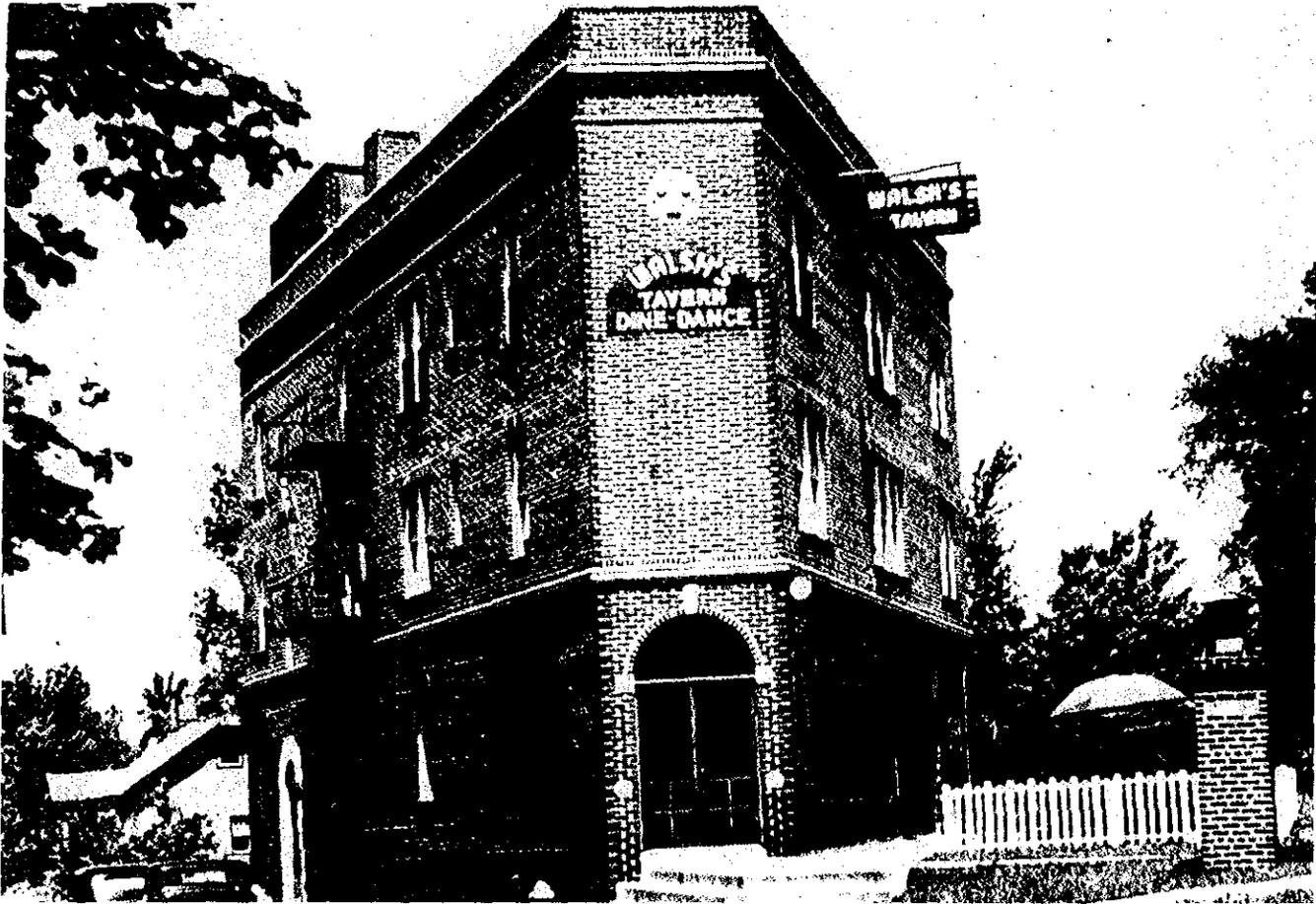
Union Avenue and the other streets that housed business establishments again had new proprietors. The Eagle Barber Shop on Madison Avenue, where the Volunteer Ambulance

Squad building is today, was run by Rose Bianco. Her counterpart, for women, was Therese's Beauty Salon, on Union Avenue. Community Cleaners were on Union Avenue. Nearby, in an alley off Union Avenue, was Charlie Zopp's Diner. Mayer's Grocery, run by postmaster William Mayer and his wife, Louise, was across the railroad tracks on the south side of Madison Avenue. Besides the A&P on Union Avenue there was a meat market, William Calcagni's, further up toward Willow Street. Cresskill Bakery was in town, and Sam Giovinazzo was repairing the town-folks' shoes, as he would for another thirty-five years or so. Mr. M. Do sold wines and liquors. Vincent Guida sold candy, cigarettes, and cigars at 19 Union Avenue. Otto Hettinger ran Otto's Delicatessen. Mrs. A. M. Collier's funeral home was

at 174 Jefferson Avenue.

Though the cows were gone from all but Ackerman's Dairy by the late forties, horses were not. Benjamin Casser kept horses at his County Road property and there were horses at the Cresskill Nursing Home on Thirteenth Street. This was owned by a Mr. Pullman, who operated it until 1968 with about twenty-five residents. Kevin Lord, who grew up in Cresskill and lived at the top of Madison Avenue, was a fine horseman and frequently took his friends with him on rides through the former Camp Merritt property, around present-day Eleventh and Twelfth streets. Most of this land was then owned by Ted Brassel, who was Cresskill's mayor in the late thirties.

Another large tract of land had been owned by the Burns family since before World War I. After the



This tavern on County Road was a popular watering hole, especially for the men who were members of the antiaircraft unit located across the street during World War II.

Camp Merritt days, the land, which encompassed the western portion of Grant Avenue and to the north and south of Grant Avenue, reverted back to the family. The Burns Inn, later called the Merritt Club, and the Cresskill Exxon--then called Esso--gas station, were among the properties owned by the family.

Again and again the memories of people who grew up in Cresskill recount that their childhoods were wonderful. Tom Loman, son of Dr. Sam Loman and an attorney in Cresskill, recalls camping in the Tammy Brook hills with a man called Hank Sheldon.

Hank lived in an apartment in New York City, but he loved camping and he loved the Cresskill area. Each weekend, carrying his camping gear, he took a bus from New York to the bus depot on County Road. He walked up Hillside Avenue and up Lambs Lane into the hilly meadows and deep woods and springs clear enough to drink from that were Tammy Brook then. There, he welcomed a few Cresskill boys at a time--they had to take turns--to a log lean-to he had built. There were six wooden bunks against one wall. Hank slept outside the lean-to, Tom recalls. "He was too fussy to sleep with

kids; things had to be just so." The boys went with Hank on a first-come, first-serve basis, and they had to sign in in a log book. Hank taught them camping skills and fished with them. He did this for ten years or so, and the boys each went with him for a few years--until they discovered they liked girls and lost interest in camping.

There was a scourge in the land that could potentially kill and maim anyone, but most terribly, children. Before the Salk vaccine against poliomyelitis--polio--was developed in the early fifties, children's summer activities were shaped by the



The aftermath of the blizzard of '47 (on December 26, 1947). Ben Casser's sleigh moved easily on Union Avenue, but few other things did. The following year Bill Cook joined the Department of Public Works. As a worker and as superintendent, he set a standard of excellence for snow removal that has not been exceeded.

prohibitions engendered by the disease: They were not permitted to swim in ponds, where the virus might lurk; they had to dry off immediately after swimming, to avoid becoming chilled; they had to avoid crowds, where they might become infected. Despite these precautions, several Cresskill children contracted the dreaded disease in varying degrees of severity. David Czirr was one of the children who was struck most severely. He spent six or seven weeks in Bergen Pines Hospital, he recalls, and missed most of the eighth-grade, but was able to return during the last few weeks of school after being tutored at home.

Tom Loman recalls another, less devastating medical concern. During

the war, he says, there were few dentists to care for children's teeth; consequently, most of them did not receive the dental care they should have. His mother, he says, had to take her sons on the trolley that ran from Tenafly to the Edgewater ferry to see a dentist in Leonia.

This trolley line, which ended at the north end in Tenafly, was used frequently by Cresskill folks at that time. And, despite the fact that in those days Cresskill had an "inferiority complex" regarding Tenafly, there are people who have a good word to say about the Tenafly police officers who were willing to drive Cresskill people home when they arrived on the trolley at night too late to find other transportation up to Cresskill.

Cresskill's population was over 2,000 people. Its East

Hill was being developed: a few houses on East Madison Avenue, a few on Engle Street. The Volunteer Ambulance Squad began its operations in 1942. Blankets, stretchers, and a first-aid kit were stored in a fire truck until the squad had prepared its first ambulance. Nearly two years after the squad began its work, with its members those men in the police and volunteer fire departments who had earned advanced first-aid certificates, it began to use its first ambulance, a 1929 Studebaker.

Yet, even with building progressing and services improving, Cresskill was a small town. Nearly everyone still knew everyone else. But not for long.

Then Came the Vets

The war ended. First in Europe, on May 8, 1945, when screaming, joyful hordes descended on Times Square in New York City to celebrate, and the following August in the Pacific Theater, more soberly, following Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the knowledge that America possessed the most awesome weapon imaginable.

The changes that war's end brought to Cresskill would have astounded its founding fathers--the Demarests, the Tallmans, the Westervelts, and the other families who thought of Cresskill as a quiet little country town of a few hundred souls. These new changes equalled those that followed incorporation, those that followed the coming of the railroad, even those that followed the building of Camp Merritt. World War II's veterans came, hundreds of them, and with them came their young wives and their one or their one-and-one-on-the-way children. They

came from homes in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn, from Jersey City, Hoboken, and Weehawken, and from homes in barracks left from Camp Shanks in Orangeburg, New York.

Between 1940 and 1960 Cresskill's population tripled, from 2,246 in 1940 to 7,290 in 1960, and it doubled on the way, between 1950 and 1960. The school buildings bulged; by 1955 an addition was needed for the Edward H. Bryan School on Brookside Avenue, the street that until a short time before had been called Orchard Street. This was the same school--the old Orchard Street School--that school officials had closed for four years for lack of enough students in 1928, when the Merritt Memorial School was built. By 1956 a kindergarten wing and eighteen classrooms had been added to what had been the original Orchard Street School. In the early 1970s, Merritt Memorial School followed suit,

with the addition of a kindergarten room and four classrooms. Because Tenafly, where Cresskill's students attended high school, was experiencing a similar population explosion, by the late 1950s Cresskill's Board of Education knew that Cresskill would have to contemplate building a high school of its own.

Houses popped up on streets that were just being developed: Engle Street and East Madison, Palisade and Lexington avenues. But the single greatest impact on Cresskill's population surge occurred in the early 1950s, when the Cresskill Gardens and the Heatherhill home developments, together known as Cresskill Gardens, added more than a thousand people to Cresskill. "Developments" until that time had meant a builder constructing ten, perhaps twenty, perhaps even--rarely--fifty similar houses. This building surge created 321 houses. Most were ranch-style houses, in itself

a new concept for New Jersey. Until that time ranches had been popular only in California. The others had rooms only on one floor, but their attics were higher, and were thus expandable.

Because Cresskill had housed so much of Camp Merritt, the land left behind was ripe for a large development of this sort, the largest in the area and possibly in the state at that time. There were different styles of architecture: some of the houses had two bedrooms, some three; all had brightly tiled bathrooms, one per house; some had a garage, some didn't; some had patios in the front; and all had full basements, some of them often wet after heavy rainstorms because of the high water table in the area. Their inner construction--using sheetrock and not plaster walls--was a shock to the town's residents and a worry to the members of the Planning Board ("They're cardboard houses. They'll fall down in five years."). They're still up, and they were well built. It's interesting today to drive through the area

and see that few of the houses are still in their original form; nearly every one has had an addition or a renovation, and some have been changed almost beyond recognition from their original style--a study in creative architecture.

Construction began on Knickerbocker Road and continued onto Beechwood Road. When it was completed, the development extended north to the Demarest border and east to within one street from the Tenakill.

Few cheered at this influx. Longtime residents grumbled about the trees being cut down, though in truth the developer retained more of the old trees, mostly tall oaks, than did other development builders, most of whom flattened the land before building. The townsfolk grumbled about increased traffic--true; about overcrowded schools--also true; and about "newcomers" in town who didn't care about "their" town. Not true. Within a year, the "newcomers"--almost all of them in their twenties, almost all of them headed by a war veteran

who oversaw a *Life with Father* family---had formed the Cresskill Gardens Association and had begun attending Mayor and Council, Planning Board, Board of Health, and Board of Education meetings. Within two years, Association members had been elected or appointed to all these municipal organizations and had begun what was to be a decades-long, overwhelming involvement in the town and the schools.

Harvey Rothschild was one of the Cresskill Gardens newcomers who soon was tapped to serve his town. He was elected as a Republican to the council in 1953 and is the only member of that council still living. In those growing years for Cresskill, he dealt with flooding and septic problems and in building the public library. Later he would be on the committee to bring the swim club to town. He served on the Board of Education during the planning, building, and beginning of the high school in the sixties and has been on the Planning Board since 1978.

Willow Run... a family business

It's a pretty name--Willow Run--and it sells pretty things: plants, trees, flowers, and everything to go with them. It's run now by the son of the man who began it--that was Norbert Pendergast II (his father had had the same name, but he doesn't enter into this). Therefore, the man who runs it now is Norbert III. There's a Norbert IV, too, and he's in the business, and there's even a Norbert V, but he's still a very small boy.

Norbert II became mayor, but that was after he started his business on County Road in 1936 when an elderly man who liked the younger man told him he could

have the land, which the older man found was a drain, if he paid the taxes on it. Pendergast did. That was half the land. Two years later the older man gave the younger the other half, free.

Now the young man, who then rented a house in Tenafly and was struggling to support a family, needed a home for his wife and four children (though the struggle was helped by his being married to Gladys--Muffy--the daughter of George Crabbe, a longtime successful and involved Cresskill resident). There was a large, beautiful house built in 1819 in an empty field across County Road from Norbert II's new business. The house was due to be torn down, to make way for new homes on Crest Drive South and Crest Drive North. So Norbert II, being who he was, parked him-

Though most of the "old-timers" looked at the Cresskill Gardens people as interlopers, one who welcomed the new owners of homes that cost \$8,000 to \$14,000 was Frances Tallman, who had lived in Cresskill since 1935. She was happy, she said, to see the energy of the young people who had moved in and who were beginning to contribute to the welfare of the town. "A town must grow," she said, "and I prefer to see people rather than trees." Mrs. Tallman, for many years employed in the school system, was the wife of Harold Tallman--no relation to the town's founding Tallmans--a longtime borough official and town historian.

Cresskill Gardens Association was more than the sum of enthusiasm of an instant town of neighbors; more than neighbors on streets such as Carleton Terrace working together each summer--much like old-fashioned "barn raisings"--to build a garage onto one more of their houses; more than the camaraderie of its annual Association

picnic in the park on Cranford Place and its annual dance at the firehouse; more than its newsletter, the "Heather-Cress Herald," detailing births, illnesses, neighborhood gossip. It was a force in bringing Cresskill into the mid-century: The town soon installed storm drains and a sewer system, largely at the instigation of Cresskill Gardens homeowners whose basements flooded so readily. The school board, responding to the number of new children in the Edward H. Bryan School, approved renovations to the school. The all-Republican council called for a borough master plan--a blueprint of where the town was headed--a move it had favored and the defeated Democrats had opposed. The plan was somewhat after the fact, however, as most of the Cresskill Gardens lots were considered undersized by the plan's definition.

At about the same time as Cresskill Gardens and Heatherhill were being built, another tract of land that had housed Camp Merritt was being developed. Thir-

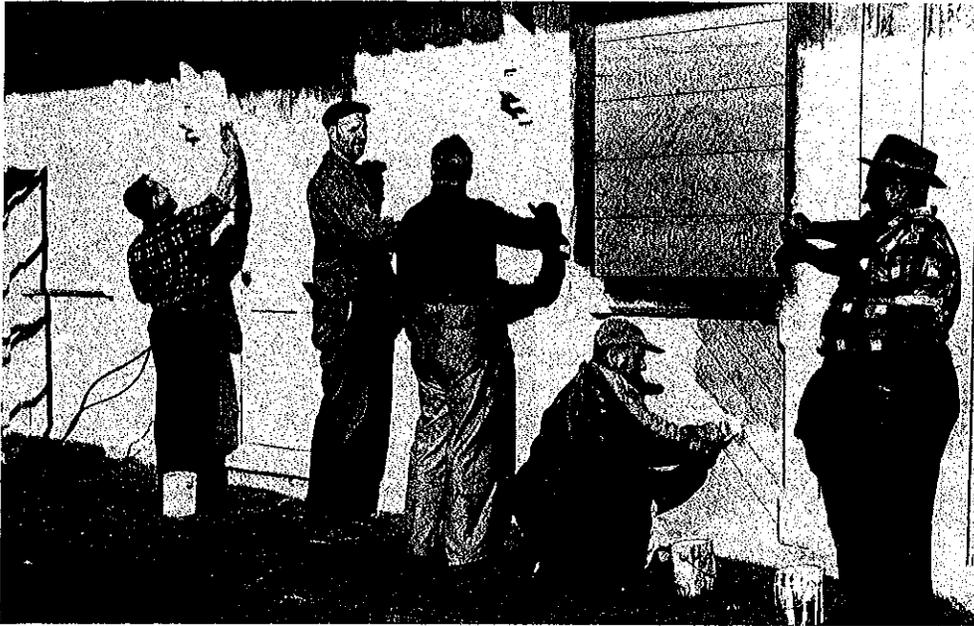
ty-three houses, also one-storied, also on undersized lots, all virtually identical, were built on Merritt Avenue and on Maple and Cherry streets. Again, Camp Merritt had made its mark in leaving property open for housing development.

Though house styles differed throughout the town, the families in the houses conformed to but one style. Each morning, fathers left to go to work, many using the railroad, which still ran passenger trains. Mothers, dressed primly in skirts and nylon stockings (pantyhose had not yet made their appearances) stayed at home with the children. They were kept busy with laundry, which they hung outside to dry, adding a colorful, fluttering decor to backyards (there were not yet any dryers), and they washed dishes after each meal (there were not yet any dishwashers). Houses, for the most part, were never empty during the day; mother was always home. The parents worried not about crime--their doors were always unlocked--but

self in the builder's office to ask if he could get the house. The builder said no. Norbert II sat. Finally, the builder said he could have it, for \$200--if he moved it across the street within a week. Norbert II turned to his brother-in-law, a mason, who built a new foundation at the south end of the property and set far back from the street. A house mover turned the house sideways and began to move it, using railroad tie timbers fashioned into a crib. But it got to be 4:30 in the afternoon. Quitting time. The workmen went home. The house sat in the middle of County Road, and as that that was 1939 and there wasn't the traffic there is today, the cars drove around it--all night long. It cost Norbert II \$1,000 to move the house. (The Crest Drive homes sold for \$3,990--that was 1939.)

Norbert II built his property into Willow Run Garden Shop. The red house is still there. Muffy Pendergast still lives in it, and it's now nearly 200 years old.

Some of Willow Run's property has been sold off; it's not quite half as large as it was. There are businesses on Broadway behind it now, and there are townhouses across the street. There are no \$3,990 houses around anymore, and the fields are gone. Norbert II is gone too; he died in 1971 at the age of 66. But the beauty of his product is still there, and the business he built up by paying some taxes and by working the soil with his hands is still there. It's being run by a father again, Norbert III, and by his two sons, one of whom is Norbert IV. And there's a little Norbert V waiting in the wings.



Members of Cresskill's newly formed Lions Club gave the railroad station a new coat of paint in the early sixties.



The railroad station in the sixties still marked the center of town, but was no longer in use because passenger service had ceased by then. All east-west automobile traffic in Cresskill had to pass the station.



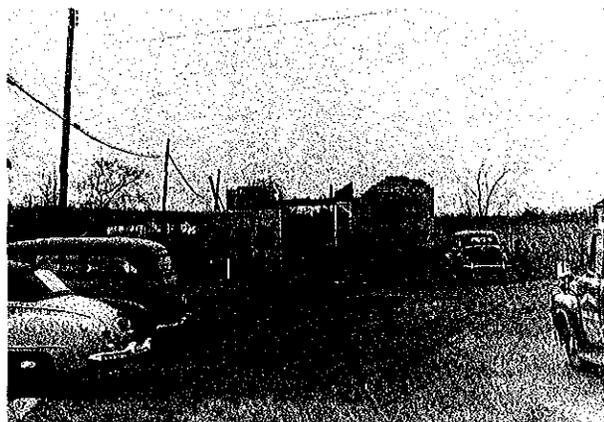
The railroad station was torn down shortly after a devastating fire on Halloween night of 1970. Townspeople mourned the passing of their symbol of an era long past, an era representing not only Cresskill's beginnings and history, but also an era when life appeared simpler. Part of the sorrow over the fire was that it had been set by teenagers as a prank of the holiday. But it was seen as more than a prank. It was seen as representative of kids out of control and uncaring about property and history. The station would, however, have had to be razed anyway, as it had fallen into disrepair after its use as a station was over. Though the Police Department, the Mayor and Council, and other officials became involved concerning the torching of the station, its passing had been foreshadowed. The years that followed would be very different from those during the railroad station's existence.



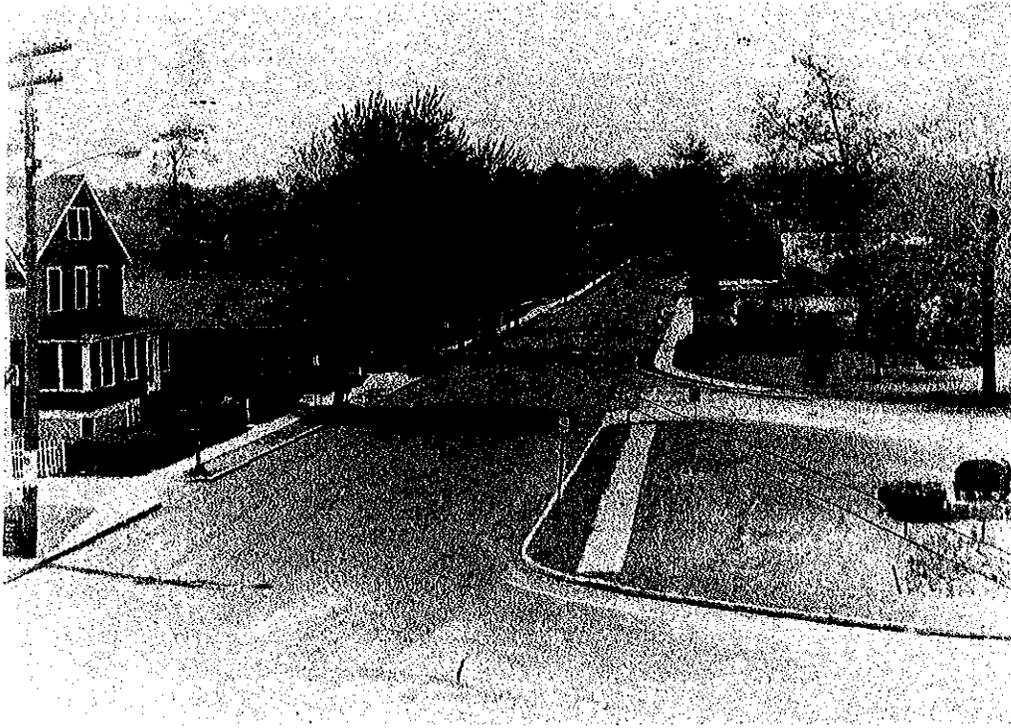
The photographs above and below represent the changes that were coming to Cresskill and to the nation during the late sixties and early seventies. Railroad passenger service, as shown during a snowstorm in the fifties, was discontinued in the Northern Valley area. A decade later commuters to New York City had become accustomed to taking buses, though then and now there was little public transportation for people traveling within the county. Other commuters began to drive, cumulatively adding to the traffic snarls that now face them going into the city.

The photograph to the left, below, shows the beginning of construction of Cresskill's first supermarket, the Valley Fair. The view is to the south, from Union Avenue facing East Madison Avenue.

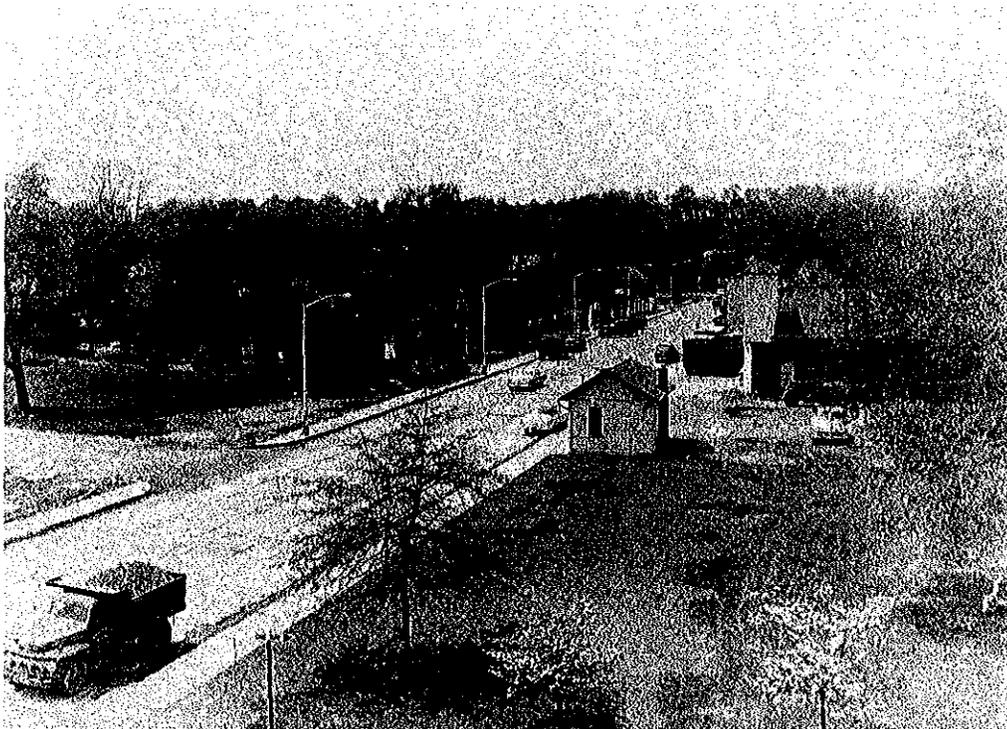
The photograph to the right, below, is a view facing south from East Madison Avenue to where the Tenakill Industrial Park, Hoke, is today. The fields and swamplands that had been beside Railroad Avenue--later Piermont Road--for hundreds of years were soon to be gone.



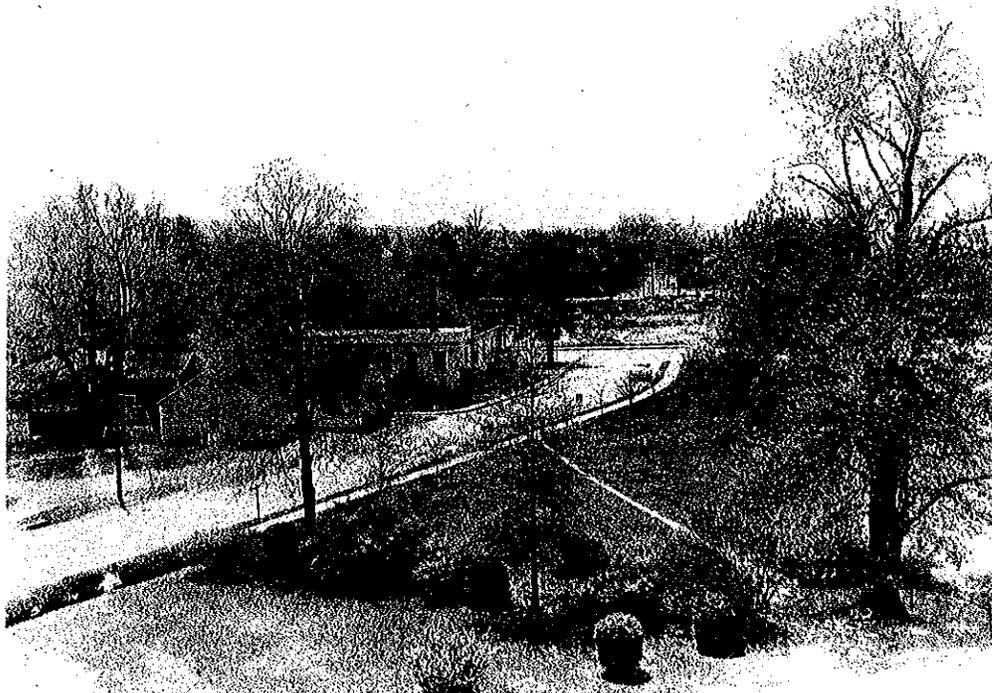
*Looking west on
Madison Avenue
in 1956.*



*View looking west on
Union Avenue as seen
from the top of the
Borough Hall
in 1956.*



View looking south on Dogwood Lane toward the site of construction of a supermarket, Valley Fair, on Union Avenue.



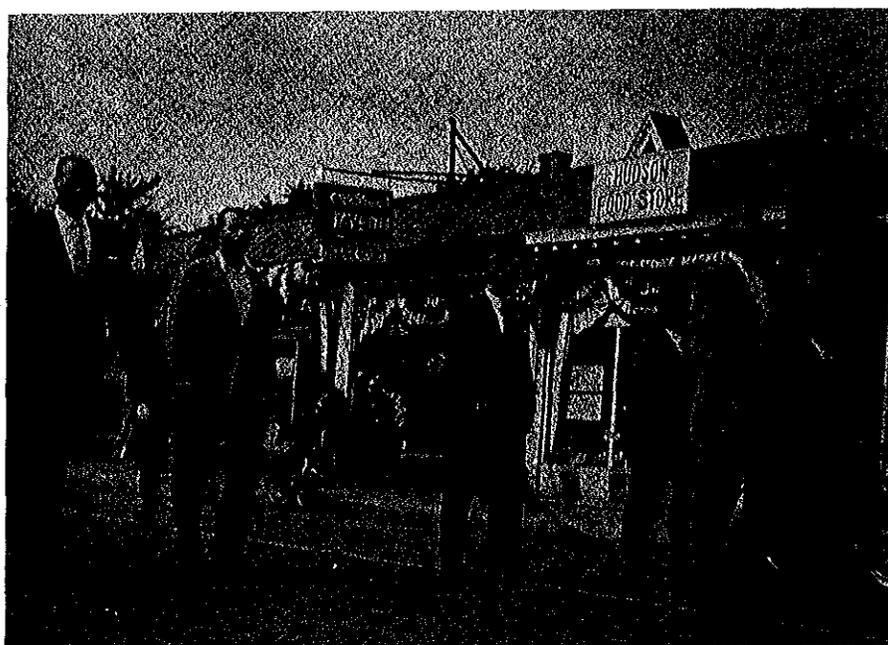
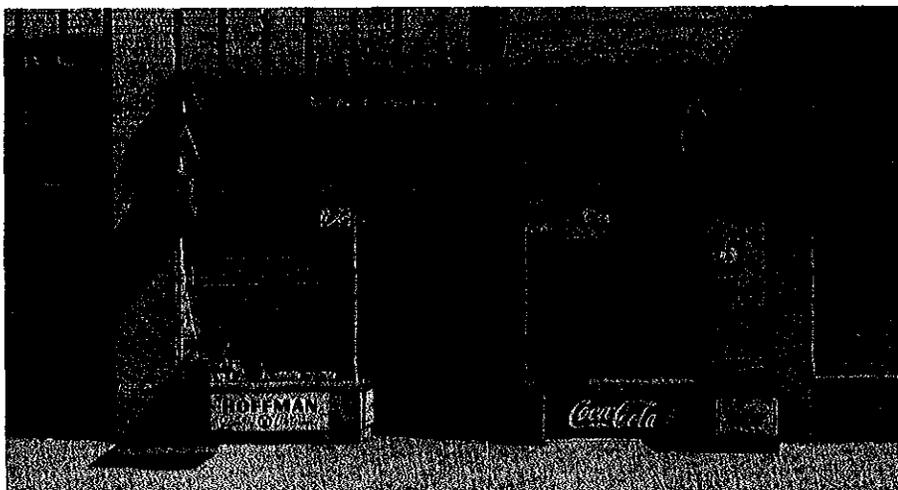
Opening day at the new Valley Fair supermarket. Gladys Pendergast cut the tape as her husband, behind her, and store officials looked on. Kings market later purchased the building.





*Memorial Day parade
in the early 1950s.
Mayor Harold
McLaughlin is in the
foreground.*

*Dave's was the only
real, old-fashioned
"candy store"
Cresskill had.
One could buy
anything from a
cigars to an
ice-cream soda to
magazines such as
Look and Collier's.*



*Memorial Day parade
in the late 1950s.
Photo includes
members of the
Mayor and Council.
From left to right:
Herbert Taylor,
Harvey Rothschild,
Fred Ryerson,
Len Carlson
(partially hidden),
Norbert Pendergast, Sr.,
and Art Boschetti.*

about crabgrass, mortgage payments (though veterans' mortgages were at a 4 percent rate), and overflowing septic tanks. Though folks did give thought to the Korean conflict, far away, it was of great importance only to those who were directly affected by it. Very few knew anything about a place called Vietnam, which in fewer than ten years would begin to change the America these vets had fought for and believed in. In the fifties they had few or no fears of kids taking drugs or getting into serious trouble with the law or becoming pregnant. But they also gave little thought to protecting their environment, to ethnic and racial diversity in their town, or to educating special-needs children. Cresskill's folks were wrapped in a cocoon of introversion and innocence, just as were folks throughout the country. This, however, contributed to the interest the young parents took in the running of their town and their schools, in their involvement on the council, the school board, and with the PTA.

Many of the new homeowners were also new owners of televisions. Milton Berle, Ed Sullivan, and Sid Caesar reigned. Soap operas had just begun their daytime sway.

Because these young parents' lives revolved around their children and their homes, their outside interests involved children also. The first Cresskill-Alpine baseball league played in 1950, with dads coaching on

every field available. Five years later the moms formed an auxiliary to raise money for the teams' needs.

The Cresskill Lions Club was chartered in 1953, and though not directly connected to children, its activities were. Its main thrust was to help the blind, but it also helped children who needed financial aid by providing eyeglasses and examinations or dental care. As part of the largest service organization in the world, the Lions were involved with giving--a washing machine to a family that could not afford one, the first loudspeaker system on the high school field, scholarships for graduating seniors, the dummy that teaches ambulance squad members how to resuscitate--the list continues. Lou Nemeth, Joe Grace, Emil Brignola, Al Bauer, and William Rilling were its leaders. For Lou, the Lions were so much a part of his life that he was elected to district governor, a high post in the organization. Lou, who died a few years ago, would be happy to know that his son, Lou--called Rick--is now president of the Cresskill club.

The League of Women Voters became active in Cresskill, sponsoring candidates' nights for bipartisan elections. At one time Cresskill's women had belonged to the Tenafly chapter, but they later joined Closter, which became the Northern Valley League. In the seventies twenty-five women compiled a booklet on "Know Your

Town," following nationally prescribed criteria, which then enabled their chapter to be able to take positions on local government issues. They do not, however, support or oppose candidates. The league gives an annual award to a high school senior who best exemplifies its aims of citizen participation in government.

Two new churches came to town. The Reformed Church on the Hill on Lexington Avenue and the Northern Valley Evangelical Free Church on Stivers Street opened within a month of each other in 1951. By 1956 there was a third elementary school in Cresskill, St. Therese parochial school.

The Bible Club of Cresskill was in its sixth year by 1955. Twenty elementary-school-age children met each Tuesday afternoon at the home of Frances Tallman to study Bible, sing gospel songs, and obtain an interest in Christian leadership. Their junior-high-school-age counterparts met on Tuesday evenings at the home of Hortense Harrington in Demarest. Mrs. Harrington, ninety years old, still leads Bible classes in her home for adults.

Mrs. Harrington was well known to Cresskill children and parents; she had been the music teacher in the Cresskill school system since the early forties. For years, she arrived at school early so that students--sometimes as many as a hundred--could take extracurricular music-appreciation classes. "I

taught them to transpose, sometimes I had opera songs for them to listen to or sing, and I had them make up scrapbooks of musical items in the newspapers and magazines," she says. Of her classroom music classes, which she taught several days a week at both elementary schools, she says, "They had to learn to sing "God Bless America," "America," "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean," and "The Star Spangled Banner" because I told them if they don't learn it now they'll never be taught them again." One child, she says, said to her, "I wasn't musical, I can't sing, but what you did for me was hook music up with history." Even after she retired (she doesn't remember exactly when--"I never really left, and I didn't notice; I was having too much fun"), until the last of her students had graduated, when she continued to appear at high school senior-class awards assemblies, where she still received the most heartfelt applause from the young people.

A new firehouse was built in 1955 on Madison Avenue, where it is today. The old firehouse, on Union Avenue at the corner of Allen Street, was taken over first by the Department of Public Works and then by the Volunteer Ambulance Squad, which by then had thirty members from the police and fire departments.

In the fifties Cresskill had its own version of a United Way. The Cresskill Community Chest contrib-

uted to such organizations as Englewood and Holy Name hospitals, the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, Family Counseling Service, and the YMCA of Tenafly and Cresskill.

The Cresskill Music Club, which the women of Cresskill had begun during the war years, was thriving in the mid-fifties, with the Misses Murray--Catharine, Edith, Mary, and Isabelle--among forty others, contributing time and energy to such endeavors as the annual community Christmas concerts, a folk opera, and a choral club. In addition, they presented a grand piano and other instruments to the schools.

The Cresskill Players, a theater group organized in 1946, had twenty-five members by the mid-fifties. The proceeds for their efforts in "One Mad Night" obtained a drinking fountain for the Bryan School playground, while other productions earned the Players group enough money to donate an ambulance to the borough.

For those who weren't thespians but wanted to swing their partners, there were the Valley Promenaders, soon to be renamed the Tenakill Twirlers. Barbara and Sid Scott began the square- and folk-dance group--Sid was a caller--but eventually it included many couples, among them the Tirrells, the Relingers, the Brombergs, and the Fulmers. As time went on the dancers, in addition to their own monthly get-togethers, performed frequently when Cresskill peo-

ple gathered for celebrations and at dances conducted several times a year in the supermarket parking lot. Then, the women in colorful full skirts and voluminous petticoats and the men in long sleeves, often with a Western-style tie, whirled to the foot-stomping beat and the caller's rapid-fire verses. The group has met for forty years at the Edward H. Bryan School.

It's not generally known that Cresskill was the first town to form an Auxiliary of Englewood Hospital. At the urging of a Closter doctor and through the Ladies Aid group of the Congregational Church, the Cresskill Auxiliary was formed in 1914 at the home of former Mayor and Mrs. Guy E. Cowley on Gilmore Avenue. A future mayor, E. Leonard Carlson and his wife, Beatrice, purchased the home in 1941, and though the Auxiliary no longer met in her house, Mrs. Carlson also became involved with the Auxiliary. The group has continued to meet--on the first Thursday of every month--without interruption, the only Auxiliary to have such an unbroken record. As many as sixty women rolled bandages; did sewing in their own homes and at meetings, bringing their sewing machines along; and delivered vegetables to the hospital. In addition, they raised the money to furnish a patient room in the hospital. Today there are still twenty-five or so women folding towels, fashioning tiny caps for newborn babies, and knitting and crocheting lap

robes for wheelchair-bound patients--who take the lap robes home with them.

The mid-fifties again saw different faces and establishments "in town." Now there were Mitchell's Meat Market, Lydecker's Hardware Store, and Skip's Fish Market on Union Avenue. And a Chinese laundry next to Lydecker's. Early in the fifties Tony Castanzo opened his barber shop, across the street from where it is today. Although Tony is gone now and his son, Joe, has been running the shop for some time, it's still the same Cresskill Barber Shop--where the town's men meet and exchange news--as it was then. Except nowadays it's more likely that little boys get a mushroom cut instead of the crewcut every little guy got at the beginning of every mid-fifties' summer ("Cut it short, Tony. Let's try to make it last till school opens in September.").

Nearby, on the north side of Union Avenue, Dave and Frieda Lapidus ran Dave's, which someone today has described as "the closest thing you could still get to Second Avenue in New York." Dave's sold papers and magazines and candy, but it also had a soda counter, and Dave made a mean chocolate egg cream--and a rich ice cream soda for those who wanted no part of egg creams. He freely dispensed advice, concern, and a welcome along with his wares in his dimly lit, jammed store.

Tony Giordano had a produce market in town. There

was a fabric shop in the fifties and on into the sixties, on the south side of Union Avenue, a shop packed nearly as tightly as Dave's. Cress Cleaners was on the same side. The Cresskill Bakery, by then owned by Charles and Irma Langer, parents of police captain Norbert Langer, was nearby. Irma Langer knew nearly everyone in town, in part because her products were so appealing and in part because she made newcomers feel welcome. One young mother, new to town and a stranger to Mrs. Langer, found, after she had made her choices, that she had left her money at home. That was just fine, Mrs. Langer said, and told the young woman to bring in the money whenever she could.

John Scofield had opened his pharmacy in 1947, but it was a fraction as large as it is today. He, too, had a soda fountain there for a short time. He had bought the pharmacy from Mike Abrams, who had owned it for some time and who was the father of Dr. Martin Abrams on Madison Avenue, who took over the practice of Dr. Sam Loman.

Across Railroad Avenue (today's Piermont Road) from Scofield's, where Hoke is today, there was a lumber yard--Cresskill Lumber--that had operated since the Camp Merritt days. But, says Jack Scofield, who took over running the pharmacy from his dad in 1963, the lumber business came to an end during a storm in 1947, when the lumber yard's roof

was blown off. Scofield would, however, get an argument from Richard Barretta as to the relative fury of that storm. That's because the storm Barretta recalls from July of 1943 rained hailstorms as large as golf balls--and he's got pictures to prove it.

Until the late forties there had been another type of business, in a Union Avenue store next to Cress Cleaners. Jack Scofield recalls his erstwhile neighbors as "Solo Curlers--ten to fifteen ladies who assembled curlers"--which, in the middle part of the century, were an important part of women's lives, often staying on their heads all day until their husbands came home in the evening.

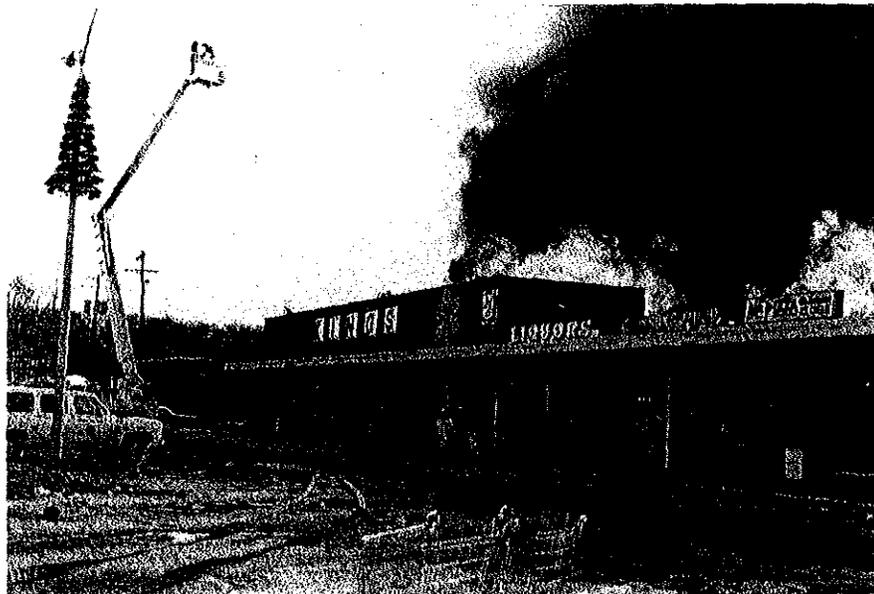
In 1957 in a very small shop on the north side of Union Avenue a woman, a widow who came to Cresskill from Englewood, began to sell linens, notions, and, especially significant in a town filled with young families, children's clothes. The shop was so narrow and cramped with merchandise that it was easy for her to stand just inside the door as customers shopped. People who remember those early days in the shop remember that they couldn't get past the proprietor after they had purchased an item (or, worse yet, when they hadn't) without her saying, "You'll need a pair of socks to go with that little dress," or, more probably, "You'll need a little dress to go with that pair of socks." And the next thing these reminiscing people say is, "But

look where it got her."

Where it got Mary Hamrah, twelve years after she opened her shop on Union Avenue, was into her own two-story building on Piermont Road, the largest shop in the area for fine clothes for women and small children. Her unique merchandising methods accomplished what she set out to do: to create a secure future for her three daughters, who are now in business with her.

It wasn't easy, either leaving the relative security of real estate work to begin her own business to be with her children or, later, to expand the business. She had wanted to buy the building on Union Avenue but met with resistance. "I was told a woman shouldn't own property," she recalls. She took matters into her own hands: She built property.

By the fifties the post of-



Kings market was destroyed by fire on Christmas Eve, 1975, and was later rebuilt.

fice had moved to the building at the corner of Union Avenue and Washington Street later renovated and occupied by Hudson City Savings Bank.

The late forties and early fifties found other businesses starting out in Cresskill, never thinking then that they would, in the nineties, have grown to the point that they have. One such business was Joe Campoli's. In 1946, Joe Campoli, who was born and raised in Cresskill, started the construction business with his wife, Dorothy, the former Dorothy Williams, who came to Cresskill as a young girl. The business today includes his sons, Rod and John, and sends his familiar red trucks fanning out through the Northern Valley area. Campoli was on hand to secure Kings after a fire in the seventies and to secure the area where a house exploded on Broadway in the nineties. Though Joe is

retired now, his sons are constructing homes in Rio Vista and buildings for car dealerships in Englewood, among other projects. Many of the alterations done to Cresskill's homes have been done by the Campolis.

Telephone exchanges in the Englewood/Tenafly/Cresskill area still began with the word "LOWell," which, when numbers replaced names, gave rise to the 567-, 568-, and 569- exchange numbers.

The borough's school enrollment expanded from 480 in 1950 to 1,160 in 1955. With the increased traffic incurred in getting children to and from school, the number of school marshalls was up to five by 1955.

During 1956, the Department of Public Works planted 158 shade trees throughout the borough, an indication of the number of new homes and streets there were in the town. In 1957 the record showed

Crossing Children

Cresskill's children have been walking safely to and from school largely because of the care of school marshalls who shepherd them across busy intersections. Some with many years' experience are Anne Vollkomer, who has been a marshall since 1976, William Gilliland, a marshall since 1977, Christine Gargiulo, since 1982, and Jacqueline Jaccobacci, since 1987. In the past, other marshalls served for many years: Robert Behnke, from 1973 to 1980; Louise Faccino, from 1973 to 1980; Isabel Vitellaro, from 1973 to 1988; John Cerullo, from 1982 to 1991; and Rita Ripke, who is deceased, from 1973 to 1982.

there were 1,800 houses in Cresskill, compared to 630 in 1939 and 980 in 1950. That year the town purchased a second patrol car for its police force, a Ford station wagon that could accommodate eight people and was equipped with a two-way radio, an oxygen unit, first-aid equipment, and a public-address system. There were nine men on the police force, four officers and five patrolmen. There were 166 arrests in 1957, one person was killed, eight missing persons were found, and nine people were committed to the county jail.

During the last years of the fifties the town installed sewers. Now septic tanks would no longer back up and would no longer have to be emptied; basements would be less likely to flood. But though all the advantages appeared to be on the side of the sewers, they raised the ire of some of Cresskill's citizens, especially its older residents. They denounced the sewer hook-up fees and the higher taxes. Nevertheless, within a few years the town sewer program was completed, the newer residents began to see their basements dry

out, and the older residents came to terms with these modern conveniences. While the work continued, however, for a few weeks in front of each house the borough's kids tracked first dirt (when the street was dug up) and later tar (when the street was repaved) into each house. The scoldings of mothers scrubbing dirt off clean linoleum floors and tar off bony little shins--with the help of the new liquid detergents on the market--was the same in the older parts of the town as in the newer.

But the sewer program took a worse toll than the higher tax rates. Two Englewood men working on a sewer excavation on Seventh Street were suffocated when the unsupported walls of the ditch in which they were digging collapsed on top of them. Rescuers from the police and fire departments and other sewer workers--including the son of one of the victims--dug, some with their bare hands, for fourteen minutes before the two men were extricated. Both were dead.

By the end of the fifties Tenakill Industrial Park was completed. Hoke, Inc., moved into the low brick building on the seven-acre

tract beside the railroad tracks. Nearly two decades had passed since some of the businesses that had long operated in the town had failed during the Depression. During the intervening years, the borough had concentrated on retaining itself as a residential community. This welcome to industry would ease the tax situation of Cresskill's residents without making a great impact on other municipal services.

Cresskill in the fifties was middle-class, unprepossessing. For many years, it had felt overshadowed by its wealthy neighbors to the south. People on streets bordering Tenafly were wont to say they lived in Cresskill, "but right on the Tenafly border." Cresskill may not have had other communities' opulent homes or their illustrious people. But Cresskill's people had something else: a sense of community and involvement; they pulled together. And there was something Cresskill's people lacked: snobbishness. They loved their town, but there wasn't too much in it in which they took great pride. That was about to change. They were about to build a high school.

A Call to Worship

There are five churches in Cresskill. Most of the townpeople worship in one of them; some others worship elsewhere in the area. In Cresskill's earliest days, most of its citizens, of Dutch extraction--the Demarests, the Westervelts, the Tallmans--worshipped in the Reformed Church, though Cresskill's own branch of the denomination wasn't built until 1949. The first church in Cresskill was the Congregational Church, and it was alone in town for seventeen years.

Cresskill Congregational Church

The Congregational Church's history began before Cresskill's history, in 1856, in an undenominational Sunday school in Tenafly. Though there were churches in all the surrounding towns, there were none in Cresskill. After meeting for many years for religious services on Sunday evenings in the Cresskill Borough Hall, a group of worshippers organized the Gospel Church of Cresskill with fifty-nine charter members and under the direction of a student minister, Alfred Sneed. That was in March of 1907. By April of 1907, Mr. Sneed was ordained and installed as the first pastor, but by that October he had left for missionary work in India.

The Rev. Alexander Fraser was the next pastor. He was there when the church building was erected on land given the church by coal executive and former mayor Edwin Westervelt. The building was dedicated on March 7, 1909. Eighteen months later the church became the Cresskill Congregational Church.

In its early years pastors stayed but two or three years. More recently, however, the pastors' tenures have been longer, most notably that of the Rev. Horace W. Hughes, who was with the church from 1935 to 1966. Following Mr. Hughes was the Rev. Vernon D. Byron, who was pastor from 1966 to 1974, and later the Rev. Frederick W. Rogers, from 1977 to 1985. The Rev. Madelon E. Nunn-Miller has been pastor since 1986. She oversees the church's involvement in the Center for Food Action and the Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless and its congregants' ministry throughout the world.

St. Therese Roman Catholic Church

Seventeen years after the Congregational Church began in Cresskill, a hundred or so Catholic families in Cresskill were granted permission to build a church on Madison Avenue. With the encouragement of the pastor of Tenafly's Mt. Carmel Church, the group raised funds for the building. Ground for Blessed Therese of Lisieux--the Little Flower--the name of the new church, was broken in May 1924, and the first Mass was celebrated in the nearly completed church in September 1924. Six months later, the church's namesake was declared a

saint by Pope Pius XI, possibly making the Cresskill church the first one named for the new saint.

The first pastor, Fr. Fidelis Paulding, guided the organization of the Scapular Confraternity and the Holy Name Society. As did Cresskill's, the population of the church grew in the fifties, and during the pastorate of Fr. Joe Moynihan a parish school was built, in 1956. Its classrooms, staffed by Felician Sisters, were crowded to full capacity.

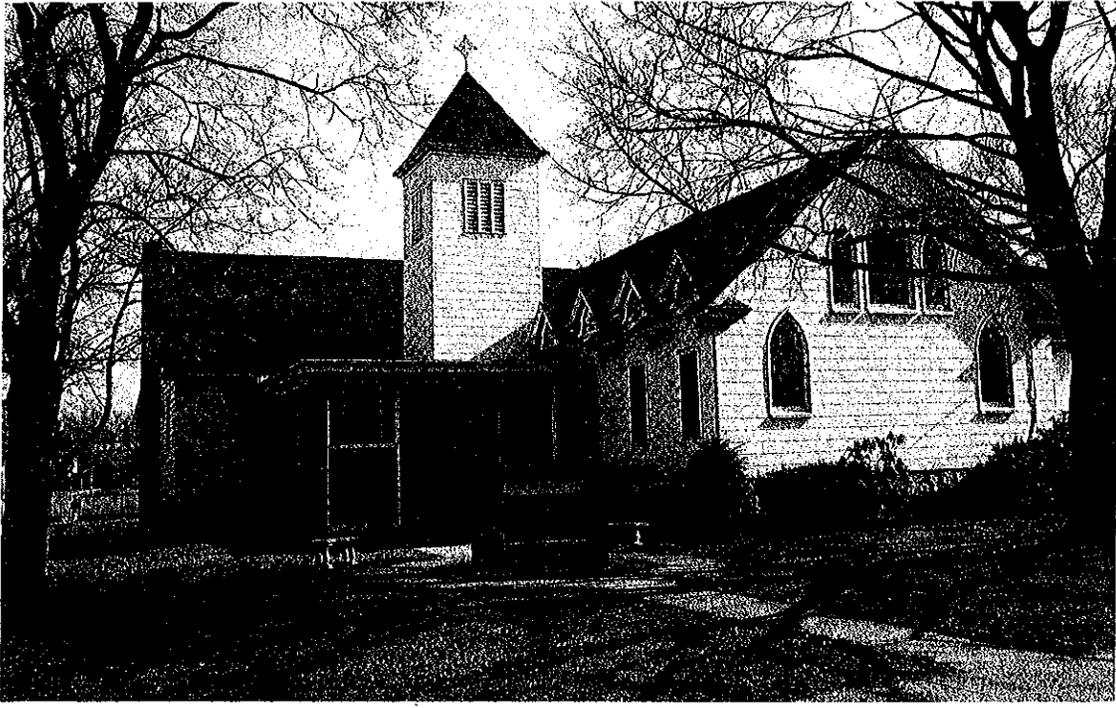
The little church building that had served the congregation for more than forty years was also soon overcrowded. In 1970 a new church was built and dedicated by Fr. Paul Kirchner, the church's pastor from 1966 to 1975. Since then, the church's pastors have been Fr. Bart Larkin, 1975-1978; Fr. Bernard Lickteig, 1978-1980; Fr. Tiernan O'Callaghan, 1980-1989; and Fr. James Boyce, 1989 to the present. All the church's pastors have been of the Carmelite Order.

St. Therese School, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, offers full academic curricula along with art, physical education, and music. It offers Spanish in the upper three grades. At one time, shortly after Cresskill High School opened, the seventh and eighth grades of St. Therese School took extracurricular courses, such as shop, at the public high school. The program was deemed successful but was stopped when the administration of St. Therese realized that it had many students from outside the borough who were not eligible to be educated in the Cresskill public school.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

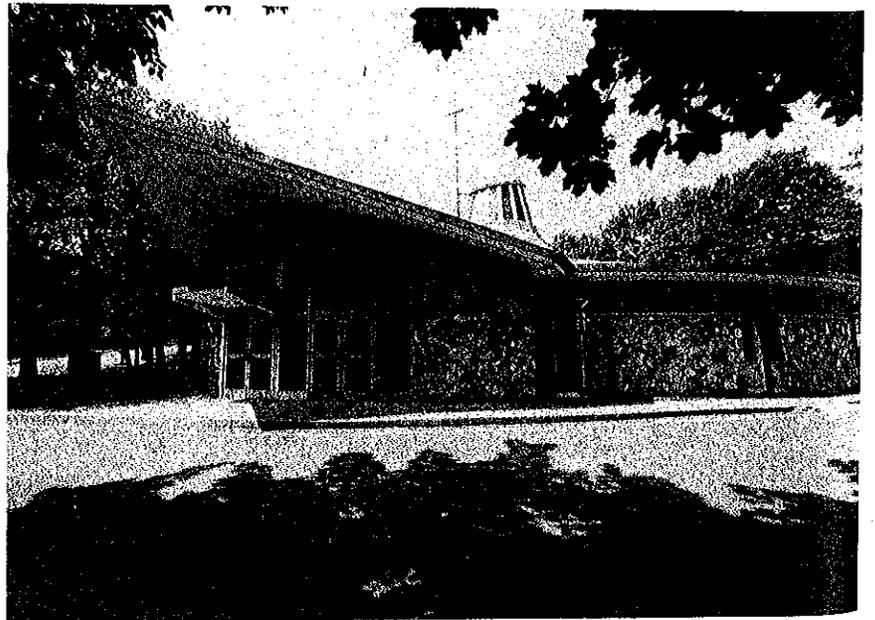
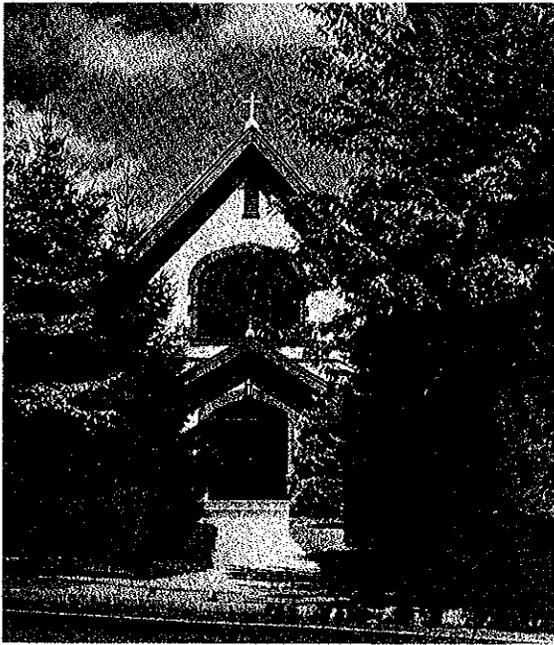
It was on a Sunday, October 18, 1931, that thirty-nine people organized at the home of August Scharpen to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. Scharpen's son-in-law Oswald Longfield used to photograph all of Cresskill's events, and Scharpen's grandson Kenneth Longfield became a minister. The new congregation held its services in the Borough Hall under the ministry of the Rev. Leopoldo Caban, who commuted each week by public transportation from Brooklyn, New York, at a cost of 20 cents and two hours of his time, to be paid \$8.00 a week. A full-time pastor, the Rev. Walter Bielitz, came to the congregation in 1933. Eleven years later, the group had purchased a house at 121 Park Avenue, which became its chapel and parsonage, and the building lot across the street. On October 24, 1948, the new church building was dedicated at that lot.

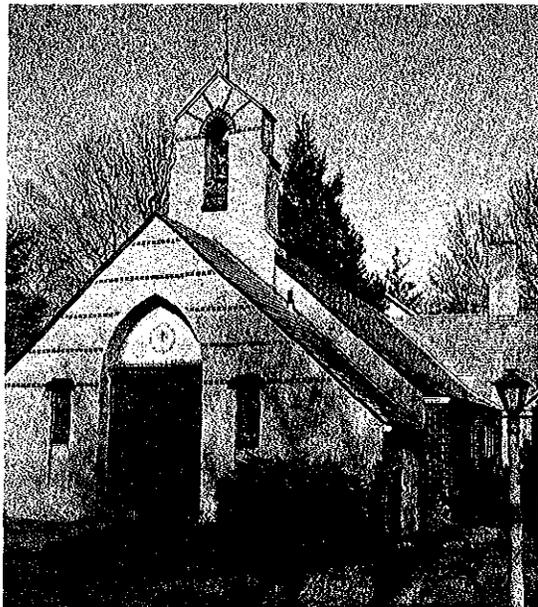
With the population growth of the fifties, the church needed more room. On December 11, 1955, Pastor Elmer Seifert dedicated the church's Fellowship Hall. Together with the Congregational Church



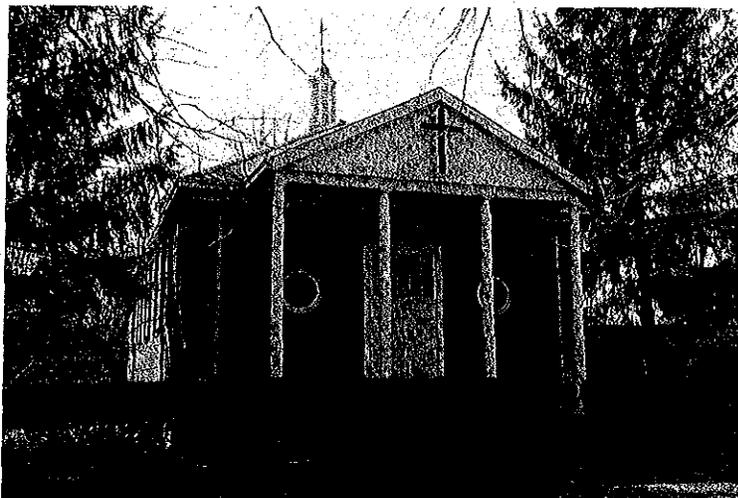
Top: Cresskill Congregational Church, the first church in town.

Bottom left: St. Therese R.C. Church's first building until it was replaced by the current structure, shown bottom right.

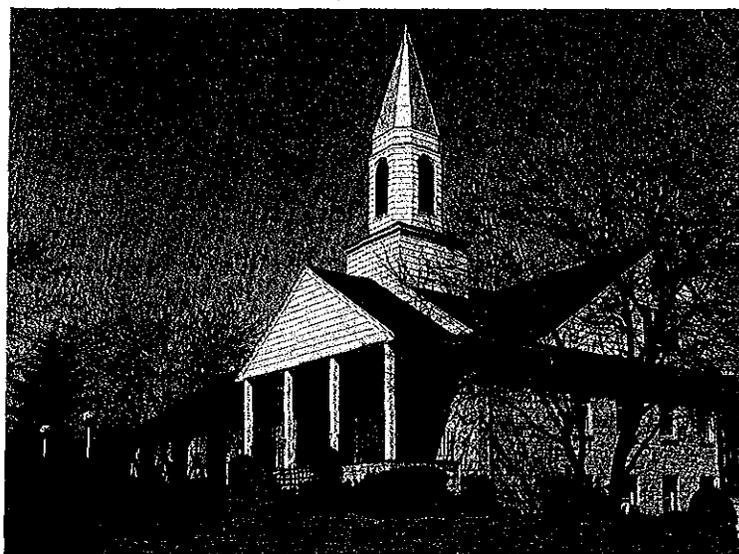




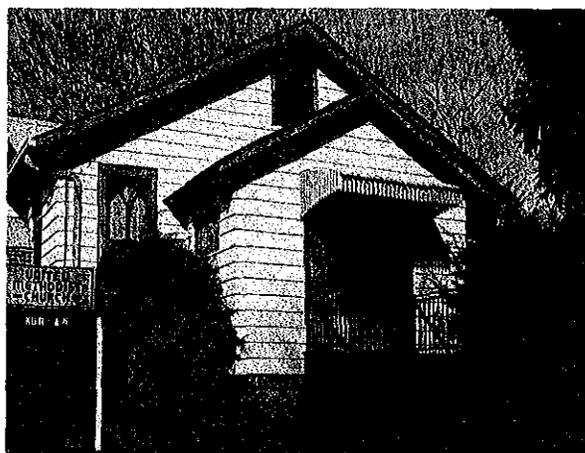
*Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Our Saviour.*



*The Reformed Church on
the Hill.*



*Northern Valley Evangelical Free
Church of Cresskill.*



*United Methodist Church on
Sixth Street
(see story on page 74).*

and St. Therese, Our Saviour celebrates ecumenical Thanksgiving services and Good Friday services, and conducts a joint Daily Vacation Bible School in the summer.

Our Saviour has had nine ministers. The Revs. Robert O. Flechtner and Alfred L. Mattes followed Pastor Bielitz. The Rev. Louis C. Suessmann was with the church from 1944 to 1951. He was followed by Pastor Seifert, who remained with the church from 1951 to 1971. Pastor Richard Locke followed, from 1972 to 1979, and Pastor Bertil Johnson was minister from 1980 to 1986. The current minister, the Rev. John Larson, has been with the congregation since 1987.

Northern Valley Evangelical Free Church of Cresskill

Early in 1951 thirty-two people signed a petition seeking to establish an Evangelical Free Church in Bergen County. A few months later, they decided to locate the church in Cresskill. For the first year, until they bought their property on Stivers and Twelfth streets, the charter members met at the Edward H. Bryan School. The church building was erected under the leadership of the first minister, the Rev. Raymond D. Martin. In less than ten years the church had to enlarge, with a new sanctuary that seats 300 people. In 1968 they added an educational building, which also houses a full-sized gymnasium.

After Pastor Martin the church's ministers were the Rev. John McLennan from 1957 to 1961; the Rev. Phillip P. Gammon, from 1961 to 1972; the Rev. Wayne Lehsten, from 1972 to 1976; and the Rev. Robert G. Zimmer, from 1978 to the present. Pastor Zimmer oversees a women's Bible study group that 150 to 200 women attend each week, a men's Bible study group at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings, and a multifaceted youth activities program.

The church shares its facilities. The Korean Abba Mission Church has met in the building of the Northern Valley Evangelical Free Church since 1985. Pastor Kil Jain Jeong is its minister.

The Reformed Church on the Hill

The organizers of the Reformed Church on the Hill began in Dumont, in a Sunday school that met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irving LeFevre and later in the basement of the Grant School in Cresskill's neighboring town.

With the help of the Rev. Robert Geddes, the charter members purchased land in Cresskill, on Lexington Avenue at Twelfth Street. The church building was dedicated on October 16, 1952. In March of the same year the Rev. Henry Burggraaff became the congregation's first pastor. By 1960, the church had expanded and had a new Education Building and a new parsonage next door to the church.

Pastor Burggraaff's ministry from 1952 to 1966 was followed by the Rev. Thomas Thomasma's, from 1967 to 1979. Pastor Thomasma also served as Cresskill's mayor from 1972 to 1974. The current minister is the Rev. Gerald L. Wondra, who has been with the congregation since 1979 and who guides the church's programs of Adult Bible Study, Senior's Friendship group, and Singles Group.

In recent years the church has shared its facilities with two Korean congregations. For one year, in 1988, the Bethel Methodist Church, under the leadership of the Rev. Sun Man Chung, met in the building of the Reformed Church on the Hill, and since then the Peace Korean Reform Church under the leadership of the Rev. Hee Soo Lee has used the church facilities.

Two Former Churches in Cresskill

From the twenties to 1958 there was another church in town, the Merritt Park Gospel Church. After that church closed in 1958, the building, which is on Sixth Street, was used by the First Baptist Church of Cresskill, which also added a house onto it, until 1978. Pastors Charles Olson and Frank Torrey were instrumental in establishing the Merritt Park Gospel Church. Oliver Pratt, who has lived across the street all his life, worshipped in the Merritt Park Gospel Church as a child and recalls many times when chairs were moved from his house to the church when the pews were filled. For a time it was also a United Methodist church.

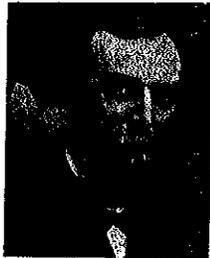
Another religious meeting place was in a house that is still standing on the southwest corner of Madison Avenue and Eighth Street. This many-windowed house was a Christian Science Reading Room during the Camp Merritt days. It is now the home of Scott and Lizanne Kraus and their two children.

Other Denominations and Religions, Other Houses of Worship

Some of Cresskill's folks worship at the Demarest United Methodist Church or at the Demarest Baptist Church. Others worship at the Presbyterian Church at Tenafly or the Church of the Atonement in Tenafly. Also in Tenafly are two large churches, one that ministers to some of Cresskill's sizable Armenian population, St. Thomas Armenian Church of Bergen County Apostolic, and the other that serves Cresskill's Greek-Americans, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Theologian.

Cresskill's Jews have several area synagogues from which to choose. Conservative Jews might worship at the Bergenfield-Dumont Jewish Center or at Temple Emanuel in Englewood, while Reform Jews might worship at Temple Beth El of Northern Valley in Closter or at Temple Sinai in Tenafly.

There are in Cresskill, as there are in every other town in Bergen County, people who are Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, and other denominations, creeds, and faiths.



*Left to right:
James Ferdon,
Egbert Tallman,
A. C. Worth.*

The Men Who Have Led Cresskill

Cresskill has had twenty-seven mayors, beginning with James H. Ferdon and including the current mayor, John Bergamini. Some left an indelible mark on Cresskill; others left not even a memory--no different a phenomenon from that in any other town. Some had supportive councils to work with; others had councils that fought them. But all gave their time freely and without pay to lead their home town.

James Ferdon

James Ferdon won the uncontested election in 1894 on a nonpartisan ticket, the only mayoral candidate to enjoy this luxury.

Egbert Tallman

A. C. Worth

Egbert Tallman, as firmly involved in Cresskill's incorporation as had been Ferdon, followed Ferdon, both in 1896 and in 1902, with one A. C. Worth filling in the years 1897 and 1898.

Edwin B. Westervelt

Edwin B. Westervelt, another of the men closely in-

involved in Cresskill's beginnings as a borough, followed, from 1899 to 1901.

Frederick W. Schaaf

Frederick W. Schaaf, evidently a popular man in town, served two terms, from 1903 to 1911 and again from 1914 to 1917, eleven years in all and the longest tenure of any of Cresskill's mayors.

Guy A. Cowley

Leonard J. Langbein

Guy A. Cowley filled in the years between Schaaf's two terms. Leonard J. Langbein had the honor to serve during Cresskill's illustrious days as the site of Camp Merritt during World War I.

Peter B. Westervelt

Peter B. Westervelt, no relation to Edwin Westervelt, served in 1920 and again from 1928 to 1933. Westervelt owned a coal company on Railroad Avenue, now Piermont Road. His office was at the corner of Union Avenue and Allen Street in a converted barn.



*Left to right:
Edwin B. Westervelt,
Frederick W. Schaaf,
Peter B. Westervelt.*

*Left to right:
H. F. Kahnhauser,
Edward A. Short,
Charles N. Roberts.*



**H. F. Kahnhauser
Edward A. Short**

A veteran of the First World War, H. F. Kahnhauser, served in 1921 and was followed from 1922 to 1927 by Edward A. Short, who for many years was proprietor of the Prospect House near the intersection of Grant and Union avenues. Short was the father of Nicholas Short, who twenty years later became chief of police. Among other things, Edward Short is remembered for having played Santa Claus, handing out candy and oranges to the borough's children near the train station. Short, with Westervelt and Kahnhauser, would have had to deal with the Prohibition years and the problems associated with that.

Charles N. Roberts

Charles N. Roberts, a Republican, steered Cresskill through the worst years of the Great Depression, in 1934 and 1935. During his tenure teachers were paid in scrip, a reflection of the lot of the town's people.

Theodore Brassel, Jr.

Theodore Brassel, Jr., who lived on Smith Terrace, was also a Republican. His service, from 1936 to

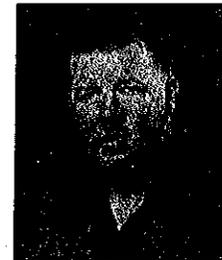
1943, was, together with another mayor who would serve in the early nineties, the longest after Schaaf's. His experience as a banker helped him as Cresskill emerged

from the Depression, only to prepare to send its men and women off to war again. Brassel was a banker and a founder and later chairman of County Trust Company, which later merged with First Fidelity Bank. During his mayorally the Borough Hall was rebuilt by the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.), and he was able to bring the town back to financial stability and to once

again pay its teachers their salaries. At one time, he owned the house and the tract of land that is now the Quirk Funeral Home, but at that time the land

All Cresskill's mayors have been men. To date only four women have served on the council. Margaret (Marnie) Foudy was first, from 1975 to 1977; Linda Recker, 1979 to 1987, came next; Dorothy Anderson followed from 1990 to 1992. Carolyn Schultz has served on the council since 1992.

*Left to right:
Theodore Brassel, Jr.,
Charles Pierce,
John Mulcahy.*





*Left to right:
Fred Jorgensen
Harold McLaughlin,
Benjamin Casser.*

stretched from today's Willis Avenue, up Eleventh and Twelfth streets to Magnolia Avenue, and across Knickerbocker Road into all of the Merritt Avenue area.

Charles Pierce

Charles Pierce, a gas station operator, broke the string of Republican mayors. A Democrat, he served from 1944 to 1947, a quiet time for Cresskill, one in which it welcomed back its war veterans and attempted to regain a sense of normalcy. It was during Pierce's term that, reacting to council meetings that no Cresskill citizens attended, the mayor began to give the heads of all departments five minutes to tell what they do and how the borough's money was being spent. He invited all Cresskill residents to attend; but the visitors' section of the council chamber remained empty.

John Mulcahy

John Mulcahy, who ran a plumbing-supply business in Englewood, was also a Democrat. He was mayor in 1948 and 1949; it was he who first foresaw the leap Cresskill's population would take within a year or so.

Fred Jorgensen

During Fred Jorgensen's mayoralty, in 1950 and 1951, that leap took place; it was he who had to contend with established residents' bafflement at the scope of the new housing development in the north-west section of their town and with new residents' bewilderment as to how to cope with homes they owned and that they sought to protect. A Republican and a Wall Street stockbroker, Jorgensen paid close attention to the borough's finances.

Harold McLaughlin

Harold McLaughlin, who came to Cresskill as a teenager, became a rotogravure printer and mayor of his town. His lot with the fledgling homeowners was not any easier than that of his predecessors. In the years 1952 and 1953 he, too, had to deal with their queries about overflowing septic tanks and flooded basements. McLaughlin left another legacy: his brother, Arthur, was a Cresskill councilman in the sixties and his nephew, Arthur, is a captain on the Cresskill police force.

Benjamin Casser

Republican Benjamin Casser, entrepreneur and philanthropist, held the office of mayor in 1954 and



*Left to right:
Norbert Pendergast, Sr.,
Jack DeSevray,
E. Leonard Carlson.*

*Left to right:
Raymond McGrath,
Bertholf A. Terhune,
Thomas L. Thomasma.*



1955. He began his years in Cresskill before the First World War and, while a resident, established a bus line that still exists, but is owned by others. His son Joe recalls that his father "ran the town like he ran his business . . . very, very strict . . . I know, I worked for him for thirty-seven years." Casser owned the property on which Cresskill High School was later built.

Norbert Pendergast, Sr.

Another Republican, Norbert Pendergast, Sr. served from 1956 to 1957. The proprietor of Willow Run Garden Shop, he began the huge job of installing sewers in Cresskill. But the element of his mayoralty of which he was most proud also unseated him: A dispute over the financial aspects of the sewer program became fodder for Pendergast's opponent, who won the next election by fifty-two votes.

Jack DeSevray

The 1958-to-1959 term of Democrat Jack DeSevray, an infantry officer during World War II, was itself marked by harsh words and bitter feelings, over the same subject that DeSevray had used to win the election. The sewer question was not yet resolved, though the work continued.

E. Leonard Carlson

A Republican again wrested the seat from DeSevray. E. Leonard Carlson was both a mechanical and an electrical engineer. Perhaps because of his professional background or perhaps because he was a gentle man and a gentleman, the sewer program was completed and his 1960-to-1963 term was marked by civility. A park named in his memory is located off Truman Drive.

Raymond McGrath

A former Cresskill postmaster who was as much involved in Cresskill's sports programs as he was in politics followed, from 1964 to 1967. Democrat Raymond McGrath came to Cresskill in the twenties to work at Harris Brothers Lumber Company. It was during his term that the idea of a municipal swim pool came into being, and it was his pride that he steered it toward its beginning. He was a good-natured man who liked people and enjoyed talking with them. He made it easy to be with him and could be counted on not to forget a face or a name. In later years he operated a real estate agency in Cresskill.

Bertholf A. Terhune

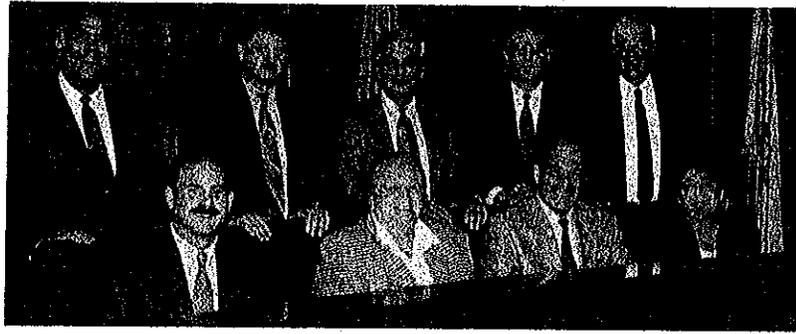
Bertholf A. Terhune, a Republican, led the town

*Left to right:
Andrew Vaccaro,
Robert A. Muir,
Michael Dressler.*





Cresskill's current mayor, John Bergamini.



The 1993 Mayor and Council: standing, left to right: Borough attorney Joseph Cerame, Councilman Joseph Villani, Mayor John Bergamini, Councilman Robert Quinn, Councilman Thomas Corbett; seated, left to right: Councilman Frank Barretta, Councilwoman Carolyn Schultz, Councilman Peter Olivieri, Borough Clerk Dorothy Giguere.

quietly and calmly, from 1968 to 1971. A banker, he was one of the "newcomers" from Cresskill Gardens. During his term he saw the swim club completed, to bring years of pleasure to Cresskill families. The new Department of Public Works' building on Piermont Road was completed during his term. Townsfolk were shocked when, seven years after he left office, he died suddenly at the age of forty-nine. The Mayor and Council later dedicated a park bearing his name, at the corner of County Road and Palisade Avenue.

Thomas L. Thomasma

The Reverend Thomas L. Thomasma, who, like all the other mayors--and council members--of Cresskill, served on a voluntary basis, practiced in a profession different from that of any of the other mayors. He was the minister of the Reformed Church on the Hill from 1967 to 1978, a profession that gave him the advantage of being in Cresskill even during his working hours. It was Thomasma, a Republican, who took the first steps, during his term from 1972 to 1974, toward replacing the old Borough Hall with a new one. Because of his wife's ill health, he did not finish his term and was followed by the man he had appointed as council president.

Andrew Vaccaro

Thomasma had appointed a Democrat to that position, and that person, Andrew (Chuck) Vaccaro won both Thomasma's unfinished term and then a four-year term. His years in office, 1974 to 1979, were often marked by dissension, in part because much of what Vaccaro espoused introduced new concepts to Cresskill. He fought for and saw the first apartments built in the borough, but the path to their erection was not an easy one. Late and loud Mayor and Council meetings reflected a portion of Cresskill's voters who opposed apartments in their town and did not hesitate to tell the mayor their viewpoints. Vaccaro continued studies and discussions on a new Borough Hall, but the actual construction was not to begin until he was out of office. Vaccaro was a

gemologist who worked from his home on Palisade Avenue.

Robert A. Muir

Once again, the vote went back to a Republican. Robert A. Muir, a consultant on employee benefits, served from 1980 to 1983. He oversaw the final planning and construction of the new Borough Hall and was able to do so without having to resort to income from taxes to pay for it. By steering the sale of borough-owned lands on Linwood Avenue and Broadway, he generated the monies needed for construction.

Michael Dressler

Michael Dressler, an attorney with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, grew up in Cresskill and was the first graduate of Cresskill High School to become mayor. His term, 1984 to 1991, equalled Brassel's. During his term the question of the sale of Tammy Brook Country Club, about 100 acres, came up. The developer proposed 450 cluster-zone units. Dressler and his council opposed him and won. The area is now zoned for one house per acre.

John Bergamini

John Bergamini, now in the middle of his term in office, has been involved with many volunteer groups in town since moving to Cresskill in 1965. He ran on the Republican ticket as a newcomer to politics in 1985 and has appointed both Democrats and Republicans to municipal positions. He says he believes that regionalization can be cost effective and will be the way municipal and county government are run in the future. In his attempt to maintain a stable tax rate and community solidarity, he says he is dependent on, and grateful for, the volunteer help he receives from Cresskill residents. Bergamini runs his own business as a printing broker. He and his late wife, Marguerite, raised their three sons in Cresskill.

* * *

Today, several members of Brassel's family still live in Cresskill. Pendergast's son and his family now run Willow Run. Mrs. Carlson still lives in the stately gray house on Gilmore Avenue that she lived in with her husband, Len, and their children before his death. McGrath is no longer living; Louise Terhune is in the Heatherhill Road home in which she and her

husband, Bert, lived during his mayoralty. Thomasma has retired and is living in Whiting; Mrs. Thomasma died in 1989, but their son and daughter still live in Cresskill. Vaccaro lives on Palisade Avenue, as he did when he was mayor. Muir lives in Cresskill. So does Dressler, who moved from his parents' house on Magnolia Avenue and now lives in a townhouse on Madison Avenue near the circle.

An Inspiring Touch

Cresskill has rallied many times when one of its own has been struck with illness or injury. It did that in 1970--for Michael Dressler. It was June, the day following Cresskill High School's graduation. As graduates did almost every year, a group of young people, including Mike Dressler, went to the shore. Mike dove into the water, but he didn't come up unaided. His neck was broken in the dive. He has not walked since.

That didn't stop Mike. It didn't stop the town, either, which ran fund raisers to help his parents pay for his medical care and rehabilitation. And townsfolk followed every advance as Mike moved a finger, then two, then a hand, slowly, over a long period of time.

He had always wanted to go into law and into politics, he says. He put behind him his memories of playing football during his freshman high school year at Bergen Catholic and playing baseball at Cresskill High School. After the accident Mike concentrated on his studies, first at Bergen Community College, with his mother, Margaret, driving him back and forth every day, and then at Fairleigh Dickinson University, to which his brother, Raymond, who was attending also, drove him. From there Mike went on to Seton Hall Law School, always in his wheelchair, always needing assistance.

Much of that changed when he got a van--which he'd been told he didn't have the ability to drive--in 1976. Now he had a new sense of independence and a new sense of himself. Not only was his name known in Cresskill, but he became a familiar figure driving around town. He was elected to the council. He had never envisioned himself as mayor of Cresskill, he says, but, he adds, "I was glad to be able to give something back."

He ran his mayoralty from a wheelchair, but it was not the wheelchair that defined him or his term.

Cresskill's Children

Nothing has bound together the people of Cresskill as its schools have done. The town was incorporated because of them--because of disputes over school taxes. Its calendar revolves around the school year; its people are concerned about the school curricula; and its children, when they're grown, remember good times during their schooling in Cresskill.

Before the high school there were four other public schools in Cresskill: The first was a small one-room schoolhouse begun in 1857 on the northwest corner of Madison Avenue and County Road. Its highest enrollment was forty students. At about that time school taxes were \$3.00 per child. The second school, also a small building that replaced the first, just to the west of the first, was built about twenty-five years later. The bell from the first school was installed in the bell tower of the second. That school had another room added some-

time later, but it also had only one teacher, Miss Mary Flecke, later Mary Flecke Lewis. Joel Horton was the principal. One of the school's early teachers and later its principal was Miss Ray Ward, of whom it was written, ". . . is a lady of refined habits . . . and [has] taught the following branches--reading; writing; spelling; geography; grammar; arithmetic; algebra; history and drawing, all of which seem to prosper under her charge."

In 1908 came the Orchard Street School, the central portion of today's Edward H. Bryan School. When it became overcrowded, the Merritt Memorial School was built in 1928 to take the overflow from a population growth that was expected when the great bridge would be built across the Hudson.

Parents cared about their children's schools and schooling. The town's Parent Teacher Association is nearly seventy-five years old. Cresskill's school bud-

gets have been approved more than 80 percent of the time, and when they were defeated it was largely because of voter apathy and not because of dissatisfaction with the school system. Cresskill's teachers have often been residents of the borough, making them Cresskill parents as well as educators.

Each school has had an impact on the town's residents, but none changed Cresskill, pulled it together, and energized it as much as did planning for and building the high school, which opened in 1962. Not only a high school--a junior/senior high school, a radical departure from the norm of school buildings.

For thirty-six years Cresskill's students had attended Tenafly High School. Most of Cresskill's youngsters walked, usually along the railroad tracks. ("In *my* day, dear, we walked to school--in six-foot snowdrifts.") Some rode bicycles, and some took the public bus after Casser es-

established the run between Cresskill and Tenafly. Before Tenafly High School, Cresskill's teenagers had attended Englewood High School. To reach it, they walked to Tenafly and then took the trolley that ran

from Tenafly south to the 125th Street Ferry in Edgewater. Some took the train that ran south to Englewood.

When, in 1957, Tenafly informed Cresskill that it no longer had the space to accommodate Cresskill's students, the Cresskill Board of Education went hunting--hunting for a high school for its children. But its hunt brought no bounty; no school district would have Cresskill's children. Because populations were exploding throughout the northeastern part of Bergen County, a request for an extension from Tenafly was turned down; efforts to regionalize with the Northern Valley Regional school district failed; and a proposal to mate with Emerson, which faced a similar dilemma as Cresskill, foundered.

The State Department of Education had not shown any enthusiasm for the idea of Cresskill's building its own high school, despite the State Department's awareness of meeting after meeting of the school board, the Mayor and Council, the PTA, and concerned citizens, who were becoming more numerous every day and who wanted at all costs to avoid the one other option for Cresskill students: to send them to a high school outside the county.

It was Henry Mazzola, a member of the school board, who undertook to talk to all the people connected with Northern Valley Regional and Tenafly high schools. He determined, with a re-

porter from *The Record* who followed Mazzola's quest, that Tenafly had first felt they needed Cresskill's students to continue the caliber of their education and then decided that they did not, in fact, need Cresskill. This gave Henry enough information to deliver to the State Department of Education, which, after evaluating his report, then approved a high school in Cresskill. The school board, the Mayor and Council, the PTA, and the concerned citizens cheered.

Then came the search for a site. At that point even people who had pulled together in their quest for a school differed, at times by vote, often by angry arguments. The board submitted to referendum the idea of a 30-acre site on Hillside Avenue, part of the Rionda estate. Cresskill's citizens defeated that idea by a margin of five to three. The board later discovered, when a volunteer High School Study Committee conducted a broad survey of the town's voters, that it had not been the site the voters had turned down, but the fact that the voters didn't have enough information about what was to be built. The school board was learning by experience.

There was another piece of undeveloped land--32 acres at the end of Cresskill Avenue--that belonged to former mayor Ben Casser. Casser was interested in selling his land for a high school: his sons had learned well in the Cresskill elementary school system: Le-

Memories

Cresskill's children had fond memories of their schooldays in part because there were so few of them with so much to do--without television or even radio.

A highlight of the walk to school, when the school was one of the first two on Madison Avenue was a stop at the blacksmith's shop nearby to hear the anvil clang and watch the sparks fly.

For the student who got to school early, a favorite activity was to ring the school bell, which involved hanging on and swinging from the heavy rope while the bell sounded throughout town.

The youngsters soon discovered that school windows were so low that it was possible for the sprightly and daring to hop out for an occasional drink at the pump when the teacher, Miss Remson, wasn't looking.

But the pump could be used by Miss Remson for another purpose. Boys--no word was said of girls--who used "bad words" had the "taste" of the bad words washed away with soap at the pump.

One recollection was of children seeing smoke coming from the direction of Tenafly, just as the school bell rang. The class raced off to the fire and then blackened their faces to try to appear like firefighters. Somehow, Miss Remson didn't fall for the youngsters' scheme.

onard went on to study medicine and Joe went on to study law and was elected, in the early fifties, to the school board. The board and Casser agreed on a final price of \$180,000, with the high school library to be named in memory of Casser's wife, Rose.

This time, after many open board meetings and with "cottage parties" (meetings in people's homes to explain and describe the impact of building a high school in town), voters approved by a three to one margin the January 24, 1961, referendum to support a \$2.4 million bond issue. The Cresskill PTA was instrumental in helping to set up the cottage parties, at which a not insignificant part of the explaining that had to be done was describing the concept of a junior high school and a senior high school in the same building. Parents were reassured when they studied plans for the proposed school and saw that the "B" wing, for the junior high school, was separate and distinct from the "C" wing, the senior high school area (the "A" wing houses offices; the auditorium; and music, art, and industrial arts rooms).

What caused no dissent, and what mattered most--to everyone--was the education the youngsters would receive. Administrators, board members, parents, and teachers had the same goals for their new school: that students would receive an education as fine as one they might have gotten in a



large high school, while enjoying the advantages of a small school that would allow each student to retain his or her identity. Cresskill's students in a school in their own town would no longer have to see themselves and be seen as "out-of-towners." Nor would they have to go from Cresskill's eighth grade to Tenafly's Middle School for one year, for ninth grade, and then go to yet a third school for the high school years. Cresskill's high school was destined to become the single most important entity in the town. It was so in 1962, and it is so in 1994.

It would indeed be a small school: At its first graduation, on June 23, 1965, the class numbered 153. Its largest graduating class, in 1973, numbered 170. Enrollment in Cresskill's schools has declined in the past decade or so, as it has throughout the country; the class of 1993 had 72 graduates.

As the country's lower birth rate has caused decreased school enrollments, there has been concern that

Cresskill's high school might be in jeopardy, as the state could mandate that its students regionalize with another district. In fact, however, Cresskill's enrollment has never been large, by state standards. In 1895, the number of students enrolled in the little schoolhouse on Madison Avenue was 82, fewer than many of the school districts in the state. At that time, a report of the State Board of Education stated, "Generally speaking, not less than 500 to 1,000 pupils can be graded and taught in a single school district with due regard to economy. A village or borough of 2,500 inhabitants [one-year-old Cresskill had about 300 inhabitants] can maintain ordinarily a good graded school, with high school department, without resorting to excessive taxation." From then to now, however, Cresskill's citizens have supported their schools and have continued to support the concept of a kindergarten-to-twelfth-grade school system in their town.

The Orchard Street School was built in 1908 and is the repository of many fond memories of those who attended the school in the earlier decades of the century. For Gladys (Muffy) Pendergast it is the walk to and from the Orchard Street School that brings back memories. "We walked up Madison, turned into Monroe, and walked straight. We followed the path along the brook, and we always got dirty and got wet feet." The Orchard

By the time Bill Cook attended the Orchard Street School some years later, he remembers four classrooms upstairs and four downstairs. But he attended the eighth grade at the new Merritt Memorial School after the Orchard Street School was closed between 1928 and 1932 because enrollment didn't warrant operating two schools.

In 1911 the school enrollment had been 112; by 1916 it was 145. When the Merritt Memorial School opened

stage afforded all the amenities of a first-class theater. At the front of the balcony was a brass railing and behind it were another 150 chairs. In the back was the projection booth.

People who attended Merritt Memorial School in the thirties and forties remember the swamp behind the school and the way they could ice skate there after school. Today there are still a few such low spots in town, leftovers from the days when the entire center portion of Cresskill was swampland, most notably the spot where today's youngsters skate on a pond developed by the Department of Public Works near Cresskill Avenue.

The school was built with a civil defense shelter in the basement with reinforced concrete walls and ceiling. At the time, it was stocked with food, water, and other materials necessary for survival. During the late fifties and early sixties, when the Cold War was at its height, there were other defense shelters, built by individuals in their fear of enemy attack. Merritt Memorial School's is still used today as the base for the borough's Department of Emergency Management.

The building cost \$202,000. All other expenses--furniture, equipment, architect's fee, and improvement of the grounds, cost an additional \$42,000.

Participants at the September 1928 dedication ceremony of the new school on Dogwood Lane included the

Though the George Washington Bridge was built in 1931, the Palisades Development Company had begun to buy huge tracts of land in the Northern Valley region as early as 1859. At that time the company expected that a bridge would be built from Fifty-ninth Street in Manhattan across the river to New Jersey. After this land speculation fizzled to nothing, the company sold the land back to the farmers in the area and prepared for the next bridge, the George Washington Bridge, by laying out streets in anticipation of developing them.

Street School, later renamed the Edward H. Bryan School after a principal, was rebuilt in 1951 and rebuilt again in 1955.

Mrs. Pendergast remembers the layout of the school: four classes downstairs, two on each side of the door; first and second grades were taught together, third and fourth grades were taught together, and sixth and seventh were taught together. The fifth grade, she says, had its own room upstairs, together with the auditorium, which was not large by today's auditorium standards. The eighth grade, which she did not mention, was apparently also downstairs and was taught by Edward H. Bryan.

in 1928 there were 286 children attending Cresskill's two schools. When, however, enrollment rose only to 309 in 1930, the Orchard Street School was closed. Four years later there was again a turnaround when Merritt Memorial's nine classrooms and its kindergarten were filled. The Orchard Street School was reopened, two classrooms at a time.

Merritt Memorial School had another feature: its auditorium. A showpiece at the time, it had a balcony, which today serves as the school's library, while the auditorium serves as the school's gymnasium. The auditorium had a slanted cement floor with some 600 chairs bolted down to it. Men's and women's dressing rooms back-

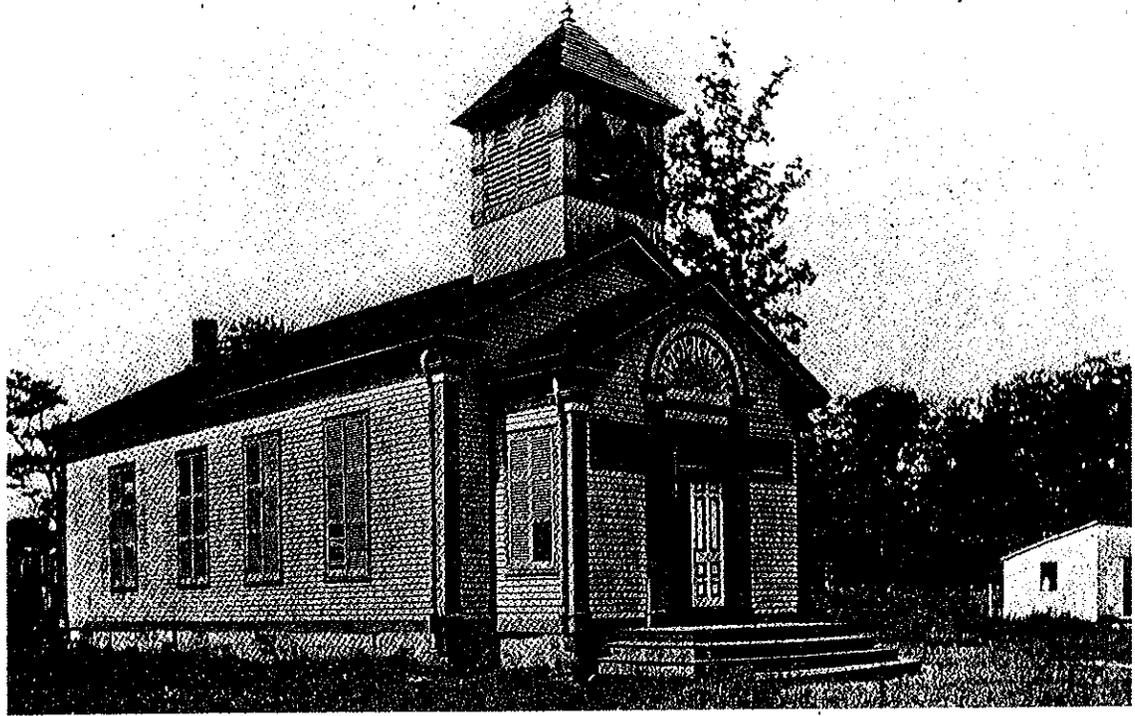


Cresskill's first schoolhouse, 1857. Reproduced from the original photograph taken by a photo studio in Jersey City. The Jersey City studio specialized in school photography and would send a photographer by train to visit all the schools in the Northern Valley area.

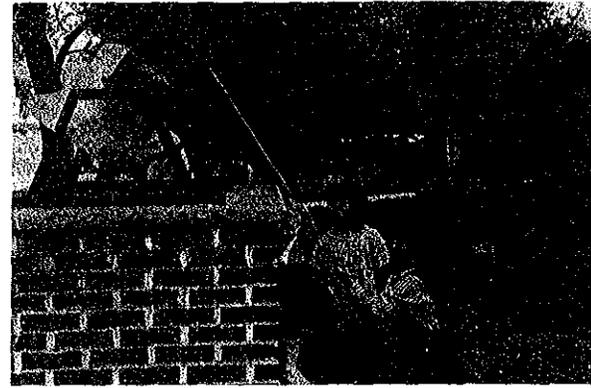
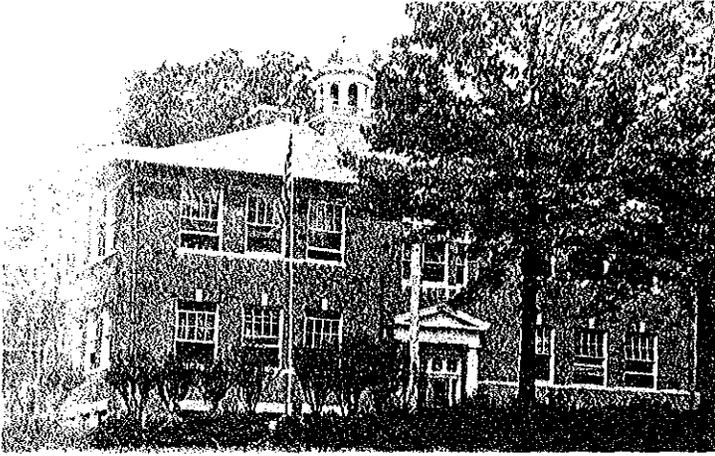
One of the early classes in Cresskill's first school. The photo was taken in the mid-1800s. The best identification is that Miss Mary Flecke is pictured on the right and that principal Joel Horton is on the right.



*Cresskill's
second school,
which was
located on
Madison
Avenue.*



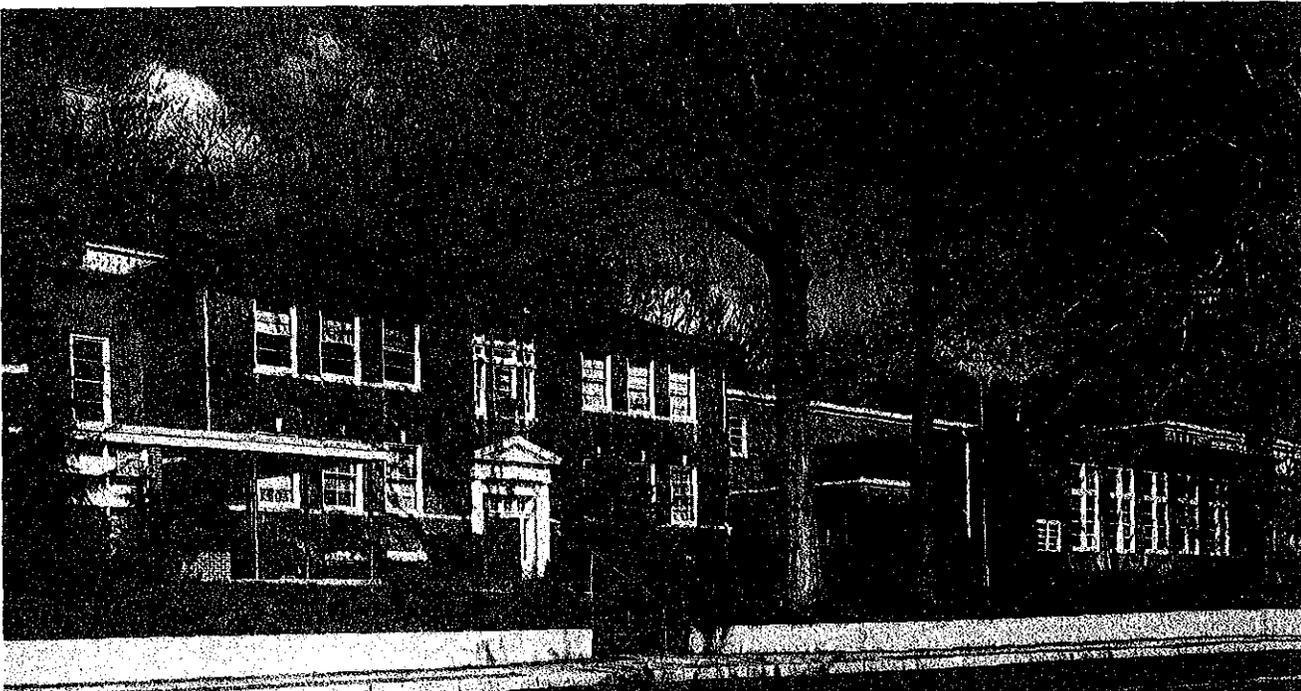
*Children have always been important to
Cresskill's townfolks. Pictured
in the stroller is
Virginia Bruntz during the annual
baby parade contest. It is of interest
to note that Virginia was
number 1.
(See also page 124.)*



Above left: Orchard Street School, later called Edward H. Bryan School. Above: Cresskill's first school bell from the 1800s.



Left: Orchard Street School's graduating class of 1920 with principal Edward H. Bryan.



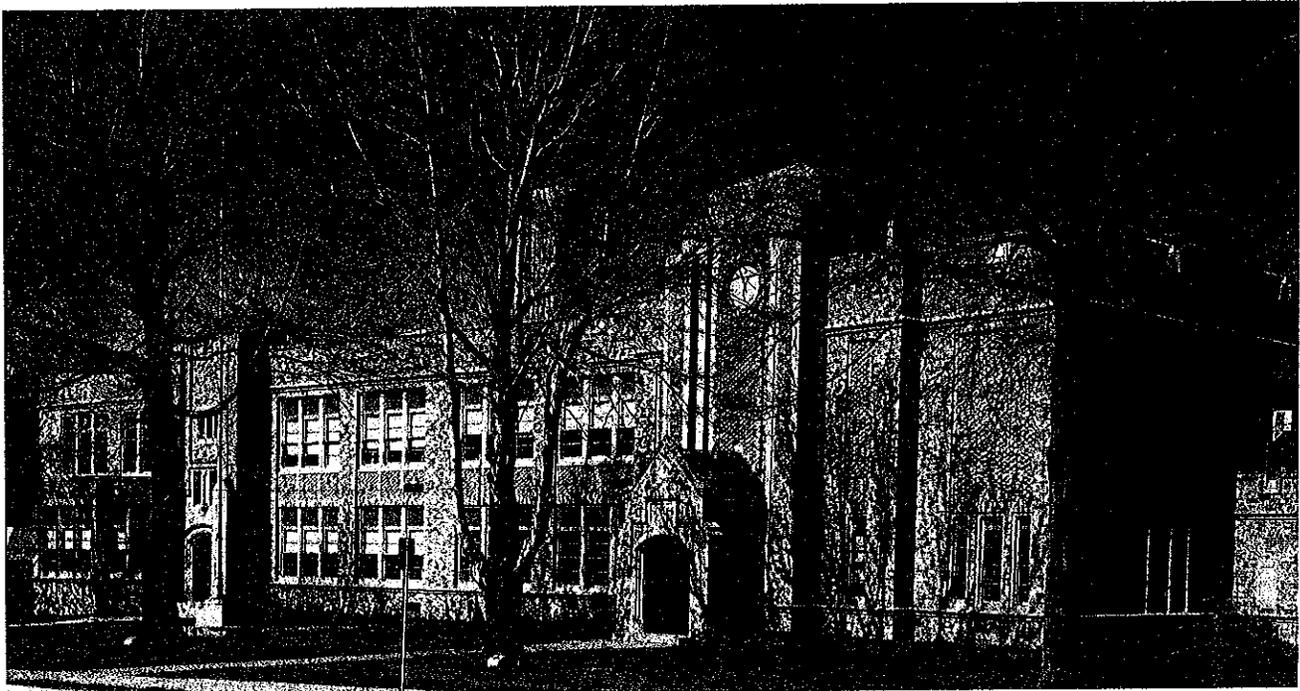
Bottom: Present-day Edward H. Bryan School.



Photograph made in the early 1950s, when the Junior Patrol protected school crossings. Policeman T. Sweikert, left, was in charge. Many of the children are wearing caps that saw war service.



The photographs at right and below depict Merritt Memorial School today. The tapestry brick detail on the overall stonework as well as on the doors are an example of outstanding masonry work.



Choristers celebrate, on January 23, 1963, the opening of Cresskill High School.



Children of St. Therese School singing the national anthem after a new American flag was raised.

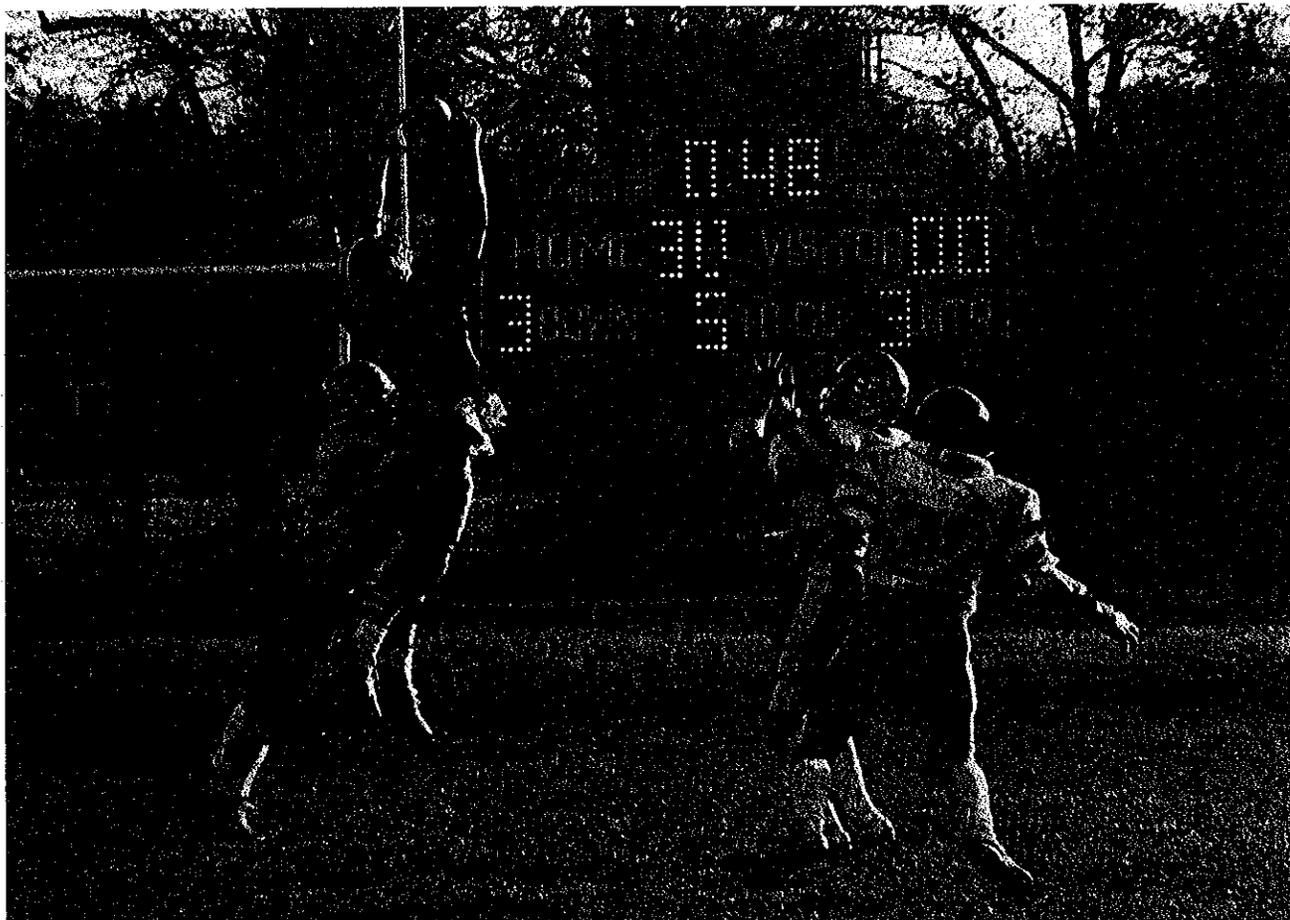


Cresskill's postmaster, Catherine Gleason, sent out this Christmas card during the 1960s to many of Cresskill's residents. The poster in the background points out the card's double message.

Mrs. Gleason served as a nurse during the Second World War and later became Cresskill's postmaster for twenty years.

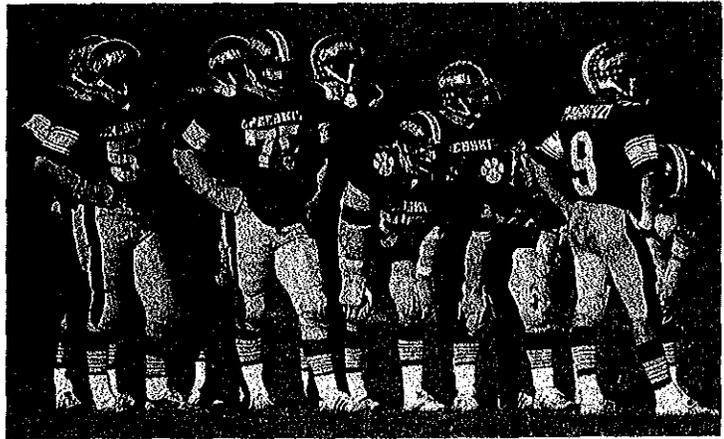
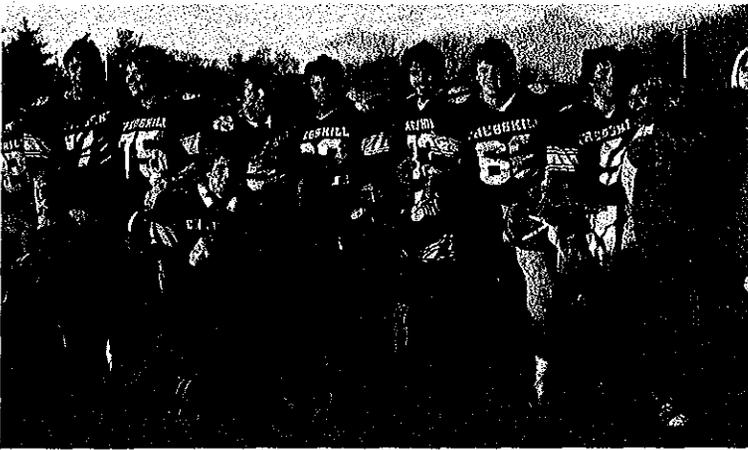
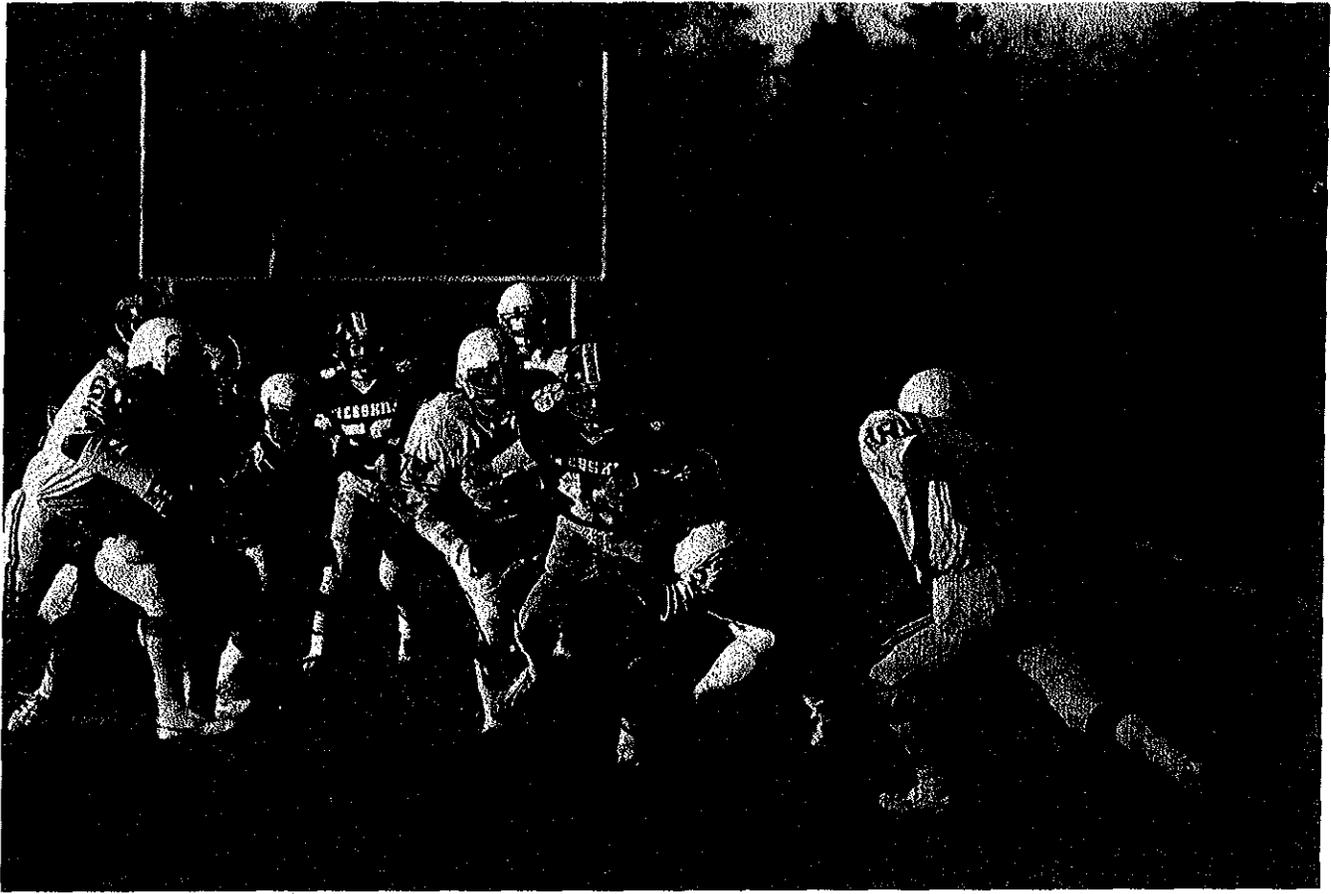
A scene from the 1974 high school production of Guys and Dolls, the first musical produced by a senior class in the school. Standing in the foreground are Beryl DeCarrion, Marc Cruder, Ruth Gustavson, and John Fellicetti.

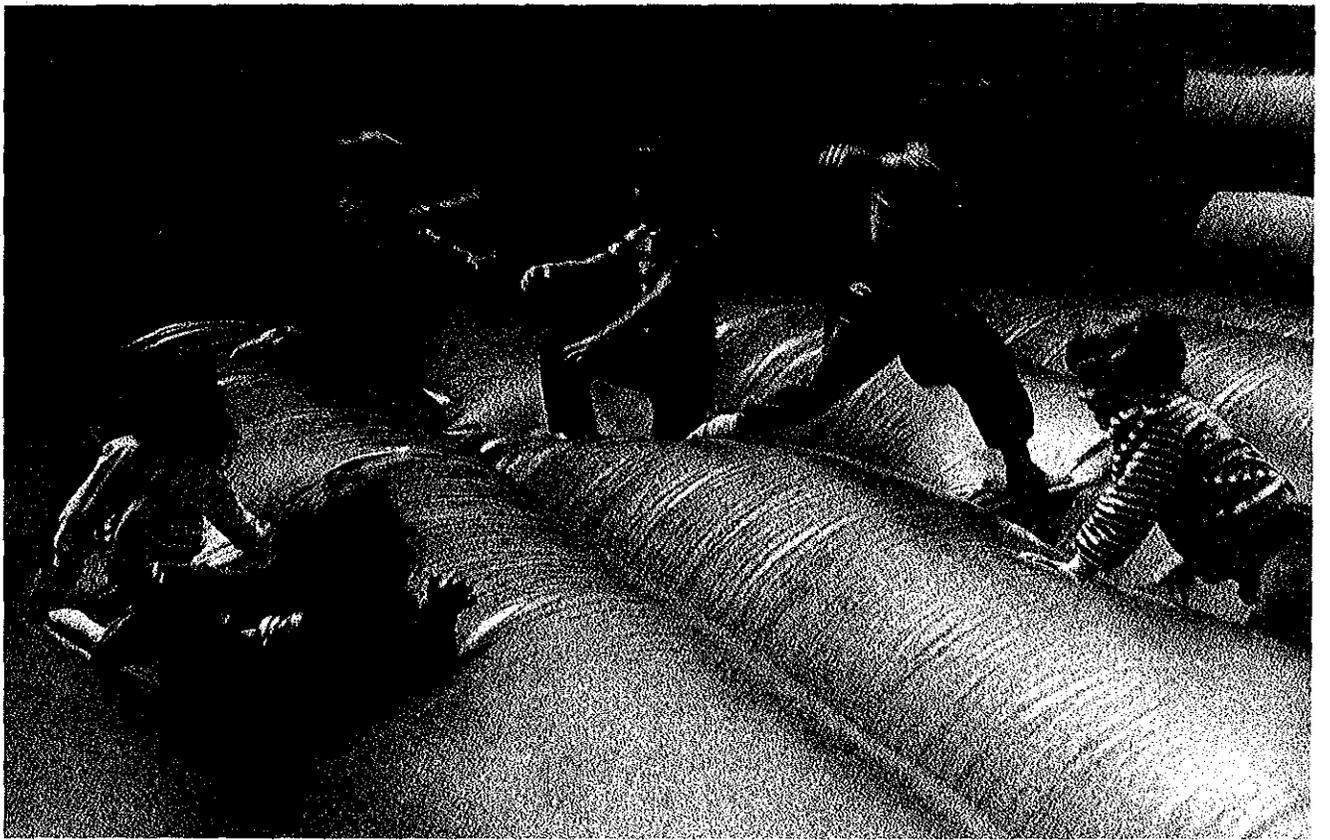




Cresskill's football team won the state championship in 1984.







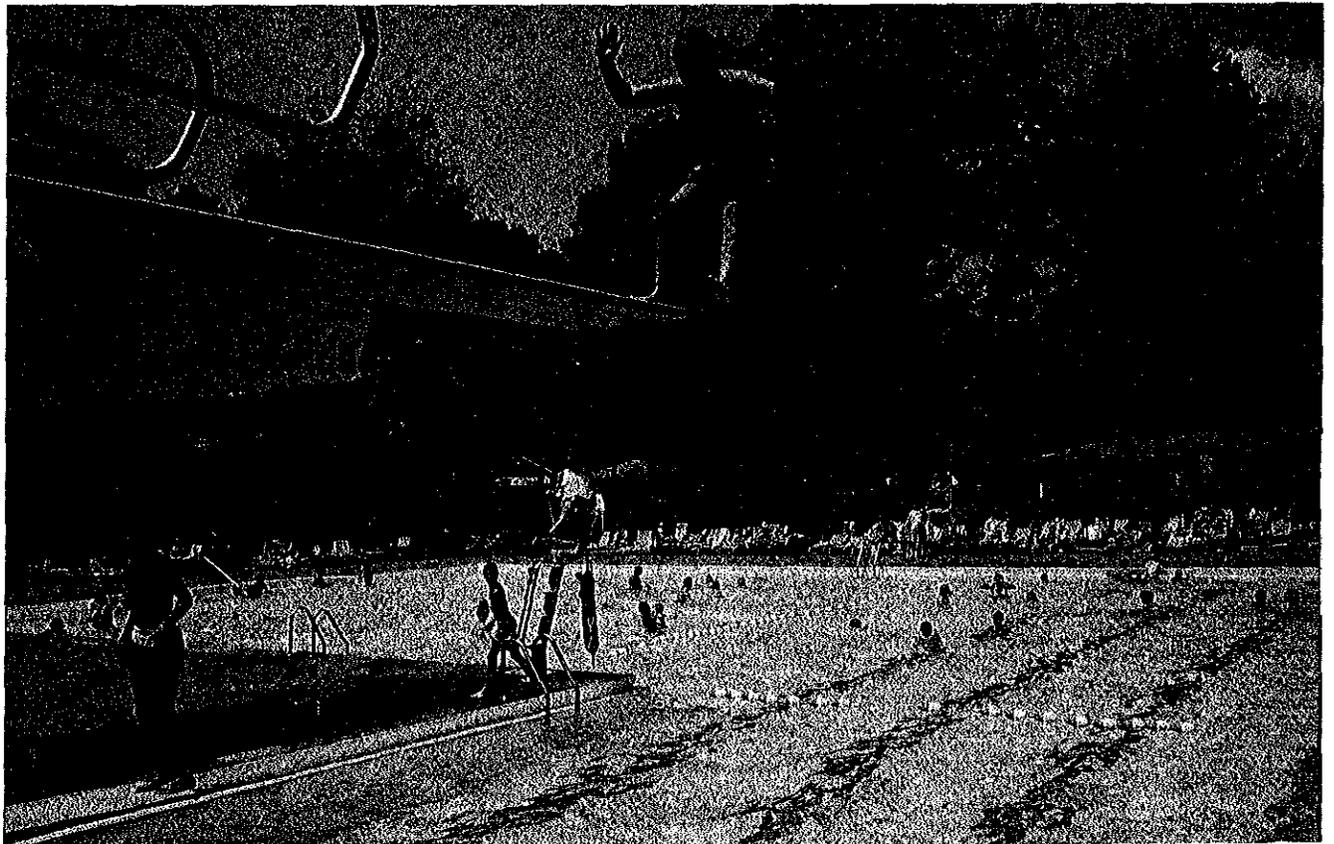
Cresskill's annual Fourth of July celebration.

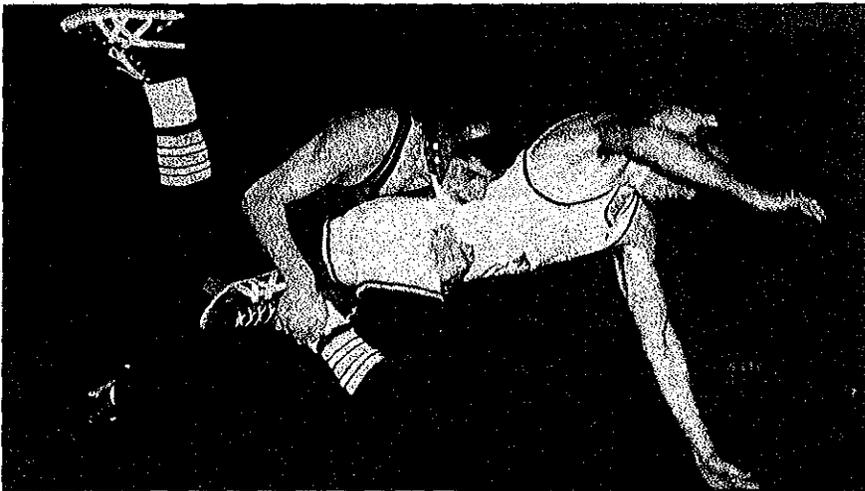
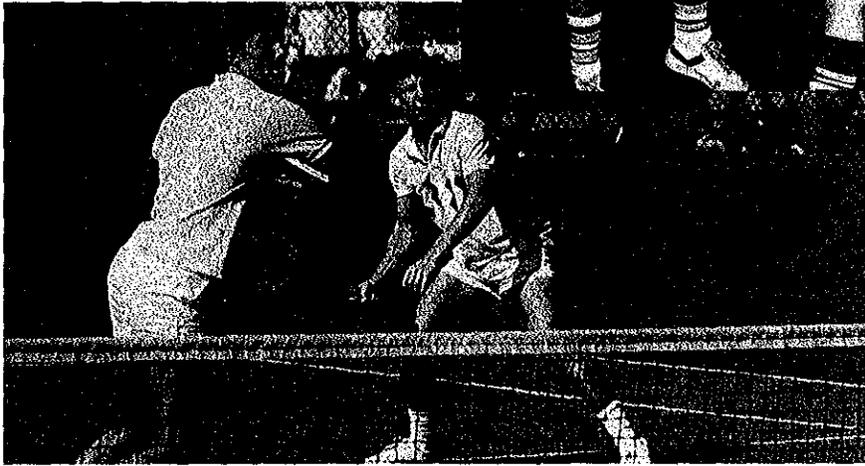
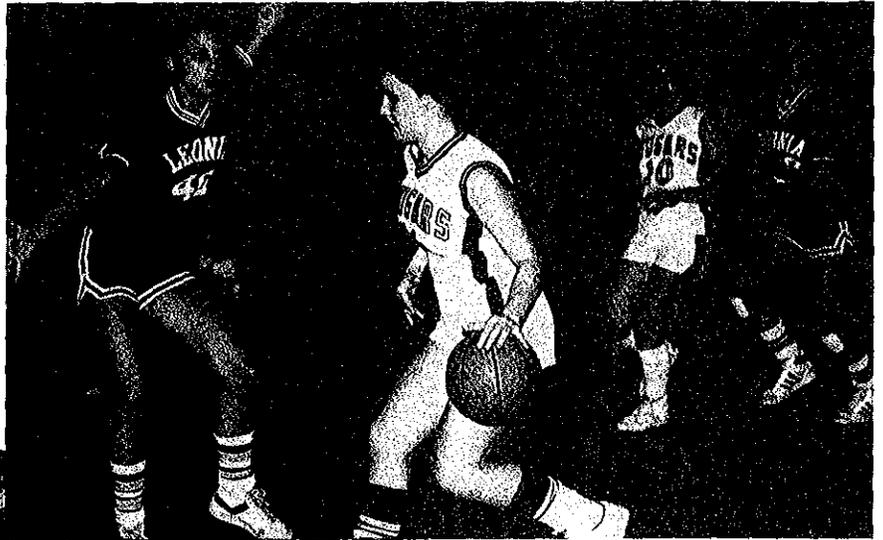




The Easter Bunny never runs out of eggs for the children of Cresskill.

The kids count the winter days till they can get back to Cresskill's swim pool.





Cresskill High School offers a rich and diverse athletic program for both boys and girls.

mayor, Peter B. Westervelt, and the Orchard Street School's first principal, Edward H. Bryan. Adele Mores, who chose the tapestry brick for the Merritt Memorial School and whose father had been the proprietor of one of Cresskill's first stores, accepted the flag that would fly in front of the school from representatives of American Legion Camp Merritt Post 21. Soon afterward the American Legion put up four plaques in front of the school, each one in front of a maple and each one in memory of the four service people who had died in World War I.

At the Orchard Street School meanwhile, in June of the same year, nineteen youngsters had graduated from the eighth grade at ceremonies held in the auditorium of Tenafly High School. Doris Lemm, as the only honor student, was the child who presented the Class Prophecy. The students sang the class song, and eleven of the youngsters gave speeches on Gloom, Education, Hope, Work, Joy, Sincerity, Truth, Faith, Charity, Love, and Happiness. The chorus sang selections by Verdi and Handel and also, incongruously for a New Jersey graduation, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia." E. M. Hatch, as the president of the Board of Education, presented the diplomas.

The Orchard Street School was shut down again six years after it reopened--for a short time, and involuntarily. The school was

empty on Election Day 1940--a presidential election year--when a fire on the upper floor caused enough damage to necessitate the emergency closing.

At first both schools contained a classroom each of grade one to grade eight. There was, however, no kindergarten classroom in the Orchard Street School--there would be one in the Merritt Memorial School--and so, Joe Cioffi remembers, the year before the Merritt Memorial School opened he attended kindergarten in the Borough Hall. As the number of children in the schools grew, it became necessary to have more than one class per grade. It was then that the schools split the grades, with kindergarteners through fourth graders going to Merritt Memorial School and fifth through eighth graders going to the Orchard Street School. The Orchard Street School would be renamed the Edward H. Bryan School in the late forties, in honor of its longtime principal, who served from 1911 to 1941.

By 1952 the Edward H. Bryan School became so overcrowded that two kindergarten rooms, a gym, and six classrooms behind the gym had to be added, and only four years later an additional twelve classrooms were added. Merritt Memorial School followed suit in the early seventies, when a kindergarten room--complete with carpeting so that children could sit on the floor, a new concept at that time--and four class

When Daisy Mores of the Mores General Store family was a little girl, she vaulted a low school window to rescue her father's horse, which she saw dragging a driverless buggy up Madison Avenue. But her father's gratitude and her own sense of heroics didn't help her to avoid detention after school every day for a month because of her "defection of duty."

Some eighty years later, Lisa Merritt, a 1987 graduate of Cresskill High School, leaped from the window of a school in Teaneck where she was a physical education teacher to jump into a school bus that was rolling driverless outside the school and bring it to a halt. Newspapers and television newscasts declared her a heroine. And she did not receive detention for even a day.

rooms were added. The borough's students were on split sessions for a few months, during construction at the Bryan School and while the high school was being completed in the fall of 1962.

With the opening of the high school, Dr. Robert Scott became the schools' superintendent. He replaced Warren Rosenberger, who elected to leave Cresskill after having been in the school system since 1944, first as principal and then as supervising principal of both elementary schools and, from 1954 on, as superintendent of schools. As the new superintendent, Scott exercised tight control, with little tolerance for the controversial student behavior often demonstrated during the sixties and seventies.

He accepted only limited involvement in the running of the schools by the school board, teaching staff, or parents. Nevertheless, the school boards that planned the school, saw it built, and steered it through its first years were among the strongest in Cresskill's history, including on them such leaders as Ruth Ford. Mrs. Ford, who served as Cresskill's school board president for several years, was the Bergen County delegate to the New Jersey School Board of Directors and was appointed in 1963 by Governor Richard J. Hughes to a five-year term on the State Board of Education.

Scott's administrators were challenged at every turn. Arch Shaw was the high school's principal from the school's second year until he died suddenly and tragically in the middle of the school year in 1972 of a heart attack in the faculty cafeteria. His colleagues were nearby but were unable to revive him. He was a quiet man, an administrator who knew how to listen and knew the direction he wanted to steer the new school. The direction wasn't going to be an easy one.

The mid- to late-sixties and the seventies--the Vietnam War era--were a time of turbulence for the nation. Cresskill had its share of drug problems and youth rebellion. The high school's teachers and administration faced difficulties that were no different from those faced in any high school in

the United States: Some of the brightest students showed their anger at the world they would graduate to by performing below their capabilities and by questioning any hint of authority; others dealt with their resentment through the use of drugs; and some, who observed other students reacting in inappropriate ways, imitated them, often without understanding their own hostility. It was a time when students maintained that curricula had to be relevant to be acceptable; when teenagers used language, clothing, and behavior to shock the adults around them--the adults who constituted the "generation gap."

"But," says guidance counselor Dom Albanese, who one time had to quell rebellious students by physically blocking a brief and capricious uprising, "they were exciting to teach."

Yet, the majority of Cresskill's students behaved and studied and worked in ways that were a source of pride to their parents, their school, and their town. Cresskill folks knew this, but they weren't sure why it seemed that fewer of their youngsters seemed to be troubled than were those in many other towns. John Sestanovich, who has been principal of both elementary schools, recalls a former Cresskill resident, then principal of a school in Teaneck, saying, in observing the Cresskill High School mood in the 1970s, "Cresskill is like a town that time has passed by. When people

ask me, 'Where is Cresskill?' I answer, 'Back in 1934.'"

Alfred DiDonato, who would in 1990 become superintendent of schools, was hired as the high school's new principal in 1972. His philosophy differed from Scott's: He set about to involve staff, students, and parents in the running of the school, even before this became the mode, as it is in the nineties. Meetings with the three groups were held regularly, and he fought what he calls "Cresskill's identity problem." He recalls of the early seventies, "We were doormats for everyone. Our first question was always, 'How is Tenafly doing?' We needed to develop traditions, feelings about Cresskill. I told everyone, 'We [the high school] should be the hub of the community.'"

As principal, he brought about some of that feeling by hiring coaches, not just teachers who coached, for the school's sports program. Tom Roberts was one of the first, and he soon showed Cresskill folks that they had a football team to cheer for--not one that earlier had lost a game 73-0--but one that now won as often or more as it lost games. Cresskill's people became interested in their high school's sports. Soon the games--football, basketball, track, and all the others--won the support of crowds of cheering spectators.

Some of this newfound excitement had begun even before the start of a sports program in the high school.

A few years after the school opened, in the late sixties, Larry Meade joined the staff to direct the band program. With its new marching band Cresskill had something to brag about. Year after year, to the present time, one third or more of the student body has been involved with the band or with the auxiliary units--the twirlers, the color guard--of the band. So amazing is the sight and sound of this big band and big sound coming from so

small a school that the announcer at the annual band festival, at which other schools' bands appear as well as Cresskill's, exclaims about this very big fish from a very small pond.

The school's curricula were changing too. By the late seventies, the academic program, which had been conservative in that it catered largely to below-average students, was expanded to include enriched courses and advanced placement courses. In part this

was due to DiDonato, but in part too it was due to a different conviction on the part of the school board. And, there was a new school superintendent. Dr. I. L. Roy Stern replaced Scott in 1982 and remained in the post until 1990. He was an intellectual man and was more aloof--perhaps shy--than Scott had been. As such, he had a harder time acclimating himself to the mood of Cresskill. But he brought his ideas to the town, and he worked with

Bonnie Spring

It's not possible to write about Bonnie Spring in a few paragraphs. Not even in a few chapters. Merely listing her citations, her awards and honors, her publications would cover more than two dozen pages.

Bonnie was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1967. And then she went on . . . and on. To Bucknell University for a degree in psychology. To Liverpool University in England for her junior year. To Harvard University on fellowships for masters and doctorate degrees in psychology. To professorships at Harvard, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Texas Tech University, and, currently, as a full professor at the University of Health Sciences, Chicago Medical School. That's while she's also Health Science Officer at the Veterans Hospital in North Chicago and Research Affiliate at M.I.T. Clinical Research Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Bonnie's research has ranged from the study of schizophrenia to the study of weight gain following cessation of smoking. Diet and behavior and obesity have most often been the subjects of her some seventy-five publications and her nearly one hundred papers for workshops and symposia. Along the way there were twenty-six grants. She's been listed--not surprisingly--in six *Who's Who* books, including *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who of Emerging Leaders in America*, and *The World Who's Who of Women*, in addition to *Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century*. Of course, she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

She excelled early--and always. Throughout school in Cresskill--Edward H. Bryan, Cresskill High--she earned straight A's. In high school she "belonged to everything," say her parents, John and Sonja Spring. That included being a cheerleader, playing the flute in the school band, participating in the chorus and in theater productions, writing for the *Communique*, and ranking at the top of virtually every academic department.

Bonnie was a child of the sixties, one of the high school students her social studies teacher, Dom Albanese, called "challenging." These youngsters defied, denounced, and disputed. They were bright. And Bonnie was among the brightest. All that questioning kept her going on . . . and on.

Bonnie does a lot of traveling away from her Chicago home, to lecture and to do research. And she frequently has a traveling companion with her--a very little one, with a passport of her own. Three-year-old Heidi accompanies her mother to many parts of the world. And Heidi is probably taking it all in and making her own plans to go on . . . and on . . . and on.

Gary Spring

Bonnie has a younger brother, Gary, who was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1975. Where Bonnie was a product of the free-thinking sixties, Gary's personality, in contrast, was shaped by the more conformist seventies. Not as intense as his sister, he didn't mind missing Saturday football practices and he didn't mind that that this might bench him. Of course, the fact that he excelled at the game didn't hurt his chances of avoiding the bench. Like his father, he is interested in the part his hometown area played in American history, and like his grandfather, a minister at Camp Merritt and later of the Old North Church in Dumont, he is involved in his church in Danbury, Connecticut, with his wife and his two young children. He sings in his church choir, a continuation of his high school days, when he sang in the high school choir as well as the county and state choruses. But his life continues to contrast with the more high-powered Bonnie's. Gary is in retail management; his lifestyle consists of his family, his home, and his church.

others to implement them. He was respected and well liked, albeit from a distance.

Over the years Cresskill's students have distinguished themselves academically. Hundreds of youngsters have been members of the National Honor Society, too many to list. As Cresskill High School's speakers at graduation ceremonies are not necessarily the senior class's top students, the only listing that would pinpoint at least some of the high school's most gifted students is that of the people who achieved status in the National Merit Scholarship Program. This involves testing in the students' junior year and is based on those test scores. It therefore leaves out, in some cases, the top all-around students. Years that are not listed had no qualifying students. In 1992 Seing Bom Kim and Jea Hun Shim were finalists; Jenny Cooley and Joseph Fouady were commended. In 1991 John Han and Yang Hee Woo were finalists; Gita Gorgi and Stephen Petruccelli were commended. In 1990 Peter Krautscheid was a finalist; Gwen Burns, John Kim, Alexander Laufer, and Michael Rolli were commended. In 1988 Michael Choi was a finalist; Phillip Allen was commended. In 1987 Michael Petruccelli and Matthew Poggi were finalists; Robin Breuer and Nancy Kim were commended. In 1986 Christina Cobb and Scott Mayer were finalists; Christopher Erd, Elizabeth Franzino, Geir

Nystol, and Ignacio Rosales were commended. In 1985 Tyler Gore was a finalist; Daniel Green, Young Herbert Kim, and James Moini were commended. In 1984 Kevin Dean and Richard Yu were commended. In 1983 Sally Merrifield was a finalist; Joseph Chouinard, William Meehan, Meredith Nelson, Lorraine Wang, and Serena Wehl were commended. In 1982 Anne Feldstein, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Christina Herrick, and Tushar Ramani were commended. In 1981 Thomas Davis was commended. In 1980 Amy Abramowitz and Ann Gilbertson were finalists; Kevin Connolly, Steven Hess, Raffi Kodian, and Ann Marie Krohn were commended. In 1979 Mami Iwamoto and Walter Klein were commended. In 1978 Marianne Milton was a finalist; Robert Brassel and Laurie Merrifield were commended. In 1977 Thomas Hanc was a finalist; Daniel Buchak and Jill Skaller were commended. In 1976 Christopher Austill and Satori Iwamoto were finalists; Alison Nelson and John Sturm were commended. In 1974 Edward Gilbertson, Marie Hanc, Peter Kelly, and Peter Weiss were finalists; Sean Began was a semi-finalist; and Alexander Bannon, Debbie Duncan, Deborah Hirshfield, Betsy Merrifield, Matthew Mozur, and Phillip Paxton were commended. In 1972 Joseph Hanc and Karen Santic were commended. In 1971 James Eiszner and James Merrifield were commended. There are no records available for the

years 1965 through 1970. However, three names were recalled from 1966: Michael Bromberg, Robert DeMarrais, and Michael Hirshfield.

Several of the town's elementary school teachers, some of them with long histories in the Cresskill school system, moved to the junior and senior high school when it opened: Amy Clemens; Joseph Fabian; Bea Harrison; Elizabeth Lauper; Jeanette McConnell; Charles Stormer; and Roslyn Zimmerman continued up the line with their students. All but Fabian, who is still teaching mathematics, have retired, and Mrs. Lauper has died.

Many of the teachers who started when the school was new or nearly new remained for many years, some until the present time. Kathleen Scanlan retired from the English department recently after more than thirty years in the high school. Richard Sharry also retired recently after more than thirty years. Charles Stormer retired a few years ago after beginning the industrial arts department in the school. Clyde Sorrell, in the school from the beginning, is still teaching science.

Richard Bartlett, who retired a few years ago, began the vocal music program in the school when it opened. He involved even youngsters who thought they couldn't sing--and some who couldn't--in the chorus. Not many folks who heard the chorus's rendition of "Aquarius" in the early sev-

enties will forget more than a hundred youngsters arrayed across the wide stage singing a tune and words they could put their hearts into. Each year Dick Bartlett and Larry Meade presented two concerts to auditoriums that were filled with admiring townsfolk--who admired the two teachers as well as the student musicians.

Anita Helth began in the school soon after it opened--Anita Wagner then--and has since been bringing her infectious enthusiasm to the art department.

Irene Shubsda, who started with the new high school, retired two years ago from the guidance department. Dominick Albanese, who started in 1962 in the social studies department, has been a guidance counselor since 1970. His optimistic, "can-do" outlook, like Anita Helth's, is contagious.

The school's administration and the Board of Education have supported the sports programs in the high school from the beginning. And that beginning was modest. Girls were not included in interscholastic sports; the boys were involved in five sports: football, cross country, basketball, baseball, and track, but their showing against the teams from more established schools was wretched. It didn't take long, however, for the coaches and youngsters to start showing their spirit and their talents. In 1965 the school's first basketball team to qualify for the state

championship tournament was led by Rich Moore, Kim Mazzola, and Rich Ewald. They were runners-up for the Section I championship. Moore and Mazzola were the school's first letter athletes and remain among the best to have participated in Cresskill High School sports.

By hiring Tom Roberts as football coach, Gerry Rosen as track coach in 1968, and

Kim Mazzola

Kim Mazzola was one of the few high school boys who earned nine varsity letters in Cresskill High School. Except that he did it in three years. As a member of the high school's first graduating class, in 1965, he had attended high school in Tenafly for his first year and then continued in Cresskill after the high school opened in 1962. Kim, along with Jerry Hilpert and Rich Moore, managed to earn those nine letters in three years, his in baseball, basketball, and football, three in each sport.

He was then and remains to today one of Cresskill High School's athlete stars. But it wasn't all. Using the same will and concentration he had applied to sports, he attended night school at Fairleigh Dickinson University for eight years to earn his bachelors and masters degrees in business while he worked full time at Burlington Industries in New York City.

Kim's high school sweetheart, Carol Mackey, waited the eight years. They were married, now have three teen-aged children, and live in Harrington Park. Kim is North American director of sales for the woolen division of Burlington Industries.

Richard Moore

Along with Kim Mazzola, Rick Moore was a member of Cresskill High School's first graduating class, and he, too, was a nine-letter varsity athlete.

Rick went on to Lafayette College for a civil engineering degree and to the University of Maryland for a masters degree. Following a two-year stint in the Army Corps of Engineers and duty in Vietnam, Rick was discharged as a first lieutenant. He's now a partner with Rizzo Associates of Massachusetts, one of the country's foremost environmental engineering firms.

There were 153 graduates in Cresskill High School's first senior class, in 1965. That small number didn't prevent ten of them, five couples, from falling in love and marrying. Sue Dudas married Bill Custance, Kathy Smith married Ed Rossi, Carol Mackey married Kim Mazzola, Barbara Citelli married Jim Malloy, and Elaine Imperato married Jason Carle.

with the addition in 1972 of Marty Rivard as basketball coach, the high school's sports program got a boost and a townful of boosters. With Cresskill now winning more often than it was losing, it was also going on to more championships. The first, for the football team, was in 1980 under Paul Kaliades' coaching, and the team would win the league title again in 1984 under Kaliades. Bob Valli's coaching would later achieve four more championships as well as several state sectional championships.

Gerry Rosen, who took over a weak track program, turned his athletes around and won forty-one meets, to six losses, over the next four years. But the team had to wait until 1975 to win the state sectionals and until 1980 to win the league. This didn't, however, dampen the spirit of either the coach or the students.

The basketball team, meanwhile, won five games the first year Rivard coached, ten the second year, and twenty the third year. Over the years, Rivard and his hoopsters have compiled a record of 366 wins and 142 losses. He, too, won many state sectional championships.

The first championship for the high school came through the cross country team, in 1968, under John Quino's coaching. In the same year, Ed Bauer's baseball team won its first title.

Championships have been won in every sport, but the record of the tennis team stands out. From 1978 to 1991 the team won ten league championships and nine state sectional championships. During this period, Ron Banta's teams won 125 consecutive league matches, an amazing performance.

Girls had to wait eleven years after the high school was in operation before they were considered for team sports. Just as had been the

case for their brethren, the number of victories achieved in the early years were meager, but then they took off. They began with a volleyball team under Chris Busch's coaching and a tennis team coached by Annalaine Papadopoulos. They later added basketball, cross country, track, and softball teams--and won championships in each.

One girl was responsible for forming a girl's high school track team. In the school year 1975-1976, Simone Mele ran with the boys--the only girl on the team. Tom Francese was the coach. He told Simone that if she got five girls they could have a team. She pushed and begged and ca-

Rich Miller

Cresskill has spawned some fine athletes, but one young man stands out in every way a champion can be classified.

In 1990, during his senior year at Cresskill High School, Rich Miller was one of eight students in the country eligible for the decathlon at the Golden West Invitational, a national championship in track and field for high school students. He was the first Bergen County student in five years invited to the meet. Of the eight, he came in fourth, in what is probably the most grueling and difficult of the track and field events.

Rich was named to the high-school-age All-American team for track and field, the only All-American athlete Cresskill has had.

That in itself is an interesting and inspiring story. What gives it a twist, what makes it heartwarming, is that Rich's coach was his dad, Rich Miller, Cresskill High School's department chairman for health and physical education. And what makes the younger Rich all the more remarkable is that he has a 50 percent hearing loss and wears hearing aids in both ears. He can't hear the starter's commands, but compensates by reading lips and watching the other participants at a meet get ready, get set . . .

"It was an interesting experience, to coach him and at some time have him turn out to be the best athlete I've ever coached--by far," Dad Rich says.

"He's a very special athlete, a phenomenally hard worker." His son showed his gift by the time he was ten years old when he placed fourth in the National Youth Championships in Ohio in an event equivalent to the decathlon for adults. His coach didn't train him hard at that young age. "I believe kids shouldn't overdo," he says. "Too much too soon can ruin an athlete." Since he realized he had that budding gift at age ten, young Rich has competed in several national meets and placed second and third in all of them. He was named this summer to the U.S.A. East Team, a national team of U.S. athletes that competed with their Canadian counterpart.

Rich and Jan Miller have lived on Fifth Street in Cresskill for eight years. There are three other children: Jeff, two years younger than Rich, is a student of occupational therapy at Keuka College; Amy, ten, is a child of Korean ancestry whom the Millers adopted, as they did three-year-old Ryan, a multiracial child. Jan teaches special education at River Dell High School.

Young Rich is dreaming as he majors in physical education at the University of Connecticut, where he was named student athlete of the year. He's dreaming, as he has for a long time, of the 1996 Olympics, of the trials that are still three years away and of his goal to make the team. His dad says, "I think it's realistic. The performances he's reaching now in college--he's right on the edge.

He'll have a cheering section in Cresskill.

Amy Racich

Amy Racich is a high jumper. She has jumped 5' 5-1/2", and by the time she was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1993, she had been the all-county champion five times, three times in the spring meets and twice in the winter meets. She's now at college in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, majoring in early childhood education--and still jumping.

Guy Iavarone

By the time Guy was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1993, he had been chosen for the All State Section I football team, he had gone to the state finals from Cresskill in basketball, and he had made the All State track team for shot put. He's in Boston College on a full scholarship.

Bo Jackson, look out!

Derrick Cusick

One of Cresskill's boys once qualified to play baseball overseas. In 1988, two years before Derrick was graduated from Cresskill High School, the young pitcher traveled with his mom and dad to the Soviet Union as a member of the Sandy Koufax League. He spent fifteen days there, playing in the towns of Moscow, Tbilisi, and Kiev, where he was named most valuable player. The team played seven games in Russia and won all seven. Though his baseball career was cut short following surgery on his arm, Derrick is busy at the University of Virginia, speeding up on courses so as to finish in three and a half years.

joined, got the girls, and the girls' track team was off and running. Simone won the first girls' track trophy.

Most successful have been the girls' basketball teams under the coaching of Vince Leonard. They had won 226 games to 101 losses as they entered the 1992-1993 season. Among the most outstanding of these basketball stars was Doreen Sullivan, class of 1982, who was the first student to win twelve varsity letters. Lisa Merritt in 1987, Maureen Glynn in 1989, and Andrea Pagnozzi in 1992 were the only other girls to attain this achievement.

The boys soon followed; however, they couldn't earn as many letters because they couldn't play varsity football for four years. Jeff Wolfer was the only boy, in 1987, to earn ten letters. In recent years nine letters were won by Mark Wiley in 1981, Jim Viapiano in 1982, Vincent Spina in 1985, Rich Miller in 1989, Craig Zaikov in 1992, and Guy Iavarone in 1993.

Additionally, many of Cresskill's young athletes were chosen as All Bergen County Athletes. For football, Brian Derwin, Rich Kelly, Mark Mundy, Mark Wiley, Liam Dowling, Ed Solari, Matt Higgins, Gino Pagnozzi, Matt Morgan, Joe Karach, Chris Boran, Jon Racich, Kevin Quinn, Mike Higgins, Mike Doto, Craig Zaikov (two years), Mark McLaughlin, and Guy Iavarone were honored. Earning the title for basketball were Brian Fuhrmann, Joe DiTore, Jim Hallinen, Mon-

ica Dolan, Mike Ferrie, Tom Schwartz, Chris Rogovich, Maureen Glynn, Jon DiTore, Robert Connolly, Andrea Pagnozzi, Jed Rubin, and Garrett Kreitz. For tennis, the honorees were Dave Smith (two years), Doug Sachs, Jeff Kurtz (two years), Jon Bloom, and Mike Diedrichs. Track stars were Mike Fezza, Eric Princen, Kevin Quinn (two years), Rich Miller, and Amy Racich (three years, winter and spring track). Baseball honorees were Tom Karach, Matt Morgan, Derrick Cusick, and Chris Boran; softball honoree was Terri Minaya. Yasemin Sarier was honored for volleyball. Some of their coaches, teachers in the high school, were honored also: Marty Rivard, basketball coach of the year, 1976 and 1988; Gerry Rosen, track coach of the year, 1980; Ron Banta, tennis coach of the year, 1984, 1988, and 1991.

Gerry Rosen, who currently heads the high school's athletic programs, says of his teams, "Cresskill High School athletic teams have won numerous League and State sectional championships in just about every year, in football, track, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' tennis, boys' and girls' cross country, and in soccer, baseball, and volleyball. This is more than the usual share for so small a school."

The Athletic Boosters Association, formed a few years after the high school opened, stood behind the schools' teams; some of the men who stood behind the

Peter Callas

Not all star sportsmen hit homers and score touchdowns. Some win accolades for courage and fortitude. Peter Callas played on no teams, but in his senior year, he received the Al Del Greco Memorial Award for Sportsman of the Year, 1976-1977, given annually by *The Record*.

Peter was born in Cresskill, grew up in Cresskill, and could have been one of Cresskill's great athletes or one of its tragedies. He was neither. But he was a sportsman.

When Peter was eleven years old, in 1971, and playing midget football, his parents, Elizabeth and Peter, noticed that he could hit the ball across the field for a home run, but he couldn't run the bases. "Why am I so slow in running?" he asked them. They had no answer. It was all the more surprising because one of Peter's older brothers, John, in college at the time, had played four years of high school football and had been on the track team. Lex, in high school, was a valued player on the basketball and football teams. But, every child is different, and so his parents didn't think too much of it-then.

But as Peter's symptoms grew worse, as he shot up in height but gained no strength, as the family noticed that he had difficulty reaching the upper shelves of the kitchen cabinets and attempted to do so in a clumsy way, as the facial palsy that a pediatrician had offhandedly mentioned, before Peter had even begun school, grew more pronounced, his parents started him on medical tests. The test results were devastating. Peter, brother of athletes, had muscular dystrophy.

Peter was more than the brother of athletes, however. He was also the brother of the Callas's first child, George, who had died only a few hours after he contracted pneumonia, in 1958, when he was eight years old. Peter was born after George's death; his sister, Hope, was born a year later. The two babies were their parents' way out of depression.

Peter knew this. He didn't allow his disappointment to interfere with his love of athletics. In high school he wrote the statistics for the teams. He wrote sports stories for the school newspaper, the *Communique*. He took gym classes, but with special provisions. He didn't complain. He didn't get angry.

Peter graduated with honors from Union College of Syracuse University, and after an interim job went to the *Trenton Times*, of which he is now metro editor. On the way, he had surgery first on one shoulder and then on the other, necessary surgeries that gave mobility to his arms. He was married, and is now divorced, but not because of his illness. He needs a block to walk up stairs, as he can't lift his legs the distance of a normal step. He sleeps on a high bed. He sits on a bar-stool-type chair, in a high position. He doesn't complain. He doesn't get angry.

John owns a delicatessen in Teaneck. Lex graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, and is logistics director for the F-18 airplane. Hope is an attorney, an adviser at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), working on accessibility for the handicapped.

Like her brother, Peter has taught his sister about the needs of the handicapped. And he's taught her and everyone who knows him what it means to be a sportsman.

Association were Gene Spadaccini, Dave Solomon, Richard Kurtz, Marty Zai-kov, and the current leaders George Allen and Paul De-Pinto. These were the leaders, but many more people contributed time, money, and support to donate equipment and improve the training facilities. The scholarships the Association has awarded have totaled \$40,000 since 1979.

While high school sports were capturing the attention of enthusiastic supporters, the team games sponsored by the town's Recreation Committee were growing as well. The committee, formed in 1948 and with three men, in particular, as its backbone--Art Dyer, Dick Maiden, and Jim Eves--was geared to programs for teenagers and pre-teens. It hit the jackpot from the beginning--at least as far as the girls were concerned. All the girls' teams in the early years won championships in the Central Bergen and Northern Valley leagues. But there was more than an emphasis on sports. Over the years, the committee has sponsored such subjects as photography, which was taught by the late John Pitkin, professional photographer and longtime resident. Girls could learn about grooming and makeup from Jackie Mundy and Carole Mackey Mazzola.

But sports were always the mainstay of the Recreation Committee. Soccer, basketball, volleyball have been popular. The committee, consisting of men

such as Charles Husson, Henry Mazzola, and Dom Rizzo coached the youngsters, using every playing field and gymnasium available in town. More recently the swim pool has become a site for committee activities, and karate, volleyball camp, cheerleading, and baton have been added to the roster of activities. Each Fourth of July the committee has sponsored a field day at Merritt Memorial School field, with the organized chaos that stems from free rides and food, contests and pony rides for anyone who had pre-registered. The field days have included softball games between such athletic luminaries as the mayor and council against the police department. The summer recreation program for elementary school children began in the mid-fifties, with as many as four hundred children trekking to one of the elementary schools' playgrounds each morning in July for sports, games, and contests overseen by high-school-age youngsters.

The Cresskill-Alpine Baseball League has been in Cresskill as long as the Recreation Committee has. It's been a common sight, for more than forty years, to see little boys--and in the recent decade, little girls--batting and pitching and catching at Cresskill ball fields, after school and on Saturday mornings. Their T-shirts are color matched, each color a team; the visored hats match the shirts, and the shirts give the

names of the teams. Some of the teams have been around for many years: Scofields Drugstore, Cresskill Deli, Cresskill Stationery, Cresskill UNICO, Curiosity Jewelers, Hamrahs, Cresskill Fire Department, D&C Chevrolet, Alpine Fire, Hamrah's, J. Campoli and Sons, and Village Fuel. The baseball league began as a member of Little League, and Emerson Yorke, who was a commissioner on the national board of Little League, was influential in forming the organization, which later broke off from the national group. Early in the program's history, games were played in an empty field near the Merritt Memorial monument, where an office building stands today. By 1953, the fields on Margie Avenue were improved for young feet to run bases and young hands to catch fly balls, with the work done under the direction of Jim Long. Others involved were Pat Moffatt, Bill Wright, Bill Brandt, Tom Donahue, and Joe Henry, who helped to fund the new program and who, upon his early death, was memorialized by a field at Twelfth Street named after him. In 1958 the All-Star team reached the Little League regionals playoff, but was then eliminated. Now the baseball league, under the current direction of Gregg Doench, concentrates on improving its facilities and involving even more youngsters than the 300 boys and 35 girls it includes.

There were other or-

ganizations that supported the town's students. The one that's been around longest--since 1925--and the most involved was the Parent Teacher Association. The PTA sponsored kindergarten visitation and registration, meetings of interest to parents, and it provided money for assemblies and for equipment.

In its early years the PTA raised money through its theater productions. An example, in 1946, was "A Dark Wave of Joy," produced, staged, and directed by Gerdes Dauchert. No less a personage than school principal Warren Rosenberger acted and sang, and Harold McLaughlin, who was to become mayor six years later, played a part. Joan Williams, now Joan Arrigoni, was a child then, and acted the part of a child. Norbert Pendergast, Sr., who would be mayor ten years later, was involved in all the PTA productions in the forties.

From the early sixties for nearly twenty years the PTA sponsored a preschool story hour, which met first in the parish hall of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, then in the American Legion Hall, and later in the firehouse. Marlys Lehmann and Rae Wallin began the program with the help of Edward H. Bryan School's principal, John Sestanovich. A year later Marilyn Linder joined them, and together with other women they continued the program for more than fifteen years, until the Cresskill Public Library took it over. Over the years hundreds of Cresskill's tots

listened to stories each week and enjoyed the experience, but none enjoyed it as much as the people who were reading.

The PTA had as presidents people who were involved in many aspects of the town and especially of the schools, such as, in the fifties, Pat Ewald and Eve Aron. Later, Zelda Cohen helped to steer the cottage parties held by the Board of Education to inform people of the proposed high school. Soon after the high school opened a separate organization formed for it, the PTSA, Parent Teacher Student Association. In the seventies, the elementary schools' PTA separated also, forming the Bryan School PTA and the Merritt School Home and School Association.

When the PTA story hour program was taken over by the Cresskill Public Library in the late seventies--and was eventually expanded to four times a week--the library was more than ten years old. This was not an insignificant achievement, for the library's birth had been even more difficult than had the high school's. Since 1931 the Cresskill Free Public Library had operated with volunteer help from a house on Orchard Street--Brookside Avenue--next to the school. When the Edward H. Bryan School kindergarten wing was added in the fifties, the house was torn down.

The controversy that followed involved those who would have had a small library staffed by volunteers,

as the old library had been, and basically set up the same as the old library. Edna Nolf, who had run the little library on Brookside Avenue, and her husband, Ralph, who was the chairman of the Library Association and who was among the first to see the need for a new building, were, together with others, on one side of the argument, wanting to have a new library much like the old. Other members of the newly formed Friends of the Cresskill Public Library, to which the Nolfs also belonged, wanted to see a full-service library in Cresskill, one that could take its place among other libraries in the county. Although Cresskill's citizens had approved a referendum to build a municipal library, the people involved in getting it built argued over every aspect of the new library: its site, its architecture, its size, its staffing. The Friends committee members--Joan Austill, Rhoda Boughton, Victor Bumagin, Pat LoNano, Judy Massey, the Nolfs, Olga Pitkin, and Russ Studenmund--finally resolved the conflict, after ten years, and the building was completed in 1966. During those ten years most of the 6,000 books from the little library were stored in the basement of the old Borough Hall. But the basement flooded. Many of the books were ruined.

Judy Massey became the library's director. By 1986 the library books were so jammed onto their shelves and the shelves into the

building that an addition was built, doubling the library's size.

Cresskill's adding any facility, be it high school, library, or swim club, created furor and contention. There was always at least one person who fought--usually vociferously--against most change, especially change that might cost money. After the library agitation receded, a new reason for clamor arose over the question of a swim club in Cresskill. There was disagreement over the type of swimming pool in town: some wanted no swim facilities at all; some wanted a private swim club with closed membership and fees to reflect a small number of participants; some wanted a municipal swim club with open enrollment and dues kept low. Again, there were arguments over the site: off Piermont Road, off Grant Avenue, at the end of Third Street.

It took years until the pool as it is today was completed at the end of Third Street: a municipal pool, available to all Cresskill residents, with dues that keep it self-sustaining. The land, which had been purchased from Russell Cook, was funded through a bond issue. Few town swimming pools, and fewer municipal pools, have as attractive grounds as does Cresskill's swim pool, with its tall shade trees and grassy areas, the latter not an easy task to maintain with hundreds of people trampling over them for nearly a hundred days every year.

There were Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops for the town's youngsters, and there were Cub Scouts and Brownies for the younger children.

The first Cub Pack, number 121, was formed in 1938 under cubmaster Kenneth Tallman. A second pack was added in 1959, number 266. Cresskill mothers for years led their little boys' cub activities, as "den mothers" with eight or so boys in their homes. Once a month the boys met at the cub meeting, usually in one of the schools.

They felt proud and grown-up when they graduated to Boy Scouts at the age of eleven. More was expected of them, and they solemnly learned the Boy Scout oath. Boy Scout troops have been in Cresskill since 1945, when

Scoutmaster George Freer led Troop 127. A second troop, number 272, was formed in 1958 with Scoutmaster James McKinney leading it. These two troops, too, were eventually combined, into Troop 127. At one time, in the early sixties, there was an Explorer Post, which later became a Sea Explorers post.

Girl Scouts began in Cresskill in 1921, and in 1922 they went on their first camping trip, with their leader, Florence Miller. By 1959 there were eight intermediate troops, seven Brownie troops, and a senior troop in town. Many of the women who served as Girl Scout leaders remained active in the town and the schools. They formed a close circle of friends and co-workers. Father-daughter dinners were

popular--as were the Blue and Gold dinners for the town's Cub Scouts.

At the urging of Cresskill's teenagers, the Recreation Committee attempted in the late sixties and early seventies to establish a youth center in town, in the old firehouse. It floundered for a while, with few youngsters attending, and finally was closed. The town's youth did, however, have a place to let off steam, a commercial one. For three years in the early sixties Gus Hoffman and Jerry Bachmann ran a trampoline center on Union Avenue, where Hudson Drug and Cresskill Cleaners are today, and extending back almost to Madison Avenue. There were fifteen trampolines with two in-

Judith Massey

Judy Massey is Cresskill's library director. She's been with the library for nearly twenty-five years, and she's been director for more than fifteen. It's not possible to come in contact with Judy Massey and not feel her vibrations--she's forthright, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable. She's also generous, giving of herself to the Girl Scouts in town, for more than forty years; to the small children in town who attend story hours--always run by Judy--on one of four days a week in the library; to the choir with which she sings; to her talents, which range from knitting and sewing to sports--hiking, cross-country skiing. Judy does all this with alacrity, she, a woman who served in the army during World War II. Her energy, which is prodigious, is infectious.

Beware the bookmarks you leave in the library's books--Judy can tell what kind of person read the book by what is left behind. She's come across photographs, car registrations, coupons, licenses, bills--paid and unpaid--and mail--addressed and unaddressed. She imagines where some of the books have gone when sand falls out of them in the summertime.

Her dynamism stands her in good stead when she performs what she likes best to do: help people. And they do need help. "The copy machine--it doesn't work." (It does work, after Judy shows the client that there's no money in it.) "I need some material, but I don't know what." (She finds it, for child or adult.)

There's regret attached to all this helping out, though. Judy sees the future of this library, and all public libraries in the area, as computer-controlled, a multimedia center, easily accessed from the home and so with fewer people coming into the library. It'll take some of the fun out of her library work, she says, but anyone who knows Judy knows nothing can stop her--not even machines.

structors on hand. At times the lines formed down the block. The youngsters' parents, and other brave adults, tried them too, but for the most part they were a way for the kids to have fun.

Cresskill cared about its children, but despite loving parents and concerned neighbors, it couldn't keep all the children safe all the time. Tragedies go back as far as the history of the town--a little boy getting hit by a bus in front of his house, a child fighting for his life after being struck by polio, another child dying in the arms of the doctor who was carrying the sick youngster to his car. In the past generation alone Cresskill folks have repeatedly agonized over a sick or a maimed child, have repeatedly reached out collective hands hoping to be of help.

Each time, the child might have been Everychild, and was everybody's child. There were little ones who died of cystic fibrosis, pneumonia, leukemia--five in a ten-year period. Then there were no more cases of leukemia until a few years ago when a recently graduated young athlete died of the disease. As happens in every town and village, children and young people died, and were mourned by their families and their neighbors, of every illness imaginable: cancer, aneurism, diabetes, kidney disease, . . . the list goes on and on. The illnesses have changed: Where once children died of diphtheria and influenza, young adults now die of AIDS.

Terrible as the illnesses were, the accidents were perhaps even more wrenching: a small child drowned in the Tenakill; a boy was thrown from the handlebars of his friend's bicycle into the path of an oncoming car.

And they no longer had to be children or to live in Cresskill for their deaths to shock the town. In 1974 Karin Schlegel, a 1968 Cresskill High School graduate, an editor, and a drama student to further her dreams of becoming an actress, was murdered in New York City by a man who, it turned out, had murdered once before. Karin was the daughter of Irene Schlegel and her husband Alfred, who was the borough's tax assessor at the time.

The San Francisco earthquake in October 1989 seemed far from Cresskill--except that one of the people killed was John Anderson, a 1974 graduate of Cresskill High School. He had been one of the shining stars of his class, in academics, in his creative forays, and in his leading role in the senior class play, *Guys and Dolls*.

There was an accident on November 14, 1959, that people who lived in Cresskill then still talk about. Three boys, teenagers, in a car. It was 10:30 on Saturday morning, and it was raining. The fallen autumn leaves were wet. The car rounded the curve on Grant Avenue, but it never completed the curve. Instead, it went off the road, to the north side of Grant Avenue, and turned over. John McGauley, who was seventeen, and Eddie

Sutton, who was sixteen, were killed instantly. Gary Wright, who sat to the right of them on the front seat, survived with no injuries. The boys were planning to go to a football game at Tenafly High School, which they attended. So popular were the three that the high school was closed for the funeral services. The two friends' wakes were next to each other, and they were buried next to each other.

There were three accidents--with twenty years between the first and the last--that shocked Cresskill's folks because of the accidents' chilling similarities.

But the youngsters involved then inspired Cresskill's folks because of their courage. In 1965, when Wayne Siegmann was fifteen, he was struck by a train while riding his bicycle near the railroad tracks. He lost his left leg, above the knee. In 1981, when Charlie Vitellaro was nineteen, he was struck by a car while he was riding his motorcycle in Rockland County, New York. He lost his left leg, above the knee. In 1985, when Alison Lehmann was sixteen, she was struck by a car in Tenafly. She lost her left leg, above the knee.

Charlie lived down the street from Wayne when the first accident happened. The little boy visited the older boy to console him. Later, as an adult, Wayne lived across the street from Alison when the third accident happened. He was able to console and counsel the teen-aged girl.

Shortly after fifteen-year-old Wayne's accident, folks at the swim club were amazed and moved when they saw him hop up the stairs to the high board and then dive into the water. He later married, had four children, and built a second story onto his Woodland Road house with the help only of a handful of friends and family members. He now lives in upstate New York and is a self-employed money manager and an administrative officer with the federal government. In 1992 he attended Alison's wedding. In 1993 he attended Charlie's wedding. Alison is a social worker. Charlie services computers. Two are connected to Wayne, and all three, connected by tragedy but also by the encouragement of their Cresskill neighbors, are capable, productive people.

Charlie's sorrow, however, wasn't to be over. As he came

out of a three-day coma following his accident, he recalls there was only one person, other than family, permitted in to the hospital intensive-care unit. Brian Terhune was Charlie's best friend. Brian, son of former mayor (who had since died) Bertholf Terhune, had just come out of Marine boot camp. By wearing his uniform and his charm, he made his way in to Charlie, every day. Both were nineteen years old. "He held my hand. He helped me. Without him I would have been more messed up," Charlie says. After Charlie got out of the hospital it was Brian who took Charlie wherever he wanted to go. Charlie's accident had been during the Memorial Day weekend of 1981 at the intersection of Route 303 and Oak Tree Road. The next Memorial Day weekend, 1982, Brian was hit by a truck as he was riding his motorcycle. Brian was killed at

the intersection of Piermont and Oak Tree roads.

Jane Zimmerman, who lives on Seventh Street, says, "For a small town we've had a lot of tragedies, but no more than other towns. It's just that we're so close that everyone knows about them and cares." Jane knows. Her eight-year-old son, Glenn, died of leukemia in 1973. She adds, "I'm thankful I was here, in Cresskill. If I had been in a big city I wouldn't have had all these people caring."

Cresskill's people have rallied whenever one of their own needed help. Whether they raised money to help a family with the cost of medical treatment or as a memorial for someone for whom treatment no longer worked, whether it was a neighbor who shopped or baby sat or just held a hand or listened, it signified support. That's what a small town can do: support.

Bruce Merrifield: Nobel Laureate

Bruce Merrifield may be the most modest person you'll ever meet. Unless you know it, you won't hear from him that he's a Nobel laureate. Everyone in Cresskill should know about its most prestigious citizen, but many don't. Libby, his wife, says, "I'm glad this hasn't changed him. Some people do get puffed up."

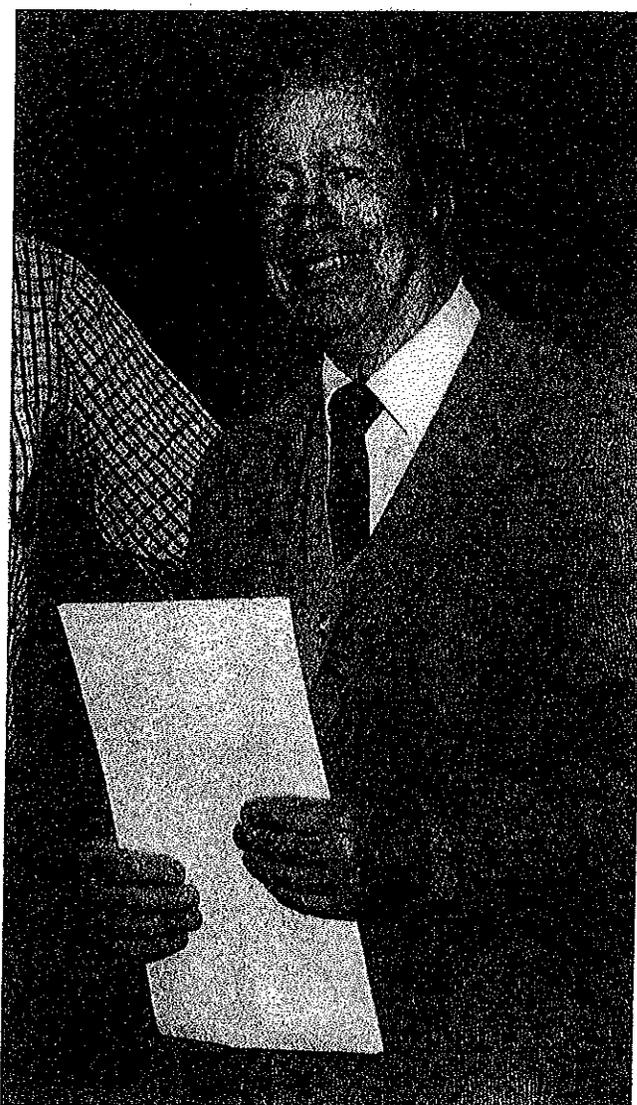
"Puffed up" is not the way anyone would describe Bruce Merrifield. His Nobel prize in chemistry, in 1984, was the culmination of years of international recognition in the science world, including his earlier earning of the Albert and Mary Lasker Award and his reputation for his research at the Rockefeller University in New York City.

In trying to simplify the description of the work for which he won the Nobel prize, Dr. Merrifield says: "It was known how to synthesize in the lab various members of the class of chemicals called 'peptides,' including hormones, growth factors, and antibiotics that have diverse biological actions. It was, however, very difficult to do because so many chemical reactions are required. After each reaction the products had to be purified and carefully identified, and this took a lot of time and labor.

"One day I had an idea of how to carry out such a synthesis in a simpler and faster way. The idea was to attach the beginning of the molecule to tiny insoluble plastic beads. In this way the purifications could be quickly achieved by simply filtering and washing the beads. It took about three years juggling all the variables before I got the methods to work. I reported it in a meeting in 1962 and then published a detailed paper describing the work in 1963. We built a machine, an electromechanical device that will go through all the 100 steps required to extend the peptide chain by one amino acid unit. Since a small protein contains about 100 units, the machine saves a great deal of time and effort and makes these compounds readily available for further study. We and many other people are using this technique for a wide range of investigations in medical and basic sciences."

Heady stuff. Not something the average person, in Cresskill or elsewhere, understands, but that which has made Dr. Merrifield one of only a handful of people in the world to have achieved such stature. Despite his place in the scientific community, the Merrifields are private people, quiet people, living on lovely land in a house built at the turn of the century on Mezzine Drive. They've had vegetable gardens, dogs, cats, and chickens, and always the environment is left in its natural state. They are like that.

And they were like that long before the rest of the world caught up and found out it was a good way to be. Their eldest daughter, Nancy, mirrored her parents' interests with a degree in microbiology and a position with the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. The others, James, Betsy, Kathy, Laurie, and Sally, are in the South, in the Midwest, in the West. Their parents were involved in their children's growing up. Libby spent time with her daughters in Girl Scouts, and all eight Merrifields jammed into a station wagon one summer, nearly twenty-five years ago, and drove 12,000 miles on a trip to Alaska when it was still a new state and the 1,500-mile



Alcan Highway was still an unpaved flint road. "It was a wonderful experience," both Merrifields say.

Dr. Merrifield "retired" in 1992, but he still manages the research group at Rockefeller University, and his funding from the National Institutes of Health continues for two more years. The paperwork involved keeps him from doing what he would like best to do--work in the lab, with his wife at his side, as she has been doing for the past fourteen years. They met at UCLA when Libby was studying for a degree in zoology and he was the biochemistry teaching assistant in her class. Bruce came to California from Texas; Libby came there from Alberta, Canada, and they have lived in Cresskill for forty years.

In conjunction with Cresskill Centennial year in 1994, a street will be renamed in honor of Bruce Merrifield. Lincoln Drive, which leads from Cresskill Avenue to the high school, is to be named Merrifield Way, with a celebration to honor the renaming.

The Merrifields have had experiences unlike anyone else in Cresskill, or, for that matter, unlike most other people in the world. In December 1984 they went to Stockholm to receive the Nobel prize. "The men wore tails to the ceremony," he says. Bruce smiles still at the incongruity of it. They were given first-class tickets for the trip, but they turned them in for tourist class so that all their children could accompany them. Nevertheless, the airline gave them special seating.

They met King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia. Dr. Merrifield was amazed, he says, at the extensive participation of the royal family and how important

that is to the success of these awards. He says, "I found the king interesting, but the queen really impressed me. She's beautiful and charming and bright. She speaks seven languages."

At a banquet attended by about 4,000 people, Libby Merrifield was the buffer between the king and the prime minister, who were not in full political agreement with each other. "I sat between them and I spoke to each of them separately," she says. Bruce adds, "There were TV cameras at the banquet, and King Gustav told us to always stop eating when the cameras were on us, but Libby got caught chewing on the desert--ice cream with some spun sugar--just as the TV came round."

At another, smaller banquet at the Royal Palace, Bruce Merrifield again had occasion to be charmed by the queen. "The king went down the guest line, shook hands with everyone and was finished, while the queen was still near the beginning of the line speaking with each individual. She was really interested," he says. "I escorted her into the banquet"--and with all the accolades Bruce Merrifield has received, it's evident that this honor comes high on the list.

In December 1991 Bruce and Libby again traveled to Sweden, for the ninetieth anniversary of the Nobel Foundation. It was very different this time, they say. "Most interesting was to spend a week with about 150 of the living former Nobel prize winners and their families all in one place."

The Merrifields will go on working in the lab, will go on with their research because that is their life. And they will come back each evening to Cresskill, proud home of a Nobel laureate.

There's Music in Cresskill's Air

Musicians seem to feel comfortable in Cresskill. Some grow up in Cresskill, some live here a short time, and some make their home here for many years.

Alison Tallman

Each year at the Cresskill High School's senior awards assembly a scholarship is given for musical excellence--the Alison Tallman Memorial Scholarship. The first few years it was awarded the youngsters still remembered Alison Tallman and her talent. As time went on, the program pamphlet had to explain the reason for the scholarship.

Alison was Harold and Frances Tallman's daughter. She was born in 1939, four years after her parents moved to Cresskill. By the time she was five, she was showing musical promise, and she was encouraged early by the school's music teacher, Hortense Harrington. Alison graduated from Tenafly High School, from Juilliard, and from the Manhattan School of Music. She played the viola with leading orchestras throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, was on the faculty of the Hartford Conservatory of Music, and gave solo recitals, including one in Cresskill to benefit the Cresskill Public Library. Then, as her career was progressing, she was stricken with cancer. She died in 1966, but has left her legacy with the young people who have received her scholarships in Cresskill's high school.

A sad aftermath to Alison's death was that only a few years later John Petze, a Cresskill high school senior who had studied with her, died in a drowning accident.

Sherrill Milnes

One of the Metropolitan Opera's leading baritones once lived in Cresskill. When Sherrill Milnes lived at 349 Grant Avenue for a few years in the sixties, he was just beginning his worldwide fame. He sang for Cresskill's folks at a concert to benefit the Alison Tallman Memorial Scholarship fund and was seen frequently in the schools when one of his two children was involved in a concert or a theater production.

Theodore Lambrinos

Another Cresskill musician is periodically on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. Baritone Ted Lambrinos sings there and at other opera houses. He has lived in Cresskill for nineteen years and during that time has appeared in fifty major operatic roles at opera companies throughout the world, including *Macbeth*, *Rigoletto*, *Don Giovanni*, and the four vil-

lains in *The Tales of Hoffman*. Of his playing the villain Scarpia in *Tosca*, a reviewer said, ". . . Lambrinos displayed a tremendous, resonant, accurate and completely controlled voice. He made every lift of the eyebrow meaningful; every nuance count. He was suave, crawly and superb."

He has had orchestral engagements as well, including the New York premiere of Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd*, conducted by Sir Georg Solti at Carnegie Hall, and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* in Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center with the American Symphony. He had appeared as Emile de Beque in fifty performances of "South Pacific" at the Mercury Theatre in Auckland, New Zealand. He has recorded two albums, *Hellenic Songs*, consisting of Greek songs, and "I Feel a Song Comin' On," featuring musical theater songs.

Lambrinos and his wife, who died last year, raised two children who went through the Cresskill school system, Ted, who graduated in 1981, and Kari, who graduated in 1983.

Henry (Hank) Jones

Jazz pianist Hank Jones's wife, Theodosia, says the worldwide renowned musician is the most recorded artist in the world, and though nobody is tallying, it may well be true. For more than thirty years, since 1955, he recorded every day, she says, and sometimes as often as three times a day. Every big band has recorded with him. Japan, where he travels frequently and where he spends a month each year as an honorary visiting professor at the Osaka School of Music, has published a book about him, which Theodosia Jones says, looks like a dictionary.

Jones, who was born in Mississippi and grew up in Pontiac, Michigan, started on the piano when he was a tot and admiring of a talented older sister. By the time he was thirteen, he was playing in nightclubs. But, because his father was a strict Baptist, at midnight on Saturday nights his dad showed up to put an end to the playing for the Sabbath day. The Joneses lived at 39 Seventh Street from 1958 until 1985, when they moved to Hartwick in upstate New York. Their daughter Cecelia was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1983 and is now working in the mental health field in Albany.

But, says his wife, Hank never played in Cresskill. Despite his fame, as a black man he didn't feel comfortable in the town. They belonged to a church in Tenafly, she says, and knew few people in Cresskill.

Jones hasn't slowed down since he moved away. He still travels all over the world. He has just recorded an album, "Upon Reflection," of his late

brother Thad's music. Thad played the trumpet; their brother Elvin is equally as well known in the jazz world on the drums. Among Hank's many awards is a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for his contribution to jazz. Hank Jones is a legend in his day.

David Broza

Singer, songwriter, guitarist David Broza has lived in Cresskill since 1985, but he has given more than eight years of pleasure and of himself to the town. He has appeared several times at concerts for Cresskill's townsfolk, and he participated in a fundraising concert sponsored by M.U.S.E. (Musicians United for School and Education), to purchase new sound equipment for the Cresskill High School auditorium. He participates in the lighting of the menorah near the Cresskill Public Library at Hanukkah time. Part of his reason for involvement with his town are his and his wife, Ruth's, three children, thirteen-year-old Moran and eleven-year-old Ramon, who attend Cresskill schools, and Adam, who is three.

Broza's music is a blend of folk, pop, and jazz and reveals his international background. In his native Israel, Broza is the biggest-selling artist of all time, with triple platinum albums and sold-out tours. He recorded eight albums for CBS while he lived in Israel, including "The Woman by My Side," which was the first triple platinum album in Israel.

In his first American album, "Away from Home," in 1989, he grafted the words of four American poets to music, creating a portrait of America as seen through the eyes of an international troubador. The record featured star musicians such as Sting/Weather Report drummer Omar Hakim and Spyro Gyra saxophonist Jay Beckenstein. Broza performs at events such as the Paleo Festival in Geneva and the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas and appears in nightclubs such as the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, the Nightstage in Boston, and the Lone Star Roadhouse in New York City.

David Gale

Any night at the Broadway superhit musical "Les Miserables," if you hear the trumpet in the orchestra, it's David Gale's. And if, in the past, you saw "Mame," "Applause," "Dreamgirls," or any one of a number of other musicals, there too was David Gale and his trumpet. He's also made recordings with the American Theater Organization (ATO), with such singers as Mandy Patinkin and tenor Jerry Hadley. Gale was recently on a PBS television special, a tribute to Stephen Sondheim.

David and his wife, Dawn, have lived in Cresskill, on Twelfth Street, since 1975. Their daughter Christina, eighteen years old, is a pianist and a dancer. Andrew, who is fourteen, is a drummer and hopes one day to make playing percussion his profession.

Thomas Olcott and Sarah Carter

Tom Olcott and his wife, Sarah Carter, are both musicians. Tom is also an attorney who specializes in collective bargaining for symphony orchestras. But, he says, he is first a trombone player and then an attorney. He is a free-lance musician and has played at Radio City Music Hall and with the American Ballet Theatre and the Joffrey Ballet. He studied at Yale University and at Juilliard.

Sarah is a cellist and a freelancer. A graduate of the University of New York at Stony Brook, she has also played at Radio City Music Hall and with Broadway musicals. The couple have lived on Piermont Road since 1989 and are the parents of two toddlers.

Jan Meyerowitz

There was at one time another classical musician who lived in Cresskill. Jan Meyerowitz, who, though he spoke several languages, wrote all his more than a hundred songs, or *lieder*, in his native German and still spoke with the heavy accent of his birthplace. He was a familiar sight walking through town during the fifties, sixties, and seventies, his long white mane surrounding his lionine head. Meyerowitz, who lived on Morningside Avenue in Cresskill, now lives in France.

Bobby Hebb

At one time Bobby Hebb lived in town, on Harvard Street, in a ranch house in which he built a sound-proof studio and that had already been outfitted with a sunken living room large enough for an organ, an instrument played by the wife of the builder. Hebb was best known for his song, "Sunny."

Jim Mitchell

Jim Mitchell lived on Beechwood Road for several years. A guitarist, he was one of the original musicians of the Sesame Street series and was as sensitive and easygoing as any Muppet.

Norman Richards

If you've heard commercials for Chrysler, Prudential, Smucker's, or Florida orange juice with Anita Bryant singing them, you've probably heard Norm Richards' work. He's written the music for these and a thousand other commercials over the past thirty years. He's a pianist and has performed in cocktail lounges and with orchestras.

Norm and his wife, Lynne, have lived on Churchill Road for thirty-one years. Their son, Scott, was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1980 and their daughter, Pam, in 1983. Though Norm is semi-retired now, he's not retiring from life. He sculpts in stone and creates monoprints, a painting and printing process, making his life a full circle of music and art.

George Brown and Wanda Merrell Brown

If you've ever spoken to or met Wanda and George Brown, you're not likely to forget them. They work together, they speak together, and they enjoy life together.

Their background in music is mind-boggling, spanning all the thirty-five years they've lived in Cresskill. Their work will be immediately available to Cresskill's folks now, as the song they wrote for Cresskill's centennial celebration appears on pages 164-165.

George is a personal manager of musical celebrities, including rock groups such as the Crew-Cuts and of singers such as Lou Monte, who is known for his Italian-American songs. They have written and published songs, many of them recorded by Connie Francis. Wandra, who sang under the name Wandra Merrell, sang most of the songs the Browns wrote.

Wandra has sung most often with Lou Monte, such songs as "Pepino, the Italian Mouse" and "Calypto Italiano," both of which are the Browns' compositions. She has also sung with the Sammy Kaye Orchestra and recorded with RCA Victor. She has worked in all the major nightclubs and appeared with such stars as Sammy Davis, Jr., and Myron Cohen.

Though the Browns are lighthearted and playful, life has not always treated them in those ways. They have a daughter, Donna, who was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1975, but their son, George, died in 1987, nine years after he was graduated from high school. The heartache will always be there, but it hasn't kept them from creating and performing music.

Len and Betsy Greene

Len and Betsy, who have been active with the Cresskill Education Foundation, are singers and musicians with their band, Ariel, which is one of two bands they provide for weddings, bar mitzvahs, and similar large parties.

CRESSKILL HIGH SCHOOL'S GRADUATES

It was its own musicians, however, its high school graduates, of whom Cresskill was--and is--most proud.

Jeffrey Broadhurst

Jeffrey Broadhurst is one of those people. He was one of the percussionists in the Cresskill High School band--one of the youngsters who stand in a row behind or beside the band members waiting for the special moment to pound the drum or bang the cymbal. Jeff wasn't one of the lined-up percussionists. His talent set him apart. And his voice could be heard as well, when he sang with the chorus and with every choir under music director Richard Bartlett. Jeff graduated from high school in 1981 and went on to Juilliard for a bachelors degree in per-

cussion. Later, in 1992, he earned a masters degree from Columbia University. He's the featured timpanist with the Honolulu Symphony and has played with the New York Philharmonic/Juilliard Orchestra as timpanist under Zubin Mehta. He also toured with the Colorado Philharmonic as the principal timpanist. Despite his proficiency in percussion, his goal is to teach ensemble and solo voice at the college level.

Laura Broadhurst

Jeff's younger sister, who was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1983, holds a master's degree in musicology and music history from the University of Washington at Seattle and a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado and has made recordings with a vocal jazz group, The Accidentals, which have been nominated for a Grammy. She has had internships with the *Great Performances* series on PBS and at the present time has a lead in Kurt Weill's opera, *Mahagony*, at the Seattle university's opera theater.

The Broadhursts' parents are musicians as well. Chuck has taught in the choral department at Saddle Brook High School for thirty years, and Janice at one time had leading roles with the New York City Opera Company.

Judith Masten Detroy

Judith Masten Detroy was in Cresskill High School's 1969 graduating class. She is now indispensable to the music department of the Presbyterian Church at Tenafly, where, in the past, she has directed the children's choir and has written and arranged music for the choir. She leads the Hand Bells, a group that plays English hand bells in concert both for the church and for outside organizations. She writes and arranges sacred music for the organ as well as for four-part chorus anthems. Judy lives in Tenafly and is married to John Detroy, who was at one time the organist for Radio City Music Hall.

Gary Wright

Gary Wright preceded Judy. He was graduated from Tenafly High School in 1961 already experienced as a child actor. He had appeared on Broadway in the musical "Fanny" and, at the age of twelve, on the Ed Sullivan show on television. From Cresskill he went on to William and Mary College, New York University, and then to Berlin to do postgraduate work in psychology. But his love of music overtook him in Europe, and by 1975 he had written and produced the all-keyboard/synthesizer album "The Dreamweaver," which went to number one in the charts and has become a classic. His next release, "Love Is Alive" went on to number two on the charts. Among the soundtracks he has written were those for "Fire and Ice" and for "Wayne's World."

Gary grew up at 369 Grant Avenue, a white house with black trim. His father, whose mother was a

Burns, was born in a house that stood at the corner of Grant Avenue and Knickerbocker Road. The Burnses had owned a construction business that operated from the forties through the sixties located on both sides of Grant Avenue from Knickerbocker Road down to the house where Gary grew up, an area known as the Burns tract. Gary tells the story that his great-grandfather, Henry Wright, invented the brake lights for early automobiles, but sold the patent to Henry Ford for \$150 after Ford wrote to Wright and told him he was 150 years ahead of his time.

Gary is married, has two sons in college, and lives in Palos Verdes, California, where he is starting his own record company with his friend, ex-Beatle George Harrison.

Aleks Tandyrak

He didn't play in the high school band, but he's been involved with music since he was nine years old. That's when Aleks started to take clarinet lessons in the Bryan School music program. He advanced to private teaching and after a year decided he wanted to study percussion. He studied another six years with private teachers, including Sonny Igoe of Big Band fame.

Before he was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1974, Aleks played with a local rock group called Friends. He later played in the pit for off-Broadway plays, toured the eastern states with a club band, and appeared in Atlantic City casinos with a club band. He lives in Dumont. He's a draftsman during the week and a drummer on weekends, playing with a band in the Frank Bennett organization.

Donald Mokrinski

Even as Don was charming audiences with his performances on the clarinet during high school concerts, he was planning to make music his life--and he has. But it wasn't only Cresskill folks who knew of his talents. Throughout high school, Donald played with the Bergen Youth Orchestra, a prestigious ensemble of the county's most talented young musicians.

After his graduation in 1978, Donald went to the University of Rochester-Eastman School of Music for a bachelors degree and to Juilliard for a masters degree. He now performs as a free lancer. Among his other engagements have been touring with the national company of "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber," and he'll soon go on tour with "Phantom of the Opera." He also plays the E flat clarinet with the New Haven Symphony when that instrument is needed, though this summer he will substitute for the principal clarinetist. He lives in Cresskill, but with all this traveling, being home is a rare occurrence.

Ray Bauer

Though Ray Bauer took over his late father's taxi and limousine company in 1980, he was a professional musician while he was in high school and after his graduation in 1970. After Boston University he continued to graduate school at Berkely College of Music, majoring in composition. For ten years in Boston he was a solo pianist, playing classical and jazz music. During his Cresskill High School years he was involved with his band, The Utmost, which played frequently in Cresskill and throughout Bergen County and New York State.

Janet Cioffi

Janet, who like most of the Cresskill High School musicians, was the recipient of the Alison Tallman Memorial Scholarship, went on to Hope College in Michigan after her 1969 graduation. She taught classical piano at the Rev. Dr. Robert Schuler's Crystal Cathedral.

John Von Glahn

John was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1987, and after majoring in music education at William Paterson College, he came back to the high school--as the school's choral director. He teaches general music and directs the choirs in the junior and senior high school. He says, "It was tough distancing myself from the kids, with whom I worked in marching band during college. Now I'm Mr. Von Glahn." On the other hand, he says, he had little trouble learning to call his colleagues, his former teachers, by their first names.

MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS

There are a number of Cresskill High School graduates who are members of families who are gifted with both musical and artistic talent.

The Heberts

Even the most famous operatic singer can't perform an opera without an orchestra. And an orchestra would be the poorer without the bassoon. The Metropolitan Opera's orchestra is, however, the richer for its principal bassoonist, Richard Hebert. He's been with the orchestra since 1960, one of only seven or eight people who have been with the orchestra that long, and during that time he's played with nearly a hundred conductors. In recent years, when operas were broadcast on television, Dick's neighbors could see him in the center of the back row of the orchestra, in front of the prompter's box.

Dick describes himself as having "the name of a Frenchman, the body of a Scotsman [with red hair to go with it], and the soul of an Italian." He and his wife, Joan, have raised six children in their early-twentieth-century home on Mezzine Drive. Besides his family and the bassoon, Dick is devoted to his

vegetable garden, which, carefully fenced off, takes up much of the large space between his house and his barn-garage.

Dick's three daughters are artists, each in a different way. Paulette Dawson, a 1982 graduate, is a designer with an advertising firm in Boston and designs her own line of greeting cards. Jennifer, who was graduated three years later, does silk screening on a free-lance basis, and Mary is in college majoring in interior design.

The Radoczys

Tao Radoczy, who was graduated from high school in 1969, had played flute with a chamber music group in Los Angeles as an avocation after her graduation from the University of Arizona. Her sister, Maya, a 1965 high school graduate and a graduate of the University of Kent in Connecticut, is an artist in Seattle, where she works in architectural glass, a step beyond stained glass, her father says.

Albert Radoczy, their father, was a professor of art at City College in New York until his retirement in 1978. He has had a studio in his home since 1949, when he moved to Cresskill, in which he creates his

modern oil paintings. His works hang in the Whitney Museum.

The Gangis

Robyn Gangi's vocal talents were evident throughout his high school years, before his graduation in 1972. He earned a bachelor's degree at Temple University and a master's at Leslie College. He now teaches music and dance in the high school in Monroe, Connecticut, sings in churches and synagogues, and appears on stage in New York City with the American Theatre as a solo performer and with the choir.

His brother, Chris, who was graduated from high school in 1979, is an art director with Conde Nast in New York City. He left a permanent record of his artistic abilities in Cresskill High School in the two huge murals, one on each side of the stage in the auditorium, depicting Comedy and Tragedy.

Their father, Mario, who has been on the Board of Education for the past 27 years, is a past president of the New Jersey School Boards Association, and was previously a councilman, had for ten years performed professionally on the trumpet, playing with some of the top bands during the Big Band era.