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The Years of Change

The sixties were years of change and action for Cresskill. In one decade the town acquired a high school, a public library, and a municipal swim pool. It celebrated New Jersey's tercentenary, in 1964, and Cresskill's seventy-fifth anniversary of incorporation, in 1969.

For the first time since the Depression, Cresskill welcomed industry into town. Hoke and, later, Railroad Accessories operated in two large buildings beside the railroad track, off Madison Avenue. Retailers flourished. Hamrah's moved from a tiny store on Union Avenue into its own spacious building on Piermont Road. Heather's opened its bridal salon in the store vacated by Hamrah's. Heather Donohue, born in Great Britain and married to Warren Donohue, who had lived in Cresskill since childhood, outgrew the little store by 1986 and built a larger one across the street, retaining the small one for sportswear. Kings

opened, along with the smaller stores in the shopping center.

Lewis D'Ippolito opened the Cresskill Deli in 1964 and ran it for ten years, until his son Nick took it over. At first they sold only cold cuts, but when a trucker came into the deli one day and asked for a sandwich, Nick's father got a jar of mustard and some bread and made the first take-out sandwich in Cresskill. Nick is still making them.

Curiosity Jewelers began when sisters-in-law Anne Angioletti and Elizabeth Angioletti, using their innate good taste and Betty's experience of working for many years for a jeweler, opened the shop. They had both lived in Cresskill for more than ten years and liked the idea of doing business in a small town, especially their own. The store in which they located had been a golf pro shop by the name of Cookie's. Before that it had been Mitchell's Meat Market.

Log Cabin Service Sta-

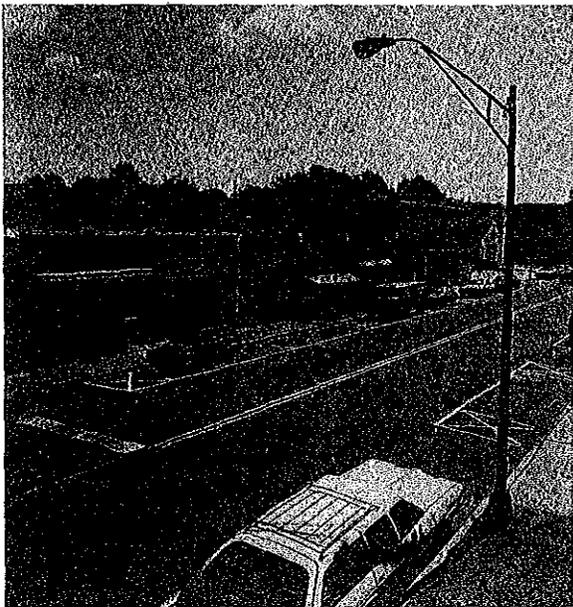
tion continued to operate at the corner of Union Avenue and County Road as it had since 1948 when Charles Manasseri started it. J. Di-Rese and Sons, trash collectors, had operated about the same length of time in Cresskill, on Piermont Road.

The first commercial bank in Cresskill, County Trust Company, opened in 1959 and was later taken over by First Fidelity Bank. A nursing home, Dunroven Health Care Center, opened on County Road in 1968.

The Stonehurst homes between County Road and Hillside Avenue were built in the early sixties. At the time, they were the largest development of colonial-style homes in Cresskill. Elsewhere in town the most prevalent new style of houses was split levels. They appeared everywhere there was a building lot available, either several built at once, as on Eleventh and Twelfth streets, or tucked here and there between older homes.

Cresskill has experienced continual change through the years. These fairly recent pictures are a window giving a glimpse to future townsfolk into what once was.

Right: The old Borough Hall on Union Avenue is shown in the process of being torn down in late 1982. The site is now occupied by a small green park for all to enjoy.

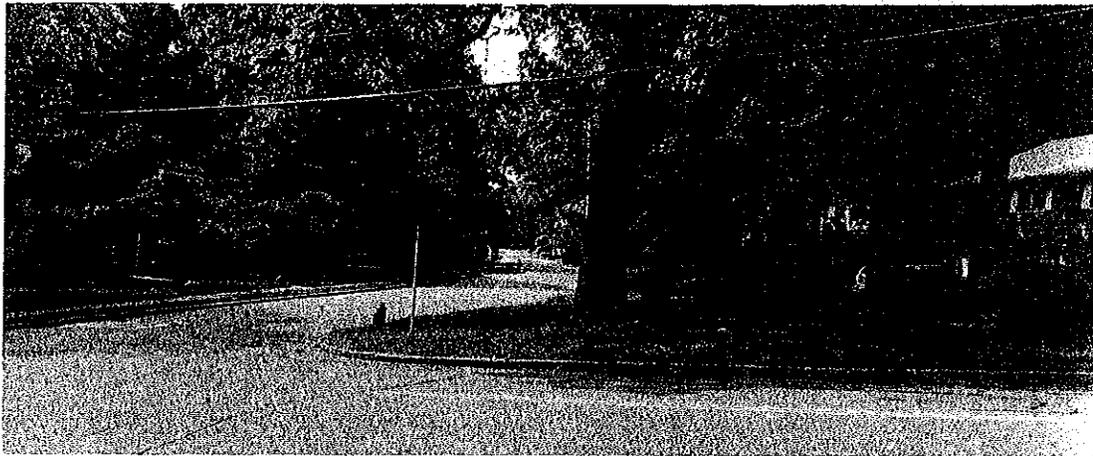
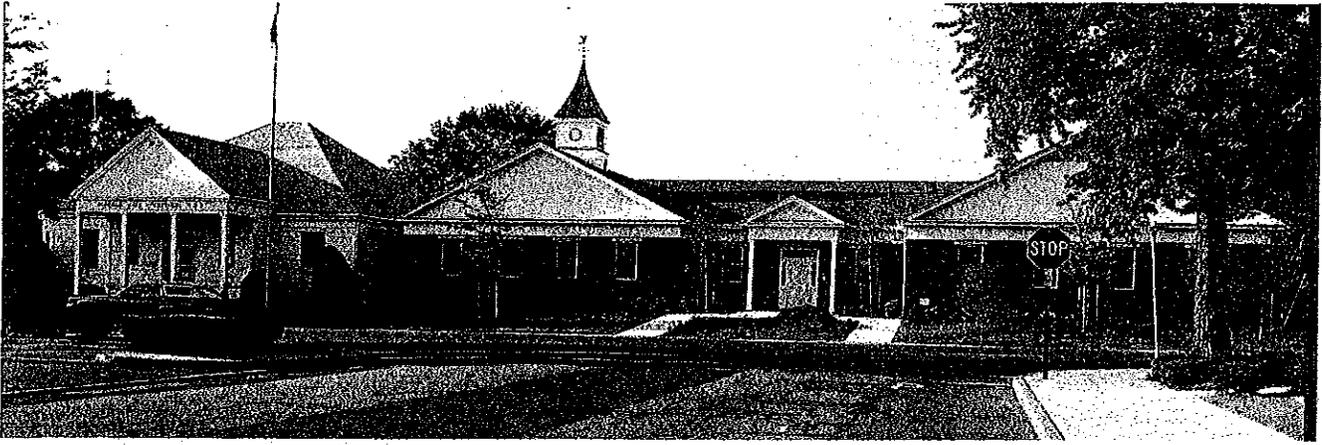


Top, page 117: This photograph represents Cresskill's transition into a new period of growth. For a short period of time during the 1980s the soon-to-be-demolished Borough Hall stood beside its replacement as a symbol of the new replacing the old.

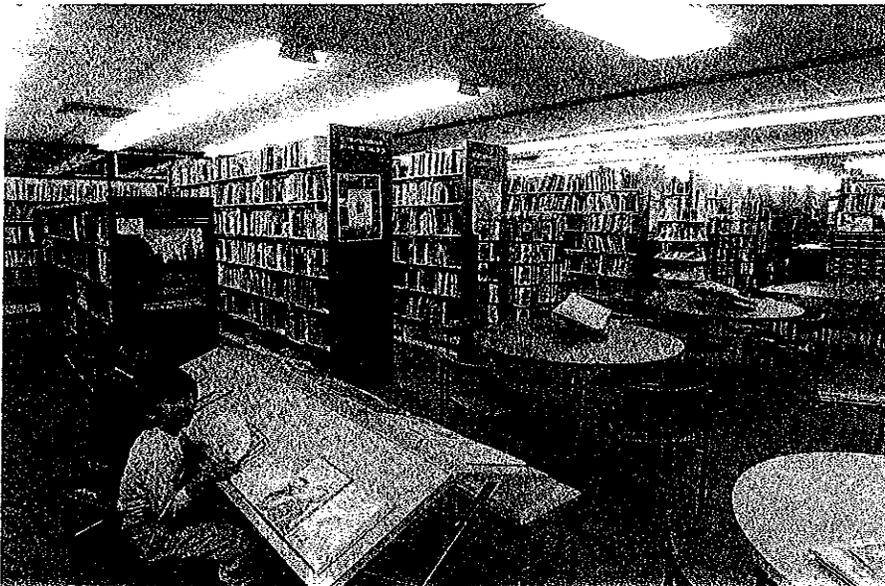
Left: The north side of Union Avenue photographed from the roof of Scofield Pharmacy.

Below: Piermont Road, north of Union Avenue.





View of the present-day intersection of Grant and Jefferson avenues. Compare this photograph with the same view taken during Camp Merritt days , as shown on page 30.



View of the interior of the soon-to-be-enlarged Cresskill Public Library. By the mid-eighties the library stacks were overflowing and space was found to be at a premium. Shortly thereafter Cresskill had a library with double the floor space.

With the development of another large tract of land, Woodcroft, in 1969, Cresskill's eighty-year-old character began to change. As new streets wound high up into the western slope of the Palisades--streets named Kennedy, Eisenhower, Wilson--a town that heretofore had mostly had a middle-class population found amongst its residents medical specialists, corporate executives, and business owners. Their houses, on an acre of land each, cost as much as half a million dollars, more than most other houses in Cresskill at the time. Their cars were imported, many of them from Siggie Benzel, who owned a Mercedes dealership and who lived in Woodcroft. Though Lambs Lane had for years been a street of old-money wealth, there were few houses on it and the handful of residents there didn't affect the town's makeup as the people in the ninety-two-house Woodcroft area did. The Rio Vista and Tammy Brook tracts were yet to be developed, so the change Woodcroft effected in Cresskill in the seventies--before the economic boom of the eighties had begun to affect the nation--was a watershed.

Between 1960 and 1970 the town's population rose from 7,290 to 8,298. The schools' enrollment increased from 1,443 to 1,867. In the elementary schools principals often moved from the Merritt Memorial School to the Edward H. Bryan School. In Bryan

School, John Pinelli was principal from 1953 to 1958. Thomas Toomey followed Pinelli, until 1962; he was followed by Roger Marchese, to 1968. That year John Sestanovich moved to the Bryan School from the Merritt Memorial School, where he had been principal since 1962, and remained at the Bryan School until 1989, when he retired. Since then Loretta Bellina has been Bryan School's principal.

At the Merritt School, both Toomey and Marchese served as principals before moving to the Bryan School. Richard Rice, Russell Titus, and Robert McGuire followed, until the current principal, Joseph Donnelly, took over in 1979.

Cresskill celebrated with parades and fanfare twice during the sixties. In 1964 Cresskill marked New Jersey's tercentenary with a town parade and festivities organized by former mayor Norbert Pendergast, Sr. More significant, however, was the placing of two historical plaques, one marker at the Benjamin Westervelt House at 235 County Road and the beleaguered marker at the site of Huyler's Landing Road to indicate that Cornwallis's British troops had invaded up the road and into Cresskill during the Revolutionary War. John Spring, then new in town after growing up and living in Dumont, upset the conventional wisdom regarding the invasion route. Finally, the Bergen County Historical Society adopted his documented position about the dock and the path

Sports People Ball players and others involved in the sports world have lived in Cresskill, some for a shorter time, some for a longer time, and some who have contributed much to the tapestry that is Cresskill.

Colonel Don Hull, who lived in Cresskill for many years, was an amateur boxing proponent. In 1992 he was inducted posthumously into the United States Olympic Hall of Fame during a ceremony sponsored by Cola-Cola U.S.A. and the United States Olympic Committee at the second annual Olympic Congress of the U.S.A.. He had served as president of both the U.S.A. Amateur Boxing Federation from 1978 to 1986 and was a special contributor to the Olympic Hall. He had been involved with amateur sports for more than sixty years and held many high-level posts directing physical education programming for the United States Army, the Amateur Athletic Union, and the Pan-American boxing organization.

Tommy John, longtime Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher and New York Yankees pitcher, lived on Westervelt Place with his family. He and his wife, Sally, took part in many school activities and were an active part of Cresskill through the Recreation Committee until they moved away. On the baseball league's field at Merritt School stands a refreshment stand named for Tommy John.

Don Baylor, Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees outfielder and now the first manager of the Colorado Rockies, had lived in Cresskill. Rick Cerone, New York Yankees and Montreal Expos catcher, is living in Cresskill. Ron Johnson, running back for the New York Giants, lived in Cresskill.

taken by the invading army. Twelve years later, during the 1976 Bicentennial, some Closter partisans from the County Bicentennial Committee stole the Bergen County Historical Society marker, only to return it a year later after the smoke

Ken Rabat

Nearly everyone has heard of the movie producer who meets the unknown starlet and offers her a contract on the spot. But a television director offering a mature man a plum role in a television soap opera after seeing him in *Cresskill? Playing Harold Tallman?*

It happened. There was Ken Rabat on the Cresskill High School stage acting the part of Harold Tallman, dressed in baggy pants and playing opposite high school students. At a cast party afterward a friend of the play's director praised Ken's performance. The friend got Ken started as the handsome Paul Martin--that's because Ken is handsome--a Vietnam war veteran, on *All My Children*. Ken played the part of Paul for a year in the early seventies, in addition to the work in television commercials he had been doing all along.

Cresskill's folks could see him extolling the merits of such products as Anacin, Ford cars, Lysol, The Money Store, Potamkin Cadillac, and Alexanders on television, but they could see him also on the baseball league playing fields where he coached kids like his son, Kevin, and his daughter, Karen.

Joyce, Ken's wife, contributed her part to Cresskill through the PTA and by selling millions of dollars worth of houses--not all in Cresskill--for nineteen of the past twenty-one years.

of battle had cleared and the Historical Society had reaffirmed its position regarding the invasion route.

Harold Tallman, Cresskill's then-borough historian, organized a comprehensive booklet outlining the town's history and its organizations. Tallman was not related to Cresskill's founding families but was involved in the town as though he had been. He was interested in the town's former years and in its present years. He had lived in Cresskill with his wife, Frances, since the mid-thirties. His patrician face and lean figure were a familiar sight in Cresskill, especially in the Borough Hall, where he compiled many of the borough's records and photographs for posterity. He had served as councilman, school trustee, and on most every other board in the town. He cared about Cresskill's people as well as its history, enough also to serve as the borough's welfare director in later years.

In 1969 the borough celebrated again, its seventy-fifth anniversary. Once more there was a parade, and again Harold Tallman played a part, both in an indirect and in a direct way. The indirect way was through a play written about him by Blanche Hackett, a writer and longtime resident of Concord Street. Ken Rabat, a professional actor who lived in Cresskill, played the part of Harold Tallman. Though he had to perform the part, his elegant manner of speech and

his tall stance were much like Tallman's, making it easy to envision the young Harold.

Tallman played a direct part in the celebration as well. He knew that the school bell that had been part of the first and second schools in Cresskill was somewhere in the borough and that it had been rung to celebrate Cresskill's schools' hundredth anniversary in 1957. After that it disappeared. He made it his quest to find the bell; and find it he did, in the firehouse, where it had been stored. He saw to it that the bell was mounted in front of the old Borough Hall, and he accomplished this--no mean feat--in time for the 1969 anniversary. When the new Borough Hall was built twelve years later the bell was again hung on top of the hall. But so much turmoil resulted because the bell couldn't easily be seen there, much of the turmoil coming from Tallman, who felt the bell should be accessible and ringable--which it is not--that the bell was moved, once again to be ensconced in front of the Borough Hall.

When Harold Tallman died in 1984 his successor as borough historian, John Spring, eulogized him. John recalled that he had told Harold that a bell is rung at celebrations such as Cresskill's anniversary. After citing Harold's work and efforts as borough historian, Spring said, "So today, I think it proper that Harold's bell should be rung, not tolled."

Spring himself later served as president of the Bergen County Historical Society and serves as well as the borough's historian. He gives talks at school groups and organizations, sharing his knowledge of the town's and the county's rich history.

In the early sixties, Camp Merritt of World War I came to its final end. The last of its unused buildings (some had been converted to houses and garages), a maintenance garage, was set on fire as a drill by the Volunteer Fire Department. The building was located in the general vicinity of where Ridge Road is today, and which at that time was wooded area with hundreds of blackberry bushes growing along the paths that led from the park on Cranford Place to Knickerbocker Road.

The Garden Club, which had beautified the town in small ways for a number of years, undertook a large project in the sixties. For

eight years they planted flowers and shrubs along the west side of Piermont Road, toward Tenafly. The plantings are a testament to the group's efforts on Cresskill's behalf. Each year the club landscapes Veterans Square, where the railroad station once stood, the swim pool area, and the gardens around the public library. The Garden Club recently donated the attractive blue-and-white sign at Veterans Square indicating the name of the borough as well as the new flagpole nearby.

A new organization came into Cresskill in 1966 when UNICO received its charter to serve the many people of Italian descent who lived--and live--in the borough. UNICO--Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, and Opportunity--is a service organization. As such, it awards a substantial scholarship each year to a senior student graduating from Cresskill High School, it has purchased a computer for the Volunteer Ambulance

Corps that now contains health data on all Cresskill residents, and it donated the bulletin board in front of the public library in addition to donating toward the bulletin board at Grant Avenue for the high school. It helps to defray costs for the high school Boys' State candidates and for the track team for the Penn relays. UNICO's first president was Carmen Pentifallo, with Arlene D'Antoni serving as the Ladies Auxiliary president. The current presidents are Martin Lucibello and Angela Caserta.

In 1964 one of Cresskill's citizens reached out beyond the town to serve as a county freeholder. Harold Martin held the post for three terms, after which time he was elected, in 1973, as a Democrat to the state Assembly. He would serve three terms, six years, in the Assembly as well. Retired--though a young man--from his position as a manufacturers' sales representative, Martin found the

Christopher Russo

There was another actor in town--smaller than Ken Rabat, not as suave, perhaps, and not as elegant, but cuter, chubbier, more huggable. Chris Russo was eight years old when he began doing commercials on television, and after that his classmates could cheer him on as they watched him spin dreams of going to Great Adventure amusement park or tell the advantages of CitiBank, Matchbox Cars, Aunt Jemima Pancake Syrup, or Hanes socks. When he was eleven he acted in the first of five after-school specials on TV.

That wasn't all. He appeared in six movies, among them "Broadway Danny Rose," "Firstborn," and "Pope of Greenwich Village." He's worked with Woody Allen, George Segal, James Woods, Mickey Rourke, Dudley Moore, and Kaye Ballard,

among others. That's in addition to the times he worked behind the scenes as assistant to producers and directors and with scenery, lighting, and wardrobe.

After he was graduated from Cresskill High School in 1987 and from college, he began to race cars. He did it right; he went to a professional racing school, and it--or his luck--paid off. He came in first in his first race, and every time after that he came in first, second, or third.

Now, with racing and all its excitement pretty much behind him, with acting and all its glory a memory, Chris has started his own trucking business and has a staff of three working for him. He's handsome instead of cute and slim instead of chubby, but he's still huggable.

Volunteer Ambulance Corps

There are, on average, 230 calls for an ambulance each year in Cresskill. Every one is answered--by volunteers. Sometimes it takes a little longer. Sometimes the whistle has to sound its three blasts a second time. That's not the fault of the people on the corps. It's the fault of the people not on the corps.

It's been getting increasingly difficult to find volunteers for the ambulance corps. Consequently, the people now serving are answering calls more often, and there is the ever-present danger that no one will be around during the day to answer a call. At one time both the volunteer fire department and the volunteer ambulance corps, which was begun in 1942, were covered by people who worked in town--shopkeepers, contractors, municipal employees, and so on. But there are fewer people who remain in town and there are fewer people who volunteer for the corps.

Two ambulances are in operation at the present time. Corps members, all with more than a hundred hours of training as emergency management technicians at the county Police and Fire Academy, are Jean Bibbo, Robert Bonanno, Lori Cerame, Clifford Cernak, Laurence Davino, Jennifer Friedman, Alison Hanabergh, Ruth Jones, Geraldine Kelly, Donald Kraker, Valerie Lynch, Michael O'Loughlin, Rosemarie O'Loughlin, Glenn Petillo, Paul Quadri, Susan Romisher, C. Michael Van Tine, and Carl Wallin.

Since 1942 the corps has been meeting once a month and drilling twice a month, most recently in their six-year-old facility on Madison Avenue, west of the firehouse. Before their new building was completed, the corps was housed in the building where Sam's restaurant is today, on Union Avenue. That had been the old firehouse and was later a short-lived recreation center for the borough's teenagers. Earlier, the corps' headquarters were in a garage on Dogwood Lane behind the old Borough Hall.

Nobody wants to think about needing the Volunteer Ambulance Corps. It's too painful to contemplate. But they're there, waiting to help Cresskill's people, and when they're needed they are welcome and consoling. Cresskill needs their help. They need Cresskill's help.

time to attend to his duties on the county and the state level. He takes pride in his having joined the sponsorship of legislation that enacted the first state income tax and his sponsorship of a bill that required every child from the fifth to the twelfth grade to be examined for scoliosis every year. He was involved also with a bill that encourages medical school graduates to work in underserved areas in order for the state to pick up some of their educa-

tional expenses. Martin and his wife, Reba, who was active with the PTA and the PTSA, live on Palisade Avenue, where they raised their four children.

In the seventies, debates on building multifamily housing in Cresskill raged at every Mayor and Council meeting. The council was split on the issue, the town-folk were split on the issue, and there seemed no way to compromise. Either there would be an end to Cresskill's long-held belief that

single-family units--individual houses--would preserve the family atmosphere of the town or there would be a breakdown to this belief and developers would be permitted to built apartments in town. Rarely had there been such disparate viewpoints in Cresskill and rarely had there been such anger. Yet, when, in 1975, the twenty-four-unit Brentwood Manor apartments were built along Piermont Road there was hardly a murmur of dissent.

Adding fuel to this wrath and becoming intertwined with it was another proposal put forth by the mayor and part--but not all--of the council. There was a need, this faction maintained, for housing for older citizens. Their opponents, however, contended that senior citizen housing as proposed, with federal funding, would serve people other than Cresskill residents and would thus not be advantageous for Cresskill's older population. The matter was put to referendum and was defeated. When, several years later, another Senior Citizens Housing Commission was appointed there was no resolution on the part of the commission and it made no recommendations.

Though the preceding debates at Cresskill's town meetings might depict it as insular and xenophobic, it did, in fact, reach out to others in various ways. One way, a way that became an annual rite for many years, was to welcome students from foreign countries,

through American Field Service into the borough and into townfolks' homes for two weeks each summer. High school students from countries throughout the world descended on Cresskill, coming by busload to be welcomed by their host families. The foreign youngsters attended Cresskill High School during their stay and attended nearly as many parties that were given by the school's students as they did classes.

Cresskill began to take part in the nation's celebration of its bicentennial in 1975, the year the official celebratory year began in preparation for the two hundredth anniversary in 1976. Every organization and nearly every person was involved in one way or another in the events. Cresskill High School students became involved immediately through a talk by borough historian John Spring on the Northern Valley's part in the American Revolution. On Memorial Day of 1975 a memorial rock was dedicated at Veterans Square. Though the idea of a rock with a plaque on it appears to be a simple project, it turned out to require a group of workers: Richard Gerber was instructed to find a rock on the Palisades and rejected one rock after another; one finally was found in Fort Lee Historical Park. Bill Cook, who was then superintendent of the Department of Public Works, hauled the rock on a DPW truck to its new place beside the railroad. American

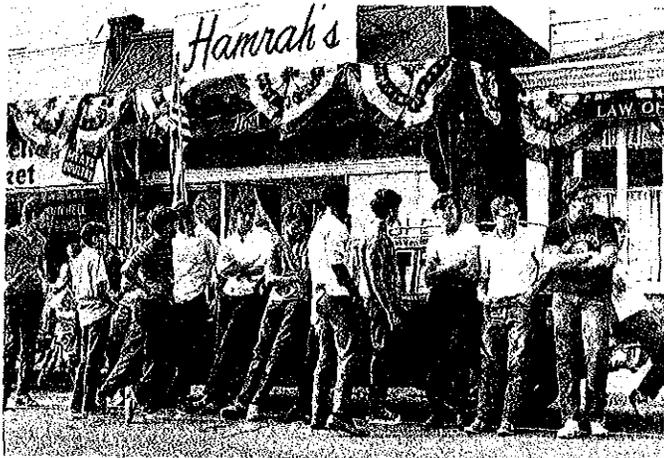
Legion Post 21 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3286 made possible the two plaques on the rock. One commemorates the site as that of the railroad station that had been the point of entry and departure for Camp Merritt during World War I. The other is dedicated to the memory of the Revolutionary War Militiamen of Northern Valley. Each is the only such memorial in the area.

The American Revolution Bicentennial Administration designated Cresskill an official Bicentennial community because of the diversity of the events the town planned in celebration of the anniversary and because it, unlike many other towns, answered and returned to the Bicentennial Administration a multipage questionnaire. Cresskill was the only community in this area so designated by September 13, 1975, which was declared Designation Day, and the town was eventually one of only a few such communities in the county. The parade to celebrate Cresskill's honor included a drum-and-bugle corps, Cresskill High School's band and color guard, and Cresskill's Bicentennial Committee as well as representatives from nearby towns that had not been named official bicentennial communities. Al Hess and his three sons appeared as the Spirit of '76. The official Bicentennial flag went up and stayed up for the Bicentennial year.

More people besides the busy Bicentennial Com-

mittee (not the least of whom was Jeune Tandyrak, who had answered the questionnaire that brought distinction to the town) became involved. Gerry Vukasin designed the official commemorative plate. Jerri and Vince Furio captured the activities on video. The Cresskill Woman's Club sponsored a ball at Tammy Brook Country Club. The Garden Club and the DPW planted a tree and put up a plaque at Veterans Square in honor of New Jersey Day. The High School PTSA sponsored a Bicentennial fair.

A year later, on May 15, 1976, Cresskill continued its celebration with musket, fife, and drum. "Training Day," a festival of the Colonial period, was based on the annual days of militia training in the post-Revolutionary period. As the years, and the danger, passed, however, these days frequently degenerated into an occasion for drinking and general carousing; even slaves had a day off. Drinking and carousing were not the case in Cresskill--at least not officially--where the Bicentennial Committee took the reenactment seriously. Its observance of the day involved real weapons, similar to flintlock rifles and muskets, as used in the Revolution. Again there was a fair on the high school grounds, and again hundreds of people were involved. Ray Bauer used his taxis to ferry people from parking lots to the high school and back. The Lions Club assisted with parking.



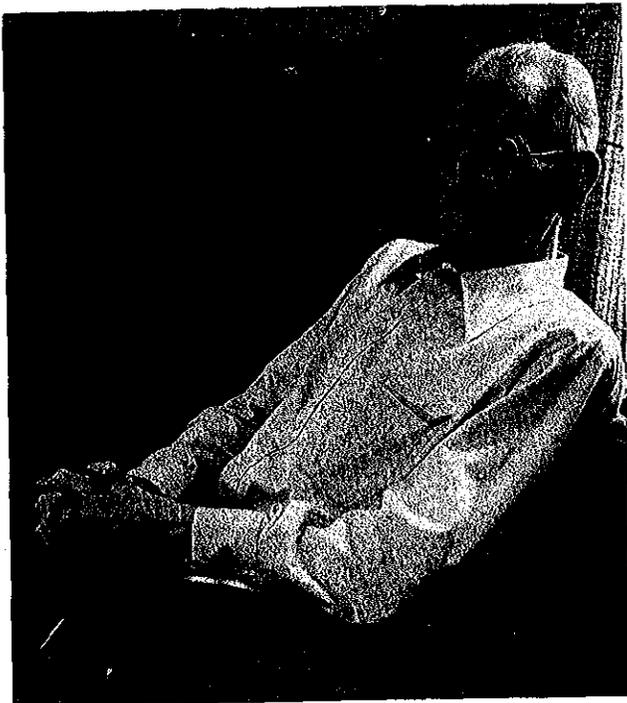
During the celebration of Cresskill's 75th anniversary crowds gathered along Union Avenue to watch a parade commemorating the day.

In the photograph, below left, note the woman with her chin in her left hand. She is Virginia Bruntz Tiedemann and is shown on page 86 as number 1 in a parade.



Cresskill's Garden Club has been beautifying the town for many years. Shown here, in May 1976, are, left to right: Claire Syran, Betty Carle, Phyllis Andreassi, Dot Bollerman, Ann Stiglitch, Nickie Francesconi, and Olive Johnson.





Harold Tallman, above right, gave years of service to Cresskill as a member of nearly every official body in the borough. In his later years he was the town's historian. His wife, Frances, is shown, above left, dressed to celebrate the nation's bicentennial in 1976.



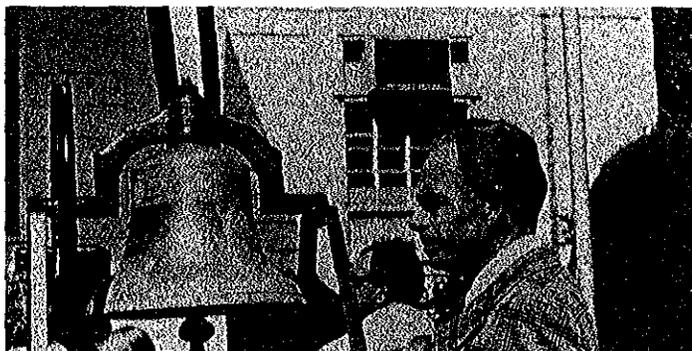
Al Hess with two of his sons reenacting the Spirit of '76 during the celebration of the bicentennial.



"Cornwallis' troops" fired anew at the Huyler House during the reenactment of the landing by British troops at the base of the Palisades.



Harold Tallman, then the borough historian, points out the plaque marking the site of the top of Huyler's Landing Road to John Spring, who would become borough historian in future years. Both are in costume for the bicentennial. The Huyler's Landing marker can be seen at the corner of County Road and East Madison Avenue.



Bill Hotaling, Cresskill's borough clerk during the bicentennial celebration. He is pictured here beside the newly installed bell that was once atop the first and second schools in Cresskill.



The parade down Union Avenue during the bicentennial celebration featured, among others, Harold Tallman, left foreground. The storefronts in the background indicate how the borough's architecture remained unchanged over the years. Unlike today, when there are cars parked and there is traffic on Union Avenue at all times, on a Sunday morning at that time the main street of Cresskill often took on the look of a western frontier town.



The crowds were hungry after the bicentennial festivities. Shown above, beginning with woman in dark glasses, are, left to right: Janis Weiss, Lainie Gerber, Judi Weiss, Dori Gerber, and Bernie Zovluck. Serving them is Irene Hess.

The Volunteer Fire Department lit fire to a mock village and then put out the flames using an old-fashioned bucket brigade. Various artifacts from the Colonial period were on display.

The final event occurred on November 20, 1976, with the reenactment of Cornwallis' landing and Washington's retreat from Fort Lee. Joining with other Northern Valley towns, Cresskill saw to it that the "British" once again engaged in battle. Cornwallis' troops climbed the Palisades using Huyler's Landing Road from the old dock. Along with several costumed hired participants, Cresskill's citizens joined the British troops. John Spring dressed as John Ackerson, the Tory who owned the property that Captain John Huyler later bought at auction in 1784 after the property was confiscated by the state. His son, Gary, was a British officer. Jeune Tandyrak and other townspeople, including young boys dressed in red, climbed the Palisades with John Spring to be part of the reenactment. The participants still talk about the mock skirmish from Cresskill to Englewood, about the sounds of muskets firing, and about the excitement of seeing the

Cornwallis raid reenacted up Huyler's Landing Road.

With money it raised, the borough Bicentennial Committee awarded scholarships and awards to high

Mary Connolly, and Cathy Butti, the latter two for making colonial costumes. Satori Iwamoto won the scholarship in 1976.

The town's earlier celebration, in 1969, had brought the old school bell back into the limelight, in front of Borough Hall. The bell was in fine shape, but during the seventies anyone working inside the building became aware that a new Borough Hall would have to be built--and soon. The building, which had served as a Young Men's Association during World War I's Camp Merritt days and had been renovated by the WPA during World War II, housed offices of the tax assessor, the tax collector, the borough clerk, the Zoning Board, the Planning Board, the health department, the welfare department, the justice department, and the police department. Its meeting room, which constituted the majority of the space in the building, was ringed by small offices. Its basement stored every piece of paper that comprised the borough's history. And that was where the trouble lay. The basement flooded regularly. Water damage destroyed thousands of books that had been stored in wait for the completion of the new library. It destroyed

A Mirage on the Parkway

Imagine yourself driving on the Palisades Interstate Parkway when a band of "Redcoats" comes storming up the hill and crosses the parkway in front of you. You and other traffic are stopped by volunteers from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3286.

Fine. They're gone. Maybe it was a mirage. Cornwallis attacked the Northern Valley 200 years ago. This is 1976. November 20, 1976. No Redcoats are running around now.

A short while later you're playing golf at Tammy Brook Country Club. There they are again! And who are all those people lined up on either side of Huyler's Landing Road directing the "troops" north to Closter instead of south to Fort Lee? You shake your head. It's a puzzlement.

You're through with your game. You have to pick up a ficus plant at Willow Run. Just as you pick out a good-looking one, the lights go out. It's those Redcoats again. Someone's trying to heat up coffee for them. It's Aleks Tandyrak, whose wife, Jeune, is one of the Redcoats. The lights go on as Aleks unplugs the coffeemaker from Willow Run's electric line. You go to pay. The lights go out. Aleks has plugged in the coffeemaker again. It happens several more times.

Outside, Milton O'Connor is handing the Redcoats something else to drink. He's the owner of the old Huyler homestead across the street from Willow Run. You go up closer. That's rum in those cups. O'Connor says no fighting men would drink just hot coffee.

That's all. You back away, confused by this raucous bunch. But you're glad the 1776 troops didn't have a Palisades Interstate Parkway or a golf course or finicky electric lines to contend with.

school students who had shown exceptional interest in the historical year. In 1975 the recipients were Robert Clarke, for a geological project and map, Walter Roese, for a handmade flintlock gun, Kerry Bender and Simon Weber for a colonial table, and

thousands of papers, records of borough organizations. Additionally, the building, with steps leading up from Union Avenue and from Dogwood Lane, was inaccessible to the disabled. It looked nice from the outside, with a certain vintage charm. On the inside, nothing functioned.

Again, Cresskill was thrust into one of its building throes--what to build, where to build, how much to build. Some wanted an all-encompassing municipal complex, attached to the public library and straddling Dogwood Lane. Some wanted the old building retained and renovated, though even the proponents of this idea knew it wasn't feasible. Some wanted to spend as little as possible as late as possible. It took a few years, as decisions in Cresskill generally did, but in 1981 the new Borough Hall was opened to the public and to the eager municipal workers. It was accessible for the disabled--all except the bathrooms, which had to be torn out and rebuilt.

Bill Hotaling was no longer the borough clerk the year the building was finished. He had been borough clerk for twenty-five years and had retired just the year before. Bill's memories go back to the Valley Fair supermarket in the spot where Kings is today, to all the additions and renovations and changes in the borough, and all the debates that those changes engendered. He remembers the last passenger train go-

ing through Cresskill, though he can't remember the date--probably the early sixties. And he remembers that the high school band came out to play "Auld Lang Syne" for that final stop of the train.

There was nothing he wouldn't do for a Cresskill resident. He could put his finger on any piece of information--within minutes. And he never complained, not about his work, or the people he came into contact with--and that took some doing at times--or the politicians he encountered. He was apolitical, a necessary attribute while he worked with eight mayors. He didn't ride to work. Early each weekday morning and again in the afternoon his was a familiar figure--spare and erect--as he strode between his home on Crest Drive South and Borough Hall.

Dorothy Giguere was his deputy. She took over as borough clerk when Bill retired. Though her personality is different from Bill's--she is not as serious as he was--and she resembles him not at all, the feeling in the office is the same. She can put her finger on any piece of information--within minutes, and with a smile. She, too, has the capacity to interact with many kinds of people and to deal with mayors, council members, and myriad details that make up the opera-

tion of a municipality. She's doing it in a newer borough hall. That helps.

Dot has worked for the borough for twenty-four years, but she's not alone in longevity. Her deputy, Mary (Kay) Reilly, has been there for twenty-four years, and the borough's secretary, Marilyn Schauer, has been there for twenty years. The three together appear to know everyone in town.

Court administrator Dorothy Conklin, on the other hand, may not know everyone in town, or at least she hopes not to through her work. She's been working with the municipal court and its justices for twenty-six years.

Three residents of Cresskill work in Borough Hall. Barbara Wortmann, payroll clerk, Margaret Higgins, tax

Cresskill's Municipal Court

Not many people, fortunately, get to see Cresskill's justice system. Dorothy Conklin has been seeing it for twenty-six years. As the court administrator, she has worked with eight judges, two of whom, James Taylor, a former Cresskill resident, and Kenith Bloom moved up to become Superior Court judges.

Municipal Court, which convenes the first and third Monday evening of each month, currently under the Hon. Terry Paul Bottinelli, hears nonindictable criminal matters such as driving while intoxicated, parking and traffic tickets, disorderly persons, and borough ordinance violations.

In 1992 there were 555 cases of traffic violations, 177 parking violations, 9 cases of driving while intoxicated, 37 disorderly persons, and 9 cases of violating borough ordinances.

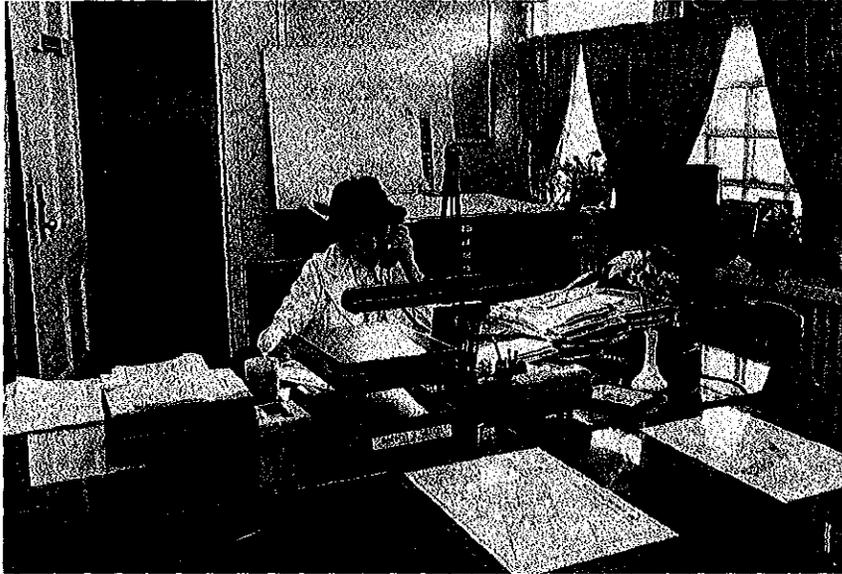
Dorothy's long tenure may well be attributable to her comment about the judges with whom she's worked: no favorites; "they were all wonderful."



The Cresskill Barber Shop on the north side of Union Avenue before moving across the street to its present location. Standing, from left to right: Joe Costanzo, who is now the owner, Albert and Joe (whose last names are unknown), and the late Tony Costanzo, who was then the owner.



Cresskill's Volunteer Fire Department posing with a piece of antique fire equipment. Left to right: Chris Bonanno, Tony Spina, Tom Lepore, Peter DeVries, Cliff Cernak, Kevin Peter, Richie Pressler, and Charlie Stuart.



Borough Clerk Dorothy Giguere at work in her office at the old Borough Hall.

Cresskill police dispatcher, the late Pat Mace, at work in the police station in the old Borough Hall.



office clerk, and Ann Ciar-diello, the tax assessor's secretary, can go from home to work in the same town.

Yet, though at one time most of the townspeople could walk to their work in Cresskill, by the eighties the

small-town atmosphere was changing. The changes were minuscule, but they continued.

The People at Kings

It's part of a chain of supermarkets, Kings is. But you wouldn't know it judging by the way Cresskill's residents see it as the hub of their "downtown." Sure, the Borough Hall across the street represents the guts of the borough, but Kings is where people see their neighbors, block the produce (which is good) aisles to exchange gossip, talk about the meat (also good) specials, or grouse about the prices (not so good). And they say they can't find the items they're looking for.

That's not the fault of Dave Kutner, a Cresskill man, one of twins, who went through the school system and is now Kings' assistant grocery manager. There isn't room, he says, as he patiently explains why there are no Frookie's chocolate chip cookies on the shelf, until Kings expands.

Kings hopes to expand--into all the specialty stores that had paid it rent to share the block with it, which included Cresskill Cleaners and Hudson Drug, both of which have moved into a building across the street that was built for them. Townspeople are waiting to see a newer, bigger Kings, perhaps then no longer the downtown store for the folks of Cresskill, who, in turn, have tolerated the folks from Alpine, Tenafly, and Demarest--and probably others--shopping there. (That's not to say that all the people of Cresskill shop at Kings; there *are* more moderately priced markets in the area.)

Even the Kings that has been in Cresskill since 1965 was rebuilt--after a spectacular and potentially tragic fire on Christmas Eve of 1975. Spectacular, because the flames tore into the sky. Potentially tragic, because, though all the staff and all the customers were herded out in time, both they and Cresskill's volunteer firefighters might have been injured or killed in the conflagration.

Kings awards a monetary grant at the high school assembly in June to one of its employees who is also a graduating senior from Cresskill High School. That's in addition to an annual several-thousand-dollar college scholarship that it bestows directly to a young Cresskill employee or the son or daughter of a Cresskill employee. Over the years it has donated food to PTAs and other school-related groups, religious organizations, and athletic boosters.

And at any given time, perhaps 50 of its 150 employees, many of them high school kids working part time, live in Cresskill. Bob Boyd was such a youngster. He was Kings Cresskill manager until recently, when he was moved to another store. He began working at Kings part time at age sixteen. Except for one year when he tried working at other food stores, he has been with Kings full time since he graduated from high school in 1974, moving up rung by rung to manager.

Bob isn't the only longtime Cresskill person to have made a career with Kings. The honor of seniority goes to John DePasquale, who, since 1967, has rounded up the carts that Kings' shoppers leave strewn around the parking lot and has brought them back to line up in front of the store. John attended school in Cresskill and now walks several miles from his home in Dumont to get to work on time each day.

There's a familiar face in the meat department. Sophie Murray, also a twin, has been there since 1968. She's now widowed and has grandchildren who are twins.

It's likely that either you or one of your children must have known one of Kitty Turner's eight. Several of them are still in the area, and she gets a lot of visits from them and her grandchildren when she comes down to the courtesy counter from her job as bookkeeper. She's been with Kings since 1972.

Just six years after Kitty began with Kings, Maureen Reiner joined also. One of her two sons recently received one of Kings scholarships, a source of understandable pride to Maureen. You can find her among the broccoli and bananas in the produce department.

At least some of the high-school-age employees are dating each other at any given time, but Gloria Jaccoi and Rich Del Vecchio did something about the love story they created while at work--they got married, thirteen years ago, and now have two children.

Then again, you don't both have to be working at Kings to find romance. Ann Marie Kelly was at work at her hometown store when she wanted to leave the courtesy counter where she was stationed then, and still is. Trouble was, the swinging door opened into the first check-out aisle. And in that aisle stood a young man carrying a very large bag of dog food. Try as she might, Ann Marie couldn't get past him, once, twice, three times (it's to be assumed that the line was moving slowly--or that the young man wasn't about to move away too quickly to let this very pretty girl go by and away). Ann Marie finally got by Joe Trumbetti--and they lived happily ever after. Joe is now on the Cresskill police force across the street from where his wife works, but he's not buying large bags of dog food anymore.

There's something about shopping at a store--and almost all of Cresskill's residents do, whether to run in for a half gallon of milk or to fill a cart chockfull with a week's needs of food and home supplies--where the person who helps you out is someone whom you also know from the neighborhood, or from school, or from your place of worship. It may be Nancy Holland, who was Nancy Mueller and whose brother is Bob

Mueller, also on the police force, who as deli-counter manager slices your salami for you. Or you may find Alexia Knopse, who works part time at the courtesy counter. When it's time to check out, Phyllis Morales may be punching the keys at the cash register, or it may be Thawee Badia, who always has a smile for the people she checks out. Or perhaps Emma Looby greets you there with her never-lost brogue.

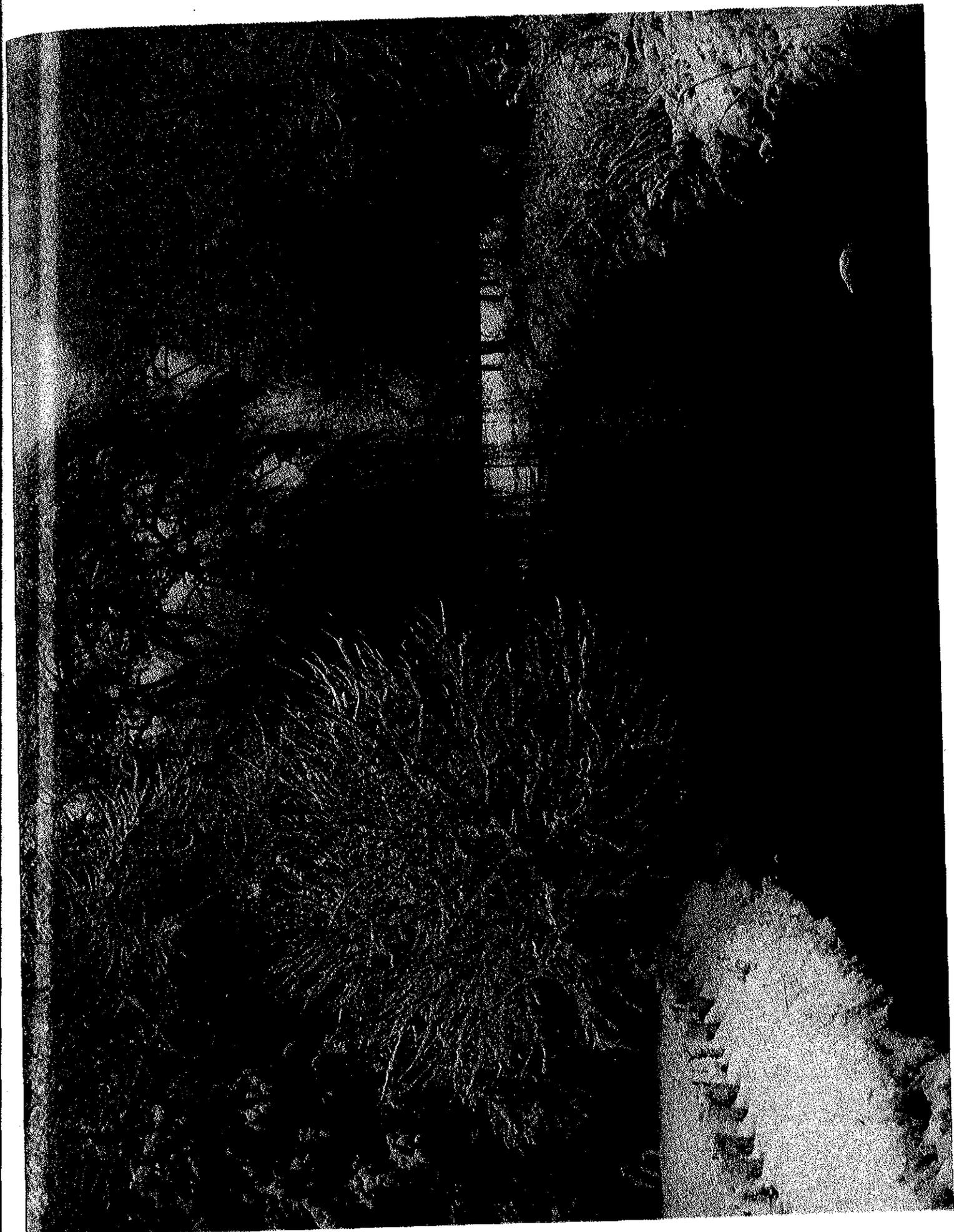
But you're unlikely to see Jerry Petrino, a Cresskill resident and Kings night-crew manager. He's been there since 1987, but with his hours of 11 to 7, he's the invisible man.

Before Kings, there was a Valley Fair on Union Avenue, there at what was once the eastern end of Cresskill's downtown. There was a second Kings at the Cresskill-Dumont circle for a short time, but they gave up that store and later a Shop Rite moved in.

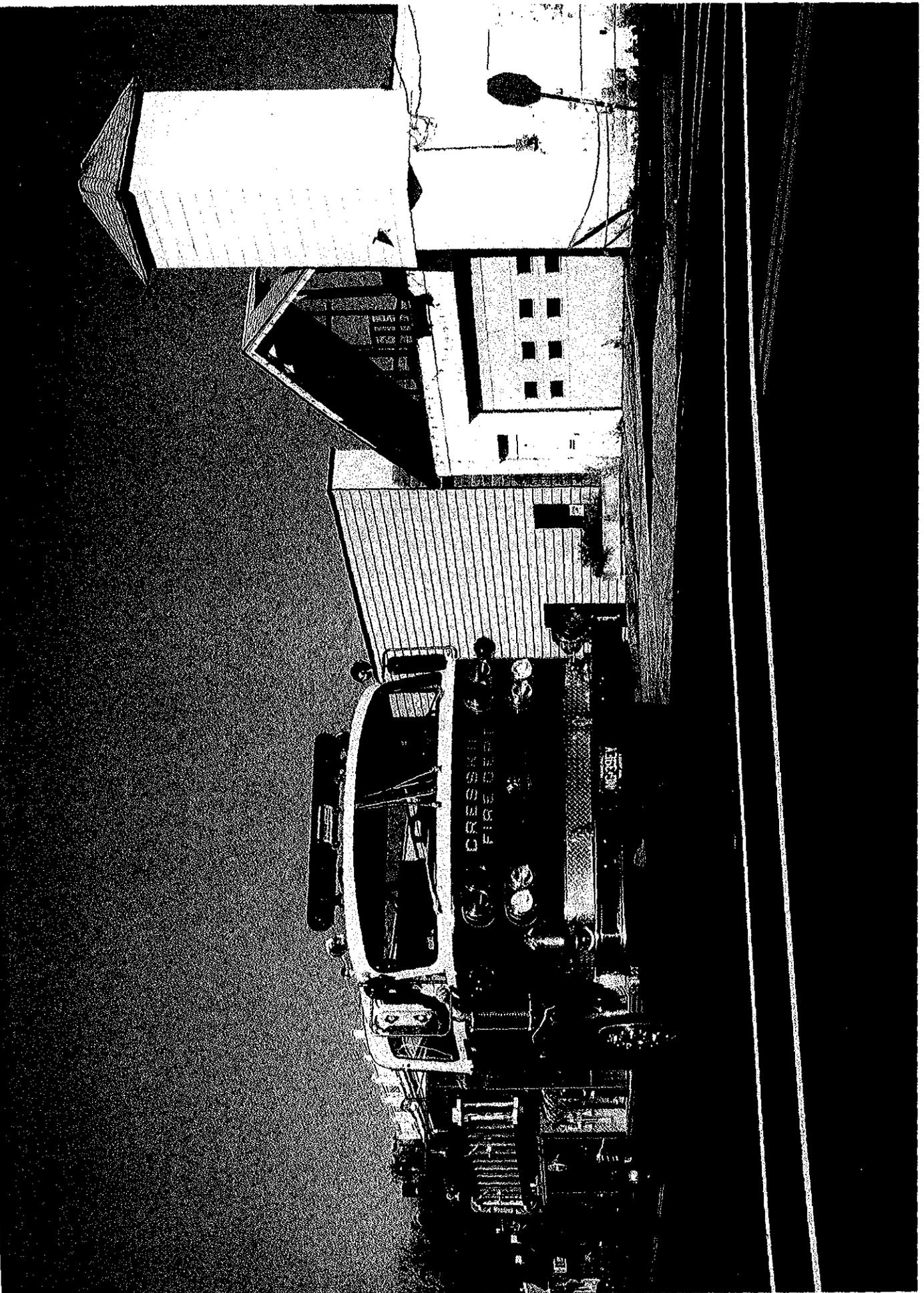
Sunday is the busiest day of the week at Kings.

That's not the way it always was, Bob Boyd said. Fifteen years ago it was Saturday when you couldn't fight your way through the aisles, but that's now the second busiest day of the week. "I guess," Bob said, "it shows how pressed for time everyone is." The busiest day of the year is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, with that Wednesday coming up close behind. And the days before Christmas are hectic ones, with every employee pitching in to make things a little easier.

It won't make much difference how much Kings expands or whether there are Frookie's chocolate chip cookies on the shelf on any given day. Cresskill's folks will shop, will meet, will gossip at Kings. They'll show off their newborn babies at Kings, they'll harangue about elections at Kings, and they'll rush in in frumpy clothes and dirty sneakers at Kings. It's okay. It's a neighborhood store.



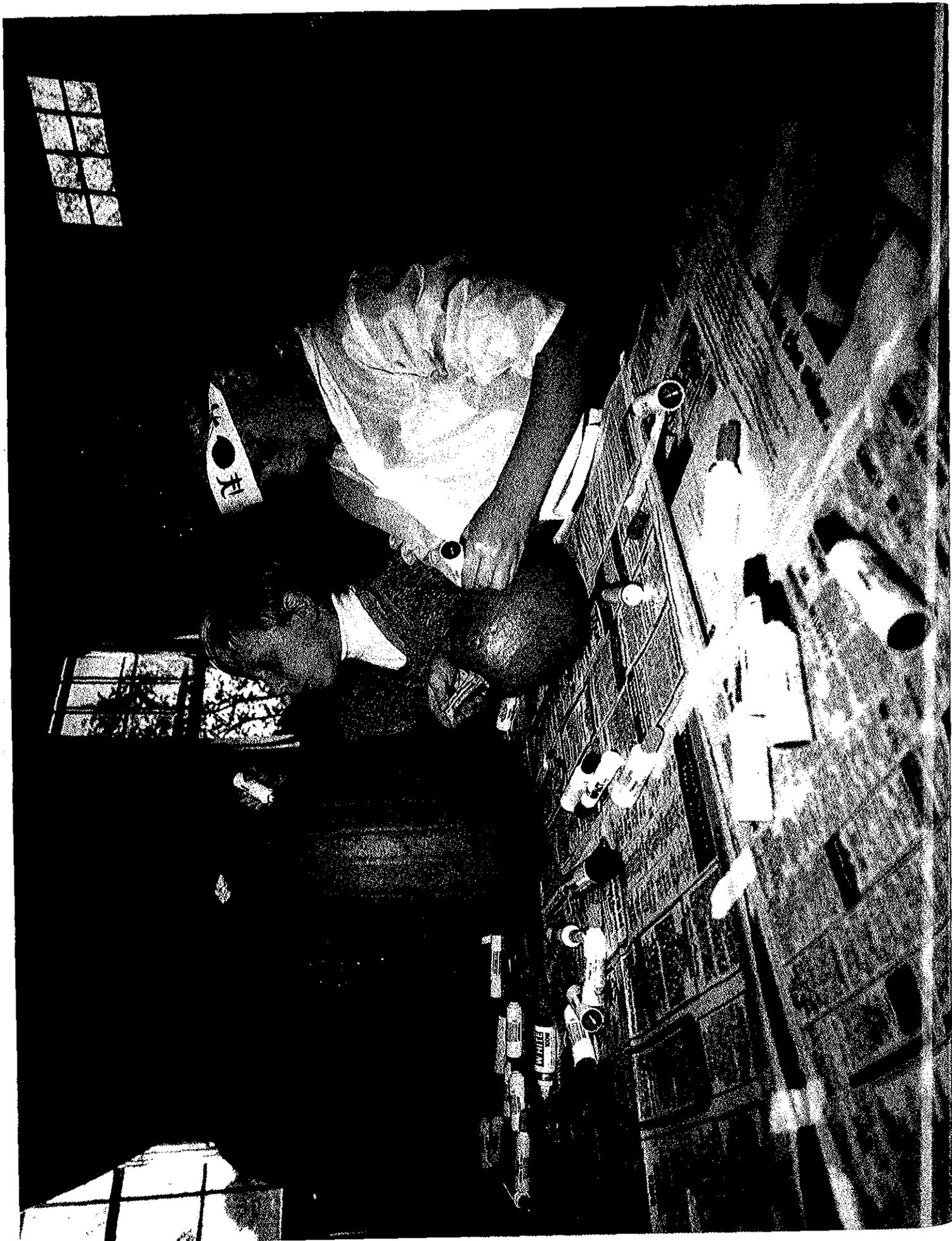
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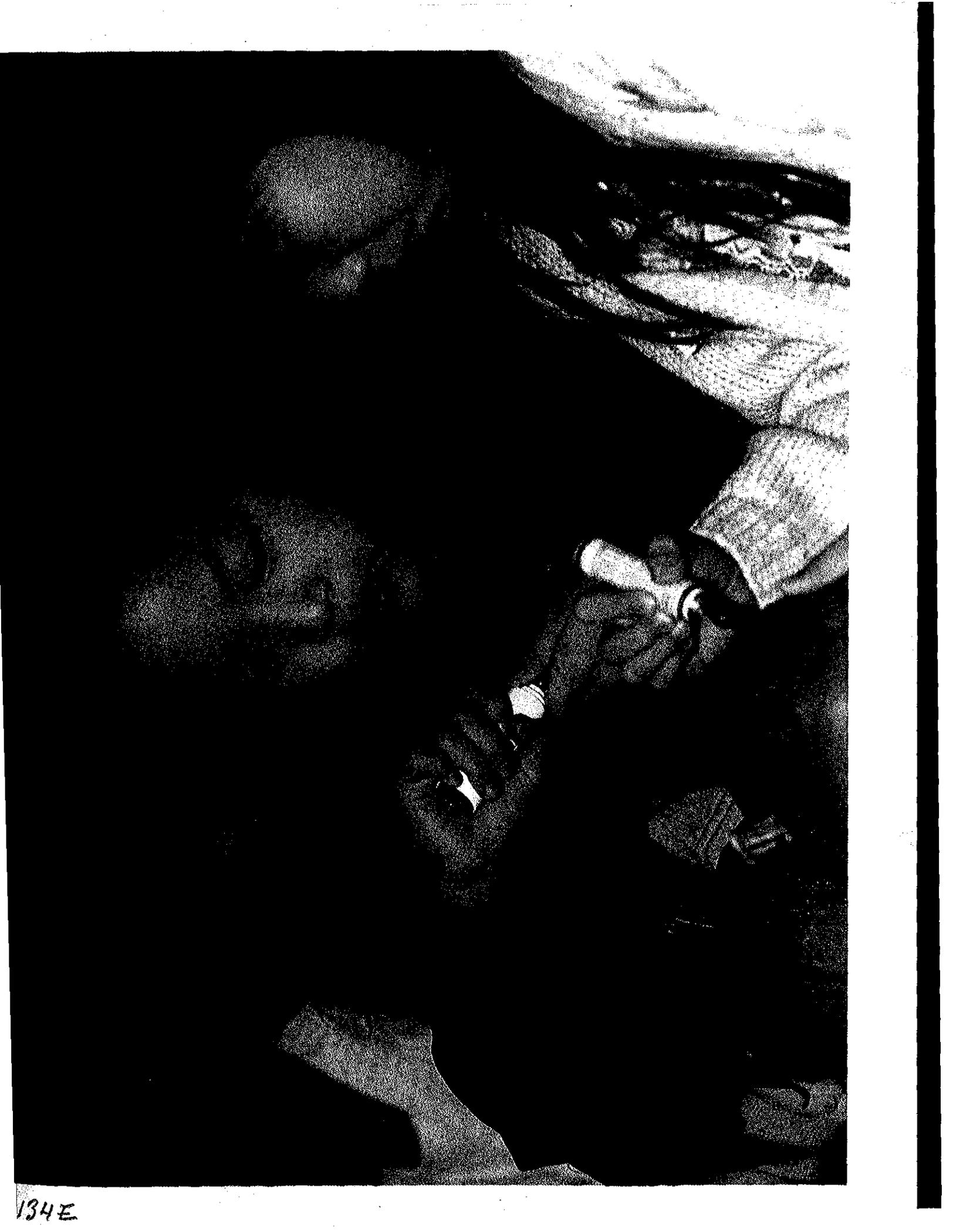
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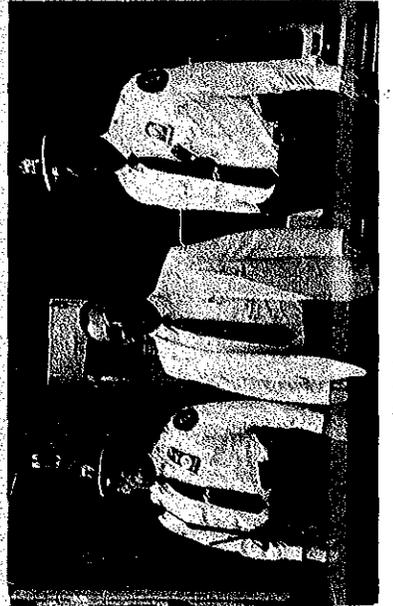
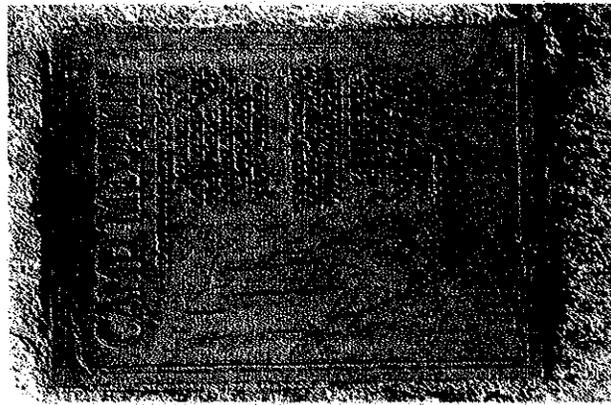
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Cresskill . . . One Hundred Years Later

Cresskill moved through the eighties much as the rest of the nation did. Its people, for the most part, found they had more financial resources, at least on paper, than ever before. Homes that had cost \$7,000 thirty years earlier were worth more than \$200,000 now. More people entered the stock market and found themselves in a whirlwind of gains. Businesses, reflecting consumers' euphoria, expanded and prospered.

Now multimillion-dollar homes were being built, sold, and resold in Rio Vista, once thickly forested hillside acres with trails leading up to the crest of the Palisades. Now there were steep winding roads with houses so large that intercom systems would be the only way their residents could easily converse from one end of their home to the other. But there would soon be another tract available for magnificent homes when Tammy Brook Country Club, which had

operated above Engle Street since the early sixties, sold its property to developers. Development at Rio Vista, in the opulent eighties, had been rapid. Tammy Brook's development, coming at the end of the eighties and in the financially distressed nineties, has been slower, but no less lavish.

Tammy Brook, where Cresskill's children once sledged down snow-covered hills, and Rio Vista, where the hardy had braved "Private Property" signs and hiked up to the clock tower that had been a part of the Rionda estate, were now developed. They were the last substantial properties in Cresskill; there would be no more development. Above the Tammy Brook Hills homes is another private golf course, Tamcrest, a small portion of which lies in Cresskill, but its acreage is insignificant compared to its neighbors.

Other new buildings appeared in the eighties. When Norb Pendergast

sold nearly half of his Willow Run property on Broadway, not only were townhouses built there and on Linwood and Palisade avenues, but new industry soon followed.

George Feldstein built a new home for his Crestron Electronics on Broadway. Feldstein, who had lived in town for some twenty years and had built up his business in Cresskill, was chairman of the Swim Pool Commission for ten years. With the new building Feldstein gained larger quarters to manufacture such items as lighting controls, school media systems, audiovisual and teleconferencing electronics, banking machines, and smart-home automation. He's more, however, than a manufacturer; he holds several patents for his inventions.

Crestron is the second largest employer in town, employing about a hundred people. Hoke, which manufactures industrial control devices, is the largest em-

ployer with nearly five hundred people.

Also on Broadway, near Crestron, are a warehouse for the Thomas J. Lipton company and Everflora, which imports flowers from around the world to be distributed in the United States.

The building next to Hoke, which used to house Railroad Accessories, is now owned by ENOR, which makes protectors for baseball cards and plastic ball holders.

In the center of town, on Union Avenue, is a tan stucco building with a blank face. In it is a company called Bev-Bel, which imports HO gauge model trains to sell to hobby stores around the country.

By the 1980s there were office buildings in several places in Cresskill. They, like multiple-dwelling housing, would have been unthinkable two decades earlier. There are office buildings at all three Cresskill corners of the Merritt

Memorial circle, housing medical offices, telephone operations, and small businesses. Other office buildings are on Union Avenue, on Broadway, on Spring Street, Legion Drive, and County Road. In offices there and in others around town, there are eight attorneys, a CPA, five psychologists with doctorates, a social worker, seven physicians, a veterinarian, a podiatrist, three chiropractors, and an optometrist. An accountant, Angelo

They Came Back Home

In the "olden days" grown children remained in the town where they grew up. It was rare for them to go off to the big city or to another town. Those days are long past, especially in suburban areas such as Cresskill, but four of Cresskill's "children," who went through all, or most, of the school system came back as professionals, and they brought their expertise with them.

Gary Dadaian and Yvonne Callas are dentists, graduates of Cresskill High School in 1969 and 1972 respectively. Gary's practice is at 100 Union Avenue; Yvonne has been in her own building at the corner of Union Avenue and County Road since 1984.

Yvonne Callas, who kept her name when she married Mark Derrenberger, is a graduate of Douglas College and Fairleigh Dickinson Dental School. She is the mother of two small children and lives in Cresskill, as do her parents, Gus and Kathryn.

Gary, as amiable as was his late father, Charles, is following his Dad's example by involving himself in Cresskill's needs and doings. Charlie Dadaian had been a councilman for several years and had run for mayor a couple of times. Gary Dadaian has served on the Strategic Planning Committee for the Board of Education, was co-chair for the Task Force Committee for school facilities, serves on the Board of Health and co-edits its newsletter, checks children's teeth at St. Therese School, checks little ones' teeth at the town's test for tots program, is on the staff of Englewood Hospital, and is president of the Rio Vista Townhouse Association. He also runs a dental practice. And he's a husband and a dad as well, to a six and an eight year old.

Gary was Cresskill High School's first graduate to attend the University of Notre Dame. From there he went on to Fairleigh Dickinson Dental School. "I'm proud and happy to be back in Cresskill," he says.

Two of Cresskill's attorneys, Steven Schuster and

Thomas Loman, also grew up in the town where they have established their practices.

In a solid white colonial at the bend of Grant Avenue, number 133, Steven Schuster practices law and lives with his wife and three-year-old son. It's about halfway between the two places where he lived as a child in Cresskill, first on Carleton Terrace and then on Palisade Avenue. After his graduation from Cresskill High School in 1970, Steven went to Gettysburg College, to special studies in government at American University, and to the University of Richmond School of Law. He worked for law firms, in corporate law, and established his own office in Dumont before he settled back in Cresskill, plunging into the workings of his town by serving on the council from 1982 to 1984.

"You look at things differently after you've been away, at school. Cresskill is a pretty nice town. There are worse; there are better," he says. "The grass always looks greener somewhere else, but then you find it's not better than where you came from."

When Tom Loman wanted to come back to his hometown, where his parents still lived at the time and where his mother still lives now, he built an office behind his father's medical practice, on Brookside Avenue.

He was graduated from the Englewood School for Boys in 1958, before there was a high school in Cresskill, and went on to Penn State and the George Washington University School of Law.

Although Tom now lives in Harrington Park with his wife, Diana--their two daughters are grown--his roots and many of his memories are very much in Cresskill.

It's not only professional people who have returned to Cresskill as adults. Working with the Department of Public Works are Kevin Terhune, son of former Mayor Bertholf Terhune, and Randy Kraus, son of former DPW employee John Kraus. Both are graduates of Cresskill High School.

Amato, was at one time a Cresskill councilman. There are also twelve dentists, including two who graduated from Cresskill High School. This number does not include Dr. Gerald Cardinale, a dentist who is also a state senator and who maintains his political office in Cresskill.

Among the diverse businesses in Cresskill's office buildings is Program Experts, Inc., a speaker's bureau, which places speakers at different functions. Its owner, Joann G. Osoff, says that her office has frequent contacts with such celebrities as Suzanne Somers, Edwin Newman, Carly Simon, and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

Cablevision, which serves Cresskill and other Bergen County towns, has offices on Legion Drive.

There are five gasoline stations and an auto body shop--Rancan's, on Broadway--in Cresskill. One of the first gas stations was Log Cabin Service Station at the corner of County Road and Union Avenue, which Charlie Manasseri began in 1948.

Besides shops and office buildings that make up the commercial aspects of the little town that for years had no industry at all, there are now three mini-malls, all on Piermont Road: Horizon Square, the farthest to the south, and Clock Tower Square and Rio Vista Plaza, both north of Union Avenue. They are small, none with more than a handful of tenants, which include such businesses as

a delicatessen, a dress shop, and a computer service center.

Now there are a crafts and an antiques shop, a home furnishings shop, and a nail salon in town--signs of Cresskill in the nineties--the nineteen nineties. But no shop in town has more customers, no shop has customers lined up quietly and willingly, not unlike the winding lines at Disney World, as does the Cresskill Bagel Shop. On a Sunday morning parking space is nonexistent and the line of people frequently extends out the door and onto the sidewalk. Gerald (Butch) Eyerman opened the bagel store in 1985, never dreaming it would be as successful as it has been. Though he had been in the food business since 1969, it was in the deli line, not in bagels. Where did he learn to make bagels? His teacher, he says, was a man from Brooklyn whom he happened to meet. After that it was just learning on the job. Now his plump, heavily seeded bagels seem to fly out of the store, beginning at 4:30 in the morning. He's not alone at that hour. He says people are often lined up even then, waiting for him to open, people such as construction and garbage collection workers, taxi drivers, doctors, and police officers. Butch says he has never closed in the more than eight years he's been in Cresskill.

The borough's organizations have continued to function, sometimes with fewer volunteers, sometimes

in changed ways, but they are there. The Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts meet regularly. Both the Cub Scouts and the Brownies--the four and five year olds are called Daisies--accept children at a younger age than in previous years. Consequently, says Judy Massey, Cresskill's library director and the person who has been involved with the Girl Scout movement in Cresskill longer than anyone else, the girls lose interest by the time they are ten or so, and scouting for the older youngsters is not as popular as it once was. There are, however, about a hundred Cresskill Girl Scouts.

The twenty active Boy Scouts meet weekly. At one time the town supported two troops. As in the past, the scouts are involved in camping and conservation and litter cleanup. They have twenty-one Eagle Scouts to look to for inspiration: Gerhardt Bruggman in 1944; Robert Tait in 1946; Thomas Moran in 1958; Alan Krulik in 1962; Michael Bromberg in 1964; Scott Tirrell in 1966; Harry Pape in 1967; Karl Ruser, Al D. Hess, James T. Harrington, and Walter Klein in 1974; John Sturm and Eric Luckl in 1976; Joseph Harrington, Stephen Hess, and William Richardson in 1980; John W. Scofield in 1984; Richard Pressler and Kevin Peter in 1985; John Passarotti and Mark Esposito in 1991; and Peter Kim in 1993. Their projects have ranged from clearing Huyler's Landing Road and

building a bridge in the Pine Barrens to conducting a dog census or an eyeglass drive in town.

The father of two of the Eagle Scouts, Al Hess, has been involved in scouting for fifty-three years and holds the title of Silver Beaver, scouting's highest award for an adult.

The troop's current scoutmaster is Carl Wallin. Several of the Eagle Scouts are his assistants--Esposito, Scofield, Passarotti, and Peter--in addition to John Scofield's twin brother, Andrew, and Glen Leoniuk.

Ed Naso heads the borough's Cub Scouts, who also go camping and hiking, as well as carrying on other activities such as pumpkin picking. The Blue and Gold Dinner, long a staple for

Cub Scouts, is still a yearly affair.

The Cresskill-Demarest Rotary Club was formed more than thirty years ago by business people and professionals to raise funds for local charities and scholarships. They meet weekly, with one of their charter members, John Scofield, Sr., who began the pharmacy that bears his name, still attending at times, though he now requires a wheelchair.

Cresskill's Senior Citizens Club, which began as the Leisure Club in 1966 with thirty-six members, is possibly the only organization in town that does not want for new members. As the town's population has dropped while the average age of its citizens has risen, the club has had to give up

meeting in the Congregational Church Hall, as it had done since its inception, and now meets in larger quarters in Cresskill High School. The club meets in the auditorium during school hours and then uses the cafeteria for refreshments after the students are through with lunch hour. The symbiosis between the school and the club extends further, to the school's musicians providing entertainment for the senior citizens during their meetings and luncheons. At Thanksgiving time, seventh graders serve a turkey dinner to the seniors in the school lunchroom. To further apprise the seniors of the schools' activities, one of the members of the Senior Citizens Club is a member

Cresskill's Post Office

Like any other town in the United States, Cresskill has no jurisdiction over its post office. But some of its citizens work there, and all of its citizens are serviced by it.

The lines are frequently long and they often move slowly, but a lot of that is because people behind the counter are friendly and willing to help. Vince Bonnano, one of the counter clerks, grew up in Cresskill. He knows many of Cresskill's folks and so tries to bring a smile to their faces--and usually succeeds. Many of the postal workers have been with the Cresskill facility for many years or have just retired after decades on the job.

Manny Rocha is one of the retirees. He trekked through town delivering mail from the sixties until last year. So accustomed was he to walking miles every day that he's still walking, on his own, as far as three miles from his home on Monroe Avenue. That's when he's not too busy as the swim pool commissioner.

Mike Butler, also a Cresskill resident, was promoted after years of delivering mail in Cresskill and later working in Closter to his new position as manager of postal operations in Newark. It may be that his prodigious memory for names and people got him there.

Still with the Cresskill post office after more than twenty-five years are Phil Ostlund, who delivers in the downtown area, Frank Colling, Jr., who delivers in Cresskill Gardens, and Don Jones, who delivers west of County Road. Gregg Wiesenthal, who has been with the post office for ten years, is a Cresskill resident.

Catherine Gleason, who lives in Cresskill, was the postmistress in the fifties and sixties. Other longtime Cresskill residents were Calvin Harms and Bill Brenneiser, who is deceased. Cresskill's people may also remember George Tissell, Neil Murray, and Marian Janiack, who were longtime postal employees.

Mail is delivered to residents' front door by the sturdy postal employees, who really do deliver in snow and sleet and freezing rain. That is, mail is delivered to the door everywhere except in Rio Vista and Tammy Brook Hills, where homes are so far apart that delivery is made to streetside mailboxes. Home delivery was begun in 1946, after the borough qualified because it had 50 percent paved sidewalks and had annual receipts of \$10,000 gross at the post office. The post office had at one time been located in Mores general store and then where the House of Fish store is located today. In 1952 a new building went up at the corner of Union Avenue and Washington Street, the building now occupied by Hudson City Savings Bank. By the end of the sixties the post office had outgrown that facility and had moved into the building it now occupies in the center of Washington Street.

also of the school's Strategic Planning Committee, which studies the school's needs for technology, facilities, personnel, and curriculum. And the seniors, among others in the person of Joe Magazino, a school crossing guard, present to the ele-

mentary schools a program called SMILES, which is an acronym for Seniors Matter In Loving Elementary Students. The senior volunteers discuss decision making on the part of the youngsters when the children are confronted with dilemmas such

as substance abuse, making friends, and enhancing self-esteem. The youngsters learn local history through borough historian John Spring, who meets regularly with classes to bring past events to life.

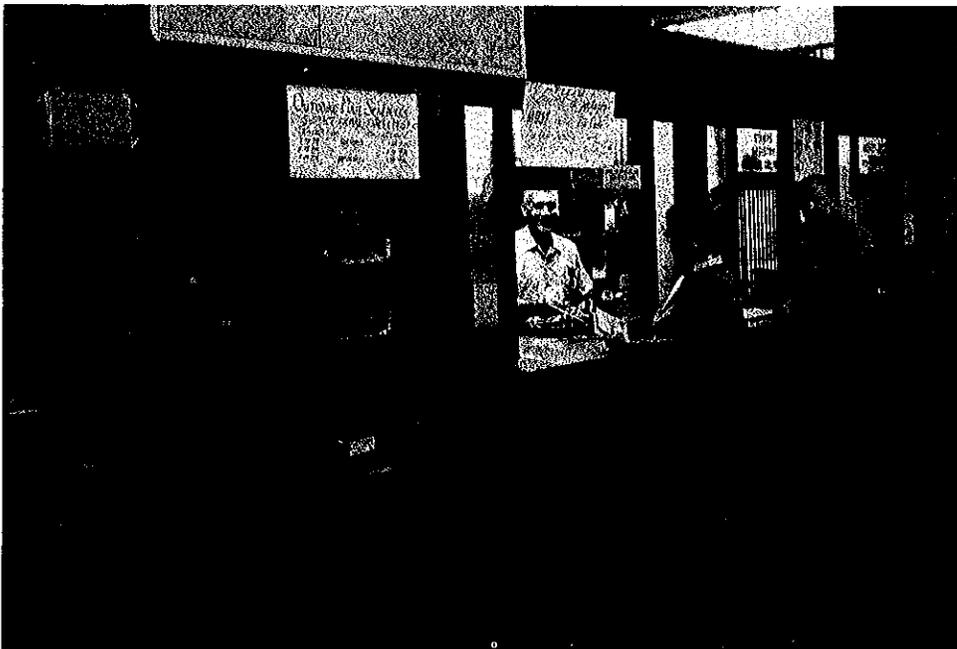
Though the club has, over



Pictured at left is the Cresskill Post Office, which is today the Hudson City Savings Bank at the corner of Union Avenue and Washington Street.

In the top photograph are, left to right: William Brenneiser, Calvin Harms, and customer William Schmidt.

In the photograph below are Harms, Dorothy Hennessey, and Schmidt.



the years, urged the town to provide affordable housing or at the least a center for meetings for senior citizens, it has been thwarted on both these counts and has accepted as solace funds to pay for frequent bus trips and luncheons.

The senior citizens have, however, accomplished one goal. The mayor and council has provided them with a van to transport the seniors to meetings, doctors' appointments, and other necessary destinations.

Many of Cresskill's organizations have had auxiliaries. The women who worked beside their men were indispensable to the success of the main organization. But they were indispensable to the town as well. A most recent example is the immediate response by the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, which was the first to respond when the Cresskill Centennial Committee asked for involvement by the borough's organizations. Betty Clarke, the twenty-member organization's president, called within days with the offer of the donation of the banner that would hang over Union Avenue during the centennial year. Betty said, "And we're doing it all ourselves. We don't need the men to do this." The "men" she's referring to are the VFW, of which Frank Boylan is the president. There is also an American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, a UNICO Auxiliary, and a Volunteer Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary.

As has the high school,

Cresskill two elementary public schools have distinguished themselves in the past few years. And they achieved their accomplishments, and the reputation they give to Cresskill as being a good school district, with some of the lowest ever

Walter Klein

It was evident while Walter Klein was in high school that as intelligent, mannerly, and pulled together a young man as he would continue to be a source of pride to himself, his school, and his town. That's what happened.

After his graduation from Cresskill High School in 1979, four years after he decided he wanted to be a doctor, Walter continued on to Yale University and Cornell Medical School. He trained in internal medicine at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and Sloan Kettering Medical Center. He received a fellowship to Temple University and received an award for his research in gastroenterology.

Walter practices at both Englewood Medical Center and at Pascack Valley Hospital and is a member of the Bergen Institute of Internal Medicine on Knickerbocker Road in Dumont. He lives in Closter with his wife and two young children, with another on the way.

student enrollment. Bryan School, in 1992, had 319 students, Merritt School had 217, and the high school had 470 in grades 7 to 12, totaling 1,006 students. It is the high school's enrollment that has been steadily decreasing in the past decade, a reflection of the lower birth rate some fifteen years ago. Merritt School, however, has the highest enrollment since it was built more than sixty years ago and

will need to take steps to deal with the expanding school population east of the railroad tracks.

Cresskill's students are distinguishing themselves. A few years ago sixth graders from both Bryan and Merritt schools, after a study of Shakespeare and his times, appeared in special performances of *Henry V* and *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* in conjunction with the Bergen County Children's Shakespeare festival.

Twice in four years Merritt School's youngsters represented the state of New Jersey at the World Children's Day Program at the United Nations. The first time Linda Robinson's second graders were chosen based on their yearlong study of environmental awareness, specifically the study of pollution in the Hudson River. The students made posters, wrote essays, and wrote their own song, which they performed on a local radio station and aboard the *Clearwater*, a sloop that sails the Hudson and teaches its passengers about the river's pollution problems. With other classes in the school they made a quilt that depicts the Hudson River as it was, as it is, and as it should be. The quilt took top honors in the state. They raised \$1,000 through the sale of T-shirts they designed. The youngsters contributed the money to the *Clearwater* to be used toward the purchase of new sails.

The second time the youngsters represented

New Jersey at the United Nations World Children's Day was when the school took on the project of reaching out to the residents of Dunroven Nursing Home near the school and were recognized for their involvement. Throughout their entertainment--songs, poems, costumes, concerts--through the year they became more aware of the elderly, and the lives of Dunroven's residents, for the moment, were brightened.

Bryan School's children corresponded with service people in the Middle East during the Gulf War. The school's sixth graders participated in a contest to collect the most used aluminum foil to demonstrate their concern about recycling and the problems with the environment. All the youngsters in the grade belong to a group called K.A.R.E., Kids Against Ruining the Earth.

An organization with a similar acronym but a different thrust is evident in Cresskill. Children in T-shirts with the word D.A.R.E. on them, bumper stickers on many cars, all bring to the public's attention the importance of Drug Abuse Resistance Education. Through the program, police juvenile officer Detective Sergeant Bill Macchio spends time each week with sixth graders in both public elementary schools and with youngsters in St. Therese School. D.A.R.E. examines drug abuse and the social problems that lead to drug abuse. Macchio concentrates on marijuana

and especially on alcohol abuse, the largest drug problem in the nation.

When Bryan School needed a new playground a few years ago, it became a team effort, but not a team consisting just of students, teachers, and parents. This was a townwide effort, measured by a wooden temperature gauge at Grant and Cresskill avenues charting the fund-raising efforts. Soon the Bryan School children were able to play on their state-of-the-art playground.

For several years students in the Academically Talented Program from both schools have won highest honors in the year-end cumulative standings of the Wordmasters Challenge, a national language-arts competition that tests vocabulary and verbal reasoning. Supervised by Irene Verbist, the enrichment program teacher, in different years third graders, fifth graders, and sixth graders competed. Over a period of a few years, there were several youngsters who excelled. In one contest, the schools' fifth graders placed first in the nation among 160 school teams consisting of 3,900 students. Steven Turner from Bryan School earned a perfect score in that meet, one of only six fifth graders in the meet to do so. And in another meet, Zane Curtis-Olsen was the only third grader in the nation to earn a perfect score in three different meets. Others who stood out in several different meets were Yousef Abasi, Norman Clausen,

Alanna De Carlo, Jordana Ende, Ross Friedman, Julia Greene, Allyson Horowitz, Tommy Jung, Peter Kang, Kristin Laoudis, Melissa Leahy, Annie Lee, Justin Luciani, Rebecca Nelson, Jah-Hyun O, Candice Park, Priya Perumalsamy, Brenda Picinich, Jessica Pomerantz, Gregory Rogers, Daniel Roth, Dana Rubin, Nicol Santhagens, Michael Starc, Julie Turner, Andrew Urkowitz, Robert Vadala, and Patrick Youm.

This roster of names represents the potpourri of ethnic representatives that is Cresskill today. Twenty-four percent of the student body is of Asian background, but Asian people are not the only groups from other lands to have children in the schools. At the present time, there are students in school who come, or whose parents come, from Albania, Armenia, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Yugoslavia. In 1970, by comparison, less than 1 percent of the student body was foreign-born. Cresskill's program of English as a Second Language (ESL) in all three schools is one of the largest in Bergen County.

The children who come from other countries soon chatter in English with their classmates. But many of their parents devote their time and efforts, and their money, to retain their chil-

Asian People in Cresskill

Many of the people who come to Cresskill from Japan are sent on assignment by their companies at home. Many are transient, staying for a few years and then returning to their native land. But more Japanese people are now staying longer, and many make their permanent home in Cresskill. A sizable number were born and raised in the United States. Where most of the Asian people in Cresskill a few years ago came from Japan, more are now coming from Korea. These Asian people and people from other lands may be attached to their countries' consulates, may be in upper management with companies that have their U.S. headquarters in the North Jersey region, may work in New York City with major companies, such as the automobile or electronics business, or may own their own businesses in the metropolitan area.

dren's original culture. Finnish children attend a school at the United Nations in New York City one Saturday a month. Chinese children, preschool to grade six, attend a school in Dumont every Saturday morning. Korean children, from nursery-school age up, can attend school either in Tenafly or in New York City every Saturday morning. Japanese children, kindergarten age to grade six, attend school every Saturday morning in Hackensack; seventh to twelfth graders attend nearly all day Saturday at a school in Fort Lee, where they learn math, science, social studies, and Japanese literature.

Their parents, on the other hand, must struggle to learn English. Marilyn Linder has for six years been helping them in their studies. She is doing as a volunteer in the Cresskill Public Library what she did professionally for years. Her ESL classes are open to anyone. She has taught people from Brazil, Poland, Sri Lanka, and from nearly everywhere else in the world. Once a week, with up to ten people at a time, she teaches idiomatic conversational English in the library. Because her classes are conducted during the day, most of her students are women.

Much of Cresskill's educational stability is due to the number of teachers who have been in the system for many years. Eleven teachers have taught at Merritt Memorial School for more than twenty years. Christine Gebauer, who retired last year, taught for twenty-five years, as has Lois Hargrave, who has also been involved with the Bergen Youth Orchestra for a quarter of a century. Physical education teacher William Farnaras has taught gym to youngsters at both elementary schools for the past twenty-eight years and Kenneth Wieme has taught instrumental music for twenty-five years. Vito DeCarlo and Pat Anderson, both longstanding teachers, live in Cresskill. Other teachers with many years' experience at Merritt Memorial School are Nancy Jaworski, Laura Perricone, Terri Maniscalco, Carol Petrovich, and Irene Verbist, who teaches at

Bryan School also. The school's principal, Joseph Donnelly, lives in Cresskill, as do his secretary, Grace Mauro, and two teachers in the school, Katherine Regan and Susan Kreitz.

In the Bryan School five teachers have been in the school for twenty-five years or more. Margaret Ahonen, Lynn Fischer, Joseph Miller, Olga Schwede, Albert Wilson, and Michalene Roberts--who has been with the school for thirty years--have been able to experience a second generation of youngsters in their classes. Janet Ficken taught in the school for forty-seven years, and Florence Carroll, who is deceased, taught for forty years. Claire Dunphy, who is retired, taught for thirty years. Lila Kane and Anne Marihugh recently retired after more than twenty-five years in Bryan School, and Carol Herring died last year after the same period of time. Other longstanding teachers are Michelle Jacobs, Donna Zanone, who is a Cresskill resident, Diane De Georgia, Mariann Kenney, Dr. Louise Witkoskie, and Douglas Malcolm. Dolores Bernardino and Elizabeth Nespoli, the school's secretaries, live in Cresskill. Custodians Frank Coleman, who lives in Cresskill, Nicholas Giglio, Thomas Steward, and John Torielli have been with the system for many years.

The high school, too, has its share of longtime teachers. Edward Anderson, who is the husband of Pat Anderson in the Merritt School, Joseph Fabian,



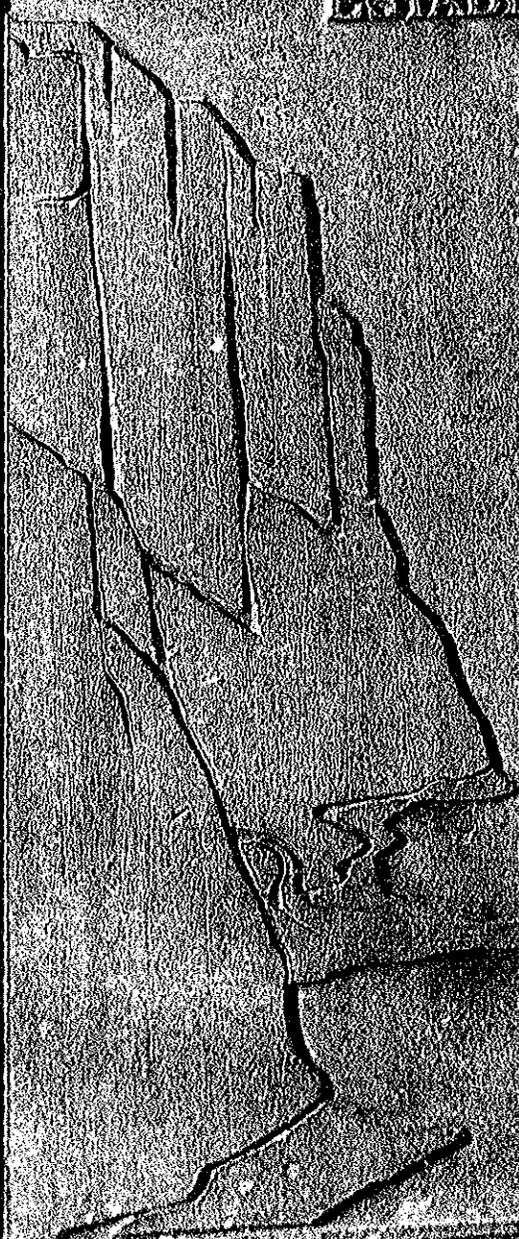
CAMP MERRITT

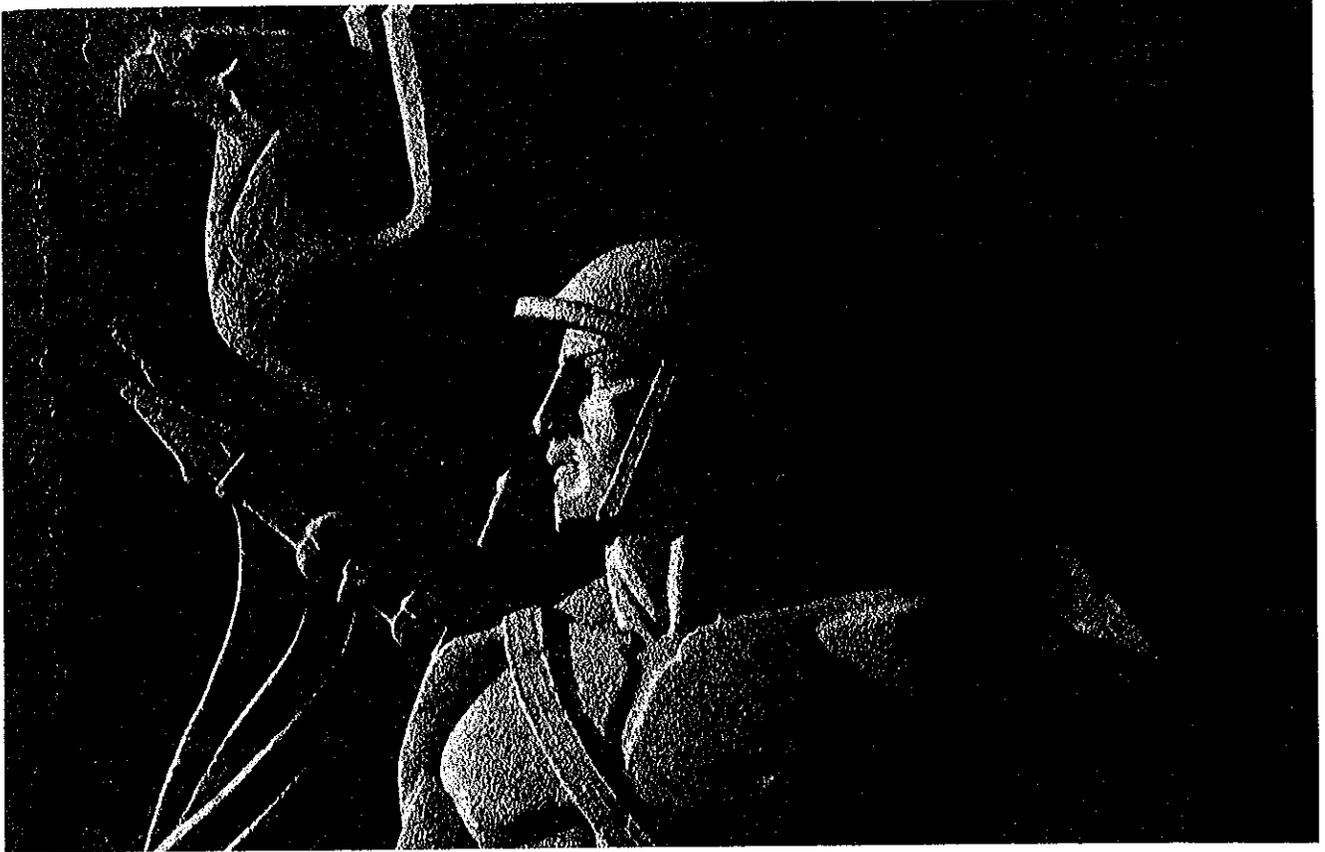
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1917

FOR USE IN
CONNECTION WITH
THE PORT OF
EMBARKATION AT
HOBOKEN
NEW JERSEY

NAMED IN HONOR OF
MAJOR-GENERAL
WESLEY MERRITT

CONTINUOUSLY
IN HIS SERVICE OF
HIS COUNTRY
JULY 1 1855 TO
JUNE 16 1900





The monument at the intersection of Knickerbocker Road and Madison Avenue was erected in 1924. General John "Black Jack" Pershing dedicated the Merritt Memorial Monument before a horde of cheering onlookers.

The monument encompasses the entire circle, including the four curved stone walls (two of which are still standing) that were on the land at each of the intersections.

The monument is in memory of those who lost their lives while on duty at Camp Merritt. The photograph on the opposite page illustrates part of the memorial statement. The main cause of death was due to influenza.

On the north face of the monument is a bas relief depicting a noble warrior standing proudly in defense of his country.

At the base of the southern side is a plaque designed and made by Katherine Lamb in 1919 depicting the Palisades. The plaque indicates that Camp Merritt was used as an area for embarkation. It gives information about the man for whom the monument was named, General Wesley Merritt.

A little-known but interesting aspect of the monument lies at the north-facing base. It is a three-dimensional stone carving of the buildings that were in Camp Merritt.



Claire Keller, Mary Pasi, and Dom Albanese have all been with the school for more than twenty years and all live in Cresskill. Teachers not living in Cresskill who have been in the high school for more than twenty years are Nela Alvarez, Ronald Banta, Robert Becker, Charles Cocuzza, Thomas DeAngelo, Peter Eftychiou, Anita Helth, Pamela Johnson, Donna Mahon, Lawrence Meade, Marguerite Morris, Barbara Muller, Arlene Nuzzi, Annelaine Papadopoulos, JoAnn Pasquariello, Martin Rivard, Gerald Rosen, Clyde Sorrell, George VanWagenen, and Roger Wiegand. The school nurse, June O'Connor, and guidance counselor Earle Peers have been with the system for many years. Teachers Barbara Koelln, Richard Miller, Kathleen Olivieri, and John Von Glahn live in Cresskill, as does custodian Vincent Caglia.

Though he's not a long-time teacher, in the high school just over ten years, Albert McLaughlin has given his share of pride and pleasure to the folks of Cresskill. As the director of the school's drama presentations, he works his students hard and then steps back and lets the ovations course over them. With him, the youngsters have produced such musicals as *West Side Story*, *Pajama Game*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Grease*. Even before McLaughlin, the high school's dramatic presentations were ambitious, with

such plays as *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Anything Goes*, and *Damn Yankees*. *Guys and Dolls* in 1974 was the first senior-class musical production, a project that coalesced that class as few other projects might have done. In later years, when school enrollment dropped, the drama productions involved first the whole high school and finally both the senior and junior high schools.

The students, the teachers, the administration, and the school board have had help, and the help has come from parents. Over the years the PTA in the Bryan School, the Home and School Association in the Merritt School, and the PTSA in the high school have supported the schools both in monetary ways, such as scholarships for graduating seniors, and in hands-on help, such as furnishing class mothers. They have sponsored such programs as sixth-grade moving-up dances, flea markets, talents shows, family portraits, Saturday morning workshops, and recently, on the high school level, they have sponsored Project Graduation, which seeks to keep kids safe on graduation night.

The Cresskill Education Foundation responds to an annual list compiled by the teachers and principals for enrichment projects besides the normal materials and programs provided by the Board. The group provided a new sound system for the high school auditorium.

Laura Caufield

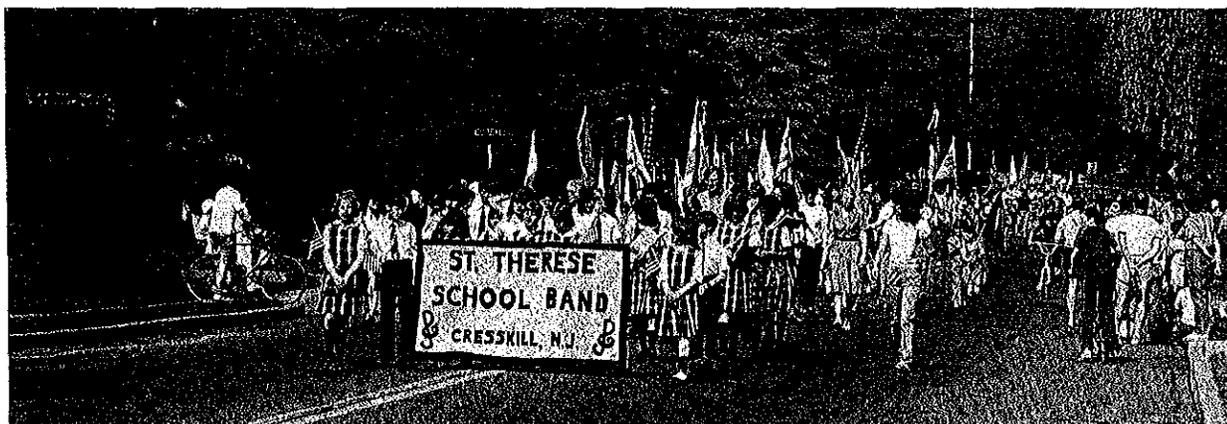
One of the high school's actors has continued in the field, and now it's possible to see Laura Caufield on television programs and on stage. Cresskill's people will remember high school productions when they saw Bet in *Oliver*, Mae in *Pajama Game*, Maria in *West Side Story*, and Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Opera*--and they were all Laura.

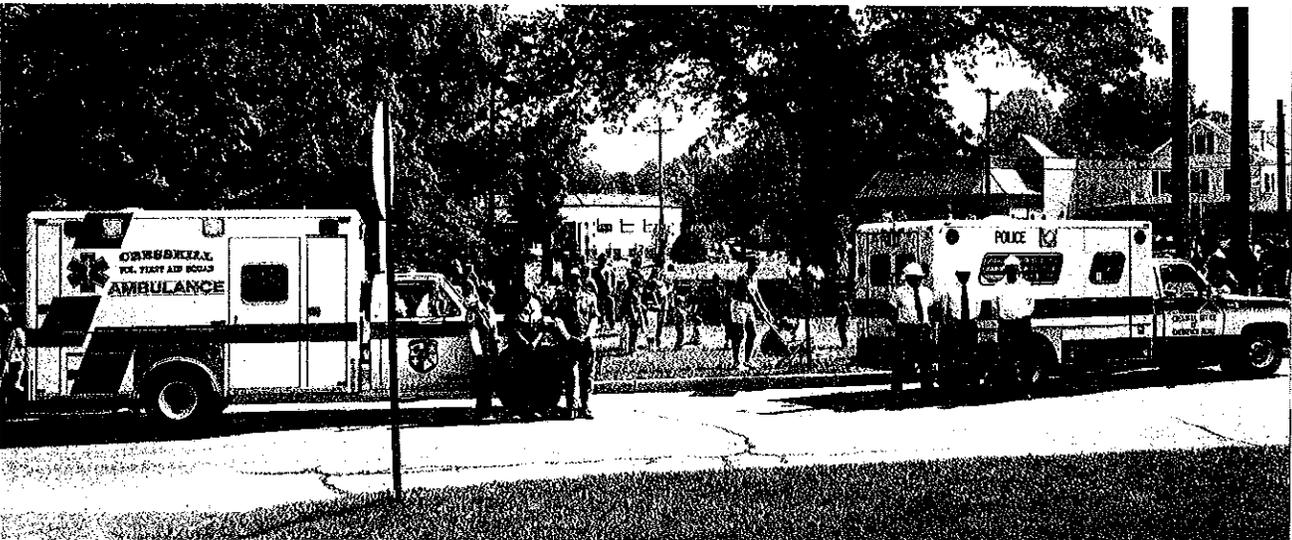
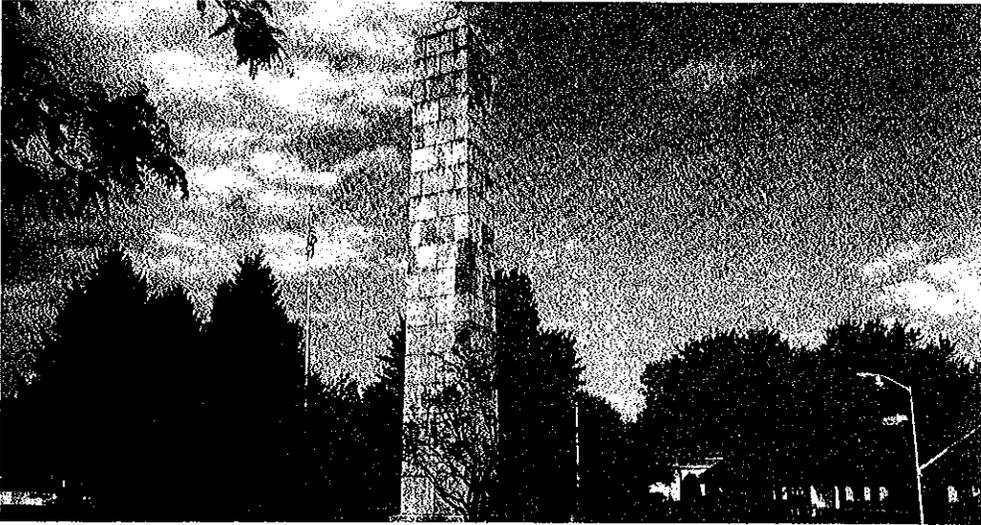
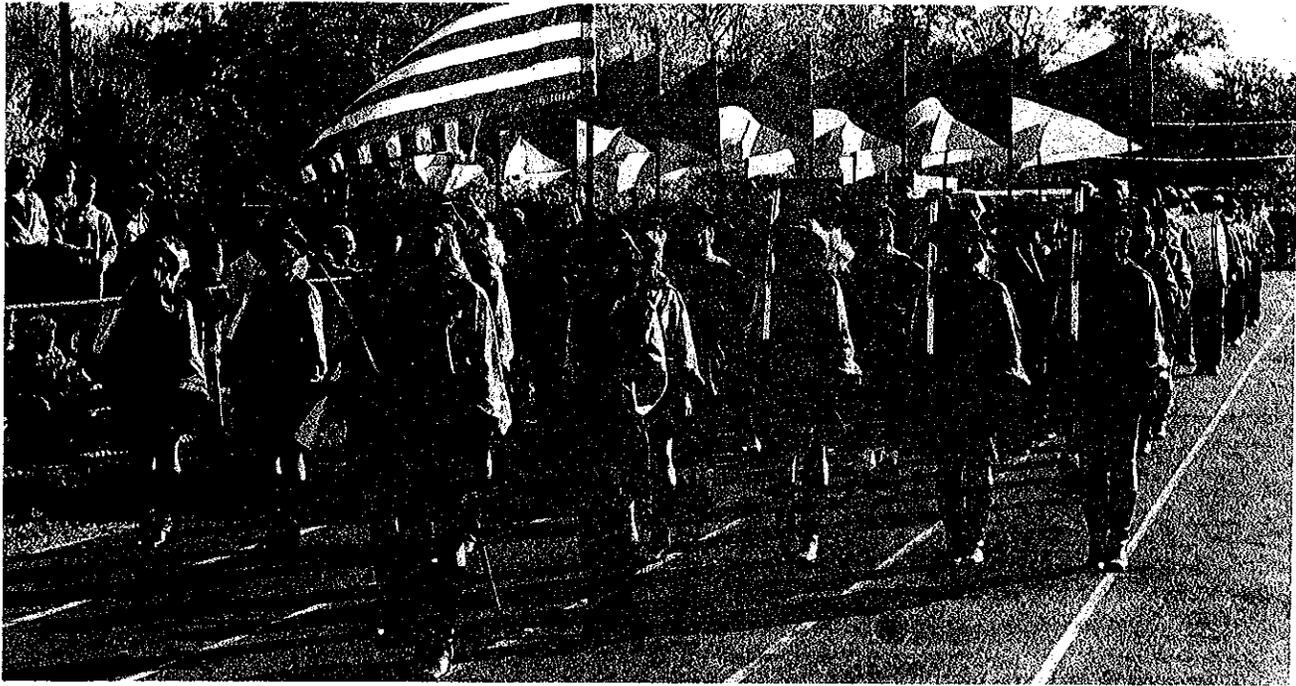
Laura hasn't stopped since. She acted in summer theater and dramatic presentations during her years at Rutgers; she toured with the Shoestring Players, a children's theater company; she's done stand-in work and off-camera work in movies; she played in an episode of television's *Law and Order*, in the part of Page Bartlett; and she had a year's recurring role as a shop clerk on *All My Children*. She acted overseas while she studied during a summer program at Oxford University.

Laura is married and lives in Bergenfield. She says she's still "struggling"--as an actor. She may feel she's struggling, but her hometown neighbors are having a good time comparing notes of "I saw Laura Caufield on TV."

Each of Cresskill's nine-person Boards of Education has worked closely with the schools' administration to retain the small-town school atmosphere coupled with large-town amenities. The small school district faces at all times the threat of state intervention to regionalize or to couple with another school district. It is, however, as though each board has emblazoned upon it the words, "Kindergarten to Grade Twelve," and the

*Memorial Day
parades through
the years.*





Spagnola, Julie Mazur, Elie Krohn, Marge O'Loughlin, Sandy McCarty, Chris Villani, Lorraine Anderson, Mary Ricco, Denise Casey, Sally Stern, Judy Berkshire, Carol Long, Loretta Ridella, and Lynn Keim.

And Merritt School's principal, Joseph Donnelly, comments, "Cresskill is a wonderful town, community oriented and supportive of its young people. In my twenty years here I've thoroughly enjoyed the tremendous sense of community that exists in this town. I see the role of the school changing somewhat. We now have less-involved, working parents, the family structure is different, and there are more expectations from our schools. We have to prepare kids to work in a global community and to learn about today's technology."

Henry McNally of the high school is continuing a philosophy of involving students, parents, and teachers in the process of learning. DiDonato, who is McNally's predecessor as high school principal, says McNally is committed, as DiDonato was, to concentrate not only on the instructional aspects of teaching, but on the ability of students to face life after they leave school.

DiDonato spent part of the summer last year in Japan, as did Loretta Bellina two years earlier. Each was chosen on the basis of the large number of Japanese students in Cresskill to take part in the United States Educators Program

sponsored by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce to visit and to study Japanese schools.

The schools, reaching into the twenty-first century, are fully computerized. Students who in earlier decades were most interested in studying home economics, industrial arts, or business education are learning computer language and technology now. The schools offer pre-school and after-school programs, reflecting a changed Cresskill, one where mothers go to work, as they do in every other town in the United States. The fifties' style of family--father commuting to work, mother staying home with the children--is gone. The nineties' family has Mom and Dad both commuting to work, and often there is no Dad, again reflecting the rest of the country. Cresskill has not been spared the dilemma of the single-parent family. It hasn't been spared the problems of alcohol abuse among the young--and among the not-so-young. There's not the feeling anymore of everyone knowing everyone else, because everyone just isn't home to do so. Still, because people in Cresskill are so involved with their schools and with their children, they do know each other--from baseball leagues, from school activities, from caring about their kids. It's good to have two parents to do that, but it isn't necessary. All it takes is one person in a family and a town that fosters that kind of caring.

Cresskill is ethnically in-

tegrated, but it's not racially integrated. There are probably fewer African American families living in town today than there were in the twenties. In the history of the schools, there has been only one black teacher, an art teacher in the fifties. Cresskill's children go off to college or to work elsewhere, not knowing that much of the country doesn't have the same makeup Cresskill does.

The town that once was entirely middle-class and homogeneous now has added a significant upper-class population. Where once there were large tracts of undeveloped land in Cresskill, there now is no land left, and unlike many of its neighbors, Cresskill has no nature center and little park land. Houses that were left unlocked day and night, with their residents in them or not, are now bolted and often outfitted with alarm systems. Bicycles that once were strewn in front of nearly every house and every school are now chained. Young people who at one time grew up and stayed in town or nearby now move thousands of miles away with their new families. The Cresskill that once teemed with youthful couples and their children now must accustom itself to more elderly residents. What only a few years ago would have been a rare occurrence, the need for public assistance, has increased dramatically. This is not only Cresskill; it reflects the rest of the nation and, in-

Cresskill's people are thoughtful. Frank Dombrowski of Morningside Avenue has had a pair of mallard ducks visit him every summer day. They come to the retired couple's front door at the sound of Frank's voice and he feeds them bird food. Then they waddle away to sleep under the bushes in his yard.

deed, much of the world in the early nineties. People now have to work harder to make a small town their home.

But the heart of Cresskill--its people and their feelings about one another and their town--that hasn't changed. Police cars still patrol streets quiet when children are in school and lively when they're home. Men in the rumbling trucks of the public works department still clean, repair, and groom the town. The high school's drama presentations still fill the auditorium with proud audiences--proud of their children, proud of their school. Christmastime still brings out the fire department's truck, horn blaring to announce Santa's arrival. The Easter bunny still hops into town on time. The Fourth of July is still a celebration of watermelon,

amusement rides, and ponies.

No holiday exemplifies the spirit of Cresskill as does Memorial Day. The solemnity of the day is acknowledged during speeches at Veterans Square, but it's the parade that precedes them that connects people to people, those who march and those who watch. There's a feeling that people don't express, but it's there. It's a feeling of continuity; this parade, sponsored by American Legion Post #21, has been going on for some seventy years. Children still sit on the curb, waving their little American flags. Proud parents still peer up Madison Avenue to get a glimpse of that particular special child. Young parents still bring strollers so that the neighbors up the block can meet the youngest. And the parade participants, though the faces change, are the same as they've been through most people's lifetimes: former soldiers, sailors, marines--armed-services people who fought in wars, those who served both overseas and those who didn't, march proudly, aware of the importance of Old Glory that marches with them. Members of the ladies' auxiliaries get to ride, in an open car when one is available. The Wom-

ans Club, collectively wearing high-heeled shoes down the steep hill that's Madison Avenue, are identifiable by their pink carnations. Fire department people blast the sirens on the burnished red trucks and wave to little children, aware that not much has changed--little boys (and girls) still dream of growing up to be firefighters. Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies trudge down the hill, many of the same adults walking alongside as have been for years. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts tramp in boyish formation, their faces serious as they try to keep in step. The Lions Club is there. UNICO is there. Baseball league teams and the other sports teams straggle along, colorful T-shirts making up for the lack of order in the ranks. And the pride of Cresskill, the high school marching band, brings cheers--and a few wistful tears--when it struts by, the rousing sound and fresh young faces aswirl in a panoply of black and gold.

This is Cresskill. Different from a hundred years ago. Yet not really so different--still a small town whose people care about it and about one another.

A hundred years. A town called Cresskill.

A Walk Through Cresskill

Take a dog, or a child, or go alone, but walk through Cresskill. A car is permissible up into the hills of Woodcrest and Tammy Brook and Rio Vista, but would be impossible up narrow, winding Lambs Lane, which is, in any case, a private road. It's a way to meet the people of Cresskill, friends and strangers both. Talk to them; they're friendly. It's a way to see some of the old houses, to imagine their histories and the people who might have lived in them. Some of the houses have ghosts.

Start at the southern end of Cresskill, on County Road. Number 1 County Road was built in 1819 by Henry Huyler, who was the son of Peter Huyler. He and his brother, George, divided their father's property, a strip that extended from the Hudson River to the Tenakill, with Henry's house the house now owned by Gladys Pendergast. To find out how the house got from the east to the west side of the street, see page 59.

Number 50 is the Peter Huyler House, more than 150 years old. When Henry built his house nearly next door, George moved into this house, his father's. It's been renovated recently, but still retains its pre-Revolutionary distinction. It's described further on page 5. The owner lives in Closter. The house has a marker declaring it listed with the National Register of Historic Places. The house is now owned by Salaudi and Dine Erbeli, Hikmel.

Go north on County Road and on the same side, the east side, is number 152, one of the Westervelt houses. Benjamin and Mabel Westervelt lived in the white clapboard house, which was probably built in the late 1800s. It faces south, as most houses in that pe-

riod did. An interesting feature is the "lie on your tummy"--eyebrow--windows above the large window and under the eaves of the wing to the east of the main part of the house. The various sections of the house have been connected in recent years and the house has been extensively modernized by its longtime owners, John and Frances Juchniewicz.

Walk further north, past Union Avenue, to number 235. The main house was built in 1808, the date carved into the lintel, by Benjamin P. Westervelt (see page 7). The older wing was probably built by Petrus Westervelt, son of Johannes Westervelt. According to the owner, John M. Ely III, a descendent of Petrus Westervelt, lives in Massachusetts. The house is unchanged from its earliest times. This house, too, has a marker showing it is recorded with the National Register of Historic Places.

A little further north on County Road, on the opposite side of the street, are several handsome turn-of-the-century houses, each one with its own style. Turn back south after the last one and go back to Westervelt Avenue, one of the town's oldest streets. There are still some turn-of-the-century houses left, including one at the corner of County Road. There are also workingmen's houses along the way, built shortly into the twentieth century.

Continue south to Hillside Avenue and go east up the hill. This is where many of Cresskill's first officials and store proprietors lived; many of the turn-of-the-century houses look much as they did when the Mores or the Westervelts lived in them. One such example is at number 48, a house built by Edwin B. Westervelt. Though there

have been some additions to the house, it's still possible to imagine Cresskill's fourth mayor living in the house he built around 1895. Though the house has no ghosts, of Mr. Westervelt or anyone else, it did have at one time a possum that took up residence in the cellar, according to the husband of the house's owner, Gila Bauer.

Just up the street, at number 62, a house built in 1907, live Randy and Janet Brown. Janet, the great-granddaughter of Egbert Tallman, Cresskill's second mayor, is the only direct descendent of an early Cresskill official still in town.

Go farther to the east and slightly to the right to Lambs Lane. Though many of the houses near the base of Lambs Lane are newer, the ones at the top are those that were built by the Lambs (see pages 18 and 21). As an artists' colony for this renowned family of stained-glass artisans, this site is of historic significance.

At the base of Lambs Lane turn south at Engle Street to East Madison Avenue. Near the top of the hill is number 268. George Huyler built this stone house in the Second Empire style in the late 1860s for the superintendent of the Huyler Estate as a cottage-type residence. Zoan Hessmer has owned the house since 1959.

Continue going west on Madison Avenue; cross the railroad tracks to East Madison Avenue, to number 69 at the corner of Waverly Place. There, the Barney Woods House, also dating to the late 1860s, is one of the best examples of a cottage-type house, built of brick, laid in English bond. It has retained the mansard roof and interesting decorative woodwork common to this cottage style. A vernacular Second-Empire wing was added later. Bob and Pat Pi-

sillo, the owners for the past twenty-one years, made sure that recent renovations retained the house's important architectural and historic aspects.

Go a little further west to the Blackledge-Gair House, 111 Madison Avenue. The house was built by Mr. Blackledge, who deeded the land for the railroad station to the railroad in the late 1800s. One of the provisions of that deed was that the land would revert back to Blackledge's heirs if the railroad ceased to exist or the station were abandoned. The station was not abandoned; it was razed after it was damaged by fire, a memory that still grieves many Cresskill residents. Robert Gair, owner of the Federal Paperboard and Box Company in Piermont, New York, later lived in the house. It was built during the Federal period, around the early 1860s. Carl Raditich owns the house, which is also listed with the National Register of Historic Places.

Turn back to Waverly Place, go north to Monroe Avenue, and turn left. The importance of this entire short street is not because of any single structure but because it represents a slow-growing working-class neighborhood in contrast to the more upper-class houses built during the same period. The street was probably plotted between 1867 and 1876, but only two houses were built before 1876, with five more of the total fifteen built between 1876 and 1912. All are wood-frame structures.

Number 87, one of the two houses built before 1876, is said to have housed servants for the Gair House. It has a mansard roof and is labeled "W. Cook." This refers to William Cook, grandfather of Russell and Bill Cook, both of whom were involved in Cresskill affairs for many years, Russell as building inspector and Bill as superintendent of the Department of Public Works. William Cook, who fathered many children and had many grandchildren besides Russell and Bill, raised horses and was involved in charcoal burning at the time the

railroad came to Cresskill. The Monroe Avenue house looks like a simpler version of 69 Madison Avenue, the Second Empire stone cottage at the corner of Waverly Place.

Michael Engel, who has owned the house for thirty-seven years, says he's been told the house was a speakeasy during Prohibition. Describing the house, he says, "Part of it burned and some existing foundations are still in the rear of the house. It was built piecemeal, portions at a time. Part of the house was pegged and not nailed. The nails were diamond-shaped ones." The house appears to be home to one of Cresskill's ghosts. Mike adds, "Things seem to fall off shelves sometimes for no apparent reason. When we owned a dog many times at night it would wander around restlessly."

Make a right onto Brookside Avenue and to north to Grant Avenue. Turn right at Grant Avenue, back to its easternmost end, near Veterans Square. At the end of the street Cresskill Avenue intersects with Grant Avenue. At number 5 Cresskill Avenue, which faces Veterans Square, you'll find the flat roof and paired brackets under the eaves that are typical of the Italianate style. The house was built by Daniel H. Voorhis during the mid-1860s. Voorhis's daughter Emma married Egbert Tallman, Cresskill's second mayor, who was a widower. Tallman had one daughter, Estelle, from his first marriage and then had seven more children during his second marriage, one of them the grandfather of Janet Brown on Hillside Avenue. In 1979 Gerd and Sally Stern purchased the house from Estelle Tallman, who was then in her eighties.

Turn to Cresskill Avenue toward the high school. On your right is number 26. This house, too, is in the vernacular Italianate style, a somewhat smaller, less ornate version of number 5. The house's owners live in the Bronx, New York.

As you walk, Cottage Place is on your left. Take a detour to Number 3, the first house you'll see, on your right. Richard and Dorothy

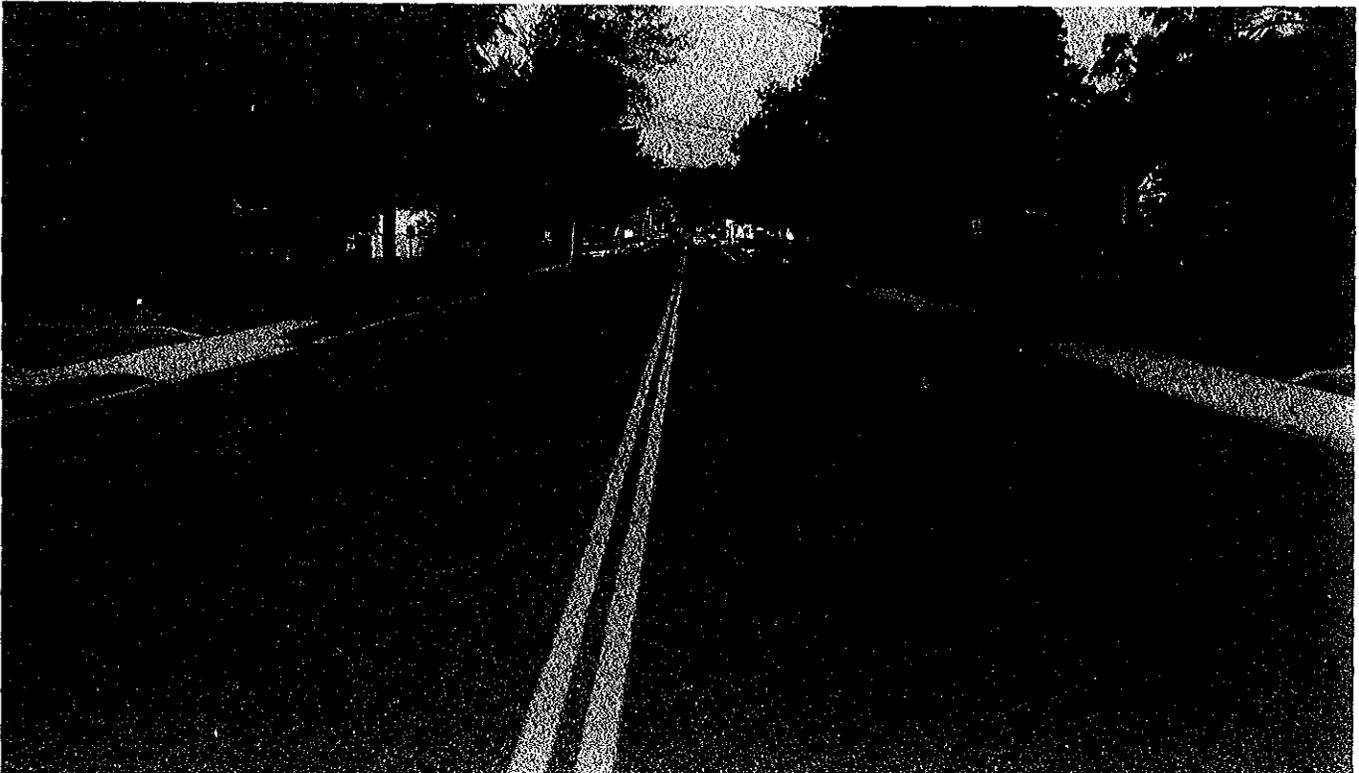
Rom have renovated and added to this house, painted it an attractive light-blue color, and have kept the house true to what is usually termed a Victorian look, although its architectural description is vernacular Gothic Revival features mixed with Italianate details. The house is one of what was once a cluster of cottages built in the 1860s on Cottage Place, just a short walk to the railroad station. Called the H. Demarest-J. B. Browne House, it was built between 1861 and 1867. Mr. Browne, who was superintendent of ferries in New York City, spent his summers in the house. When the Roms stripped many layers of paint off the front steps they found that Mr. Browne had left his name written on one of them. The house is said to have a ghost. The story that was told to the Roms was that Mr. Browne lived in the house with his sister. When he died she buried him behind the plastered-up fireplace in the dining room and continued to set a place for him at the table each evening. The Roms, however, found no body behind the fireplace when they renovated nor did they find one anywhere else in the house. "And," says Dorothy Rom, "we haven't found a single treasure." When they continue to renovate, she says, they may put in a time capsule so that "the owner will have something to write for the 200th anniversary of the borough of Cresskill."

Across the street is number 7, the J. N. Thompson-G. Ferdon House, the only other 1860s cottage still standing on the street. The house was later owned by Amy Hatch, the daughter of Mr. Blackledge, who owned the railroad station property. Number 7 was built in the same style as number 3. The mixture of styles gives both these houses their architectural importance.

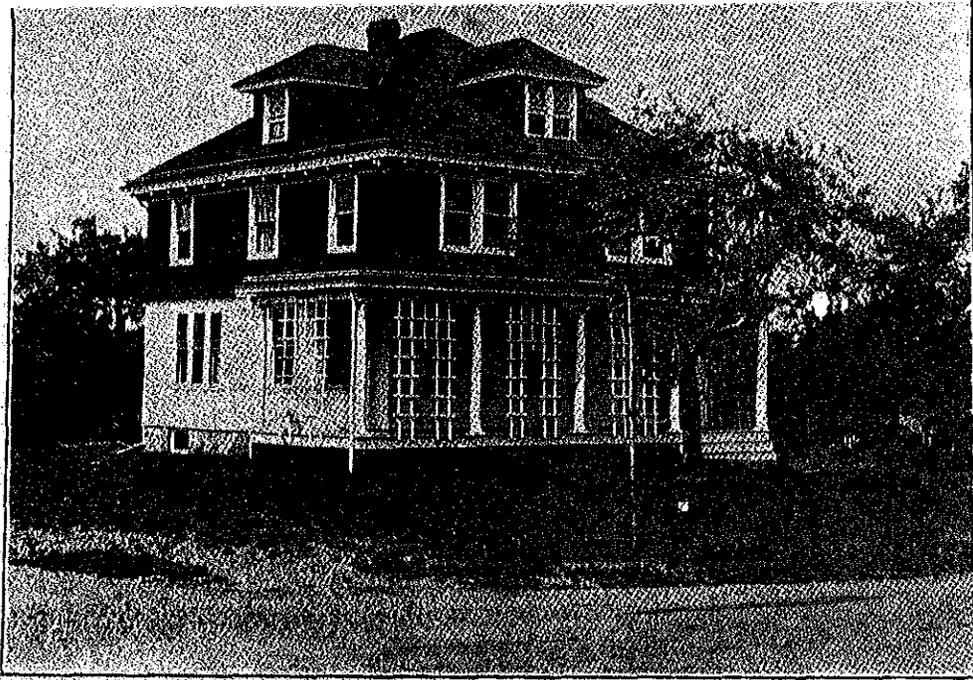
Continue west to Grant Avenue and make a left. The second house to your left, number 47, was renovated by Wayne and Edna Chase a few years ago. The result is a testament to the importance of pre-



UNION AVE., Looking Toward Erie Station, SHOWING PROPERTY TO BE SOLD ON LEFT



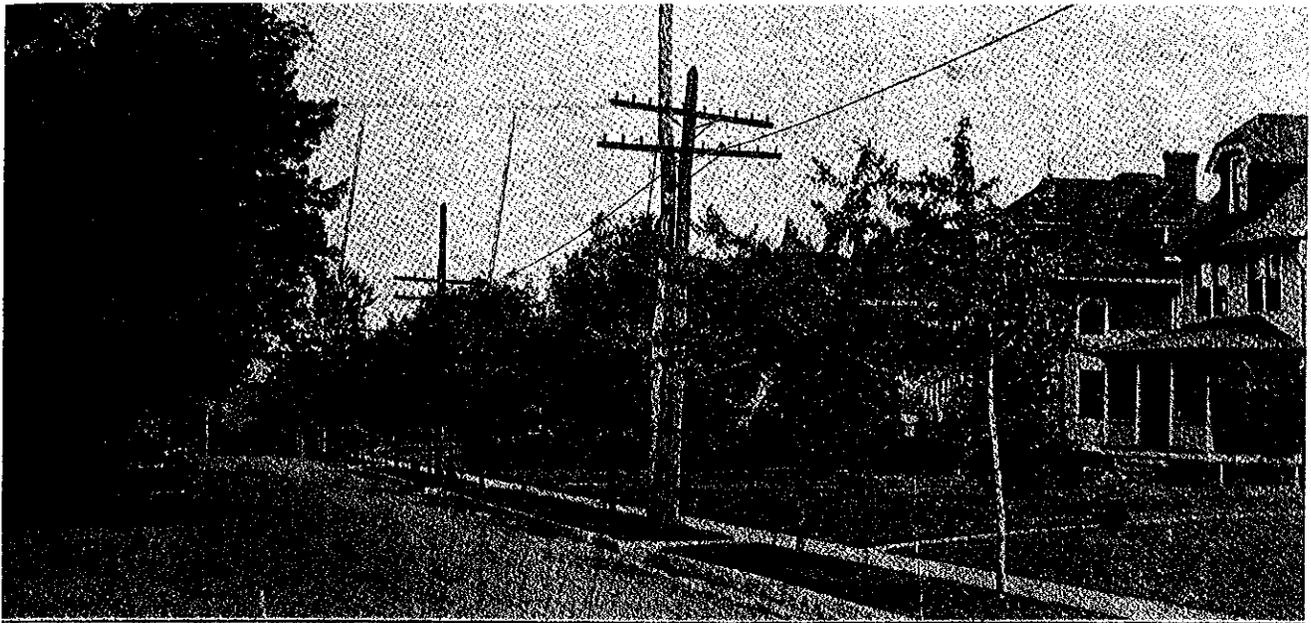
Two views of Union Avenue looking west from County Road. They illustrate more than sixty years of change, from 1921 to 1989.



WESTERVELT HOMESTEAD, ON
HILLSIDE AVENUE



Two views of 48 Hillside Avenue, taken in 1921 and 1989.



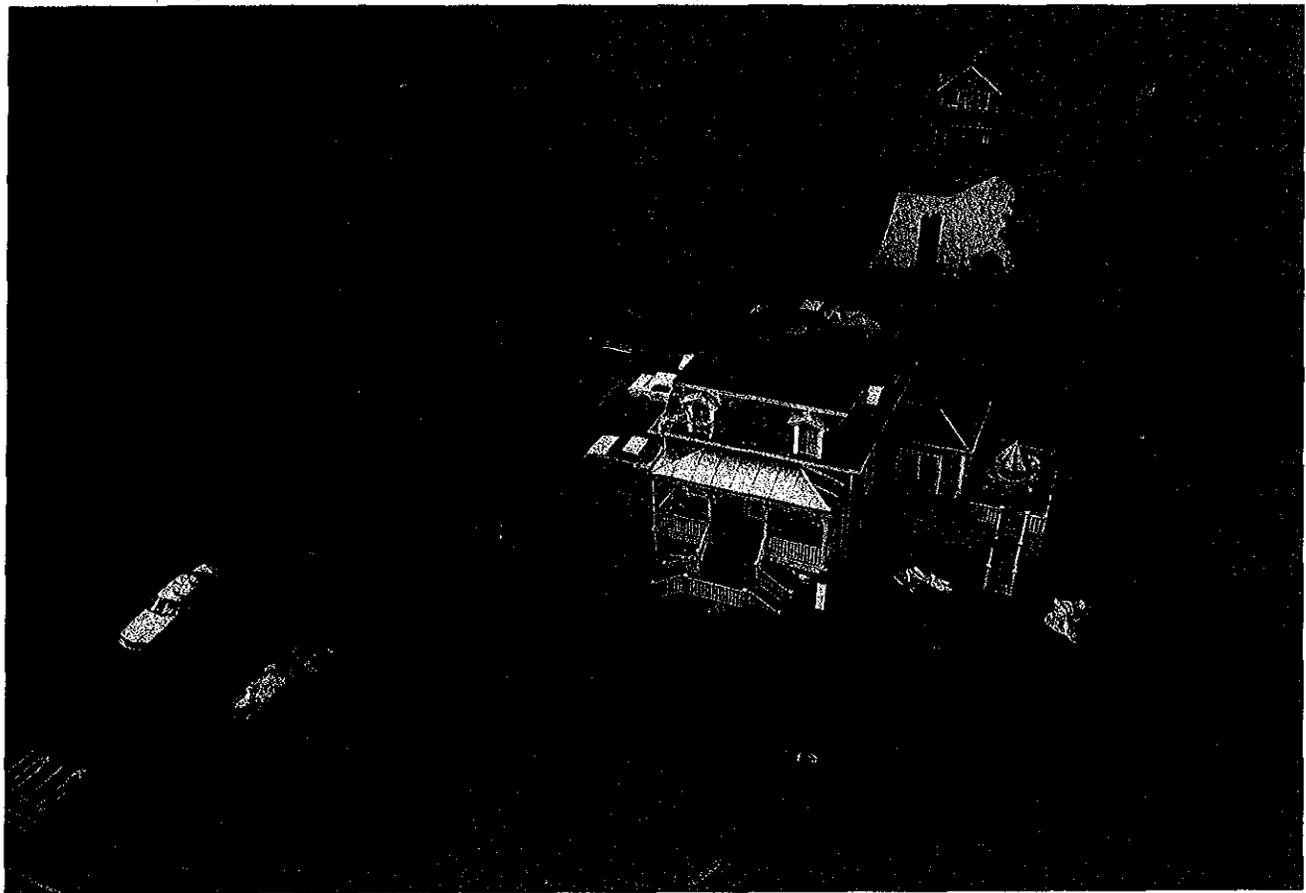
DWELLINGS ON HILLSIDE AVENUE, FACING PROPERTY TO BE SOLD



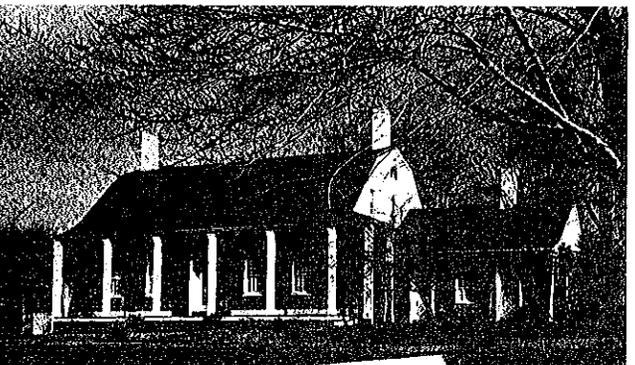
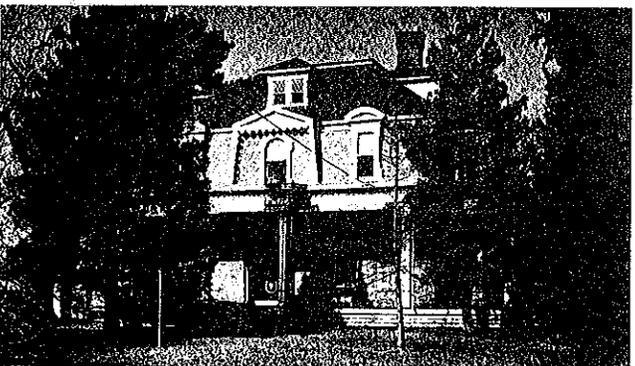
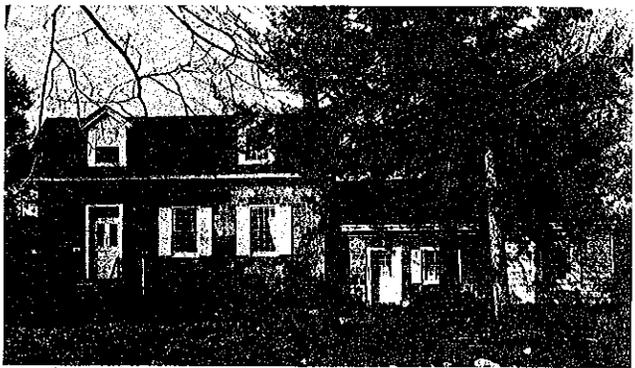
*Top photo is from a 1921 real estate advertisement.
Bottom photo was taken 1989.
Note that the house in the extreme right in both pictures is the same building.*



Two views of the Barney Woods House at 69 Madison Avenue, built in 1869. In 1988 extensive renovations were made to the house, as illustrated below.



*From top: 268 East Madison Avenue,
111 Madison Avenue, 349 Grant Avenue,
152 County Road, 235 County Road.*





The two photographs on this page illustrate parts of the south side of Union Avenue before major changes took place in the early 1980s. The top photo shows the present location of Hudson Drug, Lenk-Friedberg Properties, and City & Country shops before the Garden State Farms building was expanded to the left. The bottom photo shows the present location of Heathers bridal shop, in the center; Curiosity Jewelers, shown partially at the right; and the Cresskill Deli at the left. The two houses on the left have since been replaced by the businesses.





The clubhouse of the Tammy Brook Country Club. This building was in the center of the old golf course, which is now the site of Tammy Brook Hills, some of Cresskill's most prestigious properties.

The footbridge connecting the east and west portions of South Street (see page 163).



servicing the older houses in a town and is an example of a picture-perfect Victorian house, painted in three colors, with wraparound porch, and with every detail correct to represent the turn-of-the-century period.

Diagonally across the street, at number 52, is the A. T. Ferdon House, owned by John and Christina Diehl. Smaller than the other vernacular Gothic Revival houses, it nevertheless is typical of the houses of the early 1860s after the railroad came to town. The design resembles one in George E. Woodward's architectural handbook, *Country Homes*, published in 1865.

A little further west on Grant Avenue, at number 98, is the Henry Ferdon House. The site was once a strawberry farm, say the owners, Andre and Madeline LaRoche. The relatively small house, which should be retained for its historical value and for its attractive roof formations, is in need of renovation and preservation. It is built in the vernacular Gothic Revival style.

On your way up Grant Avenue, turn in to Gilmore Avenue. Notice that there are several houses at the southern end of the street that are fine examples of turn-of-the-century architecture. Number 14 Gilmore Avenue was built in 1865 by James H. Ferdon, the first mayor of Cresskill, in the vernacular Second Empire style, with stuccoed instead of stone walls and with a mansard roof. Mayor Ferdon built three more houses for his daughters: those at number 34 Gilmore Avenue, behind number 14, and at number 19 Gilmore Avenue and 201 Grant Avenue, across the street from number 14 Gilmore Avenue. There is a story told about a third-floor boarder at 201 Grant Avenue, which is now owned by Paul and Angelina O'Connell. It seems the boarder, who was involved with the building of the Panama Canal early in the twentieth century, died in the kitchen of the house and was laid out in the living room. It's presumed that not all landlords and landladies were as magnanimous when their boarders died as was

the owner of 201 Grant Avenue.

Lawrence and Sharyn Tondel own number 14, and they seem to have a ghost. They say: "Our first night in the house [in March 1977] thunderous breaking glass woke us and our dogs at 2 A.M.; never did we find any glass. Several months later a group of college students stopped by to ask if they could study the house for paranormal signs, which they had heard existed. While we didn't invite the unknown students in, apparently such paranormal rumors previously abounded."

On your way up the hill on Grant Avenue, stroll north on Brookside Avenue for a block or so and note the fine turn-of-the-century homes on both sides of the street, some rebuilt, some in their original form. There are two houses on the west side of Brookside Avenue, the second and third ones from Grant Avenue, as well as four houses on Mezzine Drive, which is the first street on your left, that were all built for a Mr. Regal as a mini-development in 1906. The four houses on Mezzine Drive are the first three on your right coming up off Grant Avenue (the first is hidden behind a long wooded driveway) as well as the one across from number 25. The father of the present owner of Benjamin Brothers in Tenafly was the builder, and all the houses, though they looked different on the outside, had the same layout inside. Mr. Regal had the foresight to install pipes for sewers, and for years the six houses shared a cesspool further down the hill. When sewers were installed in Cresskill during the early sixties, the six houses were exempt from having their street dug up and having to pay for sewer connections; their pipes were already in place.

Continue south on Mezzine Drive, back to Grant Avenue and turn west (it's a steep hill). At 349 Grant Avenue is the L. F. Holman-Peter B. Westervelt House, built between 1861 and 1876. Westervelt was Cresskill's mayor from 1928 to 1933. The house is an example of the Second Empire style popular af-

ter the Civil War. Its massiveness is accented by stone walls and a double-staged mansard roof. The house has been altered since the 1870s: The slate roof has been replaced by shingles, and hipped dormers were added. This is one of the larger houses built after the coming of the railroad and was built for professional men rather than for farmers. It is one of the more impressive residences in size and formality of that period. Daniel and Ann Stratton recently bought the house, which at one time had 44 acres surrounding it.

Go up nearly to the top of the hill, to Twelfth Street, and turn left for one block. That's Lexington Avenue. The area near the corner of Lexington Avenue and Twelfth Street was called Cresskill Manor when it was developed before World War II. Number 203 Lexington, at the northwest corner, was built by a ringmaster for a circus, possibly Barnum & Bailey. He built the house from bits and pieces of material he gathered, much of it from town-down mansions in New York City. Each of the windows is different; the used brick is different in various parts of the house. It took him 25 years to build it. All that time, he didn't live in the house, but in the garage--which had heat and water and a wood floor, probably from its days as a Camp Merritt barracks. When he got through, the house had 38 building violations. He moved away soon afterward, leaving the mess to the next, actually the first, tenant. Howard and Frosina Wollerton now own the house and enjoy its idiosyncrasies.

Go back north to Grant Avenue, turn right and back down the hill to Jefferson Avenue, where you turn right again.

Though the house at number 139 Jefferson Avenue is not historic because of old age, it's interesting to note that it was built early in the century from a Sears Roebuck kit. The house, at the southeast corner at Magnolia Avenue, once the home of Dr. Loman, is now owned by the Ripke family.

Number 84, the Demarest-Atwood House, is also a house listed with the National Register of Historic Places. The main house was built in 1808, but the older wing was built in 1793 (possibly 1783, according to the owners, William and Joan Krauss). This was originally a small house, but an upper story and several units have been added. Some changes were made in the Victorian style. Of particular historic significance is that after 1876 the house was the residence of Daniel Atwood and his descendants. Atwood was one of Bergen County's most notable architects and the author of many architectural handbooks used by carpenter-builders of the time. Among the many structures Atwood designed was the Tenafly railroad station.

The Jacob Cole House, built in 1810, at number 69, is a typical early-nineteenth-century farmhouse. It is wood frame with a gabled roof. The main house is one and a half stories high with eyebrow windows and side and rear wings. There is a chimney in the back connecting to the kitchen. As the oldest wood-frame farmhouse in Cresskill, its importance is considerable. Jacob Cole, its builder, was one of the early settlers of Cresskill. The original clapboard exterior has been covered with shingles. Tom and Frances Corbett, who live next door, own the house and rent it out.

As you walk, notice the houses on the streets to the west of Jefferson Avenue. Many were built early in the twentieth century on land that had been farmland for many years.

Turn right on Phelps Avenue and go all the way up the hill to Knickerbocker Road. After you turn right, on your right, you'll see the Quirk Funeral Home at number 74. This house, which was the officers' quarters during the Camp Merritt days of World War I, was the W. O. Opdyke-Henry Torrence House, built between 1861 and 1867 with later additions, including, recently, a large berm that holds a swim-

ming pool on its top. The house is the largest of extant structures using Gothic Revival features. Richard and Alida Quirk own the house, which is both their home and a funeral home they operate. Dick Quirk says that the architect had told his mother there were three other houses built from the same plans, and that one of them belonged to a former president of the United States. Dick has, however, been unable to ascertain which president that might be.

Now, after what has probably been a five-mile walk through a two-square-mile town, you may want to use your car to drive high up onto the East Hill, the western slope of the Palisades, to the Woodcroft, Rio Vista, and Tammy Brook Hills sections of town. There are no historic houses here, but that's not to say that some of the houses aren't spectacular and that their importance isn't significant, given that they changed both the look and the population of Cresskill. The best view from anywhere in Cresskill is from the highest street in Tammy Brook, the former site of the eighteenth green when Tammy Brook was a golf course and country club. From there you can see the Ramapo Mountains far to the west and you can imagine what soldiers in the Revolutionary War felt like, what nineteenth-century youngsters playing in the forests there felt like, what mid-twentieth-century golfers felt like, and even what Cresskill's kids felt like when they plummeted down the snowy Tammy Brook hills on their sleds.

While you're on your walking/driving tour, stop to see Cresskill's parks. None of them is large, and there aren't many of them, but being that there's little undeveloped land left in Cresskill for new parks, they are all the more valuable. Most of Cresskill's folks protect their parks, says Gerry Crum, superintendent of the Department of Public Works, picking up litter when they see it and generally taking care of their neighborhood parks.

Off Truman Drive near Eisenhower Drive, where Rio Vista and

Woodcroft meet, is Carlson Park, named in memory of E. Leonard Carlson, Cresskill's mayor from 1960 to 1963. A tiny entrance leads into nearly six acres of undeveloped, wooded land.

When you get back down to lower altitudes you'll find two other parks named in honor of Cresskill officials. Terhune Park, named in memory of Bertholf Terhune, mayor from 1968 to 1971, is at County Road and Palisade Avenue. It's small and has a few pieces of playground equipment.

The park at Third Street was named in honor of William E. Cook, who was with the Department of Public Works for 37 years and superintendent for 27 years. He restored the land on Third Street from swampland, using surplus dirt from the sewer installations during the early 1960s. Tennis courts, soccer fields, and open land with benches offer a welcome there.

There's a children's playground on Fifth Street and one at each of the elementary school fields. There are facilities for softball and baseball at the Dogwood Lane field and the Joe Henry field on Twelfth and Stivers streets. Cranford Street Park, called "the woods" by Cresskill Gardens folks, who treasure it, has a basketball court, swings, a field for ball games, and a wooded area with a brook.

Additionally, the town owns property: the southwest corner of Eleventh Street and Madison Avenue, with a large wild cherry tree on it; a darkly wooded strip of land between Park and Morningside avenues, with a brook running through it; the wide-open eastern end of Mezzine Drive; and on Grant Avenue beside the Tenakill.

There is one more place of interest that is neither a house nor a park. On South Street off Piermont Road is a small wooden bridge that crosses the brook that bisects the street. The bridge was built in 1983 by the Army Corps of Engineers as a weekend training session. It allows foot traffic from Piermont to County Road and adds country charm to the street.

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This bibliography is the one used by the committee that wrote and edited the booklet published during Cresskill's tercentenary celebration. The early chapters of the current book, up to mid-century, are based in part on the 1969 booklet. The tercentenary committee included Mr. and Mrs. Norbert R. Pendergast, chairmen; research staff: John Spring, Harold Tallman, Jack de Marrais; editorial staff: Eleanor Santic, Spring, Ruth Soverio, Elaine Rothman, and John Sestanovich. Harold Tallman was borough historian.

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' CRESSKILL U.S.A. '

WORDS AND MUSIC
BY: GEORGE BROWN
WANDRA MERRELL

*OFFICIAL SONG OF
CRESSKILL, NEW JERSEY

((hum) mm-mm, mm-mm)
VERSE(1): EVERYBODY IS YOUR BROTHER
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.
EVERYBODY LOVES EACH OTHER
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.
IN OUR EYES WE SEE NO COLOR
OUR HEARTS ARE COLOR BLIND
THIS SUCH A WONDERFUL TOWN
IT'S CRESSKILL U.S.A.

VERSE(2): WE CHASED THE BRITISH FROM OUR LAND
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.
WE FOUGHT THE BRITISH MAN TO MAN
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.
ALL OUR HEROS ARE HOME GROWN
OUR VALOR WE HAVE SHOWN
GENERAL PERSHING HE SLEPT RIGHT HERE
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.

((hum) mm-mm, mm-mm)
VERSE(3): THE DUTCH THEY CAME TO FARM OUR LAND
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.
THE HUYLERS' AND THE WESTERVELTS'
THEY CAME TO LEND A HAND
WE MAY BE SMALL BUT WE STAND TALL
OUR SCHOOLS' AMONG THE BEST
PARDON IF WE THUMP OUR CHEST
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.

VERSE(4): COME AND SEE THE MONUMENT
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.
IT BEARS THE NAMES OF ALL OUR BOYS
WHO FOUGHT TO KEEP US FREE
IT REACHES TO THE STARS AND STRIPES
HIGH ON THE CREST OF THE HILL
CAMP MERRETT WAS RIGHT OVER HERE
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.

((hum) mm-mm, mm-mm)
VERSE(5): IF WE HEAR A NEIGHBOR'S CRY
WE RUSH TO EASE THE PAIN
OUR POLICE AND FIREMEN
ALWAYS RUSH TO DO THE SAME
ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL
IS HOW WE HEED THE CALL
WE GOT THE HEART, WE DO OUR PART
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.

VERSE(6): EVERY TOWN SHOULD BE A TOWN
LIKE CRESSKILL U.S.A.
WE GOT BOTH FEET ON THE GROUND
IN CRESSKILL U.S.A.
YOUNG AND OLD COME OUT OF THE COLD
THIS IS THE PLACE TO STAY
THIS IS SUCH A WONDERFUL TOWN
IT'S CRESSKILL U.S.A.

((hum) mm-mm, mm-mm)

((tag) CRESS-KILL-U.-S.-A.
HOO-RAY!!!

