



Volume 1 — Number 1

October - December 1976

HOW THE ASSOCIATION IS STRUCTURED TO HELP YOU

Susan Buerk

Traditionally, the Allentown Association Board of Directors has had an active and strong committee structure so that community concerns, as expressed to the Board by the general membership, can be addressed.

Committees generally meet twice a month. A progress report on the accomplishments of the committees is given by the chairman at the regular monthly Board meeting. Committee chairmen, who are appointed by the President, serve for a one-year term.

The six key committees that act as the working base for the 1976-77 Allentown Association Board, include:

ACTION (*Charles Battista*, Chairman, 884-7700) — This committee is concerned with seeking constructive solutions to common neighborhood problems, such as parking, zoning violations and housing code enforcement. A chief concern is police protection and general safety of the neighborhood.

BEAUTIFICATION (*Bob Hodge*, Chairman, 885-6977) — Interested in the overall appearance and maintenance of the neighborhood, this committee addresses itself to projects such as tree planting and establishment of green areas. Nominations for the annual Beautification Awards, given at the Association's Annual Dinner, are made by this committee.

BLOCK LEADERS (*Marcella Berean*, 884-0679) — Responsible for channeling the individual and collective concerns of the residents of each street in Allentown to the Board for action. Blockleaders encourage citizen participation in the areas of proper

enforcement of laws bearing on the community, property improvement and they generally endeavor to stimulate community spirit. This committee is essential to the preservation of a strong neighborhood association.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT (*John Glattly*, 883-2891) — This committee is especially interested in the maintenance and development of the retail business base in Allentown.

SPECIAL EVENTS (*Susan Buerk*, 882-4223 and *John Nolan*, 884-5217) — This is the umbrella committee that is responsible for organizing the Annual Allentown Dinner, the Newcomers to the Neighborhood Party and Meatball Booth at the Allentown Art Festival.

Finally, the Executive Committee is composed of the officers of the Board. This committee meets twice a month, or more often as is necessary, and has general responsibility for the activities of the six key committees. Serving on this committee are: President, Sherwood Briggs; Vice Presidents Katie Murdock, Emilo Fuentes and Susan Buerk; Treasurer, Larry Stokes; Secretary, Mary Jo Swift.



This old home is typical of Allentown architecture. See article on page eight on renovation being done at Franklin and North Streets.

— NEWS FROM ALLENTOWN —

Published by
 ALLENTOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.
 204 Allen Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14201
 Circulation 3,000

EDITOR Mary Jo Swift
 ADVERTISING Richard Morgan

WHO'S WHO

President — Sherwood G. Briggs
 Vice Presidents — Susan Buerk,
 Emilio Fuentes, Katie Murdock
 Secretary — Mary Jo Swift
 Treasurer — Larry Stokes
 Executive Director — Carole Holcberg
 Office Staff — Richard Morgan,
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ALLENTOWN ASSOCIATION

The Allentown area is fortunate in having a multitude of citizen organizations serving the different needs of the community. The Allentown Association, founded in 1961, is primarily concerned with the physical improvement of the area in particular and with enhancing its overall "livability" in general.

A key activity of the organization is carried out by the Action Committee, chaired by Charlie Battista. This Committee, in conjunction with the Executive Director of the Association, Carole Holcberg, keeps government officials aware of neighborhood concerns in the area of law enforcement and code enforcement. One of the unfortunate facts of life in this area is that these problems are never permanently "solved". In a time when city expenses must be drastically reduced, we find ourselves competing for housing inspectors, policemen and other municipal services. Thus even though complaints to public officials may temporarily improve services, unless we maintain pressure on them, we often find the quality and quantity declining again.

Among other important functions of the Association is the Block Leader program, which we are re-organizing this year under the leadership of Susan Buerk, Marcella Berean and Ruth Cain. This Newsletter, under the editorship of Mary Jo Swift, is another important function which is being re-started.

Other important committees such as Beautification; chaired by Bob Hodge, and Commercial Development, chaired by John Glattly, carry out the basic Association goal of improving the livability and viability of the community.

A list of all of our committees and their chairmen is available at the Association Office (881-1024). We urge you to volunteer in the area of your interest.

Sherwood G. Briggs, president

Editorial . . .

A POSITIVE APPROACH

Welcome back! Sorry for the laps in communication, a year's vacation is pushing it. In that short year a lot of changes have taken place in our Camelot. New businesses, new store fronts adding to our fresh-start appearance. Change is part of the growing American cities scene and sometimes it's on the negative side, but in our neighborhood it's plus positive. I look around and see new trees in Arlington Park, the bix X is gone from the Allendale, a parking lot at 200 Allen Street, the Shadows restaurant at 469 Delaware is finally boarded, and this list could be bigger. MY hearty congratulations to the residents who spent the money for that new coat of paint on their houses this summer. Every little bit DOES help our appearance.

My one regret is that I did not get a chance to ask each retailer personally for his support of our project through advertisements. Within the next couple of months, I will be around to see each of you. It's always nice to put the face with a name. Again, my apologies.

Read our paper and let us know about the good things your neighbors are doing. We care and we want to let everyone know who the good-deed-doers are. "In short, there's simply not a more congenial spot for happily ever aftering than here in Allentown . . ."

Sincerely,
 MARY JO SWIFT, Editor

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Allentown Community Center

MONDAY — 3:30-4:30 p.m.—Children's Ballet; 7:00-10:00 p.m. — T.O.P.S.; 5:00-7:30 p.m. — Modern Dance Class (intermediate); 7:30-10:30 p.m. — Commedia Repertory Company (rehearsal); 7:00-8:30 p.m. — Modern Dance Class (beginner); 3:30-5:30 p.m. — Arts & Crafts Class.

* * *

TUESDAY — 5:00-7:30 p.m. — Modern Dance Class; 8:00-11:00 p.m. — Commedia Repertory Rehearsal; 6:30-8:00 p.m. — Ballet for Adults; 7:30-10:30 — Karate; 7:00-9:00 p.m. — Photography; 3:30-5:30 p.m. — Arts & Crafts Class.

* * *

WEDNESDAY — 3:30-5:30 p.m. — Arts & Crafts Class; 5:00-7:30 p.m. — Modern Dance Class; 7:30-10:30 p.m. — Ballet for Adults (2 classes); 7:30-10:30 p.m. — Commedia Rep. Rehearsal; 6:00-10:00 p.m. — Photography.

THURSDAY — 3:30-5:30 p.m. — Arts & Crafts Class; 5:00-7:30 p.m. — Modern Dance Class; 7:30-10:30 p.m. — Commedia Rep. Rehearsal; 7:30-10:00 p.m. — Yoga; 7:30-10:00 p.m. — Women's Voices - Women's Newsletter; 7:00-8:30 p.m. — Modern Dance Class (beginner).

* * *

FRIDAY — 3:30-5:30 p.m. — Arts & Crafts Class; 5:00-7:00 p.m. — Karate; 7:30-8:30 p.m. — Ballet for Adults; 9:00-11:00 p.m. — Poetry Readings (to be announced); 5:00-7:30 p.m. — Modern Dance Class; 7:00-8:30 p.m. — Modern Dance Class (Beginner).

SATURDAY — 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. — Modern Dance Rehearsal; 6:00-9:00 p.m. — Karate.

* * *

SUNDAY — 7:30-11:00 p.m. — Film Festival — Everyone's Book Co-op Series of Social Documentaries on 9-12, 9-26, 10-10, 10-24, 11-7, 11-21, 12-5, 12-19, only.

*3:00-5:00 p.m. — Campfire Girls — starting Sept. 28th and Oct. 1st, every Tuesday and Friday.

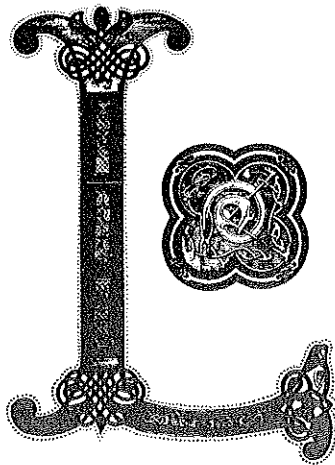
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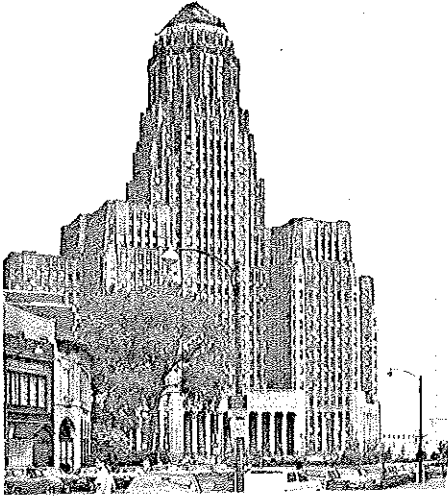
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COUNCIL CORNER

Harlan J. Swift, Jr.

With a bit of luck, the Allentown neighborhood may be the beneficiary of new Federal Government largess. Our neighborhood has been submitted, along with eight others around the city, as part of a package application for \$4.8 million dollars of Federal Public Works monies. As Buffalo Public Works Commissioner James A. MacDonald said, this application is a "crap shoot". But we are hopeful it will be approved and the project go forward.

As is standard procedure, the money has some strings attached. Not the least of which is, it can only be used on city owned property. This means streets, sidewalks, sewers, lights, etc. Even with these limitations, I feel the money can be used to beautify and enhance the Allentown business district.

The plans for the project will be drawn by architect Peter G. Castle — a past president of the Allentown Association. Peter's work can be seen all over the city and, best of all, brick walls are not in his repertoire.

The following is a list of projects Peter has come up with that are designed to benefit our business community. They are divided into the following areas: A. Signing; B. Tree Planting and Landscaping, C. Paving — Brick sidewalks, Allen Street; D. Street Furniture, E. Days Park Mall,

F. Days Park, G. Virginia Place. These suggested projects are consistent with the report from the Thomas Trotter Associates, who did the District 5 planning study.

The projects we have identified, seem to have the most impact with the least cost. We will only have \$600,000 to spend and we must use it wisely. If you have any thoughts or questions, please contact John Glattly, chairman of the Association's Commercial Development Committee or myself at City Hall, 856-4200, ext. 572.

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AIMING TOWARD PROGRESS

John Glattly

The proposed rapid transit stop at Main and Allen Streets, the new convention center downtown, the anticipated designation of Allentown as a National Historic Preservation District; are all strong indicators that Allentown's commercial potential is now to be realized.

On Wednesday, September 22, the newly formed Commercial Development Committee of the Allentown Association sponsored a tour and luncheon for local elected officials, mortgage and commercial loan bankers and real estate agents. The purpose of the tour was to discuss the great potential for commercial revitalization. The meeting

started out on an encouraging note with the announcement by Councilman Swift, that Allentown had been chosen for Public Works Funds totaling \$600,000 which will be used for beautifying Allentown's major arteries. Trees with wrought iron standards, park benches, cobblestone walks, and modification of the Days Park Mall are just a few projects on the drawing board.

An enlightening presentation by Stuart Alexander of Thomas Trotter Associates, discussed the strategy for Commercial Development of Allentown, pointing out the problems and at the same time, noting that our area has direction and possibilities.

The businessmen toured available com-

mercial property, pausing at key locations in the area and concluded the morning with luncheon at Gabriel's Gate.

This type of meeting can only benefit the commercial sector of Allentown in the coming years of revitalization, and encourage banks and real estate agents to invest here — historic Allentown.

WE HAVE MOVED. Yes, our new offices look out of the second floor windows at 204 Allen Street. Jim DiBlasi, a board member, has been more than generous to rent the space to us for a nominal fee. "Honest Association, one flight up", come in and say hello.




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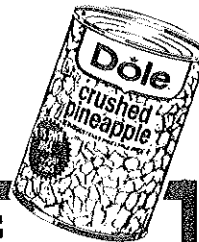
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ANOTHER ALLENTOWN RESTORATION SUCCESS

by Virginia E. Tillou

One of the most encouraging sights in Buffalo is the partially restored Saint Mary's Seminary and the finished Clinton House. Mr. Stanley Collesano and Mr. Dennis Insalaco deserve an ovation for their taste, imagination and attention to detail. This is especially noticeable in their treatment of the brick facade of this particular project.

This article describes the marvelous coordination of old brick with new, the recycling of brick, the cleaning and matching, and the ensuing effect.

The first building, the Clinton House, was left pretty much as is, brickwise, so as not to disturb the ivy. The transition to the new addition in the rear, which encloses a required stair in lieu of an exposed fire escape, was accomplished by a vertical striation, uniting the two units. An old city lamp post was added to the rear entrance.

Moving through the courtyard, which connects the Clinton House with the compound, beautiful patterns of brick have been revealed by cleaning with a chemical compound. This is a method which can be controlled, thus not committing one to clean the entire surface. In this manner herring bone patterned arches, decorative cobbling, and beautiful lintels have surfaced.

At the corner of Franklin and North, hugh stone discards from the old City Courthouse sidewalks are used to flank the parking lot entrances. These were chosen because their color was compatible with the existing building as well as functional. One beautiful tall fir tree was saved for greenery.

On North Street a brick wall, 16 inches thick, was rebuilt to form a courtyard. One section is a lattice-brick design, copied from

a photograph brought back from Savannah, Georgia, by Mrs. Insalaco. The iron gate at the entrance is original. One side of this courtyard is formed by the old carriage house. The facade, after cleaning, reveals three beautiful arches. An entrance into the main building exits into another courtyard leading into a new print room in the Nina Freudenheim Gallery.

All brick repairs or replacements have been accomplished by using old, carefully matched bricks, mostly from demolition sites in Buffalo. This approach has been the secret of much of the beauty and charm of the project. It provides a fine example for future endeavors of restoration in Allentown.

A special note of thanks to the 15 Summer Youth Corp people who helped keep our streets clean and mow lawns and parks. It was a big help to the area and one that was appreciated by all the residents.

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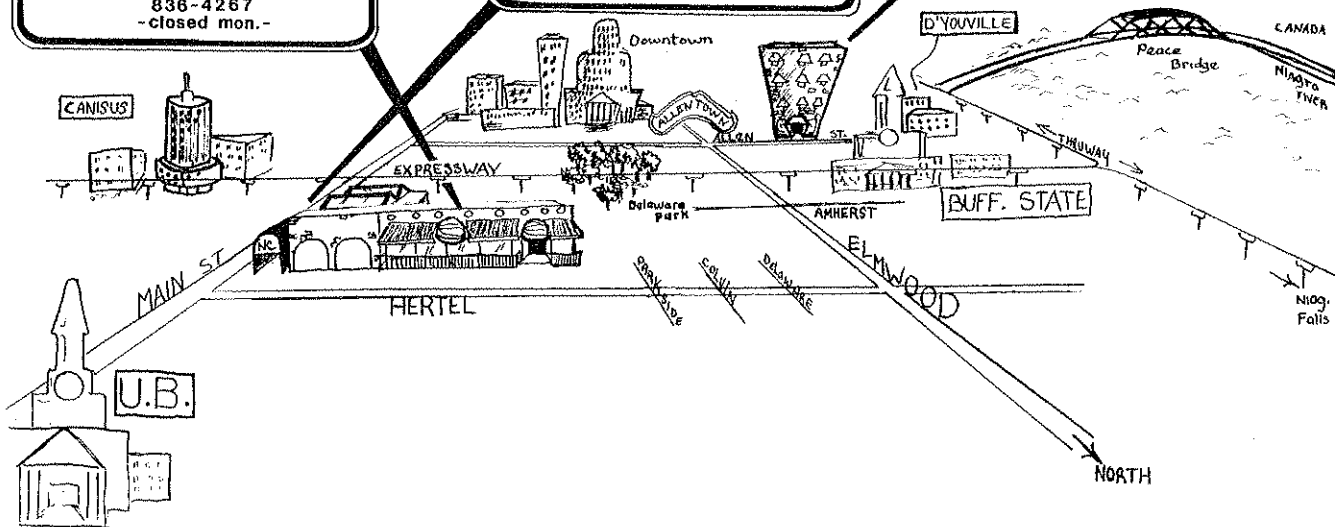
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BLOCK LEADER PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

by Marcella Berean

The following residents have agreed to serve as blockleaders for the Allentown Association for 1976-77.

ALLEN STREET

Emilio Fuentes — 883-3813
James DiBlasi — 886-2200

ARLINGTON PARK

Mrs. Bernard Birkemeier — 883-7642

COLLEGE STREET

Mrs. Lawrence Kalinowski — 881-5880
Mrs. Alan McCausland — 886-2109

COTTAGE STREET

Michael McCartan — 883-2199

DAYS PARK

David Urgo

DELAWARE AVENUE
Dr. Charles Battista — 884-7700

FRANKLIN STREET
Mrs. Lenore Rubin — 881-1661
Mrs. Virginia Tillou — 856-1682

IRVING PLACE
Mrs. Charles Carlson — 886-6443

MARINER STREET
Mrs. George Feneziani — 886-1693
Mr. Thomas Polumbo — 881-3954

MAYFAIR LANE
Mrs. Richard Buerk — 882-4223

NORTH STREET
Sherwin Greenberg — 882-1648

NORTH PEARL
Henry Deichmann — 883-8211
John Nolan — 884-5217

PARK STREET
Peter Ross — 883-3515
Robert Altman — 886-0663

VIRGINIA PLACE
Robert Wexler — 883-5845

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J. Henry Priebe — 881-1159

ST. JOHN'S PLACE
Mrs. Douglas Eddy — 881-3985

We are in need of interested residents who can serve in this capacity for Hudson, Orton, Wadsworth and Edward Streets; Elmwood Avenue (between North and Edward Streets) and Pennsylvania/Symphony Circle. Please call Marcella Berean at 884-0679.

NOTICE: There will be a public hearing on the Public Works project, October 25, 1976 at 7:30 p.m. at Painter's Hall. This is very important as it will be a great benefit to the area, and to the retailers. Please set aside this time and come to the meeting.

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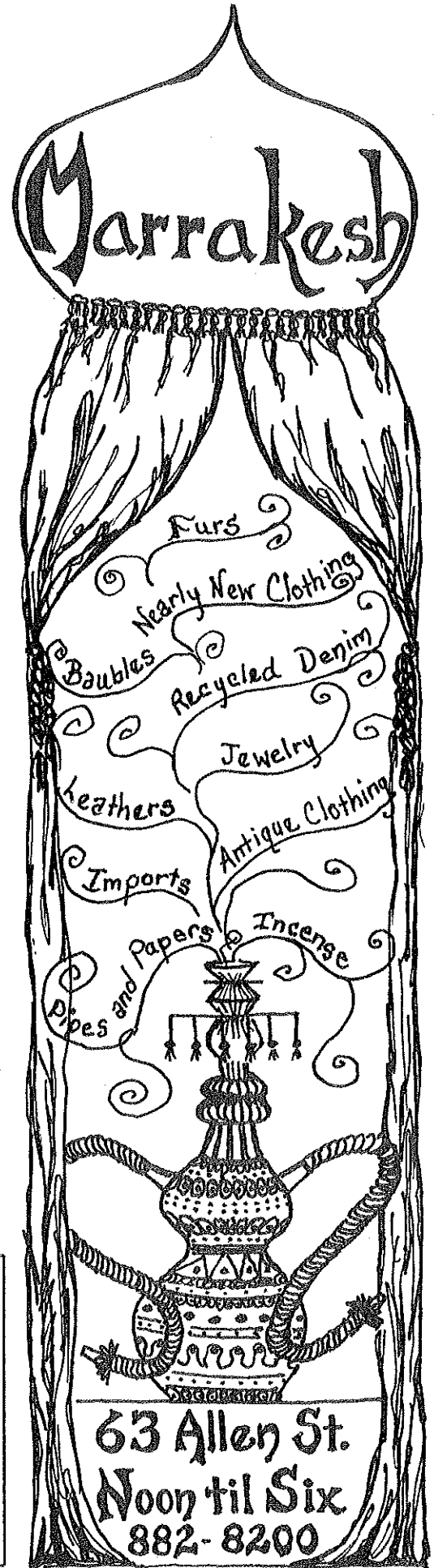
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STOP AND SHOP — ALLENTOWN

Hope Hoetzer

The beauty of Allentown is that it is many-sided — a mixture of peoples, cultures, homes and businesses, brick buildings and wood-frame gingerbread, the old and the new. All of these elements weave a tapestry that makes our area a unique, interesting locale to live and work.

The commercial fabric alone includes a wide variety of enterprises: antique shops, restaurants, boutiques, jewelers, custom craftsmen, radio stations, hotels, architects, printers, designers, services, wholesalers, retailers, gift shops, art galleries and more. Some of these businesses have been Allentown fixtures for years, others are fairly new — and almost all of them offer the opportunity for the patron to deal directly with the owner. This tradition of the "little shop attitude" — where the proprietor works in his own store, offering personal service to his customers, many of whom he comes to know as friends — is alive and well in Allentown, even in the larger establishments.

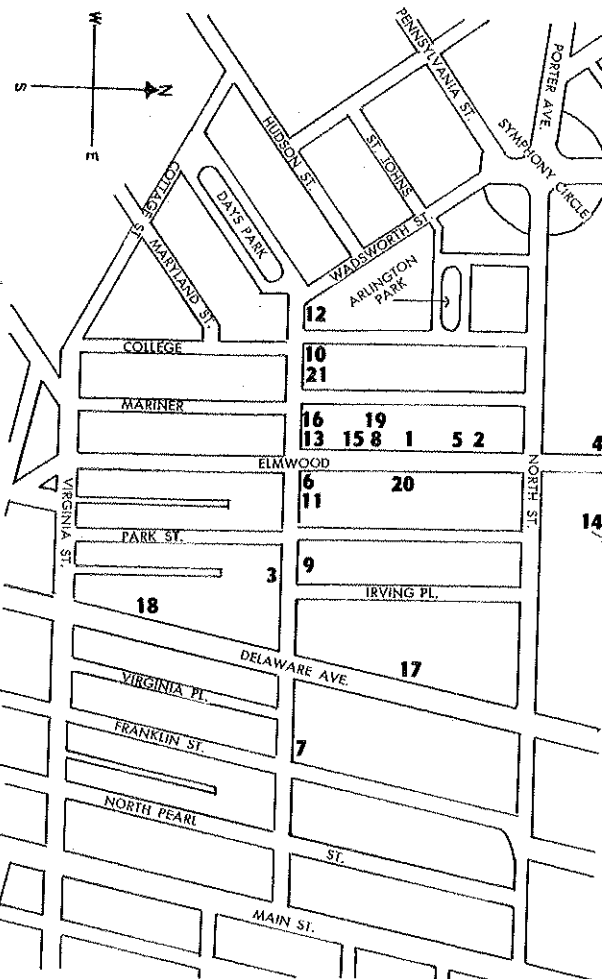
Allentown concerns also tend to evince an attitude that is a bit more low-key than the usual "high pressure salesmanship" that is becoming all too common in the increasingly depersonalized businesses of many other areas. Our commercial district is not only a place to buy, but also a place to browse, to chat with the individuals who operate their shops and to enjoy a friendly visit.

In the future this column will regularly feature different Allentown businesses and their owners to offer you the opportunity to share their expertise in each of their fields. I am looking forward to writing for you and introducing — or re-introducing — your neighbors.

Little more than a hundred years ago, Allen Street was a country lane. Cows were herded along it from a farm belonging to none other than the Hon. Lewis F. Allen, for whom the street was named.

The Buffalo Division for Youth will act as a centralizing agency serviced by a neighborhood facility located in the East Side of Buffalo at Police Athletic League (PAL), 118 East Utica near Michigan, telephone 885-6902. Calls are received 24 hours a day.

ALLENTOWN



- ANTIQUES**
 - 1. Tom Mileham Antiques
 - 2. Young's Antiques
- ART/FRAMING**
 - 3. Buffalo Picture Framing
- BANKS**
 - 4. Homestead Savings
- BOOKSTORES**
 - 5. Les Livres
- CLOTHING & SPECIALTY SHOPS**
 - 6. Dick's
 - 7. Marrakesh
 - 8. Ron-on
 - 9. The People
- FOOD & LIQUOR STORES**
 - 10. Holly Farm
 - 11. Joseph Martin & Sons
 - 12. Spirits of Allentown
- HARDWARES**
 - 13. Allentown Hardware
- INTERIOR DESIGN**
 - 14. Lucille McMurry
- JEWELRY**
 - 15. Ring Bar
- MOVIES AND THEATRES**
 - 16. The New Allendale
- PHARMACIES**
 - 17. Old Town Drug
- PLANTS AND FLOWERS**
 - 18. Grever's
 - 19. Plant Concern
- RESTAURANTS & DISCOS**
 - 20. El Snowshoe
 - 21. Mulligan's

* * *

Here is a categoral listing of the advertisers in this issue of "News from Allentown." These individuals took time and money to support our renewed efforts to bring you — the residents — an up-date on what we as a neighborhood association are doing. You will be surprised at the number of quality services that are available in a 5 minute walk from your front door. Get some exercise and look around — support Allentown.

THE NEW Allendale theatre

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886-7804

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

On Tues., Sept. 21, the Buffalo Police-Community Services held a meeting at the Community Center. It was the initial effort to develop a Precinct-Community Council in Precinct No. 10.

The object of this Council will be to provide a forum for citizens and police to learn and exchange ideas that should result in better police services. It is hoped that these meetings can be held on a monthly basis and be used as a way for citizens and police to meet under non-stress situations.

The Police Department is willing to loan us films on prevention of different types of

crimes. But they can't do it alone, they need our support to make this Council work.

Those city officials and police present at Tuesday's meeting were: Commissioner Blair, Capt. James Cunningham-Precinct No. 10, Police Officer Donald Mix - liaison officer, Precinct No. 10; Police Officer John Walterich - liaison Officer, Precinct No. 3; Family Court Judge John Honan, Police Officer Chrosniak, Precinct No. 10; Representative of Assemblyman Hoyt; Commissioner Daniel Hoyt was invited but didn't attend. Also in attendance were the two coordinators for Precincts No. 3 and 10, Mary Kubicki, No. 3 and Police Officer Ronald Christopher, No. 10. They

can be reached at 842-1360 if you should have any questions or problems concerning the Police and the citizens. Please give this project your time and effort.

Some of our residents choose to have their "liquid lunches" in doorways or settled against a tree in a park. Unfortunately, when lunch is through they do forget to take their brown bags to the nearest receptacle. It is especially annoying if it's your lawn or door step, but grit your teeth, bend over and pick it up. Bottles will only get broken and children and animals are usually the victims. Thank you.



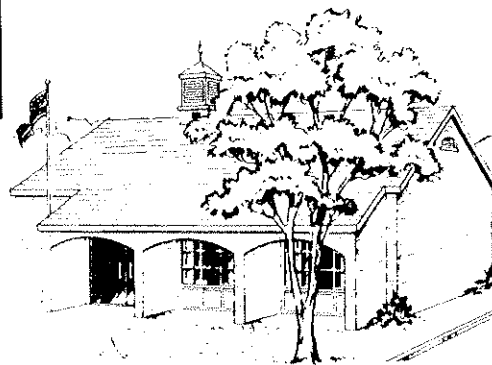
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