

your path. I recall that for what seemed like many years, two good-sized excavations existed on the "Gulf station" side of Martine Ave. The story was that a developer had started to build two stores but ran out of funds. They remained gaping holes for a very long time.

Little by little, stores went up, the bank, the drugstore, the beauty shop, and so many others, till it became the busy place it is today. The "Mom and Pop" businesses, such as the Pauls' corner store, and the Sands' hardware store, of course could not survive. Paul's did sell, along the way, and it was run by the Hoffman family for a good many years, until they also left.

The house immediately next to what is now the Fanwood Pharmacy (the Post Office at that time) was owned and lived in by a wonderfully typical old Italian lady named Mrs. Guidetti. She too was a familiar sight in town, always with her black coat and "babushka", and animatedly chatting with any and all townsfolk she'd meet on the sidewalk in front of the stores. She too was a friend of Pete Foglia, but was known to one and all.

Another of Fanwood's claims to fame was the Phillips family's cider mill, on La Grande Ave., set back behind their home. Its delicious cider must've been known throughout the area, because years after the business had shut down, people would still pull up in their cars and inquire about where they could get the cider. I can still remember the looks of disappointment on their faces after being told the cider was no longer available. They'd probably driven for miles with the expectant taste of that cool and pungent golden liquid in their mouths, only to learn they could not get it!

Mr. Phillips had built a great many of the homes in Fanwood, and good-natured Earl, his son, was among Fanwood's Finest! Others of the "Finest" of my time were Harold Millwater and Charlie (Perk) Persson. Then there was George Germinder, and so many others. Fanwood always had a wonderful police force, throughout all the years I can remember, and, in fact, still does!

With the post-war building of so many new homes in Fanwood, on La Grande Ave., Second St., and others, lots of young families were moving into town. This opened up quite a good-sized market for baby-sitting services. A "job" which is the way we referred to each one, paid.....Are you ready?.....The staggering sum of 25 cents per hour! This was whether there was one child or five, whether or not you were expected to feed, bathe and bed down the children, whether you worked from 8 P. M. till 10 P. M., or from 1 P. M. till 4 o'clock the next morning.....Twenty-five