



*Commuter bus lines had not yet come to Fanwood in 1918 when Midway Avenue was still a dirt road.*



*South Avenue, one of the major roads connecting Fanwood to Westfield to the east, was one of the first roads to be paved.*

The old Fire Hall on Watson Road was also a popular meeting place, as was reported in the local paper:

*“Six Night Owls Orchestra of Plainfield will play for dancing at All Saints Church Fair, which will be held next Saturday evening. Dancing will be held in the Fanwood Fire Hall from 9 until midnight.”*

The 1920s began an era of growth within the borough. The nation was at peace, and it was a promising time of prosperity.

The first Office of Building Inspection was established by the borough council in 1920. One of the initial variances for a legal multifamily structure was granted for converting a barn at 136 Watson Road into a two-family house. This house still stands next to the old Fire Hall site and retains many of the architectural details of the old barn including large overhangs around all four sides for shade and the lightning rod on the roof top to protect the cows and other live stock. The original hayloft is still in the attic, and the track for the barn doors in the basement.



*Eugene and Katherine Hebding stood in front of the porch at their home at 127 Hunter Avenue in 1918 that displayed two service flags and stars in honor of their sons Emil and Gene serving in World War I.*