



*The Fanwood Community Garden Club was formed in 1927 and held fall and spring flower shows and worked to protect the "Old Oak" on Martine Avenue.*

that "the trunk of the tree occupies the entire walk in front of the Henry L. Jespersen home." Mrs. Van Hoesen was also charter member of the Mountainside Garden Club that was formed in 1931. She was instrumental in assisting the New Jersey State Garden Club in their effort towards establishing the "Blue Star Drive" along Route 29 (now Route 22) from Mountainside to North Plainfield. This drive honored the men and women who served in World War II and was called a living tribute to all of the New Jersey soldiers. Five thousand flowering dogwood trees were planted along this six mile stretch of road. Many Fanwood residents donated money towards the purchase of these trees. The name Blue Star Drive was chosen as it represented the blue star on the service flags that hung in the windows of servicemen's homes. Blue Star Drive was dedicated on October 10, 1944. Mrs. Van Hoesen was also responsible for the Fanwood tradition of decorating a live christmas tree at the Fanwood railroad station. In 1924 as a

Fanwood resident and a member of the National Tree Planting Association she urged the Fanwood council to invest in a live tree to be planted on the Fanwood Station Park grounds. In 1926 a live tree was planted at a cost of one-hundred and fifty dollars by the borough council and decorated for the christmas season.

That year the borough council requested that Union County take over the maintenance of Martine Avenue from the center of town at South Avenue to the borough line at King Street.

The Board of Health, by resolution dated July 26, 1927, recommended to the mayor and council of the borough that investigation of a sewer system for the borough begin immediately. It was shortly after this that Fanwood Borough constructed its first sanitary sewer system in cooperation with Plainfield.

During the late 1920s building activity increased dramatically in our borough. In 1927 several large plots of land were sold and subdivided, and new housing permits increased from six in 1926 to eighty-six in 1928 and seventy-three in 1929.



*Period costume parties were popular in the 1930's and many gala events were held at the Martine-Graham-Urner home.*