



*Five acres of beautifully landscaped grounds surrounded the Homestead resort that could accommodate as many as fifty guests.*

Shepherd on Front Street in Plainfield. The Bouchers chose the name the "Homestead" because the word embodied all the elements of oldworld fashion and comfort.

The Homestead became the resort of choice for many a city dweller. Some of the guests included Dr. George Rambo of the Pasteur Institute, Dr. Woodman, a famous New York physician, District Attorney T.S. Crain of New York, and Walter Force, a well-known breeder of thoroughbred horses.

Perhaps the most interesting person that became a permanent resident of the Homestead was James T. Ridley, whose father owned and operated Ridley's Department Store on Grand Street in New York City. James occupied a third-floor room at the Homestead and commuted daily to his office in the sub-cellar of the department store building. He lived alone, a bachelor recluse and possessor of some peculiar habits. Regardless of the weather he wore his top coat, derby hat, and always