

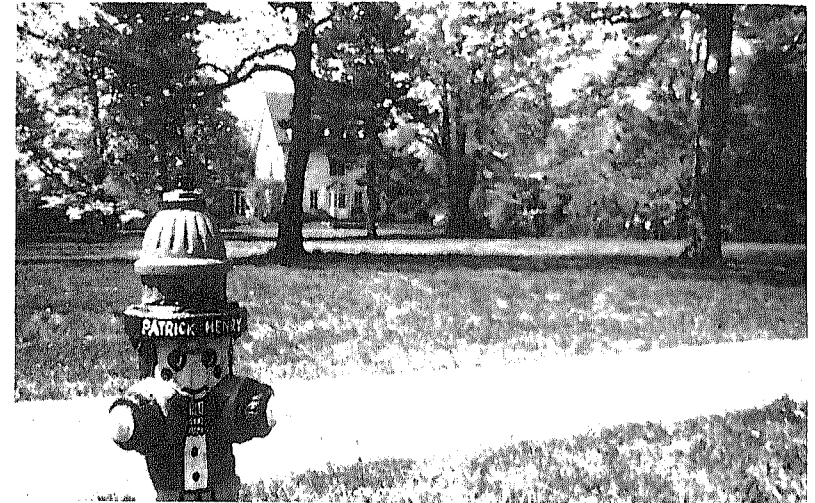


*Originally known as the Russell House, the Homestead was so named by the Boucher siblings who purchased the house in 1890.*



*Ancient oaks and black walnuts lined the circular drive leading to entrance of the Homestead.*

carried his umbrella. It is said that daily he boarded the 8:49 A.M. train for New York City and returned on the 3:17 P.M. local. He walked directly to the train station in the morning, but on the return trip in the afternoon he customarily walked from the Fanwood station to All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains, going around the property and then back to the Homestead. One evening during the 1920s Mr. Ridley did not return home, and upon investigation, he was found brutally murdered in his New York subcellar office. The perpetrator was one of his



*A custom painted fire hydrant stood guard on the Homestead property when it served as a private residence during the 1976 Bi-centennial celebration.*

own employees whom he had caught stealing.

The Homestead did not escape the Halloween pranks of the period. It has been recalled that during the early part of this century, the pranksters of the neighborhood celebrated Halloween by hauling rocking chairs and other light furniture to the nearby railroad station and hoisting the pieces to the top of the flag pole, much to the consternation of its owners.

After the death of the Bouchers in 1931, the property suffered