



Edmund Ward lived in the house on Railroad Avenue by the lane opposite Court Street. It was his son, Edmund F. Ward, who painted the mural in the old Post Office, and created the design for the 1926 White Plains Battle stamp.

In 1907, Stanley Newell erected his Newell's Theatre on this site. When movies made inroads on live productions with their low admissions, the theatre fell upon dark days. Many of today's residents still fondly remember Dr. Leon Dickerson, our White Plains dentist, who directed the "Paradas," featuring local talent in the old Newell/Palace Theatre for the benefit of the White Plains Lions Club.

In 1928, when the Bar Building was built upon the site of the theatre, it was the tallest structure in the county.

Hiram Rowell lived in the house next door. He refused to donate any of his land to the village so that Mamaroneck Avenue could be cut through to Hamilton Avenue. Eugene Preudhomme, who donated property for the erection of the Grace Episcopal Church and its parsonage, then cut a street through his own property to reach Hamilton Avenue. The street was called, naturally, Church Street.

Lawyer Jackson Hyatt lived in the Rowell house in the 1880's. There were other owners between then and 1926, when the RKO Theatre was erected on this property.

The Grace Episcopal Church was constructed here at a cost of \$45,000, twelve years before Rosch created this sketch. Isaac Buckhout, architect for the first Grand Central Terminal in New York City, designed the church. The parish house was built along-

side the church at the same time.

Buckhout designed and erected his home on the South Broadway site of the first Westchester County courthouse in White Plains, presently the site of the Armory.

Yesterday in White Plains, Railroad Avenue could boast of a sprinkler system. In the 1880's, this consisted of a wooden wagon with steel tires which was drawn by a single horse. On top of a wooden tank was the high seat of the driver, from which he could open the valve that controlled the spray of water across parched streets to lay the dust on hot summer days. Using a rope pulley, Baldwin Sutton got his water from the Bronx River, bucket by bucket, until his tank was filled.

Railroad Avenue merchants paid 25¢ weekly for this service. When he reached the store of a non-subscriber, Sutton turned the valve to "off," then back to "on" when he came to a client's place of business.

In December, 1896, several Railroad Avenue merchants got together and issued the following notice: "We, the undersigned merchants on Railroad Avenue, White Plains, propose to close our places of business after the first day of January, 1897, for the remaining winter months, viz: January, February and March, at 8 o'clock every evening, with the exception of Saturdays. Samuel Scott & Company, Edward Schirmer, New York Dry Goods Company, F. H. Nowill, Thomas J. Hamlitt, C. J. Ackerman, J. B. Cox, J. E. Bolt, A. B. Russe and Paul Pincus. Sketch: City of White Plains.