

THE
JOINT
FREE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
OF
MATAWAN

Nancy Wilbourn
C.O.E.

THE JOINT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF MATAWAN

The Matawan Free Public Library officially opened its doors to the public in a railroad express office in 1903. In 1918, the library moved into temporary quarters next to the post office. In 1921, a small cottage on the present site was purchased with public and private funds with the stipulation that the site and building be used for library purposes.

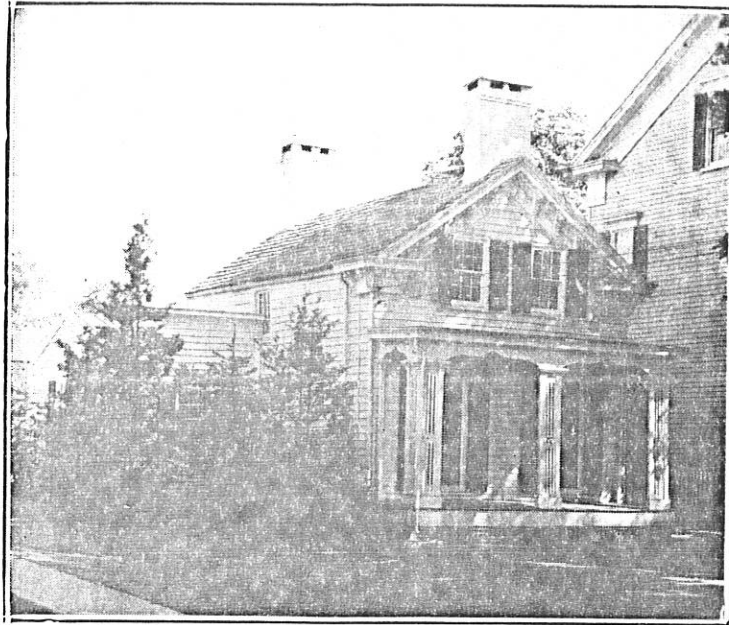
The present site of the Matawan Free Public Library was bought and altered for library use in 1921. This little cottage on Main and Park Avenue was built in 1830 as a private residence by Garret Conover. It was bought by the library for \$4,850, of which \$1,500 was a donation by Matawan Borough upon consideration that it be used for library purposes only.

The Library serviced the entire Matawan area and in 1934, the Township voted to give a yearly appropriation to the Borough supported library for the services supplied its residents, thereby paving

the way for the recent formation of a joint library.

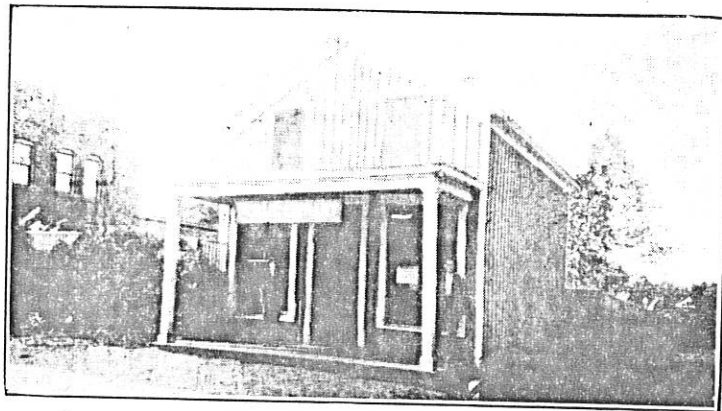
A branch of the library, containing part of the Children's collection, was then opened in the Oak Shades Fire House, but in 1935 it was moved to the Cliffwood School.

Things were relatively unchanged until November 5, 1963, when a public referendum was passed creating the Joint Free Public Library of Matawan.



FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, MAIN STREET AT PARK AVENUE

THE JOINT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF MATAWAN



OLD PUBLIC LIBRARY ON MAIN STREET, ABOUT 1910

Nancy Wilbourn

Chain of Command

The Library Board of Directors

/ /
Head Library Director
(Ms. Dolores McKeough)

/ /
Head Children's Library
(Ms. Vicky Erdreich)

/ /
Head Reference Librarian
(Mrs. G. Shafto)

/ /
Asst. Reference Librarian
(Mr. Thomas Jardula)

/ /
Adult Dept Head Clerk
(Mrs. I. O'Keefe)

Children's Dept. Head Clerk
(Mrs. T. Blackburn)

/ /
6 Clerks

/ /
4 Pages