

SHOPPING



1994

IN: Do you remember peddlers coming around selling things?

TC: Well, on the street there was a fish wagon. There was a grocery wagon, I think. ... Our gasoline for our cars was delivered by truck at the curb, and Mr. Goudswaard—G-o-u-d-s-w-a-r-d, I think it's spelled—used to come in. And he'd go into your garage and pick up whatever you had. We had two five-gallon things—two five-gallon cans. And he would take them around and he'd fill them up from his truck and put them back in the garage.

IN: Now, did your mother have—patronize any peddler, so to speak?

TC: There were a couple who came around. Our egg man lived and created eggs on Ackerman Avenue. He was just down the [street] from the house. The Bordon Stables was very interesting. Of course, in the winter they'd deliver their milk by sleigh. And they would allow us kids to hook our sleighs to the back of their big sleigh and ride all around town. The coal was delivered by a horse-drawn truck and put in chutes into the cellar so that people, in one way, were almost better off in those days. We didn't have to put up with the mobs in the stores and everything. Stuff was brought to them.



1994

IN: ... [F]irst of all, where did your mother shop? What kind of—what stores?

MS: ... Ridgewood had a lot. But then we went to Paterson for sports. The family—what were their names who lived in Ridgewood in those days—had the biggest sports store in Paterson. I'll think of their name. Anyway, then they had the open market in Paterson. Did you ever go there? Down near Meyer Brothers. Meyer Brothers was a big store. That was where we went for a lot of things in Paterson. When I was little we could go on the trolley, on the streetcar to Washington—I mean to Paterson on Washington Avenue. Anyway, we could take the streetcar down, which in my final year of high school, I guess we were allowed to do ourselves in those days. But they had the open market where you could buy live chickens and [chuckles] they'd kill them right there, and all the vegetables ...



2002

DB: There was, like, a department store. It was called—oh, I thought about it the other day—oh, Hood Steven. .. And that was an interesting store because that had—you paid at the counter. And the girl put it in a little tube and put it in the machine and sent it up—all the wires to go up to the balcony, was it? And then that store, they had a little bit of everything. I mean, you could buy bedding, like sheets and so forth, like that. And you could buy a few dresses and so forth, not many. And they had a counter where they'd sell gloves and pocketbooks and stuff like that. Otherwise, you went to Paterson... And in Paterson, this Quackenbush store there was a big department store. Now, when I do the Quackenbush genealogy, we're related to Peter Quackenbush, who started that store.



1994

IN: When you lived here in Ridgewood where did you like to go to shop? ... For groceries, you go down to the—

CC: Yeah, well, I would go to the—then they finally built a big A&P. It was on Broad Street near—near the railroad, I guess it was.

IN: Dayton.

CC: I used to go there and I didn't drive at first so I'd go do the shopping. Then my husband would pick me up ... and bring me home. And then I used to shop at the corner store up here, which was a Great Eastern in those days but is a bank now and a candy store. And we went once and I think it was around '39—1939 to what they called the first supermarket around. ... It was called the Big Bear in Paterson. And we came home with about eight bags full of groceries, all things you need, salt, pepper and— ... frozen—or dried peas and beans and so forth. ... About five, six, seven bags of groceries for \$20.



2002

AM: [S]o did people do all their shopping right in town?

GM: We used to go to Paterson for certain things that you couldn't get in town. We'd take the bus into Paterson. They had Murray's and Quackenbush's there. ... The big department stores. ... I think my mother did a lot of the food shopping in Hohokus. ... She used to call her order in and I guess there's a young boy that pulled it up on a wagon, [laughter] and had to come across the railroad tracks at Hohokus and up the hill there. ... Because we were just about a couple blocks from there.

AM: Mm-hmm, and did you have your milk delivered and—

GM: Yes, yes. Ice, vegetables, all those things. ... However, we grew a lot of ours. I didn't but my ... father did. ... Oh, he had all kinds of vegetables and berries and fruit trees and flowers. Yeah, I remember we had asparagus beds and that was one job. I had to keep it weeded and then when they were in season I had to cut them every day [chuckles]—so we each had our own jobs [unclear] set up for us.



1994

MC: ... And I remember watching those grocery clerks tie up these fantastic packages. You know, they didn't use paper bags then. They took a large piece of brown paper off a roll— ... and spread it out on the counter. And then they stacked the groceries neatly and then folded the paper up over it, put string around it. And they were so dexterous—it was just fantastic—and then fastened one of those wooden holders that had— ... two little wire— ... clips on.