

D. G. Sprague, Rev. J. Allen Maxwell, Lewis B. Henry, Edwin H. Mead, Joseph L. Taintor, Phineas Bartlett, Eugene H. Durand, Joseph W. Taylor and Moses A. Peck. Stephen Ballard was appointed librarian in 1865 at an annual salary of \$150, and from which he was expected to pay an assistant. At the close of the first year there were 139 members on the roster, and 567 volumes on the shelves. The library was incorporated under the general laws of the State on October 25, 1886, the incorporators being Carl Edward Billquist, president; Bella C. Morrow, vice-president; Henry F. Hitch, treasurer; Margaret Howard White, secretary, and Annie Redmond Cross, Lily Page Ely, Bella C. Brown, Sophia Rutan Connett, Henry Lilly, Frank A. Wright. An offer of Eugene V. Connett, on November 28, 1894, to furnish a lot on the west side of Scotland road, at Taylor place, for the erection of a stone or brick building to be used for library purposes, was conditioned upon the raising of \$7,500, the estimated amount of the construction. This was raised, and Mr. Connett increased the size of the lot by an addition of twenty-five feet. Formal opening was on May 8, 1896, the address being made by Edward Self, a longtime resident of the village; James McC. Morrow reported that \$7,743.98 was contributed and expended in the enterprise and that the association was free of debt; Mrs. Edwin H. Mead contributed a beautiful clock in memory of her husband; T. O'Connor Sloane was given credit as the one securing the first subscription to the building fund; appreciation was expressed to Mr. Connett for his generous gift of the land, and Harmon H. Hart, president of the Village Board of Trustees, also expressed the appreciation of the village officially. The total number of books in the library was 4,571. In May, 1920, the number had increased to 10,796. The officers are: President, H. J. Schnell; vice-president, James Marshall; secretary, Irwin Berry; treasurer, A. T. Brainard. Miss Julia Schneider is the librarian.

For the purpose of encouraging outdoor sports and for the promotion of social intercourse, a group of athletes and others meeting at the home of William Frederick Allen, on June 14, 1889, decided to form an organization in which these two features would have a wide scope. An agreement was signed by forty-four tentative members to become identified with it under by-laws to be "hereafter adopted, the initiation fee to be five dollars." This was the creation of the South Orange Field Club, one of the most widely known athletic organizations in northern New Jersey, and which has for a third of a century sustained the true spirit of the sportsman who loved a good game in the great outdoors! The first officers chosen were: President, Reune Martin; vice-president, William H. Curtis; treasurer, Henry W. Freeman; secretary, Robert Speer. During the summer of 1889 baseball and tennis were played on Dr. Fenner's field, and in the autumn a five-year lease was effected with the Meadow Land Society for use of the field north of South Orange avenue and be-

*Pierson David Lawrence, History of the Oranges
to 1921. N.Y., Lewis Historical Publ. Co., 1922*

tween the Lackawanna railroad and the East Branch of the Rahway river, the society practically agreeing to grade the land and bring it to a condition needed by the club. Edwin H. Mead presented the barn occupying part of the premises, to be used as the club house, which, after being remodeled and otherwise improved, served well its purpose. A bowling alley was added and part of the field was flooded in the winter months and skating enjoyed. Tennis courts and baseball were played in the summer and other games were introduced as the demand was created for them. In January, 1895, the club house was destroyed by fire. Arrangements were at once made for the erection of a specially designed building, costing about \$11,000.

When golf became a popular outdoor sport a course was opened in the immediate vicinity, in line with the progressive ideas of the founders, that games tending to prove the mettle of true sportsmen should be fostered by the club. The membership in 1920 was 475, and the officers were: President, Arthur A. Kreuter; vice-president and secretary, Harold Milbank; treasurer, Charles W. Hodson.

Rev. Louis Cameron, rector of the Church of the Holy Communion, and one of the best known men of the village, was seized with a serious illness in the autumn of 1909, and a flood of sympathy poured into the rectory from every direction. The beloved minister, the faithful guardian of the parish since November 1, 1895, had also served several local organizations, notably Century Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, as its Master. There was but one thought in the public mind when his spirit took flight into the other world—that a memorial should be erected to his name and kindly offices. Subscriptions were quickly forthcoming and the five-acre tract situated on the east branch of the Rahway river was purchased and turned over to the village authorities as the playground for the children and in memory of Rev. Mr. Cameron. It was dedicated in 1912 as the Cameron Field. A walk was laid from South Orange avenue to the entrance of the ground, and there the boys and girls find ample space and apparatus to play to their hearts' content.

William Frederick Allen, who came to South Orange in 1880 and settled on Ralston avenue, was the inventor of the Standard Time, now used in every part of the world.) In 1875 he was elected permanent secretary of the Railway Time Convention, in which all the railway companies of the country were members. Mr. Allen presented to the association at their meeting in April, 1883, a report advocating the adoption of a complete system of standardizing time which he had devised, providing for an elastic instead of a rigid boundary line between the hour sections, designated every point on the boundary lines where the change from one hour section to the other was to be made, arranged a method of passing from the use of one hour standard to another without danger of interference or mistake, and proposed nothing that could not be adopted

Esther M. Kilduff
225 Vose Avenue
South Orange, N.J. 07079

Rabbi Jehiel Orenstein, President
South Orange Historical Society
South Orange, N.J. 07079

June 8, 1978

Dear Rabbi Orenstein:

Re CAMERON FIELD, SOUTH ORANGE, N.J.

I am handing you herewith a list of events and documents starting with the origin of Cameron Field, South Orange, which was deeded to the Village of South Orange 12/20/1911 "for a free public playground and for no other purpose", and was dedicated 5/30/1914; and the lawsuit which was filed 6/18/69 to prevent the Village from building a subscription pool complex in Cameron Field. Among the items listed, I am giving you the following:

The first three items were delivered to you June 1, 1977. The others are:

- 5/7/69 Message to Villagers urging them to fight the proposed Village Ordinance for a subscription pool complex in Cameron Field.
- 5/19/69 Ordinance passed by Village underwriting the subscription pool in Cameron Field.
- 6/18/69 Complaint filed by Leo T. Lander et al. vs. Village of South Orange et al.
- 8/4/69 Answer filed by Defendants
- 4/2/70 Plaintiffs file appeal from the Judgment of the Superior Court Law Division, in favor of Defendants.

Brief for Plaintiffs-Appellants
Brief for Defendants-Respondents
- 10/8/70 "Action on Certification-ORDER" transferring appeal from Superior Court Appellate Division to the Supreme Court, at the request of the Defendants.

Supplemental Brief for Plaintiffs-Appellants
Supplemental Brief for Defendants-Respondents
- 11/10/70 Notice of case called for Argument Nov. 24th in Supreme Court
- 6/28/71 Supreme Court Opinion delivered by Justice Hall. Judgment of the Law Division is reversed in favor of Plaintiffs.
- 9/7/72 News release - Village authorizes new pool plans in Cameron Field - all free.

In addition I am handing you miscellaneous papers and news releases, some of them referred to in "The Story of Cameron Field" told to your Society June 23, 1977. I think they will also be of interest.

Sincerely,

Esther Kilduff

CAMERON FIELD, SOUTH ORANGE, N. J.

- 5/30/1914 History of Cameron Field, Dedication ceremonies.
- 11/9/1909 Certificate of Incorporation of Cameron Field
- 12/20/1911 Deed from Cameron Field, a corporation, to Village of South Orange "for a free public playground and for no other purpose".
- 5/7/69 Message to Villagers urging them to fight proposed Ordinance for subscription pool complex in Cameron Field
- 5/19/69 Ordinance passed by Village of South Orange at public hearing, authorizing \$630,000 bonds plus \$50,000 capital funds to underwrite subscription pool complex in Cameron Field.
- Committee to Save Cameron Field was organized. Led by Leo Kilduff it included Leo and Doris Lander, Albert and Beatrice Lipowitz, E. Everett and Margaret Ames Auer, Margaret Manley and Esther Kilduff.
- 6/18/69 Complaint filed by Leo T. Lander and Doris Lander, his wife, Albert Lipowitz and Beatrice Lipowitz, his wife, and Esther Kilduff, Plaintiffs in Superior Court of New Jersey Law Division: Essex County vs. Village of South Orange, Village President, and the Board of Trustees of the Village of South Orange, and the Parks and Recreation Committee, Defendants.
- 8/4/69 Answer filed by Defendants
- Plaintiffs Trial Brief
Defendants Trial Brief
- Hearings before Judge Samuel Allcorn, Jr. J.S.C.
- 2/20/70 Opinion filed by Judge Allcorn (Printed in APPENDIX for appeal listed below)
- 3/5/70 Judgment by Judge Allcorn filed in favor of Defendants, without costs.
- 4/2/70 Plaintiffs Leo T. Lander et al. file appeal to Superior Court Appellate Division from the Judgment of the Superior Court Law Division, in favor of Defendants
- APPENDIX for Appellate Division - contains Complaint, Answer, Opinion by Judge Allcorn, Judgment by Judge Allcorn, Notice of Appeal
- Brief for Plaintiffs-Appellants
Brief for Defendants-Respondents
- "Motion for Certification of Appeal Pending Unheard in Appellate Division," filed by Defendants-Respondents in Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- 10/8/70 "Action on Certification - ORDER" Hon. Joseph Weintraub, Chief Justice, Supreme Court, at Trenton, transferring appeal to Supreme Court
- Supplemental Briefs for Plaintiffs-Appellants and Defendants-Respondents
- 11/10/70 Notice of case called for argument Nov. 24th, in Supreme Court, Trenton, N.J.
- 11/24/70)
3/9/71)
6/28/71) Case argued in Supreme Court
- Supreme Court Opinion delivered by Justice Hall. Judgment of Law Division is reversed in favor of Plaintiffs.
- 9/7/72 News release - Village authorizes new pool plans in Cameron Field, including large pool with diving area and toddler's pool - all free.

NEWS - RECORD

of Maplewood and South Orange, New Jersey

Court rules

Cameron Field to remain
'free public playground'

The state Supreme Court reversed an earlier lower court ruling Monday, and concluded that the words "free public playground" in the deed restriction to Cameron Field, South Orange, "must be interpreted to mean a playground open to all without any charge and that the restriction would be violated by a swimming pool complex operated on the premises... on a membership fee basis."

Much elated by the Supreme Court's decision which seemed to prove that you can, indeed, fight Village Hall, Miss Esther Kilduff, plaintiff with Mr. and Mrs. Leo T. Lander and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lipowitz, said she and her brother Leo C. Kilduff agree "it was worth the fight."

A group of citizens, the South Orange Committee to Save Cameron Field, launched a fund-raising drive in November, 1969, in

an effort to stop Village Trustees from putting an enlarged, subscription pool in place of the free pool which now stands in Cameron Field.

Cameron Field, they said, should be maintained as a free public park and the pool should be put on the waterlands, where, in 1968, it was originally scheduled to go.

Supreme Court Justice John J. Francis removed himself from consideration of the case when his son, the current Village president, entered local politics.

President Francis says the Trustees are doing "very preliminary" work on plans to put the pool on the Village waterlands, behind Wells Cadillac. They are seeking an architectural and engineering firm to handle soil and other studies, and to review other studies that have already been made. They are also seeking "some advice on

whether we should carry the pool completely by subscription or if we should put in some tax money for carrying charges."

The Trustees, he said, had been committed to retaining Cameron Field as a free playground area regardless of the Supreme Court's decision.

Swim pool plans had included a fee of \$65 for family membership, \$30 for single and \$10 for a senior citizen membership with swimmer'ships available for those who could not afford the fee. Funds collected as deposits from interested parties are still being held in an interest-bearing account. What the new plan will call for by way of fees, plans, facilities, is unknown at this time, but Mr. Francis hopes to break ground for a new pool on the waterlands site next summer.

Supreme Court decision

(Continued on page 6)

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points out the lower court decision was based on the judge's opinion that the use of the words "free" and "public" meant pretty much the same thing — merely, "open and accessible to all," which the facility would be (by fee payment or swimmership).

The higher court, however, concerned that there had been no precise municipal action on the use of the pool by residents unable to afford the annual fee, called this to the attention of Village Council.

The opinion continues, "we were thereafter advised that the governing body decided in executive session and not as an official action that a regulatory ordinance be later adopted that would provide for a daily membership fee."

Not yet completely satisfied on that aspect of the plans, the court brings up the point that municipalities might be required to make "a facility as universally appealing as a swimming pool available for use, under some undemeaning method by those members of the community who cannot afford substantial membership fees."

Finally, although the Court ruled that "there can no longer be any doubt that the installation and operation of a municipal swimming pool, with substantial use charges computed on a membership basis, is permissible as a playground facility," it also noted:

"This brings us to a consideration of the rather tight deed restriction here involved — 'to be used only for the purpose of a free public playground, and for no other purpose.' Were it not for this language, the village's use fee scheme might well pass muster. . . Here we have the two words used not only together but successively. One cannot reasonably think that in this carefully drawn deed, identical meanings were intended. What evidence there is. . . indicates the desire of the donor to make this small tract available as a playground for all the children of the village and especially for those who. . . presumably could not afford to pay to use it."

SENT TO EVERY CHURCH, SYNAGOGUE, CIVIC GROUP;
CIRCULATED IN STORES IN VILLAGE; and
DISTRIBUTED TO HOMES IN PART OF VILLAGE

May 7, 1969

SOUTH ORANGE PEOPLE
SAVE OUR PARK - SAVE OUR POOL

The 19th of May, nineteen hundred sixty-nine
The place is Village Hall - eight o'clock is the time.
The VILLAGE TRUSTEES - seven men - that's the number
Are planning to take from our Park and our Village
FIVE ACRES OF PARKLAND IN CAMERON FIELD

The Ordinance already has been introduced.
VILLAGE BONDS, six hundred thirty thousand, will be used.
All that will be left on that side of the brook
Is the baseball field - at the plans take a look.

They will build on this parkland a CLUB THAT'S EXCLUSIVE
1500 families, for a fee, will have all the use of
Swimming pools, diving areas Olympic in size,
Shuffle board, tether ball, other games besides,
A clubhouse with snack bar and lockers to dress,
Cars parked 1500, a bridge for access.

And if 1500 families will not pay the fee,
WE'LL LET IN OUTSIDERS - say the seven trustees
2700 families - THE ONES THAT ARE LEFT -
LOSE THEIR POOL, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, TENNIS COURTS
and the rest.

CAMERON FIELD, 1911, A FREE GIFT - READ THE DEED:

"the premises herein conveyed are to be used
only for the purpose of a free public play-ground,
and for no other purpose."

May 19, '69, 8 o'clock, Village Hall
The Ordinance will then come up for discussion
Save our park, save our pool from this dishonest action.

You are only one person - you say you don't count.
Use your presence, your voice - help the opposition mount.
Man, woman or child, you are part of this action.
Save our park, save our pool - end dissatisfaction.

Remembers these letters - S.O.P., S.O.P.
SAVE OUR PARK, SAVE OUR POOL, the one that is free!

Esther Kilduff
South Orange Village
"This is my thing."

May 7, 1969.

NEWS - RECORD

of Maplewood and South Orange, New Jersey

— for the Record

Thanks to the people of South Orange

To the Editor:

A word of thanks to the people of South Orange. First, I would like to thank the News-Record for its impartial attitude towards the construction of a subscription pool in Cameron Field.

Next, I would like to congratulate and thank our lawyer, since it was he who found out, and proved to be false, the statements by our Trustees that they had a clear title to Cameron Field.

To the people of South Orange who supported us both financially and in the voting booths, what can I say except it proved that you can fight City Hall and

win—if you want to put your time and your energies and all you've got into it.

And finally, to the original group who spent so much time and money and worked unceasingly to the very end, they know how I feel towards each of them.

Leo C. Kilduff

225 Vose Avenue
South Orange

Pet legislation

To the Editor:

I am asking the residents of Maplewood and South Orange to please write their state Senators and Assemblymen. We want them to urge the governor to sign Bill A 852. This bill was unanimously passed by the Assembly and Senate on May 6, but it still has not

been signed by Governor Cahill.

The bill prohibits the sale or transfer of dogs and cats from pounds or shelters for experimentation. This is urgently needed legislation, but obviously not to our governor. The Friends of Animals and The National Catholic Society for Animal Welfare demands that lost, stray and unwanted animals stop being tortured — please write.

Linda Klausner

764 Scotland Road
South Orange

Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words or less. This is, roughly, 25 lines of type copy. Only signed letters, with home addresses, will be published.



