



Settled in  
1665

# RUMSON

## Borough Bulletin

SUMMER  
1987  
Vol. XIII  
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CHARLES F. PATERNO, M.D.  
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LORRAINE J. WATSON .. Asst. Administrator  
WILL MORRISEY ..... Editor



The Old Lafayette Street School (K thru 6). Situated on what is now Rogers Park. The building was demolished circa 1959. View from Church Street.



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## Borough Bulletin

CHARLES S. CALLMAN  
*Mayor*

WINTER  
1992  
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### ADMINISTRATION

### Emergency Phone Numbers

Rumson Police Department      842-0500  
Rumson Fire Department        842-0500  
Rumson First Aid                 842-0500



OCEANIC PUBLIC SCHOOL

*Oceanic N.Y.  
Dec 28 1903  
Compliments of  
the Holiday season  
and best wishes  
for 1904  
C.H. Walling*

*This particular "Penny Post Card" served both as a view of Lafayette Street School and a New Year's greeting card for 1904.*



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# RUMSON

## Borough Bulletin

SUMMER  
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CHARLES S. CALLMAN  
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Clerk Administrator  
Editor



*MISS DEANE'S FIRST GRADE CLASS — LAFAYETTE STREET SCHOOL — JUNE 23, 1941*

*TOP ROW: Shirley Torborg, Paula Covert, Jack Huntsman, Ralph \_\_\_\_\_,  
Creighton Parks, Jim McGuiness, Catherine Lockwood, and Robin Gray Lewis.*

*2ND ROW: John Noonan, Jean Harrington, Jeanne Friscia, John Branin, and Barbara Francis.*

*FRONT ROW: John Brighton, Jim Scalzo, John Desmond, Joe Sorrentino, Jack Kingsbury, Lillian Shea,  
Harvey Tilton, Ann Hogan, Marilyn Chapman, and Louise Bond.*

Photo loaned by Jeanne Friscia Cuje

## ALL ABOUT RUMSON

### *Lafayette Street School*

The children in the cover photograph of Miss Laura Deane's 1941 first grade class are standing on the steps of the Lafayette Street School. The school was constructed in 1893 on the corner of Church and Lafayette Streets on property which was once the home of the Bergen Tomato Canning Factory, one of Rumson's early industries. An older school building, which dated back to 1872, had been on the site and was moved across the street when the Lafayette Street School, at times also known as Oceanic High School, was built. Known later as Red Men's Hall, the building is now a private home and furniture restoration business. In the business section of the building can still be seen traces of the former school gymnasium and stage.

In the beginning, the school had ample capacity for Kindergarten through tenth grade, but there was already need for expansion by 1908 when four classrooms were added. At the turn of the last century, a tenth grade education was considered adequate for most students, and the Rumson school district graduated students with diplomas at that point. Any student who chose to complete the final two years of high school was sent by the Rumson Board of Education to Red Bank High School. At one time, each student was provided with \$.15 per day for the trolley ride along River Road to Broad Street. The students walked the remaining distance to the high school, which was then located in the current Red Bank Middle School. The late Doris Shultz often reminisced about the temptation to spend the return trolley fare on ice cream or treats on Broad Street and then the effort to make the long walk home. Only about half of the Rumson tenth grade graduates continued on to finish high school at Red Bank.

Due to the dedicated efforts of Board of Education member Bertram Borden, Rumson High School was planned in the early 1930's. During the planning and construction period, the state gave temporary permission for a few classes to earn a four-year high school degree while still attending Lafayette Street School. After the tenth grade graduates of the class of 1932, the school advanced the remaining students to eleventh and twelfth grades. The Class of 1935 was the first to graduate with a four-year high school diploma. Some notable Rumson residents were members of that class which included: Bill Boyce, Ethel Hillstrom Eager, Louis Mellaci, Otto Perl, Doris Pomphrey Robinson, John Ryan and Otto Strohmenger. On January 6, 1936, grades 7-12 moved to the newly completed Rumson High School building. Kindergarten through grade six continued to be housed at the old school, but the growing community quickly began to need more classrooms.

By the 1950's, Lafayette Street School was in such poor condition that children were unable to play on the playground anywhere near the building due to the danger of falling bricks and shingles. The building was crowded and outdated, and the community replaced it with Forrestdale School, which was completed in 1957. Lafayette Street School was demolished, and Rogers Park and tennis courts occupy the site today.