

MOVING TO RIDGEWOOD



OC: My family came to Ridgewood from Brooklyn in 1911, being my mother and father. I'd had a brother who died at the age of 18 months.

DP: And why did you come?

OC: It was suggested to us by a couple of doctors in the New York, Brooklyn area that they considered Ridgewood one of the healthiest places in the whole metropolitan area and suggested that—my younger brother, having died of whooping cough—that it would be well for my mother and father to move with me to Ridgewood, which we did in 1911, I then being about 18 months old. We settled on the west side of Ridgewood in a new home on Godwin Avenue.



DP: When did you move into town?

SB: We moved to Ridgewood ... in the spring of 1914.

...

DP: Okay, why did you move into town? What prompted the move?

SB: Well, my father had a wholesale candy business in Manhattan, Columbus Confectionary Company, manufacturers of quality chocolates and bonbons and that. And he had quite a number of customers in northern New Jersey, including Ridgewood, like Costa's Fruit Store, Cuneo's Confectionary, Addick's Confectionary and other stores. And he liked Ridgewood because it had a fast commuting train to Jersey City. The Bergen County Express was Ridgewood, Jersey City, no stops. It took about 30 minutes to Jersey City and there he took a ferry to Chamber Street and he walked up to his factory on 479 Pearl Street.



2002

AM: Oh, okay. And let's see. How long had your family lived in Ridgewood, your parents?

...

GM: I think they moved here about three months before I was born.

AM: Oh, and do you know why they moved to Ridgewood?

GM: Well, they came from Brooklyn. My father had relatives here that he—so they came out and they liked it so they decided to settle here.

AM: I see. And did your father work in Ridgewood or did he work in New York?

GM: New York.



1994

EK: There wasn't a single house at that time for sale in Essex County. We saw it in the "New York Times" in advertisement for the house, just what we wanted, with two bedrooms and a bath on the first floor, and three bedrooms and a bath on the second floor in Ridgewood. It was long before Route 17 was built so it was very difficult to get to Ridgewood from Essex County, because you—everyone got lost in coming through Paterson, which was the only way to come up. We came to Ridgewood, saw what a lovely town it was, and in two hours we put a deposit down on a very nice home. ... The address was— ... 297 Highwood Avenue.



1994

DP: ... When did your family first come to Ridgewood, Mary?

MC: My parents came to Ridgewood probably about 1908.

DP: Uh-huh, and why?

MC: Well, I think it was my—either my grandmother or my uncle, probably my grandmother and grandfather who came first— ... They had lived in Brooklyn and both of my parents had lived in Brooklyn before they were married. And my grandmother, Mary Harrison, for whom I was named, and her husband—and I always think of her first because she was the dynamic member [chuckles] of the family—they bought a little farm, four acres. And it was on Erie Street, which is now Morningside Road, much fancier. And they came out. Then my uncle and his wife, who probably

had no children then, came out. And they bought a house of the corner of Heights Road and Phelps Road, lived there for many years. And which ones came out first and which ones second and third, I don't know.

...

DP: [H]ow did Brooklynites get over here to Ridgewood?

MC: Well, that was what was happening in Brooklyn. They were moving to Ridgewood. When I was growing up, everybody in Ridgewood had come from either Brooklyn or Paterson and a few had come from Hackensack. That was the mix here.