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The Atomic Manufacturing Company of East Pittsburgh salutes the Borough of Forest Hills on its Golden Jubilee.

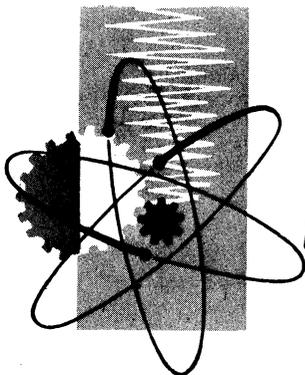
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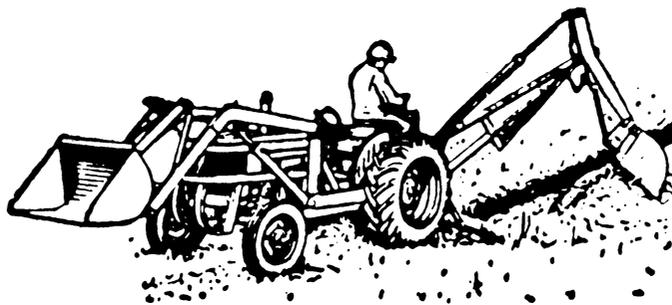
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# OUR ENVIRONMENT

## RECREATION & SPORTS

### LIVABILITY

Many years ago people in our community found various outlets in the field of sports and recreation! It is hard to believe with the sophisticated Recreation programs and Recreation Boards of 1969, (in our Borough and in the Churchill Area School District) that people had any fun in the old days – far from it!!

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## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### TENNIS

Tennis courts were located in at least a few different areas including the Hawthorne School playground and the Bryn Mawr court at Woodside Road. In the Valley, off a cinder lane near Cascade Road, was a private tennis club. There was also the Poison Ivy Tennis courts on the right-hand side, half-way up Avenue F in the Westinghouse Plan. But the most famous were the Westinghouse Courts on the Greensburg Pike. These were about the finest tennis courts in the 30's in the state of Pennsylvania, and many championships were played there. The first tennis club house was a wooden structure which was torn down when facilities later moved into the KDKA station, which became the *Westinghouse Recreation Center or Lodge*.

Just for the records, some good tennis players were produced, and we had real State Champions like *Joy Liken* in later years.

### SWIMMING HOLES

There was a small swimming dam away up behind the Borough Building and in the vicinity of the Formas Club Golf Association. Many residents in their 60's did a lot of swimming in the old "reservoir" when there was only one side of the Ardmore Boulevard. This location was down below the old Westinghouse Research Building and near the present pizza shop (Fall Hollow). The rest of us went swimming at old Rock Bottom, an exciting and deep stone-quarry basin. Some brave souls used to dive from the 60-foot-high rock ledges on the one side. "Rock Bottom" was actually in Braddock Hills and was finally built over by a housing plan.

SCENES AT THE "OLD SWIMMIN' HOLE"  
WESTINGHOUSE RESERVOIR  
DAM BELOW THE OLD RESEARCH LAB.

### ARCHERY

We don't want to forget the archery experts as personified by both *Mr. and Mrs. Turnock* from Bryn Mawr.

### BOWLING

*Bowling* was popular at the auditorium alleys-(building owned by *Al Koch*) and also in neighboring Wilkinsburg.

### GOLF

Would you believe . . . . . two golf courses were found here in our early history . . . . . and now there are none!

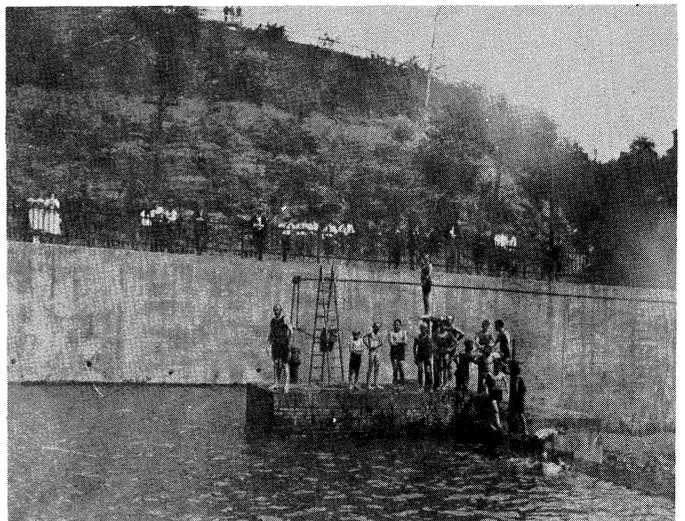
#### Pup's Foot

**1920's** *Pup's Foot* golf course was a well known 9-hole course in Allegheny County in the late '20's.

About the time of World War I, the Edgewood Country Club gave up its original club and course which was mostly in Forest Hills Borough of the future. It ran approximately from the Hawthorne School Acrea to Edgewood and Braddock Township and into Wilkinsburg. Most of this area was finally part of our Borough acquired by the Freehold Real Estate Company. It became a popular course called the *Pup's Foot Golf Course* and was operated by Mr. McIntosh. The club house later became the GI Tavern and was located where today is the mini-shopping center on Brinton Road. When Freehold developed Hawthorne and Edgewood Road the "boom" was lowered on the Pup's Foot operations.

#### Formas Golf Club

**1931** There was a small golf course up near the Greensburg Pike which was later relinquished or merged with the *Formas Golf Club* about 1931. The land was obtained at the right price on a lease from the Freehold Company for \$1.00 a year and was located on the right side of the creek above the Borough Building.



Some of the site is now known as "Forest Hills Manor" including extensions of Atlantic Avenue, Barclay Avenue and others. It ran clear up to the Greensburg Pike and was eventually an eighteen-hole golf course. The number twelve hole was about where the Lutheran Church now stands on Barclay Avenue. By 1935 there were 180 season members.

It was self-supporting and very popular for about ten years when the operation more or less evaporated about the time of World War II.

With inflation and today's cost of Country Club memberships, many residents can't help but wish one of our handy golf courses was still on the scene!

## SKIING, TOBAGGANING, & ICE SKATING

Other popular sports included tobogganing and skiing in the winter on our two golf courses. Of course, all this was before county parks and professional ski slopes!

Ice skating was also very popular and many of the youngsters and adults traveled to the old Duquesne Gardens on Craig Street in Oakland. Well meaning efforts were directed by the Rotary Club and the Civic Club as well as the borough government in flooding the old pound at the lower section of the Borough Park. In later years, the upper area was cement-based for an improved version of ice-skating.

## MOVIES

B. D. — Before Drive-Ins

B. T. — Before TV

In the old days, there were movies to attend at both ends of our Borough. It was a must to go to Wilkinsburg to the Rowland or Colonial on Saturdays to see how the current hero of the serials managed to survive! In East Pittsburgh, the spots were the Rivoli and the Frederick. Depending on your generation, you may recall the silent movies at these theatres and the "bouncing ball" screen sing-ins as well as the inevitable piano player.

In the contemporary 50's, the Civic Club sponsored extremely popular series of movies for a few years at the Atlantic Avenue School. They were not only popular but good money-makers! In the 60's, the Woman's Club held movies for the children.

## BASEBALL

Before and after 1915, baseball teams played on site of and around old Westinghouse Research Building. Here Mucklerat, Hannatown, and Ardmore played it out.

The picture here shows the *Forest Hills JRS* baseball team on the old Central site of the School Board where now stands the Forest Hills Junior High — Early 1920's.

Front Row (seated): Howard Dale, James Dale, James McGuigan, John Kennedy, Pete Franey

Back Row (standing): Mort Downey, Bernard McGuigan, Walt Seibert, *Mgr:* Joe McGuigan, John Heatherington, James Boyle, John Homer



## HISTORY OF FOREST HILLS RECREATION

In the field of recreation, our borough is blessed with many advantages and facilities including fine *Community Parks* and excellent *volunteer leadership*.

In 1934 our *Borough Council* had the foresight to purchase or acquire a tract of land which is now a garden spot and center of recreation in our borough. In the late '30's the *W.P.A.* built walls and mapped blueprints of the *park*. The *Garden Club* planted the grounds and finally by 1949 the *Park* was paid off. Over the years our *Forest Hills School* system has truly carried the burden of our organized recreation program. In the earlier history of this community the *old Civic Club* and today the *post-war Civic Club* have made many contributions such as playground equipment and heading up 4th of July Community Days. The *Churches* have been influential in *youth training* and character building along with your *Rotary* and *Lions Service Clubs*. These clubs have sponsored Little League and other ball teams. The *Woman's Club* has sponsored youth and adult dances as well as movies. The *P.T.A.* has sponsored a successful *summer* playground recreation program, and the *Westinghouse Recreation Center's* diversified activities served three municipalities. The *Bryn Mawr Club* has promoted many civic improvements and conducts a traditional and successful annual Corn Roast for its members.

## PARK ASSOCIATION

**1938** The object of this dedicated organization was to assist in the maintenance and use of the Borough park, and to plan the development and use of areas of parks for play grounds and recreation purposes. It was also to protect the birds, trees, and the plantings being made by the *Garden Club*.

**1938 COMMUNITY DAY** was inaugurated to celebrate the 4th of July! The first celebration was sponsored by the *Civic Club* and *Frank Kelley*, pioneer businessman. Proclamation by *Mayor Koch* — June 25th, 1938.

**1953-55 SWIMMING POOL COMMITTEES** — Bill Zoller

**1954 BOROUGH PROPERTY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In 1954 an important step forward was the creating of the *Borough Property Planning Committee*. This non-partisan advisory group has *representation* from the leading organizations and clubs in Forest Hills and was formed to *co-ordinate planning* and *surveys*. The group studied swimming pools, tennis, etc. The Borough Property Planning Committee will conduct a professional survey.

## NOVEMBER 1956

**RECREATION MEETING** — Sponsored by the *Junior Department* of the *Woman's Club*.

**1957 BOROUGH SURVEY APPROVED FOR 1958**

**RECREATIONAL MEETING** was jointly sponsored by the

*Borough Recreation Committee* and the *Borough Property Planning Committee*, along with some fifty civic and recreational leaders from the community. Joe Swartz was President of the BPPC

## 1957 BOROUGH RECREATION COMMITTEE

Borough Council appointed a *Recreation Committee* to make studies and recommend a positive program for the benefit of Forest Hills. After a year of study and meetings, the following Committee members submitted the highlights of their recommendations to interested citizens, and individual Council and School Board members:

Mr. John A. Franklin . . . . . *Chairman*, Borough Council  
Mrs. Virginia Fetterman . . . . . Representing Women's Activities  
Dr. D. Paul Jones . . . . . Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Albert B. Smith, Jr. . . . . School Board  
Mr. R. W. Wentworth . . . . . Representing Men's Activities and  
(Secretary) Borough Property Planning Committee

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**1966 Recreation Board Created By Borough Council** (See Recreation Board section)

**1968 Swimming Pool and Recreation Lodge** was completed. Splash Down . . . . . Memorial Day, June 30, 1968!

Forest Hills' pride and joy was the culmination of many years' efforts by individuals and civic organizations' sweat and tears!

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## OUR PARKS

### THE BOROUGH PARK

**1934** Braddock Road and Ardmore Boulevard (see article on History)

### KOCH PARK

**1964** Koch Park was given to the Borough by Roland Catarinella and contains more than four acres. It is located in Forest Hills Manor between Filmore Road and Sharon Drive.

### FOREST WOODLAND PARK

#### (Project 70)

**1966** Forest Woodland Park is the name of our newest purchase of Project 70 land and contains about 18 acres of land behind the Westinghouse Lodge, on the Greensburg Pike. It was sold to Forest Hills Borough by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation for about \$50,000. The State of Pennsylvania allocated \$25,000 for the purchase of this land under Project 70 and the remaining \$25,000 was reimbursed by a Federal Open Space Acquisition Act. The presence of this park will be left in its natural state with some trails being cleared.

### BRIGHT PARKLET

**1964** Mrs. Alice (Bright) Stott gave the Borough a small park, formerly part of the Bright homestead, in memory of her father Graham Bright, a pioneer citizen of Forest Hills.

## 1966 THE RECREATION BOARD

The Recreation Board of Forest Hills was created by ordinance at the *March 9, 1966*, meeting of Borough Council. Original members appointed to serve on the Board were; Mr. John Bischoff, Joseph M. Massey, Parks R. Toolin, John R. McElfish, Robert G. Boscia, Mrs. William F. Fetterman, Daniel M. Poore — (seven man Board). First official meeting of the Rec. Board was held March 14, 1966 at the Borough Building, with the following officers elected — John Bischoff, Chairman, P. R. Toolin, Treas. & V. S. Fetterman, Sec'y.

The present Board consists of; P. R. Toolin, Dan Poore, Virginia S. Fetterman, Edward Paxson, Wm. Zoller, Mrs. Lawrence Shackleton, Tom Goodheart.

Accomplishments over the less than past three years:

1. Koch Park development (long range — still a lot to do).
2. Project "70" Land (purchased by Borough at Rec. Bd. recommendations).
3. Swimming Pool planned & completed (Swimming Pool Committee was the first committee appointed by the Recreation Board to serve under it and accomplish what is now a complete project).
4. Summer "Splash Parties" for both Hi School and Jr. High (different nights) students, held at the Swimming Pool & Recreation Lodge in summer.

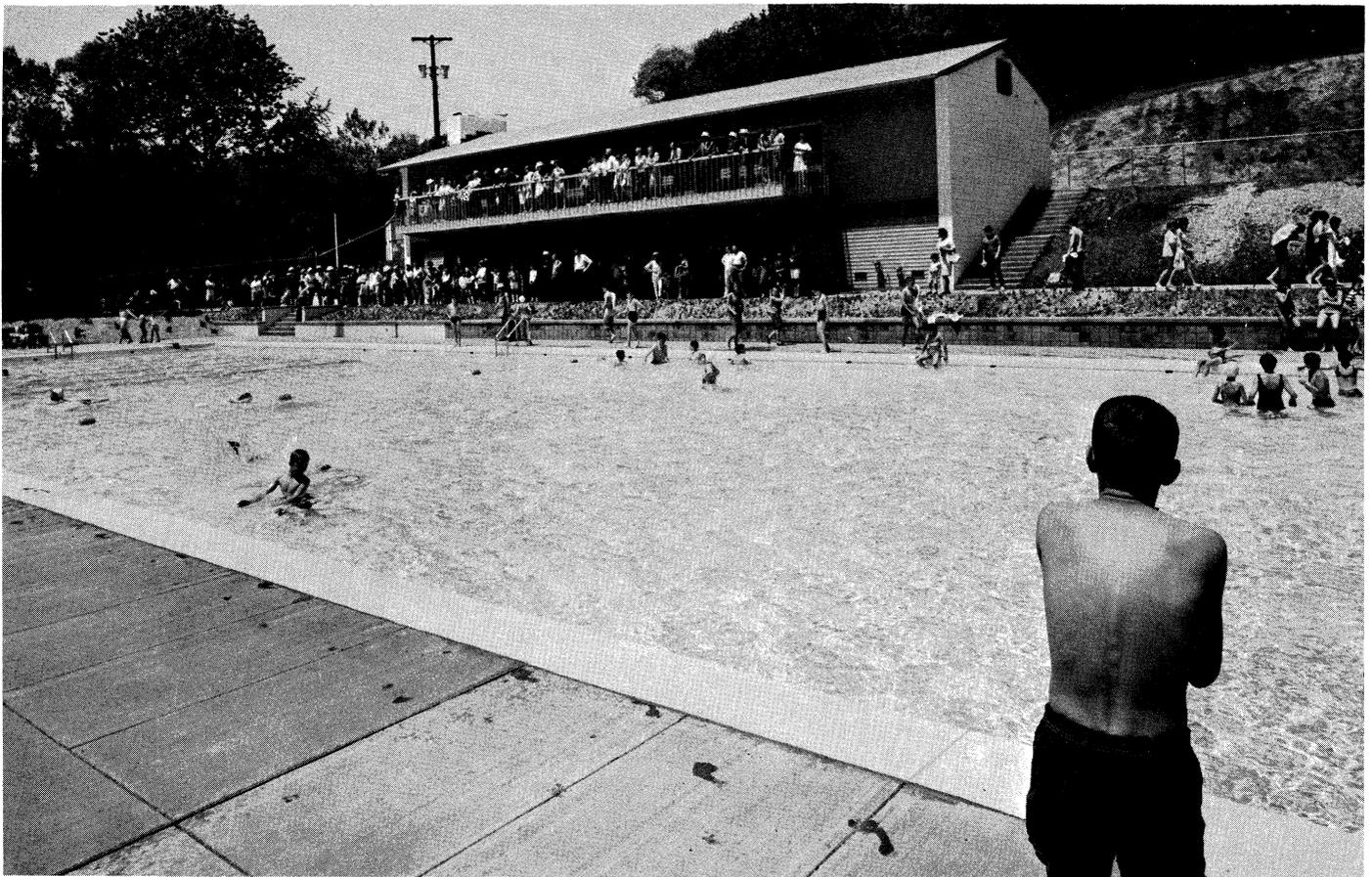
5. Summer Recreation Program held for six weeks in the summer in the Forest Hills Borough Park.
6. Swimming Team & Swimming lessons sponsored by the Rec. Bd. at the swimming pool in summer.
7. Development of Bright Park (with the cooperation and monies from the Woman's Club of Forest Hills).
8. Alumni Dance at the Recreation Lodge last Dec. for all Churchill Area Hi School graduates (quite successful).

The development of programs is our present emphasis, with tremendous time and thought also being put into improvements for the 1969 swimming season at the new pool.

We have a list of priority items ranging from long to short range plans for both programs and facilities and are hoping to secure plans for help from the many fine service groups in the Borough.

Some of the long range plans include; Ice Skating area at the pool sight (with freezing units), tennis courts, fully equipping Koch Park, hopefully to include the building of a pavilion.

The present officers, elected in January, 1969 are: Mrs. W. F. Fetterman, Chairman, Daniel M. Poore, Treas., and Mrs. Lawrence Shackleton, Sec'y.



## OUR BOROUGH PARK UNIQUE AND EARLY HISTORY

The influences which operated to give Forest Hills its Park were probably the influences of an era of economic difficulty rather than one of prosperity. Land purchase and early Park development began when the whole nation was in the depths of the Great Depression and continued through the years of slow recovery.

As strange as it may now seem, those years of economic hardship and insecurity were marked by a livelier state of civic consciousness among the citizenry than appears to have been the case since the return to prosperity. This Civic mindedness found expression in the formation and active attendance at the meetings of local community clubs in different parts of the Borough and in a Borough-wide *Civic Club*.

Just how soon after the Borough incorporation any idea of having a public park will probably never be known. Records show that the *Garden Club* discussed the idea in October, 1931, but sentiment in favor of securing permanently some land for public recreation appeared to have moved out of the realm of such group discussions into that of public debate and controversy in 1933. In that year the Forest Hills *Planning Commission* was appointed by the Burgess. The study of how land might be acquired for a Borough Park, when there was no money to pay for it, was one of the major projects of that early commission. It worked to promote supporting sentiment, both in the formal meetings of the *Civic Club* and through informal conversations with the Borough Council, the School Board, and Officers of the Freehold Real Estate Company, owners of the land.

Late in 1933 representatives of the Council, School Board, and Planning Committee met with the representative of the Real Estate Company and worked out the draft of an agreement acceptable to all parties. This proposed agreement provided that the land company would *progressively relinquish* its *ownership* of the *Park acreage* in *exchange* for a *progressive cancellation* of *property improvement liens* which the Borough held against the land company, all without a bond issue or the transfer of any funds.

But Council moved cautiously, seeking expression of public sentiment for or against the proposed exchange. In February of 1934 the *Garden Club* sent a delegation to the Borough Council meeting with a written endorsement of the project. It was a happy day in November of 1933 when Borough Council acted to acquire the tract of twenty-some acres at a cost of about \$25,000.

It is highly probable that Council was importantly influenced toward its decision to acquire the land, by the fact that development of the tract as a park would *give employment* to many of the then *unemployed* citizens of the Borough, the funds becoming available through one or another of the then existing Federal Agencies which had been set up to provide an administer funds for public works such as this.

**1935** In the months following, Council obtained a \$35,000 Federal grant for materials, labor, and supervision. Actual clearing of the brush and other work started in September,

1935. Some of this work was usefully directed. Some of it was ineffective and wasteful. Where supervision was competent and labor previously skilled, the results were good, as witness the excellent quality and appearance of the *stone wall* which extends along the Ardmore Boulevard boundary of the park.

**1936** In the Spring of 1936, the Borough Council recognized the need for planned development and invited the *Garden Club* to assume responsibility for securing and directing the execution of a planting plan for the Park. The Club accepted the challenge and assigned it to the club's Civic Committee.

**1936** This undertaking, along with some lesser civic activities, required much more money than income from dues could pay for. Accordingly, led by the Civic Activities Committee, the *Garden Club* planned and staged a *Garden Market* at the Atlantic Avenue School in April of 1936. This was a colorful event and a great success, not only in the net cash proceeds but in the response of the public. Seeds, tools, peat moss, fertilizers, bird houses, balled shrubs, and evergreens were pleasingly displayed and sold by several well-known dealers, the Club receiving commissions on all sales. An attractive profitable feature was a Conditiori or Swedish Shop where hot coffee, cake, and candies were sold. Non-commercial exhibits were set up, and information on practical gardening was offered and given by some members of the club and their husbands. A net profit of \$175 was realized.

Lest any of you are inclined to think that \$175 was a meager amount, may I suggest that one may get a fair idea of the then value of a dollar from the following dinner for husbands. It was served, with 65 present. And it was decided that the cost per plate be set at 40 cents instead of 35 cents as previously estimated and that any surplus over expenses be turned in to the treasury.

After due consideration of the responsibilities involved and of the opportunity for worthwhile civic work, the *Garden Club* accepted the invitation and set to work at once.

Early in the study of its problem the club recognized the necessity of having the assistance of an experienced landscaper. It was apparent that making the best use of all natural opportunities afforded by the site, called for a far more comprehensive viewpoint than that involved in the mere selection and placing of trees and shrubs.

The possibility of securing the service of an experienced landscape architect and planner was therefore looked into. *Mr. Ezra C. Stiles*, who consulted, was already well acquainted with the local project through his service to Council at the time of their original application for Federal funds.

Mr. Stiles proposed to render the Borough his consultant services and master plan for \$300.

The Garden Club recommended to Council that they appropriate the sum of \$300 asked by Mr. Stiles. In making this recommendation, the Garden Club stressed the importance of having a comprehensive, foundation plan before

undertaking any planting or other improvement work. It was pointed out that such a plan when approved and officially recognized, would provide a permanent basis, for sound development over a period of years and would serve as a check against shifting ideas and ill-considered action.

Approving in principle the Garden Club's views and recommendation but finding itself limited in funds available for Park purposes, Council could see its way clear to the appropriation of only \$150.

Upon learning of Council's action, the *Garden Club* voted to provide the other \$150 required to secure the services described.

The agreement with *Mr. Stiles* was accordingly made.

Meanwhile a special Park Fund and Park Association was started. The underlying idea here was to enable individuals, and organizations to voluntarily contribute toward the realization of the plans and usefulness of the Park than would be possible with the limited funds available from the Borough treasury.

A few individuals did subscribe and to the *Junior Women's Club* went the honor for being the first organization to contribute.

This was followed by the *Women's Club* of Forest Hills and the *Bryn Mawr Clubs*.

**1938** In the Spring of 1938 — 460 plants were planted including 21 dogwood trees.

In the Fall a day was named and interested members met at the park to plant a bushel of wild flower seeds which had been gathered by Mrs. Harry Young, one of the members of the Civic committee. Mrs. Young gathered these seeds on her many trips through the woods and hills of Western Pennsylvania.

In the late Fall, the Civic Committee of the *Garden Club* contacted Scout leaders and persons in the Borough who were known to be interested in bird life. Through wonderful cooperation of the persons and organizations approached and the manual training department of the schools, *seven bird-feeding* stations were made and established. The scouts took on the job of seeing that food was always present. This was paid for through the Special Park Fund.



The members of the bob-sled party are as follows: (left to right) Manus Campbell, Charles Campbell, James Mackin, Jefferson Boney, Wilbur Beavers, Joseph Cain, William Mackin, Thomas Powers, Nelson Beavers, and Joseph Campbell.

## RECREATION AFTER 1900

This rare old picture shows a big bob-sled with the Mucklerat residents out for winter sports. Not only is the cast interesting, but look closely and you will find the background in the picture is a real gem! This is the corner of Braddock Road and Ardmore Boulevard when Freehold Real Estate was

first developing in the Edgewood Acres area. Today, LeRoy Zavada's home stands on this corner (formerly Norman Allen's house) and next to it is Dr. Longphre's home (the former residence of Dr. Wesley Jones). The Borough Park area of today would be on the right of Braddock Road.