



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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Jordan's Dairy Part 2

My last installment talked about the beginnings of Jordan's Dairy. Many people worked for Jordan's Dairy over the years. Some of the names I've uncovered are Harvey Jenkins and William Newbury who delivered milk on the Rensselaer and Albany Routes. Other employees included Florence Hoffman, Joseph Dooley, Stanley Brunnell and Thomas Cox.

By the 1960's the milk delivery aspect of the dairy lost its profitability. People could get their milk from grocery stores and it became more expensive to provide weekend deliveries to customer's homes. In September 1963, Jordan's merged with Normanskill Dairy. They closed the dairy and removed the half circle wooden dairy bar. Eventually Normanskill closed the entire operation and sold the building to Troy City Garage in the fall of 1971. Residents may remember the signs for snowmobiles and Yamaha motorcycles.

The dairy bar is gone, but there are other aspects of Chet Jordan's life which are interesting. Chet Jordan was one of the founders of the Defreestville Fire Department. There is a story that Chet's wife Julianna sent him to the organizational meeting of the fire department to "stop those fools", because "all they will succeed in doing will be raising our taxes." He came home as DFD's first President, and as Assistant Fire Chief. In 1948 he became Fire Chief.

The first fire truck was stored in the dairy before the fire station was built and the first fire siren was installed somewhere between the dairy and Marty Herbert's Texaco Station (now Heim's). The dairy phone was one of the emergency numbers to call for the fire department and whoever answered could activate the siren.

After the fire station was built, small "telephone poles" were installed behind the buildings along Route 4 down to the fire siren on the new fire station. . These buildings were the Kaiser-Fraiser car dealership, Herbert's Pharmacy and Nittinger Plaza and his Lumber Company. The last of those poles came down when the dairy building was torn down.

Jordan's special hobby was collecting guns and rifles from the early 1800's. Over the years, Chet won more than 100 sharp shooting medals and two of his trophies are on display in the Fort Ticonderoga Museum.

All in all, Chet Jordan lived an interesting life in Defreestville. If only we could still get his ice cream.