

# MATAWAN'S 200-YEAR OLD WELL VANISHES

The last public watering place in Matawan has vanished with the progress of time. The old well, more than 200 years old, which has served many a purpose, was covered over this week by a concrete roadway leading into the new gas station of the Standard Oil Company.

Formerly the well stood in front of the Old Homestead and became famous as the main reason given by the last applicant of the hotel for a wholesale liquor license as "the only place in town where horses could be watered."

The well was dug more than 200 years ago when the building, later a hotel, was a boarding school "for fashionable young ladies from New York." The children who lived in the old "Burrowes House," now the home of Mrs. B. F. S. Brown, attended that fashionable boarding school.

As time went on it became the terminal of the stage coach carrying mail from Freehold. The horses were watered and rested while the mail was loaded on the steamboat which docked at the foot of the old street which then terminated at the wharf.

This was until about 1850 when "the Matawan" the first steam vessel to run from that port found it too difficult to meet the conditions of the tide up and down the creek and changed its landing place to Keyport. The stage coach then continued to Keyport until about 1875 when the Freehold railroad was opened and the "Tally-ho," for so it was called, was discontinued.

The well is said to have done more to make the hostelry prosperous, probably, than the owners would admit. A pipe line ran directly from the well to back of the bar. The hotel enjoyed a wholesale as well as a retail license and was always said to be "respectable." It was not uncommon for the well to net the bar \$100 per day. This is a far greater sum than the municipal water works return to the Borough of Matawan.

There came a day, when the usefulness of the well for the masters it had served, passed. Business had declined, also the condition of the building. It was up for sheriff's sale. No bidders were to be had and finally an adjournment of the sale was made and

an offer by the "Powers That Be" to provide a wholesale license, if the hotel were bought in. There were further delays and complications, finally the retail license, which was to have been transferred, ran out and it was necessary for the applicant to secure a retail license. Public sentiment had been aroused in favor of prohibition. Reasons, ordinarily good and sufficient, were not now sufficient. It was necessary to set up that there was need for another "Hotel," and so there was. "It was the only public place in town where animals could be watered," they petitioned. By a combination of W. C. T. U., public sentiment and political enemies the judge dismissed the application with: "I am not going to grant any license on a pump."

When the Standard Oil Company was about to complete its improvement they were told by George Linzmayer, their next door neighbor, they could not close the well as it was a public watering place. Their property line ran through the center of the well. A handsome sum was set as the price that might be paid and everything would be satisfactory. The company was about to proceed to fill

## Was Watering Place For Public Use

### SERVED MAN AND BEAST

Well Said to Have Made "Old Homestead" Famous—Figured in Applications for Liquor Licenses.

the well when a mandamus stay was received that the "half of the well which lay in the street," the street which used to run down to the dock, could not be filled. There was no proof that anyone owned it, but it could not be filled. Now everybody is peaceful and happy. Mr. Linzmayer has been granted free use of all the municipal water from the Oil company's plant and a modern concrete road effaces all traces of the old well.