

## BAIRD ROAD

*Second of three columns*

The New York Central R.R. underpass was built in the 1850's. It is, of itself, an historic structure, as it indicates the importance of the railroad to the development of the area. It also has the distinction of being one of the last narrow, one lane underpasses in the county. Mass transit, however, in the form of an interurban electric trolley line, the Rochester, Syracuse, and Eastern, significantly changed the nature of the community. In 1906 this line opened from Macedon to Rochester, and the era of suburban development began. Stop #11 was located just south of the N.Y. Central line, convenient to the new Midvale subdivision, and really established Baird Road as a residential area.


Many of the people who settled in the area were of German ancestry, and held jobs in the East Rochester car shops or the piano works. Because of the new Rochester, Syracuse, and Eastern trolley line, the commute was easy, and residents could enjoy "country living" after a long day at the factory. A former resident recalls, "Papa would be up early, sometimes 5 o'clock, to work in his garden. He could tell by the change in the water pressure from his hose that Mama had started his breakfast, and would come in to eat before catching the trolley to work. He had a wonderful garden."

Carl Patterson, who purchased the Sunnyridge Farm in 1906, and George Higbie, who owned a substantial piece of property adjacent to the trolley line, were responsible for starting suburban development in the area. Within 10 years, Patterson had subdivided and sold his land to new homeowners, and also to the two small farms owned by the Steffens and Dannenburgs. The six houses that he built on the ridge were relatively small, averaging around 1500 square feet, but were on two acre lots. Most were in the bungalow style popular between 1930 and 1950 with porches, dormers, clapboards or shingles, and large yards which dropped off toward Thomas Creek. The houses appear today much as they did then, except that the trees are bigger. George Higbie advertised his Midvale subdivision in a flyer with the question "Why not live in a park?" A prospective buyer could choose from several price lists, and for only \$10 down be guaranteed a site with running water, graded streets, sidewalks, and more.

The Rochester, Syracuse, and Eastern trolley shut down in 1936, finished off by the Depression, the automobile and the bus. The earthen abutments, however, can still be seen just south of the railroad overpass. Between the 1960's and the 1980's, the road was rerouted and a number of structures on the street were demolished. The one hundred and ten year old Osburn house at number 2698 was torn down as well as the former Steffen house at #2783. In 1970, the Dannenburg house and barns were torn down and the fill was used to modify the course of Thomas Creek to facilitate the building of the BOCES center which abuts a portion of Baird Road.

The Midvale subdivision is still a vibrant neighborhood. Mature trees shade the homes and buffer the noise of traffic on Baird Road itself. The large yards sloping down to Thomas Creek maintain a sense of openness and serve as a reminder of the early mill era. The old Baird farmhouses still stand surrounded by open space but also by new suburban development. As many areas in Perinton this area works to balance suburban growth and open space.

*To be continued*



AMONG THE BEAUTIFUL VALES AT MIDVALE

## MIDVALE BUNGALOW PLOTS

WITH  
Running Water, Electricity  
Fast Trolley Service, Graded  
Streets, Cement Side Walks

Section A			
No. 1	\$350	14	500
2	450	15	500
3	475	16	500
4	450	17	475
5	450	18	475
6	450	19	500
7	450	20	700
8	450	21	Sold 475
9	450	22	Sold
10	450	23	Sold
11	450	24	Sold
12	500	25	Sold
13	500	26	Sold
		27	Sold
		28	Sold
		29	Sold
		30	Sold
		31	Sold
		32	450
		33	450
		34	450
		35	450
		36	450
		37	450
		38	400
		39	400

No. 1	\$550	9	Sold
2	Sold	10	Sold
3	Sold	11	Sold
4	Sold	12	400
5	Sold	13	400
6	Sold	14	400
7	Sold	15	650
8	Sold	16	525
		17	Sold
		18	525
		19	Sold
		20	Sold
		21	Sold
		22	550

No. 1	450	8	Sold
2	450	9	500
3	450	10	500
4	450	11	500
5	550	12	500
6	800	13	500
7	Sold	14	475
		15	475
		16	475
		17	450
		18	450
		19	450


## MIDVALE BUNGALOW PLOTS

WITH

Running Water, Electricity  
Fast Trolley Service, Graded  
Streets, Cement Side Walks

Building Plans Furnished Free  
Money Furnished for Building

*All For Daily \$10 Down*




### GEO. K. HIGBIE

OWNER

468 Park Avenue, Rochester, N.Y.

Telephones: Bell 1886 Main  
Roch. 3089 Stone or 190 Park



PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPES DELIGHT THE EYE AT MIDVALE

*Ad for Midvale Drive homes*