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Organization
Press Journal

Teaneck - Veterans of Foreign Wars

THURSDAY, November 4, 1976



The first Teaneck VFW Post Home, 33 Bedford Ave.

First Post Home was first town hall

TEANECK — In 1929, the Post obtained possession of this building at 33 Bedford Ave.

The building was the oldest continuously-in-use public building in the Township of Teaneck, having been built in 1869 at a cost of approximately \$3,700. The Post home, until 1907, housed School No. 2 pupils of the town; Bill Guthrie himself attended school here. It also served as a church, Sunday school, jail and police headquarters, and the Town Hall of Teaneck.

The original site of the building was at Forest Ave. & Teaneck Rd.

When a new school was built, it was moved to Church Street & Teaneck Road and from there to its site at 33 Bedford Ave. It's worth noting here that in those days just 50 families resided in Teaneck.

In 1895, the citizens of Teaneck gathered in this building and formed a new municipality, the Township of Tea-

neek. William Bennett was the first Township Chairman. William Bodine, 30 years later, was the last chairman to reside in this building, which was the seat of government during this interval. The first Township Treasurer was Henry J. Brinkerhoff.

This building was the only polling place in Teaneck from 1869 until 1909. As the community grew, many civic organizations met here, some of which (notably the joint civic committee) were inaugurated in this building. Here came the people to pay taxes, to fight assessments, to register deeds, obtain marriage licenses and also sat

the judge. Where the Post kitchen was were two cells, and this was the township jail.

In 1914, the first police force was formed here, and the first appointments were Jesson Witham and William Jahnes. These men patrolled their beats on motorcycles that could travel at the then unbelievable speed of 70 miles per hour. In 1915, Edward Murphy was named first Police Chief.

The Post exchanged the building with the township at 33 Bedford Ave. for the land at the corner of Palisade Ave. & Ayers Court and moved to its present building at 1429 Palisade Ave. in 1958.