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## HISTORIC HOUSE RAZED BY FIRE

### Ancient Landmark Destroyed Sunday Morning Was Local A. C. Club House

Fire which broke out early Sunday morning completely destroyed the historic old house on Harristown Road near Diamond Brook, owned by the Erie Railroad and used by the Glen Rock Athletic Club as a clubhouse. The firemen were at a loss to determine how the blaze had started. Three young men driving along Maple Avenue saw the flames and immediately reported it at police headquarters, but the fire had gained a big headway when the department arrived. The flames had, apparently, started around the walls behind the stove in the kitchen.

The fire alarm sounded about 12:45 and it was well past three o'clock before the men left. It was necessary to lay 750 feet of hose to Diamond Brook from which water was pumped. The section is entirely undeveloped and no other houses are nearby, but before leaving the firemen pulled down sections of the upper walls left standing without support lest they fall and injure someone. Eighteen firemen answered the call.

The house is known to be over 100 years old and probably dates back even farther than that. It is possible that it is pre-revolutionary in age since there is a story that blood stains which were plainly visible on the floors were left by wounded soldiers who were sheltered there. It is also said that the house was standing when the Indians were still living in these parts.

Some time in the 1830's Thomas Snyder brought his wife to the house as a bride, the place having been given them as a wedding gift, together with 50 acres of land. Mr. Snyder established a small saw mill nearby, ruins of which can still be seen, and in this mill much of the wood work used in old houses in Ridgewood and Glen Rock [part of article is missing]

In 1840 Richard T. Snyder, Glen Rock's first mayor, was born in the old house. Thomas Snyder, the son of Richard Snyder still lives in town at 923 South Maple Avenue.

When the Snyder family moved away the house was sold to Dominie John H. Robinson, father of Miss S. Elizabeth Robinson of Harristown Road. Mr. Robinson never occupied the house but rented it to others.

About twenty years ago the Railroad acquired the property in order to gain possession of the extensive sand deposits which they planned to use in elevating the tracks through Paterson. However, the times changed and instead of a high bank for the railroad, they used concrete and steel trestles, so the sand was never carted out. The house, unoccupied for years, fell into disrepair and became a rendezvous for tramps, so the railroad granted use of the building to the A. C. on condition they would repair it and keep out the tramps. For a time they had a caretaker living on the place but for some months no one had lived there. The Club used it for a meeting place and had dinners, clam bakes, etc. there from time to time.

The Club lost a considerable amount of athletic equipment, as well as some furniture which had been contributed to make the place habitable. The boys were considering buying the place from the Erie this year.

Officers of the Club are Joseph Daley, President; Elmer Martens, Vice-President; Lawrence Daley, Secretary, and John Pagano, Treasurer.