Dateline: Tuesday, August 23, 1927

Source: Ridgewood Herald

K.K.K. BURNS CROSS

Over 300 Attend Meeting in Glen Rock Field

The Ku Klux Klan had an open air meeting on Saturday night in a field on the Marinus estate near Main Street, Glen Rock. It was a picturesque gathering of Klansmen and curiosity seekers to the number of over 300, but who were Klansmen and who were not was difficult to tell. There was no doubt whatever about the half dozen hooded men robed in white whose eyes and noses alone were visible through holes in their white hoods.

The American Flag held the position of honor. A banner bearing the inscription, "Ridgewood Unit No. 72, K. K. K." was much in evidence, and seemingly indicated under whose auspices the public meeting was held.

The Chairman was introduced as "a local minister." He referred to "my charge in New York City", which established the fact that he wasn't "local" after all. He opened the meeting with a prayer and talked at some length about matters pertaining to the Klan.

The speaker of the evening was introduced as "Dr. Finger of Jersey City." He was resplendent in a green robe and a green hat. His face was uncovered.

Dr. Finger said that the K. K. K. doesn't believe in mobbing or in flogging, and neither is it blood thirsty.

"We believe," he said, "in one hundred per cent Americanism, and that is all there is to it."

He paid his respects to Sacco and Vanzetti and declared with much emphasis that radicals do not belong in this country.

"They should have been deported long ago," he said.

Dr. Finger greatly interested his hearers when he sailed into the "janitor of a Glen Rock School who installed a whisky still in the basement of the School and ran the risk of blowing up several hundred children."

"You should get after your officials," he said, "and together you should run this man out of town."

Dr. Finger had many caustic remarks to make about a New York tabloid sheet that is printing pictures of "bathing beauties."

"Men," he said, "they look fine, but they can't cook and they do not make good wives."

The speaker referred to Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City and Governor Al Smith of New York to a way that started a laugh in the crowd. He also had a lot to say about the Catholic Church, "not the religious Rome," as he put it, "but the political Rome."

The ceremony of the "burning of the cross" took place after the speech making, four hooded guards standing near the cross until the flames had died out.

A display of fire works, rockets and Roman candles lighted up the sky and gave a Fourth of July touch to the evening's windup.