

THE GLACIAL GLACIER HILLS

(Bill Holman, former Glacier Hills resident, made a study of the great glaciers of bygone days and particularly of their effects on this section of New Jersey. He gave us this short run-down on the glacier as it worked over the gulch.)

"How old is Glacier Hills? Some of us may refer back to when this area was proposed as a residential site. Glacier Hills is roughly from 10,000 to 15,000 years old. Its origin, development and present structure are most interesting.

"These 'Hills' we live on date back to the Wisconsin Age of the Pleistocene Epoch. At the time, as a result of mostly unknown climatic factors, thick masses of ice invaded the North American continent. One of these continental ice masses, approximately 6,000 feet thick, spread out from near Labrador and advanced as far south as New Jersey. As the prevailing temperature increased the melting of the continental glacier equaled its rate of advance. Consequently, the incorporated soil and rock fragments carried forward within the ice were deposited at the edge of the glacier. One lobe of this melting ice mass extended in a broad arc from Denville to Summit and, therefore the resulting glacier deposit between these towns took the form of a rough semi-circle. Glaciologists term such a deposit 'End Moraine or Terminal Moraine or Glacier Hills.'

"The present terminal moraine, in New Jersey extends from Perth Amboy to Belvidere, however, our part is certainly nearest to home. This 100 to 200-foot ridge, about 1/4 to two miles wide contains a heterogeneous mixture of materials ranging in size from clay to boulders. Locally, as near as Morristown, the hills are silty, whereas in other areas clean sand and gravel prevail. The barrow pit just off Route 53 near Morris Plains is partly in the terminal moraine. It is interesting to note the composition, structure and type of material we live on.

"In many places there are 'knobs' and 'kettles' which are always a part of such a glacial land form. The knobs are partly the result of local heaping of material, whereas the kettles differ in their mode of origin. Detached blocks of ice were trapped in, under and on the mass of deposited soil. As these ice blocks melted the soil caved in to fill the resulting void and kettle was formed. The subsequent hollows are usually without surface outlets and form the small marshes, ponds and lakes we see around us.

"When you are asked where you live, say 'In THE Glacier Hills' for not many people can boast of that fact."

The Glacier Hills Association has continued to take an active interest in town affairs and at one time supplied a councilman who later became Mayor for a short period. We have also had members elected to the school board and other township commissions and committees. Our record for percentage of residents voting in town and national elections is one of the highest in the township. Members have also taken an active part in the support of the first town-wide library; we have volunteer firemen, civil defense members

and members of the police organizations. The Association vigorously supports and promotes all these activities.

Lest it be thought that all work and no play makes us dull, we hasten to point out that we maintain an active social and recreational program throughout the year. Among our annual events are a children's Christmas Party, an Easter Egg Hunt and a Labor Day family clam bake; and these are augmented from time to time by block parties, dinner-dances and various other social events. Nor do we neglect the sound mind in a sound body bit. There are many bowlers, golfers, joggers, walkers, and other sports enthusiasts in the area.

Foremost among our physical assets is an Olympic size swimming pool, which easily accommodates 200 families. There is a children's wading pool, along with courts for basketball and volley ball. In 1988, we added our beautiful covered pavilion which serves as "host" for a multitude of events. And 1996 saw the upgrade of our children's playground area.

In addition to the swimming pool parklands, we maintain two additional parks, one used primarily for baseball and football in Section 1 - 2, and a retreat type area in Section 6. Both of the parks offers ice skating in winter months.

If this sounds like fun, take it from us, it is. Hope you would like to meet us, because we certainly want to meet you!