



## NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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### Jordan's Dairy Part 1

If you are in Defreestville on a hot summer evening, you can find lots of places that sell ice cream. This wasn't always so. In fact probably the first and only exclusively ice cream parlor opened in 1934, operated by Chester A. Jordan.

The ice cream business was an expansion of the milk delivery trade begun by Chet Jordan's grandfather John in 1874 at Rensselaer Heights which is off Partition Street in Rensselaer. Chet's father Elijah continued the business and passed it on to his son Chet. Jordan Dairy served a large area in the southern part of the county.

Chet Jordan was born in what is now the RPI Tech Park Administration Building which was formerly the Defreest Homestead which is now on the National Register.

After he married, Chet established a dairy building in back of his house which is located at the northern end of Valley View Drive where it intersects with Route 4. The house is currently the office of Prudential Manor Homes real estate. The dairy building had a half circular area with small windows called the Rainbow Bar where there was the ice cream window service. The rest of the building was both the milk delivery and ice cream making area.

Eleanor Defreest Fasoldt, sister-in-law of Chet Jordan, worked in the office after graduating from high school. It was during World War II and there was food rationing. She remembers getting sugar ration coupons

(sugar being a necessary ingredient for ice cream). At the point when it came time to use the coupon, she couldn't find it and they had to tear apart the office until finally locating the coupon which had fallen down between the desks.

The ice cream service was a popular school field trip venue for Bell Top students. Mark Lacivita remembers his class actually walking down to the dairy and then taking a school bus back to school-imagine that now!

By the 1960's, things were changing in the milk/ice cream business and these changes impacted Jordan's Dairy. In the next story, I will examine what happened to the dairy and write a little about other things Chet Jordan did in the town.