From the archives

## That Was Then



St. Mary's School



**Manhasset Valley School** 

## **Education in Manhasset**

St. Mary's School and Manhasset Valley School

## BY ANTONIA S. MATTHEOU, CONSULTING ARCHIVIST

The History Center at the Manhasset Public Library

Throughout the '20s, the constant change of population in the area played a major role in the construction of new parochial and public schools. In 1926, an elementary school was established by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The school stands at the corner of Plandome Road and Northern Boulevard ever since.

The year 1929 is usually remembered as the start of the Great Depression, but it is also the year that the

Manhasset Valley School was authorized and its construction began. Originally, the population of this school was racially-integrated, but as Manhasset families now had a choice of parochial or public schooling the population of the Manhasset Valley School started to shift.

The 1964 decision of the Federal District Court identified the Manhasset Valley School as de-facto segregated. By 1960, the Manhasset Valley School was a nearly all-black school. In 1964, it became a community center for the Town of North Hempstead.