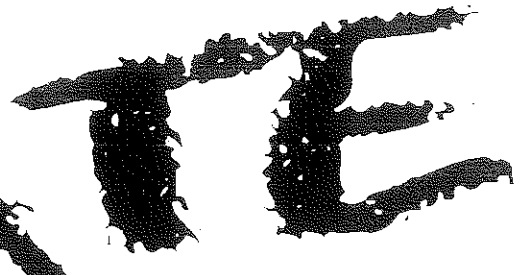
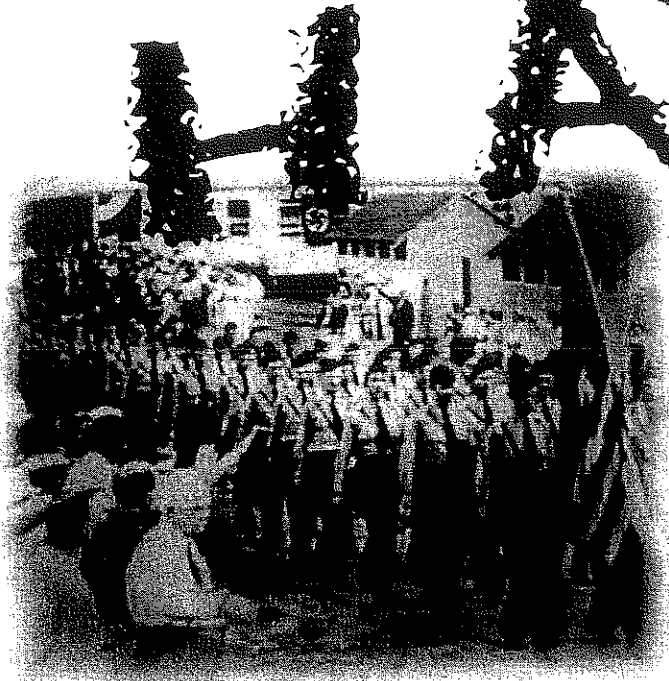
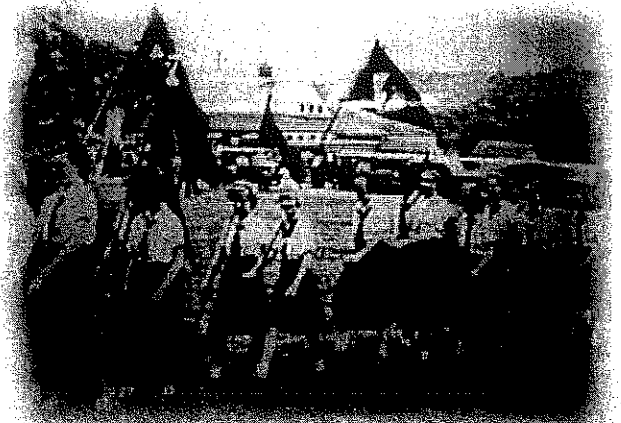




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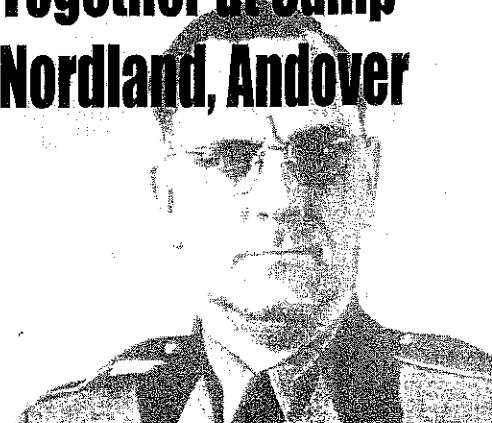


IN THE GARDEN STATE



Nazis and the KKK Bund

Together at Camp Nordland, Andover



During the years prior to World War II, America was in the grips of the worst economic depression that the nation had ever experienced. Unemployment was at a record high, and soup lines were a common site in major cities across the country. Clashes between plant owners and labor unions often turned into bloody melees. At the same time it was becoming more evident that our nation's participation in the conflict overseas was imminent. Unrest and frustration amongst the working classes opened the door of opportunity to a number of fringe political ideologies that might never have seemed like viable alternatives before. There was a resurgence in the Communist Party in the U.S., and even the Ku Klux Klan was enjoying an era of record recruitment. Overseas in Germany, Adolph Hitler had taken a bankrupt post World War I nation in chaos and revitalized the economy and self image of the populous (albeit at the expense of certain ethnic groups which were blamed for all of the country's ills). It was a time of great uncertainty, high tensions, and mistrust. Here at home that mistrust was aimed squarely at German-Americans.



A photo taken August 18, 1940 at Camp Nordland. KKK Grand Giant, Arthur H. Bell of Bloomfield (left) shakes hands with Bund vice-president and camp supervisor August Klaprott.

In the 1930s, there were 112,000 German-born immigrants living in New Jersey. They were second in number only to Italian-Americans as the largest foreign-born ethnic population. Almost one quarter of the citizens of the United States at the time were of German descent. So how did these new New Jerseyans deal with the political climate here, and the influence of the Nazi Party which was becoming all powerful back in their homeland?

Generally there were three different viewpoints that most German-Americans ascribed to: Many embraced their Americanism and rejected Germany altogether; A large portion recognized Germany as their homeland, the place where their parents came from and where their cousins still lived, but did not condone the actions of the new government there; Then there was a third group - the group that proudly embraced Nazi ideals and pledged their allegiance to them. This faction would come to be known as the Bund (which means federation). It was the American equivalent of the Nazi party, and boasted over 10,000 members - and its history is intricately tied to New Jersey.

The Bund started out as a group known as "The Friends of the New Germany," which had regional chapters scattered throughout the nation. The Bund was endorsed by the Nazi party in Germany and even given funding by them. In 1935, a Munich-born German Army veteran of WWI named Fritz Kuhn was chosen as the organization's national leader, and the group was renamed the German-American Bund. Kuhn was hand-picked to head the Bund by Hitler

himself, because he was a U.S. citizen, unlike former leaders who were German nationals. Kuhn's first action as the new Bundesleiter was to travel to Berlin to meet with Hitler and get his blessing, and official recognition as the "American Fuhrer."

The Bund's headquarters were located in the Yorkville section of Manhattan, an enclave of German-American citizens, and recently immigrated Germans nationals. The Bund had other chapters in cities across the country with high populations of German immigrants. In New Jersey chapters were located in Clifton, Hackensack, Union City, Fairfield, North Bergen, Passaic, and Newark.

Incredibly, the Bund promoted itself as a pro-American organization, preaching the values of isolationism and nationalism, while conveniently slipping anti-Semitic and racist rhetoric into their public message. The Bund's anti-war stance was, of course, merely an endeavor to keep the United States out of the war in Europe, so that Hitler might have his way with the entire continent, and ultimately the world.

The Bund promoted solidarity among its members by running camps, which were used as recreational facilities and training grounds, and were located all across the nation. These camps provided weekend retreats where German-Americans could drink beer, sing songs of the Fatherland, converse openly in their native tongue, and take comfort in the knowledge of their own racial superiority.

Three such camps existed in New Jersey, one in Bloomingdale, one in Griggstown, and most importantly, Camp Nordland in Andover. Camp Nordland opened on July 18, 1937, and initially local residents were pretty happy about it. Its opening festivities drew 10,000 German-Americans to Andover, a town with a population of 479 people at the time. These out-of-towners patronized local businesses (though they were encouraged to only buy from Aryan owned shops). The Andover Fire Department even raffled off a car at the opening ceremonies of the camp, selling over 1,500 tickets. This flood of money led most locals to tolerate the Bund - despite their wearing of swastikas and military uniforms, the large portrait of Hitler they displayed on the main wall of their recreation hall, and the parade they held with their guests, a group of Italian-Americans dressed as Mussolini's Blackshirts, who marched around giving the fascist salute. In a short time, this tolerance would disappear.

Before long, local newspapers and town leaders began to condemn the Bund, and spread the word that the organization was promoting violence, denouncing Jews, and verbally bashing Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal (which they referred to as "Franklin Rosenfeld's Jew Deal"). State newspapers began picking up on the controversy, and the state government became interested in Bundist activity. They warned the organizers of Camp Nordland that they were violating a New Jersey law that forbade the promotion of race hatred and race hostility. Undaunted by the warnings, the Bund simply toned down their public visibility, and began delivering speeches at the camp in German rather than English.

The camp still hosted large gatherings, includ-

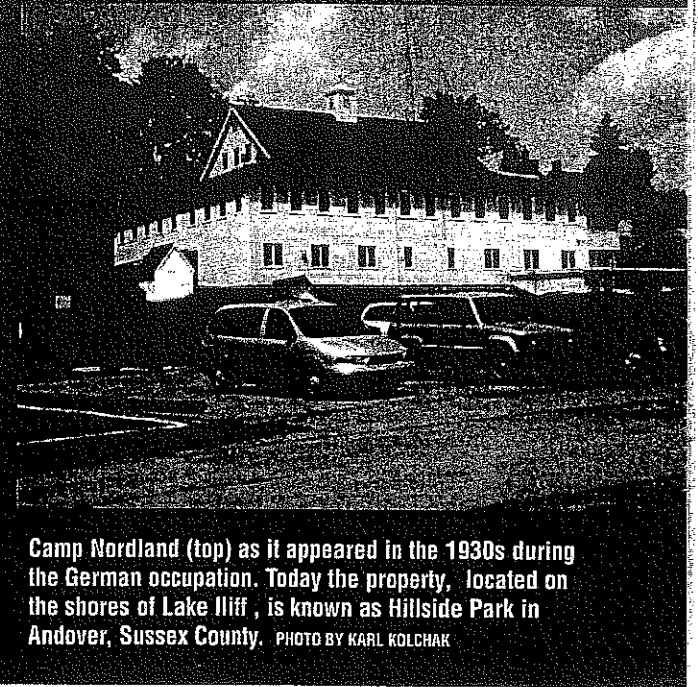
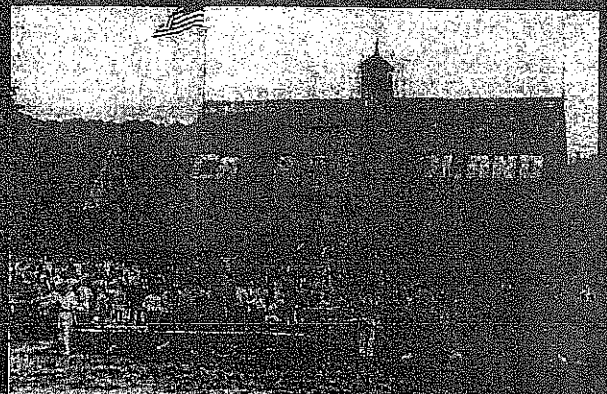
ing weekend getaways for children. To the outside observer, these events may have looked like nothing more than Boy Scout jamborees or church retreats, but in actuality they were much more sinister. In the woods of Andover, 10 to 14-year-old boys and girls were marching around in Nazi garb, and being formed into ranks very reminiscent of the infamous Hitler Youth. "Our camp," Bundesleiter Kuhn proclaimed "is designed principally to be a place which breathes the spirit of the New Germany... (where young people) shall be strengthened and confirmed in National Socialism so that they will be conscious of the role which has been assigned to them as the future carriers of German racial ideals to America."

Those ideals included calls for a "white man's Christian country," a "Gentile-ruled United States," and a barring of Jews from "all positions of importance in the government, national defense and educational institutions."

By 1939, American public opinion had begun to turn against the Bund. Hitler's armies had invaded Austria and Czechoslovakia, and before the year's end, they would march into Poland. As news of Nazi atrocities in these vanquished countries began to filter back to the U.S., any illusions of the Bund as a benign social fraternity evaporated. Not only did Jewish groups often protest at Camp Nordland, but New Jerseyans of German descent were also in the ranks of the demonstrators, carrying signs that read "Hitler ist nicht Deutschland" (Hitler is not Germany). In one incident protests turned so violent that the Bund called local police, begging them to stop a Jewish Veterans group from throwing rocks at them.

Besides their ideologies, certain Bund activities at Camp Nordland garnered bad publicity. One Bund leader was arrested in Brooklyn for sexually molesting two high school girls at Camp Nordland. A 17-year-old girl testified that she and her friends were served liquor at the camp's bar, leading the town of Andover to deny renewal of the camp's liquor license. Fritz Kuhn himself was under investigation for personally misappropriating funds from the organization, and the IRS was keeping a watchful eye on the group as a whole.

Spurred on by his embezzlement allegations, several DWI convictions, and scandalized by a few extra-marital flings with underage girls, Kuhn stepped down from his post, and Gerhard Kunze of Union City became the new Bundesfuhrer. Around this time, Sussex County Sheriff Denton Quick began a personal crusade against the Bund. He would attend meetings at Nordland,



Camp Nordland (top) as it appeared in the 1930s during the German occupation. Today the property, located on the shores of Lake Illif, is known as Hillside Park in Andover, Sussex County. PHOTO BY KARL KOLCHAK

where he recorded the license plates of every car in the parking lot. His work interested both the FBI and the IRS. In the end, a congressional committee became involved in the investigation of Camp Nordland. Eventually, nine leaders of the camp were indicted. They were convicted, but after several appeals, the convictions were overturned. The former leader of the Bund, Fritz Kuhn, was not so lucky. During his compatriots' trial, Kuhn was convicted of grand larceny for embezzling \$14,000 from the Bund, and sent to Sing Sing prison in upstate New York.

By 1940 things were looking grim for the Bund, and they desperately wanted to rebuild their all-American German image of years past. Their solution (definitely not the smartest) was to invite the Ku Klux Klan (who claimed some 60,000 New Jerseyans as members) to Camp Nordland for a joint rally. The gathering was described in a book published in 1943 by an author who went undercover to infiltrate the Bund and observe their activities. He wrote:

Flames from the wooden cross, forty feet high, crackled into the night throwing lurid shadows on the participants below, some of whom were dressed in hooded white robes, others in the gray uniforms of the German-American Bund. The scene took place at Bund Camp Nordland in New Jersey on August 18, 1940, when the Klan staged



The Camp Bergwald grounds circa 1991. Obviously it is a shrine for neo-Nazis. I was warned not to visit these sites around November 11, April 20 thru 30, or other days that Nazis remember. I know they use this old Bund site for war games. Visitors beware! —Karl Kolchak

until incensed local residents attacked the camp, causing the frightened leaders of the rally to once again call the local police. That same year terrorist attacks began occurring in the area and were attributed to the Bund. One of these incidents was when the Hercules Powder Company of Kenil, in Morris County, exploded. Forty eight people died in the explosion, which occurred only ten miles from Camp Nordland. Sheriff Quick raided the camp but found no evidence of Bund involvement. Quick declared that the explosion was sabotage, and summoned federal troops, but the cause of the explosion was never uncovered.

In his 1999 self-published pamphlet, *Warren County Chronicles: The Undercover Boys*, author Frank T. Dale describes the final days of Camp Nordland:

but Sheriff Quick acted anyway. On April 30, he and 10 deputized American Legionaries struck. Quick dispersed the Bundists he found, confiscated some material he thought the FBI would like to see, permitted the press to photograph Hitler's portrait and the huge swastikas affixed to the roofs, and then he padlocked the place as a public nuisance. Camp Nordland would never open again.

Things then went from bad to worse for the Bund in New Jersey. The courts consistently supported the camp's closure. The IRS filed income tax liens against the Bund and against (Camp Nordland's leader) Klapprott. The county increased the tax assessment against Camp Nordland while denying its owners the right to use it...In mid-summer the final betrayal occurred: the Ku Klux Klan met in Central Jersey - even the horses wore hoods for the occasion - and burned a cross to celebrate the demise of the Bund in New Jersey.

In December of 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and the United States entered the war with Japan and Germany. This made all investigations of the Bund moot, as Nazis in America were now officially enemies of the state. The German-American Bund disbanded.

After being paroled from Sing Sing in 1943, Fritz Kuhn was sent to an enemy alien internment camp in Crystal City, Texas to sit out the rest of the war. Unrepentant, he continued his crusade within the camp, introducing the other inmates to the ways of the Nazi Party. After the war, Kuhn was deported back to Germany, where he died five years later in 1951.

Today, the 205 acres on the banks of Lake Iliff that Camp Nordland once occupied are used as recreational fields. The buildings, which once served as guard watchtowers and the in-camp home of Fritz Kuhn, stand within Hillside Park in Andover. One would never guess that this peaceful setting, where children are now encouraged to play together, was once the ground used to instruct children how to hate one another.

a monster anti-war, pro-American mass meeting jointly with the Bund.

...Klansmen berated "Romanism," called Catholics "dumb ring-kissers" ... "Whatever power or money the Jews had, has been confiscated. But a world-wide militant Catholic organization directed from Rome remains a sinister threat to our Americanism."

By mid-afternoon 3,500 Klansmen and Bundists had assembled at Camp Nordland...August Klapprott, the vice-president of the Bund, speaking with a thick German accent, shouted: "When Arthur Bell, your Grand Giant, asked us about using Camp Nordland for this patriotic meeting, we decided to let them have it because of the common bond between us. The principles of the Bund and the principles of the Klan are the same."

The Grand Giant extended his hand to the Bundesfuhrer, and symbolized the merging of international fascism with the nationalist, or American brand of fascism.

The merry racists spent the rest of the day burning crosses and ranting about minorities,



Bundesleiter Fritz Kuhn, the "American Fuhrer," inspiring the masses at a Nazi rally at Camp Nordland in the 1930s.

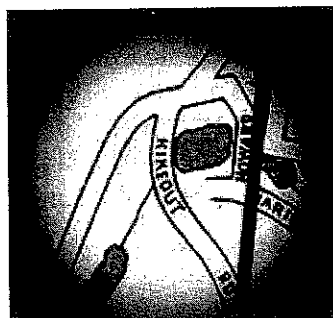
The year 1941 was a bad one for the German-American Bund. In the spring, a bill came before the New Jersey legislature revoking the charter of the German-American Bund Auxiliary, the owner of Camp Nordland. It wasn't passed in time to legally stop the big May Day opening at the camp,

Travels On Kikeout Road

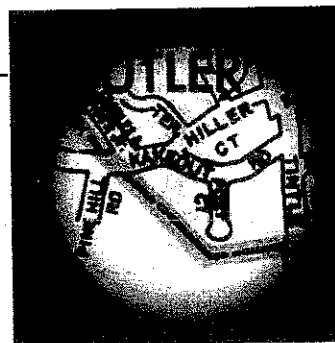
Dear WNJ,

First and foremost, you rule. Never have I more enjoyed reading about local history and customs than *Weird NJ!* I had to write in and reveal a little tidbit of information about our extensively racist state, seeing as how racism and ethnic hate still run rampant in many backwaters of this fine chunk of land. (Please excuse my spelling of certain ethnic words as I am not a member of the racist majority and do not spell the words in everyday writing).

First there is a road in Butler, right off Rt. 23, called Kakeout Road. Supposedly this was changed after the war because of its original name. There were a bunch of Nazi sympathizers who lived on that



road in Butler/ Kinnelon, and the original owner of the land named the street. Before the war it was Kyke-Out Road, utilizing the label pertaining to people of Jewish origin in order to let them know that they would be smart to STAY OUT. The town changed the name to



These two details from recent Hagstrom maps would seem to lend credence to the Kikeout/Kakeout Conspiracy theory.

Kakeout road so as not to offend some of their populous, but can never change the spirit behind that street.

Along the same line brings into view a certain lake off Glenwild Rd.

in West Milford. Supposedly this was given its name by local landowners that followed Hitler's views and ideals; the lake of which I speak is none other than Kamphe Lake (patterned after Hitler's Mein Kampf, and conveniently pronounced Com-fee Lake). Many (not all) of the Germanic people that commune at this lake still, in private, hold many of the same ethnic-superior views their fore-fathers held, (this opinion I hold due to the fact that I have visited the lake many times with racist residents.)

You may be swimming at Kamphe Lake or driving on KykeOut Road, but one thing for sure, you won't find any Jewish or Black houses in the near vicinity. —The Hib