South Ocean Avenue was one of the first streets running south from Main Street towards the bay. It was originally called Water Street or *"The Lane"*. There were no buildings on the west side of the lane, only 5 farms on the east side. By 1850 a continuous line of homes had been built on the east side of the street between Main Street and the bay and only a few homes on the west side. This was the largest concentration of homes in Patchogue in 1850. The first stores appeared just south of Main Street in the 1870's, gradually extending the business section south, but never further then the railroad line.

South Ocean Avenue as seen from the Four Corners c. 1918. The sign in front of the police officer was the first form of traffic control on the always busy *'Four Corners'*. Later this was upgraded to various other signs, control booths and finally traffic lights.

South Ocean Avenue in 1918. This photo was taken from the corner of Terry Street, looking north. The white building on the left is the Union Savings Bank.