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Mayor claims Pisansky misled on census facts

The township Democratic ticket, headed by John Pisansky, once again attempted to mislead the people with false statements about the 1980 census, according to Republican Mayor Bernard G. Yarnavage.

"When the figures were released by the Census Bureau showing the population had decreased from 18,829 to 16,541 in 1980, we did not wait until election time to check the statistics. We immediately contacted the Census Bureau at its local operating office in Elizabeth," stated Mayor Yarnavage.

A bureau spokesman reported 99 per cent of the Clark questionaires were returned by mail, and the census people followed up the remainder of the unanswered questionaires, he added.

"The bureau's Elizabeth office further reported all of the multiple dwellings were checked and re-checked," the mayor noted.

"For our own information, township personnel were then used to check the number of housing units in two of the census tracts. The results verified the census report was indeed correct. This substantiates the claim by the Census Bureau their count is good," he continued.

The bureau reported the decline in Clark's population was due to outmigration, grown children leaving home to be on their own, reduction of job opportunities in the state and smaller families. In 1970 the average house had 3.58 people and in 1980 the average household is 2.99 persons, according to Mayor Yarnavage.

"The decline in school population alone is 1,811 pupils and has resulted in the closing of one school already," noted the mayor. "Mr. Pisansky is certainly aware of that."

School enrollment in the grammar schools was 2,947 in 1970 and now it is 1,397. Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark has dropped from a 1970 high of 1,586 students to 1,285 in 1980 for a total of 1,811, according to the township official.

"In 1970 there were 4,407 homes in Clark," noted the Republican. "Today there are 4,541 homes, an increase of only 134 homes, and Peter M. Campana, (the Democratic candidate for Fourth Ward councilman and a Realtor), should have known this was the accurate figure if he did his homework," charged the mayor.

"There has been more building in Clark during the last 10 years but not in private homes. Most of the construction was in office buildings and commercial structures," explained the township's chief executive, citing figures from the assessor's office.

"Furthermore, the census of Clark should be outdated if the township did indeed assist the Census Bureau in recruiting personnel to help with all phases of the count and did most wholeheartedly publicly encourage everyone to participate," emphasized Mayor Yarnavage.

"I am convinced that that is why Clark responded to the original census queries by a whopping 99 percent." News releases were used and all senior citizens were advised of the Census and its activities," he added.

Officials in Trenton were consulted as to the effect the reduction in township residents might have on revenue sharing. They noted population was only one of the factors on which the formula is based, and they felt no change was imminent, the mayor explained.

"Additional wild statements were made by the local Democrats in the Sept. 4 Clark Patriot other mayors in the county are screaming for recounts and state-wide administrators have questioned the results, but that is not true," said the incumbent. "We checked with the municipal clerks and heard of such nonsense. Many communities have asked recount, just as we have."

The Census Bureau has informed Clark and all other municipalities that have raised questions they would be happy to have anyone provide proofs for another count. There are no federal, state or county monies available for such a movement, he added.

"Your mayor, being ever vigilant to see the taxpayers of Clark are properly protected in matters of this nature, wholeheartedly feels a good, fair effort has been made by the township of Clark and the others of the Census Bureau. Our township, not having the problems of the inner city, clearly demonstrates the efforts this administration has put forth," concluded Mayor Yarnavage.

READY FOR STEPPING ... John Pisansky, Democratic candidate for mayor in Clark, is shown, right, with Walter Dvord, chairman of the Social and Entertainment Committee of Eileen Clark Democrats, as they make arrangements for a dance that will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 9 p. m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall on Broadway, Clark. The Fred Kay Band will provide the music, and food and beer will be served. Mr. Pisansky, Councilman-at-Large Joseph F. Farrell, Jr., George G. Nocera and Dennis R. Kuber, Democratic candidates for council-men-at-large and Peter M. Campana, Fourth Ward Council candidate, will be guests of honor at the dance. Also expected to attend are Democratic Second Ward Councilman Bernard R. Hayden and Third Ward Councilman Donald W. Labella. For further information and reservations, please telephone Mr. Dvord at 382-6630.

Board tables action on school-year goals

By R. R. Fauszewski

A set of goals and objectives for the 1980-1981 school year was tabled by the Board of Education on Sept. 9 after several Board members sought clarifications and changes in several of the goals.

Tentatively added to the goals before the tabling were calls for the evaluation of the redefinition of the role of the Board secretary/school business administrator and for development of a five - year data-processing plan with an evaluation procedure.

On the negative side of Board vice president, Mrs. Eileen Mezzo, the school body decided to seek evaluation of the business administrator's duties in connection with building and grounds.

There had previously been a separate head of buildings and grounds.

Also unanimously approved was the intention of the Board to consider the development of an in-school foreign language pilot program.

Board member, Mrs. Marie Soyka, said foreign languages should be offered as courses, particularly at the middle-school level, rather than as after-school programs.

After Board member, Peter Cemnitsky, complained a goal entitled "leadership role for the eighties" was too vague, Dr. John T. Farinella, superintendent of schools, explained the goal had been included to examine the role of the school system's executive leadership such as several major banks and other businesses are doing for their corporatives.

* * *

In other action, the school body:

--Abolished unanimously the position of assistant principal at Carl H. Kumpf School.

--Hired a coach for the fall, winter and spring intramural programs at Valley Road School, another coach for fall and winter and a separate coach for spring at Frank K. Hetsly School and a fall coach, two winter coaches and two spring coaches at Kumpf School.

--Approved the employment of Anthony P. Doris as a maintenance worker at an annual salary of $13,725 prorated from Sept. 15 of this year to Monday, June 30, of next year.

--Okayed the acceptance of a $500 grant from the Nutrition Education and Training Program of the State Dept. of Education to be used to develop and publish a nutrition newsletter for students and parents.

--Approved the placement of a handicapped child in the Westlake School in Berkeley Heights on the recommendation of the child study team for the 1980-1981 school year.

--Gave its permission for Miss Lisa Kon to be hired as a speech teacher two days per week, to be paid $7.50 per hour worked with children in the pre-school handicapped class, for the 1980-1981 school year.

--Approved a joint transportation agreement with the Linden Board of Education to send one child to the Hazelwood Terrace School in Berkeley Heights for the 1980-1981 school year.

Board approves new salaries for top staff

By R. R. Fauszewski

The Board of Education Sept. 9 approved the 1980-1981 administrative and supervisory salary guides it had previously negotiated as part of a three-year contract.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farinella explained the salaries, as listed below, are for the second year of the pact:

--Principal, $21,000 to $33,889, up from $21,000 to $31,672 for 1979-1980.

--Helping teacher, curriculum co-ordinator and director of special services, $19,000 to $28,966, up from $18,000 to $27,071.

--Board secretary/school business administrator, $21,000 to $29,203, up from $19,000 to $25,880.

* * *

In other action, the Board:

--Approved a court-ordered testing to be given on the following dates: Cognitive Abilities Test, the week of Oct. 20 to 24, make up the week following; Iowa Test of Basic Skills, the week of April 6 to 10 of next year, with makeups the week following and State Minimum Basic Skills Test, the week of March 23-27 of next year. It was announced Mrs. Muriel Cassidy, who administers the testing program, will be present at the Board's Tuesday, Oct. 21 meeting to

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Republicans reveal platform for township

The Clark local Republican candidates, consisting of Mayor Bernard G. Yarnavage, Councilman - at - Large Joseph B. Pustelak and their township council running mates, George A. Sandalonas, Fred Eckel and Joseph E. Allachi, Jr., who are running as "The Yarnavage Team," announced their 1980 pledges to the voters of Clark.

Their 12 - point program consists of the following goals:

--Continue with every effort to hold the line on taxes.

--Keep Clark suburban.

--Fight to keep home rule.

--Continue to give quality municipal services at minimal cost.

--Work for bikeways and pedestrian paths alongside the Garden State Parkway through Clark.

--Clean up Jackson's Pond in the township.

--Continue to surface drainage program.

--Form a senior citizens'

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ON THE STUMP ... At the announcement of the 1980 Clark Republican platform, shown, left to right, are: Front row, Mayor Bernard G. Yarnavage and Councilman-at-Large Joseph B. Pustelak backed up by George A. Sangdalonas and Fred Eckel, council-at-large hopefuls and Joseph E. Allachi, Jr., Fourth Ward council candidate.

Council considers $23,000 for Curry Field building

By K. C. Baker

The Council Chambers of the Municipal Building was packed Monday night, as parents and youths involved in girls' softball activities in the township watched councilmen approve a $23,000 bond ordinance on first reading that would provide a shell structure for equipment and the sale of refreshments at Curry Field.

The proposed measure, to become law, must be approved on second reading at a future meeting, which will be announced in these columns.

Leading the fight against the proposed law was Second Ward Councilman Bernard R. Hayden who, while he has a daughter playing in township softball and has participated in softball activities, warned councilmen and members of the audience that $23,000 was not needed, since the structures have become the targets of vandals.

The councilman also noted many of the girls who would use the proposed structure would come from out - of town, and he felt facilities should not be provided for the non-Clarkites.

Third Ward Councilman Donald W. Labella said, in response to Councilman Hayden's statement that local merchants who sponsor teams would have their business hurt by a food stand at the field, that team members would continue to support the business men who sponsor Curry Field and would, at the same time, plan revenue from the sale of items at the stand.

Councilman - at - Large Joseph F. Farrell, Jr. said the money would be well spent to provide the township's youth into constructive channels. He noted, even if the proposed structure would be paid for in a one - time assessment, it would only be $5 per household. The councilman said that between 200 and 300 girls are active in the softball program.

Councilman - at - large Manuel S. Dias said councilmen should vote more funds to provide bathroom facilities at Bartell Pl. Park and Lupine Way. He proposed amending the $23,000 ordinance to provide for $69,000. This figure was later pared to $50,000 upon the suggestion of Councilman Labella, but all the amendments were subsequently dropped to allow for the drafting of a new ordinance to provide funds for the construction of the two added facilities.

That new ordinance will probably be handled at a special meeting at the Council's October caucus, Township Clerk Edward B. Paduniak said.

Councilmen are eager to take action on the matters, since a large bonding ordinance is being considered for the near future.

WALKING IN SAFETY ... Inspecting the pedestrian bridge and walkway along the northbound Garden State Parkway across the Middlesex Water reservoir in Clark, shown, left to right, are: Edward Ayers, Brian Teal, Joseph E. Alacchi, Jr., Fourth Ward Republican Township Council candidate, and Robert McDonough. Mr. McDonough has two children who have been using the walkway and Mr. Teal was a former student who used the walkway. The bridge was rebuilt and guard rails added in addition to chain-link fence, protecting walkers from both automobile traffic and the reservoir as part of the current parkway improvement program. The paved path has been removed and is presently filled with deep washouts, making the use of the walk hazardous, according to Mr. Alacchi. The entire length of the path has been enclosed by chain-link fence eliminating all access to the walk.

Mr. Alacchi inquires about parkway path

During the latter part of last month, the New Jersey Highway Dept. installed a wire-mesh fence barrier and removed the existing pedestrian path along the easterly side or northbound section of the Garden State Parkway between Madison Hill Rd. and Westfield Ave., Clark.

Township parents who have children of high school age, and whose children have been using the quarter-mile walkway for over 19 years, are asking "Why has the path been closed?" and "What future plans do the proper authorities have as an alternate to this parkway path?," according to Joseph E. Alacchi, Jr., Republican candidate for the Fourth Ward Township Council seat.

With the Parkway pedestrian path closed, students will have to circumvent the reservoir either by traveling 2.1 miles east on Madison Hill Rd. to Westfield Ave. at the Railway line or 1.8 miles west on Madison Hill Rd. to Raritan Rd. and then east on Westfield Ave. to commute to Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School, either by walking along these heavily-trafficked thoroughfares or by using additional bus service, Mr. Alacchi added.

In seeking answers, the Rahway attorney-candidate, who was instrumental in collecting material and data for effective negotiations with the State Highway Dept. for a parkway and its beneficial features when the roadway was originally proposed.

Mr. Ayers offered the following report:

In accordance with the provisions of New Jersey laws, approved on April 3, 1945, the New Jersey Highway Authority began negotiations for a "freeway" or "parkway" right of way through Clark. Their first suggestion was for a "freeway" which practically followed the borderline between Rahway and Clark.

The Township Commissioners rejected this alignment, mainly because it would absorb most of the land owned by St. Mary's and Hazelwood Cemeteries. Mayor Leon Schindler appointed a fact-finding committee to gather and list all details necessary to the commissioners could negotiate for a "parkway" which would provide beneficial features necessary for the future growth of the township. Serving on the committee with Mr. Ayers were Oliver Meech and Earl Snavely, both members of the township board of Education.

The committee in 1945 were for decided "parkway" as a state highway for passenger traffic, it specifies in part "borders may also include service roads open to motor traffic and such pedestrian, bicycle and bridle paths."

Mr. Ayers added:

"In 1945, Clark was still a rural farming community with an approximate population of 3,000. Our big problems were caused by the existence of the Middlesex Water Co. reservoir in Clark, which is about 1.5 miles long and practically divides our municipality into a north section and a south section," he noted.

The north section which had been developed, according to the former committee member, contained the schools and churches. The distance of travel at that time for students from the south section to elementary school was about two miles or more because they had to travel around the reservoir. The Board of Education members provided complete data about their deliberation and plans for development.

To cut former cost of student transportation it was recommended a "pedestrian path" be specified for inclusion in the eastern border of the parkway between Madison Hill Rd. and Westfield Ave., he commented.

Evidence also proved the reservoir interfered with the efficient services rendered by fire department, emergency squad and police department. Therefore, it was recommended to the commissioners to seek a service road to be included in specifications of the western border between Westfield Ave. and Madison Hill Rd., Mr. Ayers explained.

Commissioner Warren Wilson, with the co - operation of Sen. Herbert Pascor, worked out the following

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Council president's running on community service record

The 1980 President of the Township Council, Republican Councilman - at-Large Joseph B. Pustelak, has been on the Governing Body for eight years.

Councilman Pustelak, a retired businessman, has served on the Planning Board.

He is the township's representative on the Union County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the County Development Committee.

The Governing Body head is a member of St. Agnes R. C. Church in Clark and Clark Lodge No. 2377 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

He is a resident of 113 Amelia Terr.

* * *

This is the fifth in a series of articles which is running for a 10-week period in The Clark Patriot on the two candidates for mayor, two contenders for Fourth Ward councilman and six hopefuls seeking the three council-at-large seats in the township's Tuesday, Nov. 4, elections.

Joseph B. Pustelak, R.

Next week's story will be on Councilman-at-Large Joseph F. Farrell, Jr., incumbent Democratic at-large candidate.

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