

Belleville times/news

Vol. 68 No. 12

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Thursday, February 24, 1977

246 Washington Avenue, Belleville, New Jersey 07109; —759-3200

Second class postage paid at Newark, N.J.

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Burke's law

Above Commissioner of Education for the state of New Jersey, Fred Burke, addresses a gathering of educators at the Chandelier Restaurant Thursday night. Burke was here at the invitation of the Belleville school board and toured the town's school systems as well as those of Nutley and Bloomfield.

Official farewell

Below PBA president Bill Escott (center) presents a gold watch to retiring patrolman James O'Brien at a luncheon held in his honor at the Little League Field House. Also helping to mark the occasion was Belleville Police Chief Joseph Smith.



Risoli challenges Board candidates

By JOSEPH RYAN

Ralph Risoli is the only challenger who will face three School Board incumbents in the March 29 Trustee elections. Board president Matthew Pica and Schoolers Lawrence Schwartz and Viola Spray are all seeking reelection to the Board next month.

The filing deadline for candidates in the school election was last Thursday and Risoli said afterward his candidacy was a last minute decision. "I didn't intend to run," Risoli said. "I didn't make-up my mind. I was drafted. It would have been a disgrace if we gave them the election by

default. I would not have slept nights.

Risoli, Town Registrar and administrative assistant to Public Affairs Commissioner Vincent Strumolo, said his late announcement has prevented him from developing a formal platform this early in the campaign. The initial purpose, according to Risoli, is to stop the slate of Board Members from going unchallenged. "No one has ever been elected to the Board unless you have been sponsored," Risoli said.

Part of his campaign stance as an outsider against the entrenched establishment, included a blast against the Times News. Risoli complained it was the

policy of the paper to endorse only incumbents in elections.

The candidate is confident, however, he will win a seat on the Board next month. "There's no question it will be a victory," Risoli said. "I think the people have had enough of them."

Risoli is a lifetime resident of Belleville and the brother of a current member of the School Board, James Risoli. In addition to his duties as registrar and assistant to Commissioner Strumolo he is Director of Transportation and Dial-a-Ride, Director of Special Nursing, chairman of the Drug Abuse Control Commission, and a member of the Planning Board.

This year's race for a Trustee's job marks Risoli's third attempt for the office. Last year he finished third in a field of six candidates contesting two seats.

Risoli will have the second spot on the March 29 ballot. A drawing for name positions on the ballot was held last Friday. Board president Pica drew the top spot. Schwartz took third on the ballot and Mrs. Spray drew the 4a slot for the election.

Board president Pica is seeking his third term in this race. He said the normal field of candidates is usually between nine and 12 people and attributes this year's small field to two possibilities. Pica's first theory is, "the town has decided the present Board of Education has handled problems to the town's

Please see "Election on page 3.

School election deadline is set

Commissioner of Registration and Superintendent of Elections Joseph Aronoff has set February 28 as the last day for voter registration and transfer for the March 29 school board elections.

"I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of every eligible citizen to register to vote," Aronoff said. He also stressed the importance of voters completing a change of address card, "in order that he or she be eligible to cast his or her ballot on March 29."

Aronoff further stated, "registration mail forms and change of address cards may be secured either at the office of the Municipal Clerk in each town or by calling the Commissioner's office at 961-7065.

Belleville and 17 other Essex County municipalities will conduct School Board elections on March 29.

Inside

Champs again

For the third time in four years, the Belleville wrestling team has taken the crown in the Essex County Coaches' Tournament. Check out all the exciting details on page 9.

Burke's speech

Teachers and parents of the Belleville school system will probably be interested in the Commissioner of Education's remarks on the state mandated thorough and efficient system. Burke's philosophy on the law begins on page 5.

T&E explained

Acknowledging increased criticism of the state's new "thorough and efficient (T & E)" law, New Jersey Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke told a Nutley-Belleville audience "the critical moment of any new process sooner or later arises — and our critical moment is now."

Commissioner Burke believes, however, that given a fair chance, T & E will improve the quality of education in New Jersey. "Right now, all we have seen is paperwork, but the real test will come when the graduate in the classroom gets a better education as a result of this legislation."

Burke says he's confident the mounds of paperwork created by the T & E law will subside "after we complete our first year's cycle." He admitted, "a tremendous drain has been placed on our educational system" as a result of the

need for new reporting forms.

"When some of our poorer districts in New Jersey are now receiving 70 percent of their monies directly from the state, there has to be an accountability that those monies are being well spent. The people who are living in those districts which in effect are supporting poorer systems will demand such an accountability," Burke said.

The New Jersey Education Commissioner spoke for nearly an hour last Thursday evening at the invitation of Nutley's Frank Tangorra, a local board member here and president of the Essex County Boards of Education. Tangorra presided at a special session of the group following a steak dinner in the Chandelier Restaurant, Belleville. All

Please see "Commissioner" on page 3.

DeWitt will merge savings and loan

Applications for final approval of a merger between DeWitt Savings and Loan of Belleville and First State Savings and Loan of Bloomfield and Hopatcong were filed with federal and state authorities Tuesday.

John P. Dailey, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of DeWitt, announced plans for the merger of the associations in a joint statement with Henrik Tvedt, president of First State.

The agreement to merge has been in the planning stages for seven to eight months, according to Dailey, who added he didn't "expect any obstacles in final approval."

The boards of directors of both savings and loans have approved the merger and a tentative new name for the joined institutions. Both associations will be called "First DeWitt Savings and Loan Association."

Dailey, a Belleville resident, is slated to serve as chairman of the board for First DeWitt and Tvedt will serve as president and chief executive officer. The DeWitt branch, 463 Washington Avenue, Belleville will be the headquarters for the new institution.

Dailey, chairman at DeWitt, characterized the merger as an equal partnership rather than an absorption of a weaker company by a larger one. "This is a marriage, not a shotgun wedding," Dailey said. "The main thing is, we here at DeWitt are going to gain five branches we don't have at the present time. We're going to be a \$145 million association instead of a \$70 million association. We feel it should be a great advantage to our depositors and borrowers," Dailey added.

Tvedt, who is slated as president of

Please see "Permission" on page 3.

A Belleville patrolman ends 29 years service

By MIKE COREY

Members of the Belleville Police Department gathered at the Little League Field House Friday afternoon to officially mark the retirement of officer James O'Brien after 29 years on the force.

PBA president Bill Escott presented the veteran patrolman with a gold watch to commemorate his almost three decades of police service in the community.

For the past 20 years officer O'Brien has been assigned to control traffic at the intersection of Rutgers Street and Washington Avenue, a post in which he is probably most familiar to Bellevillians.

"People have a great amount of confidence in policemen," admitted the newly retired officer. "Over the years I've

seen a lot of people walk and drive by my corner and in that time I think I've been asked every question there is."

A resident of Belleville all his life, Jim still lives in the same house, 64 Cleveland Street he was raised in. "I enjoy living in this town," stated the bachelor. "The people are friendly and the community is peaceful."

The Belleville man joined the local police force in 1947 after a three year hitch in the army as a military policeman. Following a brief stint in Fort Riley, Kansas, he spent the balance of his service career in the southern part of Alaska.

"Generally it was a peaceful tour of duty," explained O'Brien. "The

Please see "O'Brien" on page 8.

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Senior notes

By GEORGE CHENOWETH

We're happy about the outcome of A2021, the generic drug bill that was passed by the state assembly. We would be equally pleased if the pending bills, those in regards to ceilings on retirees' pensions, were enacted into law. Favorable mention is made of the bills in both the state legislature and the senate. It seems now that it only means that the two bodies of the legislator get together and decide on what amount of pension income to tax.

We are confident that some people in government will do all they can in the way of legislation favoring seniors. Past performances have proven this in many instances. However, there are some who have to be reminded from time to time of our hopes and needs, and with this in mind we don't mind saying that we will continue to support legislators who think as we do and act in our favor.

The Belleville Senior Citizens Club celebrated Valentine's Day last Wednesday with a party at the clubhouse. The event was declared a big success by all who attended. A band of 14 pieces, known as the Kiwanis Dance Orchestra, supplied the music for an appreciative group of lively seniors. Special mention is made of the committee members and workers who served diligently and were responsible for making this affair so successful.

Bias's Restaurant on Bloomfield Avenue in Newark was the scene last Thursday of the Essex County Park Commission Luncheon. This affair was for the installation of officers and for awards presentation for outstanding service. We are happy to announce that Adelaide Gatto received recognition for being named the "Outstanding Senior" for her many services to the Senior Citizens Clubs in our community.

ID cards planned for county seniors

Bernard J. Gallagher, Director Essex County Office on Aging, has announced a two-pronged thrust aimed at expediting the facility with which senior citizens in Essex County can obtain the services they require. The first step is the introduction of a uniform identification system whereby all seniors will be issued ID cards to give county-wide identity to their status as older residents of the area.

Secondly, an updated Senior Services Directory will detail the essential and recreational services provided for seniors in the county with the locations and telephone number of each facility included.

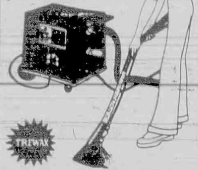
The identification program will be significant. The standardized identification card will enable the senior to obtain vital services and merchant's discounts provided in many Essex Communities, not only the town in which he or she resides. An updated services directory is a complement to the ID program inasmuch as all essential services in the areas of housing, nutrition, health, transportation and finances are listed as well as the major recreation

One students discover art

School One pupils enjoyed three separate art appreciation lessons presented by Morton Birkin, Supervisor of Art in the Belleville School System.

Birkin spoke to the pupils about the life and works of various artists.

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obituaries

John E. Connelly was 72

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered Wednesday, February 23, at Holy Family Church, Nutley, for

Russell Benson, 61

The Rev. Frederick L. Long officiated at services Wednesday, February 23, for Russell Benson who died Saturday, February 19, at Clara Maass Memorial Hospital after a long illness.

A dispatch supervisor for the Humble Oil Company for 40 years, Mr. Benson was born in Chicago and came here from Belmar in 1947.

Survivors include two sons, Lane of Edison and Richard of Belleville; his mother, Mrs. Ruth (Milbrandt) Benson Arachting of Zephyr, Florida, and four grandchildren.

Arrangements were through The Johannes Nutley Home for Funerals with interment in Glendale Cemetery, Bloomfield.

Frank Debowski

Services were held Tuesday, February 22, at St. Peter's Auditorium for Frank J. Debowski, 61, who died Saturday, February 19, in Clara Maass Memorial Hospital.

Born in Newark, Mr. Debowski moved here 25 years ago. He was a mason for many years before his retirement three years ago.

Surviving are his wife, Florence; two sons, Dennis of Wanaque and George of Belleville; two brothers, Anthony of Nutley and Theodore of Fords, and one grandchild.

Arrangements were through The Kiernan Funeral Home with interment in Glendale Cemetery.

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John E. Connelly, 72, who died Saturday, February 19, in Clara Maass Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Connelly was a supervisor for Public Service Electric and Gas Co., where he was employed for 50 years before retirement in 1973. Born in Newark, he moved here 25 years ago. He was a member of the Belleville Planning Board, a committeeman for the Democratic Party in Belleville and a member of the Rep. Peter Rodino Association, Newark.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret and a sister, Mrs. Alice Hikel of Bellevue, Wash.

Arrangements were through the Wadsworth Funeral Home, 524 Union Ave., Belleville.

Jamboree is May 18

The Fourth Annual Senior Citizen Jamboree will be held on Wednesday, May 18 at the South Mountain Arena, West Orange.

One of the largest gatherings of its kind in the nation, the Jamboree is Essex County's way of saluting its elderly during the month of May which is designated annually as Senior Citizen Month.

The Jamboree is free to all senior citizens of Essex County. For detailed information please call the Essex County Office on Aging, 751-6050.

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Mrs. Guiseppine Bocchino

Services were held Wednesday, February 23, at St. Anthony's Church for Guiseppine (Nittoli) Bocchino, who died February 20 in Clara Maass Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Bocchino was born in Italy and moved here 64 years ago. She was a member of VFW Auxiliary of the Joe Taibi Post, Belleville and the Christian Mother Society of St. Anthony's Church.

Survivors include five sons, John, Frank, Gerald, Anthony, and Joseph; three daughters, Mrs. Irene

Giallombardo, Mrs. Mary Ferrara, and Mrs. Regina Carosio; 15 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Bocchino was pre-deceased by her husband, Antonio.

Arrangements were through the Zarro Funeral Home with interment in Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington.

John D'Antonio, 74

A funeral mass was offered Friday, February 11, at St. Peter's Auditorium for John D'Antonio, 74, who died Tuesday, February 8, in Clara Maass Memorial Hospital.

Born in Italy, Mr. D'Antonio lived here the last 50 years. He was a boiler fireman for Sonneborn Co. Nutley, before his retirement in 1967.

Surviving are his wife, Carmela; two daughters, Mrs. Anne Gino of Belleville and Mrs. Rose Zanga of Bricktown; two sons, Frank of Belleville and Thomas of Bricktown; a brother, Domenick of Toms River; a sister, Mrs. Emily Frocco of Norwood and 10 grandchildren.

Arrangements were through the Kiernan Funeral Home with interment in St. Peter's Cemetery.

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Election is March 29

Continued from page 1.

satisfaction and has trust in them and would like to see them continue." The Board president said his second theory was, "In view of all the problems, those who would run might figure it would be too much of a burden to put on themselves and their families."

The chief trustee said he does not take Risoli's opposition lightly. "Every election no matter how many people are running, is a serious challenge. I believe I've worked very hard for the children and people of Belleville for the last six years and believe I've earned another term."

Pica said his goals for a third term would include a final understanding of T & E, the continued refurbishing of the systems buildings, and a solution to the overcrowding at the junior high school. The Board president also said he was interested in starting an in depth study of the utilization of school personnel.

Mrs. Viola Spray is seeking her second term on the Belleville Board of Education. A veteran of 47 years as a teacher and principal in the local school system, Mrs. Spray said she is running, "on my dedication to education." "I realize the cost of education must be controlled, but not at the expense of the children," Mrs. Spray said.

Part of Mrs. Spray's goals for a second term include doing more for children with special learning problems. The candidate said she would also like to see an enrichment program for gifted children.

"I try to make my decisions not

through emotions but through fair honest decisions on what my conscience dictates to me," Mrs. Spray said. "My decisions are made on what is best for the children."

Lawrence Schwartz was appointed to the Trustee's job in 1970 and is seeking his third elected term. He has served one term as president of the Belleville Board and is currently president of the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Schwartz is past president of the Essex County School Board Association and is a partner of the Belleville law firm, Schwartz and Fiebo, 308 Washington Avenue.

Belleville Knights test local spellers

The Belleville Knights of Columbus, Council #85, will hold its Annual Spelling Bee at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 95 Bridge Street, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 5.

The contest is open to 8th grade students of St. Peter's School, St. Anthony's School and the Belleville Junior High School.

Candidates will be selected by their teachers.

Trophies will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and certificates will be presented to all participants.

The local winner will then represent the Belleville Council in the county spell-off.

The winner of the county tournament will then participate in the state spell-off where the first, second and third place winners will receive \$100, \$50, and \$25 Savings Bonds, respectively.

Family, friends and the general public are invited to cheer on the contestants. Hot dogs and soda will be served.

Commissioner visits schools

Continued from page 1.

members of the Nutley School Board and top administrators attended.

Commissioner Burke has come in for harsh criticism during the past two weeks over the T & E law which Burke admits "has many dangers although I believe in the thorough and efficient system."

He asked the local school board members to think of T & E as a "system" of guaranteeing that a fairer education to all is possible.

He stressed several times during his talk that the New Jersey Supreme Court "has not forced the State to provide every youngster with a thorough and efficient education. It's very easy to slip up in the language...I am responsible for guaranteeing a thorough and efficient system for every youngster. You, the local boards are responsible for providing that education."

Burke said when the legislature adopted the T & E legislation, "a lot of things got tacked on to it which is making it extremely difficult for T & E to fulfill its original philosophy—one of them is the caps." Burke said the caps, the spending limit on school board expenses, is forcing local systems throughout the state to cut-back on programs in order to implement others required by the T & E law, such as remedial sessions for youngsters failing to achieve certain levels on state-administered tests.

"In many areas, the effect of these restrictions on spending is going to deny children humanistic kinds of courses, elements of an educational process which, in addition to learning to read and write, teach us how to be human beings," Burke told the Thursday dinner audience. "To be honest with you, I didn't agree with the caps."

Burke spoke for nearly an hour before fielding questions for another 15 minutes. He ended his remarks, made without notes, by saying the "educational eyes of the nation are on New Jersey. The boldest experiment in public education is being attempted here."

The easiest way out of implementing the T & E mandate, Burke said, would have been for the

Permission sought for local merger

Continued from page 1.

First DeWitt, said DeWitt in Belleville has had good growth potential over the last few years and added he hoped the combination of the savings and loans will add more strength to the town. "We try to take care of the communities we serve," Tvedt said.

The new association will afford many advantages to depositors Tvedt added. "The pooling of assets and reserves will make First DeWitt Savings one of the larger Essex County-based savings associations. More funds will be available for mortgages and home loans, permitting the association to extend its long range dedication to community service and social responsibility. In addition, new efficiencies, conveniences and economies will be realized through the merger of the institutions."

New branches, available for the use of Belleville's First DeWitt customers in Bloomfield, are: 667 Bloomfield Avenue, 20 Watessing Avenue, Broad and Watchung, and 50 Belleville Avenue. A fifth new location for Belleville depositors is at River Styx Road and Lakeside Boulevard in Hopatcong.

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Pharmacy Footnotes

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School Five hosts dinner

School Five will hold its Springtime Dinner-Fashion Show on Friday, March 11, at Biase's Restaurant, Bloomfield Avenue, Newark, at 6:30 p.m.

The fashion show will feature the new spring line from Bernice Fashions of Bloomfield.

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets at \$8.50 each may do so by contacting Cathy Coffey at 759-1949 or Sue Ackerson at 751-4383.

AARP meets on March 3

The regular monthly meeting of Belleville Chapter 2051 of the AARP will be held at Fewsmith Presbyterian Church, Union Avenue, starting at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 3.

The legislative committee under the direction of E. Arvidson made a report at the February meeting concerning many issues which are of importance to Senior Citizens, such as tax relief, crime protection, life line, generic drug bill and the exemption of pensions up to \$10,000 on state income tax. The Joint Legislative State Committee has launched an active and determined effort to secure enactment of legislation to implement these priorities.

Roberta Wertz, program chairperson, has arranged for those attending the March meeting to be entertained by Mrs. Marie Drake of Belleville. Frances Williamson, membership chairperson, will still be collecting 1977 dues. Please remember to bring your National Membership card when paying dues.

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Map showing location: LYNDHURST, SCHAEFER, ALC, MCBL, MCK, BELLEVILLE TURNPIKE, PIT, NORTH ARRLINGTON, TULSA, BAYVIEW, KEARNY, CBS IMPORTS.

opinion

Governmental crisis

The Commission form of government is an anachronism, according to many political scientists of the day. They say a local Board of Commissioners places too much power, both administratively and legislatively, into the hands of a single man. The system of government tends to eliminate the business of double-checks. In short, a Commissioner is the dictator of his or her own department.

Among the handful of communities around the nation today with local Boards of Commissioners are Nutley and Belleville, where most residents say, the political form serves the taxpayers well.

But certainly the recent case of political uncompromise in Belleville serves to illustrate the contention that individual Commissioners do have the ability to become little dictators of their own governmental areas.

The case in point concerns Belleville Health Commissioner Vincent Strumolo's veto of budget funds for the Community Mental Health Services, a clinic funded jointly by Belleville, Bloomfield and Nutley.

Officials in both Nutley and Bloomfield felt the closing down of the mental health unit would impose hardships, not only on local patients, but on on taxpayers who, the argument contended, would end up paying more money for essentially the same services being offered now.

Mostly through the urging of Nutley, as well as Strumolo's own Belleville colleagues, a professional task force was named to study the finances of the Community Mental Health clinic and was asked to look into the actual need for the various services offered by the local clinic, to determine whether a duplication of effort was being made, and finally, to examine the clinic's fiscal affairs.

The task force's final report is now in. In addition to giving the service a clean bill of health, the

members of the task force gave those political scientists more ammunition by emphasizing that Commissioner Strumolo did, in fact, have the power to close the clinic down.

Even to this day, Commissioner Strumolo has discounted the professional opinions of the Community Mental Health Services staff. Strumolo has pooh-poohed the concern of Bloomfield officials and Strumolo, has discarded the pleas of his colleagues in neighboring Nutley. He has told all four other Belleville Commissioners, including Mayor Mike Marotti, to get lost on the mental health question. Now with the professional task force's study completed, Strumolo is telling that group to get lost as well.

Dictator? God! Proof that the Commission form of government can't possibly serve the public interest?

Well, almost but not quite and by a long shot. People of Belleville as well as Nutley and Bloomfield should take note that Mayor Mike Marotti and the rest of the Belleville Commission, Strumolo excepted of course, decided to split up the mental health budget four ways and include the funds in their own respective budgets. The decision of the Belleville officials becomes more meaningful when it's remembered each of those four departments are forced to live with the new five percent cap law. As for Strumolo, cap spending wasn't so bad — he's got all his town's mental health funds from the previous year to play around with in 1977. We wish him well.

And while we're at it, we wish the Commission form of government well too. Perhaps an anachronism but in our community, the system and its men have survived this most recent crisis which more easily would have been avoided had the area communities opted for one of the more modern government forms.

Prayer for today

Slow me down, Lord.
Ease the pounding of my heart
by the quieting of my mind.

Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me, amid the confusion of the day the calmness of the everlasting hills.

Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory.

Help me know the magical, restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking minute vacations — of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book.

Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow toward the stars of my greater destiny.



Potholes — The Federal Emergency Unemployment program provided funds to the Department of Public Works and Commissioner Mary Senatore is using the money to fill in the seasonal potholes caused by the recent temperature changes. Above, a Public Works crew applies patches on Mr. Prospect Avenue.

Golden Comments



By James R. Golden

Our retired senior citizens should be able to breathe a little easier in regards to the effect the state's new income tax law will have upon their pension income. The law as originally written would have exempted from state taxation the pension income of all public employees (such as teachers, police, firemen, municipal, county and state employees and judges in the county and state courts) while those getting pensions from the private sector (company pensions) would have been taxed on this income.

The angered pressure applied by irate citizens, especially well organized senior citizen groups, upon the state's lawmakers over the obvious inequity along with the threat of legal court tests convinced the legislators that changes were in order. So both houses of the state legislature moved to amend the law, agreeing that not to do so would not only be unfair, but cruel to tax the smaller pensions of retired senior citizens over 62 years of age. As far as the state's only Governor's signature is required in just the amended law into effect. In view of Governor Byrne's expected running for reelection this year, it is more than likely he will ink the bill. Not to do so would certainly dash any hopes he might have of retaining the governor's chair. His advocacy and pressuring for the passage of the unpopular state income tax law has already made him unpopular with many residents of the Garden State.

A rough sketch of the amended law indicates it will be retroactive to July 1, 1976 as it applies to all pensions with a threshold limit on exemptions of \$5,000 for those filing separately and \$10,000 for those filing jointly. Taxes will have to be paid on all pensions above these prescribed threshold levels.

Our state lawmakers have our elderly retired citizens who find it so difficult to cope with the inflationary spiral that continues to erode the social security and pension checks of our senior citizens whose militant fight to win exclusion of their pension income from "me" from the state income tax played such a significant role in pressuring for the amendment that will spare them from the added burden of oppressive taxation.

The new found power of the Senior Citizen lobby might well, demonstrate the mounting influence this ever growing body may exert upon the future legislation. As they flex their muscle and exert in their victory over taxation of pension they must not stop there. Only half the battle has been won.

Gaining a state victory on this issue has established a precedent that should cause them to marshal their forces and regroup in an all out battle to have Congress and President Carter amend the federal income tax laws to provide the same exemption from taxation on the pension income of retired senior citizens as the State of New Jersey offers. All senior citizen groups and AARP should join in the campaign to bring this about. Come on all old timers, join the march on Washington to gain the same consideration you won in New Jersey.

February 18 was a day when one smiling Irishman of Belleville's finest, that was the day they feted James P. (Moon) O'Brien on his retirement from the force after 30 years of exemplary service. The festive affair held at the Little League Field House was the scene of much joy and many memories as the amiable policeman turned in his shield to Chief Joe Smith. Both had been absorbed by former Police Director Lou Noll along with officers O'Reilly, Tinsdale, and the late Eddie Meade, all good cops.

After years of patrol duty, Officer O'Brien controlled traffic at the busy intersection of Rutgers Street and Washington Avenue, one of the town's biggest business sections. Always with a smile for pedestrians as he escorted them through the crosswalks, the big Irishman was there in the best and worst kind of weather to enforce the law and give a helping hand to those in distress.

Officer O'Brien has put in his years in a job well done. He can be most proud of his fine record with the full knowledge that he will miss a damn fine cop. We wish him a happy, healthy, long retirement that he has well earned. Good luck, "Moon" O'Brien.

Letters

CMHS requests volunteers

To the Editor:

The Community Mental Health Services of Belleville, Bloomfield and Nutley wishes to announce its newest program. Continuing in its aim to help all the members of the three communities, this agency has inaugurated the Volunteer Friendly Visitors and Telephone Reassurance Program for the home-bound elderly. This program is designed to train volunteers who will make weekly visits to the elderly in their homes as well as maintain daily phone contact to make sure that all is well.

This will be a means of providing friendship and understanding to the elderly and in this way, much of the isolation and loneliness that these elderly people feel will be alleviated.

If anyone who reads this letter knows of any home-bound elderly person who could use this service or if anyone would be interested in working with us as a volunteer, would they please telephone me at their earliest convenience.

The program also plans to hire three part-time staff workers to coordinate the work of the volunteers.

These workers must be retired and living on Social Security income only. They must be willing to accept responsibility and have a caring and concerned attitude toward people. Any readers who fill the above qualifications and feel that such a position would interest them should also contact me since we are now interviewing.

As we start our new program, we would welcome the interest and

cooperation of all of the townspeople since this would assure its success. More important we don't want to miss anyone in our towns, because we don't want any older person to be alone and in need of help.

Rosemarie Kramer
Administrator of Volunteer Friendly
Visitors & Telephone Reassurance
Program

Officer Alex Freda impresses resident

To the Editor:

I am a new resident of Belleville, having moved from Newark in September. I would like to compliment the Belleville Police Force for its aid in a minor accident in which I was involved today. A motorcycle policeman, Alex Freda came to the scene to assist in whatever capacity he could.

The reason for this letter is that on one or two other occasions I was a witness to the enforcement of this particular policeman's duty and each time was impressed with the manner in which he conducted himself. He was helpful, courteous and efficient.

In this day when all policemen are regarded with less than respect, I feel one who shows the true colors of the men who protect this city should be mentioned. Patrolman Freda is a credit to the Belleville Police force, always smiling, always helpful and always performing the duties for which he is paid.

Hats Off To You Alex.
Kitty Marano
64 Florence Avenue
Belleville

EDITOR'S JOURNAL

Turn off, tune out, type on

By JOSEPHRYAN

CB or not CB, that is the question, whether it's nobler to suffer the jam-ups and smokes of outrageous traffic or to take on ears and by becoming a good buddy, avoid them.

America has taken to citizen's band radio faster than the hula-hoop and the spell of broadcasting "breaker-breaker" will probably last much longer. Initially, CBs, TVs, LPs, and AM and FM radio were luxury items but all have become necessary equipment for a nation of media freaks.

I have been an addict myself. For years I kept record companies in business by buying an album whenever I felt depressed. (I have a rather large collection.) Now, Joni Mitchell's "Turn Me on I'm a Radio" could be the national anthem for the CB set, the would-be truckers with their instant Southern drawls.

This is fine for those who enjoy it but I never want to push a rig or live in Atlanta, so I'll drive in isolation, all alone

with 20 AM radio stations. Philbert, in the office here, joins me in non-broadcasting obscurity. He knew the thrills of calling, "breaker-breaker" until a CB enthusiast broke into his four wheeler and stole his ears the first night he left his unit in the car.

Beside the short life span of CBs, the thought of just what all these radio transmissions flying through the air are doing to us is bothering me. People have reported picking up smoke reports from the fillings in their teeth. Record players, electric guitars, and televisions have all been subject to surprise broadcasts from unsuspecting CBers passing through the neighborhood. Church-goers were recently startled by a disembodied voice emanating from the organ. Now that's a big, 10-4.

If the CB airwaves are becoming a modern power of Babel, what does the future hold for us? What will be the first contact lens wearer to pick up Johnny Carson on the right lens and Mike Douglas on the left? One morning, probably very

soon, the crowded airwaves will present the Today Show on a medicine cabinet mirror to a confused early riser and a toaster will present in living color, "Walking Tall" Slice I and II.

In order to avoid becoming a walking home entertainment center, listening to Barry Farber from my teeth and watching Bowling for Dollars on my glasses, I plan to begin an unplugging campaign. I'll become media free.

The only electric paraphernalia I'll use will be my TP. Yes, there's a few of us who know the thrills of late-night pounding at the keyboard. When I get in front of a 55-key, double-shift typewriter, I become an obsessed man. A complete paragraph is a pleasure, an entire typed page is nearly obscene.

So the highs of typing will be limited to a few. We already have our own jargon. So here's a TP'er-pounding out a big Qwertypu to you. Check out your shifts, mar rels, clrs and sets. Forget the good buddies for the ribbon runners. Nevermind the 10-4s, here's keyboarding a big 30 to you.

the Belleville
times/news



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Burke addresses the problems of T&E

(Commissioner Fred Burke addressed Thursday night's Belleville banquet of the Essex County Board of Education at the Chandelier Restaurant. Commissioner Burke, who was in Essex County at the invitation of the Belleville Board of Education, spoke for nearly an hour, outlining his reaction to criticism of the T & E bill, its current problems and what he envisions as happening next. Highlights of the Commissioner's address follow.)

I've had a good day in your town and schools. I enjoyed it very much. These are not the best times or the worst times for public education for any state official. It's a time of frustration because it's not an easy time to manage change as change affects the lives, fortunes and egos of everyone. People are inclined to fear change. And that's normal. In fact, I think it's desirable for otherwise we would have abnormal erratic change.

Today, I've seen change and I've seen some good things in your schools. And I've said many times before that a poor school system has difficulty in bring about changes; only a good school system can do that effectively.

We have a good school system in New Jersey. It's one of the best in the United States. And the effort of T & E to bring about change is not a reflection that things are changing, and also that there was a boy named Robinson, and a governor named Cahill, and a New Jersey Supreme Court which was very courageous and said in a great, monumental decision "You, the State of New Jersey — Your Constitution, which is your Bible and the law, says that you must provide every youngster in your state with a thorough and efficient education, and to and behold, over these many years ago, you have allowed a situation to occur wherein some of the units you have created which you call school districts, are very wealthy while others are very poor. Thus, some districts, with very effort, have been allowed to raise a lot of money, and you have allowed some with very little money to raise very little money, and as a consequence, some of your children are receiving a very good education, while others are receiving a very bad education, and that is wrong because you are responsible in New Jersey for the education of every youngster."

NEW JERSEY replied back to the courts saying we had delegated that responsibility to the school districts. But the Constitution argued back saying, "No — you are responsible, New Jersey. The State must provide. If you elect to do this through 600 school districts, that's

your business. If you want to do it through a property tax, or a sales tax, or an income tax, that's your business. The point is that you, New Jersey, have the obligation of providing all of this and you're not doing it, and therefore your educational system is unconstitutional because it's not fair and just. And we give you a period of time to change that. In fact, we order you to do two things: first, to equalize the burden. It should not be allowed in this state that some people can tax themselves with relatively little effort and raise and raise a lot of money, while other people can tax themselves with enormous efforts and raise very little money, with the result that the children suffer. That must change. Therefore, you must reorganize the way in which you collect money and spend money, and that is an order."

"If we believe in the system of a constitution which lays down our fundamental laws, then it's an order. The court also said, 'By the way, nobody has ever said, properly, what a 'thorough and efficient' education is, so while you're at it, do that as well.'"

Now all of this was a monumental order to give anybody and, by the way, reflects the danger of making education policy through the courts. Any politician, administrator, or state board person could have known that that was a pretty big mouthful, and maybe it should have been taken piece by piece.

Other states have reorganized the way in which they collect and spend money. And other states have tried to define what a good education is, and to find out whether they have it or not. But no state has tried to do both at the same time.

And the Legislature, you will recall, huffed and puffed and found this all extremely difficult. It was extremely difficult because the only way in which you can equalize the money spent for education was to drastically increase the amount of money spent for education that the state provides. You can hold constant the total amount of money spent for education — we have, by the way, with the 'Caps' we can't increase.

But the state's share had to go up drastically. It went up, by the way, about 37 to 42, 43 percent. Now where's that going to come from? There's no way in which the state could increase its share of the total cost of education, 37 to 43 percent, without a new tax.

THAT NEW STATE TAX was a very hard decision to make. In fact, the Legislature found it easier to pass a law defining a "thorough and efficient" education. And that's even pretty radical. But finally the day came and the Legislature tried and couldn't do it and

as you recall, we had 11 days in infamy in the state which gave us a chapter in the unique book of events when the Supreme Court told me, "Commissioner. You will close the schools — all schools. All education must cease in the State of New Jersey because it is illegal." It was the same thing if you were enjoined from doing an illegal act. The court said, "We gave you until the day to finish this job and you didn't do it, and it's an illegal system that you run. You must desist and desist and close the schools."

Well no one's ever closed any schools before. I don't know really, when I leave New Jersey, or in what form, what I'll be remembered for, I hope it's something other than being the first Commissioner in the United States that every closed down an entire school system. But that may be the case. We did close the schools for 11 days until the Legislature finally passed a tax and the court said, "Yes, the law defining 'thorough and efficient' education is constitutional, and yes, it's unconstitutional because you have funded it." And then we were in business.

Next the State Board, as you will recall, with great input and an enormous amount of trauma, passed a code to administer the new law.

It hasn't been easy to go about reorganizing the educational system in New Jersey both fiscally and substantially. It's not easy in any place and particularly, in a county as complex as yours. In many ways, Essex County is a miniature of the state. You have relatively rich areas, long possessed of expensive schools, and you have urban areas which are currently undergoing decay and struggling to maintain their vitality. We have to provide education in New Jersey, as well as Essex, for the rich and the poor, and equally. That's the law.

All this has not been easy because we've delegated the responsibility, and rightfully so, to where it ought to be and that's the local level. It's interesting to note that the Supreme Court and the Constitution do not guarantee that the State will provide every youngster with a thorough and efficient education. It's very easy to slip up in the language. The constitution does not say that the state is responsible, and in this case, I am the state, and I am not responsible for guaranteeing a thorough and efficient education for every youngster. I am responsible for guaranteeing a thorough and efficient system of public education. There's a big difference.

SO THE LAW which has emerged with the regulations are designed to provide a system. The state will see that that system functions, but the provision of a thorough and efficient education is

yours; it belongs to you at the local level. The function of the state is to see that a system exists so that it can guarantee that indeed, a way is being provided for those youngsters to have an education.

That system has two backs to it. One is a system of allocating monies in such a fashion that relative wealth or poverty will not be a determining factor as to whether or not a district can raise money for education of its children. It does not say that the state will guarantee every child the same money. That's up to you. It doesn't say, for example, that the state will say that every youngster has a thorough and efficient education if that youngster can read at a certain point of time. That's up to you. The state's function is to develop a system. That's a good thing, I think, but it has some dangers.

It's a good thing in the sense that the

state has limited its role in saying that if you will assess your educational needs, develop an educational program, develop a way to determine whether you have achieved that program, develop a budget which reflects those programs, report to the public what you've done, and involve in that process the public, the parents, the children and the teachers — that is a thorough and efficient system, not an education, but a system. You must use that system but the education you provide under that system is your decision.

THE DANGER, of course is you can get wrapped up in the system. The state could have said that the simplest way for the state to fulfill the court's requirements was to take over all education. That's happened in some states. Then you'd have no requirements for forms or

bits of paper for monitoring whether or not local districts are doing their job through the system because the state wouldn't have to. But in New Jersey, education remains a local function, as it should. And local districts make that determination.

At the present time, the state average for the total contribution to education is 47 percent. That runs from 10 percent in wealthy districts to as high as 78 percent in districts which are not very wealthy.

At any point in time when Legislators and citizens are saying that 78 percent of the money in this district over here comes from your pockets, that although I may not be a citizen of that district, or on that board, I want to be sure that somehow I have some say as to whether or not those monies are being spent thoroughly and

Continued on page 11.



Educator learns — New Jersey's Commissioner of Education, Fred Burke, accepted the invitation of the Belleville Board of Education and visited the High School last week. Commissioner Burke also stopped in Bloomfield and Union during his tour. Above, Commissioner Burke (center) confers with Belleville Board Member Mrs. Viola Spray and Dr. John Greed, superintendent of schools in Belleville.

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Of dancing and airports and bears



by Helen Maguire

ODDS AND ENDS.

I have close to two left feet but Rod is a very good dancer. He has danced with the kids since they were babies while they giggled and smiled and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Gavin became so enamored of Herb Albert and the Tijuana Brass that he ran for his father and held up his arms everytime he heard "Whipped Cream."

THE IRISHMAN has decided that it is time the kids learned a few steps and started them off with the basic rhumba. They were thrilled and readily learned to do an acceptable box much to father's delight.

The other day, Nora heard the familiar music and sought Daddy out. "Daddy," she cried, "let's do the square dance."

Took him a few seconds to figure out what she meant.

I LEANED DOWN to give Ryan a goodnight kiss recently and he wrapped his arms around my neck and pulled me down onto the bottom bunk. "You'd make a good teddy bear," he grinned, "but a little overgrown." Erin, the inveterate garbage picker, rescued a lovely orange teddy bear a few months ago, named him Albert and carted him around everywhere. Suddenly, with the advent of the cold weather, Albert disappeared. "Where's Albert," I queried. "I haven't seen around him recently." "He's just like all the other bears," replied my daughter. "Sleeps all winter."

OUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, after six weeks with the mob, got her traveling orders from the Army and booked a flight out of JFK last Saturday. The boys were still running low grade fevers and Rod went down to Roselle for the grandparents to boy sit while the rest of us took Judi to the airport. It was a terrible afternoon. Grandma slipped on the cellar stairs and landed in a heap at the bottom, dislocating her shoulder and breaking her arm. The First Aid Squad arrived in record time and took her off to St. Barnabas' Hospital accompanied by her sister since there was no way we could postpone Judi's flight to Germany nor get in touch with Dennis to tell him she would be delayed.

THE TRIP OUT to Long Island was uneventful except that the twins, learning that a river flowed over the Lincoln Tunnel, held their breaths through most of the underground journey lest it should suddenly spring a leak. All of us did a double take when the luggage was \$77 overweight but we finally got the car launched and I guess she arrived safely since I haven't heard my son yelling, "Where's my wife?" Two hours after we got home (in a record hour flat), they closed parts of the Long Island Expressway due to bad visibility and snow and the Irishman thanked his lucky stars that we had left when we did.

Sunday was Grandpop's birthday and Ryan whipped up a delicious sheet cake (recipe on Duncan Hines yellow cake mix box), iced it in vivid pink and trimmed it in green. Grandpop loved it!

At Holy Family

Bishops Dougherty and Costello to preach at Lenten services

Holy Family Church, Nutley, which numbers parishioners in Belleville as well, has announced plans for a series of Lenten services on the Fridays of Lent at 7:30 each evening.

The services will include the traditional Stations of the Cross, a sermon by an outstanding visiting preacher, and veneration of the relic of the True Cross.

Opening the series, February 25, will be the Most Rev. John J. Dougherty, Bishop Dougherty, who has doctorate degrees in Theology, Sacred Scripture, and Laws, is the pastor of the Church of St. Rose of Lima in Short Hills. He was formerly president of Seton Hall University and, prior to that, professor of Sacred Scripture at the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington.

The Most Rev. Joseph A. Costello, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Belleville, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar for the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Newark, will preside over the second service, March 4. This first Friday service will include the monthly Holy Hour.

The Rev. Sylvester J. Livolsi,

founder and superior of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit, Branchville, and formerly pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church in Garfield, will deliver the homily at the March 11 service.

The Rev. Monsignor Walter G. Jarvais, formerly Spiritual Director of the Immaculate Conception Seminary and former pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield, will be the homilist March 18.

The Rev. Monsignor William F. Furlong, formerly the spiritual Director of the Seton Hall University Divinity School, and presently Pastor Emeritus of St. Mary's Church, Elizabeth, will be the guest homilist at the March 25 service.

The Lenten series will conclude April 1 with the Rev. Paul A. Viale, associate pastor of Christ the King Church, Jersey City, and formerly an Associate at Holy Family, delivering the sermon during the monthly Holy Hour.

The Rev. Robert P. Cozzini, Moderator of the Liturgy Committee of Holy Family's Parish Council, is in charge of making the arrangements for the Lenten series.



Pageant — Plans for the first annual "Ms. Essex County Senior Citizen Pageant" are made by Executive Director Linda Cofe, Hawkins of East Orange and Bernie Gallagher of Nutley, Executive Director of the Essex County Office of Aging.

Senior Citizen Beauty Pageant open to ladies 62 and older

No longer will beauty pageants be limited to young, curvaceous girls parading down the runway.

Plans were announced today for the first annual "Ms. Essex County Senior Citizen Pageant" to be held

May 18 at the South Mountain Arena, West Orange.

To qualify for this pageant, a contestant must be female, at least 62 years of age and a resident of Essex County. The winner goes to the state finals in Cherry Hill this summer.

"One of the purposes of this contest is to show that all of beauty is not confined to the young," said Executive Director Linda Cofe, Hawkins of East Orange, a former "Miss Upsala College" who went on to become a finalist in the Miss New Jersey Pageant which is a preliminary of the Miss America Contest. "We are trying to find the inner beauty that often shines more radiantly than the outer beauty. This is a contest for the woman who has relished the age of elegance."

The competition will be divided into three categories: talent presentation, evening gown and a discussion period in which the participants will be asked to give their philosophies on life. The pageant is being sponsored in conjunction with the Essex County Office on Aging and the Essex County Park Commission. It will be held as part of a day long Senior Citizens Jamboree to be held at the South Mountain Arena.

Mrs. Hawkins, wife of Assemblyman Eldridge Hawkins and a member of the Upsala faculty, said applications for entry may be obtained from her at 129 South Munn Ave., East Orange, 07018 or by contacting Ben Schaeffer, administrator of recreation for senior citizens, handicapped and cultural affairs, at the Essex County Park Commission.

Bishop Sheen to preach in Newark March 6

The Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, titular Archbishop of Newport, leads the list of distinguished preachers who will occupy the pulpit of Newark's Cathedral of the Sacred Heart during the Lenten and Easter seasons. According to Father John Doran of the Cathedral staff, who is coordinator of the preaching series, Archbishop Sheen will deliver the homily at the 12 noon Mass on March 6, the Second Sunday of Lent.

Beginning with the First Sunday of Lent, February 27, guest preachers will deliver the sermon at the noon Mass. The homilist on February 27 will be the Most Reverend Joseph Francis, auxiliary Bishop of Newark and Vicar of Essex County.

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Dr. Norbert Tye will address World Day of Prayer service

Dr. Norbert B. Tye of the American Leprosy Missions Inc., will be guest speaker at the 1977 World Day of Prayer service March 4 at 8 p.m. at Montgomery Presbyterian Church, Mill Street. The program is sponsored by Church Women United.

Dr. Tye joined the staff of the American Leprosy Missions in 1969 after 22 years of missionary service and three years as a chaplain in the U.S. Army, serving in New Guinea and the Philippines. In the past few years, he has visited India, Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, Zaire and Tanzania in connection with the leprosy program. The Mission is located at 1262 Broad Street, Bloomfield.

Men, women and young people are invited to share in this special program.



Dr. Norbert Tye

McLaughlin-Conway betrothal told; wedding in summer

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McLaughlin of Merrick, Long Island, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ellen Catherine to Thomas Matthew Conway, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conway of Belleville.

Miss McLaughlin, a graduate of The Queen of the Rosary Academy, Amityville and St. Anselm's College,

Manchester, New Hampshire, is with the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia.

Mr. Conway, also an alumnus of St. Anselm's College, is in the Loss Prevention Department of Gimbels, Philadelphia.

A summer wedding is planned.

Sprocks celebrate golden anniversary Tortoriellos feted on 65th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sprock of 23 Wallace Street celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary January 15. A surprise party, attended by relatives and friends, was hosted by their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Allum at Christ Church, Belleville.

Mr. and Mrs. Sprock moved to Belleville from Jersey City nine years ago. They have one daughter and three grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Carmine Tortoriello of 80 Melwex Street were feted February 18 at the home of their granddaughter, Mrs. Theresa Petti of Nutley in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary. Family and friends attended the party.

Belleville-Nutley Hadassah meets Monday afternoon

The Belleville-Nutley Chapter of Hadassah will meet Monday afternoon, at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Hillard Mann. Presiding will be Mrs. William Halpern and Mrs. Harold Kirshenblut.

The program, celebrating the coming of Purim, will be in the charge of Mrs. William Taffet. Games and songs will be led by Mrs. Charles Goldberg.

Mrs. Sarrecchia's 75th birthday celebrated at Elks

Mrs. Mildred Sarrecchia of Nutley celebrated her 75 birthday February 6 at a party at the Elks Hall.

Among the guests were her seven daughters, Mrs. Angela Furnari, Mrs. Mickie Andriola and Mrs. Eleanor Sibilia, all of Nutley, Mrs. Phyllis Conforti of Seaside Heights, Mrs. Anna Cerami of Belleville, Mrs. Carmela Leone of Reisterstown, Maryland and Mrs. Natalie Costa of Trenton; her five sons, Vincent, Salvatore, Anthony of Nutley, Joseph of Florida and John of Bloomfield; 34 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Her sister, Mrs. Lucille LaMonica of Nutley, was also a guest at the affair.

Color pictures will not be accepted for publication in The Nutley Sun or Belleville Times/News.

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Spring Flinging — Spring Fling, Mountainside Hospital's annual fundraising luncheon, will be held March 22 at the Manor and will include a fashion show by M. Epstein of Morristown. Above, Mrs. Arthur Hill, assistant treasurer, Mrs. Carl Gehron, program chairperson; Mrs. Wilbur D. Warner and Mrs. William A. Bright, co-chairpersons; Mrs. Gerald Podesta, invitations chairperson. For tickets, call Mrs. James Hardwick at 744-9365.

Cats, kittens may be unexpected visitors under car hoods

A cold weather tip from the Nutley Animal League At this time of year, many cats and kittens seek shelter and warmth in the engine portion of cars.

Each year the League hears of tragic incidents of this type. To be sure there are no unexpected visitors beneath the hood of your car, truck or van — honk the horn lightly before starting the engine.

Jr. Woman's Club will enjoy program by New Jersey Bell

The Junior Woman's Club of Belleville will hear Mrs. Mary Williams of New Jersey Bell Telephone Company lecture on fashions, fads and phones February 28 at 8:15 p.m. at the Clubhouse, 51 Rossmore Place.

The illustrated lecture is a journey through the history of dress and communications from Eve to the present. It will show fashions worn by the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and other peoples and explain the forms of communication they used.

Young women from 18 to 35 are invited to attend.

Spices are man's oldest additives

Pepper on your eggs. Cinnamon and apples. Onion in stewed tomatoes. They're all additives. Nature didn't put them there; man did.

In all of today's controversy over additives in manufactured food products, it's important to keep a clear perspective. Technically speaking, anytime we add anything to a food, the addition is an additive. Even if it means combining two or more completely natural products.

The American Spice Trade Association points out that without additives we wouldn't have apple pie, or ice cream to top it. Or meat loaf, or mashed potatoes. Or turkey stuffing. Or gravy. Or any of thousands of other recipe foods in which ingredients are combined to create appetizing dishes.

Spices are probably man's oldest additives, according to the industry group, and safety-tested through centuries of human usage. The earliest of man's written records recount the everyday use of spices, meaning that these natural additives often pre-date the foods to which we add them today.

Birthday plans spring luncheon, fashion show

Birthday of Essex County, Inc. will hold its fourth annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show March 3 at noon at the Chanticleer, Milburn. The fashion show, featuring spring outfits, will be given by the designer shop, Karen Zittel of Montclair. There will also be a Boutique with hand made articles, forgotten treasures and baked goods.

Reservations for the Luncheon can be made by calling Mrs. Margaret Rowe at 746-9645.

Birthday is a non-sectarian organization which provides assistance to distressed pregnant women, offering them an alternative to abortion. It is located at 622 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield. Anyone interested in volunteering can call the office at 743-2061.

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Bellboys earn Essex title again

By MIKE COREY

For the third time in the past four years the Belleville wrestling team has emerged from the Essex County Coaches Tournament with the championship crown. Saturday night the Bellboy matmen accumulated 111-points to take the ECCT tournament at Upsala College.

The Blue-Gold grapplers are slated to compete along with 10 other schools in the districts tomorrow, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday starting at 10 a.m.

"Everyone can be credited with the win," stated Belleville varsity wrestling mentor Gene D'Alessandro. "The kids, parents, school administrators, coaching staff (Joe Zarra and Dennis Villano) and

the local community members themselves for coming out and supporting our club. The wrestlers know that all their hard work is appreciated when a large crowd is on hand to witness the matches. With the fans behind them rooting them on they sometimes can perform above their capabilities."

Bellboys Frank DiLorenzo, Ed Camuso, Ron Grolimond and Bernie DalCortivo all took first place in the tourney.

The closest competitor to the Bellboys' point total was Millburn which finished in the runnerup slot, 41 points behind the Blue-Gold. Eight of Belleville's 12 wrestlers placed in the tourney in-

cluding, besides the four first place winners, a pair of second spot finishers and two third place entries.

Frank DiLorenzo, seeded fourth, started off slowly in the 101 pound class and gradually gained momentum. The Bellboy drew a bye in the initial round; defeated his St. Benedict's opponent, 3-2, in overtime; edged Frank Welsh (with a 17-0 record), 5-3, and dethroned Joe Stampone of Essex Catholic and a Belleville resident, 13-4.

"Both Frank and Stampone wrestled to a draw in an earlier meeting in December," stated coach D'Alessandro. "Frank did an excellent job

Continued on page 10.

times/news sports

Cagers close with loss

Although Bloomfield's Kelly Tripuka was held to his second lowest point total this year, the rest of his roundball squad took up the offensive slack to hand the Bellboy cagers their 17th loss of the season, 82-44, on the Bengal hardwoods last Tuesday.

Belleville tipped off versus Queen of Peace in an away matchup Tuesday to close out the regular season of action but results were not available as the Times/News went to press.

An 8 p.m. contest with Emerson High, set for tonight on the BHS floor, has been cancelled due to the school's participation in a post season tournament.

"We didn't really play a good game against Bloomfield," stated Bellboy head basketball Dan Grasso. "We didn't shoot well and their rebounding strength off the boards was just too much for us to cope with."

Bloomfield managed an early 17-11 lead in the first quarter as the Bengals played a patterned deliberate style of offense, running plays and freelaying only when the Bellboy man-to-man defense stiffened.

Belleville roundballers did not match up well with the Bengal five (14-6). The

home team's front court height advantage began to take its toll in the second period, allowing the Blue-Gold just four points, as the Bengal big men banged the boards, converting second and third offensive rebounds to put points on the score board and open up an 18 point bulge. The score stood at 33-15 as the halftime buzzer sounded.

"The Bloomfield players dominated us throughout the game," said coach Grasso. "Unless a team is able to box out underneath the backboards Bloomfield will take charge and be able to control the tempo of the contest."

The third quarter's worth of action was much the same as the initial two periods. Bloomfield added to its already substantial lead outscoring the local cagers, 25-16, to take a 58-31 edge into the final period.

"They were just hitting more shots, employing better defense and generally outplaying us," stated the Belleboy coach.

Belleville decided to make the most of a bad situation by substituting freely its younger players into the lineup allowing them to gain valuable experience in a game situation.

"The game was for all practical pur-

poses out of reach," said the Blue-Gold mentor. "It was a good opportunity to use some of our players who will be returning to next year's team."

The Bloomfield steamroller kept pouring it on in the last quarter of the session between the town rivals with the Bengal bullies hitting for 24 compared to Belleville's 13 to tuck away its second victory of the year against the Bellboys. The Blue-Gold had lost, 79-50, in an confrontation in January.

"Our outside game wasn't working at all," said Grasso. "And the only player able to penetrate against the tall Bloomfield defense was (6-1) Tommy Smith."

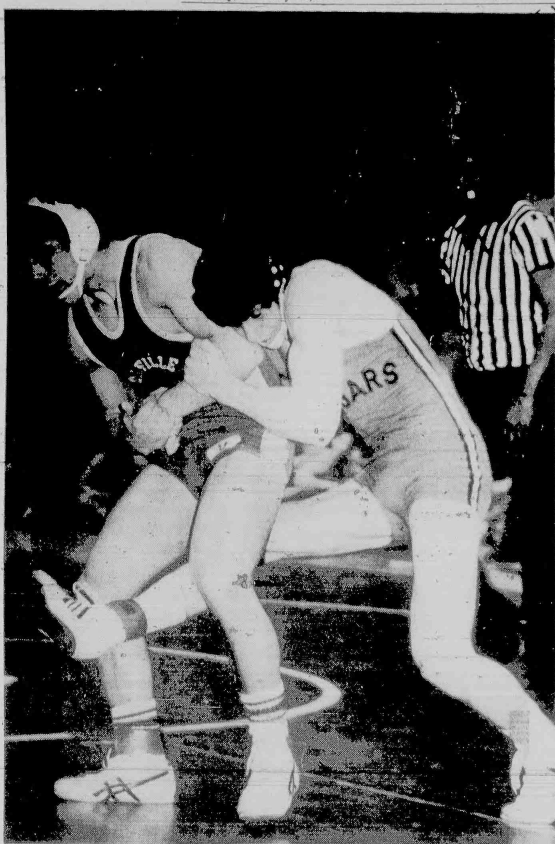
The Bellboy forward also did an outstanding job defending against the Bengal scoring ace Kelly Tripuka (averaging 34.4 points per ballgame) by fronting him and denying him the ball allowing the highly touted scorer 24 points.

"Our entire defensive unit did a good job containing Tripuka," stated the coach, "by switching off, helping out and applying pressure."

The Bengal player (who scored 40 points versus the Bellboys in the two clubs first meeting) was never a major factor in the victory. The rest of the Bloomfield offense, however, made up the difference making the victory essentially a team effort.

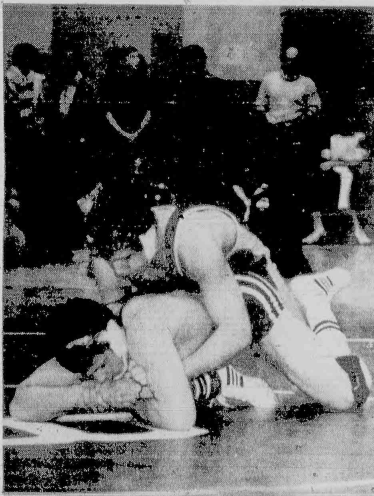
Bloomfield forward Jim Ellmers at 6-6 held the hot hand in the second half as he hit for 16 points. Both Tom Smith and Kelly Tripuka each had 10 points at the end of the first half.

High scorers for the Bellboys include Tom Smith with 18 points, Paul Donahue with eight and Rich Baker, five.



Night moves

Above Belleville's Ron Grolimond (left) prepares to reverse his Columbia opponent in the opening period of the Essex County Coaches Tournament 148 pound finals Saturday. The Blue-Gold grappler went on to win the decision and take home the first place spoils.



Body english

Left Bellboy Bernie DalCortivo applies some pressure on Nutley's Alex Sciccano during the finals of the 188 pound bout. The Belleville matman decided the Raider 14-3 to attain the win.

Tourney Champs

Below Bellboy coach Gene D'Alessandro (right) is congratulated by tournament founder and Belleville High School athletic director, Jim Silvestri, after the Blue-Gold team captured the ECCT crown at Upsala College Saturday night.

Bellgirls victorious but lose Giordano

The Blue-Gold Bellgirl cagers nipped the Bloomfield Bengals for the second time this season with a 41-38 victory on the BHS hardwoods last Tuesday.

The local female hoopers take on East Orange Catholic in the final regular roundball contest of the season in a 3:45 p.m. exhibition today.

Belleville's B-ball squad faced Mt. St. Dominic at home Tuesday but results were in too late for this edition of the Times/News. The Bellgirls have come out on the short side of two previous meetings between the clubs this year.

The team is scheduled to compete in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Tournament this Tuesday against Columbia on the Cougar's home floor at 4 p.m.

There are 310 teams in the tourney, initiated seven years ago, which combines public and parochial schools into four groups to vie for four championships. A total of 74 teams will be participating in Section Two of the post season event which features clubs from Morris, Union and Essex Counties.

The Bellgirls jumped off to an early, 15-10, first quarter lead against Bloomfield last Tuesday as the home team was able to box out effectively under the backboards and contain the Bengal offense.

"We played an excellent first period of basketball," stated Belleville head coach Karen Fucello. "The last time we played Bloomfield their point guard was out with an injury and we were anxious to see how we would perform with them at full strength in this second meeting."

Fouls began to plague the Belleville hardwoods forcing some of the home club's front liners to the bench and enabling the Bengal troupe to narrow the deficit at the half, outscoring the Blue-Gold, 11-9, in the second quarter. The Bellgirls led

23-21 as both teams cleared the court for the midway respite.

"We weren't able to utilize the strategy we would have liked because of the number of fouls," said coach Fucello. The local cagers were forced out of their harassing man-to-man defense and into a zone in order to preserve the slim lead. Belleville shot for 43 percent average from the floor in the opening quarter to stake themselves to the initial edge.

The Blue-Gold's fortunes soured at the start of the second half when Michele Giordano slipped & fell jumping for the third quarter tip-off and suffered a hairline ankle-fracture. She will miss the remainder of the season.

"Michele was our most effective rebounder and penetrator," said the coach. "When we lost her it took away much of our inside game and we started to get beat under the boards. It changed our entire game plan causing us to become more conservative and defensive minded in order to protect our lead."

The Bengals cut the Bellgirl lead to one with a 10-9 scoring edge in the third period but the home side managed to hold on, shaving the visitors in the last quarter, 8-7, to wrap up their the Blue-Gold club's sixth win against 13 defeats.

High scorers in the victory for Belleville include Karen Portuese with 16 points, Denise Zarra, nine and Karin Sciacca with five.

"Karen Portuese is really starting to come into her own," stated coach Fucello. "She has gained confidence in her shooting ability and is taking charge out on the court more and more, putting the ball up when she has the open shot."

The Bellgirls were called for 22 fouls compared to the 19, collected by the Bengals.



Ten squads will vie in districts

Continued from page 9.

throughout the tourney and appeared to get stronger and stronger as the tournament progressed."

In the 108 pound matchup, Belleville's Ed Lijo, seeded number one in the tourney, advanced to the quarter-finals by defeating Balfour of St. Benedict's. He gained a pin off Gibeno of Glen Ridge in the second period and outpointed "Fuzzy" Callahan of Nutley, 5-2, to enter the finals. The local matman lost to Firotitti of Mountain in a well balanced battle, 7-6, to place second in the meet.

"We, of course don't like to see anyone of our wrestlers lose," stated the Bellboy coach. "But Ed wrestled well and we are hoping he can improve his performance in the upcoming district matches."

Bob Preda (115) was eliminated from the action in the first round by his Newark Academy adversary, 4-0. "Bob made a good showing but was just outclassed by an excellent opponent," said the Blue-Gold coach.

Seeded second in the ECCT, Belleville's Mark D'Amico (122) defeated Crowley of Montclair, 7-0; Cox of Essex Catholic, 8-2, and lost to Galati of Mountain, 7-5. He went on to capture third place honors in the consolation match.

Ed Camuso (129) ranked fourth in the tourney, wound up winning it by decisioning Morsano of Bloomfield, outpointing his West Essex opponent, 11-3, and knocking off Essex Catholic's top seeded Hall, 6-0. The Eagle was regional champ last year. The local grappler nipped Gilady of Mountain in the finals, 5-4, to finish on top.

"We're very very pleased with the (129) match," stated D'Alessandro. "Ed continues to improve with each bout."

Mark D'Giacomo (135) met Ed Lehy (voted most valuable player of the tournament) in the second round and was simply overpowered by the St. Benedict's grappler, 10-3. The Bellboy gained a decision in the opening match by defeating Lou Brooks of Nutley, 10-2.

A second period pin by Caldwell's Ed Croc, eventual winner of his weight class Saturday, eliminated Belleville wrestler Bob Racioppi in the 141 pound division. The Blue-Gold matman had out-duelled Caruso of St. Benedict's, 10-2, Friday and drew a bye in the second round before losing.

Ron Grolimond, proved the wisdom of his first place seeding by taking all the marbles, by posting one fall and three decisions. He pinned Lacurso of Cedar Grove in the middle period of their bout, decided his Essex Catholic adversary, 4-1; beat Miller of West Essex in the semi-finals, 15-5, and knocked off Edmund of Columbia, 6-3, to take home the first place trophy.

Belleville's Joe Savastano was eliminated early in the tourney losing to Andrage of West Essex, 6-3, in the 158 pound matchup. Andrage had taken the third runnerup spot in the regionals last season.

Mark Savastano advanced to the third period of the semi-finals holding a 3-0 lead but lost the match as Stofi of Caldwell scored seven points the last two minutes to gain entry into the finals. Savastano had earlier beaten Yeager of Newark Academy with a second period fall and had defeated Press of Columbia, 7-3.

"Mark beat Irvington's Dowd, 5-2, in the consolation round," said the Bellboy coach. "And we're looking forward to a different outcome in the districts."

The 188 pound division saw Belleville's Bernie DalCortivo sweep passed all opponents to claim the crown in his weight class. He pinned his opening round Columbia opponent in the second period and did the same to Conti of Caldwell. He out-muscled LaCone of Essex Catholic, 5-3, and overpowered Nutley's Alex Scicignano, 14-3, to win the tournament.

"The Nutley wrestler is a tough kid," stated the Belleville coach. "And Bernie did a nice bit of wrestling to win."

Belleville's heavyweight, George D'Alessandro faced the unenviable task of taking on the 300 pound plus Flynn of Millburn in the finals. The Blue-Gold grappler, ahead in the early stages of the last match of the evening 2-0, was simply overpowered by his opponent and pinned midway

through the second period. The Bellboy had scored a fall over King of Montclair, decided his West Essex opponent, 9-3, and pinned Rubino of Caldwell in order to qualify for the final matchup.

The sixteen team ECCT tourney was an abrupt change from the Bloomfield Christmas meet won by Seton Hall in December. "We finished third in Bloomfield but Saturday we scored 50 more points than the Hall did in winning during the holiday match."

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T&E in critical year

Continued from page 5.

efficiently. More importantly, I want to know whether those kids are getting a thorough and efficient education.

If I am a board member in another district, obviously I can't find all that information out even though it's my money, in a sense. So as a consequence of the thorough and efficient system of education, we're required to do a lot of reporting. You have to report what you did with the money. You've got to report how it was spent and what it was spent for. You've got to report what programs you used. You've got to report what it was you plan to do. And you have to report whether you achieved your plans or not, and what the gap is between what you set out to do and what you accomplished.

There's another part of the law many people forget and I don't, and it says that if you have trouble, if there's a gap between what you said you were going to

do and what you accomplished, the state has an obligation to help you.

THE STATE THEN would have an obligation to provide technical assistance. To administer this brand new law, we've made some drastic changes in the state education department. Obviously, we're not going to monitor and help with local school districts if we're all behind a desk in Trenton. So we've moved 150 people out of Trenton to strengthen the county offices — they're not strong enough yet. Yours in Essex is no where near strong enough yet, but it will be. We have also created four educational improvement centers. The function of these centers is to help your districts when they find they have a gap between what they set out to do educationally and what they were able to accomplish.

Indicative of what can be done is illustrated by the fact that more than 3,000

teachers have already been at the Learning Center North East which many of you have seen. In short, if an attempt to improve your reading scores on the fourth grade level is not successful, and an Education Improvement Center finds out that one of the problems is teacher education, then the Education Improvement Center will provide teacher training. Or if it finds out the reading program is weak, the Center will help fund a program that is stronger.

This particular year for education in New Jersey is already critical. It's the first year of T & E, and T & E is a process, as I have indicated. There is a danger of our getting over concerned with the process. T & E and the process are total failures if they don't bring about some changes in the classroom. That's what it's all about. But the first year is difficult and requires a fair amount of patience because the process has to have a chance to cycle through. You start with a needed assessment; then you develop a program; then comes the evaluation and you find the discrepancies and then you provide technical assistance and then you go through it again. Now we haven't gone through it once yet. In the mean time, what seem to be a lot of cumbersome forms, a lot of silly questions leads many to say, "What's all this got to do with what's going on in the classroom?" I'm saying, give T & E time, it will make a difference in the classroom. Then people say to me, "Why do we need all of this in the first place?"

Add I'll answer, "Because we haven't been doing as well as we might." It isn't enough for local districts to tell me, "Have Faith" because you cannot tell me what you're doing systematically, but that you feel good about your programs.

My reply to this type of comment is the results from our schools today suggest that we have to do better than we have been — even in this state where I think we've done well. OBVIOUSLY, as you can see, I believe in the T & E system. I think there are some dangers. I think we could get caught up in the system and forget what it's for. That's why it's extremely important for me to get out into the schools and meet with parents, school board members and teachers, as I have today.

It's very difficult to have confidence in any institution today. I hope the new Administration can help bring that back. This has not been a particularly great era in American history, these 10 or 15 years. You don't have to be a brilliant public analyst or a George Gallup to see that the American people are on the losing end of faith with a lot of our institutions.

And those of us who haven't drifted into total apathy are not just asking that changes be made, but there's a demand that changes be made. The demands are out there. Lots of times, they are not realistic, but they're real. People are demanding. I tend to find as I move around the state, that there be an efficient and effective use of the tax dollar. And that's not always been the case. People are demanding that public money be allocated fairly and accounted for properly.

We've attempted to bring into the Department of Education during these difficult times, more and more people to help us make these decisions intelligently. You can't devise something from Trenton and try to saddle it upon the people. But yet, we have a law, the Governor signed it, and it doesn't say we have 15 years to administer it. I took an oath, with my hand on the Bible, to uphold the constitution and the laws of this state. And I have a law to administer and until that's changed, we have to do the best we can and do it when the law says it has to be done.

There's no substitute for decisions being made on a local level. There may be some some inefficiency here and there but when you add it all up, there is no substitute. You can't do it more efficiently from a higher or central level. And the essence of T & E, and one of the reasons we've tried to decentralize the State Education Department, is to provide technical assistance to those local levels.

Well, I could go on at length, but I'm not going to. I'm going to try to respond to questions you have. I've tried to indicate to you what I think this thing called T & E is all about. And by the way, if you invite me back next year, I hope we don't even talk about T & E. There's no doubt that our concentration during this first year in getting T & E off the ground is leaving some other areas void. Next year, I hope we will be talking about the needs of our children. I have some ideas



School talk — New Jersey Education Commissioner, Fred Burke (second from left) shares some observations at Belleville High School cafeteria Thursday. Pictured (l-r) are Viola Spray, Belleville Board of Education member; Jelsia Cortese, president of the Belleville High School Home and School Association, and Matthew Pica.

I'd like to talk about in community education, for example. So hopefully, by next year, we will have finished the cycle of T & E which is a means to an end. I hope next year we'll be talking some of the aspects of that important end.

IN THE PROCESS of working the T & E law, a lot of things got tacked on to it which are making it extremely difficult to fulfill its original philosophy. One of them is the age. Two things have occurred, for example, and a conflict has resulted which will be increasingly apparent. At the present time we gave an impossibility and that is this: We say to you that if your children score beneath the 65 percent mastery on a state test, we'll come and provide, for them a remedial program. You must, and I must see that you do. That is the law.

We also say, of course, that you may not increase your expenditures beyond the prior year's current expenses except for a percentage varying from 5-6 to 10-11 percent, depending upon your relative wealth. What the state is saying is that in order to provide those remedial programs and spend more money in that area, then you're going to have to take something away from other children. And if you take from other children, then you're going to cut away programs which you're currently providing and that could be very detrimental.

There is, I think, a critical moment in any new process. I think our critical moment is now, this year. We have to overcome fear — fear of the unknown and fear of something new. We have to be critical. I welcome criticism because whenever anything comes out of the State Department of Education that's all brand new, there will be mistakes. It's difficult but this is the first year and it's the year I think we're going to have to have confidence, patience and a fair amount of faith.

There's an awful lot at stake. The program has taken an enormous drain on the education system of our state — a drain on parents, on children, on school administrators, on teachers, and those of us on the state level. Someday, I think a critical I welcome criticism because the system that sustained the educational system in New Jersey through those long days of trauma — "close the schools, open the schools, we don't know how much money you're going to get, you're going to get this much... no we've changed our mind, you're going to get this much..." The only thing that sustained us in that was the integrity and intelligence and dedication of the school people — of you people.

BUT LET ME indicate again, that in the last analysis, the purpose of all of this is to see that the children know more than they did before. If we think that we should have come to know more and to do more through our education, or to lead the kind of life in the complex times in which we have to live, try to picture what one ought to know to cope with the problems in the year 2030 or 2040. That's what we're doing — we're preparing children for that kind of a life.

The decision is yours. A thorough and efficient education must be provided by you people at the local district level. Our job in the state level is to assure that the State Legislature, which provides in some places 70 percent of the money, that you're putting the money where your mouth is, very frankly. And we're asking you to put the information down on a form.

In many areas, the effect of these restrictions on spending is going to be to deny children the humanistic kinds of courses, elements of an educational process which in addition to learning to read and write, teach us how to be human beings. There are societies, and I've seen them in this world, where people read and write well, but they're not fit to live with. So I am concerned that in the process of funding this T & E situation


that we have attached to it some laws that make the business of education extremely difficult to realize. To be honest with you, I didn't agree with that.

THE PROBLEMS ARE great but to be the potential, and more so then anywhere else. Those of you who travel around the country and talk to people in other school systems know that the eyes of education are on New Jersey. The boldest experiment in public education is being attempted here. And of course, when you say that something is bold, you're saying it's risky. And it is risky. The relative capacity and success of carrying it out rests with you on the local level. I can do quite a bit, and what I do or don't do can be critical. But in the final analysis, whether T & E succeeds or fails depends what happens on the local level.

If we can keep our faith, and maybe more important, keep our cool for another six or seven months, I think we're going to pull this thing off. The significance of pulling it off will not be the self satisfaction, but the difference it makes in the lives of our children and I'm convinced it will.

I want to thank you for inviting me. I hope you'll ask me back next year and now I'll answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

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"HEATING INSTALLATION & REPAIR WORK"
 Prompt efficient service.
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 Install hot tar roofs shingles,
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NURSERY SCHOOLS

Magie Cottage
Nursery School
Corner of New & Jefferson Streets
(In The Brithney Church)
Belleville

7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.
1/2 DAY ALL DAY - HOURS TO SUIT
FULL PRE SCHOOL PROGRAM
STATE LICENSED TEACHERS
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MOTHER WITH ONE CHILD at home would like baby sitting days in my home in Belleville. Call 751-7347.

EXPERIENCED MOTHER wishes to care for children in my home full time or part time. 667-8952

FRANCISCAN SISTERS
OF ST. BERNARD NURSERY
174 Highland Ave. Belleville
Age 2 1/2 to 5 years
Playroom, day care room
with 12 & 15 beds ready
for 1977. 11:30 AM - 4:30 P.M.
2-3 years. 11:30 AM - 4:30 P.M.
Reg. 2-3 years. 11:30 AM - 4:30 P.M.
Ever. 501-0216

at Holy Trinity Church
158 Westland Ave. Nutley
• Certified Staff
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• Educational pre-school program
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Call 667-1684 or 667-0236

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HOUSE SALE
50 WILKINSON AVE. NUTLEY
Call 667-1684 or 667-0236
Friday & Saturday
Feb. 25-26, 9 A.M.
A Little Bit of Everything
No Early Bird

SINGER
TOUCH & SEW
\$80
ORIGINALLY \$339
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SNOW TIRES: Used, good cond. 78-14. 678-14. REG. TIRES 650-13. 805-15. 678-15. \$7 each. 667-2192 after 6 p.m.

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• Stamps
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Will Train
Must have knowledge of automotive mechanics.
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New 44-one bedroom apartments located on Main Street near new shopping center. One bedroom apt. available for super. Duties include general cleaning, policing of grounds & associated duties.
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500 Broad Street, Newark, N.J.
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We need an individual with good typing skills and sales experience for a special position.
TELEPHONE SOLICITOR
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Building 9-5 p.m. Associates
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• Age 17-35 or older depending upon prior military service.
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INSTRUCTIONS

Cerebral Palsy Center starts fourth decade

As recently as 1946, the cerebral-palsied of this area lived as the cerebral palsied had lived for centuries, many of them doomed to lives of inactivity and invalidism in a world unaware of their needs.

The general public was unaware of the problems of cerebral palsy and neurological disabilities and there were few doctors with specialized knowledge available for treatment of these conditions. For some, infrequent treatment was available at home, but there was no school or treatment facility to meet the needs of the cerebral-palsied.

Determined to do something about this situation, a group of parents and friends of the cerebral-palsied met in Newark in March 1946. Together they conducted what may be called the first local cerebral palsy campaign, an effort in which 20 people contributed \$15 each to launch an organization devoted to the treatment of these children.

From this small beginning has grown during 30 years the school and treatment center, 7 Sanford Avenue, Belleville, which provides comprehensive services for the cerebral-palsied and neurologically disabled. At the present time over 350 clients

are receiving medical, therapeutic, educational and recreational services at the center from a staff of over 40, including physicians, physical, occupational and speech therapists, a psychologist and special education teachers.

Each day approximately 135

children and young adults attend school and other programs at the center. While every effort is made to move children into the main stream of their local system, for some this is not possible and their total educational and therapeutic program is the responsibility of the center.

In 30 years the problems of the cerebral-palsied and neurologically disabled have been brought to the attention of the public to the extent that more governmental aid is available for their needs. However, there has always, and will always, be a need for the assistance of service

organizations such as the B.P.O. Elks to develop new programs and to help children and their parents seeking services, who find that their particular need is not covered by any existing governmental aid program.

The Center has become an essential resource for the people in the

area it serves because developmentally disabled children and their parents are faced with overwhelming problems — they cannot overcome without help from concerned professionals who will be available for many years to come and are only available at the Center.

New Elks installed

Barry Hodgdon and Patrick Kiernan were installed into the membership of the Belleville Lodge No. 1123, B.P.O. Elks at a recent meeting.

James Salmon, exalted ruler, conducted the ceremony with the following officers assisting: Raymond MacDonald, Vincent Mirra, August Mitschke, Fred Hagin, Thomas Goldrick, Donald Grewcock and James Ryan.

Salmon announced that a cocktail party for the members and friends of the Elks will be held in the Grill Rooms of the lodge, 254 Washington Avenue, Belleville, February 26 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music and singing will be by the popular Damien and Lenora.

MacDonald reported that the Belleville Lodge members will be headquartered at the Colony Motel instead of the Midtown Motel for the New Jersey State Convention in Atlantic City in June.

Election of officers for 1977-78 will be held at the next regular membership meeting on February 28.

Optimist orator is Bagarozza

The Optimist Club of Belleville held its first Oratorical Contest at the Chandelier Restaurant on Thursday, February 3.

There were thirteen students from Belleville Junior High School and St. Anthony's Grammar School competing. Their topic was "Together We Will."

First place for the boys was won by Patrick Bagarozza of St. Anthony's. Second was Todd Brown of Belleville Junior High School. Paul Siciliano of St. Anthony's came in third.

In the girls' competition Donna Marie Jones of Belleville Junior High was the first place winner. Karen Fitzsimmons came in second and Genevieve Kamuso was awarded third place. The second and third place winners are both students at St. Anthony's.

The winners were awarded trophies by Optimist Club president, Joseph Raimo. All of the students who competed were given certificates by the Optimist Club chairman, Thomas Mullen.

Mullen also assembled a very distinguished panel of officials for the event. Frank Carapezza, who is a speech therapist in the Belleville School system, was a judge. Mr. Carapezza, who was very active in student affairs during his years at Seton Hall, holds both a B.A. and an M.A. from Seton Hall.

Mrs. Marie Clarizio, an Oral Communications Instructor at Seton Hall, also served as a judge for the event.

Also judging the event was Linda Grancagnola, who teaches English at Belleville High School. Ms. Grancagnola holds a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Speech.

Time Keeper for the event was Richard Vallario. Vallario, an attorney, also serves the Optimist Club as secretary.

The Sergeant-at-Arms for the event was Belleville Fire Chief, George Sbarra. Chief Sbarra is also the Inter Club Chairman for the Optimist Club.

All of the contestants were the guests of Tom Apicella. Apicella, who is a member of the Optimist Club, is the owner of the Chandelier Restaurant.

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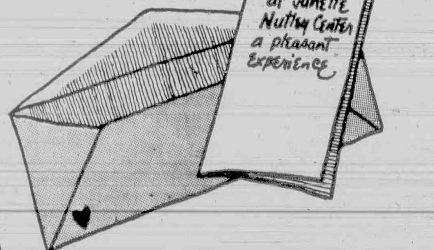
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