

Yelencsics,
Anthony

Quotable Yelencsics never at loss for words

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EDISON — Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics was, as state Sen. Thomas Paterniti noted yesterday, a "diamond in the rough." He was a charismatic man who could be funny, endearing and abrasive — sometimes all at once. The following vignettes offer a glimpse of what he was like.

In 1976, at a time when he saw himself as being ignored by Democratic leaders — then-Mayor Paterniti and then-state Sen. Bernard Dwyer — Yelencsics had some sharp words for Dwyer, a former protege who had succeeded Yelencsics as mayor in 1970.

"I wouldn't walk Dwyer across Route 27 if he was blind," Yelencsics said.

Obviously Dwyer forgave Yelencsics for that remark. Yesterday the congressman said, "Tony was a good mayor, a great mayor. He had a genuine liking for people. He was totally dedicated to Edison Township."

After being elected to his fifth term as mayor in 1981, Yelencsics was asked if he planned to run again in 1985. "Give me a break," he said with a laugh. "This is enough."

In 1986 and 1987, Yelencsics heard complaints, on a regular basis, from residents living near Faith Fellowship Ministries, an evangelical church on Oak Tree Road with upwards of 7,000 members. The slew of cars jamming the church caused traffic problems.

"They've just got too much worship for the amount of space they have," he said.

In the first years of his return to Town Hall in 1978, the mayor would sometimes appear at the door of the building at 9 a.m. to wait for late employees.

"I've been in business 30 years, and I have to come to work every day and earn my paycheck. ... I expect a good day's work for a full day's pay, no more, no less."

Yelencsics usually took calls from reporters, but he didn't always like doing so. Several reporters, after identifying who they were, would hear Yelencsics say, "Well, that's too bad," or a gruff "What do you want?"

At a Township Council conference meeting in 1986, he said, "Most papers don't write too nice about me."

Yelencsics often defended the people who voted for him — or might do so in the future. At a June 1986 Planning Board work session, a woman appeared who had had some problems with a previous subdivision of her property.

Board members, the board attorney and the township planner discussed, in some-

"They've just got too much worship for the amount of space they have."

— Anthony Yelencsics on the overcrowding at an Edison evangelical church —

what arcane terms, what to do about the problem. But the mayor had little tolerance for their talk.

"The poor lady has a nursery school going," Yelencsics said. "She's a taxpayer. She's running a little business."

When one Planning Board member offered one possible solution, the mayor said, "No one asked you," half-serious, half-joking.

Later, on the same topic, he said, "Mr. Chairman, I recommend we do not do what the attorney wants."

In 1987, at the township's New Year's Day reorganization meeting, Yelencsics offered some thoughts on his years in office.

"I'm now starting the second year of my sixth term. I'm pretty damn proud of just that," he said. "You have a community of great services. You have good government here."

"It's been a well-run community by a lot of people," he said, adding — in a tremendous understatement — "I hope that I was part of it."

In 1988, at another reorganization meeting, the faulty heating system in the Municipal Complex was the main topic of discussion.

"So here we are," Yelencsics said. "We're all frozen and you want to get the heck out of here."

Unlike President George Bush, Yelencsics never said, "I am an environmentalist."

Once, discussing plans for an area slated for open space in the Dismal Swamp, he suggested a new golf course for the area — much to the dismay of environmentalists. After all, what good would the swamp do, just being there?

"The green grass is just as good as brown, dirty grass," he said.

The mayor had a golf tournament — the Anthony M. Yelencsics Invitational — named after him.

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ASK AT DESK

Highlights of life in the political arena

By JENNIFER HUTCHINSON
Home News staff writer

HN 4/26/89

• 1958 — Anthony M. Yelencsics is first elected mayor.

It was called the battle of the brother-in-laws, when Yelencsics, one of at least half-dozen candidates for mayor considered by the Democratic Party's screening committee, was chosen to run against his sister Mary's Republican husband, Thomas J. Swales.

The election — Edison's first under the mayor-council form of government — brought Yelencsics an easy victory over Swales, who at the time was the township GOP mayor. Prior to the election, from 1927 until 1957, the township was governed by a fusion Board of Commissioners.

During his first 12 years in office, which were called the "Yelencsics Years," "Tony's Decade Plus Two," Yelencsics helped expand the township's public-school system and persuaded prime industry to locate in Edison, causing the township's tax rate to drop.

■
• 1967 — John F. Kennedy Medical Center opens.

Yelencsics always said he considered the opening of the hospital, which started with just 206 beds and has been formidably expanded over the years, his biggest personal accomplishment.

During his first terms as mayor Yelencsics formed the study commission that recommended construction of the hospital. He stayed with the project until it became a reality in 1967.

When it opened, the hospital was called the John F. Kennedy Community Hospital but its name was changed in later years.

Yelencsics served as chairman of the board of trustees for the hospital since its inception.

In 1981, the medical care center renamed its acute-care hospital division the Anthony M. Yelencsics Community Hospital to commemorate the mayor's work and contribution to the development of the center.

■
• 1967 — The Edison Post Office opens. Originally set for Metuchen, Yelencsics was the force behind diverting the post



Anthony Yelencsics, who presided over Edison's transformation from a rural to an urban township during his tenure.

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ice to Edison.

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"It gave Edison identification," Yelencsics said at the time.

Fourteen years later, an \$8.9-million mail-processing facility was constructed in Edison and, to the mayor's dissatisfaction, it was called the Kilmer General Mail Facility. Yelencsics had lobbied to get that facility named after the township, but was not successful.

■
• 1969 — After three consecutive four-year terms as mayor, Yelencsics decides not to seek the office again.

Yelencsics said he wanted to devote more time to his wife, two children and job at Boro Motors, so in 1969, he announced he would not run again for mayor.

His announcement thus made room for two fellow Democrats — Bernard Dwyer, now a representative in Congress, and

Thomas Paterniti, now a state senator.

A popular mayor for 12 years, many township Democrats asked Yelencsics to reconsider and run. Dorothy Drwal, then president of the Edison Young Democrats, helped circulate petitions in favor of a fourth term, but to no avail.

■
• 1977 — Yelencsics, after an eight-year break, runs for mayor of Edison and wins, beating Paterniti, who served as mayor since 1974, in a bitter race.

Running with a slate made up of a Democrat, a Republican and an independent that called itself the "People's Choice Democrats," Yelencsics beat fellow Democrat Paterniti 12,279 votes to 10,050.

While many of the township's Republicans provided the votes that put the coalition over the top, Democrats constituted the ticket's backbone strength, according to Dorothy Drwal, who had won a seat on the council several years earlier and who served as the mayor's campaign manager in that race.

To help heal the wounds after the bitter, intra-party mayoral race, Yelencsics helped Paterniti get elected to the Assembly.

■
• 1984 — Yelencsics seeks a second, four-year term on the Democratic National Committee and loses.

Despite intense lobbying efforts by Middlesex County Party Chairman G. Nicholas Venezia, and other Middlesex Democratic leaders on behalf of Yelencsics, state Democratic chairman James Maloney backed two other incumbents and four challengers for the six elected positions in the party's eight-member national committee delegation.

Yelencsics said he was shocked by Maloney's decision not to endorse him.

• 1989 — After months of speculation that Yelencsics would not seek re-election as mayor, Yelencsics announced in April that he would run again. Council members Drwal and John Hogan then said they would face him in the November election.



Mayor Yelencsics during a 1987 interview.

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A final farewell to mayor

Hundreds attend
Yelencsics' funeral

By ANTHONY A. GALLOTTO
News Tribune Staff Writer

METUCHEN Praised as a soldier who served his country as a Marine, and as a mayor who served his hometown, Anthony M. Yelencsics was eulogized Friday by a priest who knew him for two decades, and then remembered by those who lined the route of his funeral procession.

Six Edison police captains carried Yelencsics' flag-draped casket to a waiting hearse for the six-block funeral procession along Amboy Avenue and Main Street to Hillside Cemetery.

The hearse, flanked by Edison's highest-ranking police and fire officials, drove slow beneath the cathedral of budding tree branches that interlace above the borough's Main Street.

Residents and shopkeepers came out of their homes and stores to witness the march of 1,000 mourners, police, firefighters, first aiders, hospital staff, doctors, and politicians to Hillside Cemetery.

Yelencsics, 68, was found dead at home last Tuesday after suffering a heart attack, the result of massive hemorrhaging from his right leg. He had been recuperating since February from vascular surgery on both legs.

Before Friday's procession, Monsignor Francis J. Crupi, pastor of St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church in Edison, told more than 150 mourners inside the Koyen Funeral Home that "if any word best characterized Tony, that word is service." Another 850 people outside listened to the eulogy on a public address system.

Yelencsics served in the Marine Corps from 1942 to 1946. He was wounded in action on Okinawa Island

See A FINAL Page C-2

A final farewell to mayor

Hundreds attend
Yelencsics' funeral

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on Easter Sunday 1945, Crupi recalled.

"In 1958, Tony defeated his brother-in-law Thomas J. Swales II — who was a Republican in those days — in an election for mayor," the priest said.

Yelencsics' sister, Mary, is Swales' wife.

"It would be interesting to know who Mary voted for that year," Crupi said. "Maybe a confession is in order."

Yelencsics served as mayor until 1969, when he chose not to seek office again. Rep. Bernard J. Dwyer, D-N.J., and state Sen. Thomas H. Paterniti, D-Middlesex, who participated in Friday's funeral, served one term each as mayor until 1978, when Yelencsics decided to run again.

Crupi called John F. Kennedy Medical Center "the crown jewel" of Yelencsics' career.

After years of relentless fund-raising, the mayor in 1967 helped open the hospital and served on its Board of Trustees for the 22 years since.

He was re-elected three times since 1978. "Tony loved being mayor. He loved parades. Today's procession is almost like a parade," Crupi said. "He always liked to be up front. Tony will be up front in the procession and in our hearts and minds today."

The procession to the cemetery was led by a 6th Motor Transport Marine Corps Color and Honor Guard from the Corps' Reserve Inspector Instruction Staff Unit in Red Bank.

Several police cars and Edison Fire Company Engines 4 and 12, adorned with flowers and wreaths, preceded the hearse and several limousines carrying the mayor's wife, Norma Anderson Yelencsics, his son Anton, his daughter Maryann Karabinchak, and other members of his family.

"I can't say I've ever seen anything like this in the 63 years I've been here," said barber Ben Bisogne, who has cut hair at a Main Street shop since 1923. "I knew Tony. I can understand this showing of grief. He was a really nice guy. He gave everyone a fair shake."

Bisogne, a schoolmate of Yelencsics' brother Joseph, who died in 1987, said he "socialized with Tony when we were both young men, and I did business with him over the years. He was a good man."

Helen Matiejunas, a store clerk for 16 years at Perri Liquors next to Bisogne's barbershop, said "I have never seen the likes of this, this is very unusual," as the procession passed her shop. "The mayor must have been some kind of man," she said.

Members of the Edison Township Council, municipal administrators and workers, representatives from the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, the Highland Park and Metuchen police, Edison and Metuchen ambulance and first aid squads, the local Police Explorer Post and more than 200 off-duty police and firefighters followed the hearse to the cemetery.

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FRANK WOJCIECHOWSKI/The News Tribune



MIKE SYPNIEWSKI/The News Tribune

Edison police marching toward Hillside Cemetery, Metuchen, during the funeral Friday for Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics. At the cemetery, Yelencsics' wife, Norma, being escorted. At the funeral home, the casket passing a Marine honor guard.

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PASSING OF THE GUARD



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Edison police marching alongside the hearse carrying Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics' body. Yelencsics, who died Tuesday, was buried Friday.

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Final tribute to Yelencsics

Hundreds mourn at rites for longtime Edison mayor

By Lenny Melisurgo

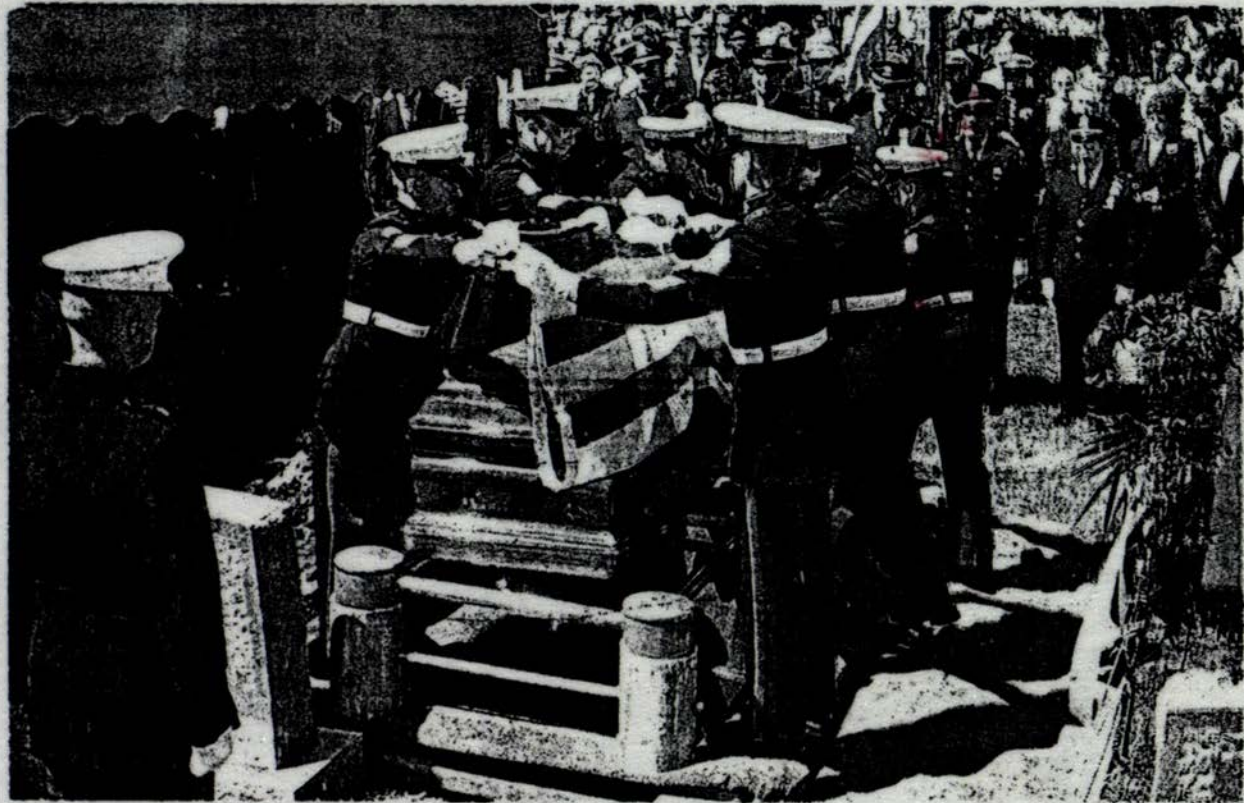
Home News staff writer

HFI +129/89
METUCHEN — In a rousing tribute to the man they called "Mr. Edison," about 1,200 people converged on the Koyen Funeral Home yesterday morning and marched through the borough streets to Hillside Cemetery, where Edison's longtime mayor, Anthony M. Yelencsics, was laid to rest.

Yelencsics, the powerful Democrat who died of heart failure Tuesday while sleeping in his Buchanan Avenue home, was remembered yesterday as an accomplished mayor, a war hero and a devoted friend and family man who put his priorities aside for others.

"To many of us, Tony was a good and loyal friend," said Monsignor Francis J. Crupi, who gave the eulogy at the mayor's funeral. "I don't think we'll ever know how many people he helped, how many thousands of dollars he lent to people, knowing he'd never be repaid."

Like others who knew Yelencsics, Crupi was overwhelmed by the huge turnout at the funeral. About 250 mourners
See **FUNERAL**, Page A2



At Hillside Cemetery in Metuchen, Marine honor guard folds American flag which had been draped over the casket of Edison Mayor Anthony Yelencsics, a Marine Corps veteran.

Marc Ascher/The Home News

+129/89

FUNERAL

Continued from Page A1

filled the chairs and lined the walls, doorways and hallways of the funeral parlor on Amboy Avenue.

Many hundreds of others stood outside in the bright sunshine. People gathered on the front and side lawns of the black-and-white Victorian building and along the sidewalks, listening to the eulogy through public address speakers.

Crupi, pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Brunswick and St. Theresa's Church in Edison, remembered the 68-year-old mayor as a service-oriented individual, "loyal, generous and always willing to help" others.

"To me, he was a good friend," the monsignor said. "To all of you, he was a man who loved his family

very much — a good husband, a loving father, a caring brother."

Yelencsics also was remembered as a dedicated Marine, who was wounded in battle in the West Pacific. "If you knew Tony Yelencsics, you knew one of his great loves was the Marine Corps," Crupi said.

Of all his accomplishments, the one Yelencsics cherished most, Crupi said, was his push to establish the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

"You know why?" the monsignor asked, then answered, "That institution — like Tony's life — was dedicated to the service of others."

Numerous dignitaries dotted the crowd, including U.S. Reps. Bernard J. Dwyer and Jim Florio, state Sen. John A. Lynch Sr., Assemblyman George A. Spadaro, and a number of Middlesex County freeholders and Edison Township Council members.

Outside the funeral home, a hearse was parked in the side driveway, beneath an umbrella of oak trees and surrounded by hundreds of mourners and curious onlookers. Six Marines stood at attention beside the hearse as a team of Edison police officers and fire officials carried the mayor's casket out of the funeral home.

As the pallbearers gently slid the casket into the hearse, all was silent except for the rapid-fire sputter of news cameras.

Shortly afterward, at about about 11:20 a.m., the funeral procession began making its way down Amboy Avenue, led by a police and fire motorcade.

A group of 10 township firefighters and police officers marched alongside the slow-moving hearse, and a seven-man Marine honor guard trailed them. Walking behind a convoy of black

limousines were hundreds of uniformed police officers, firefighters, rescue squad personnel, hospital employees, municipal workers and politicians who knew Yelencsics.

The procession continued down Main Street and Lincoln Avenue before winding through the paved roadways of Hillside Cemetery.

In street clothes and in work clothes, people lined the streets of Metuchen, standing on their porches and outside of stores, sitting on bicycles and lawn chairs, to get a glimpse of the hearse.

When the casket, draped with an American flag, arrived at the cemetery, firemen placed flower arrangements around the grave site.

Shortly afterward, just before noon, a Marine played taps on his trumpet. The flag was neatly folded by the Marines, and mourners walked by the grave site one by one, placing flowers on top of the casket.



Walking behind the hearse bearing the body of Edison Mayor Anthony Yelencsics yesterday are hundreds of uniformed police officers,

firefighters, rescue squad personnel, hospital employees, municipal workers and politicians who knew the township's longtime mayor.

Marc Ascher/The Home News

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Oversaw Edison's dramatic expansion

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HN 4/26/89
By **ALLAN HOFFMAN**
Home News staff writer

EDISON — Democratic Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics, whose leadership transformed Edison from a rural community into a political and economic power with an abundance of industry and housing, died yesterday, apparently of heart failure. He was 68.

Yelencsics' body was discovered by his wife at 6 or 6:30 a.m. in a recreation room in their home, said township Business Administrator Lawrence Pollex.

A diabetic, Yelencsics underwent vascular surgery on his legs in February and March and suffered from other health problems over the past year. But his health improved after the operation, friends said yesterday, and he announced last month he would run in the November election for a seventh term.

"It's hard to envision Tony Yelencsics not being in Edison," said G. Ross Bobal, the township

finance director. "He built this town."

James Sheldon, the Republican municipal chairman and a political opponent of the mayor's, agreed.

"Tony Yelencsics made Edison what it is today, whether you like it or whether you hate it," said Sheldon. "He was Mr. Edison."

Yelencsics won his first mayoral election in 1957, defeating his brother-in-law, Thomas J. Swales, a Republican.

A staunch Democrat, Yelencsics was mayor from 1958 to the end of 1969. He was elected again in 1978 and remained in office until his death. As a leader in the powerful Middlesex County Democratic machine, his influence extended beyond the township; he often played a key role in determining who, with the backing of county Democrats, would head from local politics to the Statehouse in Trenton.

Among Yelencsics' achievements in his 23½ years as mayor were the construction of John F. Kennedy Medical Center in 1967; the opening of a central post office, thereby ending an era when residents had Metuchen mailing addresses; the establishment of a modern library system and a federal redevelopment project that spanned three decades, replacing a poor section of

See **MAYOR**, Page A15

FUNERAL SERVICES

10:30 a.m. Friday

CALLING HOURS

Wednesday
and Thursday
2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

WHERE

Koyen Funeral Home
319 Amboy Ave.
Metuchen

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MAYOR: Oversaw Edison in time of great change

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North Edison with apartments, single-family homes and a senior-citizens' complex.

But perhaps his most significant accomplishment was the way he directed the township's astonishing growth.

"He took a rural municipality and developed it into one of the finest municipalities in the state," said state Sen. Thomas Pater-niti, who served as mayor from 1974 to 1977.

When Yelencsics became mayor, Pater-niti noted, the township was "nothing." When he died, it had 90,000 residents and more taxable property than any municipality in the state, excepting Atlantic City.

In 1958, Edison was a mix of farms, newly built single-family homes and scattered signs of the growth to come.

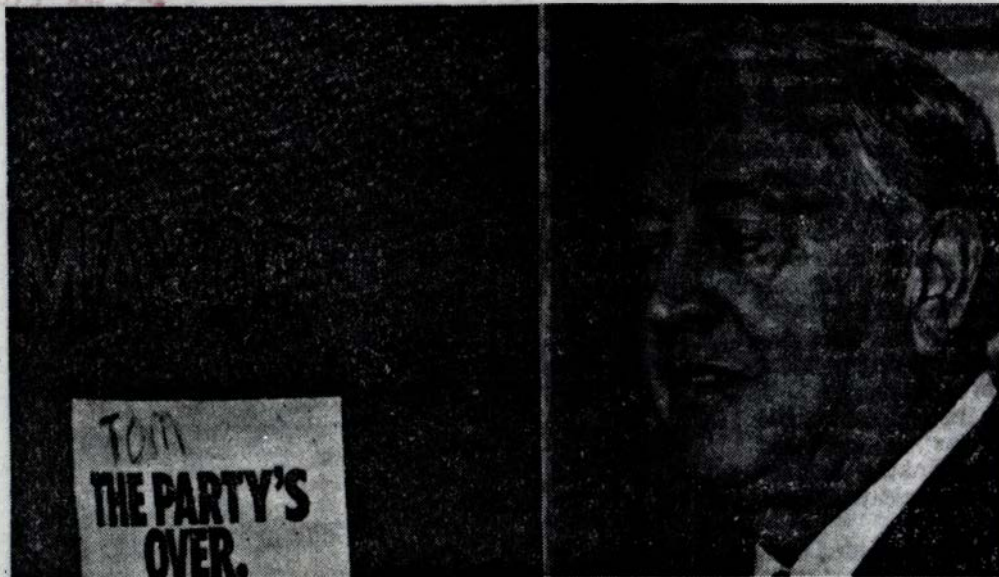
Today, after years of development encouraged by Yelencsics, little open space remains. Thousands of condominiums have been built all over the township, especially in recent years, along with office towers near the Metropark train station. Raritan Center, a business and industrial park on the site of the former Raritan Arsenal, now employs more than 10,000 people and covers an area roughly the size of neighboring Metuchen.

All the building caused problems — mainly having to do with traffic and the environment — and led to calls for checks on development.

But Yelencsics did not express qualms about the loss of a more placid existence.

"During rush hour, I am happy the traffic is heavy," he once said. "It means that someone is out earning a living, feeding a family. People want to live here and work here."

Even as the anti-growth movement gained speed in the 1980s, Yelencsics remained a vocal advocate of new development for the township. It seemed, at times,



Anthony Yelencsics gets ready to re-enter the mayor's office in 1978.

as if he wanted to transform Edison — a sprawling, 32-square-mile area crisscrossed by highways and lacking a downtown — into a self-contained world of its own.

"He was parochial about Edison," said Councilman John Hogan. "He wanted Edison to have its own chamber of commerce, its own hospital, our own post office, our own library, our own landfill. The town should have all its own facilities."

It did, and then some. Yelencsics was not hindered in his effort to build the township to his liking.

But his administration came under fire more and more frequently in the 1980s, as his strong way of governing began to seem, at least to some residents and observers of the political scene, to have outgrown its usefulness.

Allegations in the late 1980s ranged from a lack of checks on major building projects

to charges of corruption.

Yesterday, the day of the mayor's death, a long-time friend, business partner and the township's purchasing agent — Thomas "Bob" Heroy — was arraigned on charges of extortion. He pleaded innocent.

The charges were the first in a federal investigation into allegations of municipal corruption in Edison. Boxes of township documents were subpoenaed as part of the investigation, and Yelencsics, along with other township officials, appeared before a grand jury in 1986.

Another setback came last week, when a judge decided the township's approval of a 1,045-unit development in the Dismal Swamp, one of the largest undeveloped areas remaining in the township, was not valid.

The judge said William Bohn, the chairman of the Planning Board at the time the project was reviewed, was in the "zone of

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temptation" for a conflict of interest. Bohn had business dealings with one of the developers of the Dismal Swamp project.

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A state investigation into the township's building department last year resulted in misconduct charges alleging a pattern of mismanagement and negligence in the department.

But most officials remained loyal to Yelencsics.

"There's nobody that could ever fill Tony Yelencsics' shoes. It's as simple as that," said Angelo A. Orlando Jr., the mayor's closest associate on the Township Council.

Aside from his work in government, Yelencsics founded and owned Boro Motors, a Ford dealership on Route 27 in Metuchen, and he split his time between the dealership and the Municipal Building.

"This, more or less, was his home away from home," said Frank "Dunk" Lankey Jr., a junior partner in Boro Motors and key figure in the Edison Democratic Organization, which the mayor headed.

"He was like a brother to me," Lankey said. "He would put himself second to anyone who had a problem, and he had an open-door policy. He would never say no to any individual who wanted to talk to him."

"You would never find a more unassuming man," said Pollex. "He was generous to a fault, compassionate, and my only criticism of him was that he could never say no to people."

Born Aug. 19, 1920, in a house on Woodbridge Avenue in the Bonhamtown section, Yelencsics graduated from Metuchen High School and from Rider College with a bachelor's degree in finance. He attended Rider on a basketball scholarship and was a starter on the basketball team.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from

1942-46. He was wounded in action in Okinawa, in the west Pacific, and was awarded the Purple Heart and other citations. At the time of his death, he held the rank of captain in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

After Yelencsics' body was discovered, an ambulance was summoned to his Buchanan Road home, Pollex said. The mayor was found lying on a couch in the ground-floor recreation room inside his split-level home.

A small pool of blood, apparently from an incision from the leg surgery, was found near his body, said Lankey.

Township police refused to comment on any aspect of the mayor's death, referring all inquiries to Pollex, who as of late yesterday had not yet seen the police report.

Pollex said he was told by the Middlesex County Medical Examiner's Office that Yelencsics died of natural causes, specifically heart failure.

A spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office confirmed Yelencsics died of natural causes, but would not elaborate. Yelencsics' private physician will be signing the death certificate, which will contain more specific information, she said.

No autopsy was performed by the medical examiner's office because no foul play was suspected and the mayor had an extensive medical history, the spokeswoman said.

The mayor is survived by Norma Anderson Yelencsics, his wife of 35 years; a daughter, Mary Ann Karabinchak of New Brunswick; a son, Anton of Edison; three brothers, Julius of Edison, Stephen of Edison and Ernest of Lavalette; two sisters, Helen Toth of Metuchen and Mary Swales of Edison, and a grandson.

A brother, Joseph, died in 1987.

Home News staff writers Lenny Melisurgo and Evelyn Apgar contributed to this story.

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The mayor's deeds — testimonial to a big heart

177 + 130189

Anthony Yelencsics reminds me of my Aunt Alice.

Probably I wouldn't have noticed the resemblance if it weren't for a passage in a story we published after Yelencsics died last week.

The story described the scene at the funeral home where people paid their respects to the perennial mayor of Edison.

According to that account, the flower arrangements sent to the funeral home were so numerous that they spilled to the out-of-doors where they lined the walkway.

Something like that happened

when Aunt Alice died in her native South Carolina. I heard that florists in the immediate area of her home near Columbia ran out of blossoms and had to send out for more.

But that in itself was not the important thing Aunt Alice and Yelencsics had in common. It was the reason for the volume of flowers that made these two alike in at least one respect.

Aunt Alice never held public office. On the contrary, she had 10 children and spent most of her time at home keeping up with their meals and laundry. But over time, she touched the lives of many people — not so much bunches of people as individual men and women, one by one.

It happened through the church and charity work she squeezed in with the domestic routine, which

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was symbolized by the side-by-side gas ranges in her kitchen. And it happened through the procession of people who visited the house where the doors were seldom locked — people she fed, people she housed, people she counseled. Nothing dramatic here, but by the time she died it had added up, and the funeral had to be moved to a larger church.

Yelencsics was a different sort, a political powerhouse. But the evidence spread across the newspaper pages of the past week is that while he was playing for big stakes in Edison and beyond, he, too, built a

constituency one favor at a time.

This was no secret, but some of us news types, perhaps acting out the legend of our cynicism, were heard to dismiss this as the ward-heeling method of politics — buying votes with good works.

Nor did Yelencsics ever try to endear himself to reporters, or even publishers. He didn't like the press, and he said so.

In the few times I spoke to him during my 25 years at The News Tribune, his attitude fell into categories that include cold, impatient, demanding, and insulting.

That made it easier to look

critically at the development of Edison over the past three decades, development encouraged and expedited by Yelencsics, development which seems to have ignored the impact on the quality of life in Edison in its immediate surroundings.

And his demeanor made it easier to glance his way each time an appointee of his was accused or convicted of some misdeed.

The fact that he made no attempt to ingratiate himself made it easy to dismiss his charity either as one instrument in a conniving career or as the obligation of a wealthy man.

But when his largesse was laid out before us in one mass, and the range of his favors fell into place, it was more than the news stories could contain. Here he was offering a cold drink and a word of

direction to a woman who got lost in his neighborhood on a summer day. There he was rejecting opposition to a group home with the commandment: "Handicapped people can live anywhere they want in my town." And in between, there were private and public occasions each of which no doubt added to his store of markers, but which were too numerous and instinctive to have been motivated by that alone.

Reading through the reminiscences of those Yelencsics had helped, one realized that this wasn't a matter of *de mortuis nihil nisi bonum*; this was a testimonial to a big heart.

Charles Paolino is senior editor of The News Tribune.

Filling Edison mayor's shoes

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Mayoral race takes on new look

By ANTHONY A. GALLOTTO
News Tribune Staff Writer

Democratic candidates for mayor in the November election probably will be splitting the votes three ways despite the death of Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics.

Council members Dorothy K. Drwal and John J. Hogan have filed to run as independent Democrats, and the local party probably will pick someone to replace Yelencsics on the party line in November.

Yelencsics' name will appear on the Democratic party line on the June 6 primary ballot, county election officials said. The party can't replace him on the line because the deadline to amend the ballot was April 17. There are no other Democratic candidates in the primary.

In addition to finding a successor for the eight months left in Yelencsics' term, local Democrats are expected to select a nominee for the November general election rather than support Hogan or Drwal. The party must also name a successor to Yelencsics as chairman of the local party.

The Edison Democratic Committee has 15 days, or until May 10, to recommend to the Township Council the names of three candidates to serve as interim mayor, Middlesex County Clerk Raniero M. Trivisano said.

Council member Angelo A. Orlando Jr. and Board of Education attorney Richard J. Ferenczi are among the front-runners to fill the mayor's unexpired term, according to political sources who said they did not want to be named so soon after Yelencsics' death.

Orlando, who has publicly said he wants to be mayor, yesterday said he did not want to speculate about a possible run in November so soon after Yelencsics died. "It's just not the right thing to do," he said.

Ferenczi, a long-time friend and adviser to Yelencsics could not be reached for comment last night.

The Township Council can accept one of the three party recommendations to replace Yelencsics for the next eight months or choose someone else, Trivisano said. The interim mayor, someone else of the party's choosing, or any other interested resident can file to run in the November election for a four-year term to begin on Jan. 1, 1990, he said.

Yelencsics, who headed the Edison Democratic Organization for many years, will be replaced temporarily by Ellen Damiano, the deputy township tax collector, said chief political strategist and party treasurer Frank "Dunk" Lankey. Damiano is the party's vice chairperson.

There is no legal provision for the Township Council to name an acting mayor if an incumbent mayor dies. The local ordinance reserves appointment of an acting mayor to the mayor.

Business Administrator Lawrence P. Pollex, 36, served as acting mayor from mid-February to mid-March while Yelencsics was at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston undergoing vascular surgery on his legs.

James Sheldon, chairman of the Edison Republican Organization since 1971, said Yelencsics' death could lead to a "political bloodbath among the Democrats, a bloodbath that Tony [Yelencsics] wanted to avoid more than anything." Or, he said, it could lead to Democratic party unity.

Sheldon said that Yelencsics probably decided to run for a seventh term as mayor to thwart in-fighting among the Democrats.

Dissension in the party led Hogan and Drwal to file to run as independent candidates in November. They would have competed with Yelencsics for Democratic and independent votes.

The leaders of a separate local Republican club, also fielding candidates this year, said Yelencsics' death will not change their political strategies.

"As far as the election goes, [the] Democrats' record is still shabby and it is still open for attack," said GOP mayoral candidate James Michael Kukor.

Democrats and Republicans agree the mayor's death will "bring about many changes in future local politics," Sheldon said.

Hogan, who is running as an independent in November, said, "Consider it an Irish superstition, but I won't make a comment about the future political implications of this man's death. I have had my public disagreements with Tony Yelencsics, but he was a man I respected."

"Tony's demise will certainly bring about many changes in Edison Township and Middlesex County," county Democratic Chairman Nicholas Venezia said yesterday.

4/26/89

Edison: Yelencsics, Anthony

ASK AT DESK

Edison Twp. Pub. Library
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HIS CAREER

Anthony M. Yelencsics had been active in public life in Edison since the 1950s, serving six terms as mayor and leading the township through a period of phenomenal growth. These are some of the highlights of that career:

■ **1956:** Participates in a Charter Study Commission that results in a change of government to the mayor-council form the township still uses. NT 4/26/89

■ **1958:** Wins election to his first term as mayor.

■ **1958:** Proposes a central post office for Edison.

■ **1960:** Proposes construction of a hospital in the township.

■ **1965:** Aids in the location and opening of Middlesex County College on former Raritan Arsenal property in Edison.

■ **1965:** Helps launch the beginnings of Raritan Center, a huge industrial, hotel, and office complex also located on former arsenal property.



■ **1967:** After years of unrelenting fund-raising, presides over the opening of what is now John F. Kennedy Medical Center. He serves on the hospital board of trustees and presides over hospital expansion from 1967 on.

■ **1967:** Culminates a 10-year battle to have a central Edison post office located on Route 27 near Talmadge Road with the opening of the facility in September.

■ **1969:** Proposes construction of a new municipal complex at Route 27 and Talmadge Road.

■ **1969:** Reforms fire protection for the township after a disastrous fire in North Edison.

■ **1970:** Leaves office as mayor to devote time to hospital and other civic duties after helping develop plans for construction of Kilmer Industrial Park on Plainfield Avenue.

■ **1971:** Wins election as president of the Edison Chamber of Commerce, which he began to revitalize.

■ **1976:** Heads Jimmy Carter's campaign for president in Middlesex County.

■ **1978:** Disillusioned with the then-elected leadership of Edison, runs again for mayor and wins election.

■ **1979:** Helps create the Edison Sheltered Workshop to provide employment and job training for mentally handicapped people.

■ **1980:** Presides as the new Municipal Complex on Talmadge Road is dedicated.

■ **1980-88:** Continues to push for growth in Edison with controversial plans for development of Dismal Swamp and Rivertown.

■ **1988-89:** Presides over expansion of the Edison Police Department, a plan he had proposed in 1987.

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ASK AT DESK

An era ends in Edison

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HN 4/27/89
He was one of the last of a vanishing breed, an old-style mayor who built a loyal and long-lasting political machine and used it to build a community to his specifications.

Anthony M. Yelencsics, who died Tuesday at the age of 68, was the undisputed mayor of Edison for more than 23 of the past 31 years, as well as a major power in Middlesex County Democratic politics. Edison will not see his like again. But in today's political climate — with the demand for open government and direct citizen involvement in shaping a community's future — the Yelencsics era was a book waiting to be closed.

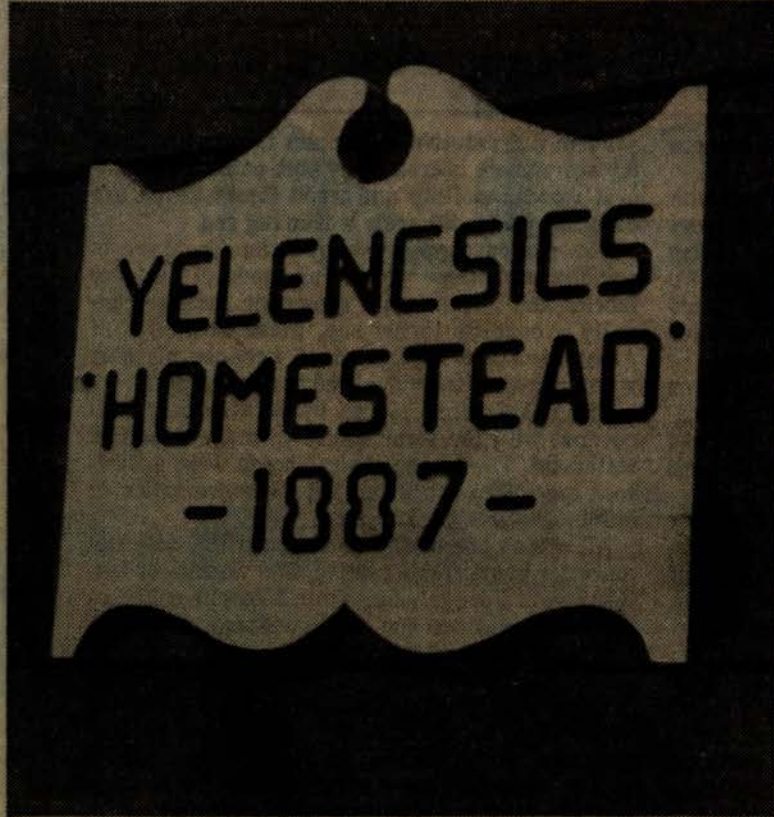
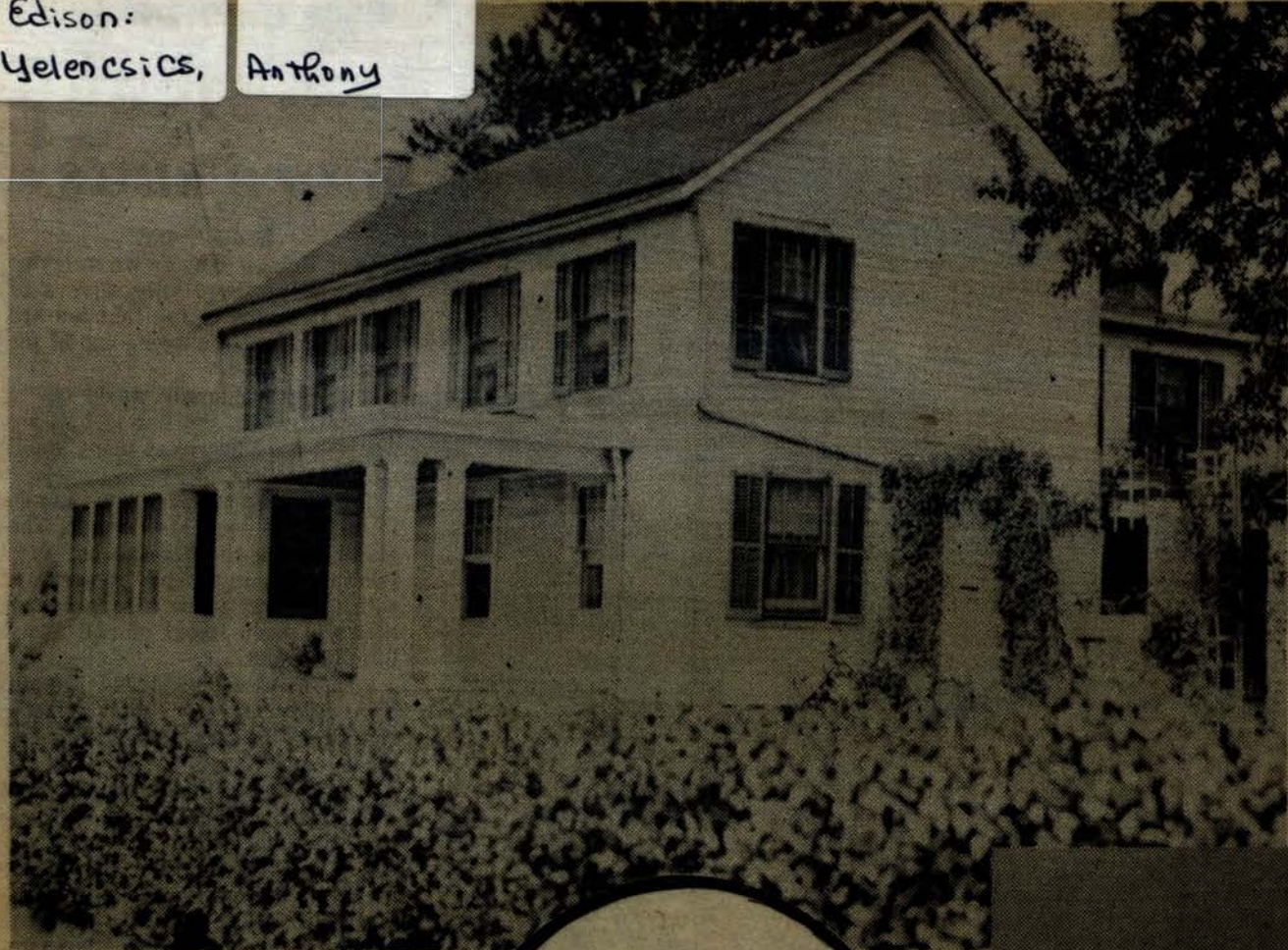
Edison abounds in monuments to Yelencsics' tenure as mayor: the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, a central post office, the borough's first high schools, the North Edison urban-renewal project, a modern library system, a new municipal complex. When Yelencsics first became mayor in 1958, Edison still was a quiet, mostly rural community that was only beginning to experience a population explosion. Today, with its population more than doubled, the community of 90,000 residents has more taxable property than any municipality in the state except Atlantic City. Edison has boomed, and the mayor was a cheerleader for its growth and development.

But the problems associated with Edison's boom — lengthening traffic jams, loss of open space and a deteriorating environment — have spawned an active anti-growth movement in the borough, which has begun to win some victories. Citizen alarms about overdevelopment, together with allegations of secrecy and misconduct within the Yelencsics administration, have been taking a toll. Although the mayor recently had announced he would seek re-election in November (despite his health problems), two Democratic council members were ready to challenge him. Opposition to Yelencsics also prompted three Republicans to seek their party's nomination for mayor. Clearly, the political pot in Edison was beginning to boil even before the mayor's death.

Today, Edison's political future is uncertain — up for grabs. There is no shortage of contenders for the power Yelencsics wielded. But in a new era, Edison residents are likely to claim more power — more say in Edison's future — for themselves.

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Edison:
Yelencsics, Anthony



TNT staff photos by George Molnar

Mayor's homestead

Once a stately family home overlooking the pastures and clay pits of Bonhamtown, Mayor Anthony Yelencsics' house has been used for a multitude of purposes and survived a century of changes in old Raritan Township. Designated an historic site, the structure was used by the recreation department until recently, and may now become an annex to the senior citizens' center. The photo above shows what the house looked like circa 1933.



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Bonhamtown's changed a lot since 1880

By MARK S. PORTER

News Tribune staff writer

EDISON — The house where Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics spent his youth sits on a low hill on the west side of Woodbridge Avenue, overlooking the Raritan Center industrial and commercial park.

Yelencsics, now the five-term mayor of Edison Township, grew up in the Bonhamtown section of what was then called Raritan Township.

When it was built in the 1880s, the farmhouse overlooked pastures and clay pits. It served until recently as the headquarters for the township recreation and parks department.

Once a rutted two-lane dirt road in front of the house, Woodbridge Avenue is now a four-lane highway joining Route 1 to the west and the Fords section of Woodbridge on the east.

The former farming community is now a busy 32-square-mile community of 70,000.

But the Yelencsics homestead remains. Middlesex County declared the homestead an historic site several years ago due to unique construction methods builders no longer employ.

Yelencsics was one of 10 children, six boys

Homestead survived it all

and four girls — an 11th did not survive infancy — in the family of Anton and Mary Yelencsics, who moved to the Woodbridge Avenue homestead in 1923, around the time Anthony Yelencsics was born.

"It was an old-fashioned house on a country road," Yelencsics said. "We never thought of us as living in Raritan Township. In those days, we only knew we lived in Bonhamtown."

Anton Yelencsics worked for the Bloomfield Clay Co., located across Woodbridge Avenue in what is now Raritan Center. Many other Hungarians and Poles worked in the clay pits during the 1920s.

The family owned several acres of land, where they grew vegetables and raised pigs, chickens and cows.

"We ate in shifts. The youngest kids got the least amount to eat. I was at the low end," Yelencsics said.

The children slept three to a bed. "There was a one-pot stove in the kitchen where my mother cooked. There was no other heat," Yelencsics said. "My brother Kal dug a cellar and eventually we put a furnace in."

After the Yelencsics family moved to a

larger house, the homestead was appropriated by the U.S. Army and used during World War II for military office space.

The house is located across from Raritan Arsenal, which contained large ammunition manufacturing facilities and storage bunkers when the Yelencsics arrived.

"We'd go berry-picking inside the arsenal by scrambling under the fence," said Mary Swales, Yelencsics' sister.

"Every once in awhile, we'd hear a bunker explode," she said. "Everyone would take blankets and food and go out to the fields, until the soldiers returned and said it was safe."

After the war, the Army gave the house to the township.

The Parks, Recreation and Public Property Division was based in the structure from the 1950s until last September, when the department moved to the former Stelton School.

The Yelencsics family, the Army, and the township all made extensive structural changes to the original farmhouse — "destroying it, ruining a pretty house," Mrs.

Swales said.

She said her memory of the homestead was "a big white house with a large front porch, a big barn and many chickens, and the prettiest grape arbor."

"There was not too much heat," Mrs. Swales said. "But I think we were healthier for it."

According to Harold V. McAvoy, director of the public property department, "The cellar is made of fieldstone. Some of the supports for the walls and ceilings are literally tree trunks. All the support beams in the attic are doweled out, not nailed together, like the way they used to put old ships together."

McAvoy described the structure as "an old, old-fashioned house" with two bathrooms and six rooms on two floors, a full basement and a shed out back that once was a chicken coop.

"Our former ceramics room was the mayor's bedroom," McAvoy said.

In 1978 the county mounted a plaque on the front of the house, designating it as an historic site.

Down the road, Bo's Den, a local tavern and the former Union Hotel, also received official county designation as an historic site.

According to McAvoy, the Yelencsics homestead may be put to use as an annex to the senior citizens' center built next to the house in June, 1978.

Edison: Yelencsics, Anthony

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Fulltime mayor backed

By MARK S. PORTER

News Tribune staff writer

EDISON — Anthony M. Yelencsics, mayor of this township for 19 years and a top-level political force in Middlesex County Democratic politics, may not seek re-election to another four-year term.

However, while Yelencsics said his business responsibilities and leadership of John F. Kennedy Medical Center will continue to draw on his time in years to come, he did not rule out another run for the mayoralty.

Yelencsics said he supported the creation of a fulltime mayoral position, with "fulltime compensation" for the person who holds the position.

The mayor noted that he has been "able to work a seven-day week" as Edison mayor for small monetary reimbursement because he is the owner of a successful auto dealership, Boro Motors, which is located on Route 27 near the municipal complex.

His mayoral successors may not have the financial independence to hold the position on the part-time salary now paid to the mayor, Yelencsics said.

He said the Township Council must approve the position of a fulltime mayor

— an ordinance amendment Yelencsics predicted will someday be passed by the council.

Yelencsics spoke at the annual municipal reorganization meeting held yesterday at noon.

"I'm going into my 19th year as mayor of Edison. I have stated publicly it'll be '20-and-out,'" Yelencsics said.

But the mayor said he was "not ready to commit myself" to retiring from local politics, and he left the door open should he decide to run again.

Party unity would be a motivation to seek another term, the 63-year-old mayor said.

He acknowledged that whoever hopes to succeed him as mayor of this strongly Democratic township of 80,000 people must be a "unity candidate, as I was, in bringing everybody together."

Yelencsics has served as mayor since 1978 and from 1958 through 1969.

He reemerged as the political leader of Edison in 1978 by forming a coalition ticket comprised of disaffected elements of the local Democrats, independent and some Republican voters.

James Mack, the only GOP candidate elected to council since 1957, was a member of Yelencsics' "People's Choice"

ticket.

With the Democrats now staunchly behind Yelencsics, some politicians have questioned whether his would-be successor could unite the various factions that comprise the party.

His son, Anton Yelencsics, said on Election Night last November that, in his view, he would like to see his father seek a sixth term as mayor because "there is nobody who could fill my father's shoes."

Some other local Democrats agree that Yelencsics is the person who unifies the Edison party.

But Yelencsics said he is "completely occupied" with the township concerns, his auto business and his chairmanship of the John F. Kennedy Medical Center Board of Trustees.

"There are several council people who are interested in being mayor. We have some ambitious (council members), and justifiably so. They've been all pretty good officials," Yelencsics said.

Almost a year-and-a-half remains before a decision must be made regarding mayoral bids, Yelencsics said. The next election for mayor of Edison will be held in November 1985.

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"ASK AT DESK"

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FROM LIBRARYOUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD
MAYOR OF EDISON
ANTHONY M. YELENCICS

Anthony M. Yelencsics, Mayor of Edison has been a life long resident of Edison. He is married to the former Norma Anderson and the father of two children, Mary Ann and Anton. Tony is a graduate of Rider College and has been President of Boro Motors, a Ford Agency, for 30 years. He was again elected Mayor of Edison in 1977 after having previously served as Mayor for 12 years - 1958-1970. Tony has given unselfishly of his time and ability in everything he undertook. It hasn't all been easy for "Tony" as he is known to his many friends. He first saw the light of day in what was then Bonhamtown, the son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Anton Yelencsics. While a student at Metuchen High School the Mayor was a three-letter man. He excelled in football and basketball, and was a track star. After graduating with the class of 1938 he received a four-year scholarship to Rider College in Trenton. Yelencsics graduated with a degree in accounting and finance. He served as a captain in the 1st Division of the U.S. Marine Corps with a Tank Battalion on Okinawa during World War II. He was wounded by enemy machine gun fire and was awarded the Purple Heart.

After the war with help from his four brothers he entered the automobile business as a new car dealer and by 1953 he acquired the Boro Motors dealership on Route 27. He is currently President of Boro Motors.

He entered politics as a member of the Charter Commission which made recommendations to adopt the Mayor Council form of government. The change over was accomplished in 1956. Yelencsics ran for Mayor the following year and won with a 2500 vote margin and served for 12 years.

During his tenure as Mayor his big dream for a hospital in Middlesex County became a reality. It was he who set the machinery in motion by appointing a committee to study the need for a hospital. The large hospital, J.F.K. Medical Center, is now serving Edison, Metuchen, and Woodbridge. Yelencsics also played a major role in the difficult task of raising funds for the hospital's construction and he is currently president of its Board of Trustees.

Yelencsics has been honored by many organizations for his hard work and involvement in different activities. Mayor Yelencsics received the Jaycee's Annual Industrial Award, was honored for his local race relations work, accepted the Middlesex County Chairmanship for the 1965 Cancer Crusade, was also instrumental in getting the Valley Playhouse Productions, Inc., a playhouse, and Edison a Central Post Office.

Although his schedule is a vigorous one he still remains active in Metuchen Elks Lodge 1914, Edison Moose Lodge 1978, The Edison V.F.W. American Legion Organization, Metuchen and Edison Chambers of Commerce, the Edison Exchange Club, and the Metuchen Country Club. He is Past President of the Metuchen Lions Club and is active in several Democratic Clubs.

Over the years, Yelencsics has been consistently dedicated to the Township and to its residents. His tenure comes at a difficult period of rapid growth and the stature of the municipality throughout the entire Eastern United States is in part due to that dedication and hard work.

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OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD
MAYOR OF EDISON
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MAYOR ANTHONY M. YELENCISICS

"Central Jersey" - Feb. 1981 ASK AT DESK

By Joan Arden

Anthony M. Yelencsics, the "people's choice" for Mayor of Edison Township, has gained an admirable reputation for his unrelenting efforts in promoting the Central Jersey community he serves. The mayoral position is one he feels comfortable in having served previously from 1958 to 1970.

Yelencsics' initial arrival on the political scene was in 1955 when he served on the five-member Charter Commission that adopted the Mayor-Council form of government. Later, he campaigned for the office of Mayor and won by 2,500 votes. Subsequently, he was elected to three four-year terms for a total of twelve years. His current term runs from 1977 to 1981.

Under his former administration one of his many accomplishments was the establishment of the Township's first post office. This project entailed eight years of lobbying before it became a reality. Prior to the one main office, Edison's mail was distributed by 11 area post offices.

Yelencsics' long negotiations with Fedders, including many trips to Long Island, resulted in Fedders' moving its air conditioning plant to Edison instead of N.Y. The same format brought several other major industries to the area. Many schools were built, including the first high school, as well as a new building for the township library. With his help, the Edison Bank was organized, all to accommodate the needs of a growing population. Yelencsics was influential in the government's sale of some Raritan Arsenal land back to the

municipality, and it now houses the huge industrial Raritan Center Complex, and Middlesex County College with its beautiful campus.

A personal dream was fulfilled upon the completion of the prestigious John F. Kennedy Medical Center. Founder and past president of the new hospital in Middlesex County in fifty years, Yelencsics calls it "the most fulfilling project I have instituted in my career as a public servant." It began as Community Hospital, Inc. before it was renamed John F. Kennedy Medical Center. Bank loans and fund raising drives kept it alive in its infancy when promised federal funds were not delivered. Yelencsics says of his baby, "Many times I saved it from disappointment." He's Chairman of the Board of the 15-year-old medical center.

Yelencsics decided to enter public affairs because of his personal commitment "to do something for the community I grew up in." A life-long resident of Edison, he was born and raised on a 10-acre farm in the Bonhamtown section of the township. One of eleven children, (seven boys and four girls), born to Mr. & Mrs. Anton Yelencsics, he is extremely proud of his large, close-knit family. He attended Metuchen High School where he was a basketball, football and track star. After graduating in 1938, he received a four-year scholarship to Rider College where he earned degrees in financing and accounting.

During World War II, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served as a Captain in the 1st Division's Tank Battalion. He saw duty in Guadalcanal, was wounded in Okinawa and awarded the Purple Heart.

After the war, he opened a new car dealership with the help of his four brothers. In 1953, he acquired Boro Motors on Route 27, and presently is serving his 28th year as president of the company.

All these endeavors leave little time to spend with his family. He maintains an exhausting seven-day a week schedule to keep up with his "three full time jobs." Leisure is spent with his wife and fellow golf enthusiast Norma, and their two children, Anton and Mary Ann.

Yelencsics is a man who thrives on filling the needs of his community. Identity problems that have plagued the township for years are tumbling down due to the Mayor's efforts. Exits for all the major highways that travel through Edison such as Routes 1, 18, 27 and 287, plus the Garden State Parkway and New Jersey Turnpike are all scheduled to have Edison's name posted on them. Recently the Ford Plant changed its name to the Edison Ford Assembly Plant. Before Edison had its own post office, the Ford plant located in the area, and its billing, went through the Metuchen office.

The Edison Sheltered Workshop was another project designed to serve the Community. It began in 1979, when a group of parents came to Yelencsics and the Town Council expressing a need for a sheltered workshop for handicapped adults that were in the public school system. The Workshop also has a graduate weekly program in which applicants make a living as they are trained. Persons with all types of handicaps are accepted through referrals. Those with muscular dystrophy, visual impairment, mental retardation, dyslexia and emotional problems are mainstreamed into selective employment. The workshop has applied for County and State funding for a program to help the handicapped.

Future projects for senior citizens of Edison are also in the planning stage. These include plans for a Senior Citizen complex, a recreation building, transportation for health care, and bus trips for cultural and recreational activities.

Yelencsics' door is open and he has a listed phone in order to have a direct line of communication to the people he serves.

Yelencsics says, "I believe being Mayor of Edison is much more rewarding than being a state official. A Mayor gets involved helping people." Involvement and hard work are his secrets to a successful career as a public servant.



John F. Kennedy Medical Center



Taping Mayor Anthony Yelencsics at Boro Motors office. Director Sandor Kligyos sits in front of interpreter Kira Jozsef.

Hungarian TV to show Yelencsics, Weiss

By EVELYN APGAR
Home News Staff Writer
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HN 314187

Edison Mayor Anthony "Tony" Yelencsics and state Sen. Laurence Weiss are no strangers to media publicity, but their constituents will have to go to Hungary to catch their latest television appearances.

Yelencsics and Weiss were taped yesterday by a crew from the Hungarian state-sponsored television network for a documentary about Hungarians abroad.

The interviews, combined with interviews with Hungarian-Americans from other cities around the U.S., will be combined into a multipart miniseries totaling three hours long that should be run on the Hungarian network by the end of the year, according to interpreter Kira Jozsef.

"Hungary is a small country" of 10 million citizens, with 1.7 million persons of Hungarian descent living in the United States, Jozsef said. "Every year thousands of Americans visit Hun-

gary," Jozsef said.

"We would like to show how Hungarians live in the U.S.A. to their relatives living in Hungary," said Jozsef. The show will be the latest in a series showing Hungarians living in such other lands as England, Canada and Australia, Jozsef said.

The Hungarian television crew began its American odyssey in Central New Jersey because Edison builder Bill Gambocz, who is himself of Hungarian descent, met them while on a trip to Hungary in January. Gambocz said he could help the crew locate some prominent Hungarian Americans in New Jersey.

On his return, Gambocz arranged for the tapings, and the crew arrived in New York this week. They spent the morning taping Yelencsics at his Boro Motors office, at his mayoral office in the township complex and at John F. Kennedy Medical Center, where Yelencsics is chairman of the board of directors. Later, they taped Sen. Weiss, D-Middlesex, in his office in Perth Amboy.

Yelencsics, whose deceased parents came to

the U.S. from Hungary many years ago, said the taping was a good experience. "I've always been proud of my parents," he said.

Jozsef said his meeting Yelencsics was the first time he had met a person of Hungarian descent who had achieved such a prominent position. He described Yelencsics as a "kind man" and "very diligent."

"We are very proud of him," said Jozsef.

Jozsef described Weiss as a "very interesting man" who "seems to be influential." Weiss is chairman of the Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations Committee, which is reviewing Gov. Thomas Kean's budget proposal.

Jozsef said Weiss, who was born in Hungary but came to the U.S. at the age of 3, has never visited his homeland since. "After meeting with us he said he must go to Europe to see his birthplace and that of his family," Jozsef said.

Next stop for the Hungarian crew is Pittsburgh, then Detroit, Cleveland, and Los Angeles, before heading back to Hungary, said Jozsef.

"ASK AT DESK"

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(Edison History -)
1981

Yelencsics, Anthony

MAYOR ANTHONY M. YELENCICS

NOT TO BE TAKEN

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By Joan Arden

Anthony M. Yelencsics, the "people's choice" for Mayor of Edison Township, has gained an admirable reputation for his unrelenting efforts in promoting the Central Jersey community he serves. The mayoral position is one he feels comfortable in having served previously from 1958 to 1970.

Yelencsics' initial arrival on the political scene was in 1955 when he served on the five-member Charter Commission that adopted the Mayor-Council form of government. Later, he campaigned for the office of Mayor and won by 2,500 votes. Subsequently, he was elected to three four-year terms for a total of twelve years. His current term runs from 1977 to 1981.

Under his former administration one of his many accomplishments was the establishment of the Township's first post office. This project entailed eight years of lobbying before it became a reality. Prior to the one main office, Edison's mail was distributed by 11 area post offices.

Yelencsics' long negotiations with Fedders, including many trips to Long Island, resulted in Fedder's moving its air conditioning plant to Edison instead of N.Y. The same format brought several other major industries to the area. Many schools were built, including the first high school, as well as a new building for the township library. With his help, the Edison Bank was organized, all to accommodate the needs of a growing population. Yelencsics was influential in the government's sale of some Raritan Arsenal land back to the

municipality, and it now houses the huge industrial Raritan Center Complex, and Middlesex County College with its beautiful campus.

A personal dream was fulfilled upon the completion of the prestigious John F. Kennedy Medical Center. Founder and past president of the new hospital in Middlesex County in fifty years, Yelencsics calls it "the most fulfilling project I have instituted in my career as a public servant." It began as Community Hospital, Inc. before it was renamed John F. Kennedy Medical Center. Bank loans and fund raising drives kept it alive in its infancy when promised federal funds were not delivered. Yelencsics says of his baby, "Many times I saved it from disappointment." He's Chairman of the Board of the 15-year-old medical center.

Yelencsics decided to enter public affairs because of his personal commitment "to do something for the community I grew up in." A life-long resident of Edison, he was born and raised on a 10-acre farm in the Bonhamtown section of the township. One of eleven children, (seven boys and four girls), born to Mr. & Mrs. Anton Yelencsics, he is extremely proud of his large, close-knit family. He attended Metuchen High School where he was a basketball, football and track star. After graduating in 1938, he received a four-year scholarship to Rider College where he earned degrees in financing and accounting.

During World War II, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served as a Captain in the 1st Division's Tank Battalion. He saw duty in Guadalcanal, was wounded in Okinawa and awarded the Purple Heart.

After the war, he opened a new car dealership with the help of his four brothers. In 1953, he acquired Boro Motors on Route 27, and presently is serving his 28th year as president of the company.

All these endeavors leave little time to spend with his family. He maintains an exhausting seven-day a week schedule to keep up with his "three full time jobs" Leisure is spent with his wife and fellow golf enthusiast Norma, and their two children, Anton and Mary Ann.

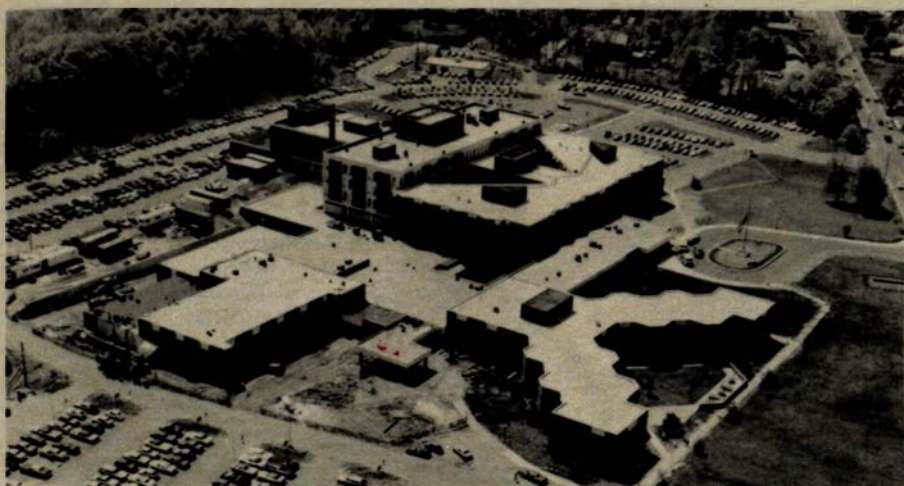
Yelencsics is a man who thrives on filling the needs of his community. Identity problems that have plagued the township for years are tumbling down due to the Mayor's efforts. Exits for all the major highways that travel through Edison such as Routes 1, 18, 27 and 287, plus the Garden State Parkway and New Jersey Turnpike are all scheduled to have Edison's name posted on them. Recently the Ford Plant changed its name to the Edison Ford Assembly Plant. Before Edison had its own post office, the Ford plant located in the area, and its billing, went through the Metuchen office.

The Edison Sheltered Workshop was another project designed to serve the Community. It began in 1979, when a group of parents came to Yelencsics and the Town Council expressing a need for a sheltered workshop for handicapped adults that were in the public school system. The Workshop also has a graduate weekly program in which applicants make a living as they are trained. Persons with all types of handicaps are accepted through referrals. Those with muscular dystrophy, visual impairment, mental retardation, dyslexia and emotional problems are mainstreamed into selective employment. The workshop has applied for County and State funding for a program to help the handicapped.

Future projects for senior citizens of Edison are also in the planning stage. These include plans for a Senior Citizen complex, a recreation building, transportation for health care, and bus trips for cultural and recreational activities.

Yelencsics' door is open and he has a listed phone in order to have a direct line of communication to the people he serves.

Yelencsics says, "I believe being Mayor of Edison is much more rewarding than being a state official. A Mayor gets involved helping people." Involvement and hard work are his secrets to a successful career as a public servant.



John F. Kennedy Medical Center

From: Central Jersey Monthly
Feb. 1981



Anthony Yelencsics was part of a large close-knit family. One of eleven children born to Mr & Mrs Anton Yelencsics, he and his ten brothers and sisters grew up in this house part of a 10-acre farm in the Bonhamtown Section of Edison. His desire "to do something for the community I grew up in" sprang from his life-long devotion to his home town.

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Main Office Pictured Here

Pageants

Marilyn Seitz found opportunities for young women in a place she never expected.

14



Defended

A Sayreville lawyer has his own ideas about what happened to Richard Nixon.

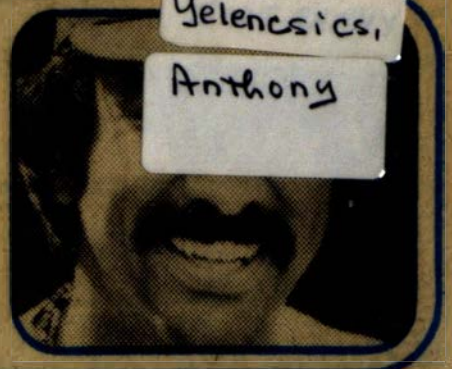
25



Unhappy

Pitcher Ed Figueroa isn't the only Yankee acting like it was the days of old.

35



Edison:
Yelencsics,
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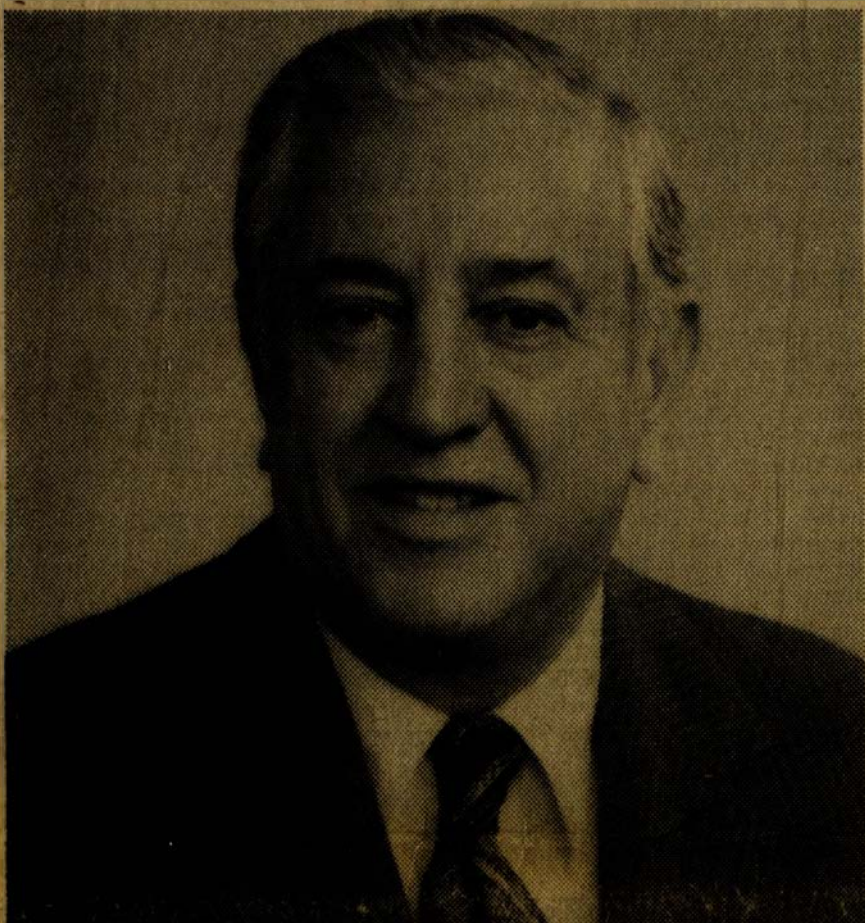
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WOODBRIDGE, N. J. — THURSDAY, JUNE 1 1978

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Mayor Yelencsics proclaims June 6 as 'D-Day' for Edison Township



MAYOR ANTHONY M. YELENCICS

Election effort seen new success goal

Calling up the image of 'D-Day' in World War II, Edison Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics has proclaimed Tuesday, June 6 as D-Day in Edison Township.

The proclamation was made before an overflow crowd of 1,200 supporters and dignitaries attending a tribute rally event tonight at The Pines Manor, Edison.

Mayor Yelencsics was honored by friends and followers of the Re-organization Democrats of Edison "for his dynamic ability in the past when he almost single-handedly pulled a town up

by its economic bootstraps, lowering the tax rate by attracting millions of dollars in new industrial ratables."

Asked what his feelings were about the 13 districts which defected from the Paterniti slate of last year to the Yelencsics-supported Re-organization Democrats, the mayor said "naturally I was delighted to see this defection. Their dedication and confidence in me gives me added momentum to surge ahead and prove to everyone that Edison will become a model on which other communities will engineer their form of government."

Political career wide and varied over many years

Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics' first entry onto the political scene began as a member of the township's Charter Study Commission.

It was the recommendation of that commission which resulted in the adoption of the mayor and council form of government for Edison in 1966. He campaigned for the office of mayor in 1967, winning by 2,500 votes. He subsequently served as mayor for 12 years.

It was in 1969 that Mayor Yelencsics stepped down from that post because of health reasons following an operation. He also expressed the thought that after 12 years the township was in good shape. Many factories and homes had been built and the tax rate was one of the lowest in the county.

There was also a large surplus in the budget and the mayor felt he wanted a little more time with his family.

In his service as mayor, township schools came off double sessions, the township's first high school was built, plus three junior high schools and additional grammar schools.

The township's library, which had been in a storefront building became, in 1963, the impressive main library housed in the municipal building.

It was under his administration that the first fire department snorkel was obtained.

It was also due to his efforts that the Fedders plant is located in Edison Township. Mayor Yelencsics succeeded in overcoming the efforts of Gov. Rockefeller of New York to have that plant located on Long Island.

In 1961 he was instrumental in getting the government to put up the site of what

had been Raritan Arsenal for sale so that it could be developed for industry and produce revenue on the tax rolls. Today thousands of workers are employed there.

Examples of this type from 1958 to 1965 brought 17 major industries into Edison as purchasers of township-owned land, plus 29 more which built on privately-owned sites.

It was Mayor Yelencsics who set up the first rent policy system for the Housing Authority, appointed the first municipal prosecutor and who brought the township's bond rating up from B to AA.

His return to the political scene came as the result of public pressure voiced by those who were dissatisfied with the way the township was being run. In the 1975 election the mayor's position was not at stake so he endorsed and managed the campaign of Dorothy Drwal in a successful election effort.

Later, running as a Democrat but also as the "People's Choice," he became mayor again.

The effort to bring Edison to new heights is continuing, already marked by major advances in administration and accomplishment since Yelencsics came "home" to the office of mayor.

He has declared that there is much yet to be done in the future in all areas of Edison's progress, all of which he summarizes as "better service to the people."

In memoriam

The township has not forgotten, nor will it, its indebtedness to two of its outstanding leaders who were part of the team that is being honored tonight.

They were the late Councilman Dr. William Toth and the late Councilman William F. Ashton.

Community aid a driving force

Mayor Anthony Yelencsics' accomplishments as a businessman and as a political leader are matched if not surpassed by his long record of community service.

He was a founder and principal driving force behind the prestigious John F. Kennedy Medical Center, for which ground was broken in 1965 and which has seen constant growth in size and service since the day it opened its doors. Mayor Yelencsics was personally responsible for directing fund-raising for the medical center that realized \$2.2 million. He is the medical center's chairman of the board.

After eight years of lobbying he was successful in obtaining the township's first post office under its own name. The township had previously been served by a variety of municipalities surrounding Edison, causing massive confusion and inconvenience.

It was at Mayor Yelencsics' urging that the township has an Edison interchange on the New Jersey Turnpike.

In other civic endeavors, he helped found the first pre-school nursery school in Edison, supported and continues to sup-

port numerous boys' and girls' recreation teams, served as a major figure in the Bonds for Israel drives, for which he has been honored by Israel, served as a past president of the Edison Chamber of Commerce, received the first brotherhood award from the Metuchen-Edison Racial Relations Council, among many other achievements.

He has also been an active and energetic participant in mental health and cancer drives, serving additionally as a past vice chairman of the Woodbridge State School.

In addition he has served as campaign manager for Rep. Edward J. Patten in his many campaigns, served as county campaign coordinator for President Jimmy Carter and as county coordinator for the campaign of Gov. Byrne.

Business leadership, political leadership and community leadership have all been hallmarks of a lifetime of service which began in what was at that time a little known section of a township that was to grow, to a large degree because of his efforts, into one of the flagship municipalities of the East.

Bonhamtown section saw start of career

Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsics, a life-long resident of Edison Township, was born in the township's Bonhamtown section and now lives at 11 Buchanan Drive.

He is the third youngest of 13 children born to Mr. and Mrs. Antone Yelencsics and was graduated from Edison elementary schools, Metuchen High School and Rider College with a bachelor of science degree in accounting.

During World War II he served in the U.S. Marine Corps' First Division Tank Corps and was wounded at Okinawa, subsequently receiving the Purple Heart medal. He presently holds the rank of captain in the reserves.

Now a businessman for 32 years, he started employment as a dump truck operator, following this with experience as a charter bus operator. With his four brothers he opened a Kaiser dealership in Bonhamtown, later moving to Amboy Avenue, Metuchen, where a Kaiser-Fraser-Oldsmobile dealership was established in 1947.

It was in 1953 that Mayor Yelencsics opened Boro Motors. He is now making his 25th anniversary as president of the Boro Motors organization. During that time he has won numerous awards from the Ford Motor Company, including a trip award.

His wife is the former Norma Anderson. Mayor and Mrs. Yelencsics have two children, Maryann and Anton.

Retired

The mayor and all of the friends of Billy Lipinsky wish him the best of health in his retirement.

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for Party Unity in EDISON



This vehicle was a part of the 1977 Yelencsics' bandwagon.

National

Witness sparks Fedorenko trial

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Schalom Kohn spoke firmly as the memories flooded back, still vivid. He remembered the death camp called Treblinka, its cruel barracks and daily executions, and he remembered a guard named Fedorenko.

Walking to within a few feet of Fedorenko in a federal courtroom yesterday, Kohn raised a hand and spoke in Polish. "I recognize this man as the Fedorenko." An interpreter translated.

It was Fedorenko, Kohn testified, who beat and slaughtered Jews at the notorious Nazi camp in Poland during World War II.

The 71-year-old Fedorenko is a former Ukrainian soldier accused in a government civil action of lying about his role as a Treblinka guard when he applied for American naturalization.

U.S. District Judge Norman Roetiger Jr. could strip Fedorenko of his citizenship. If that happened he could be deported and tried in Europe on war crimes charges.

On Tuesday in Chicago, Frank Walus was denied his citizenship in a similar case.

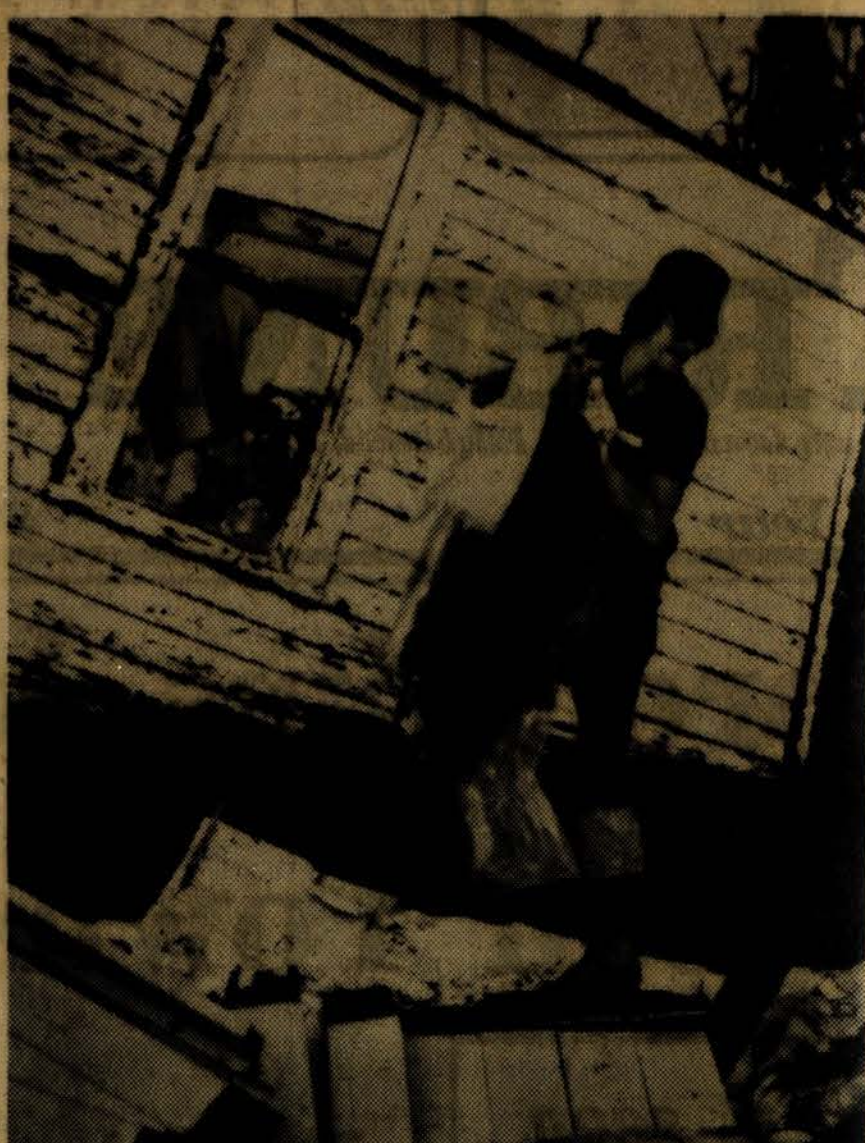
Judge's rape comment prompts investigation

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Conspiracy charges against a man who allegedly failed in a rape attempt were dropped by a Common Pleas Court judge, who told the prosecutor "You can't blame somebody for trying."

Judge Walter Pickett's comment was contained in a transcript, obtained by state Rep. Paul LaRosa, D-Hartford, who has called for an investigation of Pickett's handling of the case.

Raymond LaBelle, 29, of Hartford was one of four men arrested in April on the complaint of a Springfield, Mass., woman who said she was beaten, robbed and raped by four men who offered her a ride on Route 91.

Three of the suspects were charged with first-degree sexual assault and were bound over to Superior Court for trial. But LaBelle was unable to rape the victim, according to testimony.



Saving what he can

Thomas McNally of St. Clere, Kan., helps salvage clothing from what used to be a second floor bedroom of the neighboring Joseph Lafta home after one of a series of tornadoes hit the small town 35 miles northeast of Topeka early last evening. The Lafta home and a number of others were destroyed, and the twisters left at least two dead and a number injured in northeast Kansas.

Alaskans schedule tribute to Capt. Cook

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Capt. James Cook, England's greatest navigator, is being honored here today on the 200th anniversary of a voyage he may well have considered a failure.

Cook failed to locate the fabled Northwest Passage on that trip, his third and

last. He was killed in Hawaii by natives in February 1779.

But his accomplishments included the discovery of the Hawaiian islands and the accurate charting of much of the Pacific Coast of North America.

Anchorage residents will gather beneath Cook's statue on the shore of Cook Inlet to celebrate. Skies were overcast on the eve of the festivities, but organizers vowed: "We'll take umbrellas and carry on as the British would."

Priest says suspect attempted suicide

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Richard Herrin, on trial for beating his girlfriend to death with a hammer while she slept in her Scarsdale home, told a Catholic priest he tried to commit suicide after killing 20-year-old Bonnie Garland, according to testimony by the Rev. Paul Tartaglia.

Father Tartaglia, the state's second witness, told the court yesterday that an exhausted and emotionally drained Herrin came to his door at the St. Mary's rectory in Cocksackie, N.Y., at 7 a.m. on July 7, 1977, some four or five hours after Miss Garland was killed.

"I killed my girlfriend," Tartaglia quoted Herrin as saying at that time.

Former executive ordered to prison

NEW YORK (AP) — A former vice chairman of the board of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. has been ordered to surrender here July 5 to begin serving a four-year sentence in federal prison for stealing money from an illegal corporate slush fund. Robert P. Beasley, of Akron, Ohio, who could have received up to 30 years in prison on the fraud charges, will be eligible for parole after serving 16 months. He was also fined \$14,000.

U.S. District Judge Milton Pollack compared the crime with "common theft" at the sentencing in Manhattan yesterday. But he said he was mitigating the sentence because of Beasley's medical condition and age. He is 64.

World

Scottish nationalist defeated in election

LONDON (AP) — The cause of Scottish independence was at a low point today following the defeat of fiery nationalist leader Margo MacDonald in a crucial parliamentary election in Hamilton, her hometown near Glasgow.

Labor candidate George Robertson, a union organizer, won with 18,880 votes, nearly 6,500 more than Mrs. MacDonald. The defeat was a stinging blow to the party and to her.

State

'Romanced' juror's deputy job revealed

NEWARK (AP) — Court hearings on allegations jurors were romanced by deputy marshals during the fraud trial of former Republican Chairman Nelson G. Gross show a female juror became a deputy marshal a month after Gross was convicted, transcripts of the closed proceeding show.

The transcripts, made public yesterday, detailed six days of hearings to consider Gross's bid for a new trial, based on the allegations of former Deputy Marshal Leon Stacey.

About a month after the hearings concluded in January, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Lawrence A. Whipple ruled the "romancing" story was "inherently unbelievable" and denied the motion. Gross has appealed Whipple's ruling.

Younger Vesco faces assault charge

RUTHERFORD (AP) — The son of fugitive financier Robert Vesco has been ordered to answer an assault and battery charge in municipal court here next Monday.

A fellow Fairleigh Dickinson University student charged that Anthony Vesco, 20, of Boonton, choked him May 20 at the Elliott Terrace dormitory.

Wayne Meyers, 23, of Yardley, Pa., filed the charges against Vesco two days after the alleged incident, a municipal court spokesman said yesterday.

'God Bless America' figures in lawsuit

NEWARK (AP) — A Newark attorney who claims he and a guest were thrown out of a Roselle restaurant because they refused to stand while a band played "God Bless America" has filed suit against the establishment.

In a suit filed in Superior Court here yesterday, Steven Kaplan said he and his guest were enjoying their dinners on April 28 when one of the members of the band announced:

"The boss has just told me that the band is to play 'God Bless America' and that all of you have to stand at attention." The suit

said when the attorney and his guest, "desirous of finishing their meal," failed to stand, Peter Cupo, owner of the Drop Zone restaurant, emerged "yelling and screaming" from the kitchen.

"This is my restaurant, you play by my rules and if you don't want to stand you can get the hell out of here," the suit quoted Cupo as telling Kaplan.

The attorney seeks damages for "embarrassment and mental anguish."

Spend in top style at Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY (AP) — The casino is only one of the places where you'll need a lot of cash if you spend a weekend for two in the East's first casino hotel.

Resorts International Hotel Casino officials say it will cost \$8 to park your car there for the night. Rooms still are available through the summer at \$60 to \$100 a night — telephones in every bathroom, of course.

Want more luxury? The renovated former Chalfonte-Haddon Hall hotel has eight oceanfront suites at \$250 a night.

The hotel plans to open a coffee shop during the summer, but right now the best bet for breakfast is the new Pavilion Buffet.

The buffet in the bright former Wedgewood Room is a lavish assortment of everything you always wanted in the morning but were too sleepy to peel or fry. Add \$4.95 each, not counting tip, to your room bill.

Work resumes on Fort Lee project

FORT LEE (AP) — After almost four years of construction and financial setbacks, work on a huge apartment, motel and shopping complex here is moving along swiftly.

Since 1974, travelers over the George Washington Bridge could see two tall skeletons of unfinished apartment houses on the Fort Lee horizon, evidence of the national construction problems. On each one a crane perched at the 30th-floor level, immobile, until recently, since the day that work stopped.

Today, the project is back in construction, but no longer as rental apartments.

One of the towers is expected to house a 650-room, 15-apartment Marriott Hotel by 1980. The second tower will be a cooperative apartment house, with units selling for \$50,000 to \$250,000.

People and places

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — The grandson of Ireland's late President Eamon De Valera has been accused of stealing \$19,000 worth of paintings and silverware from a home in the exclusive Leeson Park area.

The 24-year-old, who bears his grandfather's name, appeared in criminal court yesterday on housebreaking and theft charges and was released on bail pending a trial later this year.

He is the son of Dr. Ruari De Valera, professor of archaeology at University College Dublin.

The youth, who describes himself as a company director, has been in financial difficulties for five years. He launched an unsuccessful night club in Dublin two years ago.

President De Valera, who served from 1959 until 1973, died in August 1975 at age 93.

CHICAGO (AP) — The road production of "Sly Fox," starring Jackie Gleason, has been canceled because of Gleason's illness.

A production spokesman said yesterday that it was felt that Gleason was essential for the success of the show, scheduled to end June 17.

Gleason, 62, is hospitalized here in "very good condition and good spirits" with what is described by hospital officials as "coronary insufficiencies" and an irregular heart beat.

"He had chest pains, but he did not have a heart attack in the conventional terms as the public

knows it," Michael Reese Hospital spokeswoman Rita Goldman said.

ATLANTA (AP) — Until he retired and got into the amusement business, the slide Henry Aaron was most familiar with was into second base.

Now the former baseball great has found that balancing his business interests and his public image can be as slippery as the giant water slide he plans to build on a lot across the street from a church and next to a cemetery.

According to the Rev. Lester Buice, pastor of the 4,000-member Rebooth Baptist Church, about 50 persons have complained to him about the location of the water slide.

"The thing is, we know kids scream. Can you imagine holding a funeral service with that kind of background?" he said.

Aaron, now director of player development with the Atlanta Braves, believes there is a misunderstanding.

"We have no intention of interfering with the services because we're not going to open until 12:30 or 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon," he said. "As far as the graveyard is concerned, I respect everyone. But I hope people will remember this isn't going to be some kind of a barroom."

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jeff Carter, just out of college and without a job, says he is not sure he will give to charity the money he will receive for exclusive pictures from the wedding of Billy Carter's daughter.

Describing himself as an amateur photographer, the 25-year-old son of President Carter says he may invest in a camera lens instead.

Young Carter, who graduated from George Washington University this month, sold two pictures from the May 21 wedding of Jana Carter — which the working press was not allowed to cover — to Time magazine. William L. Tucker of Uniphoto, which marketed the pictures, indicated that Carter would get "between" \$500 and \$10,000.

Several months ago, after a flap over the \$10,000 Carter and his wife Annette received from Life Magazine for 10 pictures of the Carter family and the White House, Carter said he would give the money to charity rather than profit from photographs taken while his father was president.

In a telephone interview, the president's son also said he expects to hear today whether he will be offered a job with the polling firm of Patrick Caddell, a member of President Carter's staff.

NEW YORK (AP) — The city's cash flow problem eased a bit when it auctioned 540 pounds of unwashed sheep wool for \$392.10.

The wool was sheared from 100 sheep kept for experimental purposes at the Department of Health's laboratory at Otisville, N.Y.

The ungraded wool, used for hand-knitting yarn and thread, was sold yesterday to the highest bidder, Gerrit Zwolle of Haledon, N.J.



Henry Aaron



Engaged

Prince Michael of Kent holds hands with Baroness Marie-Christine von Reibnitz yesterday during a news conference at Richmond, England. The Baroness, an Austrian Catholic whose marriage to a merchant banker was previously nullified by the church, and the 35-year-old prince are engaged. Their decision to marry means that the prince, who is 16th in line of succession, must renounce his right to the British throne.

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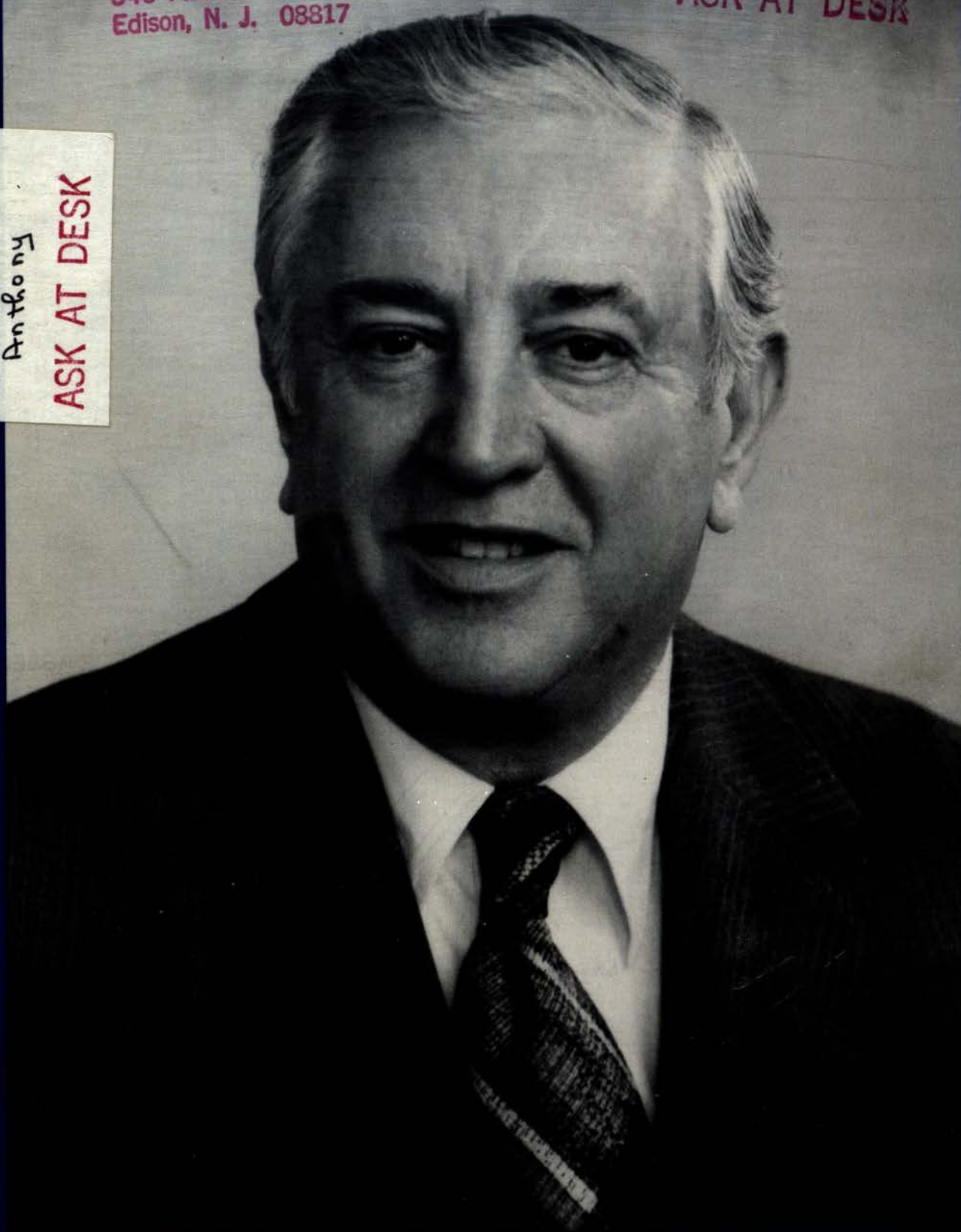
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Yelencsius,

Anthony

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Edison Democratic Organization 1981

Friday, October 30th



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The Pines Manor
Edison, New Jersey

Friday
October 30th, 1981

DEAR FELLOW DEMOCRATS:

This evening we gather here to pay tribute and honor to a great American and the most outstanding of our community whom we all know as "Tony" Yelencsics.

On January 20, 1960 President John Kennedy stated in his inaugural address these immortal words, "and so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Two years prior to that address "Tony" Yelencsics had already practiced just that in developing the advancement of Edison Township. If ever a community possessed a living monument, then Edison acquired it in the knowledgeable attitude and dynamic ability of "Mr. Democrat" — Tony Yelencsics.

"Tony" was approached on many, many occasions to assist in the Presidential Campaigns of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Carter. He was also instrumental in the Gubernatorial Campaign of Governors Meyner, Hughes and Byrne. This evening he is vigorously campaigning for Jim Florio.

Senator Bill Bradley and Congressman Bernie Dwyer welcomed his campaign expertise which was highly instrumental in their landslide victories.

When the 15th Congressional District was formed, former Congressman "Ed" Patten called upon "Tony" to support him. "Tony" was selected as Congressman Patten's first campaign manager.

On four occasions "Tony" was an invited guest of the White House.

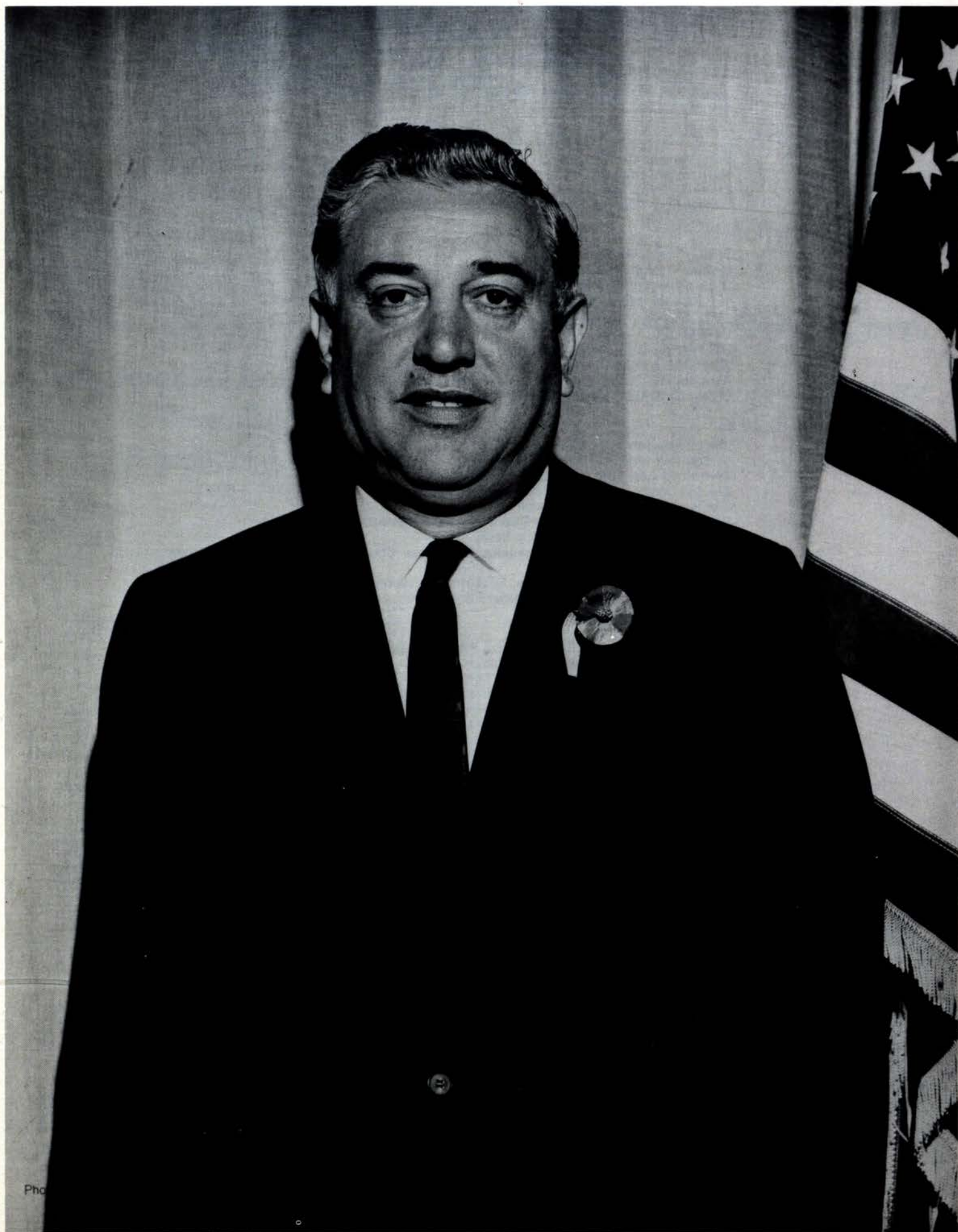
Our Township grew immensely since his first day in office, January 1, 1958. We have in Edison today a well planned community with schools, paved roads, police and fire protection, libraries, parks, industry, motels, industrial centers, senior citizen housing and housing of all types with major highway arteries leading to our great township. We know in our hearts that "Tony" exhausted much of his talented efforts for us in this room and for those at home. We humbly convey to him our thanks and appreciation for building us a community for which we are so very proud.

He's the type of man that is the envy of all political office holders. "Tony" has time for people no matter what hour of day or night. He is at the scene of minor and major problems. He offers an open door policy to all Edison residents. He is a very caring and responsive man — but most of all "Tony" Yelencsics is always there when you need him.

Dr. Martin Luther King a few years back told the world, "I have a dream," but he never lived to see it. Unlike the Doctor, "Tony" Yelencsics in 1958 also had a dream to build a strong community for its people and this evening he can see the fruits of his labor in fulfillment. Many of Tony's dreams became realities, but the one that Tony cherishes above all is the J.F.K. Medical Center with a sprawling medical complex to serve the needs of the community.

"Tony," on this memorable day we extend our hand in friendship and toast you for your untiring efforts through the years and for the better things in life you have offered and gave to us.

GRATEFUL FRIENDS OF "TONY" YELENCICS



**BIOGRAPHY OF:
ANTHONY M. YELENCSICS, Mayor
Township of Edison**

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL:

Born: August 19, 1920, Edison, New Jersey
Married: November 4, 1954 to Norma Anderson
Children: Daughter, Maryann; Son, Anton
Occupation: Founder and President of Boro Motors

EDUCATION:

Edison Township Grammar Schools
Metuchen High School
Rider College, B.S. Degree in Finance
Recipient of a 4 year Basketball Scholarship

ARMED FORCES:

U.S. Marine Corps, 1942-1946
Wounded in action on Okinawa during World War II
Awarded the Purple Heart along with other Service Citations
Presently holds rank of Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

PUBLIC LIFE:

Mayor, Township of Edison (1958-1969) (1978 - Present)
Invited four times by Presidents to functions at the White House
Performed over 1200 Marriages
Elected Democratic National Committeeman
Elected Democratic State Committeeman
Founder and Chairman of the Board of John F. Kennedy Medical Center
Founding Member of the Edison Bank
Member of the Board of Trustees, Middlesex County American-Hungarian Democratic Organization
Democratic Municipal Chairman, Township of Edison
Former Vice Chairman, Woodbridge State School

MEMBERSHIPS:

Past President, Kappa Phi Fraternity, Rider College
Past President, Metuchen Lions Club
Past President, Edison Chamber of Commerce
Past President, Middlesex County American-Hungarian Democratic Organization
Charter Member, Metuchen B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge 1914
Charter Member, Edison Democratic Association
Charter Member, Middlesex County Blue Badge Assoc. No. 1
Life Member, American Legion Post 324
Life Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3117
Life Member, Clara Barton Democratic Club
Life Member, H.K. Fire Department
Honorary Member of Edison P.B.A. Local No. 75
Member, New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police
Member, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 52
Member, Edison Moose
Member, Edison Exchange Club
Member, Metuchen Golf and Country Club

AWARDS:

Local:

Outstanding Citizen Awards from Veterans of Foreign Wars 1979
Outstanding Hungarian Descent Award from Middlesex County American-Hungarian
Democratic Organization 1976
Award of Merit from the Disabled American Veterans 1981
Honorary Member Award from Edison Kiwanis
Numerous yearly awards from Pop Warner Football Leagues in Edison
Numerous yearly awards from Little Leagues in Edison
Yearly awards from Girls Softball League in Edison

State:

Plaque and Resolution from the New Jersey Senate for his various achievements 1978

National:

Humanitarian Award from the National Hydrocephalus Foundation 1978

International:

Israel's Prime Minister's Award 1978

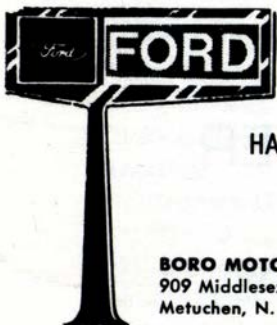
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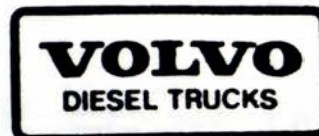
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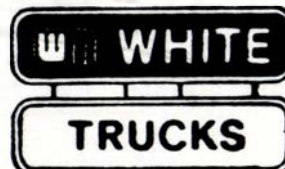
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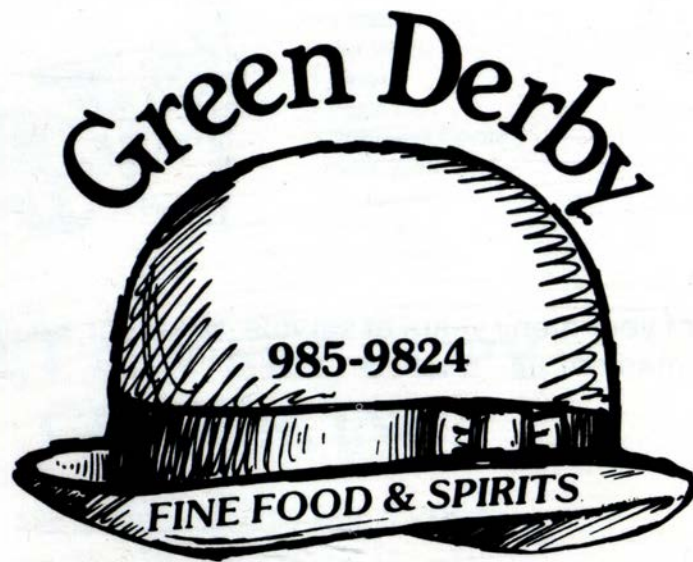


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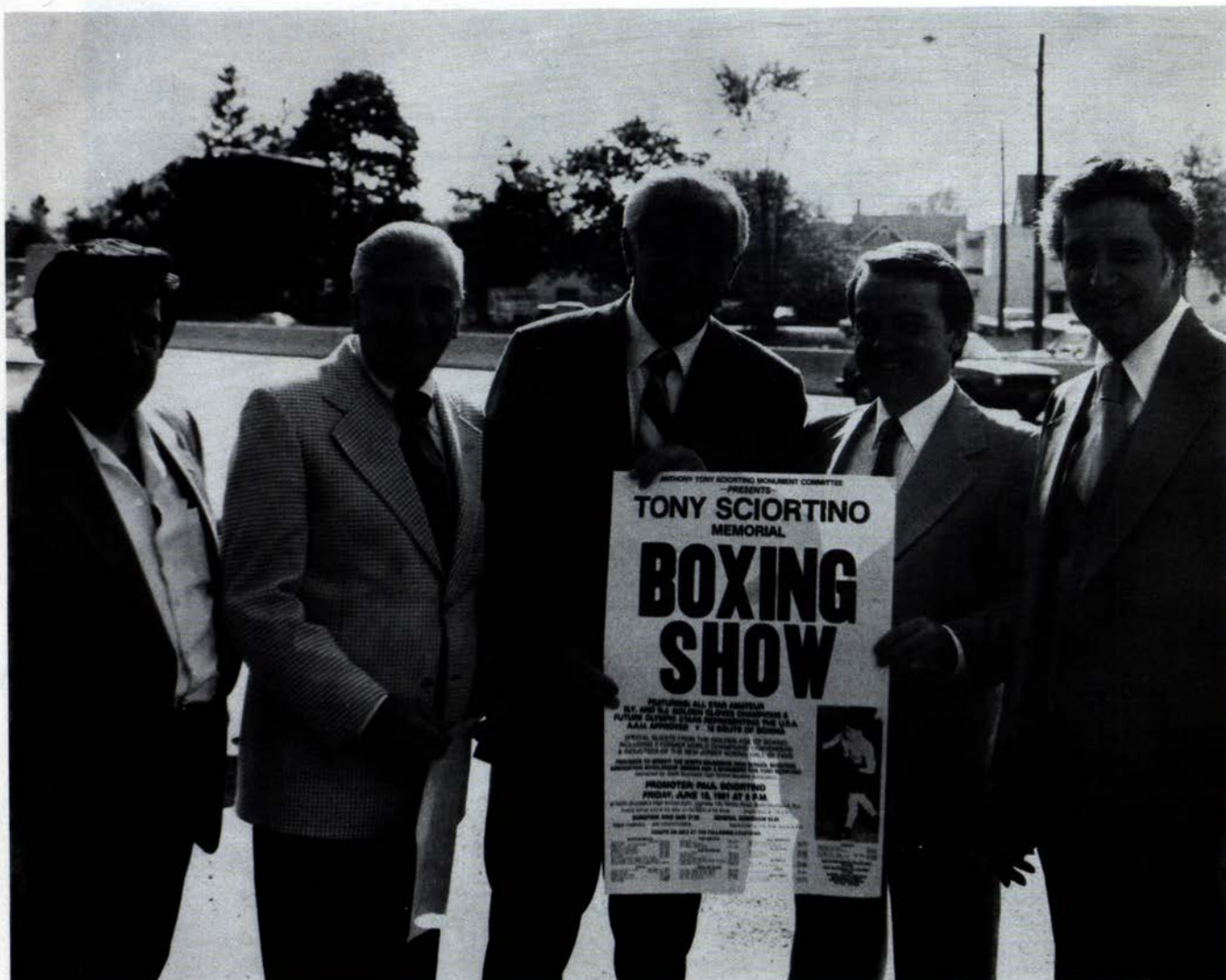
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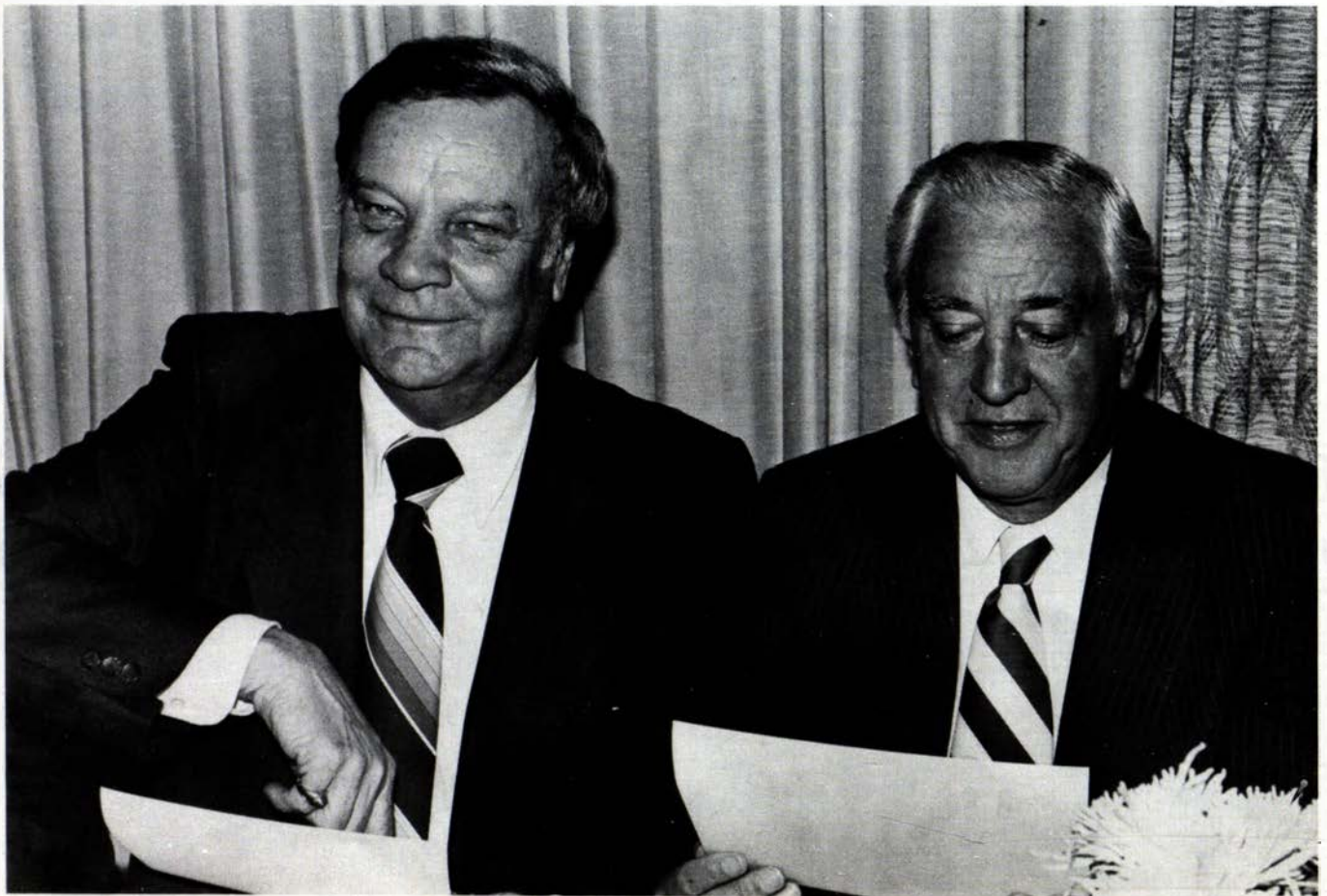
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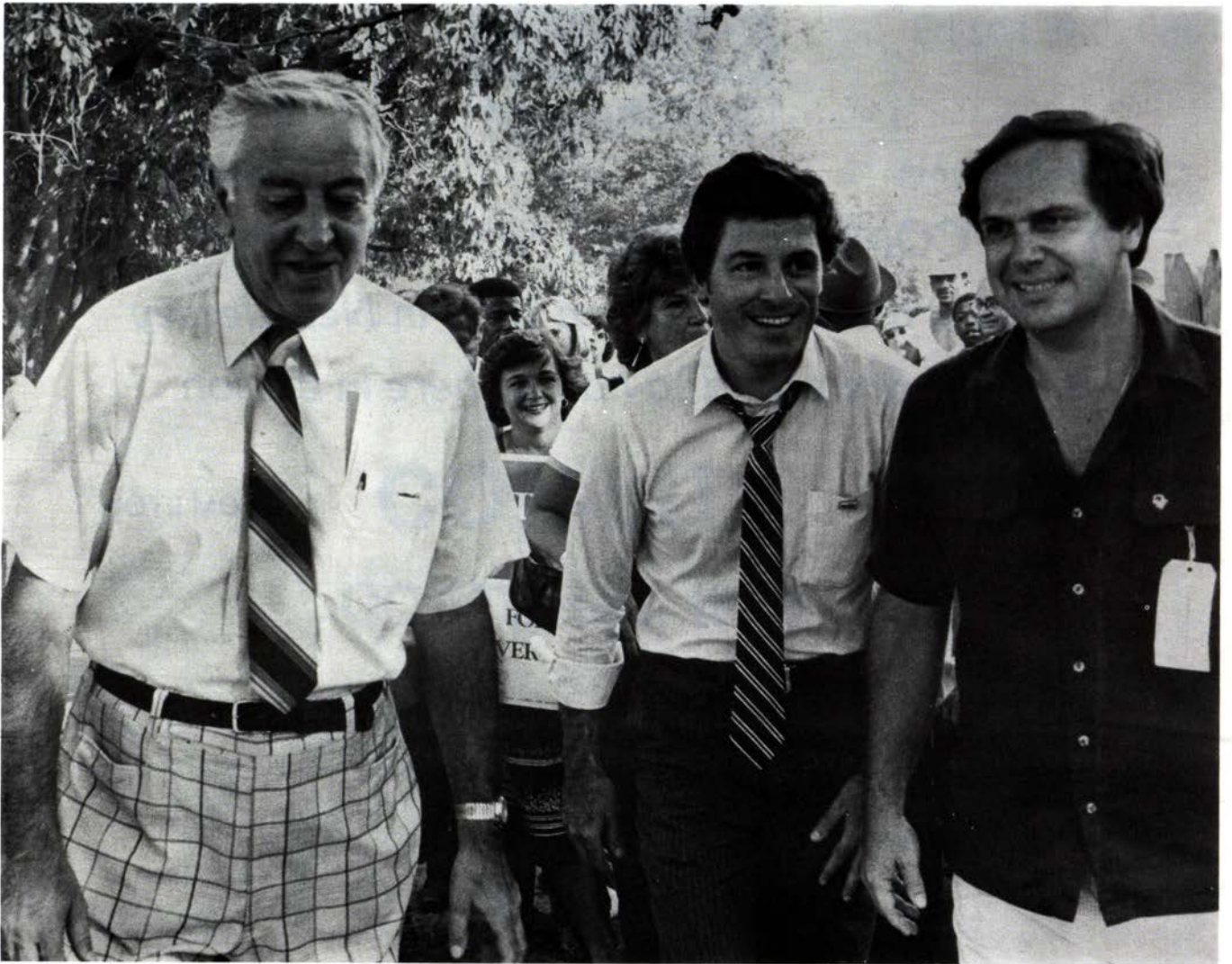
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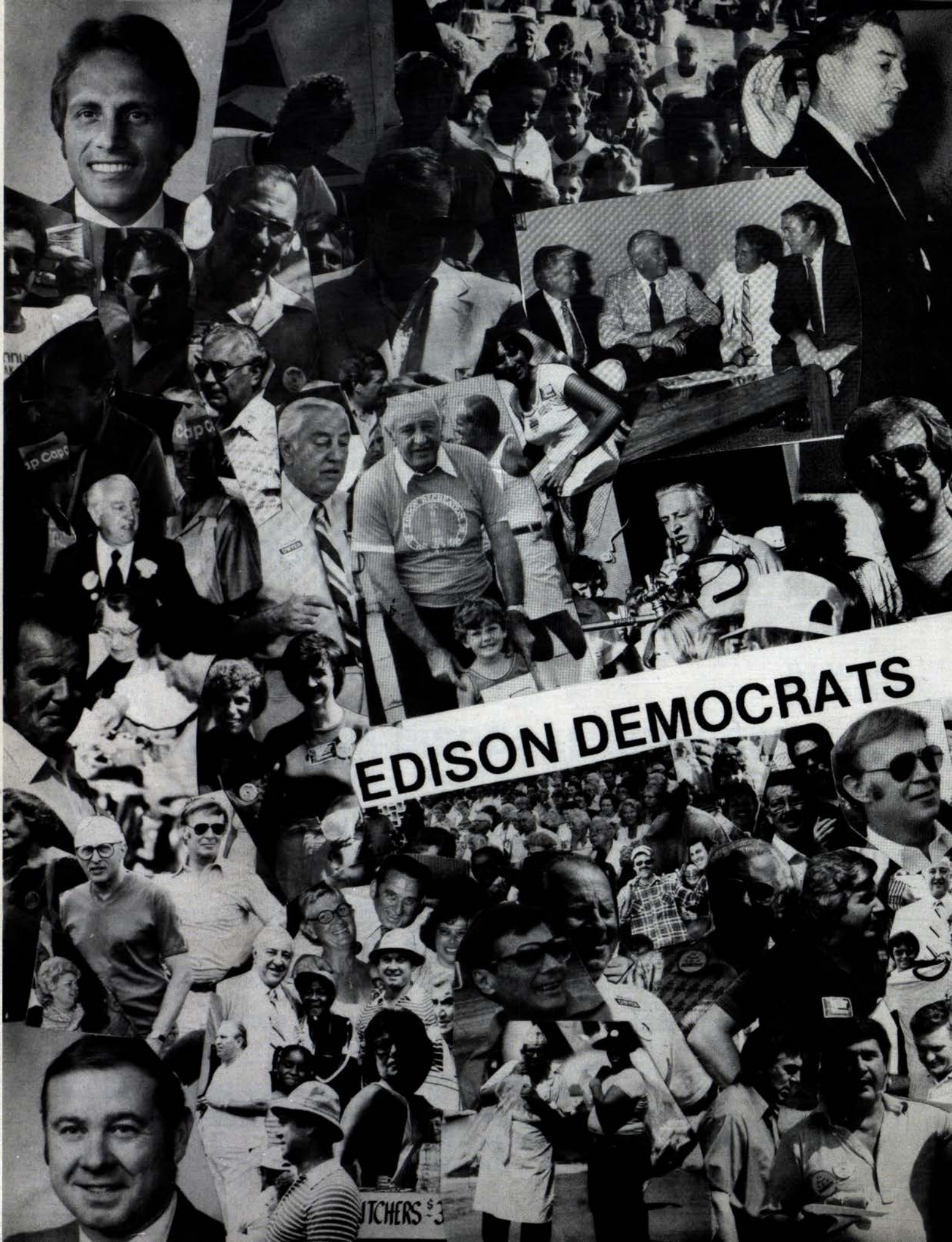
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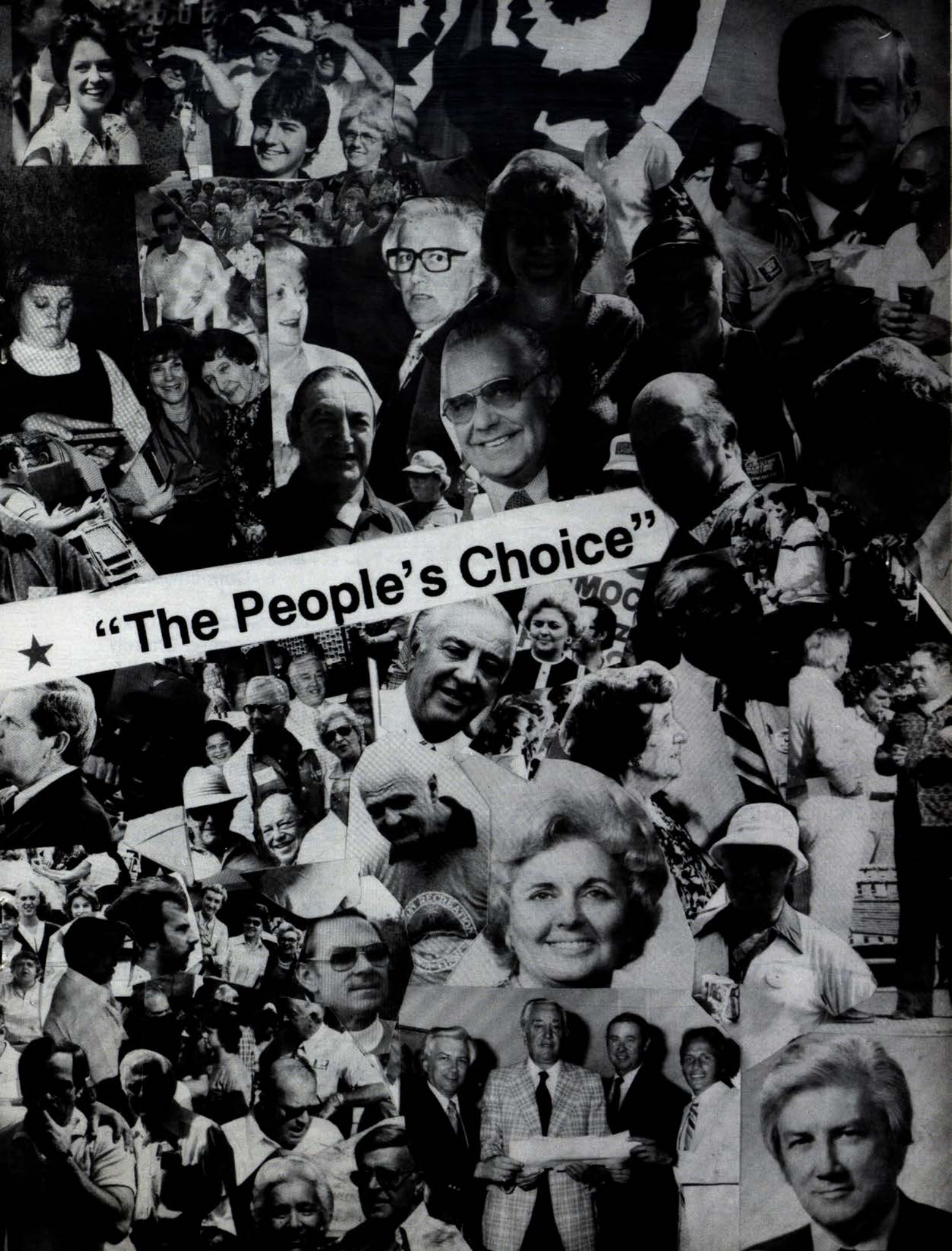
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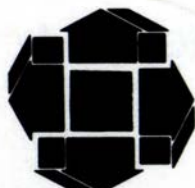
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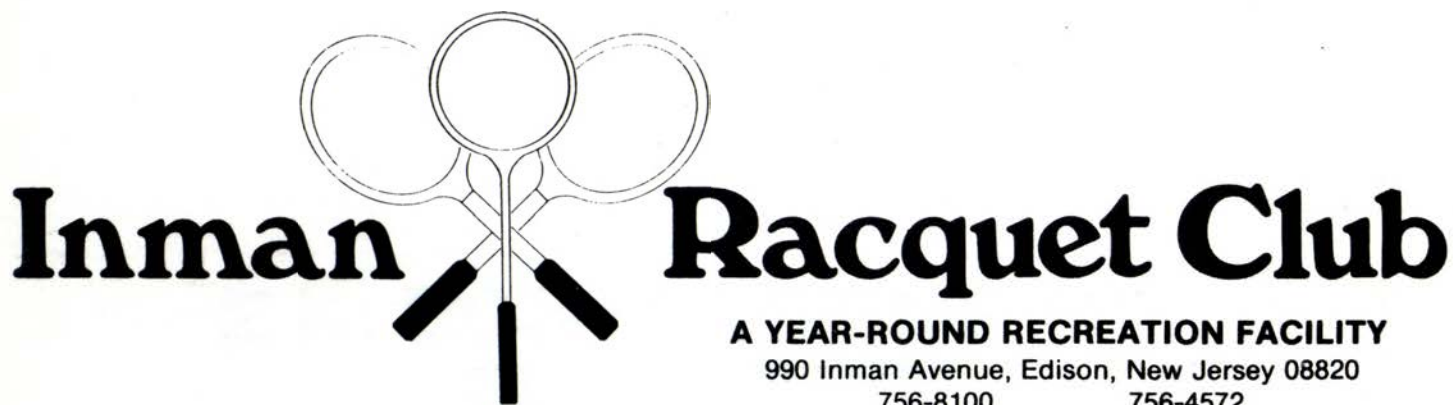
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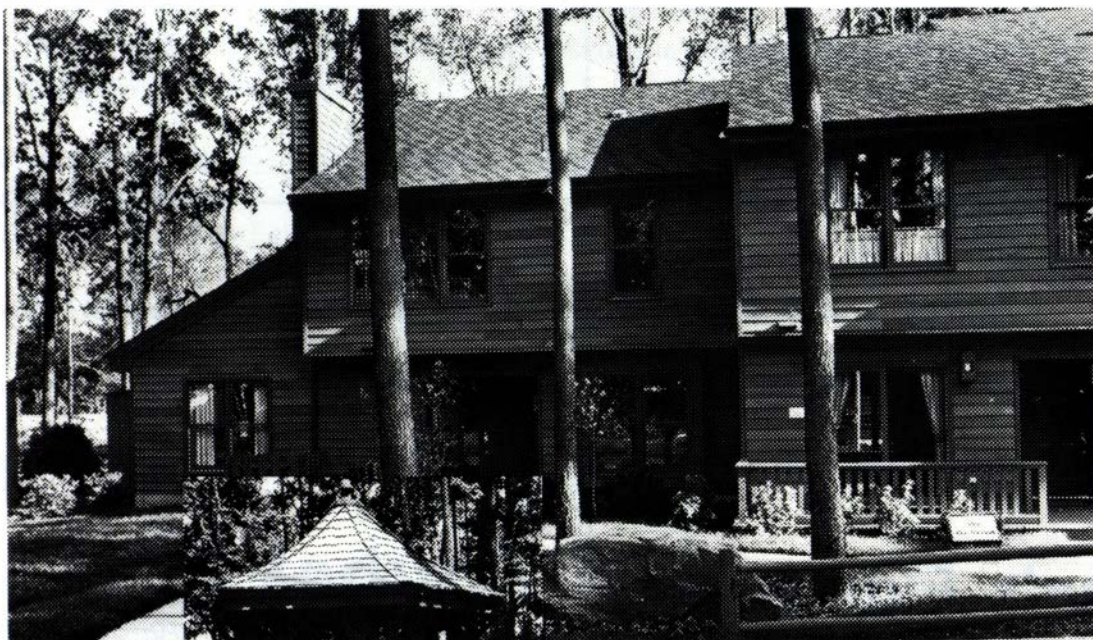
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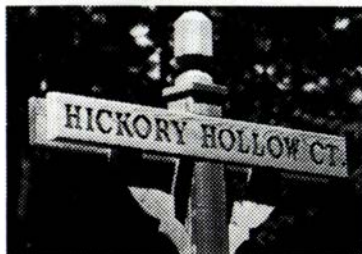


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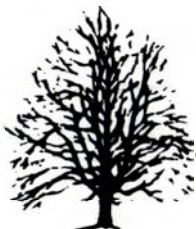
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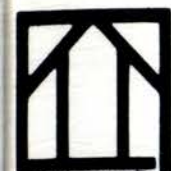
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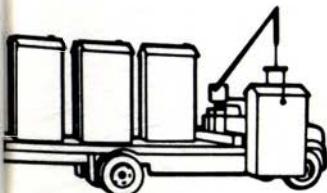
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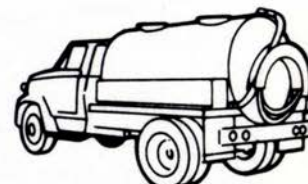
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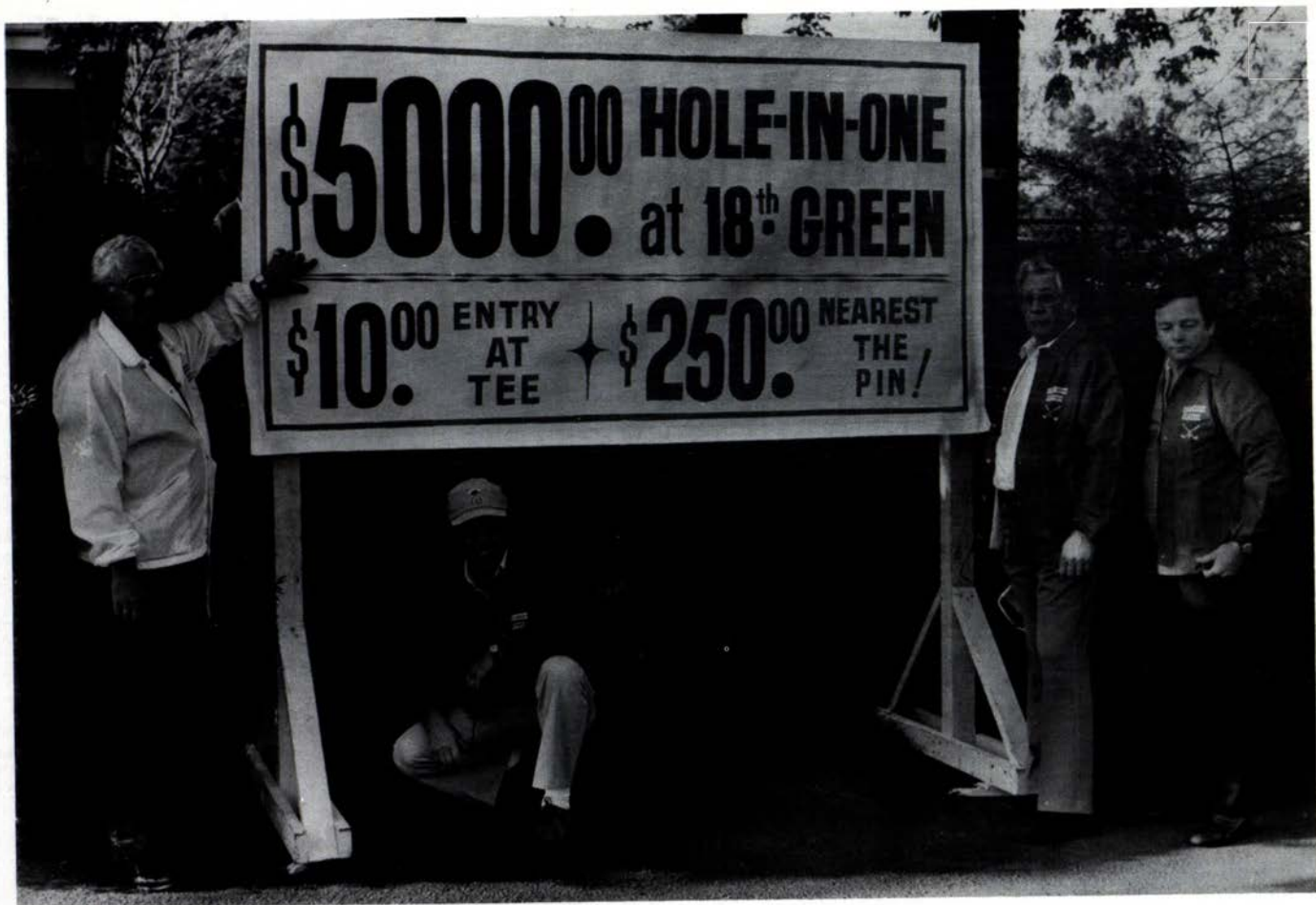
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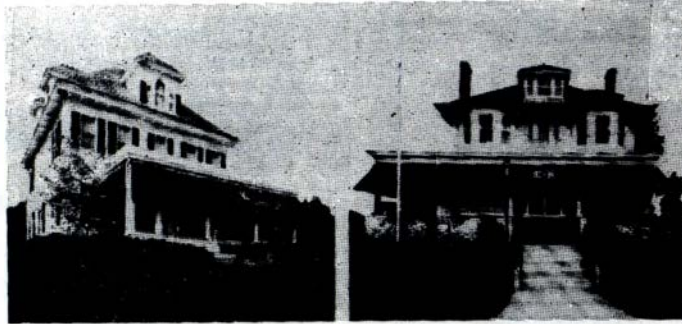
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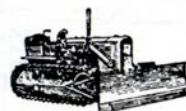
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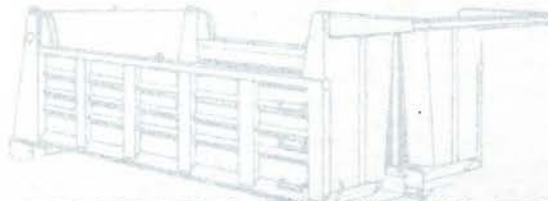
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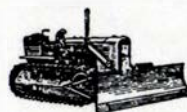
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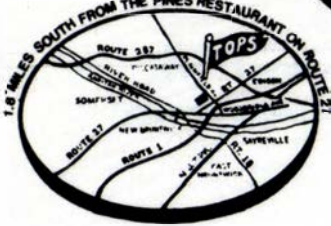
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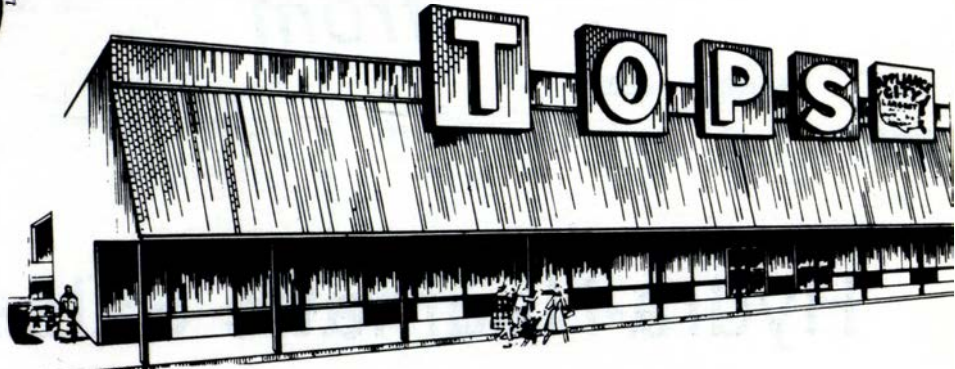
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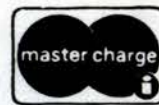
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PAID FOR BY FRANK LANKEY, CAMPAIGN TREASURER