

Township of  
Edison

Jack  
Stanley



## EDISON

THE FACES AND VOICES OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

Thursday, March 21, 2002 ♦ ♦ ♦

# We're off to see the Wizard

*Stanley's life's  
work is putting  
the Thomas  
back in Edison*



■ The director of the Thomas Alva Edison Memorial Tower and Menlo Park Museum, Jack Stanley devotes himself to uncovering the secrets of the township's namesake.

MARK R. SULLIVAN  
Chief photographer

By FRANCIS CARROLL ■ STAFF WRITER

**J**ACK STANLEY is more than a walking encyclopedia of knowledge about Thomas Alva Edison. He's also a walking "Behind the Music" episode on the man who first recorded sound.

The director of the Thomas Alva Edison Memorial Tower and Menlo Park Museum knows all the personal details, demons and — sometimes dirty — secrets of the cantankerous inventor.

That's because this historian has a true passion for his subject, one he can trace back to the second grade.

The brief lesson in class that year, 1964, was not enough for the 7-year-old from Paramus. He begged his parents to take him to see Edison's laboratory and factory in West Orange.

"For the first time, I got to see one of those old phonographs work, and that just got me," says the now 44-year-old man, looking the part of a scholar in his crisp dark suit and glasses.

"It hit me like a ton of bricks. I thought this was the neatest thing in the world."

Edison is so intriguing because he was so versatile and passionate in his work — a modern-day Leonardo da Vinci who lived right here in New Jersey, Stanley says.

"He was very much a renaissance man," he says. "He was foul-mouthed, dirty and knew more than his share of four-letter words. But think of the influence he had on everyone's life."

Stanley's greatest thrill was learning about his subject from someone who knew him very well — Edi-

son's son Theodore, who also was an inventor. Stanley first met him in West Orange when he was 19. Much of his research since has come from interviewing people who knew and worked with Edison and from reading the inventor's personal papers.

"It's such a rare experience to be so close when you study history," he says. "Just a handshake away."

"I basically educated myself," says Stanley, who studied briefly at two colleges but does not hold a degree. "When you have a passion for something, you go beyond the ordinary. I studied him from people and places to bodily functions."

He detests those who study a subject for just a matter of months and then write a book about it. Stanley is hoping to one day write the definitive work on Edison. To that end, he's already accrued 18 binders and counting — full of notes.

Stanley's love of Edison's phonograph and old wax-cylinder recordings of music stem in part from his own love of song. He fulfilled one of his life's dreams when he worked for a decade as a professional singer.

His previous jobs include eight years as a house singer in a restaurant at the Meadowlands Racetrack in the 1980s as part of a quartet who sang barbershop and jazz. He then took his act to Main Street at Disney World in Florida. He lasted about 18 months there, but performing the exact same show every day took its toll, and he turned away from singing.

He came back to New Jersey and went to work as a historical interpreter at the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange.

His friend, renowned opera singer Jerome Hines, facilitated Stanley's hiring in Edison

See **Wizard**, Page G3

## Editor's note

To look at a map, you'd think Edison had its heart cut out of it, what with Metuchen plunked down in the middle of it.

But while Edison's anatomy might be skewed, its heart is definitely there. You can see it in the faces and hear it in the voices of its people, some 97,000-plus strong. The reporters, editors and photographers who descended en masse on Edison on March 7, found plenty of heart, and on these pages, we hope to share that spirit with you.

Little do most people know that Mickey Duval replays ball games in his head as he delivers packages for UPS. The former player for the Cincinnati Reds has doffed his baseball cap and replaced it with UPS brown. And lurking behind the mild-mannered demeanor of postal employee Ken Dowd is a rock 'n' roll maniac.

The song of freedom rings loudly for Nelly Au, who came to this country to find freedom of belief and speech. She found that and more, including the freedom to fight for the rights of her former countrymen.

Two large physical complexes define large areas of Edison. One is the Raritan Center. We meet Joseph Cascio, the man who books all those shows — from garden shows to computer fairs to gubernatorial inauguration galas. And the other is Menlo Park Mall. Do kids still hang out there? You bet. Just ask 10-year-old Jacqueline Goldberg, who chooses the mall to spend quality time shopping and snacking with Dad.

Another large installation in the township is the Job Corps facility located at the former Camp Kilmer. We'll introduce you to 17-year-old Gabriel Almonte, who's busy turning his life around at the residential training center.

Edison has, of course, one big hero — its namesake, Thomas Alva Edison. But another Edisonian, Jim Kooker, aspires to be like another famous figure. Once dubbed "Attila the Hun," the activist says he will not stop tracing his roots until he finds Genghis Khan on his family tree. He's obviously not without a sense of humor.

— Anne Bendheim  
Special sections editor

## A FACE IN THE CROWD

# Philosopher and salesman — not the same old song

By CHRIS JORDAN  
STAFF WRITER

**T**he call goes over the intercom at the Sam Ash music store on Route 27 shortly after 1 p.m.

*Guitars, please pick up on line one! Guitars on line one!*

Has a shipment of new Fenders arrived? Has Dave Navarro of Jane's Addiction stopped by to replenish his guitar collection?

Nope. Just an interdepartmental early-afternoon bagel run.

The salesmen at Sam Ash like to have a good time.

"It's a fun environment here," says guitar salesman Marc Cardoso, 26, of South River. "Musicians are all very relaxed people — or crazy if you want to call it that. We all got our senses of humor."

Humor and a lot of musical instruments and gear. There's 25,000 square feet of stuff at Sam Ash, ranging from guitars to kazoos, turntables to trumpets. The walls of the guitar section are adorned with the vibrant colors and sensual shapes of more than 100 guitars.



MARK R. SULLIVAN/Chief photographer

■ At Sam Ash music store, guitar specialist Eric Dabek works out on an Epiphone guitar. "Unlike work, no one can tell you what to do (in playing the guitar). No one can tell you the right way of doing it and the wrong way of doing it," he says.

Standing at his post in the guitar section is salesman Eric Dabek, 23, of Bridgewater, who's been working at Sam Ash for about a year.

Dabek knows his music and is also ready to share his views on the music business.

He's Sam Ash's resident philosopher.

"The thing is, it's just like any other retail place," Dabek says. "You got a lot of egos to deal with. You have a lot of delusions of grandeur to deal with, and you have to deal with it because all you're doing is staring at the bottom rung, looking up."

Most of the sales staffers at Sam Ash are also musi-

cians who have various jobs in the music industry outside the store.

Cardoso used to be in a Brazilian rock group of some note, and Carlos Pou, 19, of Edison is a mobile DJ.

Pou, who works in the DJ section of the store, uses modern technology to his advantage.

**NAME:** Eric Dabek.

**HOME:** Bridgewater.

**AGE:** 23.

**FAMILY:** Ig Dabek, father; Ig Dabek Jr., brother.

**OCCUPATION:** Sales associate at Sam Ash, Edison.

**FAVORITE MOVIES OR TV SHOW:** "The Shawshank Redemption," "The Discovery Channel."

**FAVORITE MUSICIAN:** Mike Ness of Social Distortion.

**CURRENTLY READING OR FAVORITE BOOK:** "H.R. Giger's Retrospective 1964-1984."

**FAVORITE MEAL:** Pizza.

**FANTASY DINNER-PARTY GUESTS:** Cliff Burton of Metallica, John Lee Hooker, Leadbelly, Muddy Waters.

"If somebody has a request, I type it in and ring it up on an MP3," Pou says. "I did a bar mitzvah. I don't know anything about Jewish music, but I went right on the Net, downloaded the song that they wanted, and that's it."

See **Dabek**, Page G3



# What's hot, what's not? Jacqueline tells all at the mall

By **SHARON WATERS**  
STAFF WRITER

Homework and a hot dog fill the mind and body of 10-year-old Jacqueline Goldberg as she hangs at the Menlo Park Mall food court.

Fractions and lowest terms loom as two-thirds of the plain Nathan's hot dog sit untouched and the half-full Nathan's root beer begins to warm.

But the main mall mission has already been completed — acquisition of Michelle Branch's "Spirit Room" CD from Record Town.

Branch is in; Britney's out, Jacqueline declares.

"At first, (Britney Spears) was really good at singing, but now her clothes are disgusting, and she can't sing," Jacqueline explains.

The fourth-grader's father, Jeff Goldberg, shelled out for the CD. The divorced father has traveled from his New York City home to spend the evening with Jacqueline, a weekly occurrence supplemented with visits every other weekend.

The father time fits into a busy preteen schedule. Mondays and Wednesdays are Hebrew School. Fridays bring dance class in Metuchen, the sixth year Jacqueline has spent pursuing the jazz and ballet she loves.

Today Jacqueline ("Only my best friends call me Jacki") is wearing items from her two favorite mall stores. Her Limited Too gray short-sleeve shirt sports the appropriate slogan, "Dance is My Sport." The heart necklace was a purchase by Dad from the accessories store, Afterthoughts.

A blue-and-gold elastic band holds back her black hair and black-rimmed glasses frame her



JODY SOMERS/Staff photographer

■ Jacqueline Goldberg and her father, Jeff, share hot dogs and homework at Menlo Park Mall's food court. Like the old town squares of yesteryear, the mall is a place where kids and parents can share conversation and fun.

**NAME:** Jacqueline Goldberg.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Edison.

**AGE:** 10.

**FAMILY:** Mother is Debbie Goldberg, Edison; father is Jeff Goldberg, New York City.

**EDUCATION:** Fourth-grader at Martin Luther King Elementary School.

**FUTURE OCCUPATION:** Singer, lawyer or teacher.

**BEST ADVICE TO GROWN-UPS:** "Let us pick out our clothes."

**FAVORITE MOVIES OR TV SHOW:** "The Wedding Singer," "Everybody Loves Raymond."

**FAVORITE MENLO PARK MALL STORES:** Limited Too, Afterthoughts

**FAVORITE WORD:** "Awesome — I love that word."

**FAVORITE SONG:** "All You Wanted," by Michelle Branch.

**FAVORITE BOOK:** Sweet Valley Junior High series.

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Chinese food.

**FAVORITE VACATION:** Trip to Aruba with Mom.

**FAVORITE PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS:** Yankees, Giants, Knicks.

**HOBBIES:** Dancing (jazz and ballet), singing, sports, ice-skating, rollerblading.

eyes. Multicolored socks line her gray-and-navy sneakers, and lime-green nail polish sparkles on her fingernails. Her ears are double-pierced.

"I don't know what was wrong with my mom when she said I could get them," says Jacqueline about the multiple holes.

In the preteen world of no

alarm clocks, Jacqueline is not sure what time her mother, Debbie Goldberg, wakes her on school mornings — maybe 6:45 a.m. Then it's off to Martin Luther King Elementary School, where Jacqueline earned straight A's on her last report card. Saying she likes all her classes, Jacqueline also says she played dodge ball in gym

and ate lasagna for lunch today.

But this was no run-of-the-mill day at school. Best friend Chetna Gangwani celebrated her 10th birthday, so Hostess doughnuts were served in the after-school program.

"I had the last one," Jacqueline confesses about the white-powdered treats.

And in class — Jacqueline

doesn't switch teachers yet and doesn't want to — her friend Andrea, 9, got to use a "free seat" award and chose to sit next to Jacqueline. They talked, of course.

"Yeah, but we sit in the back of the room so . . ." says Jacqueline.

Tonight, "Family Guy" on Fox is on the TV agenda. Jac-

queline says she has to go to her room at 9 p.m., but she can watch television in bed until 9:30 p.m.

Sharon Waters: (732) 565-7270; e-mail swaters@thnt.com

## GET A JOB, SHA-NA-NA-NA SHA-NA-NA-NA-NA

# On a 'pathway to excellence,' Almonte's turning his life around

By **RAVEN HILL**  
STAFF WRITER

Wearing a dark suit and tie, 17-year-old Gabriel Almonte could be a walking ad for the Edison Job Corps Academy's residential employment training program.

Almonte's personal philosophy seems steeped in the residential employment-training program's motto — "pathways to excellence" — as he stands next to a nearly 8-foot-tall display featuring the academy logo — a brightly colored sunlit path.

In less than a year, the Jersey City native has completed his GED, learned business-technology skills and landed a part-time job with Edison Mayor George Spadaro.

Eight months ago, Almonte spent his days not doing much of anything — hanging out and drinking with friends and lounging at home watching television.

With a big push from his mother, Almonte decided to change his ways, especially when he realized that his younger sister was heading down a similar road.

"I decided that I needed to straighten up, so if she follows something, she follows something positive," he says.

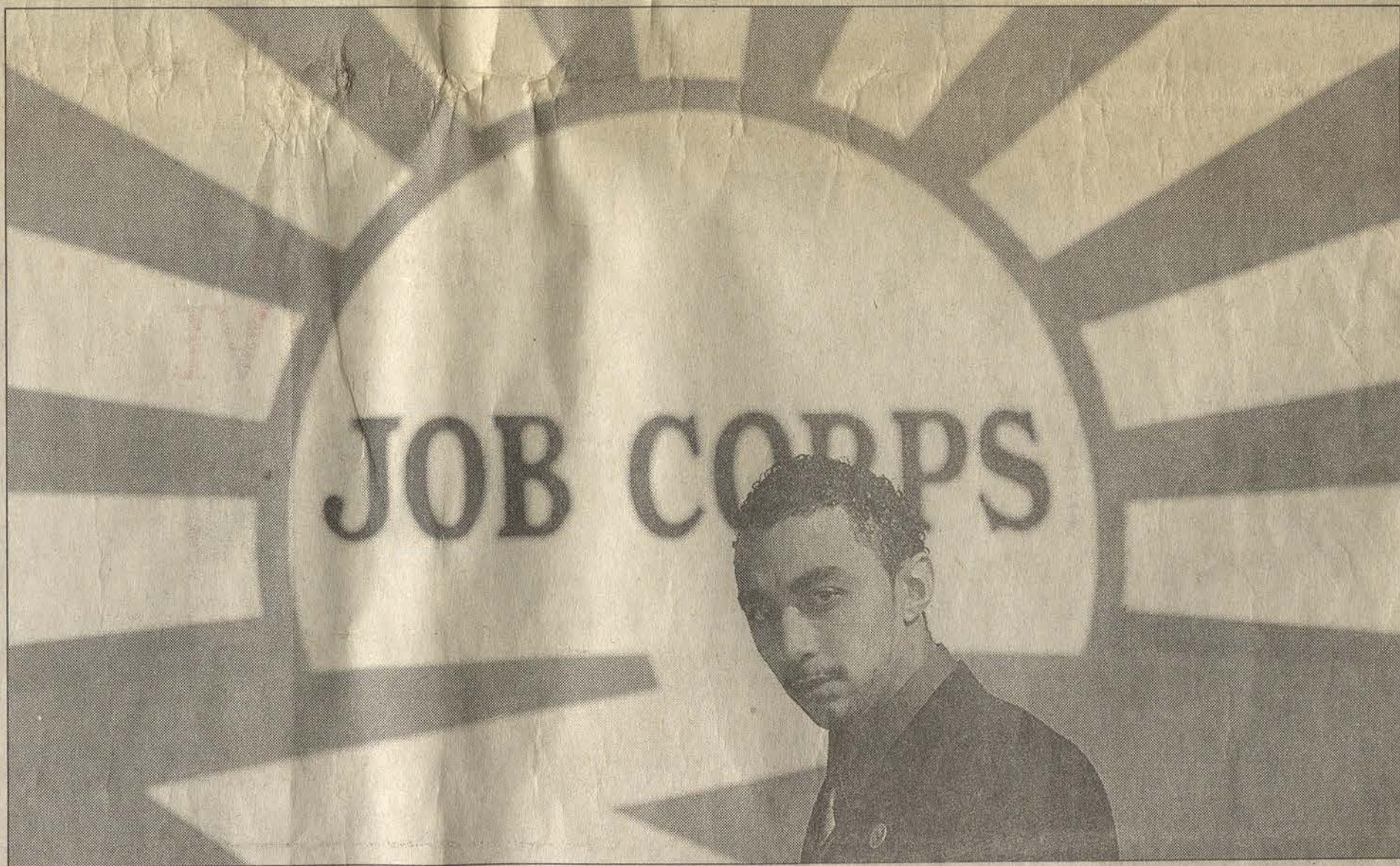
On this particular day, while the Job Corps Academy hosts group tours for potential students clad mostly in jeans and

**NAME:** Gabriel Almonte.  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Jersey City.  
**AGE:** 17.  
**FAMILY:** Father, Ivan; mother, Magdalena; brother, Jose; sister, Ivonne.  
**OCCUPATION:** Student, part-time MIS technician for Mayor George Spadaro.  
**EDUCATION:** GED, Middlesex Community College.  
**FAVORITE MOVIES OR TV SHOW:** "Armageddon," "U.S. Marshals."  
**BEST ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:** "Stay in school."  
**CURRENTLY READING:** "Moby Dick."  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Plantains.  
**FANTASY VACATION:** Cancun.  
**HOBBIES:** Playing pool, spending time with Dad, sleeping.

sneakers, Almonte is steadily complimented by administrators on his professional dress.

"The mayor jokes that Gabriel makes him look bad with the way he's dressed," says instructor Brian Salter, who helped Almonte get his job doing computer work and administrative tasks in the mayor's office.

When he arrived at Job Corps



JASON TOWLEN/Staff photographer

■ Gabriel Almonte looks like the poster boy for the Edison Job Corps Academy. A year ago, he was spinning his time watching television and drinking. Now, he's aiming for college.

last June, Almonte says he expected to leave after completing his GED. But the longer he stayed, the loftier his goals became.

Now, he wants to attend college and complete his computer certification. Most days are spent studying, he says.

"I don't have time to do any-

thing else," he says.

Like other Job Corps Academy residents, Almonte's time is tightly structured.

The 530 students living at the former Camp Kilmer leave from and return to their sparsely decorated dorm rooms at the same time each day.

They cannot return to the dorms while classes are in session for any reason, officials say. Roll call is taken each evening.

The environment sharply contrasts with Jersey City, Almonte says.

"It's peaceful here. No one really bothers you," he says.

Almonte goes home each weekend, but he says he sometimes has to readjust to his old surroundings.

"It's like I have to get used to it again. It's better that I stay away from home a little while longer."

Raven Hill: (732) 565-7321

**Weichert Realtors**

Edison Office  
123 Lincoln Highway  
Edison, NJ 08820  
Phone # 732-494-6800  
Fax # 732-603-9626  
**Fernando Gonzalez**  
Broker/Manager

**How much is your home worth?**  
**Ask the Experts for a FREE Price Opinion**

Weichert Realtors handles both residential and commercial real estate and through Weichert Gold Services Program Homeowners who choose to participate will receive a credit decision within 24 hours of application and a guaranteed closing date.

With our 98% satisfaction rating, let our Edison Experts assist you in finding your New Home

**"We Sell More Because We Do More"**

Put our award winning Professionals to work for you!

A career in real estate may be on your mind.

Give Fernando Gonzalez, Manager of the Edison Office, a call for a confidential interview.

Visit our website <http://www.weichert.com/edison> for more information about all our services

**Century 21**

**APEX PROPERTIES**

460 Main St., Metuchen

**CALL FOR FREE MARKET ANALYSIS**

Serving Middlesex, Mercer, Somerset & Union Counties

Independently Owned and Operated

We speak your language!  
22 International Languages Spoken.

**732-549-0008**  
Out of State 1-800-626-3967

Look For Us on the Web  
[www.century21-apex.com](http://www.century21-apex.com)

**RETIREMENT/RELOCATION DIVISION**

**NATIONWIDE REFERRAL SYSTEM**

- School Reports Available
- Single Family
- Condo/Townhomes



WIZARD: Stanley's life's work is putting the Thomas back in Edison

From Page G1

Township. Hines met Mayor George Spadaro and asked if the town was named for Thomas. When Spadaro said it was, Hines told him he had to talk to Stanley.

"In 1999, I got hired and took over this project putting the Thomas back in Edison," he says.

It turned out to be quite a challenge.

When he came to the small museum on Christie Street — from outside it looks more like a gas-station garage than a museum — there wasn't all that much to see, he says. To him, the tiny two-room museum is claustrophobic, and it bothers him that the site of the world's first industrial-research lab has been somewhat neglected.

"I want to rebuild Menlo Park because it needs it. It's been neglected and forgotten," he says. "It's probably one of the best-known places and least-known places."

Its obscurity shows in the fact that Stanley, one of Edison's biggest fans for 35 years, only visited the museum for the first time 10 years ago.



■ According to Jack Stanley, Edison the inventor could be nasty and opinionated. And from the looks of this picture, he could be cranky.

"I called people and asked, 'Where is Menlo Park,' and no one knew."

About 60 percent of what is on display at the museum today has been added by Stanley in the last three years, and there's more to come. He either has, or has been promised, about 700 additional artifacts to fill a planned addition that will more than triple the size of the museum and a proposed new two-

story facility to be started in a few years.

Stanley has more Edison photographs set up in his large 18-room house in Newark than can even fit in the current museum. He bought his first at a yard sale when he was 12.

"I have about 6,000 recordings, now, and 18 of those old phonographs at home, which I want to eventually put on display here and bequeath to the museum," he says.

**NAME:** Jack Stanley.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Ridgewood.

**AGE:** 44.

**FAMILY:** Single.

**OCCUPATION:** Director of the Thomas Alva Edison Memorial Tower and Menlo Park Museum.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** Lectures on history and music at high schools, libraries and colleges.

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Beetlejuice."

**BEST ADVICE TO YOUNG**

**PEOPLE:** "Never stop studying, and never give up on your dream."

**PEOPLE WHO'D BE SURPRISED TO KNOW:** He likes to write poetry and draw.

**FANTASY DINNER-PARTY GUESTS:** John Adams, Harry Truman, John Barrymore, Abraham Lincoln and the Queen Mother Elizabeth.

**WHY THOMAS EDISON WOULD NOT BE INVITED TO DINNER:** "Because I know what he was like. He would not be a facilitator to the conversation. He could be nasty,

opinionated. He did not bathe, had problems with gas, chewed tobacco and had lots of dandruff."

**FAVORITE THOMAS EDISON FACTOID:** He liked to make paper airplanes.

**VOICE HE'D MOST LIKE TO RECORD:** Queen Mother Elizabeth.

**FAVORITE MEAL:** Thai food.

**FANTASY OR FAVORITE VACATION:** Australia and New Zealand. "It's kind of unspoiled."

**HOBBIES:** Ocean-liner research, furniture restoration.

If he had his way, every "Welcome to Edison" sign would read "The Birthplace of Recorded Sound," something he also would like to see on bumper stickers.

"West Orange has got everything, but the history is here," he says. "There should be little monuments everywhere in the township. It's like technology's Gettysburg."

In the past three years he's brought some notoriety to the museum by recording 18 fa-

mous voices — from former President Gerald Ford to actor Tony Randall — on Edison's original wax cylinders using his own personal equipment. He has overseen the beginning of ongoing archaeological digs on the property, as well as the pending creation of a nonprofit corporation in order to step up fund-raising efforts.

His frequent appearances on television programs as an expert on the history of recorded sound and radio also bring attention to the museum, and he

spends much of his work day at his desk in the municipal building answering e-mail inquiries from all over the world. He also spends a lot of time researching historic documents stored in a vault at the municipal building. That research doesn't stop with the work day.

"My life is this job," he says. "At home, I do this."

Frances Carroll: (732) 565-7260. E-mail fcarroll@thnt.com

DABEK: Not the same old song

From Page G1

Working at Sam Ash has its advantages for a musician.

"You get totally bombarded with connections, which is a plus," says Dabek, who sports wavy dark hair, a thin chin curtain on his jawline and a stiletto beard. "A lot of people do the job but they're stuck there. They start making some money, start buying some toys, and what they own winds up owning them."

Dabek started playing guitar when his family moved from New Jersey to the "middle of nowhere" in Pennsylvania when Dabek was 12.

"It was culture shock — I needed something to do," Dabek says. "I like it, too, because unlike work, no one can tell you what to do (in playing the gui-

tar). No one can tell you the right way of doing it and the wrong way of doing it."

When not at Sam Ash, Dabek lays down licks for R&B and hip-hop tracks at an area studio. Trying to breath creativity into today's music is an uphill battle, he says.

"The problem with music now is that everything sounds the same," Dabek says. "Granted, millions of dollars are being made, and people are getting rich, but you can't take it with you when you die."

Dabek enjoys the earthy sounds of crusty old blues — musicians like Muddy Waters or Leadbelly, who never made a million dollars.

"You always see people like Mariah Carey having a big breakdown," Dabek says. "She's worth more than God. What the hell is she upset for?"

Music is good for many moods.

"Sometimes people don't know what to do with themselves anymore, and they'll say, 'You know, I'm going to start playing guitar,'" Cardoso says. "We get a lot of people like that in here. If you're doing something that's not bad for you, it's constructive. It's a good thing. It can't be bad. What bad can come out of playing a guitar?"

While there are only a few customers scattered around the store by now, the after-school crowd will soon start to fill up floor space.

"We sell dreams, that's what what we do here," says manager Bobby Colonna, 46, of Secaucus. "It's basically a Toys 'R Us for people who are musically inclined."

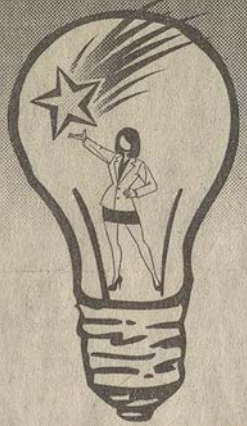
Chris Jordan: (732) 565-7275; e-mail cjordan@thnt.com.



DICK COSTELLO/Staff photographer

■ Ron Durlock of Metuchen always finds time to fish on a perfect day like this one. He's trying to find "the big one" in the Roosevelt Park pond.

THE EDISON



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1952 - 2002 • Fifty years of service

Looking for new business opportunities or to expand your market share? If so, join an organization dedicated to creating an attractive climate for business while maintaining the quality of life for Edison's residents.

email: edisonchamber@att.net  
phone: 732.738.9482 • fax: 732.738.9485

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday,  
April 14, 2002  
1-3 p.m.

more than you  
imagine

Learn About:

Dual Admission Programs  
with Four Year Colleges  
and Universities

Qualifying for  
Financial Aid

Job Opportunities and  
Career Services

Support Program for  
Students with Learning  
Disabilities

MIDDLESEX  
COUNTY COLLEGE

2600 Woodbridge Avenue  
Edison, New Jersey  
08818-3050

Call:  
1-888-YOU-4MCC

www.middlesex.cc.nj.us

FURNISH... DECORATE... REMODEL...  
SAVE A FORTUNE!



Save A Fortune  
Instead of Spending One!

UCC TotalHome® has over 750 brand name manufacturers and their authorized suppliers selling their merchandise direct to UCC TotalHome members with virtually no retail markup or middlemen cost. Act now to become a new member. This opportunity is available to consumers only. No dealers!

Choose From Thousands of Items  
Direct from Major Brand Names...

- Home Furniture & Accessories
- Home Improvement & Hardware
- Window & Wall Treatments
- Carpet & Floor Covering
- Lamps & Lighting
- Kitchen & Bath Cabinets, Fixtures & Accessories
- Living Room Furniture
- Dining Room
- Bedroom Furniture
- Infant & Youth Furniture

- Bedding & Mattresses
- Home Theater & Electronics
- Home Office
- Large & Small Appliances
- Price Setting & Cookware
- Lawn & Garden
- Outdoor Furniture
- Fitness & Sporting Equipment
- Jewelry & Giftware
- Artwork, Sculpture & Collectibles
- AND MUCH, MUCH, MORE!

4-Piece Leather  
Living Room Collection  
Comparable value \$4188.89

**\$1885**

UCC MEMBER PRICE  
All items available individually.

BRAND  
NAMES AT  
UNBEATABLE  
PRICES!



A. 9-PIECE RETRO  
DINING ROOM

Comparable Value: \$3,673.33

**\$1,653**

	Comparable	UCC Price
Rectangle Table	\$608.89	\$274.00
Side Chair (4)	\$280.00	\$126.00
Arm Chair (2)	\$288.89	\$130.00
Buffet	\$1,033.33	\$465.00
Round Mirror	\$333.33	\$150.00

\*Mattress Not Included.

B. 5-PIECE  
CONTEMPORARY  
BEDROOM

Comparable Value: \$4,500

**\$2,025\***

	Comparable	UCC Price
Dresser	\$1,088.89	\$481.00
Oval Mirror	\$586.67	\$264.00
Armoire	\$1,500.00	\$675.00
Night Stand	\$420.00	\$189.00
Queen Bed Complete	\$924.44	\$416.00

C. 8-PIECE YOUTH BEDROOM

Comparable Value: \$2,909.22

**\$1,309.15\***

	Comparable	UCC Price
Trunk	\$293.31	\$131.99
Dresser	\$466.67	\$210.00
Locker	\$346.64	\$155.99
Mirror	\$120.00	\$54.00
Book Shelf	\$346.64	\$155.99
Wardrobe	\$386.67	\$264.00
Bunk Bed	\$535.98	\$241.19
Night Stand	\$213.31	\$95.99



3-PIECE HOME OFFICE  
COLLECTION

Comparable Value: \$2277

**\$910.80**

UCC Member Price

Members Pay What The Store Pays!

UCC  
**TotalHome®**

Raritan Center, Edison, NJ  
732-225-0044

Visit Our Website At:

www.ucctotalhome.com



JOMAS STRANG,  
 ALBERT STRANG,  
 & CHRISTOPHER STUCKY,  
 ELIZABETH SUAREZ,  
 GUY DONAMAL,  
 SUBRANATHAN,  
 BOESSIE SULLIVAN,  
 FRANCIS SULARNO,  
 DANA SUPE,  
 DEVIS SWAN,  
 ANANGUR SWAMINATHAN,  
 ALEXANDER M SWAN,  
 JENNIFER SYREK,  
 MICHAEL TAYLOR,  
 PAUL THALOR,  
 RICHARD W TAL,  
 THOMAS TALBERT,  
 DAVID TAYLOR,  
 MARTIN TAN,  
 SERGIO TAN,  
 LAWRENCE TANEKAMUN,  
 LIN-LAN TANG,  
 MARION TAYLOR,  
 JOHANN TAYLORPARRIS,  
 PAUL TEDESCH,  
 LINDA L. TERENS,  
 BERNARD TET,  
 SHUBHANGI THAKUR,  
 ROBERT THEIE,  
 MATTHEW THOMPSON,  
 MATTHEW THOMPSON,  
 RICHARD THEDEMANN,  
 JOHN T KIMMIS,  
 DAVID T. THOMAS,  
 CHRISTOPHER TOLEFICO,  
 CHARLENE TONG,  
 YEWY TONG,  
 BERNARD TONCHAGUE,  
 LUCILLE A TROBOLD,  
 EUGEN TRACHTENBERG,  
 STEPHEN TRAJAM,  
 VICTOR TRIACARICO,  
 ALTAGRACIA TRINIDAD,  
 HARISH M TRIPATHI,  
 VICTOR TRIVIA,  
 VICTOR TUMA,  
 SHELDON TURKISH,  
 CHARLES G TURNER,  
 MICHAEL TURNER,  
 SALAH UDDIN,  
 JOSEPH UDOMSAP,  
 ASIF J UHRKID,  
 ESTE F UHRY,  
 WALTER URS,  
 MACHIA M UTHAPPA,  
 DEEPTI UTRANKAR,  
 HEIKKI UTTERA,  
 KESKIMUUTAPPA J

JANINE VASARI, MD  
JANITA WEDDERBURN, RN  
KAUSHAL K. WATZ, MD  
HONORABLE NALAN,  
MD  
SRINIVAS S VAGREDDI, MD  
JAMES WATSON, MD  
BINHU A. WAZIRI, MD  
THEERASA VEGA, MD  
BETTY VENKATAS, MD  
NITYA VENKATAS, MD  
ANTHONY VERMA, MD  
AND KANTHARAMANA, MD  
CORE VERGILIO, MD  
RAC V VINNAKOTI, MD  
HOU VU, MD  
MARK VYTIK, DDS  
DONNA VICE, NP  
MARGARET VICK, MD  
MURRAY WAGMAN, MD  
ALEX WAINBERG, MD  
FRANKLIN WALD, MD  
JAMES WALSH, MD  
BRUCE H WALLACH, MD  
STEPH WALLERSTEIN, MD  
DESMOND WALTERS, MD  
AND ARTHUR S. WALTERS, MD  
WILLIAM WALTON, MD  
SHELDON WALUTCH, MD  
DANNY WANG, MD  
XINSHENG WANG, MD  
SANDY P. WARAN, MD  
EMILE, WARNER, MD  
DAVID E. WATSON, MD  
EMILIE WASSER, MD  
ZYGMAUT WAWRZYNIAK, MD  
STEPH WEBBER, MD  
VANCE WELCH, MD  
PETER J. WEIGEL, MD  
JOSHUA WEIN, MD  
JAMES WEINER, MD  
JEFFREY WEINSTEIN, MD  
MARK WEINSTEIN, MD  
LYNN WEISSELER, MD  
JEFFREY WEISZITZ, MD  
KENNETH WEISSMAN, MD  
ROBERT H WEITZMAN, MD  
RENEE A. WESLOW, MD  
DAVID E. WEXLER, MD  
KIM S WILEY, MD  
JOHN D. WILGUCKI, MD  
ROBERT WINGARDEN, MD  
DAVID WINGARDEN, MD  
JOHN WININGER, MD  
ROBIN WINTER, MD  
STEPH WINTNER, MD  
DAVID WITKOP, DPM  
IRA WISOTZKY, MD  
BARRY Z. WOLF, MD  
MARCUS WOLFE, MD  
MO SONG WONG, MD  
GREGORY WORSCHOWICZ, MD  
RONALD WOZNIAK, MD  
XU WU, MD  
KRISHAN YALAMANCHI, MD  
DAVID L. YARIAN, MD  
PRAVA YELLAY, MD  
JAMIE YERGEN, MD  
SIMON YIN, MD  
ANALY YOUNG, MD  
MANJUSUKHYA, MD  
MCKAY YOUNG, MD  
ALEX I. ZARETSKYA, DDS  
STEVEN D. ZARNY, MD  
PETER J. ZARON, MD  
GEORGE ZAZZALI, MD  
TIANSHU ZHANG, MD  
SHAO ZHENG, MD  
JAMES ZHANG, MD  
JOSHUA M. ZIMMERMAN, MD  
JAMES ZIPRAN, MD  
GEORGE ZORIN, MD  
PETER A. ZUBAIR, MD  
MOHAMMED ZUBAIR, MD  
SOADIA ZUBAIR, MD  
MARF ZUBAIR, MD  
LAWRENCE ZUMO, MD

[www.solarishs.org](http://www.solarishs.org)



# Unbreakable bond: Love, caring and lightbulb jokes

By SARAH GREENBLATT  
STAFF WRITER

How many comedians does it take to change, bathe, groom and feed seven nursing-home residents? Only one, if the comic happens to be Irma Taylor.

A certified nursing aide at Roosevelt Care Center, Taylor dispenses generous doses of Borscht-belt humor along with the meals, baths and changes of bedding and clothing she provides to seven patients in her charge.

After an afternoon game of bingo, Taylor brings wheelchair-bound patient Diane Rittman back to her room and — in her Puerto-Rican tinged accent — launches into shtick that suggests she is pathologically jealous.

What does it mean, Taylor wants to know, that another female resident inquired about her husband, Larry, who works in Roosevelt's Maintenance Department? Isn't that a little fishy? Should Taylor be worried?

Rittman, who became a quadriplegic and lost the ability to speak after sustaining a brain-stem injury in a 1974 car accident, erupts in a sustained shriek of laughter.

After 15 years working at Roosevelt — and caring for Rittman — Taylor has spun plenty of comic yarns.

There's the one about the meal that her husband said "tastes funny."

"If it tasted funny," Taylor wonders, "why wasn't he laughing?"

Rittman is so attuned to Taylor's antics that she sometimes laughs at the mere sight of her longtime caretaker.

Taylor's whimsical ways mask a more sober commitment to treating residents as individuals who are unique and complete, despite their limitations.

Last month, Taylor persuaded Rittman's mother, Janet Rittman, to hire a male exotic dancer for her patient's 45th birthday party, which was celebrated off site.

That Rittman would enjoy such entertainment is not necessarily something a mother would know. But a friend would.

"They get attached to you. You get attached, too," Taylor says. "I see her as a friend."



JODY SOMERS/Staff photographer

■ Helping Diane Rittman do wheelies in her chair is definitely not in Irma Taylor's job description. But the two — Roosevelt Care Center patient and her nursing aide — have become close over the years. In fact, only someone as caring and intuitive as Taylor would have thought to hire a male exotic dancer for Rittman's 45th birthday party.

Over the years, Taylor has studied Rittman's tastes in music and men, which run the gamut from 1960s rock idol Jim Morrison to salsa star Marc Anthony. Rittman's room is decorated with pictures of her top heartthrob, Jon Bon Jovi, that Taylor has clipped for her from magazines.

Taylor also brings videotapes and music CDs from home for Rittman's entertainment and clothes and jewelry for other patients' enjoyment, says Sara Donnelly, a licensed practical nurse at Roosevelt.

Such attention is especially helpful for Rittman, Donnelly says, since most recreation activities at the nursing home are geared toward older people.

For Janet Rittman, Taylor's bond with her daughter highlights the importance of stability within Roosevelt's staff, which has undergone significant change in recent years, as the facility's managers have hired rising numbers of temporary nurses.

Since her daughter cannot speak or use her hands to communicate, Janet Rittman says, it is difficult for newcomers to understand her.

Taylor insists that past turmoil at Roosevelt has not affected her or others on the nursing staff.

"We bring the smile to them no matter what," Taylor says.

Yet the Iselin resident, who moved from Puerto Rico to New Jersey in the 1970s, never expected to stay at Roosevelt as long as she has.

Taylor first came to Roosevelt while she was training at St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick to become a licensed-practical nurse. An instructor there urged the trainees to get a feel for long-term-care facilities by visiting Roosevelt.

Before she knew it, Taylor had accepted a temporary, part-time job as an aide to help cover expenses while she completed her training.



The part-time job gave way to full-time work and a decision to continue as an aide rather than completing the training required of LPNs.

"I feel I'm more close to the patients this way," Taylor says. "I've been here 15 years, so another 10 won't hurt."

Conceding that the work can

be physically and emotionally taxing, Taylor relies on vacations in Puerto Rico and the Ponos to "recharge the batteries."

Roosevelt nurses and aides also "get out the stress" with regular after-hours visits to Bennigan's and similar establishments, she says.

## DAY IN THE LIFE OF EDISON

**Editor**  
Anne Bendheim

**Art Director**  
Mary Clark Ladd

**Photo Editor**  
Keith Muccilli

**Reporters**  
Scott Albright, Frances Carroll, Eric Forman, Paul Franklin, Sarah Greenblatt, Raven Hill, Kathleen Hopkins, Chris Jordan, Lonnie Mack, Rick Malwitz, Jennifer Micale, Paul Nelson, Suzanne Russell, Kenneth Serrano, Jonathan Tamari, Josee Valcourt, Sharon Waters, John Yocca

**Photographers**  
Dick Costello, Joe McLaughlin, Jody Somers, Mark R. Sullivan, Jason Towlen

**Artists**  
Robyn Trimboli-Russo, Amy Catalano

**Copy editors**  
Nicholas DiGiovanni, Ava Gascier, Jeff Grant, Don Sobwick, J.P. White

Day in the Life is a publication of The Home News Tribune, 35 Kennedy Blvd., East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
On the Web: [www.thnt.com](http://www.thnt.com)

To reach the Day in the Life editor: (732) 565-7332, e-mail [njannieb@thnt.com](mailto:njannieb@thnt.com)

# Ray Skibinski doesn't just illustrate a point — he paints it

By LONNIE MACK  
STAFF WRITER

When Ray Skibinski was 7, he was copying Christmas cards, calendars and photographs.

"I never thought I would do anything else," the 70-year-old artist says.

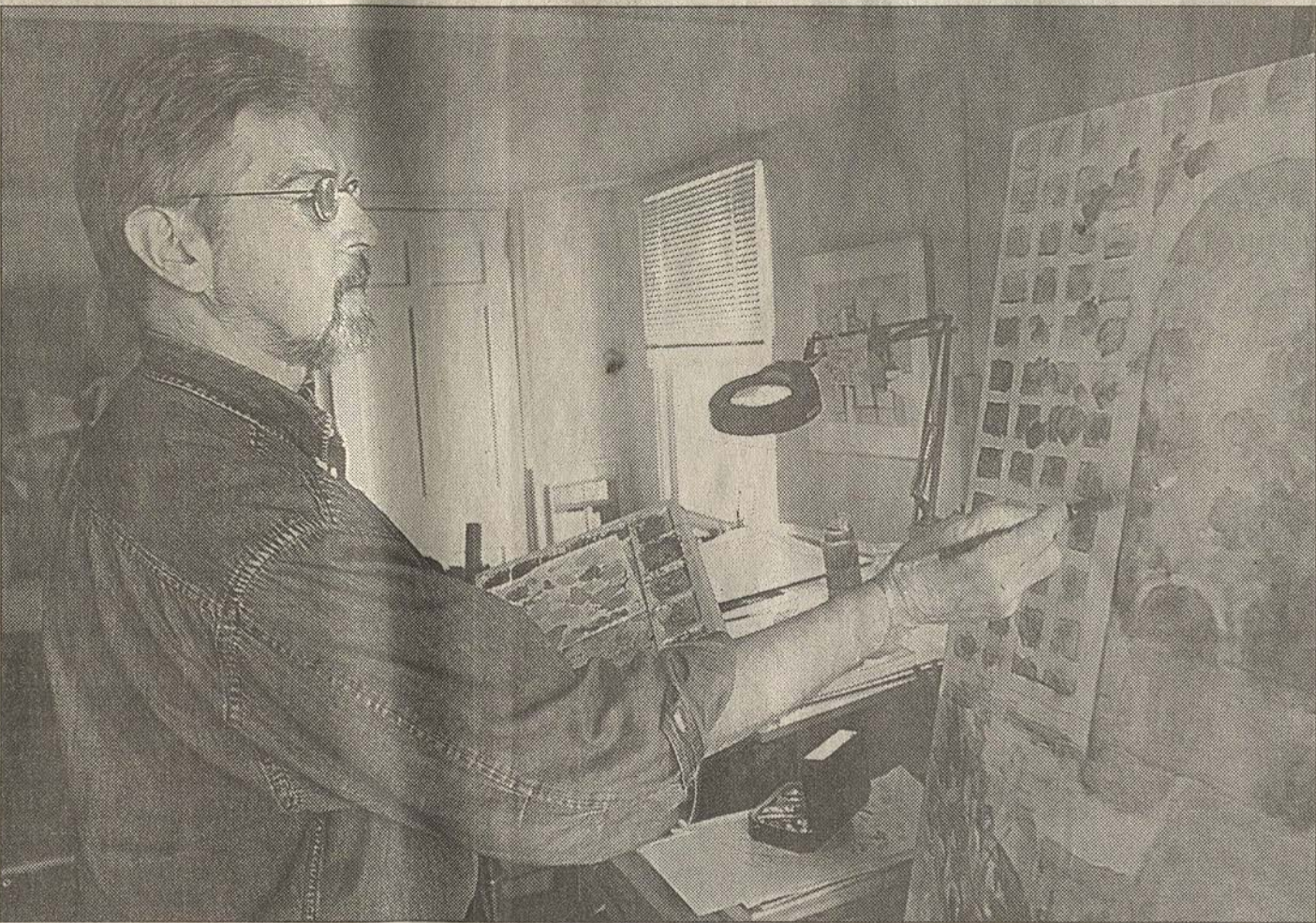
Skibinski, a commercial artist and illustrator who has done thousands of illustrations during his career, has been semiretired for three years, but he continues his labor of love as a freelance artist and continues to take on about three commercial-art projects a year.

Surrounded by his work in the studio at his Calvert Avenue home he shares with Dolores, his wife of 48 years, Skibinski says, "What I am doing now is trying to get away from the commercial stuff and doing my own kind of painting."

Skibinski, who still draws and paints about four hours a day, was honored as the Edison Art Society's artist of the month in March 1999 for his abstract seascape "North Beach," which depicts the shore at Long Beach Island.

His illustrations have appeared in prominent publications including Time/Life Books, Readers Digest books, Doubleday, Western Publishing, Harper & Row, W.W. Norton, Facts of Life, Henry Holt Publishing, Home Planners, and national magazines and newspapers.

"To counterbalance the restrictions of my commercial illustrations, I have sought a more personal and emotional expression through a nonrepresentational or abstract approach," he says. "I create paintings that express the essence and feeling of nature. They are lyrical distillations of



KEITH MUCCILLI/Staff photographer

■ Ray Skibinski's commercial illustrations are very realistic, but his own paintings are less so: "I have sought a more personal and emotional expression through a nonrepresentational or abstract approach. I create paintings that express the essence and feeling of nature. They are lyrical distillations of landscapes, botanical elements of a particular location."

landscapes, botanical elements of a particular location.

Skibinski grew up in Perth Amboy, and graduated from the Parsons School of Design and the School of Visual Arts in New York City. He began his career as an assistant to the art director of Seventeen magazine.

He then moved on, and designed promotional materials and catalogs for a New York City lingerie company, catalog covers and packaging for the Scribner Book Store, and a monthly promotional newsletter for Cover Girl cosmetics.

By the time he was 35, Skibinski had hired an agent and decided to go out on his own. He worked out of his studio in a spare bedroom at his Harrell Avenue home in Woodbridge before moving to his current home 16 years ago.

The most gratifying aspect of his career, Skibinski says, "is the diversity of the subject matter I was able to encompass." He affectionately refers to his illustrations for publications on health, Bible studies, home repairs, landscaping, do-it-yourself repairs, crafts and hobbies as "commercial stuff."

The youngest of Lottie and

Walter Skibinski's five children, Skibinski has displayed his art at more than a dozen shows around the state during the past decade. One of his paintings "Midnight Gardens," an abstract blue painting with moonlight, is a part of the Edison Art Society exhibition at the Sheraton Edison.

It was not unusual, Skibinski says, to work late into the night during his busier time. These days he takes time to teach in the evenings — intermediate and beginning art classes at the adult schools at the South Plainfield and Edison High Schools.

**NAME:** Irma Taylor.  
**FAMILY:** Husband, Larry, daughter and grand-daughter.

**EDUCATION:** Studied at Manati Intermediate College in Puerto Rico.

**HOBBIES:** Dancing, hiking and collecting antiques.

**CURRENTLY READING:** "The Burning Bed," by Francine Hughes.

**FAVORITE AUTHORS:** Mystery writer Robin Cook and suspense novelist John Grisham.

**ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:** "Continue educating yourself, and avoid drugs and alcohol."

**FAVORITE MEALS:** Roasted pork with plain-tains, rice and pigeon peas — a Puerto Rican specialty — and anything Italian.

**FANTASY DINNER-PARTY GUEST:** Frank Sinatra.

If the outings offer a kind of release, Taylor looks homeward for material that will amuse her patients.

Taylor's frequent cooking disasters — "I'm no gourmet" — and her ruses for getting her husband to make household repairs offer a gold mine of stories.

In a recent incident, she attacked the kitchen door with a cleaver, terrifying the family's sweet-natured boxer, Candie Joy. The petrified dog ran and got Taylor's husband to come from another part of the house.

She says it was the only way to get her husband to fix the door, which had been hanging at an odd angle and wouldn't close.

But now, poor Candie Joy flees at the sight of Taylor holding a kitchen knife.

In Taylor's eyes, comedy is simply part of caring for Roosevelt's residents.

"When they see it in your face that you're sad," she says, "it makes them sad too."

Sarah Greenblatt: (732) 565-7205; e-mail [sgreenbl@thnt.com](mailto:sgreenbl@thnt.com)

**NAME:** Ray Skibinski.  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Perth Amboy.

**AGE:** 70.  
**FAMILY:** Married 48 years to Dolores Skibinski; a son David, 47, two grandsons ages 16 and 14.

**OCCUPATION:** Commercial artist and illustrator.

**EDUCATION:** Certificate from Parsons School of Design and the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** Edison Art Society and Barron Art Center in Woodbridge.

**CIVIC AWARDS:** Edison Art Society Artist of the Month, March 1999.

**FAVORITE MOVIES:** "The African Queen" and "Out of Africa."

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "Law & Order."

**ADVICE TO YOUNG:** Get an education.

**CURRENTLY READING:** Re-reading Joseph Conrad.

**FANTASY DINNER-PARTY GUESTS:** Napoleon and Michelangelo.

**FAVORITE MEAL:** Seafood paella.

**FANTASY VACATION:** Around-the-world cruise.

Before embarking on his artistic career, Skibinski served four years in the Navy in Panama and Japan — as a meteorologist.

"I drew weather maps," he says.

Lonnie Mack: (732) 565-7229



# In any language, this paper's got its community scoped out

By JONATHAN TAMARI  
STAFF WRITER

The small office on Route 27 is quiet, but it contains the voice of 40,000 people.

It's here that five workers founded The American Chinese Times, a free weekly newspaper for Chinese-Americans in the tri-state area.

The Chinese-language newspaper is less than a year old, but it reaches out to New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia, according to Publisher Autumn Feng. As someone born in China who moved to the United States seven years ago, Feng, 32, knows Chinese-American culture and tries to provide an outlet for its interests in her newspaper.

It's a challenge, but Feng is determined and says it's a learning experience.

"We want to express (the Chinese community's) ideas," Feng says. "So far I like it, but it's driving me crazy."

It's hard to picture going crazy in the newspaper's sparse, serene office. On this day one staffer is at work, quietly laying out pages using Chinese versions of Windows and desktop-publishing programs. There are none of the ringing phones — Autumn works off of her cell — or frantically clacking keyboards that characterize most newsrooms. Files on the walls are neatly in place and copies of old issues are perfectly stacked.

The offices consist of a waiting room, a newsroom with a few wooden desks and computers, and a large room in the back for business and meetings. It could be a small investment firm, and Feng, with an accounting degree, would fit in there, as well.

She doesn't project the image of an aggressive reporter-type. She's soft-spoken and quiet, and, with a business background, she's learning the news trade as she goes. Short and delicate, she isn't the least bit imposing, but the one reporter trait she seems to carry is her determination. She came to



■ Publisher Autumn Feng and staff member Jiwei Zhao look over past issues of The American Chinese Times, which has a circulation of about 40,000. The staff of five produces the weekly newspaper using Chinese versions of popular American computer software.

America in 1995 without knowing any English, and now works 10-hour days all week.

She got a new name when an English as a Second Language teacher found Feng's Chinese name too difficult to pronounce. The teacher used "Autumn" to match the season at the start of the school year, even though Feng's birth name translates as "snow fly."

Feng earned her master's degree in business from Rutgers University, and then put her talents to work raising money to launch the newspaper. She had edited an internal magazine for an international trading company in China, but that was dif-

ferent than running a newspaper.

"It's a very tough job," she says with typical understatement and modesty. "I'm still learning every day."

The newspaper covers both local news, such as Edison's Chinese New Year parade, and national stories, including Michael Jordan's return to professional basketball. Co-publisher Jiwei Zhao, more outspoken and more eager to show off than Feng, proudly recalls a telephone call from Gov. James E. McGreevey after the paper endorsed him in last year's election, and he also recounts his frayed nerves when waiting for

the International Olympic Committee to decide whether to award the 2008 Winter Games to Beijing.

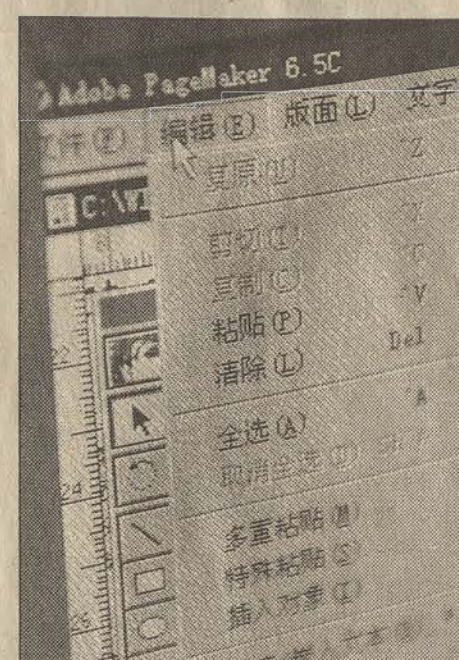
The editors had designed two covers: one for Chinese success in winning the Olympics bid and another for failure. They had both versions at the printer's office the morning of the announcement. After Beijing was given the games, the papers made it out on the streets by that evening, says Zhao, an Edison-based lawyer who wrote two books on law and economics while living in China.

With only five people to put out the paper, the staffers share reporting, editing and layout

duties. The 24-page paper is distributed every Friday in Chinese supermarkets, restaurants and schools around the region. Feng says it has a circulation of 40,000.

The articles, written in Chinese characters broken up now and again by the English names of governors and congressmen, has reports on news, politics and culture. A recent issue featured an interview with New York Gov. George Pataki and a culture column with photos of celebrities from China, Chinese-American stars — and Madonna.

The first issue came out in June, and they already have



**NAME:** Autumn Feng.

**AGE:** 32.

**BIRTH CITY:** Harbing, China — near the China-Russia border.

**FAMILY:** Husband, son and daughter.

**OCCUPATION:** Publisher.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's degree from China's Northeast University; MBA from Rutgers University.

**HOBBIES:** Ping-pong, singing along to Chinese pop songs.

**FAVORITE MUSICIAN:** Mary Chapin Carpenter.

**FAVORITE MUSIC GENRE:** Country, Chinese pop.

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Titanic."

**HER BEST ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:** Work hard.

plans for the future. Feng says she would like to produce an English-language version to serve Chinese-Americans born in the United States who don't speak Chinese, but still want to learn about their parents' culture.

Jonathan Tamari: (732) 565-7347; e-mail jtamari@thnt.com

## The care you need changes with your life...

## But the caring never does.

Introducing *Whispering Knoll Assisted Living*, a distinctive community that accommodates your current lifestyle and evolves with your changing needs.

With well-appointed studios and 1- and 2-bedroom suites to please all tastes, we have created an atmosphere of elegance and sophistication within the framework of independence, security, and privacy. Our extensive list of amenities includes gourmet dining, housekeeping, wellness visits, transportation, comfortable lounges, and much more.

Accessibly located in central New Jersey, Whispering Knoll is an affiliate of Solaris Health Systems and neighbors JFK Medical Center—supplying residents with access to the entire continuum of care. We also maintain dedicated suites for our Alzheimer's community—meeting those special needs, 24 hours a day.

Make sure you continue to enjoy your worry-free lifestyle; plan for tomorrow today...and count on Whispering Knoll to help you do just that. Call us to learn more and arrange for a complete tour: (732) 744-5541.



**ASSISTED LIVING**  
Care for now. Care for always.

62 James Street, Edison, New Jersey 08820

**(732) 744-5541**



A WALK AROUND THE BLOCK

Bimal Joshi: The signs are all good for cross-culturalization

By KEN SERRANO  
STAFF WRITER

Back in the late 1980s, a spate of violence aimed at Asian Indians in Jersey City led many among New Jersey's newest large immigrant group to look for shelter elsewhere.

That move out of the confines of the city led many to what is now called Little India.

Asian Indians were already on Oak Tree Road with four Indian businesses there by 1985. But the exodus out of Jersey City boosted the Indian profile of the stretch of road shared by Edison and Iselin.

One of those who helped ferry fellow Indian immigrants from Hudson County was Bimal Joshi, owner of Edison Sign Expo, who arrived in Edison in 1986.

Armed with applications and contacts in the rental office of a large apartment complex, Bimal says he helped between 60 to 90 families move to Oak Tree Road in Edison.

The nearby Metro Park train station — many Indians arrive with little knowledge of driving a car — and J.P. Stevens High School helped draw them here.

Now, three to 10 people arrive from India everyday, he says, whether to visit or stay.

Joshi has kept tabs on the growth of Indian businesses on the Edison side of the stretch. In 1992, there were 15. Now there are 93, he says.

"Our comfort level here is much more than before," he says. "The local American community is getting more accepting."

Since that initial flight out of Jersey City, he adds, "demographic changes" — a polite way of saying an increase in wealth — led many more Indians to Edison from other places in Northern New Jersey.

Manher Shah, a certified public accountant in Little India, pulls up in a Mercedes-Benz to talk business with Joshi as he begins his tour of the neighborhood. Shah started moonlighting in the area in 1978 with two customers. He has 900 business and individual clients, he says, "99.9 percent" of them Indian.

Some cross-cultural convolutions become apparent as the



JASON TOWLEN/Staff photographer

■ Owner of Edison Sign Expo, Bimal Joshi has seen big changes on Oak Tree Road in Edison since he began ferrying Indian compatriots from Jersey City to the area in 1986.

tour wends through the Sugar Tree Plaza strip mall and another next to it.

Hakka Spring is a Chinese restaurant that serves "Indian style Chinese food" and is owned by an Indian immigrant. It advertises the "Desi special," Desi roughly meaning expatriate.

Sari shops, such as Palki Silk & Saris, draw more American natives, says Davinder Singh, who owns the place.

But the more Indian Oak Tree Road has become, the more American Little India seems to turn. A bakery at the Sugar Tree Plaza strip mall is an Indian bakery, but it looks much the same as the old-fashioned German-American variety.

A door or two down "It's Raining Men," pours from a video shop. The song is sung in English with a come-hither swagger by Kareena Kapoor, the daughter of Bollywood

stars. (Bollywood is the name given to the Indian film industry.) And the Hindi musical she's playing in, "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham," filmed in London, looks as sleek and seductive as any MTV-influenced Hollywood movie. The title translates roughly as "Sometimes Happiness, Sometimes Sorrow," Joshi says.

The habits of Little India's younger generation gravitate westward.

Later, across the street, a man in a turban walks from the Liquor Locker with a case of beer cans on his shoulder.

Joshi prefers cricket over bowling and plays in tournaments with others in the Oak Tree Road area. But his 16-year-old son Tilak frequents the Edison Bowl-A-Mat as do other U.S.-born Desi.

"Culturally, he's kind of a mixed breed," Joshi says.

After a death-defying dash

across five lanes of Oak Tree Road, the tour takes in the south side of Little India and the residential heart of the enclave. That dash elicits talk of pedestrian fatalities on the road. (Residents here have been pushing unsuccessfully for a traffic light and crosswalk.)

It's immediately apparent that the comfort level Joshi mentioned has its limits. A profane message denouncing the "Hindu population" was scrawled on a brick wall near the entrance to that residential area just after the terrorist attacks in September. It's still there.

Ninety-five percent of the tenants of Hilltop Estates, about 800 apartments in several complexes on the road, are Asian Indian immigrants, says Sunil Mehta, a rental agent for Hilltop Associates.

Most are from Gujarat. But the tech boom of the late 1990s

drew many computer specialists to the area from the south of India. With the tech bust, their numbers have since receded.

Any given flight from Bombay to New York is carrying several Hilltop residents, Joshi says.

"This is a landmark for people in India," Joshi says.

Indian food abounds on Oak Tree Road. But the fare has grown more specialized with the increased number of eateries. It ranges from the vegetarian cuisine of Mysore to the hot food of Punjab in Sugar Tree Plaza.

Jhupdi, a restaurant next to Hilltop Estates that Joshi has an interest in, serves the strictly vegetarian Gujarati cuisine. The place is done up as a Gujarati village, with a thatched hut off the kitchen, a 30-foot wall mural of a village scene and traditional seating

**NAME:** Bimal Joshi.

**OCCUPATION:** Owner of Edison Sign Expo on Oak Tree Road and Karan International, an import-export business.

**AGE:** 44.

**FAMILY:** Resides in North Brunswick with his wife, Heena Joshi; son Tilak, 16, from a prior marriage.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Founding member of the Indo-American Cultural Society; member Indian Business Association; became a U.S. citizen in 1990.

**EDUCATION:** Associate degree in electrical engineering from Maharaja Sayajirao University in Baroda, India.

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Roti (flat bread) and vegetables.

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Anand" (Joy), starring Rajesh Khanna.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** "Freedom at Midnight" by Dominique LaPierre and Larry Collins; "The Art of Awakening" by Jiddu Krishna Morthy.


**BEST ADVICE:** "If you can't do anything good for others, at least don't do anything bad."

area — cushions instead of chairs.

Next to it is A-Jay Cash and Carry, a grocery store owned by Ashwin Patel, a man who says he bicycled to the United States from India more than 20 years ago. (He cheated by flying from London.) He has, in fact, ridden his bicycle through 69 countries, he says.

Patel now exerts his energy on his business, which has spread to Florida. He grows Indian vegetables on a farm he owns in Dunellon, Fla., and ships them back to Oak Tree Road.


Ken Serrano: (732) 565-7212; e-mail kserrano@thnt.com



**DERBY APPLIANCES**  
1599 Lincoln Highway  
Route 27  
Edison, NJ 08817

**Refrigerators & Freezers**  
**Washer • Dryers**  
**Ranges & Wall Ovens**  
**Dishwashers**  
**TV's & VCR's**  
**Mattresses & Box Springs**  
**Microwaves**  
**Air Conditioners**  
**Audio & Video**  
**And More...**

*The Little Store with the BIGGEST DISCOUNTS*



**Telephone**  
**(732) 572-1212**

**Tuesday & Saturday**  
**9:00am - 6:00 pm**

**Fax**  
**(732) 572-4243**

**Open Daily**  
**9:00am - 9:00pm**

Email: derby1599@aol.com

**THE NEW JERSEY CONVENTION AND EXPOSITION CENTER**  
AT RARITAN CENTER, EDISON NEW JERSEY 08837

**2002 Spring/Summer Calendar of Public Events**

KGP COMPUTER SHOW	MAR. 16-17
NEW BRUNSWICK KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW	MAR. 23-24
ROYAL PALACE CIRCUS	MAR. 26
COUNTRY FOLK ART SHOW	APR. 5-7
AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION	APR. 9
ABILITIES EXPO	APR. 12-14
RECORD SETTER - VINYL ONLY	APR. 28
ST. FRANCIS HSA TRICKY TRAY AUCTION	APR. 28
NACAC COLLEGE FAIR	MAY 1-2
TRENTON COMPUTER FESTIVAL	MAY 4-5
MCRCC BUSINESS TO BUSINESS EXPO	MAY 14
FOOTBALL SPECTACULAR	MAY 17-19
KGP COMPUTER SHOW	JUN 8-9
IRISH DANCE FESTIVAL	JUNE 22
COUNTRY FOLK ART SHOW	JULY 19-21
GREENBERG'S TRAIN, TOY & DOLLHOUSE SHOW	AUG. 10-11
ANTIQUES JUBILEE	AUG. 10-11
KGP COMPUTER SHOW	AUG. 17-18

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (732) 417-1400**  
**PRESS (1) FOR DIRECTIONS, PRESS (2) FOR SHOW INFORMATION**  
**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE CHANGES @**  
**WWW.NJEXPOCENTER.COM**



**cigar Explosion**

**New Lower Prices On All Cigars**  
**ALL MAJOR BRANDS**

**WE STOCK MANY FAMOUS BRANDS**  
**OF BRIAR & MEERSCHAUMS PIPES**  
**Join our Tobacco Club!**

**We Also Have**  
**CHESS SETS, GAMES, BEER STEINS,**  
**SHAVING SETS & CIGARETTE CASES**

**JOHN DAVID LTD.**  
**Tobacco & Gifts**  
**453 Menlo Park Mall, Edison**  
**732-494-8333**

**GIFT PACKS OF CIGARS \$13.50 & UP!**

**NEW STYLES OF COLIBRI & DUPOIT LIGHTERS**



Our experienced staff falls second to none. With zero tolerance for imperfections, we provide the quality of work that our customers deserve. Come and spoil your car to all the extras that our accessory shop can provide. Everything from sport wheels to performance exhausts, we have it all. We truly are Your Complete One Stop Auto Shop.

**Ultimate Collision & Ultimate Auto Accessories**

**1115 US Hwy. 1 South**  
**Edison, N.J. 08837**  
**Located in Prince Street Plaza**  
**Tel: 732-494-1900**

**Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:30am ~ 6:00pm • Sat. 8:30am ~12:00pm • Sun. Closed**



# Drive To Open Road For Unbelievable

**#1** In Customer Satisfaction

# Honda Savings!



## NEW 2002 HONDA CIVIC LX SEDAN

4 cyl, auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm st/cass, pw, pl, p/mirrors, cruise, tilt, r/def, model# ES165, stk# 39552, vin# 2H362808, MSRP: \$16,350, \$2,798 due at delivery, incl \$2,248 down pmt, \$0 rec sec dep, \$550 bank fee & 1st mo pmt. Total payments: \$5,112. Total cost of lease \$7,910. ELPO: \$9,810.

LEASE FOR 36 MOS.

**\$142**

BUY FOR

**\$14,799**



## NEW 2002 HONDA ACCORD LX SEDAN

4 cyl, auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm st/CD, pw, pl, p/mirrors, cruise, tilt, r/def, model# C6663, stk# 90108, vin# 2A039366, MSRP: \$20,130, \$3,380 due at delivery, incl \$2,655 down pmt, \$0 rec sec dep, \$550 bank fee & 1st mo pmt. Total payments: \$6,300. Total cost of lease \$9,595. ELPO: \$11,474.10.

LEASE FOR 36 MOS.

**\$175**

BUY FOR

**\$17,700**



## NEW 2002 HONDA PASSPORT LX 4WD

6 cyl, 5 spd, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm st/cass, pw, pl, cruise, tilt, r/def, model# 9B325, stk# 40538, vin# 24A05305, MSRP: \$28,040, \$2,940 due at delivery, incl \$2,065 down pmt, \$0 rec sec dep, \$550 bank fee & 1st mo pmt. Total payments: \$15,800. Total cost of lease \$18,215. ELPO: \$11,396.40.

LEASE FOR 36 MOS.

**\$325**

BUY FOR

**\$23,500**

## 2.9% APR Financing

On Select Models For Qualified Buyers



15 Minutes from Freehold  
10 Minutes from Sayreville  
20 Minutes from Bridgewater  
20 Minutes from the Plainfields



Ryan  
Auto  
Limited

**50 U.S. RT. 1 EDISON • 732-985-0290**

openroadhonda.com

Closed end leases for credit qualified individuals, subject to approval by primary lender. Lessee resp. for maint., excess wear & tear, and at lease end for mileage in excess of 12,000 mi/yr. at 15¢/mi. Prices shown include all factory-to-dealer / customer / rebates/incentives and reflect all costs to be paid by a consumer, except for lic., reg. fees and taxes. Offer can NOT be combined with any other coupon, promotion or offer. Ad expires (3) three days after publication or before, if superseded by another ad. NOT resp. for typos. Prices not available with special Honda financing. This ad supersedes all prior ads.

# Drive To Open Road For Unbelievable

# Mazda Savings!



**\$11,995**

BUY FOR

**2002 MAZDA PROTEGE SEDAN**

4 cyl, 5 spd, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm st/CD, floor mats, stk# 4925, model# DX, vin# 20535335, MSRP: \$14,620.



**\$199**

LEASE FOR

**\$13,995**

BUY FOR

**2002 MAZDA B3000 V-6 PICK-UP TRUCK**

6 cyl, 5 spd, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm st, pw, pl, p/mirror, keyless entry, bed liner, bed extender, leather wrapped steering whl, cruise, power pkg, convenience pkg, stk# 4913, vin# 2TM08691, MSRP: \$16,565, \$674 due at delivery, incl \$0 down pmt, \$0 rec sec dep, \$475 bank fee & 1st mo pmt. Total payments: \$9,352. Total cost of lease \$10,027. ELPO: \$6,626.

We Honor  
S-Plan &  
X-Plan!



**\$15,906**

BUY FOR

**2002 MAZDA 626 LX6 SEDAN**

6 cyl, 5 spd, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm st/CD, stk# 4931, vin# 25270517, MSRP: \$20,455.



**\$16,995**

BUY FOR

**2002 MAZDA TRIBUTE SUV**

4 cyl, 5 spd, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm st/cass, pw, pl, p/mirrors, alarm system, stk# 4934, vin# 2KM24845, MSRP: \$19,010.



**\$17,999**

BUY FOR

**2001 MAZDA MPV DX VAN**

6 cyl, auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm st/CD, stk#4537, vin# 1016877767, MSRP: \$21,255.

2002 Mazda  
MPVs  
In Stock  
NOW!



10 In Stock!

**\$20,900**

BUY FOR

**2002 MAZDA MILLENIA SEDAN**

6 cyl, auto, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm st/CD, m/roof w/ deflector, leather, stk# 5004, vin# 21723834, MSRP: \$28,635.

**FREE Hot Dogs & Refreshments**  
Saturday, 3/23

## 0% APR Financing

On Select Models For Qualified Buyers

**No Fine Print • These Deals Are Real!**



15 Minutes from Freehold  
10 Minutes from Sayreville  
20 Minutes from Bridgewater  
20 Minutes from the Plainfields



Ryan  
Auto  
Limited

**50 U.S. RT. 1 EDISON • (732) 985-0290**

openroadmazda.com

Closed end leases for credit qualified individuals, subject to approval by primary lender. Lessee resp. for maint., excess wear & tear, and at lease end for mileage in excess of 12,000 mi/yr. at 15¢/mi. Prices shown include all factory-to-dealer / customer / rebates/incentives and reflect all costs to be paid by a consumer, except for lic., reg. fees and taxes. Offer can NOT be combined with any other coupon, promotion or offer. Ad expires (3) three days after publication or before, if superseded by another ad. NOT resp. for typos. Prices not available with special Honda financing. This ad supersedes all prior ads.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF DOC

# Needle exchange: Trading on the pain factor

By ERIC FORMAN  
HEALTH WRITER

Perhaps in a Chinese newspaper, Siman Wang would be Dr. Siman Wang.

In an American newspaper, however, the certified acupuncturist is just Siman Wang.

That's because, according to generally accepted newspaper style, the title "Dr." is reserved for doctors of medicine, osteopathy and podiatric medicine.

At Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Wang was required to study Western medicine in addition to her specialty in acupuncture and herbal medicine.

Back in China, she worked for 10 years at St. Luke's Hospital alongside M.D.s — who also received training in herbal medicine — and was permitted to prescribe medication.

But her second-class status since immigrating to the United States 15 years ago does not bother Wang.

She is happy to use acupuncture and herbal medicine to make her patients feel better.

"I like what I'm doing right now because I'm the person to help people," says Wang. "When patients get better, I'm happy."

Wang opened Shanghai Acupuncture Herb Center on Route 27 more than three years ago.

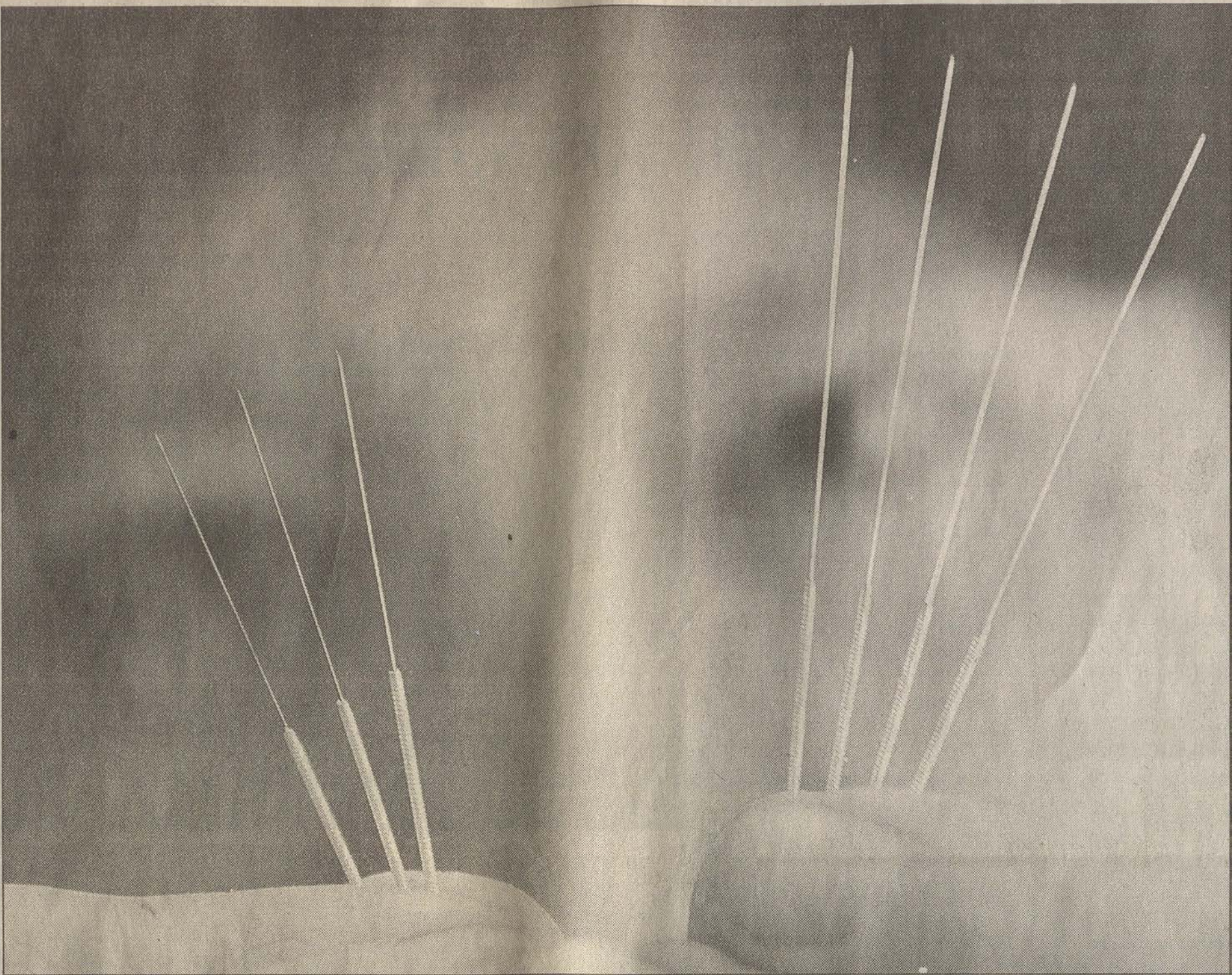
The office looks very much like a doctor's office. It has a clean smell. Soothing classical music plays on the stereo. The patient rooms have that familiar cushioned examining table with tissue-thin paper.

But the dozens of small drawers behind the reception desk — where one might expect to find patient files — are brimming with herbs, leaves, seeds and roots. Each drawer is labeled in Chinese.

And in the examining room one finds "The Chart of National Standard for Locations of the Channel Acupoints," the acupuncturist's map to properly placing her thin needles.

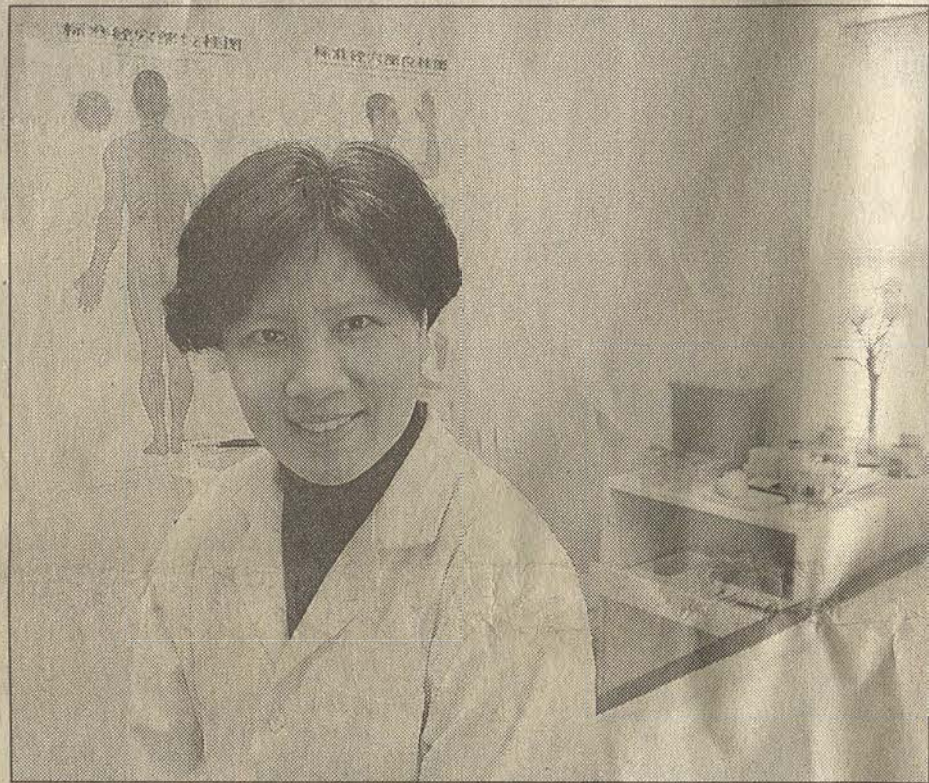
In a brochure, Wang lists 51 medical conditions that can be treated with acupuncture, ranging from headaches to premenstrual syndrome. Wang says acupuncture is very effective for allergies and back pain.

"People suffer allergies so much, and the medication doesn't help that much," says Wang, who treats her own husband's allergies with acupuncture.



MARK R. SULLIVAN/Chief photographer

■ Siman Weng holds up the tools of her trade. While the idea of someone sticking needles into the body makes some folks writhe in mental pain, others swear by acupuncture, the Chinese art of healing that is more than 4,000 years old.



JODY SOMERS/Staff photographer

ture. She followed Yuan Go to the United States because he was studying French literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He now teaches

French literature at the Peddie School in Hightstown, where they live.

She also uses acupuncture to help her 16-year-old daughter's

**NAME:** Siman Wang.  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Shanghai, China.  
**AGE:** 45.  
**FAMILY:** Husband Yuan Go and 16-year-old daughter, Fan Go.  
**OCCUPATION:** Acupuncturist and owner of Shanghai Acupuncture Herb Center.  
**EDUCATION:** Graduated from Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.  
**CERTIFICATIONS:** Diplomat in acupuncture and Chinese herbology of the

National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists. Licensed in New York and New Jersey.  
**AWARDS:** In high school, she won a prize in art and calligraphy for her district.  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** The news.  
**BEST ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:** "If you have a dream of something you love, work hard for that."  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Fish.  
**FAVORITE VACATION:** France.  
**HOBBIES:** Listening to classical music, traveling.

nearsightedness. A junior at Peddie, Fan Go is studying abroad this year in France.

The needles are sterile and disposed after each use. If used

appropriately, Wang says, the needles stimulate the nervous system to release natural chemicals that make patients feel better. According to Chinese lore, she says, the needles open

channels that improve the body's energy flow.

The needles, which she says are painless, stay in the patient for about 30 minutes.

In the middle of the interview, she runs to a patient room to remove some needles that have been in for a while. Like many of her patients, who feel relaxed from the treatment, this one dozed off while she was gone.

A lot of her patients feel better right away, but some require three or four treatments. They can have up to eight needles inserted in one session depending on their ailments.

"Diagnosis is very important and my Western medical background helps me a lot," says Wang, who wears a white gown at work. She needs to know precisely what is wrong before puncturing, say, the ankle for uterine problems or the area below the knee for digestive problems.

Unlike medication, Wang says, acupuncture has no side effects.

It's ironic that in this country Chinese medicine is viewed as new or alternative; in China it is considered traditional medicine, with a 4,000-year history.

Herbal medicines and supplements are now a booming industry in the United States, but Wang says the products are often used incorrectly. The Chinese herb *ma huang*, for example, is widely taken in pills touted as "fat burners" that have been linked to cardiovascular problems and deaths. In China the herb is used in smaller doses to treat respiratory conditions such as asthma, says Wang.

Although she loves medicine, Wang once considered becoming an artist.

"I almost went to art school before I went to medical school," she says. Her father convinced her to learn a more practical — and profitable — trade: medicine.

But she still uses her artistic ability when she gets the chance. The bottles of herbs her patients receive come adorned with an inscription in Chinese calligraphy. And she sewed her daughter's silk prom dress by hand. When her daughter goes off to college, Wang hopes to start painting again.

Eric Forman: (732) 565-7213; e-mail: eforman@thnt.com

## HE WILL, HE WILL ROCK YOU

# He's got your stamps, your mail — and your Blow Monkeys

By SCOTT ALBRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

When planning a trip to the Menlo Park post office, remember to bring your letters, packages, stamps and dancing shoes.

More likely than not, postal clerk Ken Dowd is behind the counter at the boxy little office by the Menlo Park Mall, and his silver Sony cassette player is broadcasting a tune from one of Dowd's more than 2,000 rock music albums.

Neither rain nor snow nor dark of night can prevent this 49-year-old clerk from performing his job cheerfully — to a funky beat.

Dowd's fascination with rock music spanning decades back to the mid-1950s represents the curious dichotomy of his personality. He reflects wistfully on the mostly forgotten work of Alphaville, The Blow Monkeys, Frankie Goes to Hollywood and other faded pop-rock sensations of the 1980s.

In that sense, Dowd is a card-carrying bohemian, made further evident by the expired Middlesex County College ID from the 1970s he still carries in his wallet. The photo shows him with wavy long brown hair that falls past his shoulders.

These days, however, his appearance is more conservatively appropriate for his job. The bespectacled father of one wears his hair and beard closely trimmed. His courteous and soft-spoken manner match well with a countenance typical of a librarian, accountant or postal clerk.

And yet you still get the feel-

ing that lurking somewhere inside this man's pressed, regulation U.S. Postal Service uniform is a groovin' dude who'd like to rock you like a hurricane.

Behind the counter to his left, two black canvas Case Logic cases each hold 60 cassette tapes of rock music, neatly labeled and sorted in chronological order. He says he has four more filled cases at home and is currently working on a seventh.

Each tape plays an assortment of Dowd's favorites from a given year or two, drawn from the hundreds of albums he stores in alphabetical order within his Sayreville home.

"It's not necessarily the hits," Dowd says. "It's what I say is worthy. Customers come in all the time and say, 'I remember that song.'"

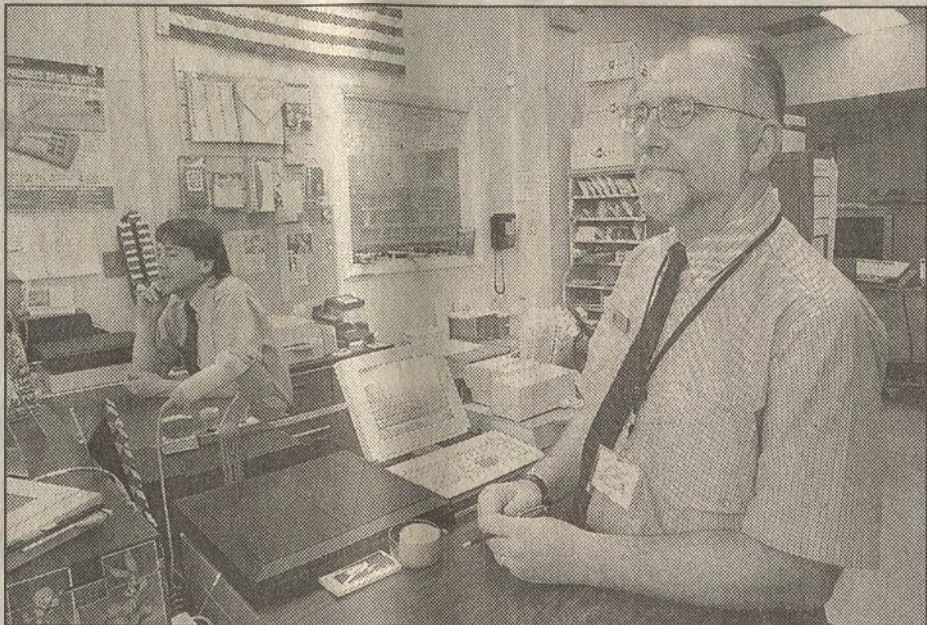
Postal work, quite obviously, appeals both to Dowd's meticulous nature and his affinity for connecting to people.

He notes that he has no interest in becoming a mail carrier and prefers a climate-controlled, orderly environment.

"I'm not an outdoor person, believe me," he says. "I don't know how they do it."

A third-generation postal employee, Dowd says he began his adult working life as a dishwasher who brought his portable radio to the sink. Later, he became a sales manager with a music retailer and eventually moved on to do accounting work for a pharmaceutical company for several years.

Looking for better pay and benefits to support a family,



JODY SOMERS/Staff photographer

■ Lurking behind this starched, pressed facade of a postal worker lurks the heart of a deejay. Ken Dowd punctuates his work with rock music going back to the mid-1950s.

Dowd signed up with the postal service 16 years ago, about two years after his daughter Alaina was born. Early on, he worked the 1 a.m.-to-9 a.m. shift, sorting mail collected in giant sacks. To do the sorting, Dowd said he was forced to memorize all the streets — often totaling in the thousands — in a given route to efficiently organize outgoing letters.

"They give (a new hire) the hardest stuff to see if you can cut it," the post office veteran says with pride.

Dowd eventually graduated into a more comfortable 8:20 a.m.-to-5:20 p.m. daytime shift that includes being responsible for the office's stamp supply. When he talks about his career, his ambition appears to be focused solely on how he can do his present job better.

Dowd admits he has already

reached the top salary range for his position as a counter clerk, but says he has no real interest in moving up the proverbial ladder to become a supervisor. He is satisfied where he is.

In the hours after lunch, the two-counter office is serviced by Dowd and Dean Schaefer, who wears a stud in his ear and his hair a little long in the back. The two men grew up around an Iselin block from each other as children and joined the Menlo Park office within months of each other about seven years ago.

When Dowd strolls in from a late lunch, his silver Sony is spewing out sports scores rather than electric guitar riffs.

"What are you listening to?" says Dowd with playful irritation.

"I'm trying to listen to scores

**NAME:** Ken Dowd.  
**AGE:** 49.  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Newark.  
**FAMILY:** wife Anita; daughter, Alaina, 18; and a Cairn Terrier named Jake.  
**OCCUPATION:** United States Postal Service clerk.  
**EDUCATION:** Graduated from JFK High School in Iselin; attended Middlesex County College for a year.  
**HOBBIES:** Music, cooking.

**FAVORITE MUSICIAN:** David Bowie.  
**FAVORITE MUSIC GENRE:** Classic rock.  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Star Wars."  
**BEST ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:** "Definitely stay in college. Granted, I was one of the lucky ones to get a good job, but there aren't that many out there now, and the only way to make sure you get a good one is to stay in college."

here," says Schaeffer. "Shhhh! Don't speak!"

"What nerve . . ." complains Dowd, with a Felix Unger impression that is perhaps unintended.

In this small post office that employs just three full-time clerks, Dowd clearly appreciates working with a friend. Though space in the office is relatively tight, the two men face expansive glass windows filled with a bustling mall parking lot and a bright blue sky.

When a female customer of apparent Asian descent approaches Dowd's counter on this sunny afternoon, Dowd politely asks if one of her letters in a lime green envelope is a birthday card.

When the customer, who speaks broken English, says that yes, the green envelope does indeed carry a birthday card, Dowd quickly replies, "Well . . ." with the relish of someone prepared for just such a circumstance. "We have birthday stamps."

To the card, Dowd affixes a multicolored stamp with the birthday message and then takes money from the woman who smiles, tickled by his enthusiasm.

With a discreetly murmured tone reserved for embarrassing news, Dowd informs a customer trying to mail a package for his boss that he needs more postage.

Later on, as another customer's credit card takes a little long to process, Dowd hums along softly to Janet Jackson's "What Have You Done For Me Lately," playing on the silver Sony. He taps the credit card against the counter to the beat.

Dowd seems to delight in the bombardment of little problems and challenges that he is fully prepared to handle, like a hockey goalie fending off Nerf pucks.

"We've built up a clientele," Dowd says. "They like us and they come back."

Scott Albright: (732) 565-7255; e-mail: albright@thnt.com



**Edison**  
BY THE  
NUMBERS

**Map area**  
Middlesex County

Map labels include: Inman Ave., New Dover Rd., Wood Ave., Grove Ave., Oak Tree Rd., James St., Edison State Park, Parsonage Rd., Roosevelt Park, Menlo Park, Metuchen, Main St., Town Hall, New Jersey Turnpike, I-95, I-27, I-287, Burswick Ave., Plainfield Ave., Woodbridge Ave., Middlesex County College, Raritan Center, Raritan Center Pkwy., Fields Ave., Raritan River, and a North arrow.

Total population			97,687		
	2000	Percent of population		2000	Percent of population
0 to 4	6,299	6.4%	Median age	36.3	
5 to 9	6,085	6.2%	Male	47,926	49.1%
10 to 14	6,223	6.4%	Female	49,761	50.9%
15 to 19	5,793	5.9%	White	58,116	59.5%
20 to 24	5,532	5.7%	Black	6,728	6.9%
25 to 34	16,578	17.0%	American Indian,		
35 to 44	16,613	17.0%	Alaska Native	132	0.1%
45 to 54	14,098	14.4%	Asian	28,597	29.3%
55 to 59	4,912	5.0%	Native Hawaiian,		
60 to 64	3,886	4.0%	Pacific Islander	37	0.0%
65 to 74	6,307	6.5%	Some other race	1,973	2.0%
75 to 84	4,114	4.2%	Two or more races	2,104	2.2%
85 and over	1,247	1.3%	Hispanic ( <i>of any race</i> )	6,226	6.4%
100 to 104	10	0.0%			
105 to 110 and over	—	0.0%			

Other Hispanic	1,101	17.68	
----------------	-------	-------	--

<b>Total housing units:</b>	<b>36,018</b>	<b>% of units</b>
Occupied housing	35,136	97.6%
Owner-occupied	22,419	62.2%
Renter-occupied	12,717	35.3%
Vacant	882	2.4%
For seasonal/recreational use	86	0.02%

Overall (all races)	63.8%
White	73.5%
Black	35.5%
American Indian, Alaska Native	35.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	48.5%
Some other race	42.3%
Two or more races	44.0%
Hispanic (of any race)	50.4%

<b>Households</b>	<b>Total: 35,136</b>	<b>% of households</b>
With children under 18	12,887	36.7%
With senior citizens	7,991	22.7%
Families	25,881	73.7%
Married-couple families	21,472	61.1%
Married with children	10,419	29.7%
Single mothers	1,287	3.7%
Single fathers	363	1.0%
Non-family households	9,255	26.3%
Living alone	7,419	21.1%
Age 65 or over living alone	2,522	7.2%
Average household size	2.72	
Average family size	3.19	
Total unmarried partners	1,241	
Male-female unmarried partners	1,094	
Male-male unmarried partners	71	
Female-female unmarried partners	76	
Living in group quarters	2,100	

<b>Total under-18 population:</b> 22,322		<b>% of under-18 population</b>
Under 18 living in married-couple family	17,997	81%
Under 18 living with single father	528	2%
Under 18 living with single mother	2,019	9%

For years, the people of Edison have been wrestling with the dual problem of open spaces. It's a quandary that has stirred politicians and activists. What has been done to solve these problems? Build more parks? A mon-

# How do you solve Edison's congestion a

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH MUCCILLI/STAFF

**Leonard Malabanan, 60,  
Edison**



We need better streets and people should drive better. People should take mass transit. We had buses at one time, but they don't come all the way down here any more. You can get a train through Rahway or Avenel or Metuchen. When I was working, I drove my own car to Carteret and Rahway. We need more parks and ball fields.

**James Minus, 67, Edison, retired welder**



# G O F F

## problems of traffic congestion and the lack of ists, residents and store owners. What can be orail? A park-and-ride facility?

### nd open-space problems?

FF PHOTOGRAPHER

traffic congestion is getting  
orse. There's too much building  
ing on, and nobody is putting a  
op to it. Look at Talmadge Road  
one. They've got to put a stop to  
Enough is enough. There's not  
uch open space in Edison is  
ere? The more building that  
ey do, the schools are going to  
ave to grow, everything will  
ave to grow, the police  
epartment, the fire department  
nd your taxes are going to go up.

**eggy Steinbeck, payroll clerk,  
Edison resident for 40 years**

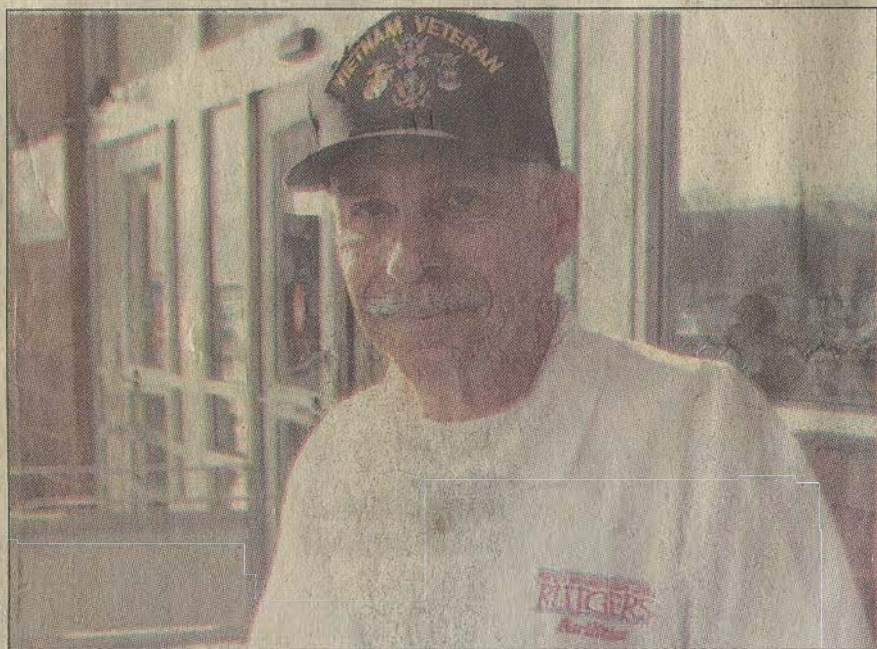


There's not much  
you can do about  
traffic or open  
space because it's  
already done.  
There's no land  
left.

**Nina Pidoto, 75,  
Edison resident  
for 55 years**

's a nightmare. I live on  
lainfield Avenue, and sometimes  
takes me 15 minutes just to get  
ut of my driveway. There's no  
ourtesy on the road. I'd like to  
ove someplace where the town  
as maybe 200 people in it and  
ve cars.

**Walt Lester, 54, groundskeeping  
man, Edison resident  
for 13 years**



I think traffic in Edison is  
terrible. Having lived here 33  
years, I've seen it grow. I think  
part of the problem is all the  
building they're doing. Strip  
malls that we don't need, drug  
stores that we certainly don't  
need another one of. At this  
point, they've ruined the town. I  
really don't know what they  
could do now. Stop building.

**Andrea Kozodoy, 67, Edison,  
housewife**

ongestion is a problem in  
Edison, especially where my  
sister-in-law lives, Durham  
Woods. Coming out of the  
complex, they probably need a  
light there. Because there's just  
a stop sign and just to make a  
left, you can't get out of there.  
The Menlo Park area and  
Stelton Road are bad, but  
there's not much they can do  
here. Over there, there's  
already lights and stuff. Maybe  
they could widen some lanes. I  
don't know. I'm not an  
engineer. Mass transit would  
probably help, but even with  
buses it would be the same  
thing, they'd be stuck in traffic,  
unless they were going to build  
trains or trolleys or something  
like that.

**Jairo Henao, 39, Woodbridge**



I definitely think Edison is congested, but I don't think it's too bad compared to other areas in New Jersey. Mainly Route 1 and some on Route 27. But I really can't complain compared to other places I've lived in New Jersey, like down in Freehold and the Manalapan area. That was always bad, and now I work up in north Jersey, and it's horrible up there. In this area, there are a whole lot of lights, and they all seem to be kind of timed against you. When you've got one red, you've got them all down the line.

**Tishana Kabok, 26, accountant, Edison resident for four years**



Because of the sprawl of  
Edison, the aesthetic  
quality of life is not  
exactly pleasant. You  
have parks, but the  
aesthetic quality of  
them is totally lacking.  
There are no flowers,  
there are no gardens,  
there are no places to  
just enjoy the sight of  
things.

**Helene Frankel, Edison  
resident for 12 years**

I don't think mass transit is going to do it, although I am  
very much in favor of mass transit. It's the way New Jersey  
has grown up without any planning whatsoever. What they  
should do, and the local government is the key one to do  
this, is set up a plan for the future, for the long term. You  
need mass transit, better access, incentives to get away from  
the car. Communities need to be planned so that you don't  
throw malls all over the place. You have them in strategic  
places; you don't allow them to be in certain places. You  
need professionals planning, not for this year, but for five  
years from now. Not reacting, but projecting. Open space is  
disastrous in New Jersey just in general. Edison is such a  
mish-mosh and so huge.

**Henry Frankel, Edison resident for 12 years**



There's a lot of traffic, but it's because  
it's a good town, and everybody wants to  
move here. That's why I moved here. We  
need road improvement, and we  
definitely need more mass transit, more  
buses than we have. There's adequate  
open space and enough parks now.

**Helene Fenton, 34, Edison resident for  
eight years**



Congestion is a big problem.  
They have to work on it.  
Bridges or overpasses might  
help. They could widen the  
streets and more public  
transportation is really  
needed. I hardly see buses  
around here. Edison doesn't  
have enough open space.

**Xiomara Blaise, 40, South  
Plainfield**



NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

# The paint's not dry yet but the commute is so much easier

By JOHN YOCCA  
STAFF WRITER

The Engholms really are the new kids on the block.

Take one step into their four-bedroom Colonial house, and the smell of fresh paint still lingers in the air, leading you by your nose into the family room, which is colored bright orange and yellow. The one futon matches perfectly with the sponge-painted walls. Positioned across from a book case is a stereo system that is playing the soundtrack to "The Lion King."

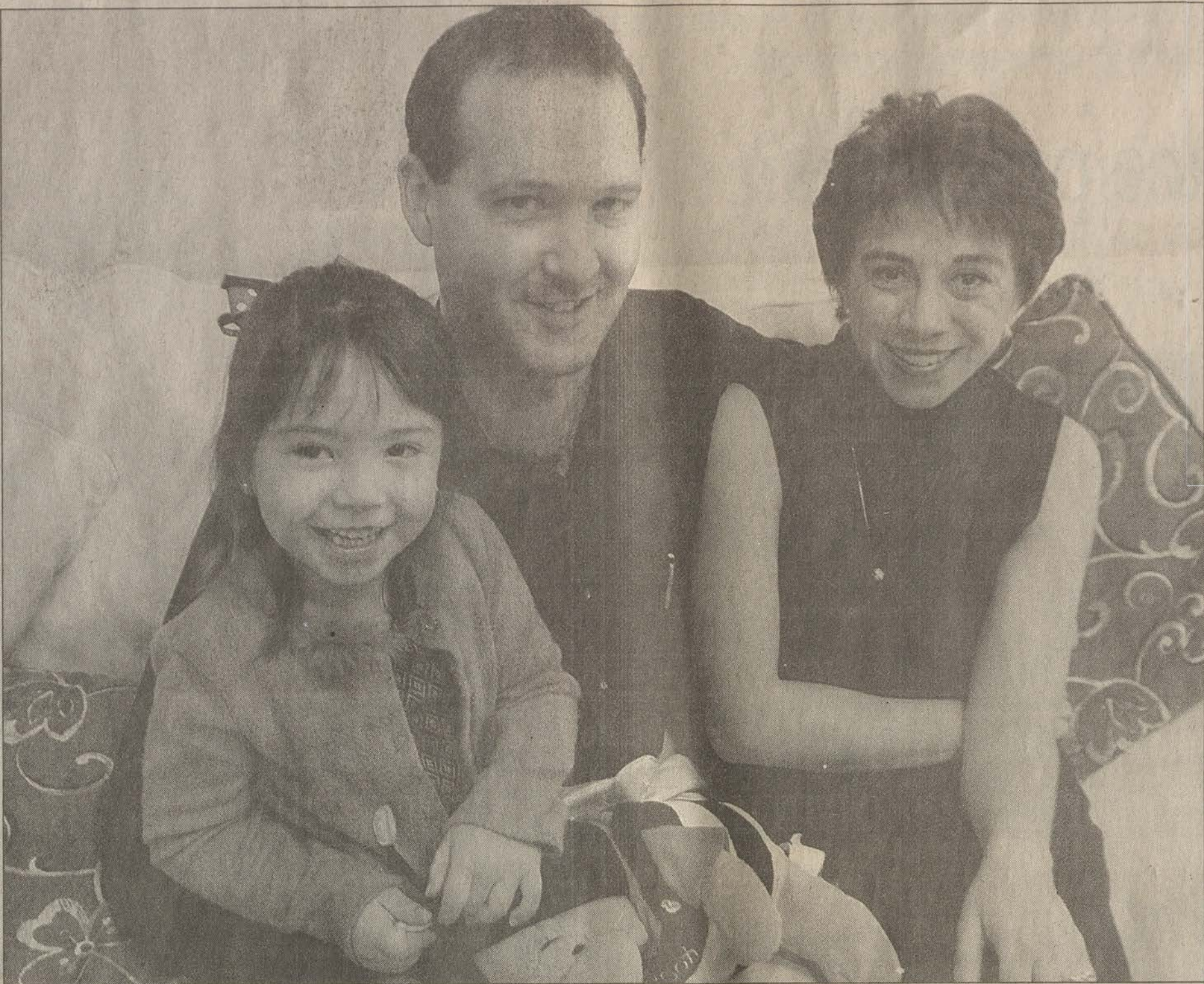
"We're still discussing what to do with this room," Elvira Engholm says as her 4-year-old daughter Miranda, decked out in a purple dress, sings along while sitting on her beanbag.

Kevin and Elvira Engholm moved to Edison in October, looking to make Kevin's commute to Rutgers University for school and Jersey City for work a little bit easier. Not only does Kevin say his commute is no longer a headache, but he's infatuated with the area itself.

"I'm real bullish on this area," Kevin says, sitting in his living room, which is furnished with one white couch, a wicker chair and a piano. "It's really close to the Shore and all the major routes in Jersey."

But Edison is a far cry from where the couple spent most of their married life. Kevin and Elvira met in Mexico City, married in Mexico City, and lived in Mexico City for seven years before moving to the United States. They lived in Florida before moving to Howell in Monmouth County three years ago.

But the constant moving around, together with the fact the couple has no family in the area, has made the transition a little difficult. Since Miranda is not yet enrolled in school, Elvira and her daughter spend



JODY SOMERS/Staff photographer

■ "I'm real bullish on this area," says Kevin Engholm, who moved to Edison with his wife, Elvira, and 4-year-old daughter, Miranda. Sitting on one of their few pieces of living-room furniture, a white couch, he says, "It's really close to the Shore and all the major routes in Jersey."

most of the day together, waiting for Kevin to come home.

Kevin is the director of training and development for Prebon Yamane, a global interdealer brokering service. He's usually out of the house by 6:30 a.m. ei-

ther to go to work or catch his doctoral class at Rutgers.

Elvira has a Mary Kay cosmetics business that she runs during the day while taking Miranda shopping or to ballet lessons.

"We like to feed the ducks in the lake," Elvira says. "But I haven't had a chance to really see a lot of the area yet. When it gets warmer we'll be outside more."

At night, it's family time —

experiencing new restaurants, or cooking and partaking in reading exercises with Miranda, who speaks both English and Spanish, or dancing to music.

"For us it's important to be

together," Kevin says, as Miranda, flashing a bright smile, imitates her father's hand gestures. "Because our family isn't around here."

The Engholms do travel to Howell every week to go to their Evangelical Free Church, to participate in various activities.

They've made an effort to meet their neighbors, and Elvira says she's planning to organize some kind of party this summer to get more familiar with the other residents on Scott Avenue — because they don't plan on leaving for a while.

"I suspect we'll be here for a while," Kevin said. "So far, we've been really happy here."

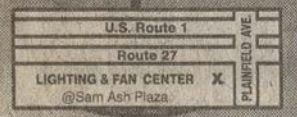
John Yocca: (732) 565-7256; e-mail jyocca@thnt.com

## Designer Fixtures and Lamps Sale!

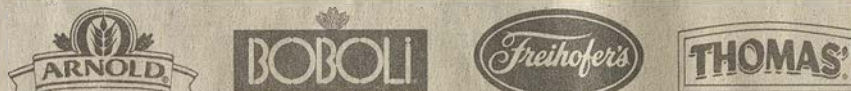


Mirrors, Shades, and Accessories

### Lighting & Fan Center



Plainfield Avenue & Route 27 S., Edison  
732-985-4445  
(at Sam Ash Music Center)



Join Our Bakery Outlet Kid's Club

## Sweetest Deals in Town!

**Any Entenmann's Buy 3 Get 1\* FREE!**

\*Blackline product only. Limit one coupon per person per day. Not to be combined with other offers. Limit one free item per coupon.

**Any Entenmann's Buy 1 Get 1\* FREE!**

\*Blackline product only. Limit one coupon per person per day. Not to be combined with other offers. Limit one free item per coupon.

SAVE UP TO 50% OFF EVERY DAY!

Offers Valid at Entenmann's Bakery Outlet Only  
Did you know? We Offer a 10% Senior Discount Everyday! Plus a Freezer Plan!

2120 Lincoln Hwy. (Rt. 27) • Edison  
732-287-8310



**20% OFF All Freihofer's Products**

\*Blackline product only. Limit one coupon per person per day. Not to be combined with other offers.

**Buy 1 Bread Get 1\* FREE!**

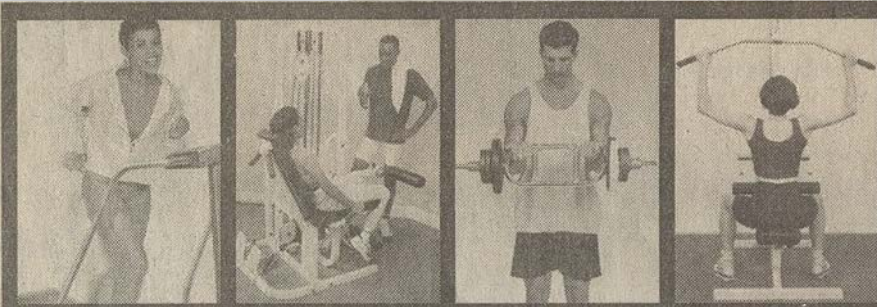
\*Blackline product only. Limit one coupon per person per day. Not to be combined with other offers. Limit one free item per coupon.



## LIMITED TIME OFFER!



191 Talmadge Road • Edison  
732-287-0605  
www.x-tremefit.com



New Toning Equipment by: Atlantis, Hammer Strength, Flex & Stairmaster  
Aerobics/Yoga/Kickboxing  
Cardiovascular Equipment by: Quinton, Stairmaster & Precor  
FREE Personal Training • 20,000 lbs. of Free Weights  
Supervised Nursery • Tanning Facilities  
Men's & Women's Locker Facilities • Juice Bar & Nutritional Supplements

**2002 SPRING SPECIAL**  
**\$100 OFF MEMBERSHIP FEE**  
Contact Membership Representative for appointment  
732-287-0605 Expires 4/30/02

**COMPLIMENTARY ONE DAY PASS WITH TOUR OF FACILITY**  
Contact Membership Representative for appointment  
732-287-0605 Expires 4/30/02

## Franco's Pizza

170 Talmadge Road, Edison, New Jersey  
Monday thru Saturday 10:00am-9:30pm

732-248-2484

FOR FAST PICKUP  
CALL AHEAD

Delivery All Day, Limited Area (\$7.00 minimum)

**\$1.25 OFF ANY LARGE PIZZA**

Coupon cannot be used as a tip. Coupon not valid if not mentioned when ordering. One Coupon per customer. Coupon cannot be combined with any other special offer. Price valid with coupon only. Coupon expires 4/30/2002

**\$2.25 OFF 2 LARGE PIZZAS**

Coupon cannot be used as a tip. Coupon not valid if not mentioned when ordering. One Coupon per customer. Coupon cannot be combined with any other special offer. Price valid with coupon only. Coupon expires 4/30/2002

**LARGE VEGGIE PIZZA**  
Green Peppers  
Onion and Mushrooms  
No Substitutions **\$11.99** + Tax

Coupon not valid if not mentioned when ordering. One Coupon per customer. Coupon cannot be combined with any other special offer. Price valid with coupon only. Coupon expires 4/30/2002

**\$1.25 OFF ANY LARGE PIZZA**

Coupon cannot be used as a tip. Coupon not valid if not mentioned when ordering. One Coupon per customer. Coupon cannot be combined with any other special offer. Price valid with coupon only. Coupon expires 4/30/2002

**\$2.25 OFF 2 LARGE PIZZAS**

Coupon cannot be used as a tip. Coupon not valid if not mentioned when ordering. One Coupon per customer. Coupon cannot be combined with any other special offer. Price valid with coupon only. Coupon expires 4/30/2002

**LARGE MEAT PIZZA**  
Pepperoni Sausage & Meatball  
No Substitutions **\$11.99** + Tax

Coupon not valid if not mentioned when ordering. One Coupon per customer. Coupon cannot be combined with any other special offer. Price valid with coupon only. Coupon expires 4/30/2002

## KARAOKE

at the  
**RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL**  
(Raritan Center)

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**  
**7pm - 11pm**

**Happy Hour 5:30-7:00pm**  
Every Tues, Wed & Friday

**Free Hors D oeuvres**

**CASH PRIZE!!!**

**DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT!!!**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

3050 Woodbridge Ave (Rt. 514) • Edison, NJ  
Located inside Raritan Center Off of King George Post Road

**Karaoke Every Wednesday at the Ramada Plaza Hotel**  
**For Information/Directions Call 732-661-1000**



# True-blue roots: Policing Edison's streets is in his blood

By KATHLEEN HOPKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Michael Dudash died almost eight decades ago, but first he started a family tradition that lives on today in Edison.

Dudash was one of the first three patrolmen hired in Raritan Township, the predecessor to modern-day Edison.

When Robert Dudash Jr. joined the Edison police force in 1997, he represented the third generation of his family to join Edison's law-enforcement community. He now has five years of service under his belt.

His father, Robert Dudash Sr., is an Edison police lieutenant who oversees community policing.

Law enforcement skipped a generation: Robert Dudash Jr.'s grandfather, John Dudash, passed up a police career for one making ceramic fixtures. However, John Dudash, who died in 1989, did serve as a volunteer firefighter and as a chief of Raritan Engine Company No. 2.

The youngest Dudash on the police force never knew his great-grandfather, but the family tradition in law enforcement influenced him for as long as he can remember.

He was 5 years old when his father became an Edison policeman.

"I still remember him being sworn in," the officer says. "It was in the courtroom of the old municipal building. I can picture it. I pretty much knew then I wanted to be a cop."

The family tradition, however, was almost stopped at its roots.

Michael Dudash, who first worked as a constable for the Lehigh Valley Railroad, received badge No. 3 when he was hired as a patrolman in 1923, the year the Raritan Township Police Department was established. A year later, as the 35-year-old patrolman was responding to a car accident, his motorcycle struck a disabled truck stopped in the roadway on a foggy, rainy night. He died three days later on Oct. 3, 1924, leaving five children.

Michael Dudash was the first of only two police officers to die in the line of duty in what is now Edison. The other, Patrolman Frank Papaanni, was fatally shot by a bank robber on Sept. 16, 1971.

Because his grandfather died in the line of duty, Robert Dudash Sr.'s mother, Catherine, tried to discourage her son from becoming a police officer, says Robert Dudash Jr. That worked until the elder Robert Dudash reached age 34. Then he gave up a career as a tire-store manager and joined the Edison police force a year before he reached the cutoff age to become an officer.

Lt. Dudash never discouraged his son from following in his footsteps.

"His advice to me was, 'It's a good job. I'll support you 110 percent,'" Officer Dudash says. "He did it, and he wanted to see me do it."

The younger Dudash grew up hearing his father's police stories about the humor, camaraderie and, sometimes, the blood and gore on the job, and he knew he wanted it.

"Being in the same house as a cop, you hear all the stories, the whole aura of police work," he says. "You hear about the fun times and the not-so-fun times. The fatal accidents and the gore are unfortunately part of the job."

It was always his goal to be a police officer, so upon graduating J.P. Stevens High School in 1990, Robert Dudash Jr. pursued a criminal-justice degree at Rutgers University.

Since being sworn to duty five years ago, Officer Dudash has been assigned to the department's patrol division, which he says is the backbone of the department. He works a shift that stretches from 3:50 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., and he loves it.

"It's very rewarding," he says, recalling his best incident two years ago when he and Officer Ted Hammer, disarmed a motorist of a cache of rifles, shotguns and knives near Menlo Park Mall.

While the bulk of his work is made up of routine medical calls and burglar alarms, Dudash says the best part is when he is called to respond to a crime in progress. That's what gets the adrenaline pumping, he explains.

But those calls are few and

far between. Although Edison's population has grown astronomically since the days his great-grandfather was a patrolman, there still isn't that much crime in the township, he says. Since 1923, the size of the police force has grown from three to 207. The police equipment, including computers and a 911 system, is ultrasophisticated by 1923 standards. And, Edison, mostly farmland then, is fully developed and populated by 100,000 residents, he notes.

But, he believes his job is similar to his great-grandfather's in many ways.

"I'm sure there were disturbing-the-peace calls, accidents, fights," Officer Dudash says, trying to imagine what his great-grandfather's police career was like. "There were probably a lot of similar things as today. There was obviously no credit-card fraud or computer crime."

The main thing Officer Dudash says he has to deal with that his great-grandfather didn't is congestion: "We don't have a bad community as far as crime goes. Traffic congestion is one of our biggest problems, luckily."

Knocking on a wooden desk, Dudash says he has never yet been in a situation he has deemed life-threatening. The 29-year-old officer says he would like to have a family of his own some day. While he would never push a son or daughter into a law-enforcement career, he hopes the family tradition continues.

"I would love to have a son be a fourth-generation police officer. I wouldn't mind having a daughter become a cop. I think any thing is possible. I'd love to see a fourth-generation Dudash on the Edison Police Department."

Kathleen Hopkins: (908) 353-8003



JASON TOWLEN/Staff photographer

■ Robert Dudash Jr. grew up hearing his father's police stories about the humor, camaraderie and, sometimes, the blood and gore on the job, and he knew he wanted it. "Being in the same house as a cop, you hear all the stories, the whole aura of police work," he says. "You hear about the fun times and the not-so-fun times."



Courtesy of Robert Dudash Jr.

■ Back in the days when Edison was called Raritan Township, Michael Dudash patrolled the streets on a motorcycle.

**NAME:** Robert Dudash Jr.  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Perth Amboy General Hospital.

**AGE:** 29.

**FAMILY:** He is the great-grandson of the late Patrolman Michael Dudash; grandson of the late John Dudash, a volunteer firefighter; son of police Lt. Robert Dudash Sr.; brother of Denise Dudash.

**OCCUPATION:** Patrolman.

**EDUCATION:** Graduate J.P. Stevens High School, Edison, 1990; bachelor's degree in

criminal justice and sociology from Livingston College of Rutgers University, 1994; currently pursuing a master's degree in human resources at Rutgers.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** Advisor for Edison police Explorer's post; member, Edison Planning Board; member, board of trustees, Edison Youth Service Corps.

**CIVIC AWARDS AND HONORS:** Inducted into New Jersey Police Honor Legion, June 2000.

**FAVORITE MOVIES:** The "Star Wars" series.

**FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW:** "The Dukes of Hazard."

**BEST ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:** Stay away from drugs.

**CURRENTLY READING:** Textbooks for graduate studies.

**FANTASY DINNER-PARTY GUESTS:** Mother, Patricia Dudash, who died in January, and late grandparents, John and Catherine Dudash.

**HOBBIES:** Hunting, fishing, making model cars, softball.

## Largest Farmer's Market

Freshest Farm-Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at Wholesale Prices

**FRESH SEAFOOD DELIVERED DAILY!**

Including Lobster & Maryland Crabs! Fresh Sushi Too!

GRAND OPENING OF OUR WOODBRIDGE STORE

Garden Farm Market

927 West Kelly Street • Woodbridge, NJ

732-906-0506

732-906-0507

Fax 732-906-0985

We Serve the Wholesale Industry

OPEN 8 AM - 8PM • SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

## Market in the Area!

Spring Plants & Cut Flowers

1 Gallon Reg. Milk \$1.99\*

Med. Eggs 2 Cartons for \$1.00\*



# Book 'em: Cascio's goal is variety and 100 percent occupancy

**By SUZANNE C. RUSSELL**  
STAFF WRITER

It's not quite 9 a.m., and already the wood-paneled hot tubs and the latest in gazebos, grills and outdoor chimineas are in place.

The large roll-top doors on either side of the New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center at Raritan Center are wide open as a caravan of small trucks and vans pulls through to drop off wares that will be displayed at the 13th annual New Jersey Home Remodeling & Furnishings Show.

About 30,000 will attend the show over three days to view 300 exhibits for contractors and do-it-yourselfers featuring everything for inside and outside a home.

In preparation for the show, workers from the different companies are busy creating stone gardens and patios, installing fish tanks in kitchen islands, erecting siding to show off the latests in gutters, and sealing the wood paneling on the hot tubs.

Joseph Cascio, convention-center sales director, surveys the work for the show that has been a year in the making. As companies begin to filter in, Cascio, wearing a pin-stripe suit and blue shirt, remains nearby, knowing he could be called upon at any point to help out with electrical power or telephone service quirks.

At 132,000 square feet, the convention and exposition center is the second largest in the state. Cascio is responsible to booking the antiques, train, boat, dog, computer, recreational vehicles, folk art and cultural shows that are open to the public on weekends. Educational programs and testing and business conferences are conducted many weekdays.

And in his business, size matters. The larger the arena, the more variety of shows that can be booked.

"This is a job where there is not a boring day," says Cascio of Metuchen, who said it's not unusual to have an overlap of workers taking down decorations from one show while other group is putting up displays for the next.



■ Every week — or more often — there's a new show, so Joseph Cascio, convention-center sales director at the New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center at Raritan Center, claims, "This is a job where there is not a boring day."

"We're booked almost every weekend. It's a lot of work," says Cascio, who works many weekends.

No recent event more clearly epitomizes the versatility of the center than the weekend of Jan. 12-13 when the blue jeans and

flannel shirts of the Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show at the center was followed by the Jan. 15 formal inaugura-

**NAME:** Joseph D. Cascio.  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Newark.  
**AGE:** 33.  
**MARRIED:** Wife is Jennifer.  
**OCCUPATION:** Director of sales for the New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center at Raritan Center.  
**EDUCATION:** Graduate of Seton Hall Prep and Seton Hall University, where he studied marketing.  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Gladiator."  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "I don't look at TV."  
**FAVORITE BOOK:** "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger.  
**BEST ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:** "Respect your elders' advice."  
**FANTASY DINNER-PARTY GUESTS:** Howard Hughes and Albert Einstein.  
**FAVORITE MEAL:** Pasta.  
**FANTASY OR FAVORITE VACATION:** Amalfi coast of Italy, where he went on his honeymoon.

hotel industry, Cascio's route was a little different.

"I started in 1995 by putting together a golf expo," says Cascio, who formerly worked selling industrial and commercial real estate. While he knew a lot of people working in the golf business, it took about four to five months to organize the event. Most events usually take a year to 18 months to organize.

After the show ended, the owners talked to him about producing other events. His father, Joseph Cascio, is vice president of real estate for Summit Associates, one of the owners of Raritan Center.

Cascio organized a large country-music expo in November 1995. Shania Twain appeared, and it was a huge success. Now as sales director, a job that entails selling the building as a venue for events, he says he's able to offer promoters some insight because he's hosted his own shows at the facility.

"I have insight on if the show will work, to help them in advertising," he says. He serves as secretary on the National Association of Consumer Shows and has traveled nationwide to shows representing the center and the Edison area.

"When I started here in 1995, our facility was strained with a lot of open dates," Cascio says. As a result, he spent much of his first year canvassing shows to bring them to the exposition and convention center.

"Now I find I'm still canvassing, but not as much as before. I know the producers who hold events in the north east.

"There is a lot of juggling. The responsibility falls on me to fill the building and fill it responsibly," says Cascio, adding some events are booked four or five years in advance. One show already has been scheduled for 2007.

While it is possible to host two events at the building at one time, the events have to be compatible.

"You can't have a dog show and an examination," he said. "That's the challenge now."

Suzanne Russell: (732) 565-7335; e-mail [rsrussell@thnt.com](mailto:rsrussell@thnt.com)

tion gala for Gov. James E. McGreevey.

When Cascio left the building Sunday night, taxidermists were beginning to carry out deer heads. By the time he returned on Monday morning, the red carpet was being laid for McGreevey's elegant inauguration ball.

Cascio says the building's black ceiling disappeared with the lighted canopy of fabric draped in the hall. Industrial columns and walls were covered with heavy theatrical drapes, a huge American flag was hung on a back wall, and state police provided security checks for the 5,000 guests.

"It was beautiful," says Cascio, adding plans for the ball didn't begin until after McGreevey was elected last November.

While most convention-center sales directors come to their positions by way of training in the

DICK COSTELLO/Staff photographer

## Tano Mall Tano Mall Tano Mall



Tano Mall • 1199 Amboy Ave. • Edison, NJ  
(732) 549-0797 • Tues.-Fri. 9:30-8 • Sat. 9:00-4

**Manicure & Pedicure together \$25**

**Tues. & Wed. 1/2 Price Pedicure \$5.00 Lip and Brow Wax with Melissa**

### Jack Cooper's Celebrity Deli Restaurant is "The Best"

Jack Cooper's Celebrity Deli Restaurant is "The Best"  
"Best Deli" - 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000  
NJ Monthly, The Star Ledger, Home News Tribune

**WE ARE OPEN EASTER SUNDAY**  
REGULAR MENU  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
& much more!

**Open 7 Days for Dining, Takeout & Catering**

**JACK COOPER'S**  
Celebrity Delicatessen  
1199 Amboy Avenue, Edison  
732-549-4580  
[www.celebritydeli.com](http://www.celebritydeli.com)



**Store Stock Only**  
**HABAND**  
**EDISON • 732-494-0406**  
**Tano Mall • 1199 Amboy Ave.**

### TONY'S PIZZA & RESTAURANT

1199 AMBOY AVE. • EDISON  
(off Rt. 1 in Tano Mall)  
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

• Italian Dinners • Seafood  
• All Types Of Pizza • Hot & Cold Subs  
**548-2770 • 548-2771**

**\$1.00 off Any Large Pizza (Cannot be combined). Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Exp. 4/30/02.**

### Dollar Plus

1199 Amboy Ave. • Tano Mall • Edison, NJ  
**732-321-3360**

*One stop shopping center for all your party needs.*

Balloons, party favors, decorations & a whole lot more. Lawn & Spring decorations, Silk Flowers, Bean toys, Gift Bags and Gift Wrap

### Carvel ice cream bakery

Tano Mall • Amboy Ave., Edison  
**(732) 494-0414**

**\$1.00 OFF EASTER CAKE \$13.95 or more**

### TANO MALL CLEANERS

1199 Amboy Ave.  
Edison • 732-549-5049

**PRIDE IN AMERICA**  
Best Quality - Best Price

Quality Shirt Laundering  
\$1.00 each  
Fine European Tailoring  
Best Alteration prices  
Wedding Gown Cleaning

### HALLMARK CARDS AND GIFTS



1199 AMBOY AVE.  
EDISON, NJ 08837  
Phone (732) 549-9368  
Fax: (732) 549-1018

ENSECO  
PRECIOUS MOMENTS  
HOLIDAY CARDS  
PRE-WRAPPED GIFTS  
ORNAMENTS



**UNITED NATIONAL BANK**

*We stay close to your needs.*

**Edison Office**  
**1199 Amboy Ave.**  
**732-767-1672**



Bagels, Danish, Muffins, Bialys  
"Hot Soups & Sandwiches"  
Gourmet Spreads with Bagel Varieties  
Make Great Appetizer Ideas  
1199 Amboy Ave. • Edison  
Ph: 732-549-9010 • Fax: 732-549-9052  
(Open 6am-3pm M-F) (6am-2pm Sat. & Sun.)

**Buy 1 Dozen Bagels & Get 7oz. Plain Cream Cheese Free**

### VACATION TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

A DIVISION OF VTS TRAVEL ENTERPRISES, INC.

Tano Mall  
1199 Amboy Avenue • Edison, NJ  
(732) 548-4252 • fax (732) 548-2514  
toll-free 1-800-767-4887  
email: [morlando@vtstravel.com](mailto:morlando@vtstravel.com)

*Come Shop With Us At Tano Mall*



# Duval: No runs, no hits, no errors, no regrets

**By PAUL FRANKLIN**  
STAFF WRITER

**M**ickey Duval looks pretty natural in his brown United Parcel Service baseball cap.

The familiar look isn't so much that he has driven his UPS truck out of the Edison terminal for 12 years. It's just that the red uniform he wore for so many years makes wearing a cap so familiar.

Actually, Duval doesn't wear his cap that often. Only when it's cold. And on this delivery day it's cold enough for this 46-year-old.

His weekday routine begins with arriving at the UPS location in Raritan Center at 8 a.m.. It's a day in his life that lasts 10 to 11 hours each day, Monday through Friday.

He reads the schedule board, checks the air packages that must reach their destination no later than 10:30 each morning, then heads out to make deliveries to homes, businesses and stores.

Most everyone on this day knows him as the always-smiling delivery guy. They may know he lives in Edison, they may know he grew up in Edison, they may know he has two children and they may know that for him, love is lovelier the second time around.

He'll be married this summer to Sayreville's Michelle Petrozzi.

When it comes to the guy with the package under his arm and the brown cap on his head, that's essentially all you see.

But then, who can see another's past?

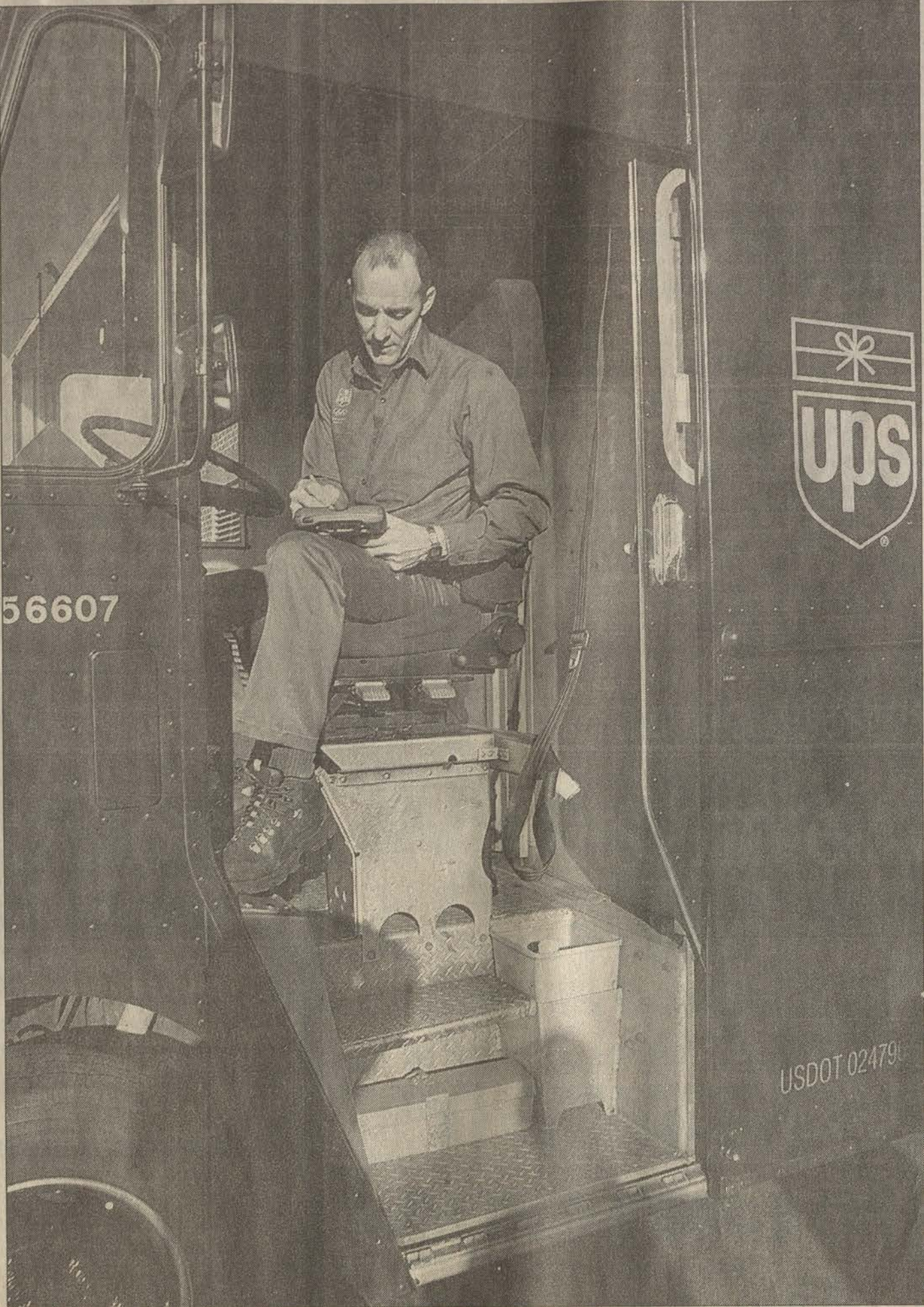
Duval can see his own past. As clear as a blue sky over a perfect summer day.

As clear as standing in the outfield grass of a ball field, red cap tilted down. As clear as looking to his right and seeing George Foster, then glancing to his left and seeing Ken Griffey Sr.

That's exactly what happened during the winter of 1979.

For Duval, an outfielder who signed a professional contract in 1974, the only packages he was delivering then were base hits, stolen bases and catching pop flies for the Cincinnati Reds. The backdrop was a trip to Japan with the big-league club.

The previous summer he was making \$1,200 a month playing for Cincinnati's AA farm team in Nashville. Just a few months after that season, he was making \$9,000 a month and getting \$120 a day meal money. A centerfielder, Duval was a teammate on that trip with Pete Rose, Johnny Bench, Tom Seaver and the rest of the crew managed by Sparky Anderson.



■ Mickey Duval delivers packages for United Parcel Service these days. But a couple of decades ago, he was a contender for the major leagues, playing with the Cincinnati Reds. An injury knocked those plans for a loop, but Duval still has his memories — and a son who plays baseball for Edison High School.

Granted, he opted for chicken, rice and pineapple as opposed to raw fish and octopus eyes for his Japanese meals, but the experience was as good as it gets for an Edison kid who grew up shagging flies around the corner at Lincoln School.

"It's not something I talk about a lot to people," he says, minutes after coming through the door after a day in the truck. Molly the dog is glad to see him, his fiancée is glad to see him, but his two kids and her three kids are too busy conversing to barely acknowledge his entrance.

On this day, taking a look back at the good old days turns out to be a quite enjoyable trip. And that's a bit of a surprise, considering that for years after

his pro career he refused to even watch the game.

But with a cold bottle of beer in a warm house, and with a visitor who immediately offers the fact that George Foster used a black bat, and that it was too bad Duval didn't get called up during the World Series successes of 1975 and 1976, Duval opens up.

It all began, back when he was 5 feet 6 inches, 135 pounds, playing outfield and pitching for the Edison High School Eagles (they also wear red caps). After a year at Morris County College, Duval realized it was time to start his pro baseball career.

"I knew somehow I was going to get a shot," he says, as the Pirates, White Sox and Reds

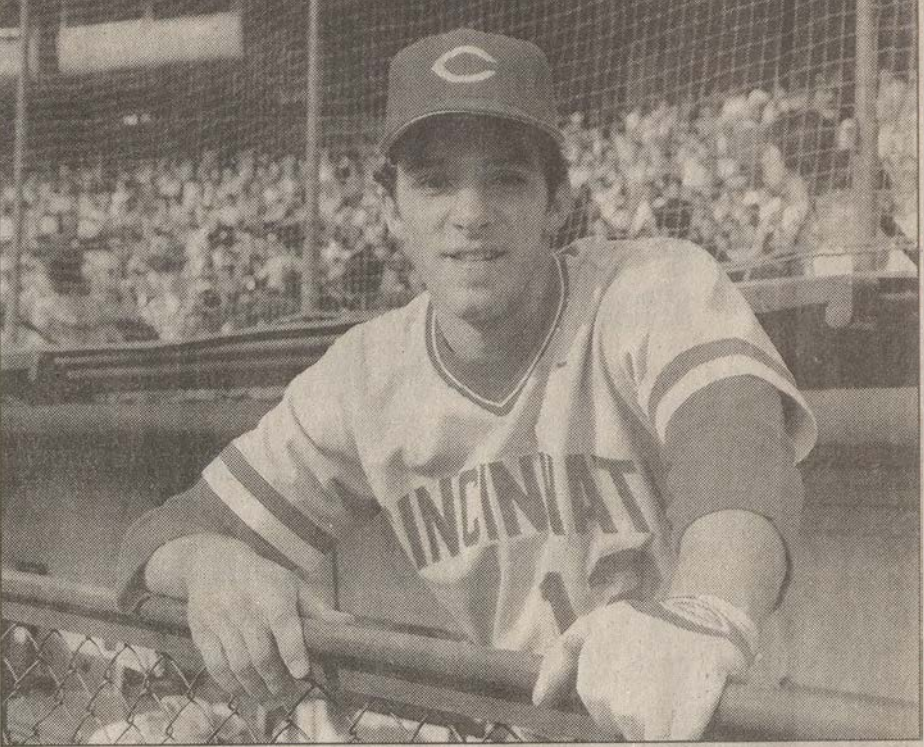
showed interest. "I knew I was good enough."

He signed for \$100, a new glove, a pair of spikes and a dinner at a Holiday Inn.

His first year in pro ball, he hit a respectable .291 in Eugene, Ore. Following a horrible season in 1976 in Tampa, he rebounded to hit .299 and to steal 39 bases in the Florida State League. Moving up to AA ball in 1978, he hit .278 and hit his first professional home run.

"Over the scoreboard, 400 feet," Duval claims.

Playing in the States, it would never get better. Oh, he was called up to AAA, one step from the majors, in 1979, when he played in Indianapolis against guys like Kirk Gibson, guys about to be called up and become stars.



**NAME:** Mickey Duval.  
**BIRTHDATE:** June 24, 1955.  
**FAVORITE MEAL:** Steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans.  
**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Once Upon a Time in the West."  
**FAVORITE ACTOR:** Charles Bronson.  
**FAVORITE ACTRESS:** Racquel Welch.  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW:**

**"Titus."**  
**FAVORITE ATHLETIC TEAM:** Yankees.  
**FAVORITE ATHLETE:** Pete Rose.  
**ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS:** "Go after what you want, and use your brain."  
**FANTASY DINNER-PARTY GUESTS** Elvis Presley, Charles Bronson, Racquel Welch, Pete Rose, Clint Eastwood.

Duval's career came to a sudden halt, when, at just the ripe age of 23, he popped a shoulder throwing a ball from the outfield in a game at Denver. He tried to rehab the following spring in Florida — 1980 — and actually started the season. But before the year ended, the injury returned. In his final appearance in an A-league game in Waterbury, Conn., he struck out three times.

He was done, at age 24.

"No regrets," he says, looking at the empty beer bottle on the table. "I gave it the best shot I could. I'd do it all the same way if I had to do it over."

But could he have worn the big league Reds cap, that bright red one with the big white "C" on the crown, if the injury hadn't cut his career short?

"I was very confident of making it," he says of his rise toward the major leagues. "Even if it wasn't going to be with the Reds, I thought I could play for another team. I could run, I could field, and I became a pretty good hitter."

"I still accomplished what I wanted," he adds. "It means everything to me. It's part of my past. Millions of people wanted to do what I did, but couldn't. A lot of people always say they could have, if they tried, but they didn't."

Annoyed with the attitudes of players and the cost of going to a game, Duval's interest in baseball is mostly focused on his son

Michael, a sophomore playing for Edison High. He also has a daughter, Brittany, 12.

"I explain to him that it's just a game," he says about baseball. "It's not life. He's a pitcher-outfielder, like I was. I told him a guy in high school hit a ball off me that's still going."

Duval is still going. He played softball until recently, returning to the game he loved since childhood. He ran, he threw, he hit. He had a blast. His latest passion is doing Elvis imitations at karaoke bars.

While the day job consists of carrying packages, he's the guy that once hit a ball over a ball-park scoreboard, the guy who often visited the track and bet jai alai matches with Pete Rose, the guy who still has his own baseball card and continues to carry memories.


No one else really needs to know.

He's up at 7 a.m., has a little toast, a little orange juice, a little tea. He's out of the house, dressed in conservative brown, going about his daily business.

"Having played ball at that level, that makes me happy," he says, taking off the brown cap, displaying a baseball haircut. "And it gave me confidence for the rest of my life. It's the greatest thing that ever happened to me."

Paul Franklin: (732) 565-7258; e-mail paulf@thnt.com

**JEFF'S SURGICAL SUPPLY**  
**New! LARGE STORE LOCATION**  
Come see five models of seat lift chairs and many models of scooters and power wheelchairs.  
**Complete Home Medical Equipment**  
**Respiratory Equipment**  
**Rental • Sales • Free Delivery**  
We bill Medicare & Medicaid  
2249 Woodbridge Avenue • Old Post Plaza • Edison  
732-985-JEFF (5333) • 1 (888) 601-JEFF  
Monday-Friday: 9-6 • Thursday until 8

**La Bonbonniere Bake Shoppes**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1952 – 2002**  
**Edison** Since 07/02/1952  
Phone: (732)287-1313  
Nixon Plaza, 2062 Rt 27, PO Box 981  
**South Plainfield** Since 09/01/1981  
Phone: (908)753-1818  
Middlesex Mall, 6101A Hadley Road  
**Woodbridge** Since 09/01/1983  
Phone: (732)321-1919  
143 W Kelly St, Fords  
**North Brunswick** Since 03/01/1988  
Phone: (732)422-1818  
Lion's Plaza, 1626 Rt. 130 South  
**Old Worlde Baked Goods**  
**Corporate Catering**  
**(800)471-2253**





**THINKING ABOUT SELLING YOUR HOME?**  
**WHAT IS YOUR HOME WORTH?**  
  
1910 Oak Tree Road, Edison, NJ 08820  
**Looking After Your Best Interest is M3 Realty's #1 Priority**  
**732-603-0700**  
Website: www.M3Realty.com  


**CALL FOR A COMPLIMENTARY MARKET ANALYSIS. NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO SELL!**  
**INVENTORY IS AT AN ALL TIME LOW!**  
**Sales Position Available**  
**YOUR PHOTO HERE!**



# Just a Lil' Taste of Edison

## FREE Breakfast

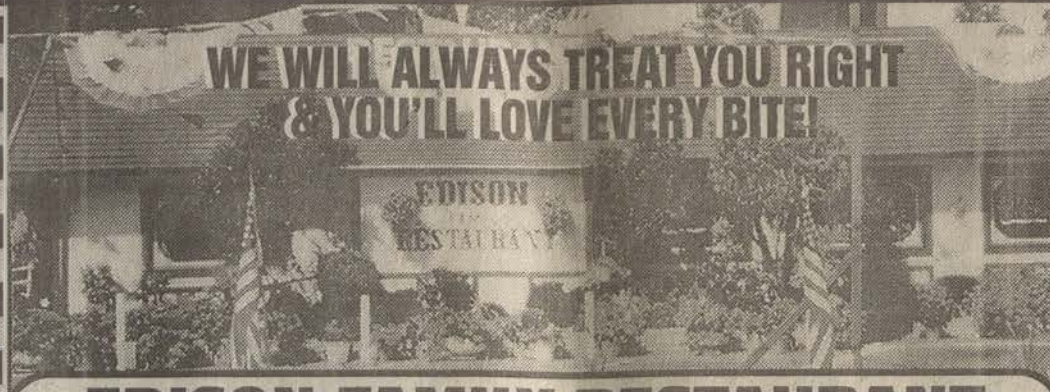
### BUY ONE GET ONE BREAKFAST FREE

(OF EQUAL VALUE)

Limit \$5 Good Monday-Friday • Expires 4/20/2002



**Breakfast Specialties**  
**World's Best Hot Cooked Oatmeal & Farina**



## EDISON FAMILY RESTAURANT

### A Great Place To Eat & Meet

1900 Oak Tree Road • Edison, NJ

732-906-2272

Open 6am to 3pm • 7 Days a Week

FREE Cup of Soup with Lunch • FREE Soda Refills

## 4 QUARTS OF DELICIOUS HOMEMADE SOUP

\$10

Limit 1 coupon per visit.  
 Cannot be combined.  
 Limit 1 Free Quart of Soup.  
 Expires 4/20/2002

## Home of The World's Best Homemade Soups!

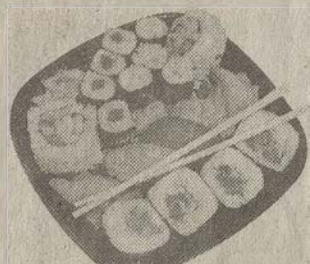
### Scratch Has No Match!

Chunky Chicken Noodle • Lentil • Beef Barley  
 Split Pea • Lobster Bisque • Matzoh Ball  
 Potato Leek • Lima Bean • Chicken Egg Drop  
 Cream of Broccoli • Cream of Spinach • Plus ....

\$3.50 quart

## GRAND OPENING

### World Class Sushi Bar



Rolls  
 Sushi  
 Sashimi  
 Myung Dong  
 Hand Rolls  
 Table D Hote  
 Marinated  
 Barbecue

명동 순두부  
 明洞純豆腐  
 HEALTHY TOFU RESTAURANT

558 Old Post Road  
 Edison, New Jersey  
 732-287-3353 • 732-287-3354  
 11:30am - 10:30pm

## Rick & Bill's CORNER PUB

Good Friends  
 Good Food  
 Good Place

2 Pool Tables &amp; 8 TV's!

2220 Woodbridge Avenue • Edison

732-985-8811

If You Love  
 NASCAR  
 You'll Love

## Rick & Bill's CORNER PUB

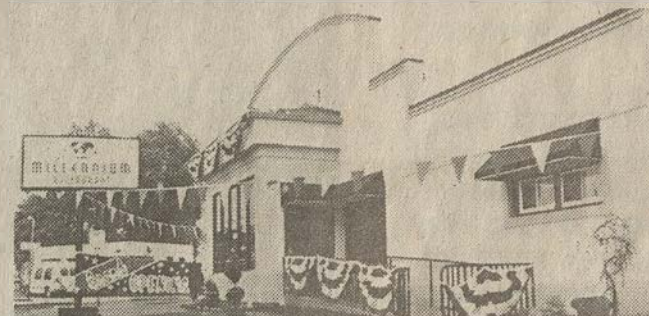
Good Friends  
 Good Food  
 Good Place

2 Pool Tables &amp; 8 TV's!

2220 Woodbridge Avenue • Edison

732-985-8811

## MILLENNIUM RESTAURANT



Our menu offers the variety to please every taste, from light fare, including appetizers, sandwiches and salads, to our extensive selection of continental and chefs specials. come and experience our unique ambiance

serving breakfast, lunch and dinner  
 full bar • children's menu available

### Special Easter Menu

3126 Woodbridge Avenue  
 Edison, New Jersey

(732) 738-4411 • (732) 738-0506 fax  
 Mon.-Fri. 11am-11pm • Sat. & Sun. 9am-11pm  
 all credit cards

Bringing you taste of  
 Hyderabad . . .

## Deccani

Authentic Hyderabad Cuisine

Food From the Fabled Land  
 of Hyderabad (Deccan), India

Biryanis • Kebaabs  
 Haleem • Lukmi  
 Baghara Baingan  
 Mirchi-ka-Salan  
 Double-ka-Meetha  
 Khubani-ka-Meetha  
 & Much More . . . .

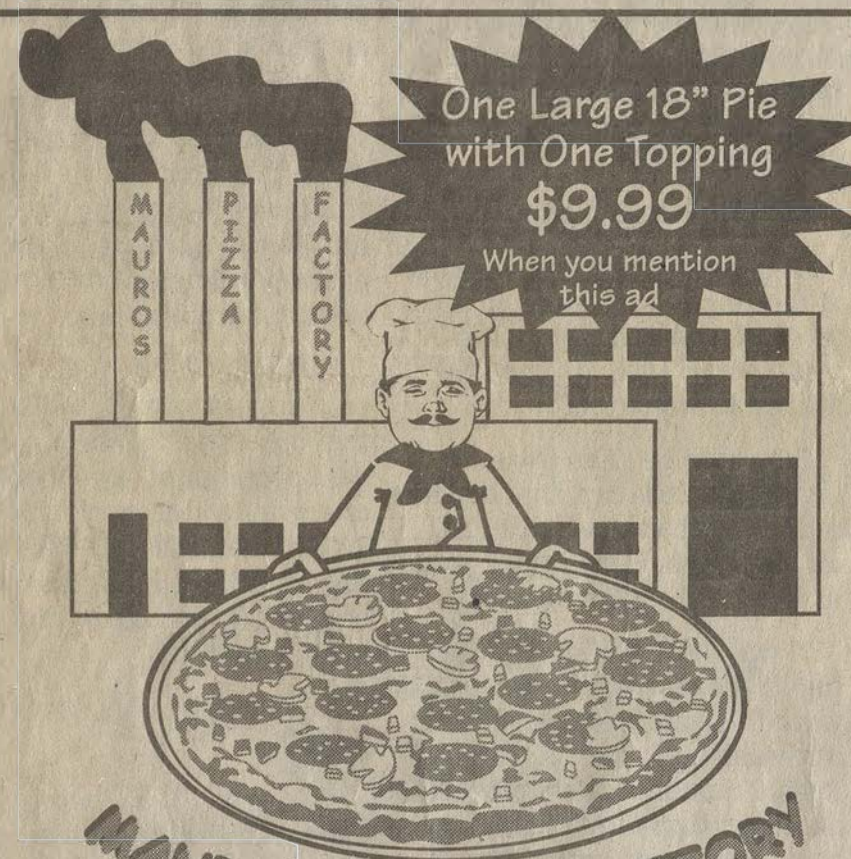
Also Visit Our  
 Exclusive  
 Vegetarian  
 Restaurant  
 Next Door



691 Rt. 1 South & Wooding Ave.  
 Edison, NJ

(Former Madra Gardens/Mothi Mahal location)  
 732-819-9110 • 732-819-0404

email: dndfoods@yahoo.com



One Large 18" Pie  
 with One Topping  
 \$9.99  
 When you mention  
 this ad

## MAURO'S PIZZA FACTORY

Catering Available  
 for All Occasions

2849 Woodbridge Avenue  
 EDISON, NEW JERSEY  
 (Corner of Main Street in the Victorian Plaza)

732-548-2020

Fax 732-548-2058

### FREE Delivery

\$7.00 minimum charge

### Business Hours

Mon-Thurs: 10am - 10pm

Fri &amp; Sat: 10am - 11pm

Sunday Closed

We Accept:



## PAPA JOE'S CATERING

(Formerly Italian Touch Catering)

732-321-4005



10% OFF

Any Catering Order  
 Booked before 5/8/02

### Affordable Catering Off Premise Specialist

Anniversaries, Showers, Christenings  
 Communion, Graduations, Birthdays

### Business & Lunch Meetings

Ask Joe About Special Requests  
 Short Notice Catering Okay!

HOT BUFFET \$8.95 per person, min. 25

• Choice of 2 Pasta Dishes • Choice of 2 Chicken Dishes  
 • Choice of 2 Side Dishes

HOT &amp; COLD BUFFET \$9.95 per person, min. 25

• Choice of 6" Sub or Cold Cut Platter • Choice of 2 Pasta Dishes  
 • Choice of 1 Chicken Dish • Choice of 2 Side Dishes

DELUXE HOT BUFFET \$10.95 per person, min. 25

• Choice of 2 Pasta Dishes • Choice of 1 Chicken Dish  
 • Choice of 1 Veal/Shrimp Dish • Choice of 2 Side Dishes

HOT &amp; COLD DELUXE \$11.95 per person, min. 25

• Choice of 6" Sub or Cold Cut Platter • Choice of 2 Pasta Dishes  
 • Choice of 1 Chicken Dish • Choice of 1 Veal/Shrimp Dish • Choice of 2 Side Dishes  
 All Buffets include choice of Tossed Salad or Caesar Salad, Bread & Butter

Hot &amp; Cold Buffets • Baked Dishes • Pastas

Entrees • Party Platters • Salads • 3-6 Ft Subs

ALL MADE FROM THE FRESHEST INGREDIENTS!

## GRAND OPENING OF OUR WOODBRIDGE STORE



### Garden Farm Market

927 West Kelly Street • Woodbridge, NJ

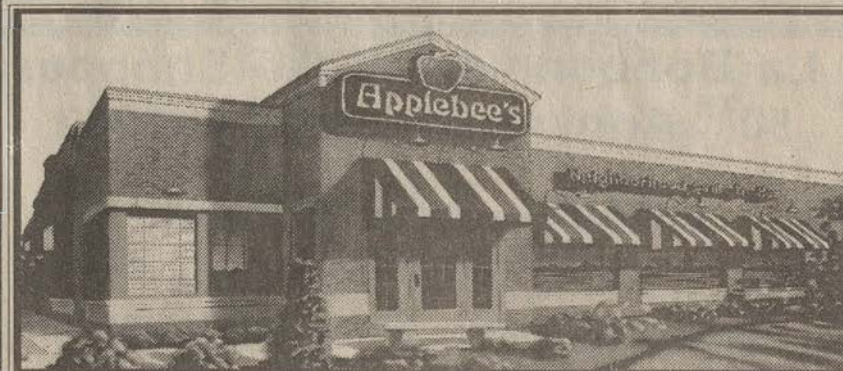
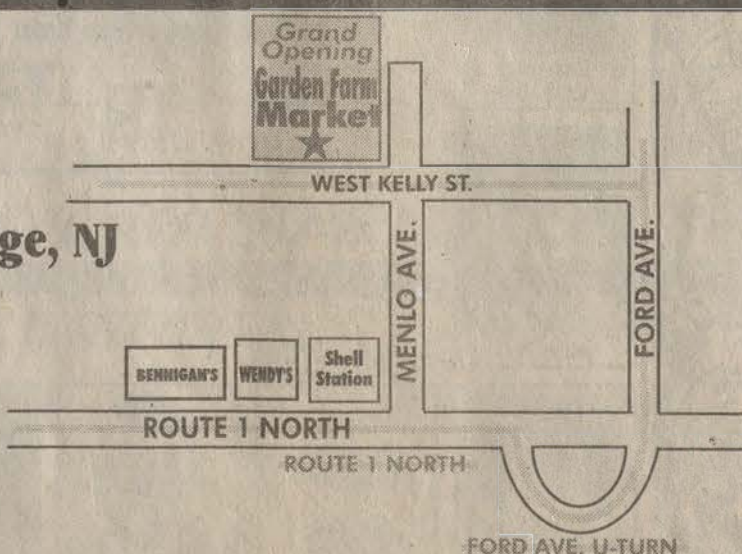
732-906-0506

732-906-0507

Fax 732-906-0985

We Serve the Wholesale Industry

OPEN 8 AM - 8PM • SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



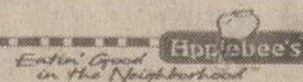
Join Us To See Why We Are "America's Favorite Neighbor"

Take your taste buds to their favorite place—

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill &amp; Bar.

We're cooking up sizzling fajitas, delicious burgers and sandwiches, and our famous hickory-smoked Ribslets. We have a variety of salads, neighborhood specialties, sirloin steaks, a complete children's menu, and a full-service bar. And...top off your meal with one of our irresistible desserts. So stop by for lunch, dinner, a snack, drinks, or dessert. You'll feel right at home at Applebee's! Join Us Today!

Edison Crossroads, Route 1 South At I-287, EDISON  
 732-516-0040





# Continuing a legacy of service

By JOSEE VALCOURT  
STAFF WRITER

Richard Hale lives on Buchanan Road. It's a quaint neighborhood, with just enough rural remnants to show what the township once looked like.

A sudden breeze sends a mound of leaves scattering in various directions under sunny skies. About a block away from Hale's ranch-style home is a pond surrounded by a wooden fence. Birds flit from one tree to another, offering a noisy, chirping backdrop.

Years ago, Raritan Township was all gravel and dirt roads, says the 79-year-old Hale, who is the former chairman and chief executive officer of Halecrest Co. Among the company's holdings are construction, real estate development, energy, mining, manufacturing and material-supply firms.

"The township changed tremendously. When I was a boy, there were largely farm and wooded areas," he says. "I went to Oak Tree School. We had a horse and wagon that took us to school."

"My father was Edison's first mayor," he says.

W. Robert Hale was popular among his constituents, and was the first mayor to serve — from 1922-24 — in the Edison Borough Hall, Hale says. He would later serve 25 years on the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders, 15 years as its director.

Hale says he met Thomas Edison when a ceremony was conducted for the unveiling of the Edison Memorial Tower in 1937.

"I was just a little guy, but I was more interested in rolling down the grass behind the memorial," he says.

Hale recalls days when residents had to use the Metuchen Post Office because Edison didn't have one.

The township also didn't have its own public high school until 1956, when Thomas A. Edison High School opened. Until then many students, Hale being one of them, went to Metuchen High School.

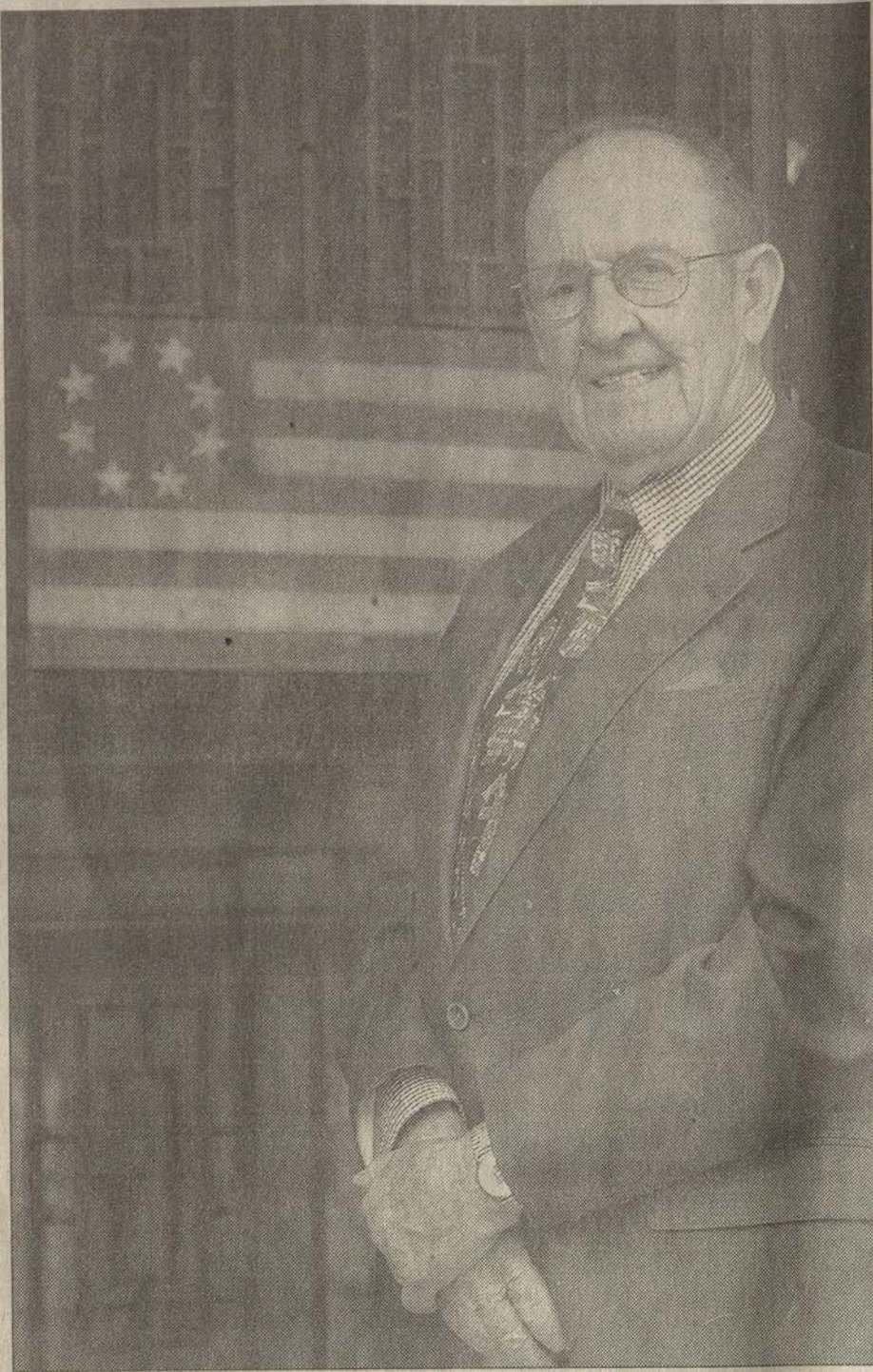
The manufacturing plants that have become synonymous with the township were all built within the last 20 to 30 years, Hale says.

"It's hard for me to believe because I use to ride horseback in all these areas that now have manufacturing facilities."

He stayed in the township because of his company, a business he and his brother Philip started in 1951. They began as paving contractors, mostly for driveways and small parking lots.

Hale, who'd served in the Army as an infantry officer during World War II, also served in the Korean War, fighting on the front line as company commander.

In the years after Halecrest's inception, the brothers opened



DICK COSTELLO/Staff photographer

■ Although he and his brother founded a major corporation involved in construction, energy, and manufacturing, Richard Hale sees much of what he does as carrying on the legacy of service left by his father.

**NAME:** Richard Hale.  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Edison.  
**AGE:** 79.  
**FAMILY:** Wife, Ruth; sons, Robert, Scott and Greg; daughter, Susan.  
**OCCUPATION:** Businessman.  
**EDUCATION:** Rutgers University, bachelor of science and master of science degrees.  
**CIVIC AWARDS:** George H. Cook award in 1997; Construction Man of the Year in 1975; inducted into the "Rut-

gers Hall of Distinguished Alumni" in 1997.  
**FAVORITE BOOK:** "Hawaii" by James A. Michener.  
**MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT:** "When a polo pony I was riding halted, and I flew into a pile of manure."  
**FAVORITE MEAL:** Steak and lobster.  
**FANTASY VACATION:** The world!  
**HOBBIES:** Playing golf, supporting Rutgers University.

facilities in other counties but eventually sold all of them because the industry weakened.

He says for 20 years, Halecrest sponsored radio broadcasts of Rutgers University's football team. Hale bought 60 season tickets a year and gave them away.

"People use to think that I sponsored Rutgers for free tickets," he says. Purchasing the large quantity made him the largest ticket buyer in Rutgers' history, he says.

He has remained dedicated to Rutgers, of which he is an alumnus, and some of this loyalty stems from the days when his father, a man he describes as loyal, worked closely with the university. That work in-

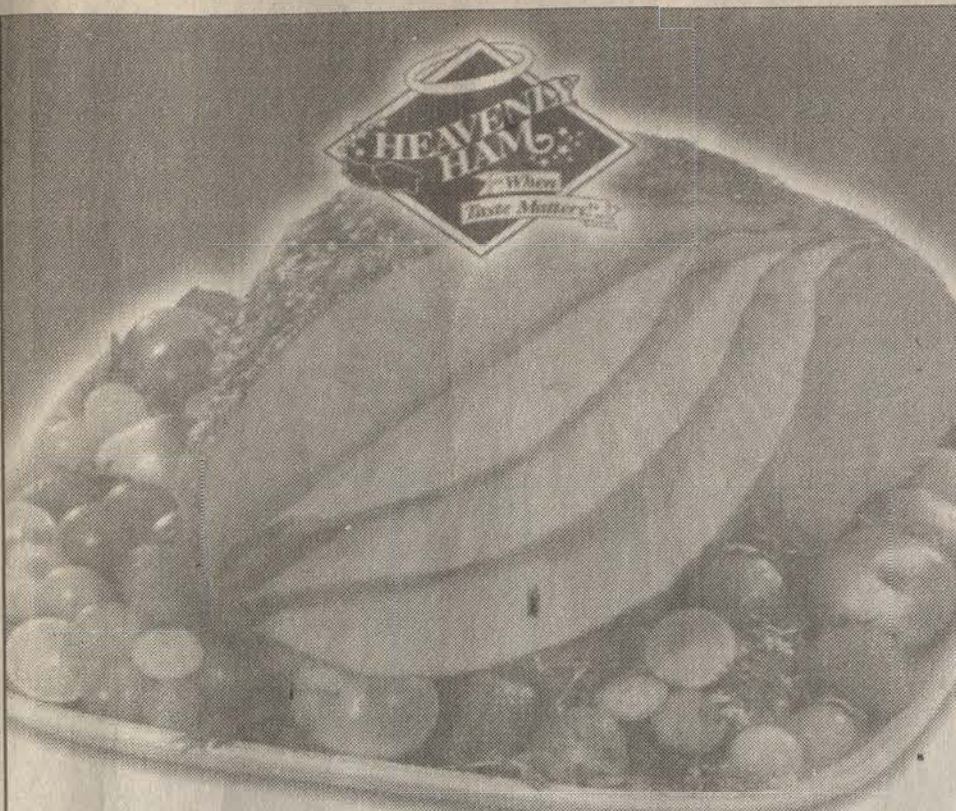
cluded lobbying in Washington, D.C., for funds to build the new stadium at Rutgers.

Hale's dedication over the years has not only bought on nicknames such as "Rutgers Sophomore" and "Mr. Rah! Rah! for Rutgers," but also fame in bricks-and-mortar. In 1987, the university named its new athletic-training complex on River Road the Hale Center.

Despite losing a daughter to Lou Gehrig's disease, he says life has been good. He and his wife, Ruth, have custody of their daughter's two children.

"We've been very blessed, and we have no complaints. We have much to be thankful for," he says.

Josee Valcourt: (732) 565-7259; e-mail valcourt@thnt.com



*Easter ... The Perfect Day  
For Something Heavenly*

**FREE**

1/2 pound of Ham or Turkey Salad with purchase of Half or Whole Ham

1197 Amboy Ave.  
Edison, NJ 08837  
Phone: 732-452-0039  
Fax: 732-452-0441

www.heavenlyham.com  
Not valid with any other offer.  
Good at participating stores only.

**\$3.00 off**

Ham or Turkey,  
5 Pounds or more.

1197 Amboy Ave.  
Edison, NJ 08837  
Phone: 732-452-0039  
Fax: 732-452-0441

www.heavenlyham.com  
Not valid with any other offer.  
Good at participating stores only.



**Main Street Realty**

www.century21mainstreet.com



Century 21 Main St. Realty is one of the fastest growing Real Estate organizations in Middlesex and Union Counties with 3 offices to serve you. We were voted the "Best of the Best" in 2000 and 2001. We specialize in handling all aspects of any kind of real estate transactions. We have a Commercial Division that takes care of investments, Sales and Leasing. Our trained professionals are abreast of the changing Real Estate Market.

**Don't Delay Call Us Today!!**

2077 Oak Tree Road Edison, NJ (732) 549-9000 (866) 290-9000	239 Main Street Woodbridge, NJ (732) 750-4663 (800) 334-8889	498 Inman Ave. Colonia, NJ (732) 815-2100 (800) 706-8889
--	---	---

Each office is independently owned and operated. 2001 Century 21 Real Estate Corporation is a trademark and servicemark of Century 21 Real Estate Corporation. Equal housing opportunity.



**Your Easter Gift Center**

**BELL DRUGS & GIFTS**

1907 Route 27 • Edison • 732-985-1211

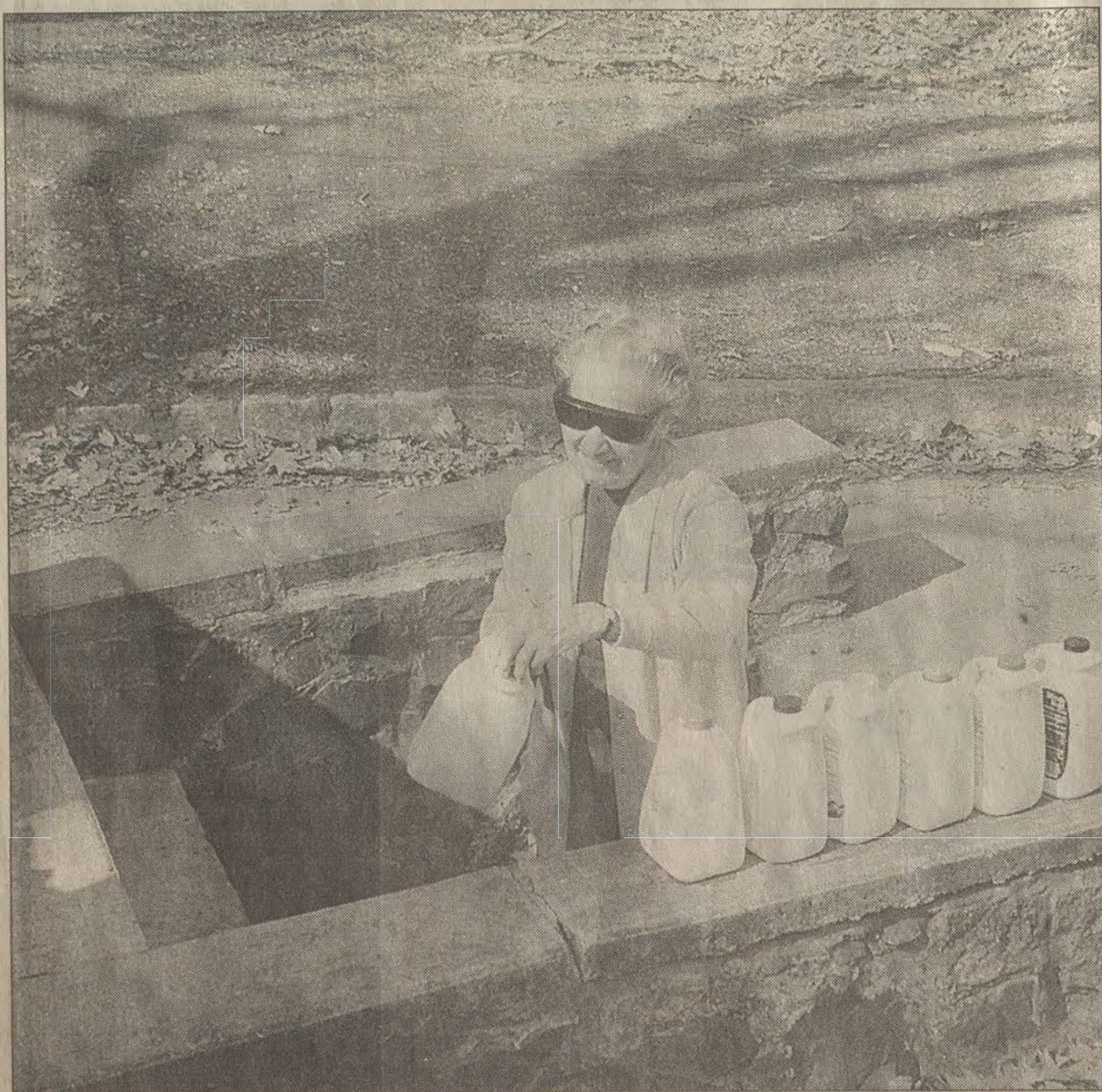
open 7 days a week  
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-9:30 • Sat. 9-7 • Sun. 9-5

Hallmark Cards • Unique Gifts  
Cherished Teddies • Boyds Bears Plush  
Precious Moments  
Anheuser Busch Collectable Steins  
Russell Stover Candies • Sugar Free Candy  
Assortment of Vitamins

**Excellence  
In Pharmacy**

Your Neighborhood Pharmacy For Over 50 Years!

## COOL, CLEAR WATER



DICK COSTELLO/Staff photographer

■ Some folks get their water from the tap. But for nearly 30 years, Ida Newman of Woodbridge has made the trek to get buckets — or bottles — of clean, pure spring water from Edison's Roosevelt Park. It sure beats having that thingee attached to the kitchen water spigot.

## Is Incontinence Limiting Your Life?

Frequent, sudden urges to go to the bathroom, often having to go more than 8 times a day, sometimes not getting to the bathroom in time - these may be signs of an overactive bladder. It is not an inevitable part of aging. We can offer you all the latest treatments that can help. To find out more, call in confidence to our nurse specialists, who are specially trained to answer your questions. Or call for your FREE informative brochure. We participate in most insurance plans. Call and let us help you navigate the maze of most managed care plans.

The  
Center  
for  
Bladder  
Control

**UROLOGICAL  
SURGICAL  
ASSOCIATES, P.A.**

The  
Men's  
Health  
Center  
of  
New Jersey

732-607-1057

10 Parsonage Road, Suite 118, Edison • 3 Hospital Plaza, Suite 200, Old Bridge • Fax: 732-679-2077  
E-mail: mhc@www.website.com • Web: www.website.com/mhc  
Serving Central N.J. for over 30 years  
An affiliate of Urological Surgical Associates P.A.

## IMPOTENCE

### What Is It?

Impotence is the inability to attain and maintain an erection that is firm enough for satisfactory sexual intercourse. Impotence can occur at any age but the medical conditions associated with aging make it more prevalent as men grow older. Impotence occurs in 10% of men over 40, in 25% of men over 65, and in 75% of those over 80.

### What Causes It?

Impotence can be caused by a variety of conditions by interfering with the nerve impulses or blood flow to the penis. They include: medications, diabetes, cardiovascular problems, neurological disorders, alcoholism or cigarette smoking.

### It Can Be Diagnosed and Treated!

Most cases are caused by a physical disorder and many treatments are available. There is no longer any reason to let impotence cause tension or embarrassment. Nearly every man who experiences this problem can be helped, usually without surgery.

### The Odds Are In Your Favor- 99% Can Be Helped

The Men's Health Center of New Jersey specializes in the evaluation and treatment of impotence, premature ejaculation and diminished sexual desire. Our goal is to provide you with the best care possible in these sensitive matters, based on our expertise and true concern for your well-being.



# Modern-day Genghis Khan fights for his township

By RICK MALWITZ  
STAFF WRITER

Soon after Edison completed a 1987 re-evaluation for the purpose of assigning homeowners their local property taxes, Jim Kukor attended a council meeting.

"A woman, Dee Brugieur. As God is my witness, she was 80. She got up and complained. Somewhere out of left field (a township official) got up and said, 'If you don't like it, then leave Edison,'" Kukor recalls.

He remembers reprimanding the official: "You wouldn't talk to your mother like that. I said to the council, 'You're not fit to govern pigs.'"

According to Kukor's thinking, if Dee Brugieur had not spoken up, and been told she could move out of Edison, "Then," he tells a reporter, "You wouldn't be here talking to me."

That moment in 1987 marked Kukor's entry into local politics. Since the Democrat Party already ruled the township, he joined the Republican Party. He ran for mayor in 1989 and again in 1991, losing by 444 votes to Democrat Sam Convery.

Forget City Hall, he reckoned. He abandoned the Republican Party — "Party loyalty is blind loyalty, and the only place for blind loyalty is military loyalty on the battlefield" — and ran for the Board of Education in 1999. This time he was a winner and is proud of a newspaper headline that victory generated:

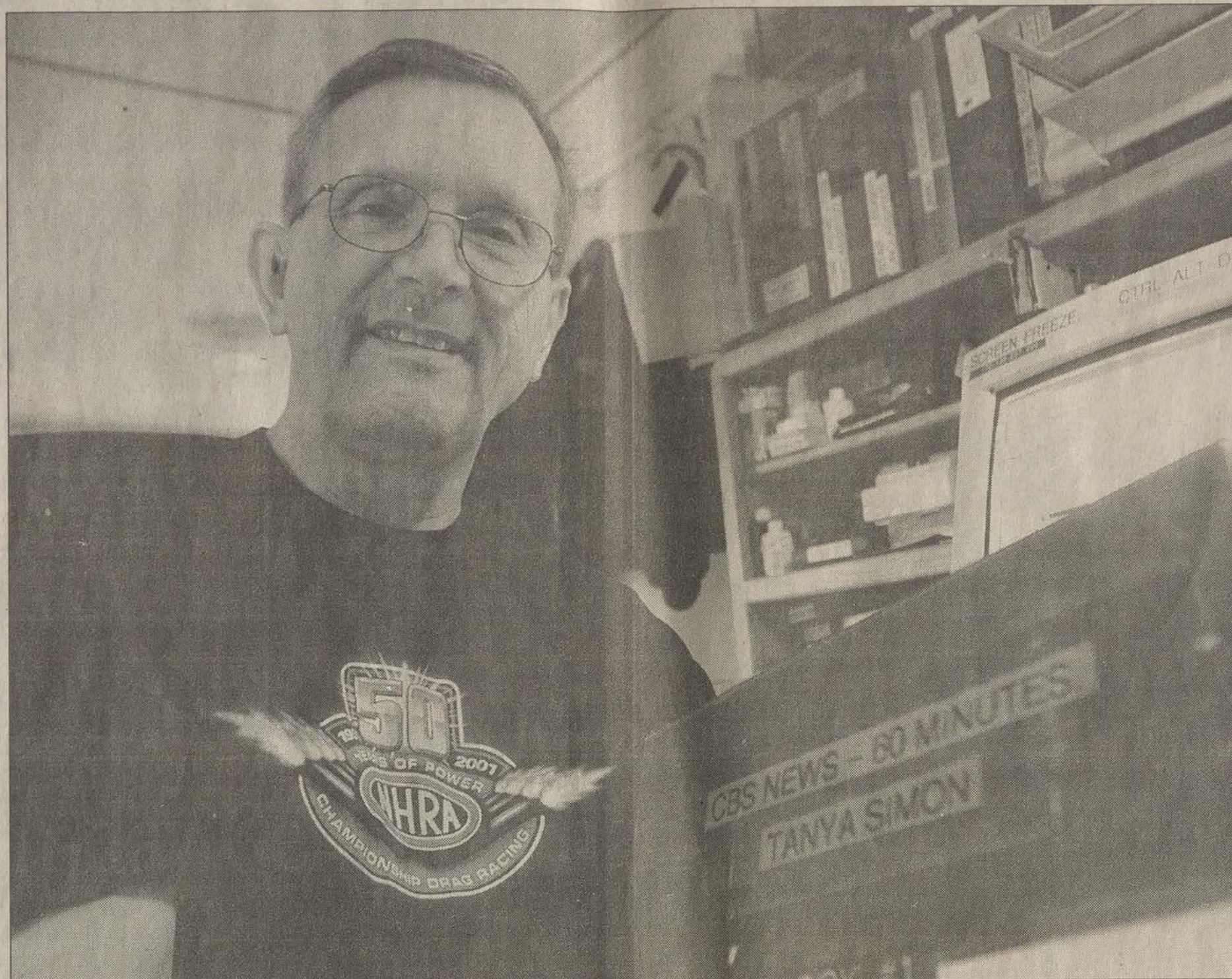
"Edison elects 'Atilla the Hun.'"

He loved it.

Kukor can trace his roots to 13th-century Hungary, and he's only just begun. He says he will not stop tracing his roots until he finds Genghis Khan in his family tree.

Kukor has worked on the railroad, sailed the seven seas for the Navy Seabees, prepared drag racers for competition, helped repair the World Trade Center after the 1993 bombing, got bumped from "60 Minutes" by the vice president of the United States and started a construction-management business.

His home is an apartment



■ Holy spooks! Jim Kukor once worked in a mystery country — he knew it was hot, but he didn't know it was Panama until he returned home.

DICK COSTELLO/Staff photographer

near Menlo Park Mall, cluttered with paperwork, scrapbooks, notebooks, racing jackets, model cars and, today, a sandwich for a late breakfast/early lunch.

When Kukor says something, he has paperwork to prove his point, in piles and files throughout the apartment. "This is nothing more than the same documentation I would have for a \$30 million construction project."

Kukor was raised in South River and went to St. Peter's Prep in New Brunswick. After studying engineering at the University of Dayton in Ohio for five semesters, he went to work with divisions of Johnson & Johnson, before getting a job with the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

"The best job I ever had. I

loved it," he says of his seven years with the railroad.

That job vanished when the railroad was absorbed by Conrail, and he was short on seniority: "I didn't have enough stripes."

He joined the Seabees, and after one year of active duty, he served in the reserves for seven years. He loved that, too. "Construction under adverse conditions. The Seabees have a can-do spirit. Loved it," says Kukor, in a manner of speaking he describes, accurately, as "flamethrower."

He tells a story about an assignment to a Central American nation whose identity was purposely kept secret from the men assigned the job.

He wondered where he was.

He placed collect calls home, and eventually learned where

he had been when his telephone bill recorded calls from Panama.

How exactly he ended up in Panama is a long story, which he tells with precise dates, precise identity of aircraft and exact initials as they appeared on the vast paperwork that followed him to and from Panama. This was two decades ago.

Told his memory was extraordinary, he says he knows. "When you do something interesting you remember all the details. Everything I've done has been interesting. Life is not a destination, it's a journey. Enjoy the journey."

In addition to his own business, he is a member of a carpenter's union, which is how he was assigned work repairing the garage area of the World Trade Center. The thinking of

the terrorists then was flawed, he realized. "They attacked the strongest part of the structure."

As a construction manager, Kukor has supervised projects throughout New Jersey. His favorite project by far was working on the Vietnam Memorial at the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel.

"That was my labor of love," says Kukor, who remembers how he finished laying bricks at 2:30 a.m. on May 7, 1995, the day the memorial was dedicated.

As a rabble-rouser his most memorable effort was assisting producers of "60 Minutes" in preparing a piece about the former head of internal affairs of the police department accusing the department of misconduct.

People from "60 Minutes" spent two hours at his apartment, and, in exchange for his

**NAME:** James M. Kukor.  
**BORN:** Nov. 3, 1947, at 90 Lewis Street in New Brunswick.  
**FAMILY:** Wife is Linda; son is Shaun; daughter is Kimberly.  
**EDUCATION:** Graduated from St. Peter's Prep, attended University of Dayton.  
**MILITARY SERVICE:** Nine years reserve duty with the U.S. Navy Seabees.  
**FAVORITE TELEVISION VIEWING:** The History Channel.  
**FAVORITE BOOK:** "Leadership Secrets of Atilla the Hun" by Wess Roberts.  
**FAVORITE DINNER:** Lasagne.  
**FANTASY DINNER-PARTY GUESTS:** Winston Churchill, Theodore Roosevelt, H. Norman Schwartzkopf.  
**FAVORITE VACATION SPOTS:** Any drag racing track in America.  
**HOBBY:** Drag racing.  
**ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:** "Stay in school. Don't let anybody tell you cannot do anything."

help, he was assured a portion of the interview would air ... unless something came up. Something came up.

The segment aired the first week in December 2000, when the presidential election was held up by the vote count in Florida. That day Lesley Stahl landed an exclusive interview with presidential contender Al Gore, forcing the segment on Edison to be shortened. "They said it took the vice president to bump me," he says.

His off-hours passion is drag racing, a passion he realized he has when he was 15, and, he recalls, "I wanted to drive fast."

He is a fuel-management specialist for major drag-racing teams and an occasional test driver. He recently tested a dragster in California, and, naturally, knows exactly how fast he went: "I reached 262 (miles per hour) at 3.084 (seconds) doing a 4.67 (quarter mile)."

Is that the fastest?

Not exactly. He reached 321 miles per hour testing a nitro funny car at Raceway Park in Old Bridge.

"I'm intense," says Kukor, which could apply to his speech, his politics, his hobby or his can-do nature.

"Someone said I run off my mouth Mach 4, with my hair on fire."

Rick Malwitz (732) 565-7327;  
e-mail rmalwitz@thnt.com

## "Your Neighborhood Realtor"

**Debbie Jacobs**  
**REALTY, INC.**

732-548-4300

COMPLIMENTARY  
MARKET  
ANALYSIS  
CERTIFICATE

"Your  
Neighborhood  
Realtor"®



Main and Amboy • Metuchen, NJ  
732-548-4300 • www.debbiejacobs.com



## BEST CRUISES

**BEST PRICES • BEST SERVICE**  
**ALL CRUISE LINES • ALL SHIPS**

Carnival

Holland America

NORWEGIAN CRUISES

Celebrity Cruises

Royal Caribbean International

PRINCESS CRUISES

**We meet or beat any published price**  
**Edison, NJ • Open 7 Days**  
**Over 25,000 Satisfied Clients!**  
**(732)248-2378 • (800)576-2378**  
**www.bestcruises.com**

## Car Accident Recently?

EDISON, N.J. — A new free report has recently been released that reveals information every car accident victim should have before they speak to anyone. Research shows that even a "fender bender" can cause pain, headaches, even arthritis. Many car accident victims worry more about their car than they do their rights. If you have been involved in an auto accident listen to the 24 toll-free recorded message by calling 1-800-617-7836. The call is free and so is the report.  
**ORG Injury Center**

## We Know Middlesex County.

The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Metuchen Office  
**Sold and Closed Over 500 Transactions in 2001.**

When it is time to make your next move into and out of the Middlesex County area, call on Coldwell Banker. Our professionally trained, multi-lingual staff will be available to assist you. Expect the highest quality real estate service from the area leader—expect more from Coldwell Banker.

Call us 7 days a week--  
**(732) 494-7700**

Metuchen Office  
40 Middlesex Avenue  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840  
www.nymetro.coldwellbanker.com • www.coldwellbanker.com



©2002 Coldwell Banker Corporation. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark of Coldwell Banker Corporation. An Equal Opportunity Company.  
Equal Housing Opportunity. Independently Owned and Operated by NRE, Incorporated.

## Beyond Cellular Communications

1803 Rt. 27 S. Edison, NJ 08817

tel: 732-339-0770  
fax: 732-339-0772  
Hours: M-Sat. 10-7pm  
Sun. 12-5pm

**FREE**



Please  
Mention  
Ad for  
Special!

**Nokia 3360**

**cingular**  
WIRELESS  
Authorized Agent

**NATIONAL PLAN**

**\$29.99** per month  
or  
**\$39.99** per month

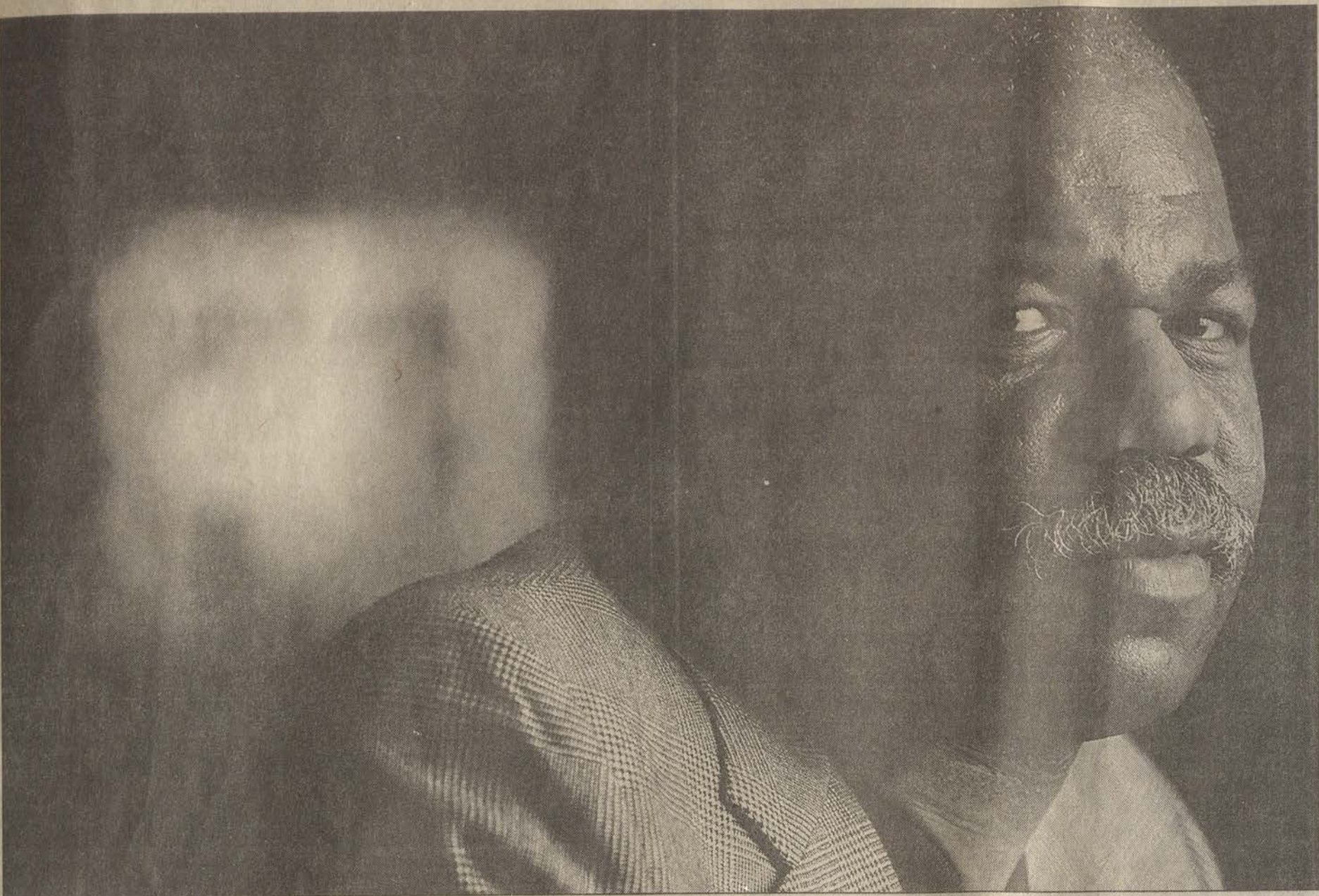
250 anytime minutes  
FREE 3500 nights & weekend

350 anytime minutes  
FREE 3500 nights & weekend

**FREE Roaming & Long Distance in U.S.**

**Free car charger, leather case, hands free, antenna booster**  
Limited time offer. Offer expires 3/31/02. Plans and promotional phone require credit approval, activation and a 1 or 2 year contract. Early termination and activation fees apply. Package minutes and bonus night and weekend minutes apply to calls made or received within respective local, regional, or national calling area. Airtime in excess of any package minutes will be charged at a per minute rate of \$15 to \$16. Compatible phone required. Airtime and other measured usage are rounded up to the next full minute at the end of each call for billing purposes. Unused minutes do not carry forward to the next billing period and are forfeited. Night hours are from 9:00 pm to 7:00 am Monday to Friday and weekend hours are 9:00 pm Friday to 7:00 am Monday. 3500 night and weekend minutes available on home plans \$29.99 and higher and select Cingular Region and Cingular Nation plans, and apply to calls made or received within respective local, regional, national calling area. All new Cingular rate plans include long distance. New plans are limited to the plans described in the current Cingular Rate Plan brochure. Included long distance applies to calls originating and terminating within the U.S. A-time charges apply. Calls subject to taxes, roaming, universal service charge, and other charges, which are subject to change. Other conditions and restrictions apply. See contract and store for details.





JASON TOWLEN/Staff photographer

■ On weekdays, he supervises programs at a community center. But Sundays will find John Richardson in the pulpit of the Mount Zion Unified Free Will Baptist Church.

# Looking for Potters Crossing? Ask minister-historian Richardson

By PAUL NELSON  
STAFF WRITER

There may be no better person to spread the word about the once predominantly black and vibrant Potters Crossing section of North Edison than John Richardson. The 52-year-old was born on what is now Grove Avenue, not far from where he now lives and an even shorter distance from where he works.

The married father of two quietly settles into his desk near the entrance of the Minnie B. Veal Community Center, where he's worked for the past two decades. He supervises the evening program there and also at the Stelton Community Center on the other side of town.

He busily works the telephone trying to finalize arrangements for a planned trip to Great Adventure amusement park for teen-agers. He then turns his attention to completing the necessary paperwork for a summer tennis program the center sponsors for youngsters.

Most of the first two hours of Richardson's work day, which begins at 2 p.m., is typically devoted to administrative business. After that, he will supervise activities in the gymnasium and game room and monitor the goings-on in the weight room. He will also help set up the three community rooms for nighttime meetings.

"The job allows me to interact with every racial and cultural group in Edison," says Richardson, noting he's made a lot of friends and associates

during his 20 years on the job. "It's a pressure-free environment where people get together and interact."

He likens the two community centers to a "public commons" where people from various sections of the Edison community come together and interact.

Richardson, who considers himself "very spiritual," is a minister at Mount Zion Unified Free Will Baptist Church, where he also serves as superintendent of the Sunday school.

"In the black community, churches are going through a major transition. What you see is a lot of churches making adjustments to meet the spiritual needs of the community," Richardson says.

Mount Zion, which is celebrating its 84th anniversary, offers a day-care center, distributes used computers to needy township residents and is developing athletic and social programs for youngsters in the local area.

Richardson is a product of the Edison school system. He graduated from J. P. Stevens High School in 1968. He knows many of the old-timers and newcomers to the area. And with his historical archive — Potters Project — and presentations about Potters Crossing at area schools and organizations, he continues to do all he can to keep alive the memory of the community.

A collection of pictures, the project captures the life and times of some of the area's personalities and chronicles the dramatic changes Potters Crossing has undergone.

In addition to the well-kept homes that were once a staple of the community, Potters Crossing also boasted at least 20 black-owned businesses and what Richardson contends was the first all-black volunteer fire department in New Jersey during its heyday in the early to mid-1900s.

Much of that rich history has largely been ignored or was lost during the mid-1950s, when the area was targeted for redevelopment by township officials, says Richardson.

"Most people have a stereotypical view of Potters Crossing as a shack-and-dirt road when in actuality it was a vibrant, growing, self-contained community," Richardson says. "Today Potters Crossing is some of the most valuable land in Edison and Central New Jersey."

During his spare time, Richardson, an avid chess player, likes to relax by writing short stories and poems — or what he likes to refer as "streams of thought."

"For me, it just flows, and I like to capture it as it flows."

Paul Nelson: (732) 565-7336; e-mail pnelson@thnt.com



DICK COSTELLO/Staff photographer

■ On this warm winter day, Sativa gets all gussied up for her big date with her friend Ruffus. Her companion, Frank Serio of Edison, makes sure her coif is perfect as they enjoy the great surroundings of Roosevelt Park.

Diversified Benefits Corporation  
**Dental CALL**  
The Nation's Largest Dental Plan

Orthodontics.....	COVERED
Root Canal.....	COVERED
Caps, Crowns.....	COVERED
Cleanings.....	COVERED
Periodontics.....	COVERED
Oral Surgery.....	COVERED
ANY DENTAL PROCEDURE YOU CAN THINK OF.....	COVERED

• \$89 Per Year • You Choose Your Own Dentist  
• No Waiting Period • No Pre-Existing Condition Clause  
Mention this ad and get a FREE UPGRADE to our PLUS PLAN  
**1-800-525-9313 • 732-225-0223**  
COMING SOON:  
Physician Plan, Hospital Plan & Veterinarian Plan. Call for Details

**Gosselin**  
FUNERAL HOME INC

Family Owned & Managed 37 Years

**381-5858**

- Serving All Faiths
- Member - NJ Prepaid Funeral Trust Fund & Insurance
- Cremation Services • Pre-Arrangements
- Licensed Grief Counselor on Staff
- Available 24 Hours • Ample Parking

**Armand J Gosselin** 1927 (Founder) 1987  
**Mary Ann Gosselin** (Manager)

**660 New Dover Road, Edison, NJ**  
COLONIA - EDISON - ISELIN

"If yours is a chiropractic case, I will tell you.  
If it is not I will tell you that, too..."

"Call me personally to find out how  
chiropractic care can help you."

Dr. Joseph Hudak

**Hudak Chiropractic**  
909 Amboy Avenue • Edison  
**732-661-0800**  
www.hudakchiro.com

**NEW PATIENT SPECIAL OFFER**  
**\$25.00** \$225 value no further obligation. Please call for an appointment with this coupon.

INCLUDES:  
Private Consultation with Doctor; Comprehensive  
Spinal Exam & Computerized Spinal Evaluation  
Not valid with other offers or prior purchases.  
Offer expires 4/30/02.

**Grand Re-Opening**  
Experience The Car Wash Revolution

**Menlo Park**  
& Detail Center

Route 1 & Parsonage Rd  
(Across from the Menlo Park Mall)  
**(732) 549-0658**

**Customer Appreciation**

Daily Programs	Frequent Cleaning Values
• Senior Citizens (65+) Every Mon - Fri	The more you wash your car the more you save!
• Ladies Day - Every Tuesday	<b>Menu Item</b> <b>Save Up To</b>
• Union Workers Day - Every Wednesday	Full Service Wash Save \$15.00
• Students Value Day - Every Thursday	Value Wash Save \$21.00
\$2.00 off any Full Service Wash or Money Saving Package for any Daily Program listed above.	Luxury & Supreme Wash Save \$30.00
<b>VIP Customer Savings Program</b> Return within 5 days with same vehicle \$2.00 off any Full Service Wash or Money Saving Package!	<b>Winterize your vehicle with our Detail Special!</b>
<b>Birthday Club</b> Free Full Service Wash on your Birthday! (For Pre-Registered Customers)	• Supreme Turtle Wax® Car Wash • Complete Interior Cleaning and Conditioning • Hand Applied Carnuba Wax Treatment <b>\$99.00</b> By Appointment Only Free Local Pick-up and Delivery Service

<b>\$2.00 OFF</b> Any Full Service Wash or Money Saving Package With Coupon, Not Valid With Other Offers. Coupon Valid 03/21/02 - 03/27/02	<b>\$2.00 OFF</b> Any Full Service Wash or Money Saving Package With Coupon, Not Valid With Other Offers. Coupon Valid 03/28/02 - 04/03/02	<b>\$2.00 OFF</b> Any Full Service Wash or Money Saving Package With Coupon, Not Valid With Other Offers. Coupon Valid 04/04/02 - 04/10/02
---	---	---

Experience the Warmth and Charm of  
*The Victorian Manor*

**Victorian Manor**

Classic ambience sets the scene at the Victorian Manor. Come experience our large indoor enclosed garden room, plus our newly designed outdoor Cinderella garden that creates the perfect setting for your special occasions.

2863 Woodbridge Avenue  
Edison, New Jersey 08837  
732.549.2859 • 732.548-2949 fax  
www.Victorian-Manor.com

**Lee Myler**  
TRANSMISSIONS  
in Edison

The most trusted name in Transmissions!

**TRANSMISSION PROTECTION SERVICE**  
(over a \$60 value)  
Includes: Changing Fluids • New Pan Gasket • Clean Screen • Adjust Band (where applicable) • Labor

**\$19.47**

FOR SAVINGS, USE THESE COUPONS AT THE EDISON LOCATION!

<b>FREE</b> (Foreign or Domestic) Road Test/Check for Leaks/Check Linkage/Critical Adjustments	<b>11 Point Diagnostic Check-up</b>	<b>\$75.00 OFF</b> Any Internal Transmission Repairs
--	-------------------------------------	---

**785 Route 1 South • Edison**  
1/2 Mile South of Ford Motor Co. on HWY 1 South, Next to Edison Generator (by the Upside Down Car) • Hours: Mon-Fri 8-6; Sat 8-1  
**(732) 985-6776 • 1-800-490-0086**

**Newspaper in Education**  
**Thank you!**  
to the businesses of Edison that provided newspapers to classrooms for  
**"A Day in the Life of Edison"**

**Sponsors:**

- A&T Builder Hardware Supply
- Advent Product & Development
- Accounting Principals
- Access Graphics
- Adecco
- Applebee's Restaurant
- Clarion
- Akbar Restaurant
- Boylan Funeral Home
- Acom Real Estate
- Goldstein Funeral Homes
- Rainforest Café
- Scruples Tanning Salon
- Hair For Now

**Help make a difference in local classrooms.**  
For information about this program, call the NIE Department at **(1800) 822-9770, ext. 7432.**

Proceeds benefit NIE, which promotes literacy by providing newspapers to schools as a teaching tool.

**NIE**  
Newspaper in Education



Truthfulness      Compassion      Forbearance

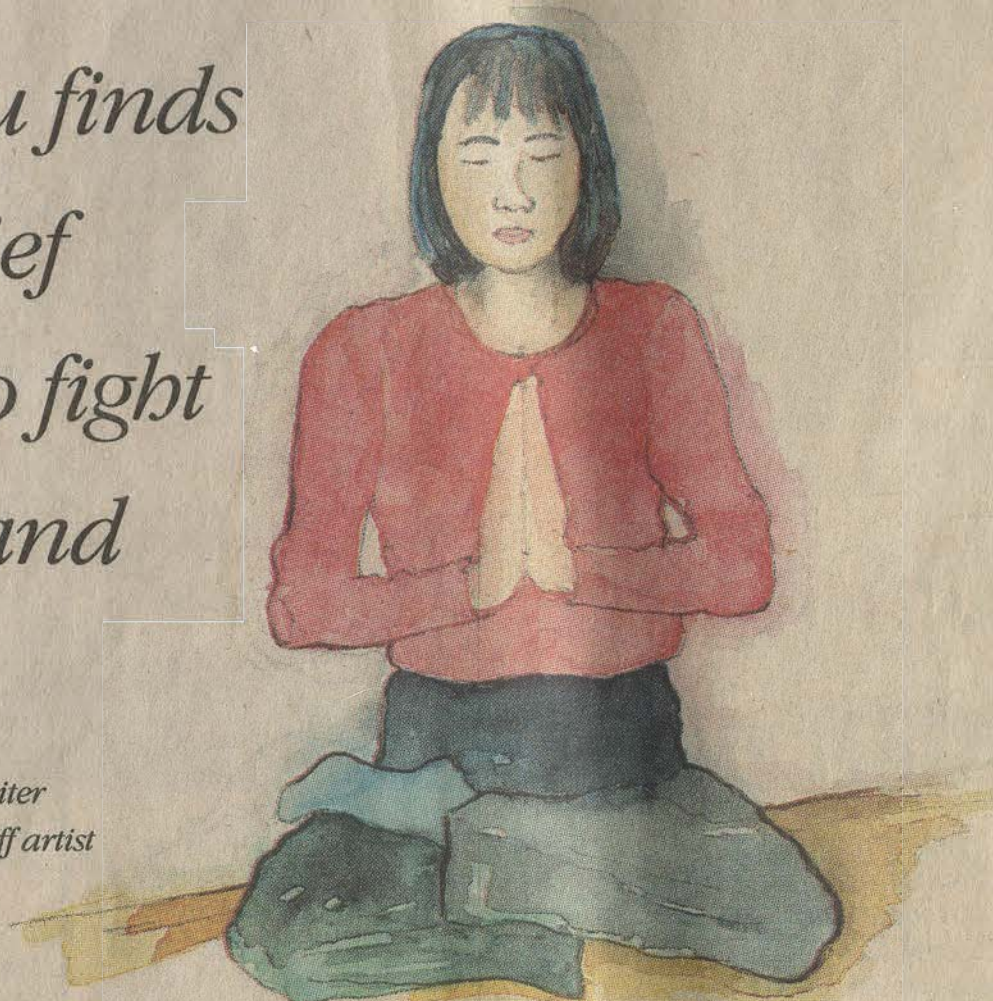
真善忍

# Compassion *in the heart*

*In America, Nelly Au finds  
freedom of belief  
and the freedom to fight  
for her native land*

Story by JENNIFER MICALE/Staff writer

Illustration by MARY CLARK LADD/Staff artist



**N**elly Au pulls her legs into the lotus position, then reaches over to hit a button on a small, black tape recorder. Ethereal music ripples through the carpeted sunroom as Au settles into a pose of reflective calm, her eyes closed.

The voices of an English-speaking woman and a Chinese-speaking man then rise over the atmospheric music, leading the Hong Kong native in her daily practice of Falun Gong. Au's hands dance in delicate gestures that seem to fill her Winnie Court home with tranquility.

"Hold compassion in the heart," the woman's voice quietly commands from the tape recorder.

Au, her eyes still closed, moves her arms up and out, reaching out before settling back to a restful position, hands resting palms-up before her.

For the last six years, Falun Gong has been a daily practice for Au, who came to the United States in 1981 and became a citizen in 1987. Also known as Falun Dafa, the practice combines meditation and simple movements with the principles of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance.

Introduced to China in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, the practice has drawn an estimated 100 million followers from around the world. It also has drawn intense opposition from China's communist government, which has beaten practitioners, sending them to labor camps and mental institutions.

Half a world away, Au does what she can to turn the tide of persecution. In addition to teaching free weekend classes at the North Edison Library, she visits various municipalities, urging their governing bodies to pass resolutions condemning the Chinese government for persecuting those who practice Falun Gong.

"We just want to let people know what's really happening in China," she says, an earnest look in her dark, kind eyes. "If I practice Falun Gong in China, I could lose my job."

And worse things.

She muses on the "brainwashing classes." The arrests. The allegations of torture. As a garment importer for a firm in New York City, she may be heading to mainland China for a business trip in the near future.

Growing up in Hong Kong under British rule, she was never personally subject to the totalitarian government of mainland China, which reclaimed the colony in 1997. She learned English in the British-run schools. Crammed into a 300-square-foot apartment with six family members, she learned the importance of sharing and togetherness.

She came to Queens, N.Y., two years after marrying Patrick Au, who also works in the garment-import business. They lived in Jersey City before moving to Edison in 1993. Along the way, they studied American history and were sworn in as citizens.

"I call myself American. I vote. Both China and America are equal to me," Au says, leaning over the kitchen table. Her bobbed black hair frames a face that looks far younger than its 47 years.

"I'm really happy and grateful I can live in America," she says with a soft smile. "In America, we have the freedom of belief and speech. This is something that is so precious, even if we don't feel it. The practitioners in China don't have that."

She first heard of Falun Gong from a Hong Kong export agent she met through her job. In his 40s, he suffered from severe pain in his legs. Western doctors could do nothing for him. Neither could practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine, who recommended Falun Gong. He took it up, and the pain disappeared.

Her friend sent her a tape from Hong Kong, and she began to practice at home. Through meditation, her job stress melted away. She

eventually convinced her husband of its benefits, and he took up Falun Gong himself in 1997.

On the walls of their home, they have hung colorful prints with the symbols of Falun Gong — colorful yin-yangs on a field of blue, surrounding the "wan," or swastika, an ancient good-luck symbol. (This symbol, while similar to the Nazi swastika, has its arms rotating counterclockwise.) Under it, are written the Chinese words "zhen," "shan" and "ren" — truth, compassion and forbearance.

While Au has practiced every morning for years, it was the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that inspired her to activism. It dawned on her that terrorism wasn't just limited to American soil. It needs to be stopped in all countries, including China, whose officially atheist government fears the movement's appeal, she says with a passionate spark in her eye.

And if her business trip should take her to mainland China, she won't compromise her principles or her practice.

"I'm not afraid to go," she says firmly. "I think the principles of Falun Gong really helped me a lot. Under no circumstances will I give it up. Even if I go to China, I shall stick to my beliefs."

"If they ask me if I practice Falun Gong, I will say yes," she concludes. "Humans have the dignity of truth."

Jennifer Micale: (732) 565-7217;  
e-mail jmicale@thnt.com

## I AM AN American

**NAME:** Nelly Au.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Hong Kong.

**AGE:** 47.

**FAMILY:** Husband is Patrick Au.

**OCCUPATION:** Works for a garment importer in New York City.

**EDUCATION:** She received a diploma in textile technology from Hong Kong Polytechnic.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** Teaches free Falun Gong classes at the North Edison library. She also gives free seminars in other towns and urges municipalities to pass resolutions condemning the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China.

**FAVORITE BOOK:** Zhuan Falun by Falun Gong founder Li Hongzhi. She's been reading it for 6 years

and says she always finds something new.

**BEST ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE:** "We have to be more tolerant and think more of others than ourselves."

**MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT:** Walking into a men's room.

**FANTASY DINNER-PARTY GUEST:** Li Hongzhi.

**FAVORITE MEAL:** Cantonese food, but she also likes Italian.

**FAVORITE VACATION:** Cancun.

**WOULD MOST LIKE TO GO TO:** Beijing.

**HOBBIES:** Dancing, karaoke.

**WHAT FALUN GONG HAS DONE FOR HER:** Relieved stress, brought calm and reduced the amount of sleep she needs each night.





**For Reference**

Not to be taken from this room

EDISON TW

Edison: History -  
1972

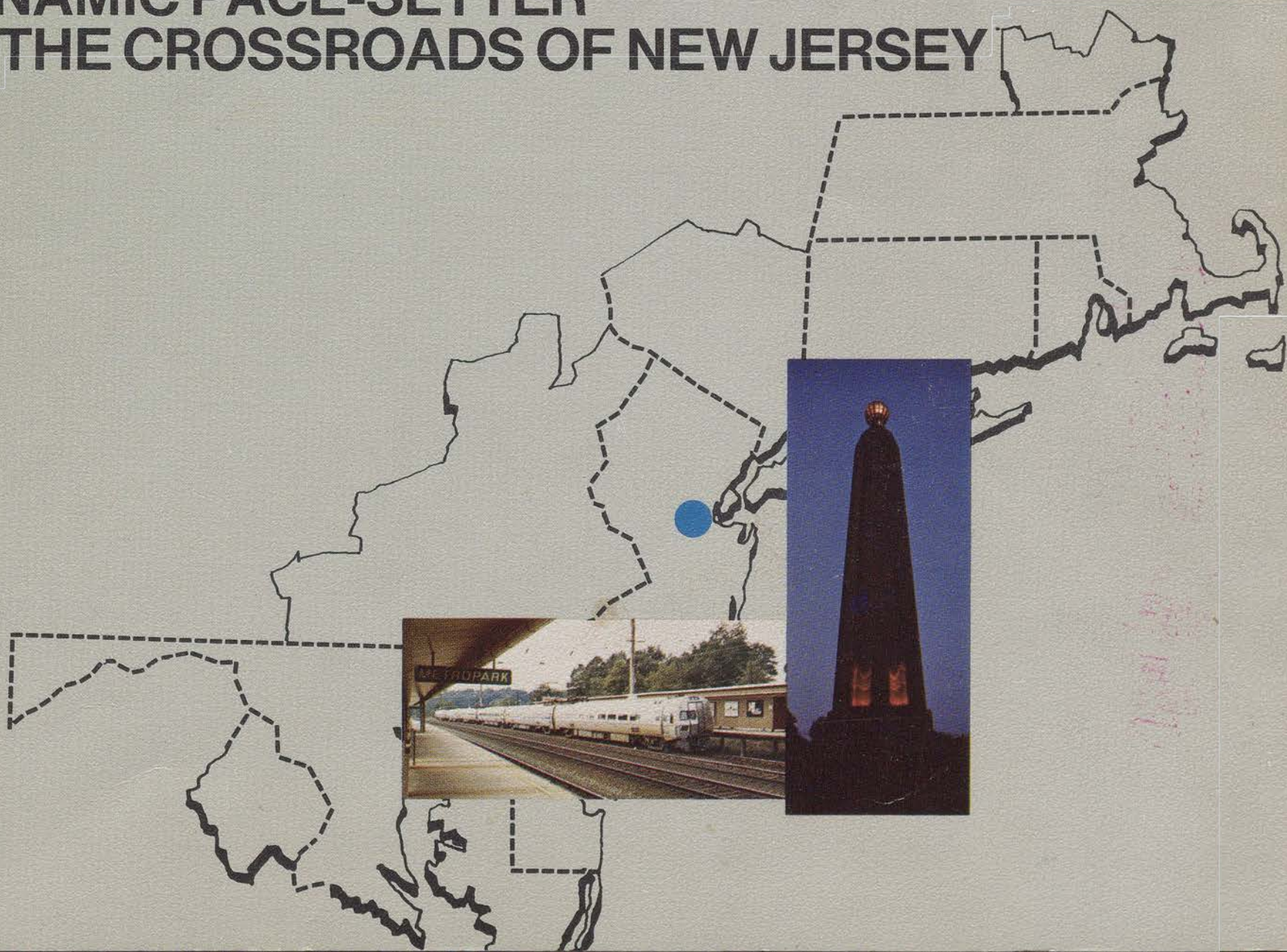
ASK AT DESK

"ASK AT DESK"

# EDISON

NOT TO BE TAKEN  
FROM LIBRARY

**DYNAMIC PACE-SETTER  
AT THE CROSSROADS OF NEW JERSEY**







## ABOUT THE COVER...

### The Edison Tower—

The Edison Tower, erected in 1937 as a monument to the great inventor, is located in the Menlo Park section of Edison Township. It was the gift of William Slocum Barstow to The Thomas Alva Edison Foundation of which he was president. Dedication ceremonies were held on February 11, 1938, the ninety-first anniversary of the inventor's birth.

The tower stands on the site of the world's first laboratory ever devoted to industrial research and development. Here, Edison invented numerous components of electrical distribution systems including dynamos, switches, sockets, fuses, measuring devices, etc. The most outstanding of all was his invention of the first practical incandescent electric lamp in 1879. In the same year, Edison gave a public demonstration here of a lighting system for streets and buildings.

### The MetroLiner—

In 1880, Edison started operation of the first passenger electric railway in the United States at Menlo Park. Today, scores of the most modern electrified freight and passenger trains on the Amtrak-Penn Central mainline move swiftly on a daily basis past the Edison Tower on their runs between Boston, New York and points South and West. Metropark, a park and ride facility adjacent to the Garden State Parkway on Amtrak's high speed Metroliner route between Boston and Washington, lies within the shadow of the Edison Tower.

### Heart of Megalopolis

One third of the nation's population is within overnight shipping distance of Edison Township located at the heart of the eastern seaboard's Megalopolis, the world's richest market.



### Here...Is The Heritage Of Greatness.

*"He has led no armies into battle—he has conquered no countries—he has enslaved no peoples—yet, he wields a power the magnitude of which no warrior ever dreamed..."*

*This democratic, kindly, modest man has bestowed upon the human race blessings instead of serfdom, construction instead of conquest... He is humanity's friend."*

ARTHUR J. PALMER



# GOVERNING BODY OF EDISON

## **Municipal Council**

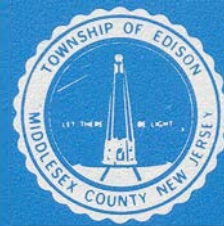
James J. McDonnell, President  
Lewis M. Bloom  
Dr. William Toth  
Dr. Thomas H. Paterniti  
Edward W. Grygo, Jr.  
Matthew J. Bolger, Jr.  
Joseph A. Hynes

## **Municipal Officials**

Bernard J. Dwyer, Mayor  
John A. Delesandro,  
Business Administrator  
Joseph F. Hughes, Director of Finance  
William R. Godwin,  
Director of Public Works  
Arthur J. Tucker, Township Clerk  
William M. Lund, Township Engineer  
Richard F. Knudson, Tax Collector  
James A. Rossi, Building Inspector  
Stephen J. Capestro, Director of Parks  
and Public Buildings, Health, Welfare  
and Recreation  
Roland A. Winter, Township Attorney  
Paul E. Anderson, Magistrate  
William T. Fisher, Acting Chief of Police  
H. Ray Vliet, Chief, Division of Fire  
Dr. A. P. Capparelli, Health Officer  
John W. Mooney, Tax Assessor  
Aurora E. Walsh, Librarian

## **Board of Education**

Joseph Sherber, President  
Dennis O'Shea, Vice President  
Angela Bell  
Richard Hines  
Stanley Nathanson  
Harry Russell  
Joseph Carlon, Jr.  
Charles A. Boyle,  
Superintendent of Schools  
Joseph A. Kreskey,  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Thomas J. McEvoy,  
Board of Education Secretary  
John C. Thomas,  
Board of Education Assistant Secretary  
R. Joseph Ferenczi,  
Board of Education Attorney



When Thomas A. Edison built his famous laboratory in our Menlo Park, he began a tradition of success in this community which continues today.

Recognizing the need for orderly progress, Edison Township has grown according to a professionally developed Master Plan. The result is a balanced community where industry and homes can both enjoy the advantages of low taxes, stable government, sound financial planning and efficient municipal services.

Edison continues to grow steadily. In the future, we look to continuing progress, and it shall be done in the same manner which produced the balanced, livable and sound community that is Edison.

**Bernard J. Dwyer**  
Mayor



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

## Population

70,000.

## Geography

Area of 32 sq. miles located on the Raritan River in central New Jersey; 25 miles south of New York City.

## Government

Mayor/Council form, Plan "E". Department heads are full time professionals under a Business Administrator.

## Education

Comprehensive education for vocational and career development. Public and private schools ... kindergarten through grade 12 ... colleges, in town and nearby.

## Medical

Hospitals, Keep-Well Clinics, Mobile Health Clinic.

## Utilities

Middlesex Water Co., Elizabethtown Water Co., Edison Township Water Utility, Elizabethtown Gas Co., Public Service Electric & Gas Co., New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.

## Transportation

Unexcelled rail, highway facilities in town. Newark Airport and Linden Airport are 15 minutes away via multi-lane, modern highways. Deepwater dock on Raritan River.

## Climate

Annual precipitation (mean): 45 inches. Extreme temperature range: 0 to 95 degrees.

## Industry

Over 250 diversified industries. Largest industrial park in the East. Several other industrial parks, large and small ... all fully serviced by utilities, major highways and rail. Excellent labor market.

## Banking

8 commercial banking offices ... complete banking service. 3 savings and loan association offices.

## Communications

3 daily and 3 weekly newspapers, 1 radio station. Edison is also served by the newspapers, radio and television facilities of New York, Newark and Philadelphia.

## Houses of Worship

Over 30, representing all major and several minor denominations.

## Motels

Hundreds of rooms in modern facilities including major chains, Ramada Inn (198), Holiday Inn (120).

## Shopping Centers

All weather, temperature controlled shopping in major department stores at 120 unit Menlo Park Shopping Center. Several neighborhood centers of 10-20 stores. Free parking at all.

## Parks—Recreation

Two large county parks, over 20 well equipped and staffed neighborhood playgrounds, softball fields and several golf courses. A number of municipal parks are on the drawing boards as well as a state park at the Edison Tower.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Governing body. ....	Pg. 1
Community Profile. ....	2
Proximity to Markets. ....	3
Government of Edison. ....	4, 5
Organization Chart. ....	6
Homes. ....	7
Utilities. ....	8
Transportation. ....	9, 10
How to reach Edison. ....	11
Planning Program. ....	12
Statistics. ....	13, 14, 15, 16
Industrial Park. ....	17, 18
Public Safety. ....	19
Shopping Centers. ....	20
Hospitals. ....	21
School System. ....	22, 23, 24
Higher Education. ....	25
Parks, Recreation, Library. ....	26, 27



# EDISON... PROXIMITY TO MARKETS

**NEW JERSEY and EDISON are at the heart of the great Eastern Seaboard Megalopolis.**

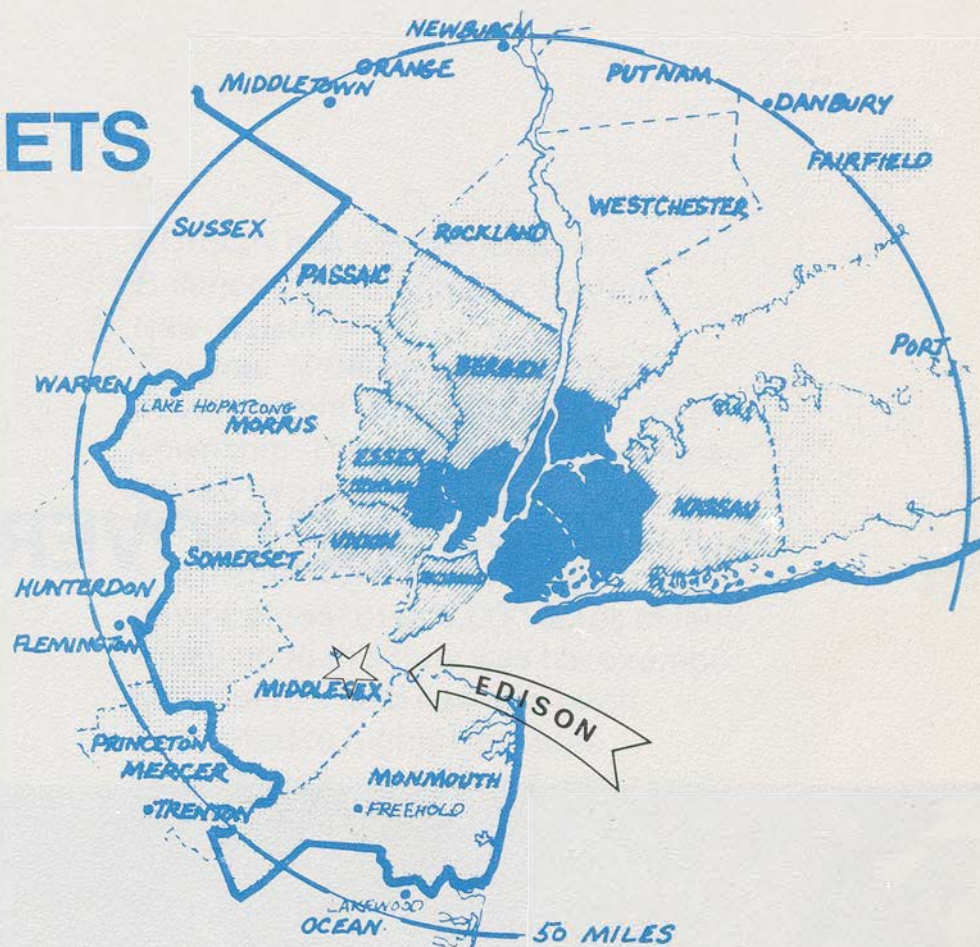
Megalopolis is the urbanized strip of land extending along the Atlantic Seaboard between Maine and Virginia and reaching inland some 150-200 miles to the Appalachian foothills. It has a unique constellation of large cities with more than a million population—Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D. C.

## **Networks Of Paths**

Edison's expansive area of 32 square miles is well suited to its role as the hub of a number of networks of air, rail, highway and water paths for the distribution of goods and services. Nearness to markets is enhanced by these networks which facilitate orderly movement of materials and people with consequent saving of time and money.

## **New Jersey—a Major Market—**

New Jersey is a major market in itself, and has one of the highest per family effective buying incomes in the nation: \$12,509 per household. Cross the river into the Greater New York Consolidated Area and you add 11,000,000 prospects with a per household buying income of \$12,328. At the other end of the state, cross the Delaware into the metropolitan Philadelphia area and another 4,500,000 people come into the marketing orbit with a per household effective buying income of \$11,677.



## **22,000,000 People of Wealth and Buying Power—**

Nowhere else in America is there a closely contained market of approximately 22,000,000 people representing such wealth and buying power. Interlaced highways and turnpikes speed the flow of traffic in this area and with New Jersey as the geographical center of the eastern seaboard, one-third of the nation's population is within overnight shipping distance! Further indication of New Jersey's marketing importance, are its six cities with a population of over 100,000 people. They are Newark with 382,417; Jersey City with 260,545; Elizabeth, 112,654; Camden, 102,551; Paterson, 144,824 and Trenton with 104,638.



# THE GOVERNMENT OF EDISON





Edison's Government provides for a strong Mayor-Council form of Local Government. This "Plan E" is set forth in Article 7 of the Optional Municipal Charter Law which went into effect in Edison Township January 1958.

#### **Planning and Zoning in EDISON**

Township officials have been well aware of the need for proper zoning controls and for long-range planning to assure the orderly growth of the community. In 1962 a complete Master Plan was prepared for Edison with the help of the Fels Institute of Local and State Government of the University of Pennsylvania who were retained as consultants to the Township Planning Board.

In 1966 Herbert H. Smith Associates, highly regarded planning specialists, were engaged to study and update the Master Plan. This was completed and the revised Master Plan was adopted by the Planning Board in 1968. The Governing Body has arranged for the Smith firm to maintain a continuing review of the Plan to make recommendations for modifications when the specialists regard them as needed.

The Master Plan provides the township with guidelines for the full utilization of its resources while maintaining an orderly growth pattern. Particular attention is focused on land use, recreation areas, traffic circulation plans, capital improvements and other community facilities with a view toward coordination of all municipal efforts to achieve the creation of a safe, attractive, healthful and convenient physical environment for all.

Under the Plan, proposed residential acreage would amount to 6,323 acres; commercial, 645 acres; industrial, 6,744 acres; parks and recreation, 1,006 acres; semi-public and institutional use, 865 acres; railroads and utilities, 698 acres; and schools, 392 acres.

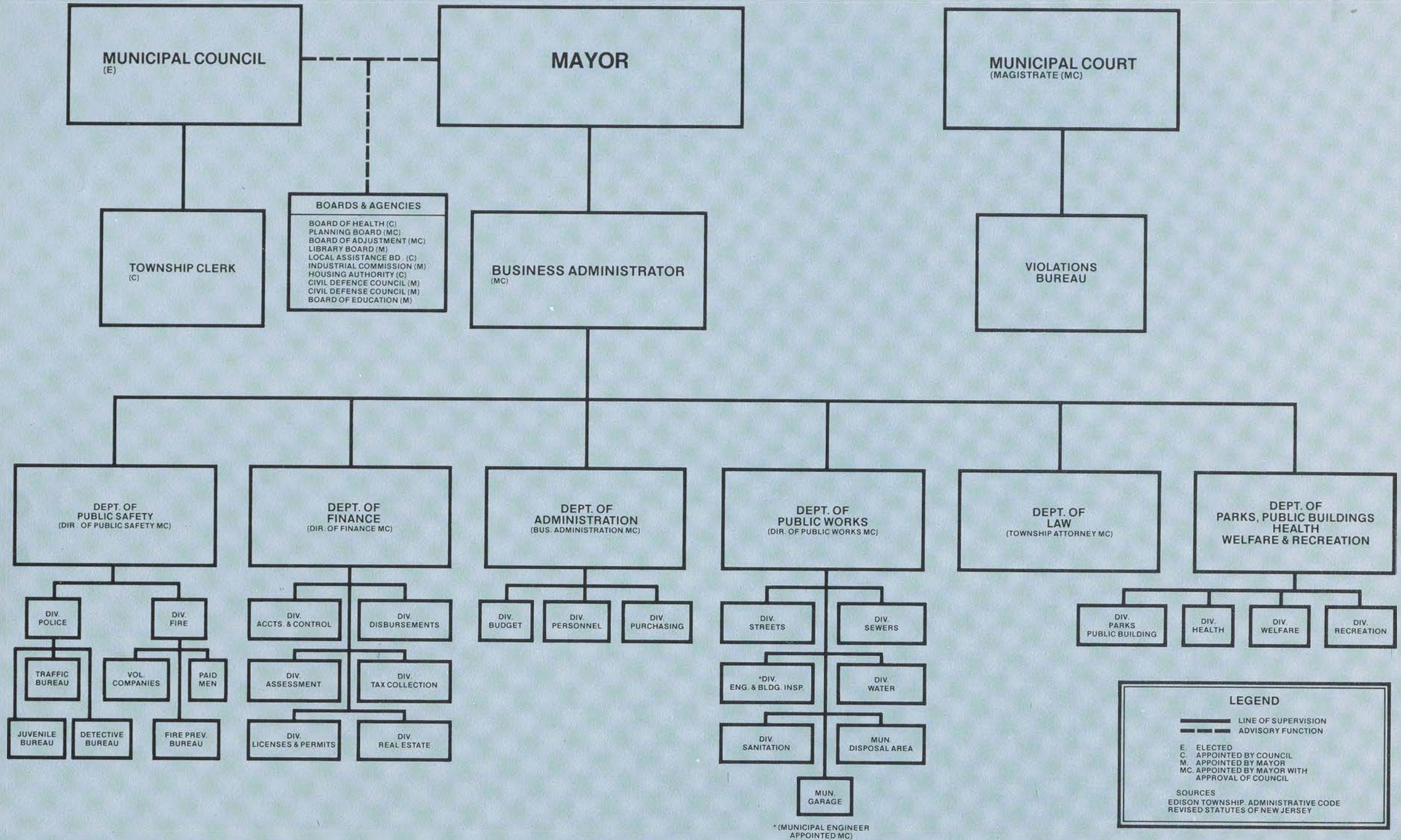
EDISON has a Broad-Based, Balanced, Equitable Tax System...

#### **New Ratables**

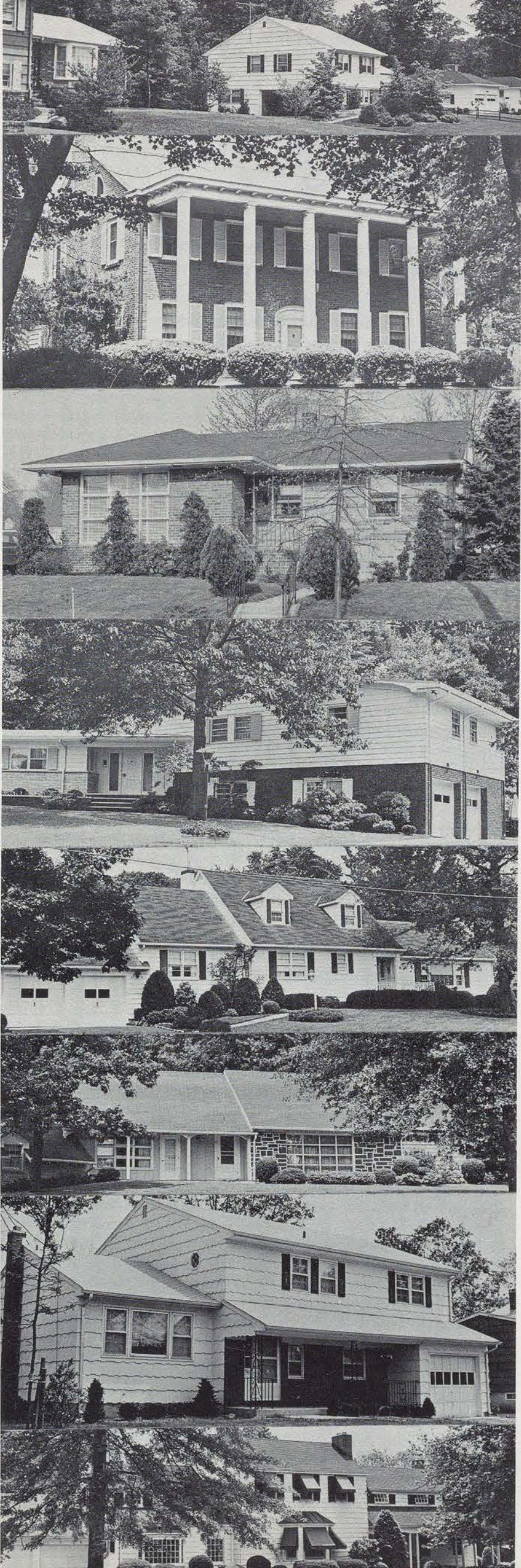
The year 1964-65 marked a unique development in the history of Edison Township. The Federal Government closed two military installations—Raritan Arsenal and Camp Kilmer—and made available for enlightened development over 3,000 acres of land which up to this time was tax exempt. Much of this land has now been converted to highly desirable industrial uses, one developer alone having created an outstanding industrial complex of over 2300 acres with excellent rail, water and highway transportation facilities on the site. The huge multi-million dollar Fedders plant has been built on another near-by 100 acre section of the former Raritan Arsenal, while much of the remaining acreage now contains numerous industrial plants of all sizes valued at several millions of dollars. These are grouped for the most part in modern industrial parks which are equipped with excellent water, sewer and transportation facilities. Within one year after the release of Raritan Arsenal and Camp Kilmer by the Federal Government, \$3 million in ratables, much in the form of land only, was added to the local tax rolls. Seven years later this same land with improvements was assessed at over \$32 million and growing at a rate of \$7 to \$8 million per year. This is expected to continue for another decade before leveling off.



# ORGANIZATION CHART



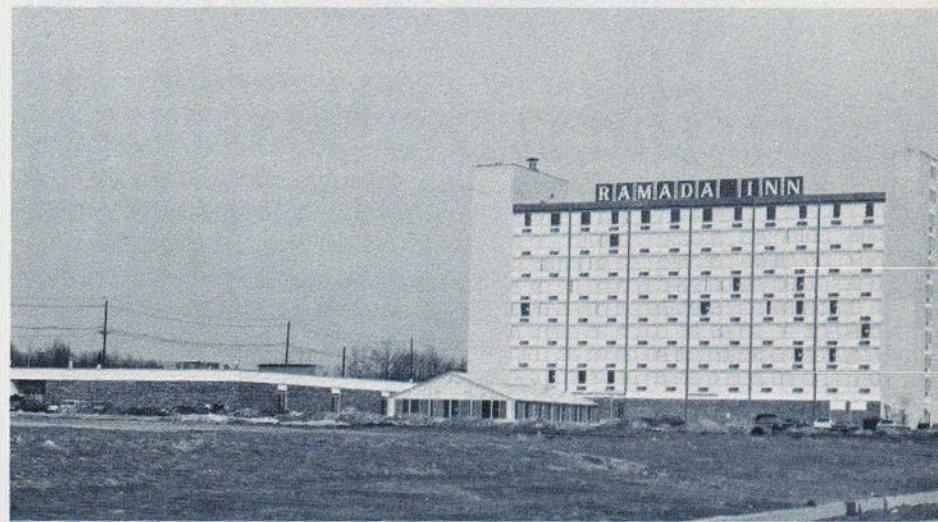




## HOMES

The Township of Edison serves the housing needs of people in every stratum of society. Many of the most worthy design patterns and goals for the cities of tomorrow have already evolved in Edison. There are homes for workers, blue and white collar alike, foremen and executives, senior citizens, stockholders and captains of industry. There are large gracious homes, numerous developments, each comprising hundreds of smaller homes, and many apartment complexes. There are excellent motel and hotel accommodations for those whose business or social commitments allow only a short stay in town.

Transportation networks for local and long distance movement of people, goods and services also provide easy access to the cultural and recreational offerings of New York, the Jersey shore, mountain resorts and the Garden State Arts Center, all of which can be reached in less than an hour. Workers in local industries who live great distances from Edison often find it very convenient and profitable in terms of travel time to continue their employment here. Employers also tap a vast reservoir of talents which may be distant in space yet very near in time.





# UTILITIES

Excellent utility services are furnished Edison's taxpayers through modern, superior distribution systems controlled by dependable suppliers. Sufficient quantities of water, gas and electricity are available to assure continued growth of the area for some time.

## **Water**

An excellent supply of high quality water is available to township residents and industries through three efficient distribution systems. One is under the control of Edison's own water utility and serves the southern one-third of the township. About 35 thousand people reside in this area. The remainder of the township is served by the Elizabethtown Water Company or the Middlesex Water Company. The New Jersey Public Utility Commission sets rates for all utilities.

## **Gas**

Natural gas is distributed through the facilities of Elizabethtown Gas Company and Public Service Electric & Gas Company.

## **Electricity**

Electricity is furnished by Public Service Electric & Gas Company.

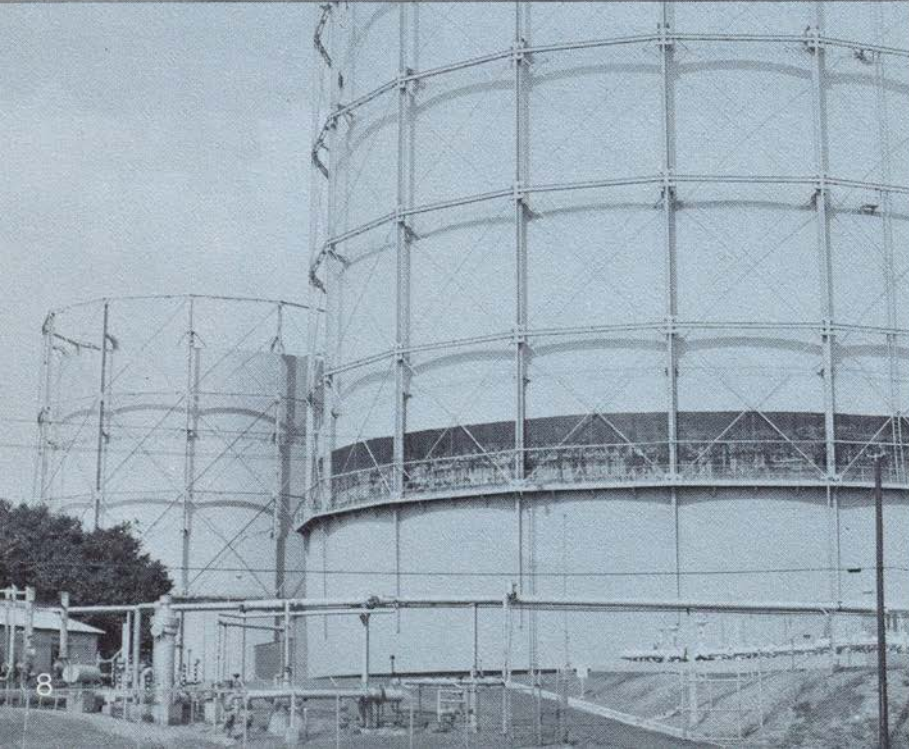
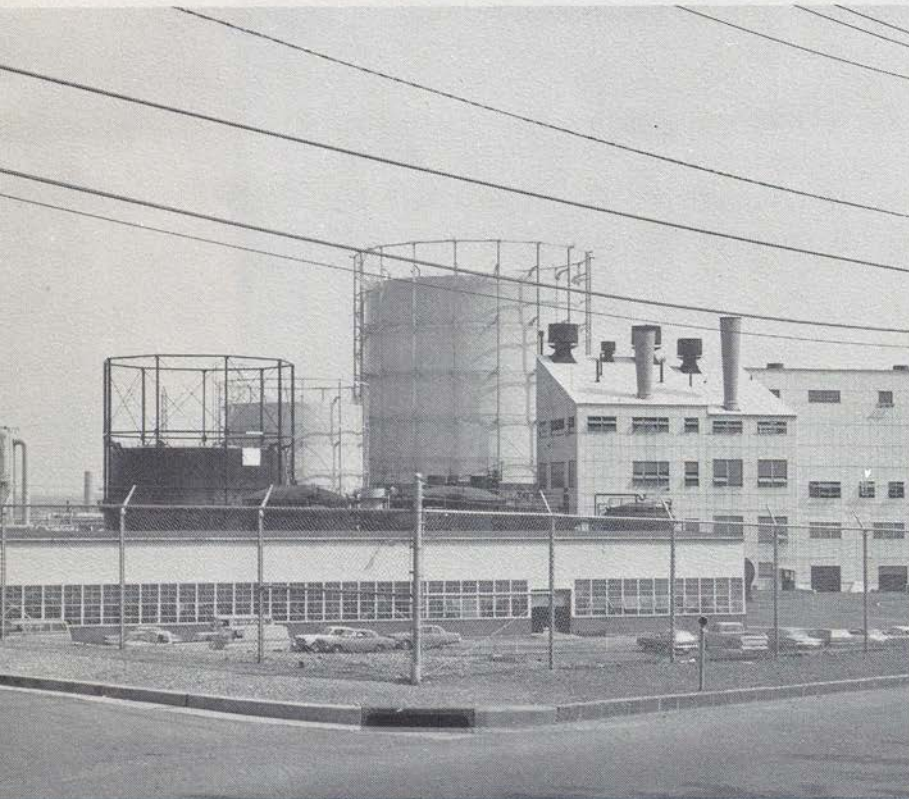
## **Telephone**

Telephone service is provided by New Jersey Bell Telephone Company.

## **Sewers**

Seventy-five percent of the township is now served by storm and sanitary sewer facilities.

The township's sanitary system is tied into trunk lines of the Middlesex County Sewage Authority which operates treatment and disposal facilities.





# TRANSPORTATION

## Rail

Penn-Central east-west passenger service is provided at the Edison station near Plainfield Avenue. The nearby New Brunswick, Metuchen and Metropark-Iselin stations find more favor among township residents, however, because of convenience, better parking facilities, more frequent service and a wider choice of trains to points all over the country.

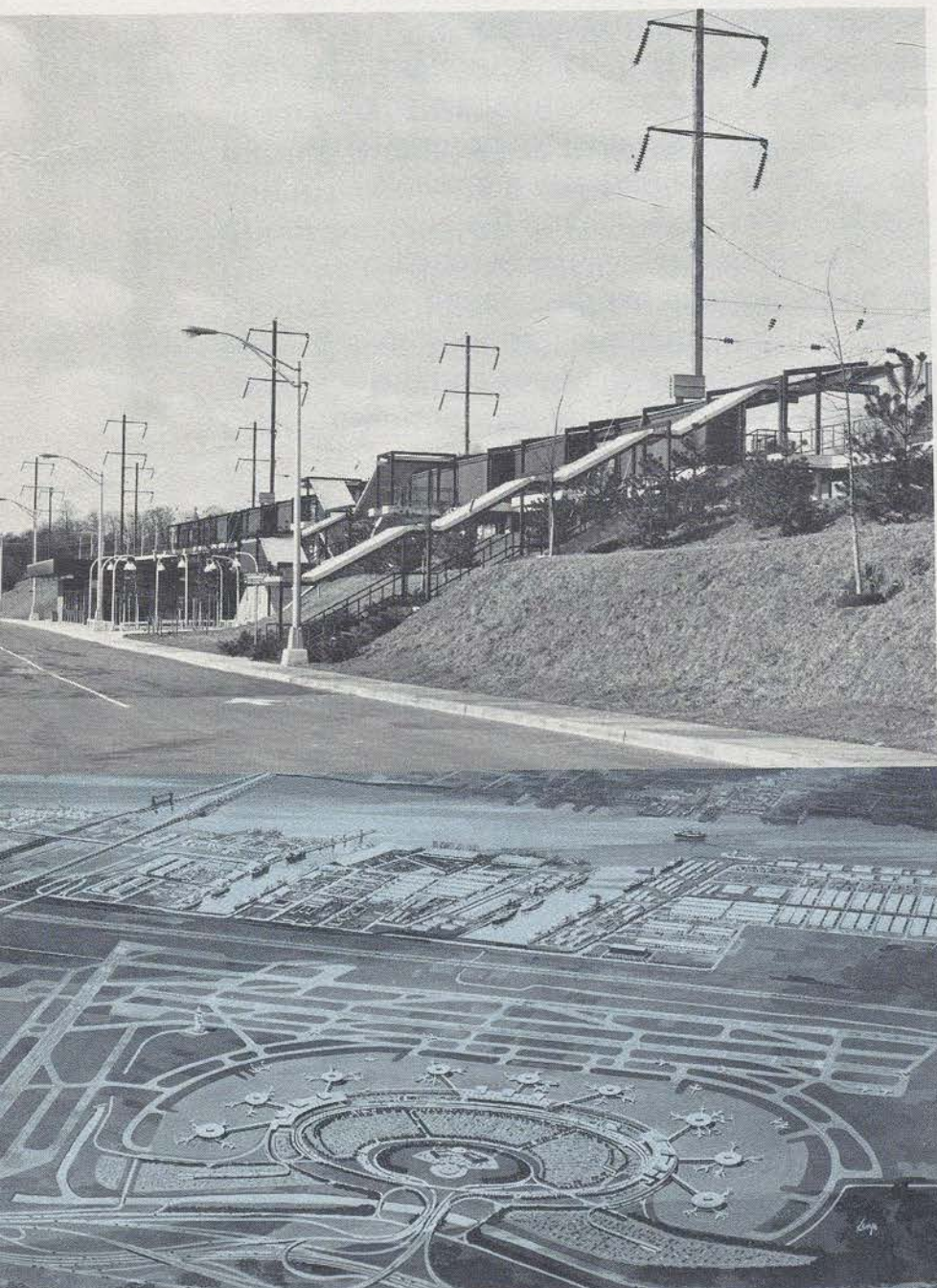
The Metropark-Iselin station located at the Edison-Iselin border practically within the shadow of the Edison Tower is a park and ride facility with space for almost 800 cars. Amtrak trains for distant points as well as electrified commuter trains make regular stops at this station. It is easily accessible by car from N. J. #27, Garden State Parkway, U. S. #1 and the New Jersey Turnpike. Excellent freight service is provided to all industrial sections of the township by Penn-Central and Lehigh Valley.

## Air

Scheduled air service on major airlines to all parts of the country is provided from Newark Airport only 25 minutes from Edison. The J. F. K. and La Guardia Airports with service to all parts of the world are only an hour away. All three of these major airports are connected by frequent helicopter flights of New York Airways. Philadelphia Airport, 90 minutes away, provides the traveller or shipper with additional choices of schedules.

Linden Airport, located midway between Edison and Newark, caters to small aircraft.

Taxi, limousine and parcel pick up and delivery service is available for local and nearby destinations as well as to all airports. The fine interconnecting highway system in the area contributes to the excellence of service.





# TRANSPORTATION

## HIGHWAYS—INTERCHANGES

### Highways

The major East-West highway serving Edison carries three designations, I-287, I-95 and N. J. 440. More particularly, it is part of a belt freeway which will eventually encircle the entire New York metropolitan area. Under construction in a piecemeal fashion for a number of years, the completed stretch in the Edison area permits movement between Perth Amboy to the east and Morris County to the northwest, a distance of about 35 miles. As it passes through Edison, it is an East-West highway intersecting with New Durham Road, N. J. #27, U. S. #1, N. J. Turnpike and Woodbridge Avenue, all North-South arteries.

A quarter of a mile from Edison's southern border N. J. #18 intersects with U. S. #1, and a quarter of a mile from the township's eastern border the Garden State Parkway intersects with N. J. #27, U. S. #1 and the N. J. Turnpike. Edison's local roads are engineered to handle commercial traffic which must move freely between these interchanges and the township's industries and distribution complexes.

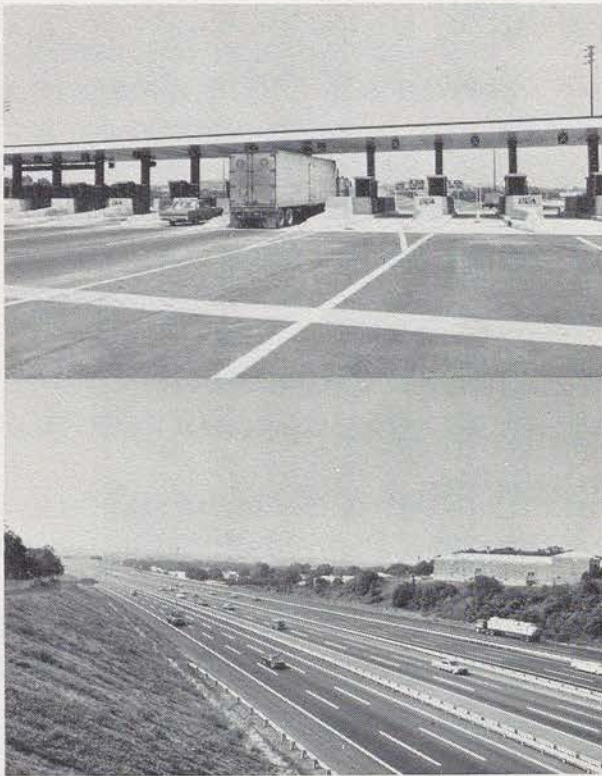
### Motor Truck

More than a dozen large motor truck carriers maintain terminals in Edison in addition to the great number of nationally known firms which have located their own distribution centers in the township.

Overnight trucking from Edison reaches a 12 state market area which is home to 30 percent of the nation's population.

### Buses

Plainfield Transit Company, Transport of New Jersey and Suburban Transit Company operate local bus routes to nearby cities. The latter two companies furnish frequent express bus service between Edison and the Port Authority Terminal in New York City.





# HOW TO REACH EDISON

An excellent network of super-highways, and frequent mainline and commuter rail service, contribute to the easy accessibility of Edison from all points. Situated at the crossroads of New Jersey, Edison also enjoys a close proximity to major airports in New York, Newark, and Philadelphia.

## VIA HIGHWAY

### **From Newark and Points North of Edison**

U.S. #1, U.S. #9—South to Edison  
Interstate #95—New Jersey Turnpike—South to Edison

N.J. #27—South to Edison  
Garden State Parkway—South to Edison

### **From New York City**

George Washington Bridge, Lincoln Tunnel, or Holland Tunnel to Interstate #95—N.J. Turnpike—South to Edison

### **From La Guardia Airport, J.F.K. Airport, Brooklyn and Long Island**

Various New York Expressways—South and West to Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge—West to Interstate #95—N.J. Turnpike—South to Edison

### **From Wilmington, Del., Philadelphia, Camden, Pennsylvania Turnpike, and Points South and West**

U.S. #1, U.S. #130, or N.J. Turnpike—North to Edison

### **From New York State Thruway and Points North and West**

Direct connection to Garden State Parkway—South to Edison

### **From Allentown Pa. and Points West**

Interstate #78—East to Interstate #287—South to Edison  
**From Jersey Shore and Points South**  
N.J. #34, #35, U.S. #9 or Garden State Parkway—North to N.J. #440—West to Edison

## VIA RAIL

### **From New York City**

Penn. Station—Commuter Train to: Metropark—Iselin (at Edison border), Metuchen, Edison, New Brunswick (Edison residents use all four stations)  
World Trade Center—PATH Train to Newark, change to commuter train to: Metropark—Iselin, Metuchen, Edison, New Brunswick

### **From Philadelphia**

Commuter Train to New Brunswick, change to Local Train to: Edison, Metuchen, Metropark-Iselin

### **From Amtrak Metroliner Stations at Washington, Baltimore, and Boston**

Direct Service to Metropark-Iselin Station (at Edison border)

## VIA AIR

### **From all Points to Newark, La Guardia, J.F.K., or Philadelphia Airports**

Helicopter service available from La Guardia and J.F.K. to Newark—then south on N.J. Turnpike to Edison Interchange

(See "VIA HIGHWAY" for direct routes from all airports)

### **From all nearby points to Linden Airport (small planes only)**

U.S. #1—South to Edison

## VIA BUS

### **From All Points to Major New York Bus Terminals**

To Port Authority Terminal—Frequent Express Bus service direct to Edison via Lincoln Tunnel and the 12-Lane N.J. Turnpike



# EDISON TOWNSHIP HAS A PROGRESSIVE PLANNING PROGRAM

Edison Township has one of the most progressive and active planning programs in the State of New Jersey. The Township has an adopted Master Plan, an updated zoning ordinance, modern land subdivision regulations; an active urban renewal program and a program of systematic code updating and enforcement. A Comprehensive Master Plan was prepared by the Edison Planning Board in 1962 with the assistance from the Fels Institute of Local and State Government and the University of Pennsylvania. In 1966, the well known planning firm of Herbert H. Smith Associates was retained to study and update the Master Plan and to provide continuing professional planning assistance to the Township.

## **Master Plan**

Edison Township's Master Plan which was adopted in 1968 and has been updated, provide for changes in development trends. The Plan provides for balanced land use development, expanded circulation-system and strategically located community facilities to service individual neighborhoods and the Township as a whole. The Master Plan is a working guide for a planned ultimate population of approximately, 101,000 which will be serviced with an extensive system of public parks, libraries, schools, fire stations and other community facilities. The Plan provides for a variety of housing ranging from high-rise apartment developments to suburban-rural areas with extensive open spaces.

Commercial areas provide for neighborhood businesses and regional shopping centers. Industrial areas provide for a variety of uses ranging from small shops, restricted industrial uses and research centers to heavy industrial areas and large scale modern industrial parks such as the Raritan Center. Two of the prime goals of the Plan are the encouragement of a sound and diversified economic base and the maintenance of high aesthetic standards.

## **Development Codes and Ordinances**

The Township's zoning ordinance, land subdivision regulations, building code, health code and other municipal codes and ordinances are designed to provide for environmental protection and creation of a safe, attractive, healthful and convenient community. High standards in the codes and ordinances have resulted in quality and stable land development during the past two decades when the Township's population increased from 16,348 to 67,120. Annual review and updating provide the Township with modern effective development codes and regulations.

## **Environmental Protection**

Edison Township officials have long been cognizant of the need for environmental protection. Through application and enforcement of development codes, review of development proposals by professional planners and engineers and coordination with State and County agencies, Edison has established a long record of environmental protection.



**EDISON TOWNSHIP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**TABULATION OF POPULATION TRENDS 1940-1972  
(U. S. CENSUS)**

Year	Total Population	* BY RACE				Population Density per Square Mile
		White	Negro	Indian	Other	
1940	11,470					370
1950	16,348					527
1960	44,799	43,331	1,430		38	1,483
1970	67,120	65,467	1,367	30	256	2,223
1971 (est.)	69,700	67,996	1,394	32	278	2,307
1972 (est.)	70,000	68,286	1,400	34	280	2,317

\* Not available 1950 and 1940

**POPULATION MAKE UP BY  
AGE AND SEX  
(1970 CENSUS)**

Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 5	3,218	3,145	6,363
5 - 9	3,785	3,529	7,314
10 - 14	3,711	3,516	7,227
- 15	658	689	1,347
16 - 18	1,712	1,678	3,390
- 19	412	440	852
20 - 24	2,186	2,748	4,934
25 - 34	4,514	4,874	9,388
35 - 44	4,742	4,771	9,513
45 - 54	4,471	4,360	8,831
55 - 59	1,414	1,310	2,724
60 - 61	392	388	780
62 - 64	499	497	996
65 - 74	915	1,146	2,061
75 and over	531	869	1,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,160</b>	<b>33,960</b>	<b>67,120</b>



**EDISON TOWNSHIP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**TABULATION OF HOUSING UNITS  
1940 - 1970 AND PROJECTION TO 1980  
(U. S. CENSUS)**

Year	Total Housing Units
1940	2,809
1950	4,443
1960	12,576
1970	19,205
(Est.) 1980 Projected	25,000

**TABULATION OF  
CLASSIFICATION OF HOUSING UNITS BY TYPE  
(1970 CENSUS)**

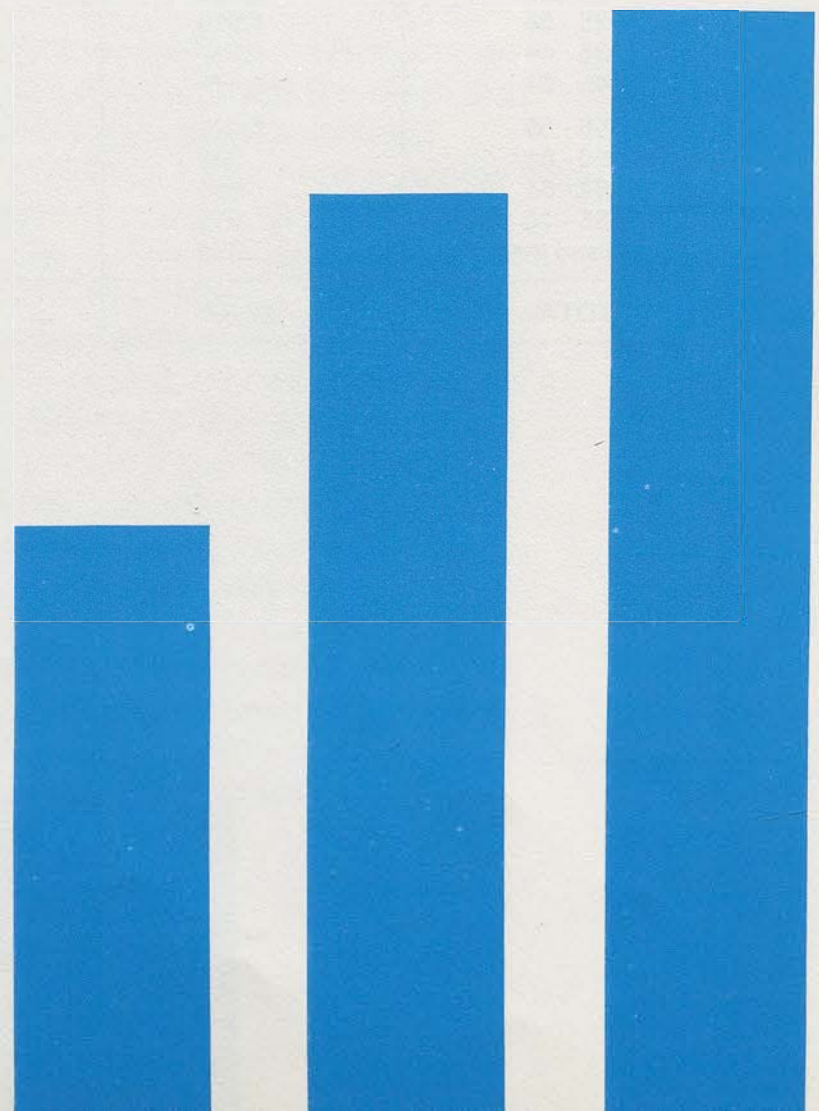
Type	Number of Units
Owner Occupied 1 Family Units	12,924
Rental Units	5,151
Rooming & Lodger Units	176
Mobile Home/Trailer	203
Migrant or Seasonal	1
Unclassified	750
Total Housing Units	19,205

**TABULATION OF  
RENTAL UNITS BY MONTHLY RENTAL VALUE  
(1970 CENSUS)**

Monthly Rental Cost	Number of Units	Percent to Total Units
\$40 or Less	112	2.2%
40 - 59	59	1.1%
60 - 79	120	2.3%
80 - 99	204	4.0%
100 - 119	425	8.3%
120 - 149	1,844	35.8%
150 - 199	1,987	38.6%
200 - 299	228	4.4%
300 or more	26	0.5%
No Cash Rent	146	2.8%
Total	5,151	100.0%

**TABULATION OF  
OWNER OCCUPIED - 1 FAMILY HOUSING  
UNITS AND VALUE RANGES  
(1970 CENSUS)**

True Value	No. of Units	Percent of Total Units
Less than 5,000	7	0.1%
5,000 - 9,999	67	0.5%
10,000 - 14,499	432	3.3%
15,000 - 19,999	2,233	17.3%
20,000 - 24,999	3,267	25.3%
25,000 - 34,999	3,888	30.1%
35,000 - 49,999	2,428	18.8%
50,000 or more	602	4.7%
Total	12,924	100.1%
Total Aggregate True Value (1970) \$375,659,500		
Average Unit Value (1970)	29,067	





**EDISON TOWNSHIP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**EXISTING LAND USE**

Use	1960 (1)		1966 (1)		1970 (2)		1971 (2)	
	Area	Percent of Total	Area	Percent of Total	Area	Percent of Total	Area	Percent of Total
Residential	2,966.5	15.1	3,986.3	20.4	4,161.2	21.3	4,342.2	22.2
Commercial	287.6	1.5	388.7	2.0	441.7	2.4	441.7	2.4
Industrial	1,424.1	7.2	2,270.3	11.6	2,528.3	12.9	2,528.3	12.9
Public, Recreational, Roads	1,768.0	9.1	2,429.4	12.5	2,601.4	13.3	2,619.4	13.4
Semi-Public & Institution	392.4	2.1	773.0	3.9	773.0	3.9	773.0	3.9
Railroads and Utilities	514.2	2.7	697.9	3.6	697.9	3.6	697.9	3.6
Military	3,780.0	19.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural	—	—	67.3	0.3	67.3	0.3	67.3	0.3
Vacant	8,387.2	42.9	8,907.1	45.7	8,249.2	42.3	8,050.2	41.3
Totals	19,520.0	100.0	19,520.0	100.0	19,520.0	100.0	19,520.0	100.0

(1) Source Master Plan Study

(2) Estimated from other sources

**ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY BY CLASSIFICATION**

Year	*Equalized Valuation Ratio to True Value (%)	Total		Residential		Apartments		Industrial		Commercial		Vacant Land		Farm Land	
		Assessed Valuation	%	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total
(1) 1950	20.00	14,116,333	100.0	8,187,473	58.0	282,327	2.0	4,234,900	30.0	564,653	4.0	705,816	5.0	141,164	1.0
(1) 1960	21.18	49,144,123	100.0	28,749,312	58.5	982,882	2.0	14,743,237	30.0	2,457,207	5.0	1,720,044	3.5	491,441	1.0
1967	40.17	207,846,368	100.0	127,022,340	61.1	9,095,700	4.4	37,709,725	18.2	27,631,609	13.3	6,112,390	2.9	274,604	0.1
1968	43.21	216,597,469	100.0	130,705,710	60.3	11,930,475	5.5	41,294,029	19.1	25,713,690	11.9	6,415,715	3.0	537,850	0.2
1969	41.60	227,823,491	100.0	134,827,960	59.2	14,124,125	6.2	44,899,809	19.7	27,581,615	12.1	6,230,965	2.7	159,017	0.1
1970	35.54	238,441,112	100.0	138,369,716	58.0	15,117,750	6.3	51,709,014	21.7	26,680,950	11.2	6,335,084	2.7	228,598	0.1
1971	36.11	250,919,497	100.0	142,404,975	56.8	15,606,450	6.2	59,001,739	23.5	27,348,360	10.9	6,332,825	2.5	225,148	0.1
(2) 1972	50.0	413,200,494	100.0	223,551,800	54.1	26,930,400	6.5	103,473,969	25.0	45,869,575	11.1	12,629,275	3.1	745,475	0.2

\* Ratios are calculated by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Taxation.

(1) Prior to 1965, assessed valuation ratios were determined by the Local Unit. Beginning with 1965, they are on a county basis which was placed at 50% assessment basis. The classification of assessed valuations were not available for 1960 and 1950 and were estimated from available sources.

(2) The Township conducted a revaluation program which was implemented in 1972 and properties were valued to 50% of estimated true value.

**COMPARATIVE RETAIL SALES GROWTH  
1950-1971 (000 omitted)**

	1971	1970	1966	1960	1950
Middlesex County	\$1,034,429	\$969,690	\$774,025	\$518,109	\$257,619
Edison Township	128,546	119,295	103,686	21,621	—
New Brunswick	153,247	145,134	88,545	84,243	76,143



**EDISON TOWNSHIP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**COMPARISON OF GROSS DEBT IN RELATION  
TO ESTIMATED TRUE VALUE OF REAL  
PROPERTY AND PER CAPITA GROSS DEBT**

Year	Equalized Valuation Ratio to True Value (%)	Estimated True Value *	Gross Debt Issued and Auth. but Not Issued	Percentage of Gross Debt to Est. True Value	Per Capita Gross Debt
1950	20.0	\$ 70,581,665	\$ 2,386,600	3.38%	\$146.03
1960	21.18	232,030,798	11,383,500	4.90%	254.10
1967	40.17	517,416,898	26,048,500	5.03%	389.71
1968	43.21	506,693,260	26,019,500	5.13%	382.69
1969	41.60	554,064,903	29,734,000	5.36%	432.49
1970	35.54	678,906,069	33,429,500	4.92%	498.06
1971	36.11	694,875,372	33,230,500	4.78%	491.61
1972	50.00	826,400,988	—	—	—

\* Adjusted to comply with the equalized ratio as certified by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Taxation.

**COMPARATIVE TAX RATE RELATING TO TRUE VALUE  
PER 1,000 OF VALUE**

Year	* Actual Tax Rate (Assessed Valuation)	Adjusted Tax Rate	Allocation of Adjusted Tax Rate				
			Veterans & Senior Citizen Deduction	School Purposes	County Purposes	Municipal Operation Purposes	Debt Service Costs
1950	\$ 59.20	\$11.84	\$ -0-	\$ 5.73	\$3.23	\$ -0-	\$2.88
1960	99.62	18.30	-0-	9.86	3.81	2.42	2.21
1967	75.40	21.60	0.60	13.41	4.67	0.59	2.33
1968	63.00	27.20	0.65	17.14	5.55	1.01	2.85
1969	66.60	27.70	0.58	17.84	5.29	1.00	2.99
1970	77.50	29.50	0.56	19.35	5.49	1.21	2.89
1971	81.80	26.70	0.43	17.46	5.58	0.67	2.56
1972	58.90	29.95	0.39	18.66	5.63	2.66	2.61

\* Based on Assessed Valuations at the prevailing assessment basis for the year.

**MUNICIPAL BOND RATINGS**

**MOODY'S      Aa**

**STANDARD & POOR'S      AA**



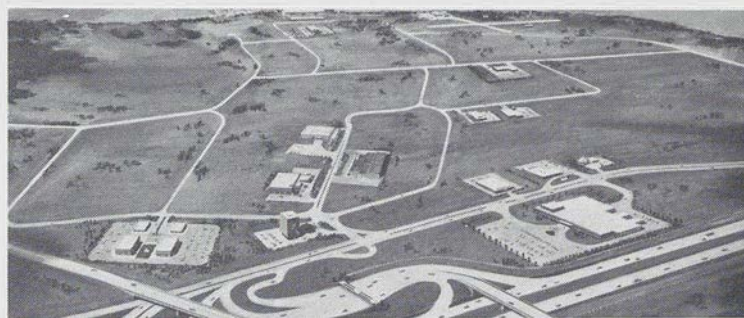
# INDUSTRIAL PARKS

With over 6,000 people now employed and a projected full working population of 25,000 expected by 1980, Raritan Center is well on its way to becoming a city within a city. Manufacturing and commercial buildings, some with over 100,000 square feet and up to 250,000 square feet of floor space in a single story, are transforming the former Raritan Arsenal property into a beehive of activity. Between the 2,000 foot dock on the navigable Raritan River, only 10 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, to the nine story Ramada Inn hotel and restaurant lie 62 miles of rail, highway and utility networks all designed for heavy duty service to support dynamic industrial and commercial activity.

Located at the center of a 52,000,000 customer market within 300 miles, it has attracted such leading industrial names as Fedders, RCA, Chrysler, Procter and Gamble, U. S. Plywood, Dow Chemical, Owens-Illinois, American Hospital Supply, W. T. Grant, Baxter Laboratories, Continental Can, Schwinn Bicycle, Supermarkets General, Macy-Bambergers and others.

On the opposite side of the township to the northwest on former Camp Kilmer property, additional industrial and commercial development has been taking place to rival that at Raritan Center.

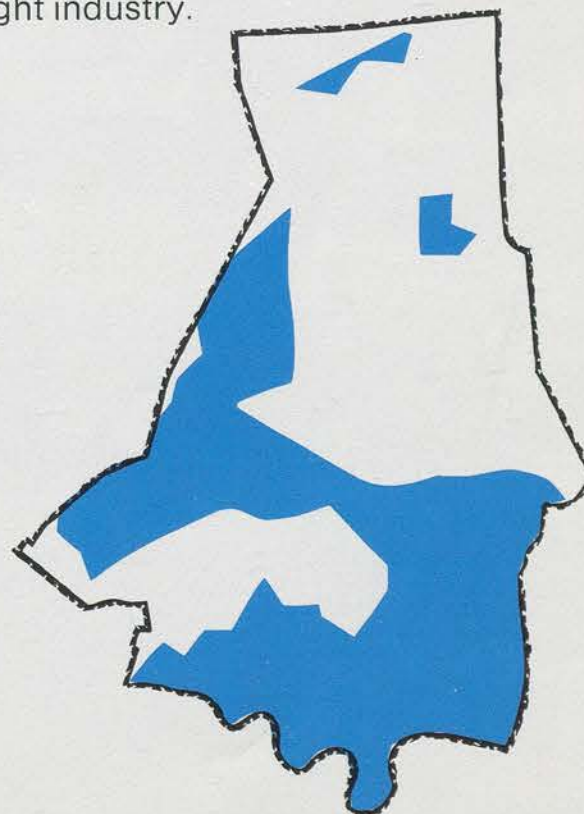
A. & P. Warehousing, General Tire, Maidenform, Kaiser Aluminum, Cascade Pools, Lee Filters, Twin County Grocers, Metex, Roth & Schlenger, American Can, Sportswear Industries, Skil Corp., A. G. Spalding and Akai-American Ltd. are some of the firms represented by significant industrial or commercial operations.



Between the two giant ends of Edison's industrial bow-tie are several well established sizable industrial or commercial operations such as Revlon, Westinghouse, Ford Motor, RCA, Mobil Chemical and S & H Green Stamps which stand astride Edison's Miracle Mile of 20 years ago and connect the now developing industrial parks of the seventies.

Situated between the Holiday Inn and Best Block Company on U. S. #1 is the Edison Industrial Center, a moderate size development which features a variety of enterprises ranging in size from 6,000 square feet to A. T. & T.'s 144,000 square feet. Isolated from the industrial bow-tie, but still an important industrial element of Edison's past, present and future is the L. A. Dreyfus plant located in the northwest section of the township.

Small enclaves of light industrial firms are to be found in other sections and more will appear in the future as welcome additions to areas zoned for light industry.









## PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department of Public Safety, consisting of the Division of Fire and the Division of Police, is under the direction of Mayor Bernard J. Dwyer who serves as department head.

### Division of Police

Law enforcement, crime prevention, traffic regulation, narcotics control and juvenile aid are the responsibility of the four major bureaus of the Police Department; viz, Uniformed, Detective, Traffic and Juvenile. Sixty outstanding officers comprise the specially equipped and trained Tactical Squad. Each bureau is administered by a Captain and the entire Division is headed by the Chief of Police.

The 120 man regular police force is equipped with over 20 vehicles including patrol cars, a traffic maintenance truck and a specially designed BCI van for mobile criminal investigation support.

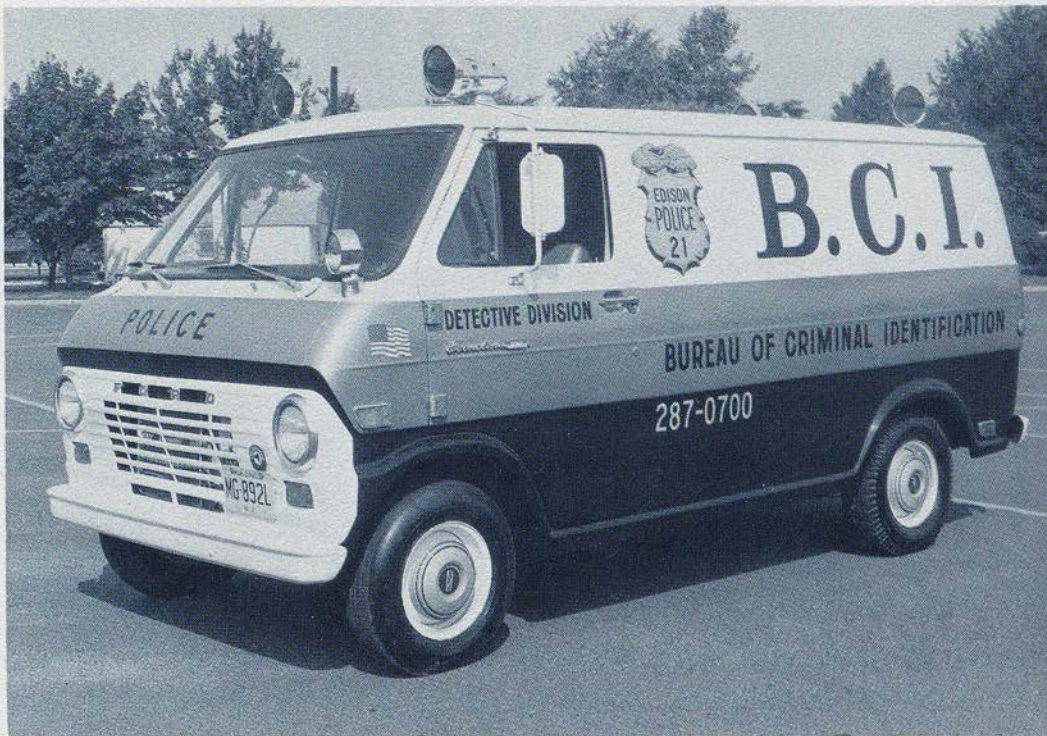
All new policemen undergo six weeks of intensive training at the State Police Academy. Specialized training at the FBI Academy, traffic institutes and other police training centers is encouraged for selected members of the force as a matter of policy. A volunteer, uniformed Auxiliary Police Corps of 200 men provides a reservoir of trained manpower as support, if needed, for the regular Police Force.

### Division of Fire

A firefighting force of 70 paid firemen and 180 volunteers is supervised by the Chief of Fire. Fire prevention inspection and protection service is provided by this division for Edison Township's residents and property owners.

These trained firefighters man 22 pieces of modern equipment including 13 pumpers which are kept at six strategically located firehouses. Pumpers capable of 11,000 gallons per minute.

Water availability as to quantity and pressure exceeds American Insurance Association minimum requirements.





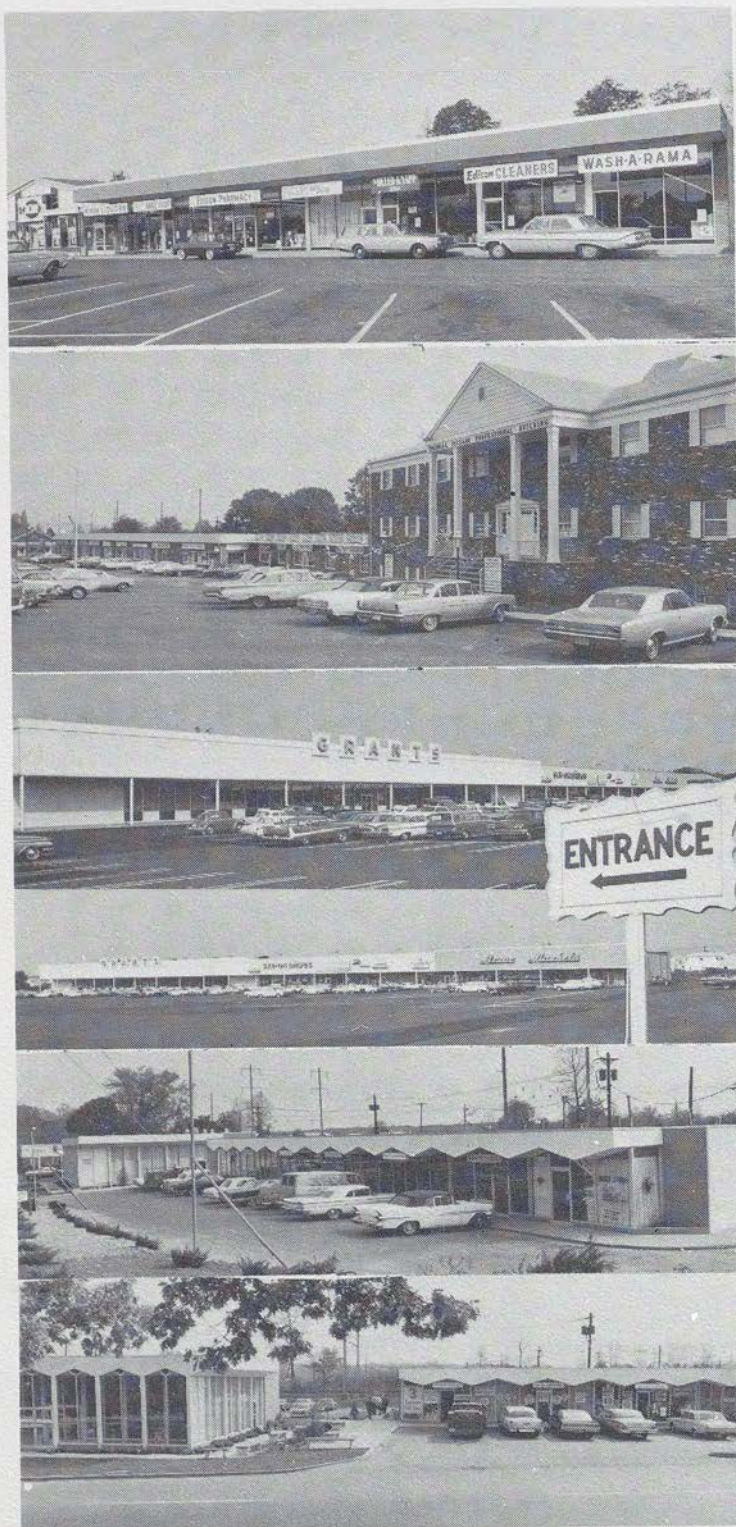
# SHOPPING CENTERS

## Menlo Park Shopping Center

A pioneer in the shopping center field, Menlo Park Shopping Center is located on a 77-acre tract at U. S. Route 1 and Parsonage Road. The sprawling complex has over one million square feet of selling space and enclosed climate-controlled malls extending over 1,000 feet. There are over 120 stores, including three multi-level department stores, two banks, a 1,500 seat movie theater and a five-story office building. The operators of the complex conduct a year round program of exhibits, demonstrations, concerts and presentations in a variety of forms with entertainment, educational or cultural appeal for patrons on a no-charge basis. These presentations are usually changed weekly. There is parking space for 7,500 cars.

## Other Township Shopping Centers

A number of smaller neighborhood shopping centers comprising 8 to 20 stores are to be found near concentrations of living units throughout the township. Among these are the Nixon, Raritan Valley, Edison, Wood Manor Shopping Centers and Kilmer Plaza, Oakwood Plaza, Colonial Village and Edison Mall.

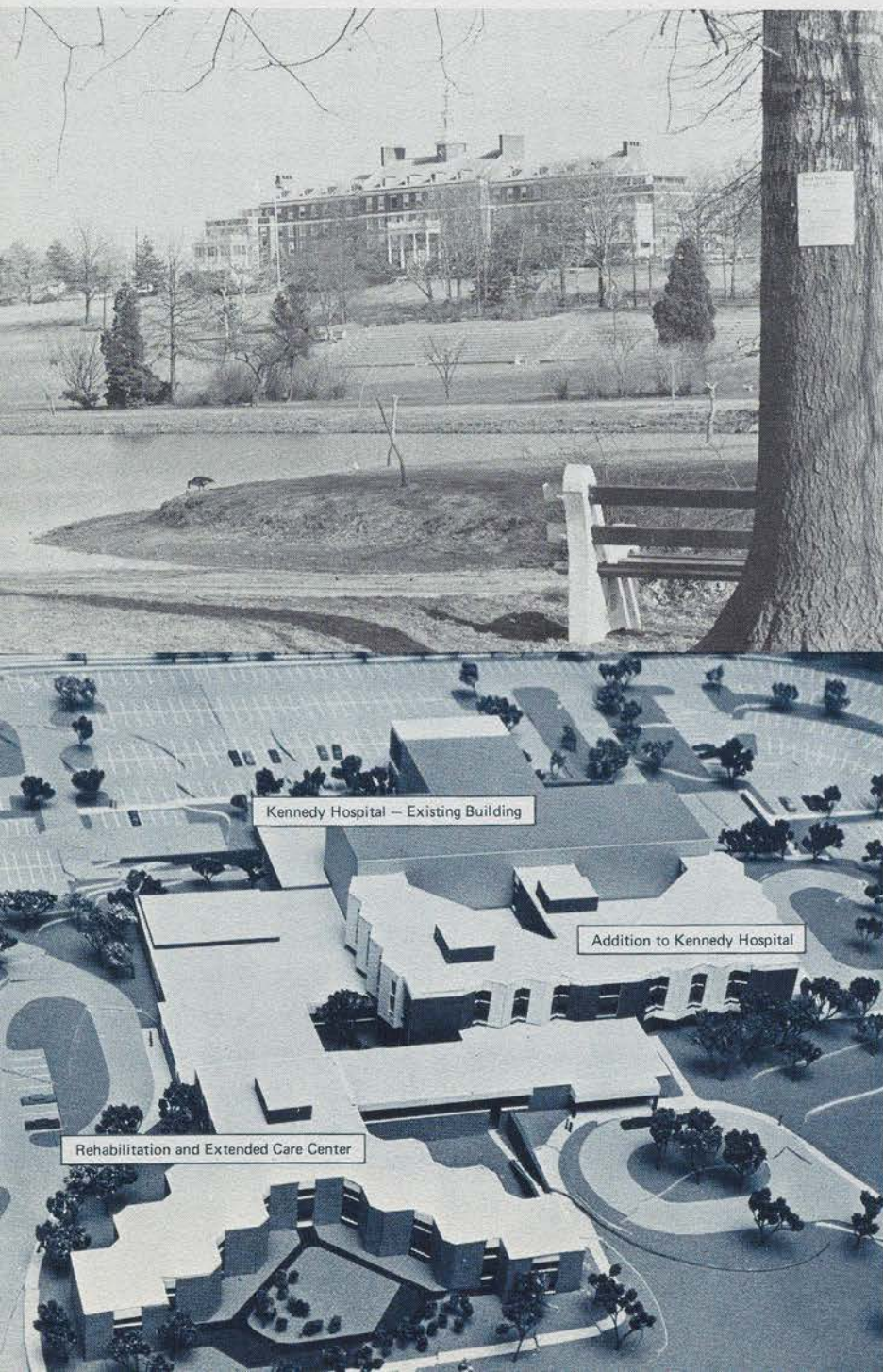




# HOSPITALS

Servicing the entire Central Jersey area, Edison is proud of its growing importance as a center for hospital care. The merger in 1970 of the 205 bed John F. Kennedy Community Hospital with the Middlesex Rehabilitation Center has resulted in the development of a modern 415 bed general hospital. In addition to the excellent in-patient care, an innovative out-patient program assures maximum utilization of resources and increased benefits for patients.

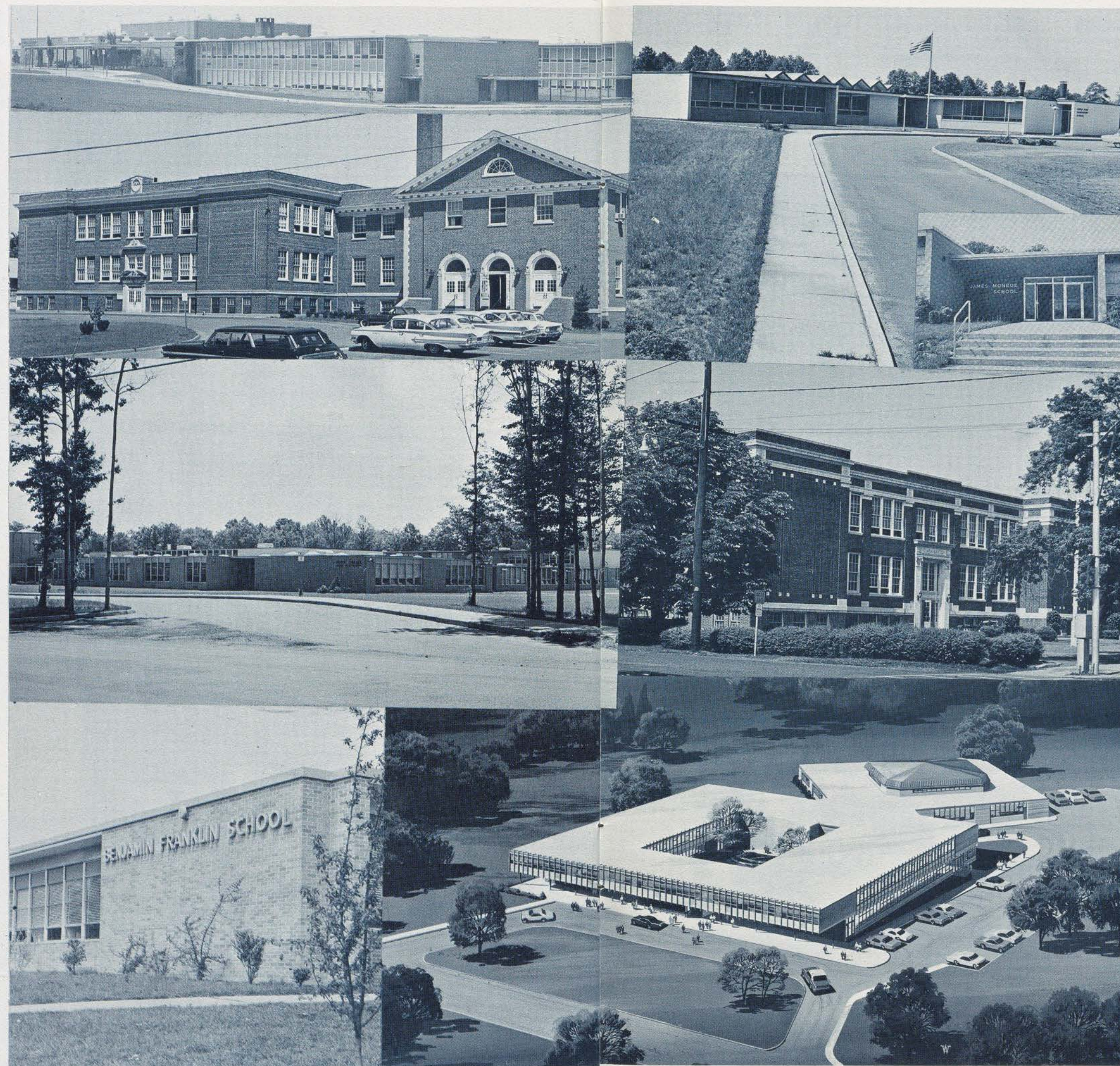
Other hospitals in town include two state institutions, New Jersey's Diagnostic Center for the mentally disturbed, and the Hospital for Disabled Veterans. Also located in Edison is Middlesex County's 326 bed Roosevelt Hospital and Annex, specializing in the treatment of pulmonary and respiratory diseases. An additional 3500 beds are maintained within ten miles of Edison's borders at more than a dozen modern hospitals. Most of these are general hospitals which, like Edison's J.F.K. Community Hospital, have engaged in continuing expansion programs in recent years in order to keep pace with Central Jersey's dynamic growth. Seven ambulances, manned by trained volunteer first aid squads, provide round-the-clock emergency service to all hospitals at a rate exceeding 5,000 calls per year. Nearby are the fine hospitals and research facilities of New Brunswick, Newark and Union County. The Piscataway Campus of the Rutgers College of Medicine and Dentistry is just across Edison's boundary line and many world famous medical institutions and research facilities of New York and Philadelphia are only an hour away by rail or highway.





# EDISON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SYSTEM

The responsibility for the operation of the school system rests with a seven (7) member appointed Board of Education. The diligent and sincere service of Board Members has been demonstrated by the orderly growth and development of an outstanding educational program. In slightly over two decades the public school population in Edison increased from less than 2,000 students in grades K-6 to 15,000 students in grades K-12. During this period several bond referenda were approved by the electorate and the Board of School Estimate totaling more than \$27,000,000.00 for school facilities. Also, the Board of School Estimate has consistently approved increases in the annual school budget to insure necessary personnel services, educational supplies and equipment, and various other operational needs—Operating budgets approximate \$20,000,000 per year. The development of a comprehensive educational program and the expansion of physical facilities has been accomplished while maintaining a comparatively moderate and stable tax rate for the taxpayers of Edison. There are, today, twenty-one school buildings in the educational complex—15 elementary schools, 3 junior-high schools, 2 senior-high schools, and a special education facility. A fourth junior-high school is currently under construction. Classroom space consists of 578 regular classrooms and 70 special-purpose rooms, exclusive of gymnasiums, libraries, and administrative areas. An additional 34 regular classrooms and 12 special-purpose rooms will be available with the completion of the fourth junior-high school which is scheduled to open in September, 1973. The professional staff of the school system has grown from less than 60 members in 1950 to 974 members for the 1972-73 school year. In addition to classroom teachers and administrators, the professional staff includes speech therapists, reading specialists, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, learning disability specialists, nurses and the services of other specialists. The educational program is comprehensive and diversified.



# EDISON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SYSTEM

Approximately two-thirds of each graduating class enrolls in some type of higher education—4-year colleges, 2-year colleges, business and technical schools, etc. Vocational education and work-study programs are available for students seeking employment following graduation. The needs of severely handicapped students are met through the programs provided in the special education program. A summer school program offers remedial assistance and enrichment courses in various subject areas for students in grades 1-12. Programs of a similar nature also are available on Saturdays for students at the secondary level. Opportunity exists for students in their senior year of high school to enroll in courses at Middlesex County College. The Adult Education Program offers a variety of courses for the residents of the community. The co-curricular program at the junior and senior high school level provides a variety of after-school activities. Projected population forecasts indicate a continuous increase in school enrollment throughout the 1970's. However, this growth rate should occur at a slower and more stable pace than the school system experienced during the greater part of the past two decades. School building facilities will be expanded to meet the needs resulting from increased enrollment. Furthermore, the school expansion program throughout this period will include modifications in existing buildings in order to insure optimum physical facilities at all educational levels—elementary, junior-high and senior-high. Continuous evaluation of all aspects of the curriculum will occur with resultant changes in the educational program (K-12). Increasing emphasis will focus on developing and implementing programs to meet the needs of each individual enrolled in the school system. In all subject areas—at each grade level—new programs and new techniques of teaching will be carefully formulated and implemented so that all students can proceed most effectively through their educational program. Opportunities will increase for remedial instruction and enrichment courses during the school



# EDISON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SYSTEM

year, on Saturdays, and in the Summer School Program. Accelerated courses enabling students to complete their educational program in a shorter time span will be more readily available. The work-study aspect of the Vocational Education Program will be expanded to offer greater opportunity to explore career interests prior to graduation. The utilization of physical facilities on a twelve-month, day/evening basis will be more fully realized—Thus providing an increase in programs of an educational and recreational nature for school-age children and adult residents of the community.

The professional staff will increase so as to maintain a favorable student-teacher ratio. Increased specialized services by professional and para-professional personnel will be available in order to meet most effectively the individual needs of students.

These changes and developments in the educational system will be achieved in an orderly and well-planned manner—providing maximum educational opportunity for our children and a favorable tax structure for the residents of Edison.

## Elementary Schools

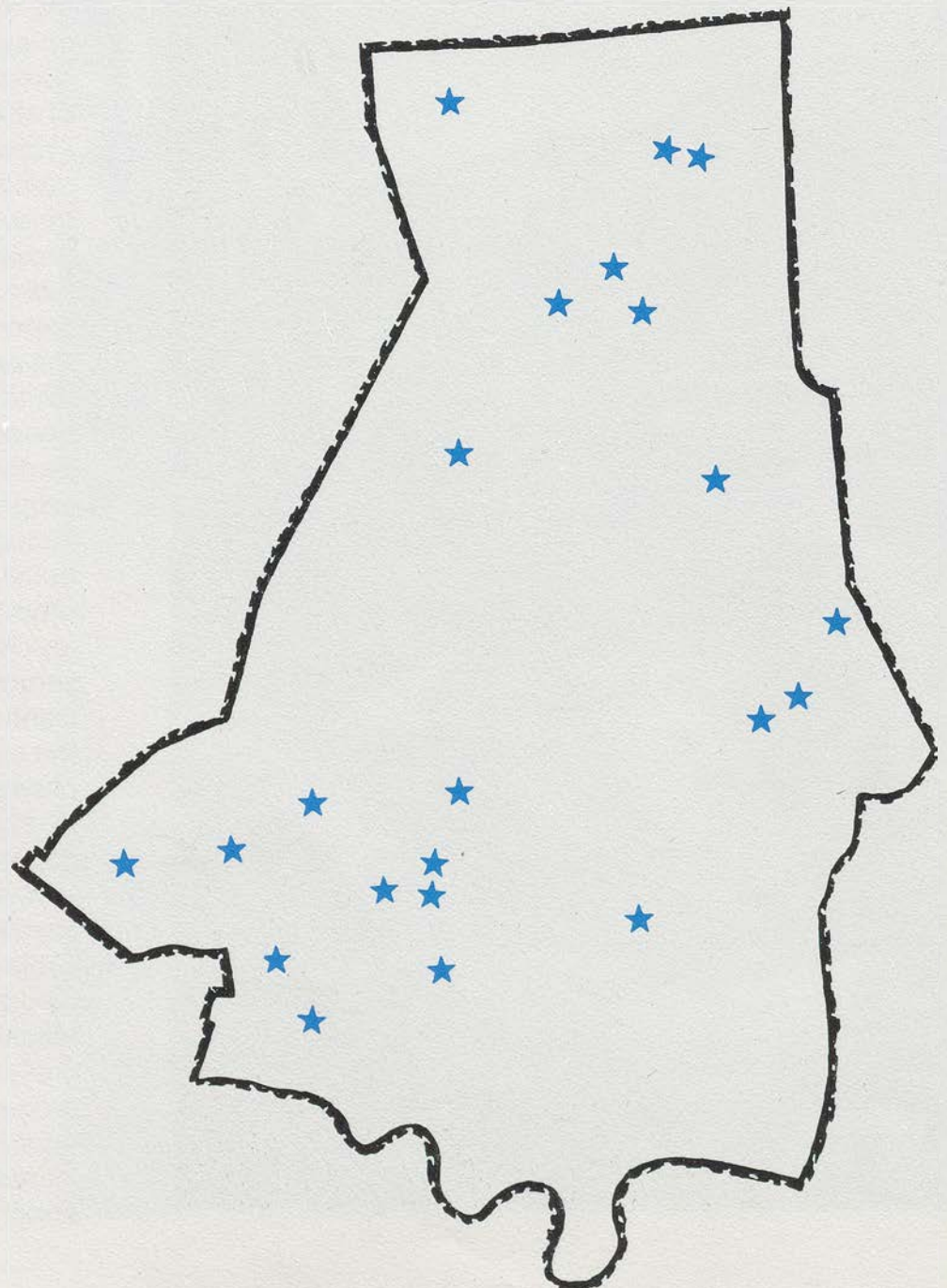
- # 3 Piscatawaytown
- # 5 Stelton
- # 6 Oak Tree
- # 7 Clara Barton
- # 8 Lincoln
- # 9 Washington
- #10 James Madison
- #11 Benjamin Franklin
- #13 John Marshall
- #14 Menlo Park
- #15 James Monroe
- #16 Lindeneau
- #17 Woodbrook
- #18 Martin Luther King
- #19 F.D.R. (Spec. Ed.)
- #20 James Madison

## Secondary Schools

- EHS Edison High
- JPS John P. Stevens
- TJ Thomas Jefferson Jr. High
- JA John Adams Jr. High
- HH Herbert Hoover Jr. High
- WW Woodrow Wilson Jr. High (Gloria Ave.)

## Offices

- BO Board Office
- SO Superintendent's Office





## Higher Education

Nearby, Rutgers, the State University is the largest educational institution in New Jersey. It is due to become even more important in the state's economy, with an impact that extends far beyond the purchasing power of its 4,000 employees and 19,000 day students. Situated in the center of an industrial state, Rutgers participates in the growing two-way exchange between industry and the university.

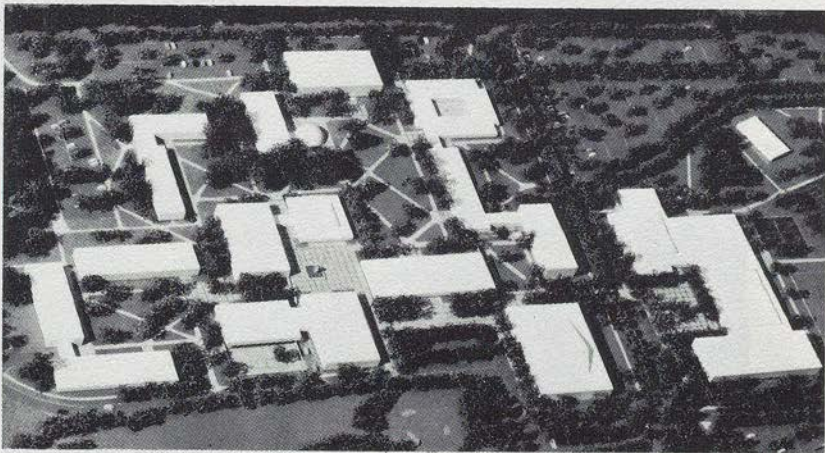
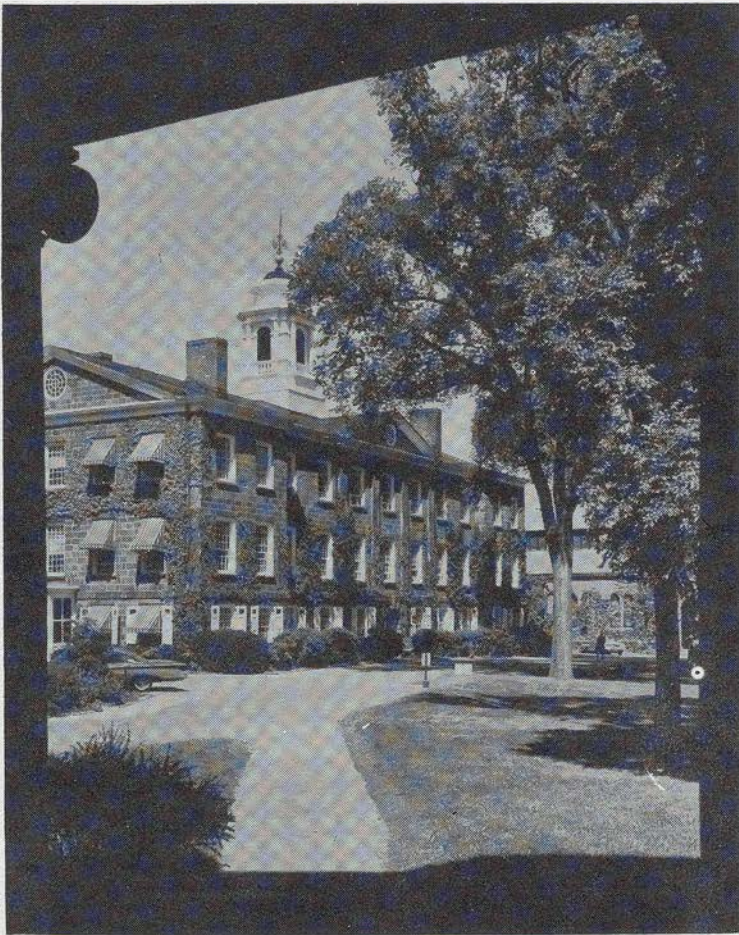
Recent development of the sprawling Rutgers University complex in Central Jersey focuses on the new Kilmer Campus located partly in Edison and partly in Piscataway Township. Livingston College, the first of three colleges planned for the 500 acre site which was formerly a part of Camp Kilmer, is now completed.

Middlesex County College opened in September 1966. The College offers a comprehensive curriculum designed to train technicians in demand by area industry or to prepare students to continue their education. The County College is unique in that it began with a ready-made campus providing ample room for future growth. The 200 acres of former Raritan Arsenal land turned over to Middlesex County by the Federal Government offers an attractive landscaped site ideally suited for educational development.

The County College's first class—approximately 700 full-time day students and 300 to 400 Evening Division students—made use of several buildings turned over to the College by the government. The initial \$3,626,000 development program included renovation of existing buildings suitable for use as classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices and student facility areas. In 1972 approximately 10,000 students were enrolled.

Since 1966 five additional new buildings have been constructed furthering the rapid and effective growth of the College. These buildings are the Library, Main Hall Building, Physical Education Complex, the Health Technologies Center and the College Center.

The College offers 2 year curriculums in Liberal Arts, Science, Engineering Technologies, Health Technologies, and Business. The Division of Continuing Education makes available the opportunity for individual and educational development on a part-time basis with courses scheduled during the day, evening, and weekend.





# PARKS, RECREATION, FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Parks

Roosevelt Park, developed and operated by the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders, is an attractive 200 acre facility located entirely in Edison Township. It provides wooded areas of century old trees, an attractive lake, streams, picnic areas, a stadium, tennis courts and an outdoor theatre. Another county park is being developed on former Raritan Arsenal land adjoining Middlesex County College. The State of New Jersey maintains the 30 acre Edison State Park and Museum in the Menlo Park section of town on the site of Thomas A. Edison's original laboratory at the Edison Tower.

Six park sites which range in size from 3 acres to the 58 acre site adjoining the new municipal building complex in the central part of town are being developed by the township itself. Together they offer park facilities for neighborhood areas in all sections of the township.

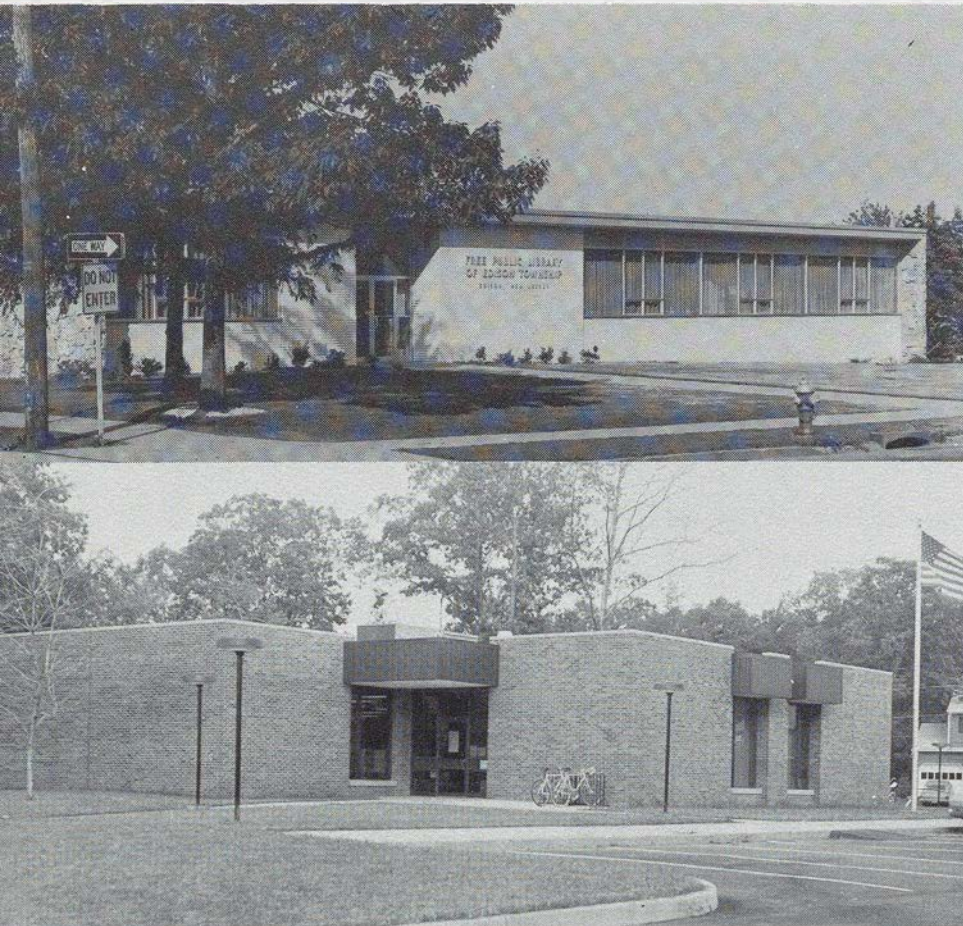
## Recreation

Year round supervised recreation activities, provided for Edison residents of all ages, include hobby classes, field trips, indoor and outdoor sports leagues and tournaments





## PARKS, RECREATION, FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



augmented from time to time by special events and instructional programs. The township recreation department conducts a full range of programs at a number of public and private facilities including 35 playgrounds, several indoor and outdoor rinks, courts, playing fields, bowling lanes, swimming pools and a township-owned Raritan River boat basin.

A varied senior citizens program provides interesting opportunities for less active people to fraternize or compete with others whose recreational interests and ability to participate are compatible with their own.

### **Libraries**

Edison's 33,000 registered borrowers may draw from just under 100,000 volumes available at the township's main library and two branches. As part of the New Jersey regional library network, several hundred thousand additional volumes are available to Edison residents from other larger libraries in the network. Expansion of the local library system is continuing at an accelerated rate with additional facilities being provided to keep pace with the community's needs.



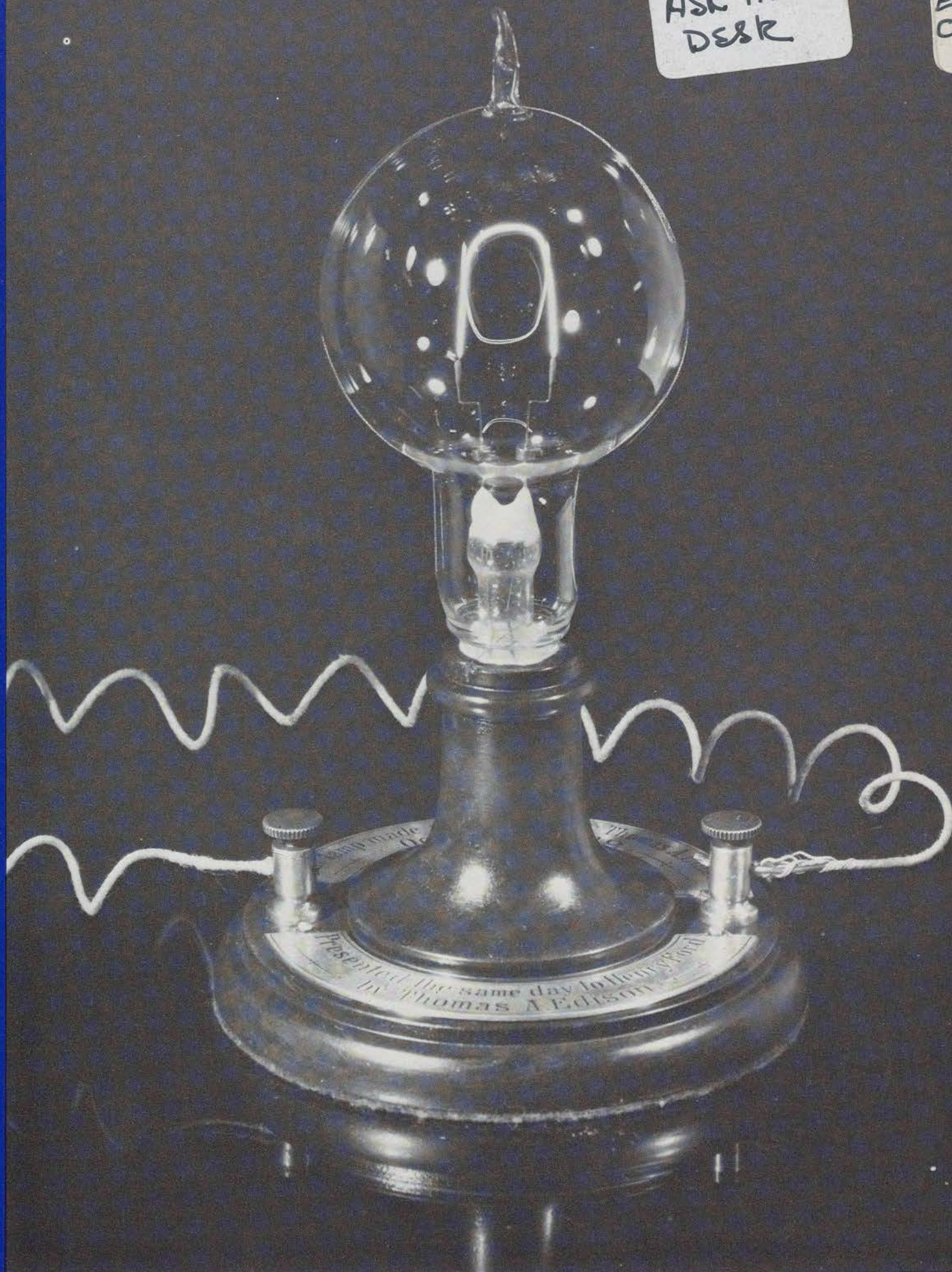


# MASTER PLAN GOALS

*The following Master Plan goals, as prepared by the Planning Board, provide the basis for all Master Plan proposals. These goals are revisions of the nine major objectives of the previous Master Plan of 1962.*

1. **Creation of a safe, attractive, healthful and convenient physical environment.** This can be accomplished by encouraging the proper relationship between the various types of land uses to provide for optimum conditions for residence, commerce and industry.
2. **Provision for a broad range of housing types** and densities to meet the needs of various age, income and family size groups. By appropriate admixture of single-family detached housing, townhouses, garden apartments, high-rise apartments and other types an attractive environment can be had by all.
3. **Development of a community and neighborhood identity** in the Township by a proper balance of land uses, appropriately placed community facilities, and a road pattern which strengthens the cohesiveness of the community and retains neighborhood identity within the community.
4. **Provision of adequate community facilities** to maximize the educational, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic opportunities of Township residents. Locations for needed facilities should be pinpointed on the Master Plan and where possible acquired through the cooperation of developers.
5. **Adequate provision of municipal services** to assure a safe and healthful community.
6. **Development of functional traffic circulation and street design** properly related to the varied pattern of land use and designed to provide convenient, safe and efficient movement within and through the Township. Creation of a functional street design will reduce the total area of the Township that has to be devoted to street purposes, will lower the cost of maintenance, will increase the safety and speed of through movement and will add to the amenity of residential and other districts.
7. **Encouragement of a sound and diversified economic base** as a source both of a stable tax base and of economic opportunities for the local labor force.
8. **Broadening of tax base** through the encouragement of industrial, commercial, and high-density residential uses to supplement the tax base and thus to provide sufficient financial resources to support the quantity and quality of urban services and facilities without imposing undue burden on the individual taxpayer.
9. **Maintenance of high aesthetic standards** in the determination of land development patterns. Aesthetic standards should guide the design and regulation of structures and other visual elements in the community.





# 1879-1979 The Centennial of Light

EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thomas Alva Edison  
Instructional Bulletin  
by  
The New Jersey Historical Society



## Instructional Bulletin

Thomas Alva Edison  
published by  
The New Jersey Historical Society  
230 Broadway, Newark, N.J.  
07104  
1978

Director, Dr. Clifford L. Lord

prepared by the Education Department

Joan C. Hull, Assistant Director  
Frank C. Puglia, Associate  
Polly Emerson, Staff

The publication of this bulletin is made possible by a grant from the Charles A. Edison Fund to the New Jersey Historical Commission for The New Jersey Historical Society.

## Contents

I. An Introduction.	3
Edison in the Classroom.	3
Researching	
Thomas A. Edison.	3
Edison, A Biographical Sketch.	4
II. The "Wizard" — A Practical Scientist.	7
Will the Real Edison Please Stand Up?	7
Edison Curtain Raisers.	7
Edison Speaks.	8
Edison, The Private Man.	9
III. Action with Edison.	10
The Incandescent Lamp.	10
The Phonograph.	12
Motion Picture Projector.	14
The Movies Come to New Jersey.	17
IV. Edison's World.	21
Edison Historic Sites.	21
Personalities Associated with Edison.	24
V. "Inventive" Resources.	28
Institutions and Industry.	28
Selected Bibliography.	30

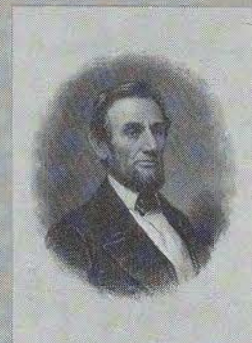
## Edison Timeline

Edison born, Milan, Ohio	February 11, 1847
	1850
	1852
Moves to Port Huron, Michigan	1853
Self education	1854
	1860
	1861
Age 15, publishes own newspaper	1862
Learns telegraphy	1862
	1863
Becomes 'top notch' telegraph operator	1867
1st invention, electric vote recorder	1868
Improves stock ticker	1869
Moves to Newark, N.J.	1870
Marries Mary Stilwell in Newark	December 25, 1871
Duplex telegraphy	1873
Quadruplex telegraph	1874
"Etheric Force," the basis for wireless communication	1875
Moves to Menlo Park, builds "invention factory"	1876
Carbon telephone transmitter; phonograph	1877
Incandescent lamp	October, 1879
	1880-90
1st commercial electric generating station, Pearl Street, N.Y.C.	September 4, 1882
Discovers "Edison effect," basis for vacuum tubes	1883
Moves to West Orange and larger laboratory	1884
Mary Stilwell Edison dies	1884
Edison marries Mina Miller	1886
Improved phonograph; dictating machines; fluoroscope	1887-1891
Merges to form General Electric Company	1892
Kinetoscope; motion picture machine	1896
	1898
Works on alkaline battery	1899-1910
	1901
	1912
	1917
	1920
	1927
Experiments for synthetic rubber	1927-31
Awarded Congressional Gold Medal	1928
Menlo Park Laboratory restored at Dearborn, Michigan	1929
Edison's death at West Orange	October 18, 1931
	1932
West Orange Laboratory and home dedicated as Edison National Historic Site	1962



## In the Nation

War with Mexico
Compromise of 1850
Harriet Beecher Stowe writes <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
Gadsden Purchase
Lincoln elected President
Civil War begins
Emancipation Proclamation
Alaska Purchase
Transcontinental Railroad completed
Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone
Major flood of immigration
Booker T. Washington and Tuskegee Institute receive national prominence
Statue of Liberty dedicated
Spanish American War
Theodore Roosevelt becomes President
Woodrow Wilson elected President
United States enters World War I
Women given right to vote
Lindbergh makes transatlantic flight
Stock market crashes
Franklin D. Roosevelt elected President





## I. AN INTRODUCTION

### EDISON IN THE CLASSROOM

Thomas Alva Edison, a world renowned figure, spent his most important, productive years in New Jersey. The year 1979 marks the 100th anniversary of his perfection of the electric light, an event that revolutionized lifestyles for people throughout the world. This instructional bulletin has been prepared to honor this great Jerseyan and famous American. It provides teachers and students with projects and action-oriented studies to better understand Edison's contributions to the world.

The bulletin is designed to:

- aid students in gathering information on Thomas A. Edison.

- promote activities related to Edison and his contributions.

- provide a general overview and "stepping stone" for further learning activities.

During the "Era of Edison" culminating in 1979 with the "year of light," New Jersey schools are encouraged to engage in Edison studies. As Edison was a man of many dimensions—scientist, philosopher and a practical dreamer, so can Edison learning activities cross multi-disciplinary lines. As with the enduring impact of Edison's inventions, it is expected that the rich learning opportunities in Edison-related studies will be used long past the 1979 centennial year.

The Bulletin has studies and activities for students on both the elementary and secondary levels. Some are better adapted for one grade level than the other. It is expected that creative teachers and students will extract those learning experiences which best fit their educational objectives.

During the "Era of Edison," the New Jersey Historical Society will designate "Edison Centennial Schools" among its club and school members. For qualifications and ground rules, write to the Society's Education Department.

### RESEARCHING THOMAS A. EDISON

Almost every project intended to commemorate the Thomas A. Edison Centennial, including the activities suggested in this bulletin, requires some research. Those who do the research will not be disappointed. Bridging two centuries, every aspect of Edison's life is a fascinating study. Naturally, with such a multi-talented, multi-faceted subject there are certain considerations to be met. One of the most urgent is deciding which avenue of exploration should be pursued. Some may wish to pursue a general overview or broad biography; while others may do a more specialized study, such as the development of a particular invention, or the years spent at Menlo Park or West Orange.

After choosing an area for research—stick to it. Concentrate on finding information to substantiate your topic. If you settle upon an investigation of the phonograph, do not include unnecessary facts about other inventions.

*Set Objectives.* Know why you chose your topic. Does it interest you more than others? Can you possibly shed new light or thoughts? Some areas of Thomas Edison's career have been researched more than others, and there is an abundance of materials available. However, you may be more challenged by doing fresh spadework on new grounds.

Next decide what form the results of your research will take. Will it be a film, slides, a narrative with visual effects; an essay, speech, displays or dramatic productions. As you gather information, keep in mind the format you will be using; for example, some accounts will be especially adaptable for a film. When the project is completed, you may wish to tailor it into written form and submit it to the Society's student magazine, *The Cockpit*, for possible publication.

When using secondary sources, try to double check facts, notably when citing dates. Many Edison inventions were paralleled by similar devices occasionally causing confusion as to "who was first?". Be wary of patent dates — the date applied for, and when actually issued. A leading encyclopedia mistakenly listed a patent applied for date as an issue date.



*Edison, the scientist, philosopher and practical dreamer.*



## THOMAS A. EDISON AND "THE AMERICAN WAY"

### A Biographical Sketch

"Don't tell me it can't be done" was a popular retort in the early twentieth century. It became synonymous with "The American Way." Largely one man, Thomas A. Edison, was responsible for generating the inspiration, determination, and hope that was so readily adopted by millions of Americans.

Those fortunate enough to live in New Jersey during the time Thomas Edison spent his 60 years in the state, knew that anything was possible. An often-used phrase is "There are those who *talk* about doing and those who *do* it." Thomas Edison was a doer who inspired many more Americans to do the same.

In the area around the turn of the century people worked long and hard hours. Buildings were made that scraped the sky, and cities grew and spread. Ships and airplanes were designed that

of national confidence did not occur in one day, but it did begin that way.

A boy, Thomas Alva Edison, was born to Samuel and Nancy Edison on February 11, 1847, at Milan, Ohio. The Edisons soon recognized that their son was no ordinary child. He was full of questions, wanting to know what something was for and how it worked. He was interested in everything — except school! His marks were not good, and teachers thought him to be deficient. Nancy Edison, a former teacher, wisely decided to remove Tom from school and educate the boy herself. Soon Tom developed a boundless appetite for reading books. One of the books, by British scientist Michael Faraday, captivated his interest the most. The book was about electricity.

When Edison was about thirteen years old, he became a newsboy and candy salesman on a railroad train. Two years later he set up a printing press in the baggage car and printed his own newspaper, "The Weekly Herald." One day, while Edison was busy working on the newspaper, the train pulled in for a brief stop into a railroad yard in Mount Clemens, Michigan. As the young Edison walked among the boxcars, he noticed that the station agent's little boy had run onto the track, directly in front of an oncoming railcar. Without hesitating, Edison lunged across the track dragging the boy to safety. The boy's grateful father offered to teach Edison telegraphy as a reward.

Over the next few years Edison worked as a telegraph operator at many places, becoming a "first class" man at the key." His keen sense of curiosity prompted him to make his first invention, a vote recorder. He was extremely pleased with his creation until he tried to sell it and found no buyers. Although disappointed, Edison vowed to learn from the error and promised he would never make an invention for which there was no demand. At age twenty, the young man had accomplished more than most men can in a lifetime.

Around 1869 Edison began experimenting with a stock ticker. He sold a refined model called the universal stock ticker to Western Union for \$40,000. The inventor used the large sum of money to buy a factory on Ward Street in Newark. Within his new workroom he created the quadruplex telegraph and assisted Christopher L. Sholes on a gadget called the typewriter. The inventor also met Mary Stilwell and married her on Christmas Day, 1871.

In the spring of 1876 the Edisons moved to Menlo Park, New Jersey. One of his first tasks was to make a carbon transmitter, a small device used in microphones. At the same time, Alexander Graham Bell was looking for a material that would transmit voices over his telephone. Edison's carbon button was the answer. The two men worked together, and Bell's telephone became a success. For many years Edison's name was stamped on every telephone sold. By nature, Edison was unpretentious, so he was only being himself when he picked up a telephone and simply said "hello." Since then, millions of people have answered the phone precisely that way.



eventually withstood a World War, when Americans boasted how quick their handiwork would end the mess "over there." Industry flourished and scientists made new discoveries. Immigrants traveled across the sea to this new land of opportunity, a place where everyone could be successful if he worked hard enough. What a time to be alive! A feeling of optimism filled the air. This mood



One day, as Edison toyed with a telegraphic repeater, he noticed that when the machine's disc was spun rapidly it played a musical note. Realizing he had stumbled upon something, he poured forth all his energies trying to reproduce sounds. Just as the human ear has a delicate diaphragm, so, too, must his invention. He found waxes, such as paraffin, were too soft. Next he tried tinfoil and thought it might do. He sketched the invention on paper and gave the design to his assistant, John Kreusi, to make. Kreusi returned boasting to Edison that the machine would never work. As Edison turned the crank, the machine reproduced the words he had called into its funnel only moments before, "Mary had a little lamb." The phonograph was invented! Edison always considered it his favorite invention.

People were captivated by the phonograph. All the world discovered Thomas Edison. They called him the "Wizard of Menlo Park." No longer could Edison enjoy the privacy he had known. The inventor adjusted to fame and concentrated anew on a fascinating idea — manufacturing light where there was darkness.

Edison was assisted in the effort by a team of men led by Charles Batchelor. The men worked hard, spending long hours in the laboratory. They were searching for a special fibrous material that would make a good lamp filament. Of all things tried, Edison felt the best was ordinary sewing thread.

On October 17, 1879, he carbonized the strand and carefully gave it to Batchelor, who attached it to a pair of poles inside a glass bulb. The two men waited until 8 o'clock that evening, then Edison turned the power on, and the pair settled down to see how long the lamp would glow. Surprisingly, the light continued to illuminate the room all night, far longer than the short lifespans of earlier filaments. It burned throughout the next day! Nearly forty hours later, Edison decided to force more voltage into the lamp, pushing it to the limit. The lamp was burning its brightest when suddenly the room went dark. The experiment was a success. The darkness of night had been conquered.

"The Wizard of Menlo Park" had accomplished what some of the world's leading scientists said

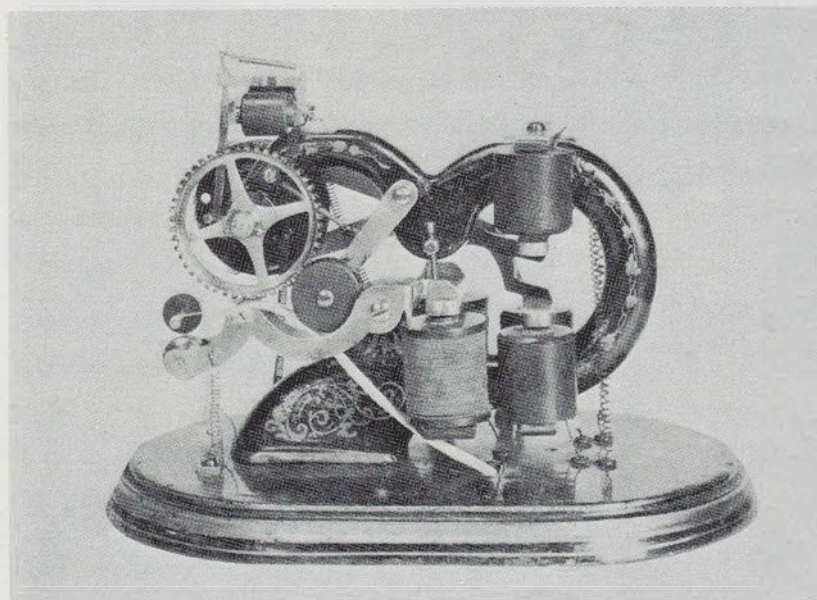


*Tom and Mina Edison, Fort Myers, Florida*

couldn't be done; he invented an incandescent lamp. He did not stop there but established a generating station at 255 Pearl Street in New York. Electricity depended on the power of a generator. Over the next few years, the inventor turned his attention to creating an electric locomotive, a secretarial device called the Ediphone, a principle known as "etheric force" (wireless telegraphy) and improved the phonograph. Another venture was the manufacture of iron ore and cement.

In 1884 Thomas Alva Edison was a lonely man. Although surrounded by friends and workers, his heart was heavy with sadness caused by the death of his wife, Mary. Daily at his laboratory, his thoughts were on things other than his work. Then he met and began to date Mina Miller. Immediately his happy and optimistic outlook returned. The lovestruck Edison composed a letter to Lewis Miller asking for his daughter's hand in marriage. With a genuine attempt at modesty, the inventor candidly appraised his own life. He wrote, "My reputation is so far made that I recognize that I must be judged by it for good or ill." The newlyweds selected a home on a hill overlooking the inventor's new factory complex at West Orange, New Jersey. Edison wanted to leave the memories of Menlo Park behind.

The thirty-seven year old Edison was in the prime of his life. He had captured attention and respect from every corner of the world. People anxiously awaited his next invention. They assumed he was probably working on something special. Could the seed within Edison's mind mature into something benefiting society as much as the incandescent light? Surely the wizardry of Edison would glisten again.



*Stock ticker*



Among the things Edison invented in the ensuing years were: a special torpedo for the U.S. Navy, megaphones, a nickel alkaline storage battery, a fluoroscope, gummed wrapping tape and a small device, called a microtasimiter that measured slight temperature changes. In his lifetime Thomas Edison was granted 1,094 United States patents. One of these patents was for a motion picture projector. This invention, called the kinetoscope, caused a new sensation.

For a number of years Edison had toyed with the idea of doing for the eye what his phonograph did for the ear. The major obstacle to inventing a motion picture projector was suitable film. Then, in 1887, the Reverend Hannibal Goodwin of Newark invented a flexible film made of celluloid. Edison and his assistant W.K.L. Dickson built a camera called the kinetograph; and the projector, or kinetoscope. The kinetoscope, or peep show machine, soon became a public favorite. Parlors lined with the viewing machines were the most crowded places in town. Eventually, the infatuation of viewing movies through a small hole diminished, and businessmen began looking for a new crowd pleaser.

Edison joined forces with a Washington, D.C. inventor named Thomas Armat and perfected a machine that could truly "project" images onto a wall or screen. Their new creation, known as the vitascope, debuted at Koster and Bials Music Hall in New York City on April 23, 1896. People loved the large picture, and a new industry was born. Movie

studios soon dotted the New Jersey Palisades. Kinetoscope parlors were replaced by nickelodeons, a type of movie theater that charged five cents admission. In less than fifteen years, Edison had given the world three major inventions: the motion picture projector, the phonograph and the incandescent light bulb. The world would never be the same.

Thomas Edison remained active throughout his later years. His employees fondly nicknamed him "the old man" and marveled at his vigor. Every day Edison punched his card in the timeclock and inspected all work areas. He refused to use the machine shop elevator, ignoring the pleas of well-intentioned employees, and chose instead to climb the steep stairs. Edison always had high expectations and worked to achieve them. It was impossible to sidetrack him once he became involved in a project. He demanded employees follow his example, and they did. Most were loyal and hard working. Edison once said the secret of his success was "one per cent inspiration; 99 per cent perspiration."

On October 18, 1931, Edison died at his West Orange home. In his library stands a big clock which had always kept perfect time. At 3:27 a.m. the hands of the clock stopped, precisely the time Edison expired. Family members decided not to repair the timepiece, thinking it too rare a coincidence. Though the clock's hands were still, the hands of millions of Americans would be busy for years to come.



Edison and Henry Ford



## II. THE "WIZARD" — A PRACTICAL SCIENTIST

Research and writing challenges which explore and analyze Thomas Alva Edison's complex many-faceted talents and character.

### "WILL THE REAL EDISON PLEASE STAND UP?"

Exploring the many faces of Edison.

Biographers, admirers, even critics of Edison, all have had their pet names when describing the famous man.

He has been called:

The Hero  
The Scientist  
The Family Man  
The Private Man  
The Young Wonder  
The Wizard  
The Magician  
The Most Useful American

1. Ask the students to do further research on Edison's life, then
2. Ask each student to select the name which each feels is the best description of the inventor, with a statement substantiating the choice.
3. Tally the results, report upon the most popular names, discuss the students' choice.

Option: Student contest to select an original name for Edison.

After research, ask each student to submit an original "pet name" for Edison. Arbitrarily, or with a student committee, select the five best and ask the class to vote for the top choice.

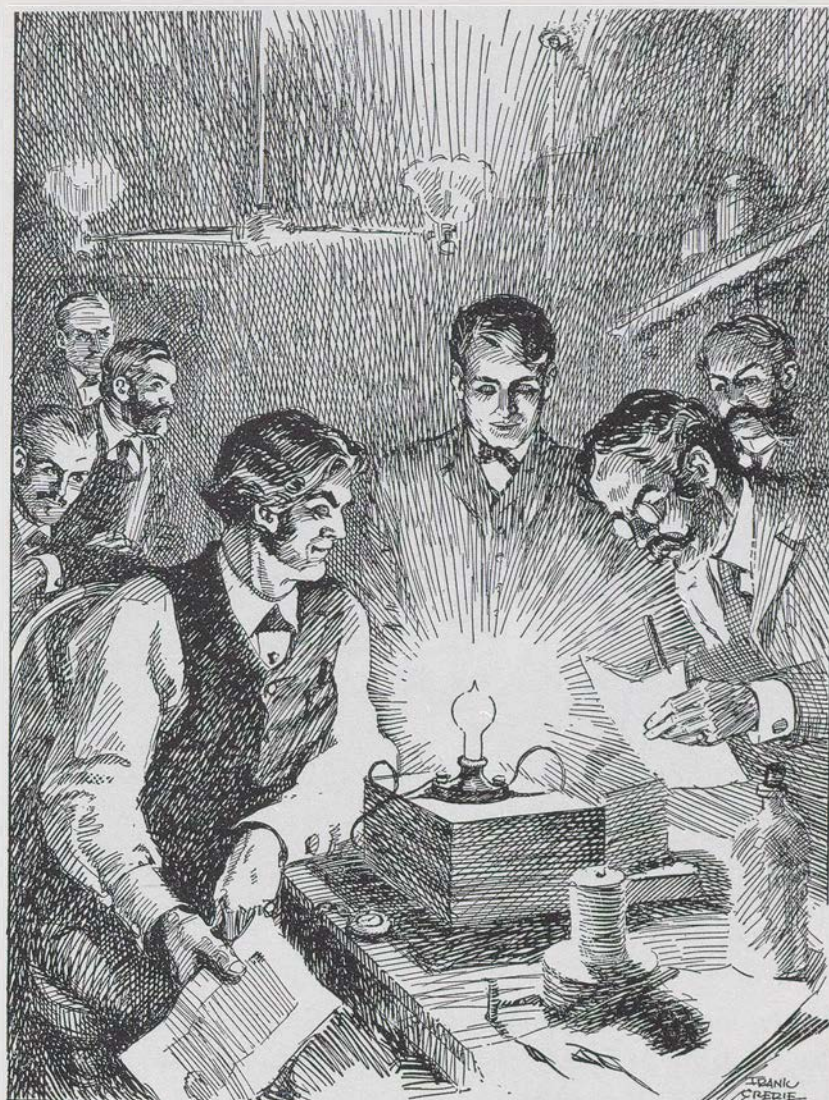
### EDISON CURTAIN RAISERS

Like many other extraordinary people, Edison's life was marked by colorful and dramatic moments. Some were heroic, others comical; some were personal, while others were spectacles of public acclaim. Most signified crucial turning points in the career of the inventor.

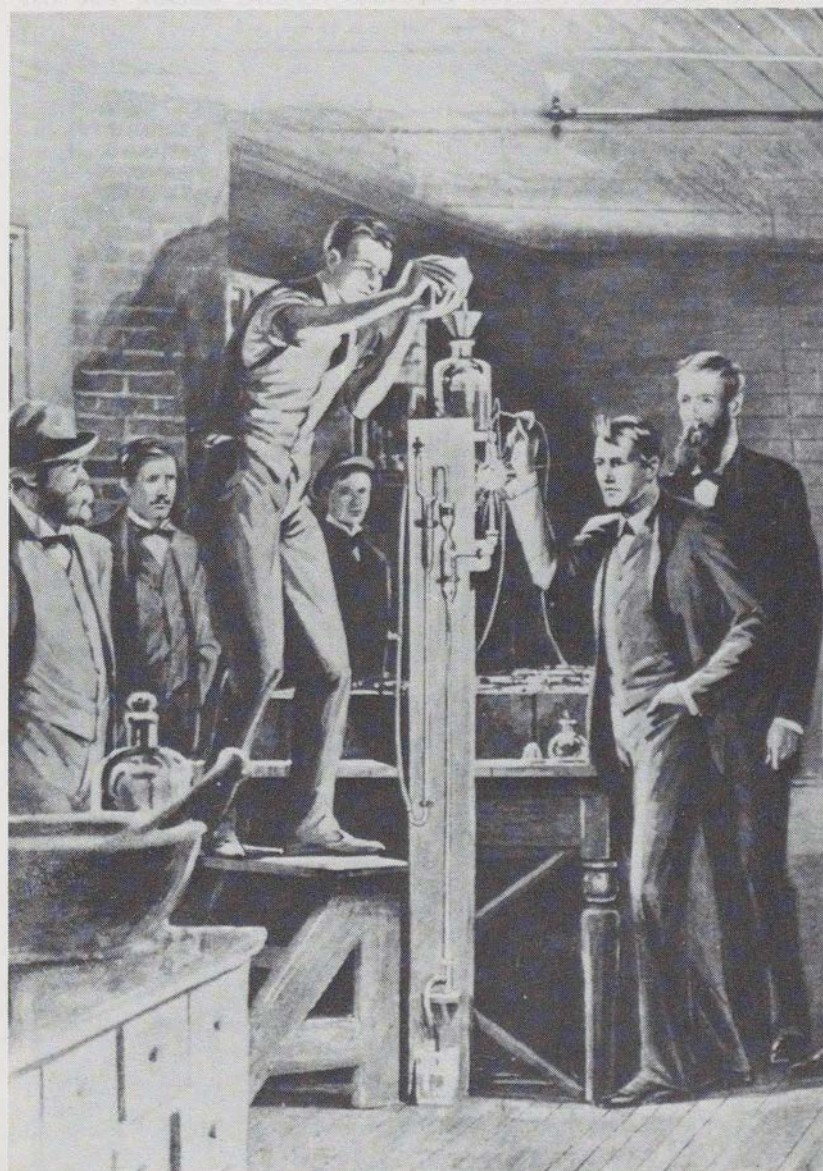
Re-create Edison "curtain raisers" in a play, skit, TV or radio drama, or other creative role playing. Research further, write a script and re-enact one of these dramatic highlights in Edison's life.

1. (1862) The episode when Edison saved the life of the son of railroad telegrapher, J. U. Mackenzie. Just a lad himself, he dashed in front of rolling, deadly boxcars and snatched the boy to safety. In gratitude, Mackenzie taught Edison to become a telegraph operator.

2. (1870) Edison's meeting with General Marshall Lefferts, president of Western Union, when the inventor brought an improved stock ticker to demonstrate. Edison was so nervous he couldn't respond to the question about how much his invention was worth. He thought possibly \$5,000., but



Artists capture the perfection of the incandescent light inside the Menlo Park Laboratory







A view of the Menlo Laboratory as reconstructed at Greenfield Village, Michigan

knew he would be happy with \$3,000. Lefferts offered him \$40,000, and a cash springboard for a lifetime of invention.

**3. (Early 1870's)** The occasion that Edison found that he could not fill a \$30,000. rush order for an improved stock printer because it would not function properly. He locked the door of his Newark plant, with himself and his associates inside. He then vowed that no one would leave until the "bugs" were fixed. Sixty hours later, after no sleep, and little food, the printer was working again.

**4. (1877)** The invention of the phonograph, when Edison gave drawings to his assistant, John Kruesi, and told him to produce a working model. His disbelieving staff laughed at him, and joshed, when he began experimenting with the instrument. Within a few moments, for the first time ever, the human voice was reproduced.

**5. (1879)** The perfection of the incandescent light, when, after endless failures, Edison experimented with a new filament for the bulb. He switched on the current, then, in shifts, he and his assistants watched the light burn for 40 hours. At the end of their long vigil, they knew that the answer to cheap, practical electric lights had been discovered.

**6. (1882)** The lighting of the first district of New York City, when Edison pulled the main switch and suddenly streets and buildings were aglow with brilliant light. Edison had to start from scratch to build the Pearl Street Power Station. There was nothing he could buy or order, so he created all the components of a lighting system—sockets, fuses, wires, cables, switches and improved dynamos. That night the crowds in the city streets cheered Edison for producing the miracle of light.

## EDISON SPEAKS

Edison was a highly articulate person who expressed his thoughts regularly in writing and in speech. Consulting his remarks is an effective means of gaining insights into the inventor's values, attitudes and "work ethic."

Edison has been described as a man who belonged to the 19th century, and as a "transitional figure" in American science; i.e., according to some, outmoded and outdated in terms of contemporary culture. The activity suggested in this section should aid students to discover attitudes that motivated many late 19th century American leaders. Also, it provides an opportunity to measure whether there have been changes or adaptations in American cultural values.

Select any one (several, all) of the quotations. In class discussion, ask the students to spontaneously respond as to what the quotation means to them; do they agree; is the idea applicable today? Assign the students to a fact finding mission in which they research Edison's life to find real examples to his actions which justify or reinforce the quotation.

### Edison Quotes

1. "My desire is to do everything within my power to free people from drudgery, and create the largest measure of happiness and prosperity."
2. "The three essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense."
3. "I firmly believe that the moving picture is destined to bear an important part in the education of the future."
4. "Discovery is not invention, and I dislike to see the two words confounded. A discovery is more or less in the nature of an accident."
5. "I've been in the inventor business for many years, and my experience is that for every problem the Lord has made. He also has made a solution."
6. "I am experimenting upon an instrument . . . in such form as to be cheap, practical and convenient."
7. "I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident—they came by work."
8. ". . . there are more frauds in science than anywhere else. There are two classes of them—first, the pure scientists without practical knowledge, and next the practical men without science."
9. "No company in which I have been personally responsible has ever failed to pay its debts."
10. "There is no substitution for hard work! Restlessness is discontent - and discontent is the first necessity of progress. Show me a thoroughly satisfied man - and I will show you a failure."





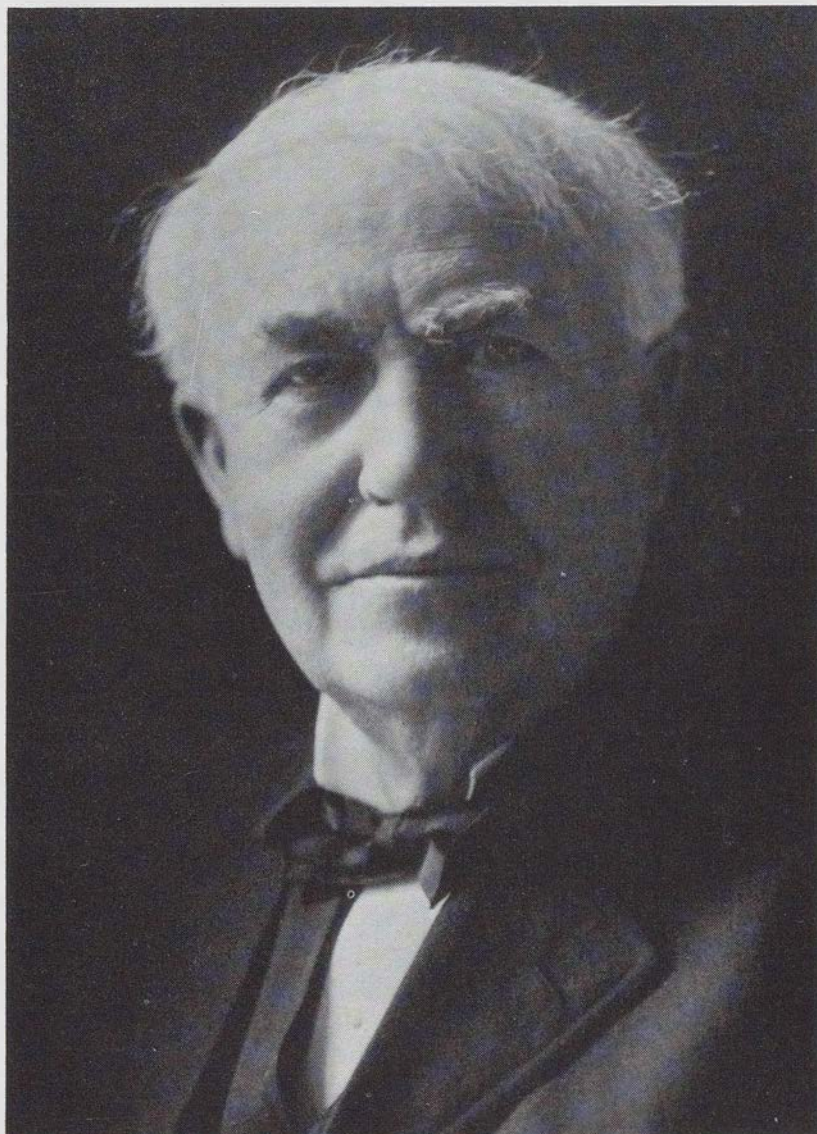
### EDISON, THE PRIVATE MAN

All people have public and private sides of their life. To understand a person as fully as possible, both dimensions must be studied and analyzed. Edison's private life is as fascinating as his more famous public life. He was a man of warmth, with foibles, near eccentricities, and personal tragedies.

Ask students to select one of the topics, do research, and write a factual or creative article about Edison's private side.

#### *The Private Side of Edison*

1. Pranks as a youth.
2. The school "drop out."
3. The Grand Trunk railroad boy businessman.
4. The vagabond, teenage, wireless operator.
5. Courtship and marriage years with Mary Stillwell.
6. Singular and curious work habits.
7. Staff dedication and loyalty.
8. Courtship and marriage of Mina Miller.
9. Furnishings, layout and decoration of his home, Glenmont.
10. The Edison estate in Ft. Myers, Florida.
11. Friendship with Harvey Firestone and Henry Ford.
12. Work habits of the "old man" at Edison Laboratories, Glenmont.
13. Dedication of Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan, and banquet at Light's Golden Jubilee.
14. Death of Edison.





### III. ACTION WITH EDISON

This section spotlights three of Edison's most famous inventions; tells the story of their birth; and offers classroom activities to encourage their understanding. It also surveys the early film industry in New Jersey.

#### THE INCANDESCENT LAMP

For many years scientists had searched for a material that could accommodate an electric current without breaking or disintegrating. Contrary to popular scientific theory of that time, Edison tried to make a filament through carbonization. Using an ordinary piece of cotton sewing thread as a carbon filament, Edison placed the glass bulb on a pump to extract air. The process took most of the day. It was October 19, 1879, a Sunday, regarded by Edison as the best day of the week for working. The inventor was never disturbed or interrupted for most of the other Edison employees were at home.

Around eight that evening the bulb was ready to be tested. Charles Batchelor assisted Edison in the "death watch," carefully eyeing the bright lamp to notice any irregularities or symptoms it might give when expiring. To their surprise, the bulb continued to burn throughout the night. Batchelor was relieved by Francis Jehl. Jehl and Edison were excused for a brief sleep by Francis Upton and Martin Force. The lamp defied the "death watch" all the next day and night. In the early afternoon of Tuesday, October 21, after nearly 40 hours of light, Edison decided to push the lamp to its limit. Slowly more and more voltage flowed into the lamp, causing it to reach a point of extreme brightness before it gave out, filling the room with darkness.

Every part of the lamp was anxiously examined by Edison for possible improvements; thus, the world's first incandescent lamp was never preserved as a museum piece. Nevertheless, the power and majesty of electricity surrounds us today, having changed and improved the world dramatically. This alone is a lasting tribute to the patience and genius of Thomas A. Edison.

#### Idea! Create a story of energy.

Needed: Artists, cardboard, paints, researchers, tape. Cut human-shaped figures from cardboard and brace them with a stand or glue another piece of cardboard to the back of the figure. Figures can range from ancient Peking Man making fire, to Einstein and then Edison. Beside the figure place a poster telling each's contributions. Arrange the display chronologically, with a continuing time line above the exhibits or on the floor below serving as a "Magic Road Through the Ages."

To see how such an exhibit is arranged, visit Public Service Electric and Gas Companies' "Second Sun Floating Museum" at Burlington, New Jersey 08016 or write to them for a brochure. The telephone number is 609-387-3800, Mr. Warfield. Other power companies in your area can provide information, particularly in the area of future developments.

Some figures important in the history of lighting:

Otto von Guericke (1650)  
Warren la Rue (1809)  
Francis Hawksbee (1700)  
Michael Faraday (1831)  
E. Georg von Kleist (1745)  
William R. Grove (1840)  
Sir Humphry Davy (1802)  
Benjamin Franklin (1752)

#### Idea! Research the story of light.

Discover more about the types of lamps used throughout history: Greek torches, Roman suspended lights, oil lamps, Betty lamps, candles, arc lighting, incandescent lamps!

#### Today's Light Bulb

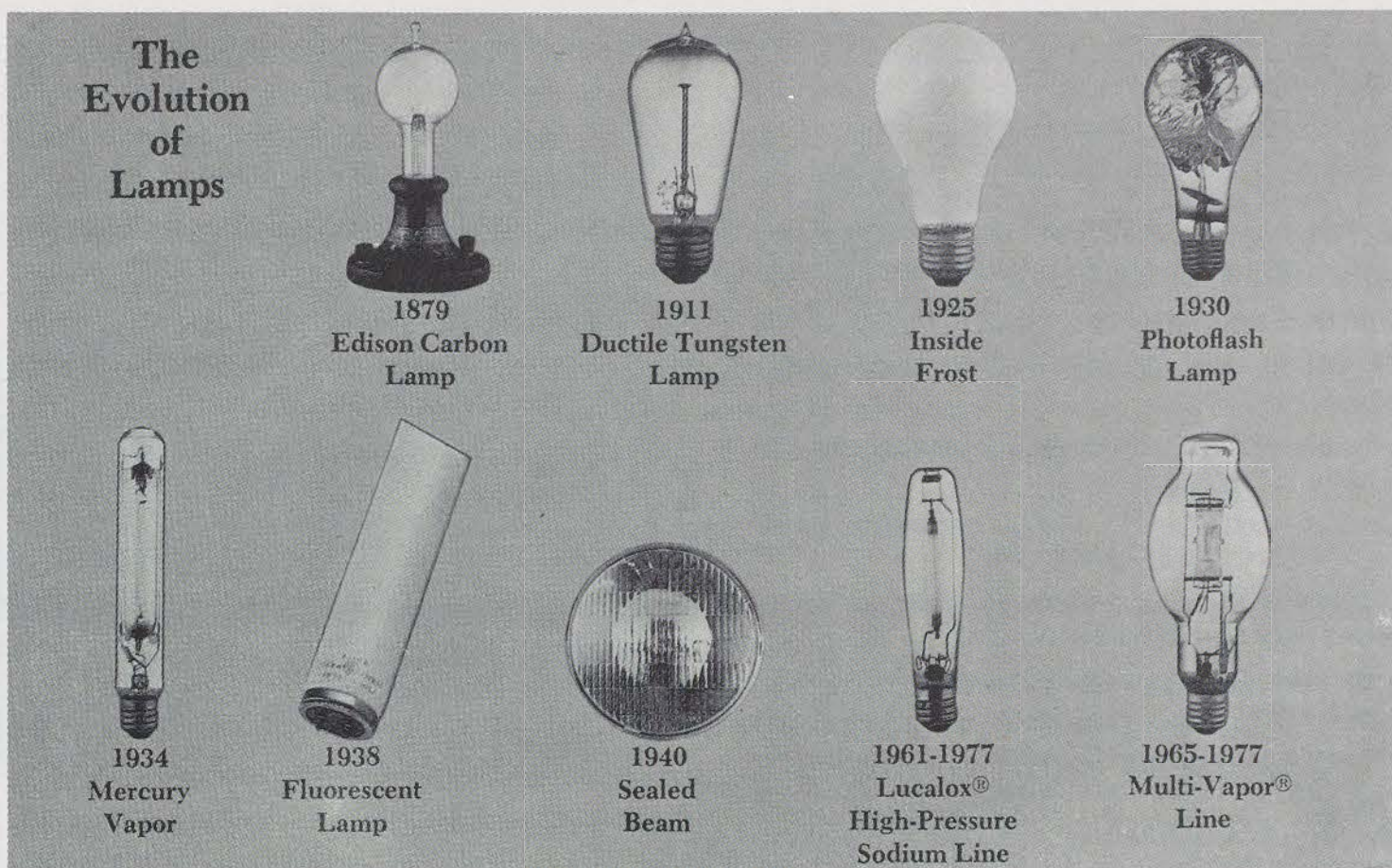
Modern electric light bulb is composed of a tungsten wire (filament) in a vacuum. When charged with electricity, the wire provides light. Lamp efficiency is computed; output to watts consumed. The larger the wattage, the more efficient and brilliant the lamp. So intensity is generally proportionate to a bulb's wattage.

#### Idea! Construct a light bulb.

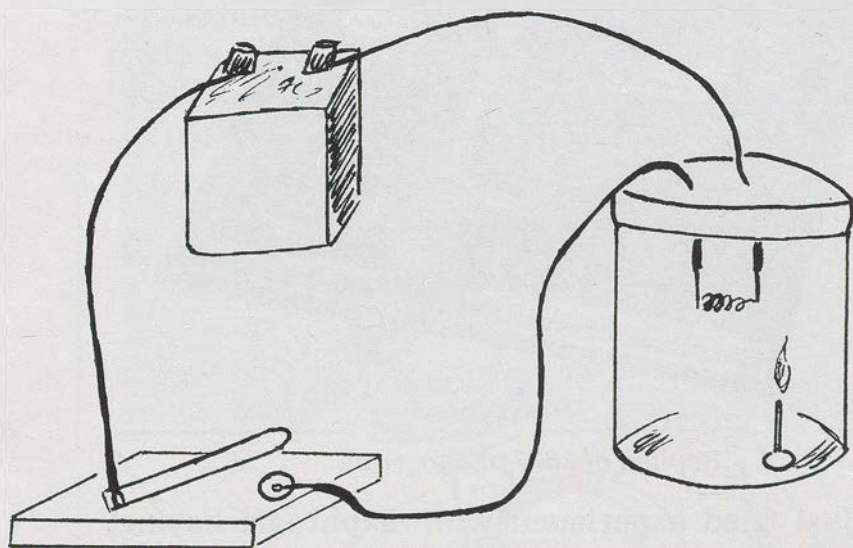
Materials needed: Two 18" pieces of wire, block of wood 3" x 4", copper lamp wire 4"-5" long, tin can, 2 screws, wide-mouth jar with lid, 6 volt battery, small birthday cake candle, screwdriver, hammer, nail.

1. Punch two holes through the jar cover about 1" or 2" apart.
2. Take the 2 pieces of wire and push them through the holes until they are halfway into the jar.
3. Take a piece of masking tape and place it over both wires and holes. Press excess tape over side of lid.
4. Take one copper strand from the lamp wire and wind it around a nail about 6 times. You have made a filament.
5. Remove the nail and tie the filament to the ends of the two wires that extend from the cover.
6. Screw the cover on the jar (lamp).
7. Cut the tin can along its length and flatten out. Be careful of sharp edges.
8. Cut a strip  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" and another  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1".
9. Take a nail and hammer a hole in the center of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1" piece and on one end of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" piece.
10. Position tin strips on wood so they overlap. Fasten with screws to wood, leaving small space underneath.
11. Connect wires to switch and battery.
12. Press the switch (turn the lamp on), and the filament will glow. Only keep it on for several seconds or the battery will drain. If the filament keeps glowing, it is too long and must be made shorter. Use the nail to make a shorter coil and re-connect to the wires. Ideally, this new filament should glow for only a few seconds.

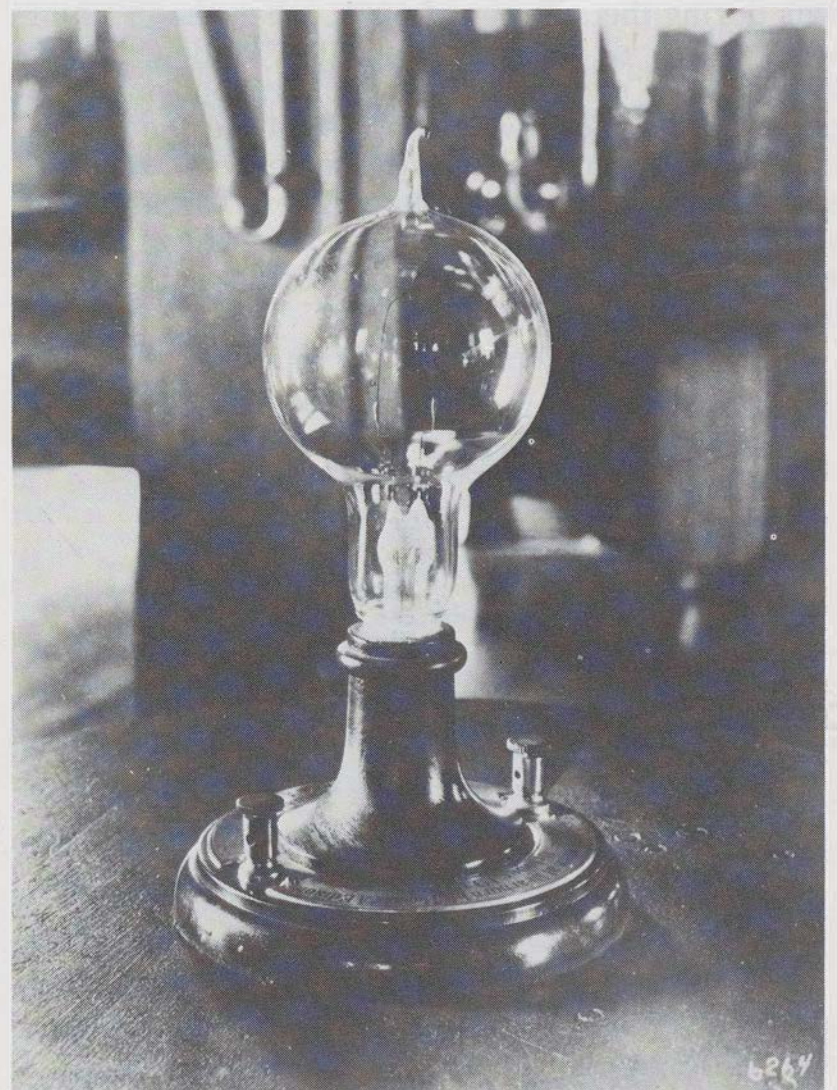




General Electric's chart of the evolution of light bulb



To create a vacuum, put the birthday candle inside the jar and light it. Turn the lights off and tighten the lid. Shortly the lit candle will extinguish as it uses up the available oxygen. Turn the lamp on; it should glow longer in the vacuum even though the filament is the same size as before.



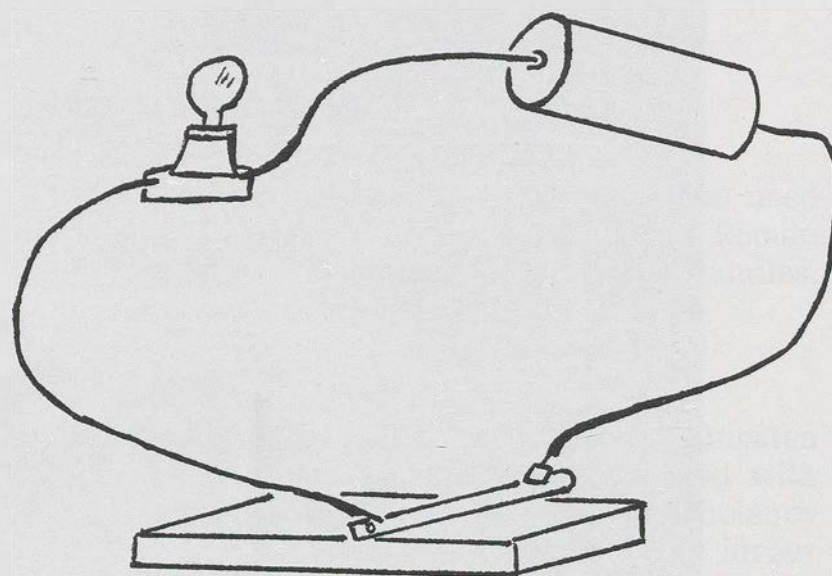


**Idea!**

### Make an Electric Circuit.

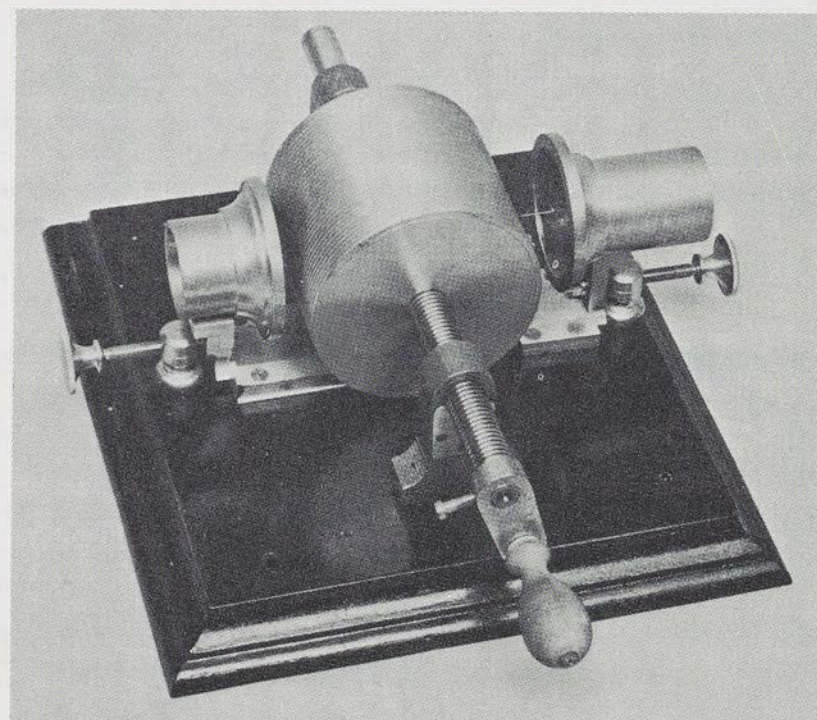
Materials needed: Penlight bulb, a few feet (36") of insulated wire, small socket, flashlight battery, tin can, wood 3" x 4", one screw, screwdriver, hammer.

1. Make certain the tin can is clean.
2. Remove lid from top and bottom.
3. Carefully cut the can along its length, avoiding its sharp edges.
4. Flatten the piece of tin and cut out one strip  $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 3" and one more  $\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
5. Cut a block of wood 3" by 4". Use the screw to attach the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" strip to the block of wood.
6. Cut two pieces of wire each about 18" long and fray the covering back so that wire is visible.
7. Attach the wire from one end of each piece to the battery with tape.
8. Connect the circuit by fastening one end of wire to the screw with the remaining end left free.
9. When the switch is on (the remaining end touched to the metal piece), the circuit is closed and the bulb will light up.



### THE PHONOGRAPH

Thomas Edison called this his favorite invention. The idea came to him while working on telegraphy. It was during the summer of 1877, when the inventor was testing a telegraph repeater, a device that looked very much like a modern phonograph. A paper disc upon which Morse code could be ingrained by an embossing needle was wrapped around a revolving metal plate. After experimenting with the machine, Edison noticed that when the disc was spun rapidly, a musical note could be heard. In his notebook he confidently wrote:

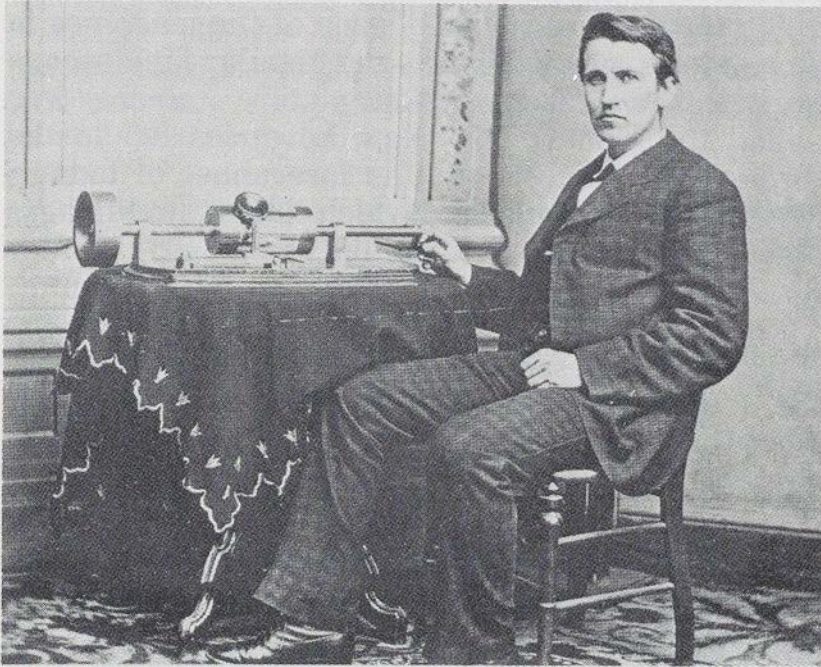


*Replica of 1877 phonograph*

"Just tried experiment with diaphragm having an embossing point and held against paraffin paper moving rapidly. The speaking vibrations are indented nicely, and there's no doubt that I shall be able to store up and reproduce automatically at any future time the human voice perfectly."

Edison reasoned that just as our ears have a type of diaphragm (our ear drums) so, too, must his new creation. First, he tried strips of paper coated with paraffin wax, but this was too soft. He decided against using a harder wax as it would take many months to develop the correct consistency. He used tinfoil instead. His assistant, John Kreusi, constructed the world's first phonograph based upon





*Edison demonstrates his phonograph in Washington*

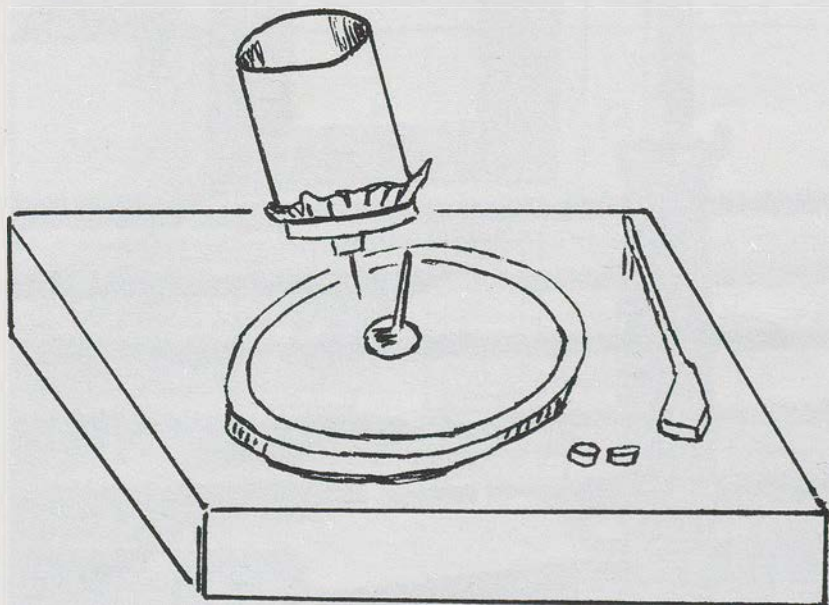
the plans drawn by Edison. Kreusi bet Edison one dollar it wouldn't work. The inventor explained that he didn't have a dollar to bet, but was willing to chance a barrel of his father's apples. Both men having agreed, Edison slowly turned the crank and spoke the words that were to become famous, "Mary had a little lamb." Returning the cylinder to its starting point, he again turned the crank, and as the needle approached the markings on the cylinder, his voice was heard coming from the machine, repeating his words perfectly. Kreusi turning to the smiling Edison said, "Well - I guess I've lost the bet."

A later model which appeared in nickelodeon parlors with a coin slot is the predecessor of the "juke box."

**Idea!** Edison's phonograph was the first instrument that recorded and played back the human voice. Research attempts through history to reproduce sound.

**Idea!** List some present day sources of communication. How many can be attributed, even in the past, to Edison? Speculate on some possible uses and developments in audio technology.

**Idea!** Take an inventory, in home and school, of the number of uses of sound reproduction. Music - culture? Oral History? Instruction? Amusement?



#### **Idea!** A Fundamental Phonograph

**Materials Needed:** A small, narrow can such as a frozen orange juice can, aluminum foil, sewing needle, an old phonograph record (not a good one), a small cork, a rubber band, a can opener, glue, a phonograph.

1. Using the can opener, remove the top and bottom of the juice can.
2. Tightly cover one end of the can with a piece of aluminum foil attaching it to the sides of the can with a taut rubber band. The foil covering should be smooth and secure. In step #1 you have made the horn, and in step #2, the diaphragm.
3. Take the sewing needle and push the 'eye end' through the cork until it emerges on the other end. Keep the 'eye' end of the needle flat with the surface of the cork. The pointed end can extend from the cork.
4. Glue the flat end of the cork to the aluminum (diaphragm). Steps 3 and 4 show how to make the stylus or needle.
5. Allow to dry; then hold the can at an angle to a record.
6. Turn on the phonograph with no volume. Touch the needle softly on the revolving record. Listen!

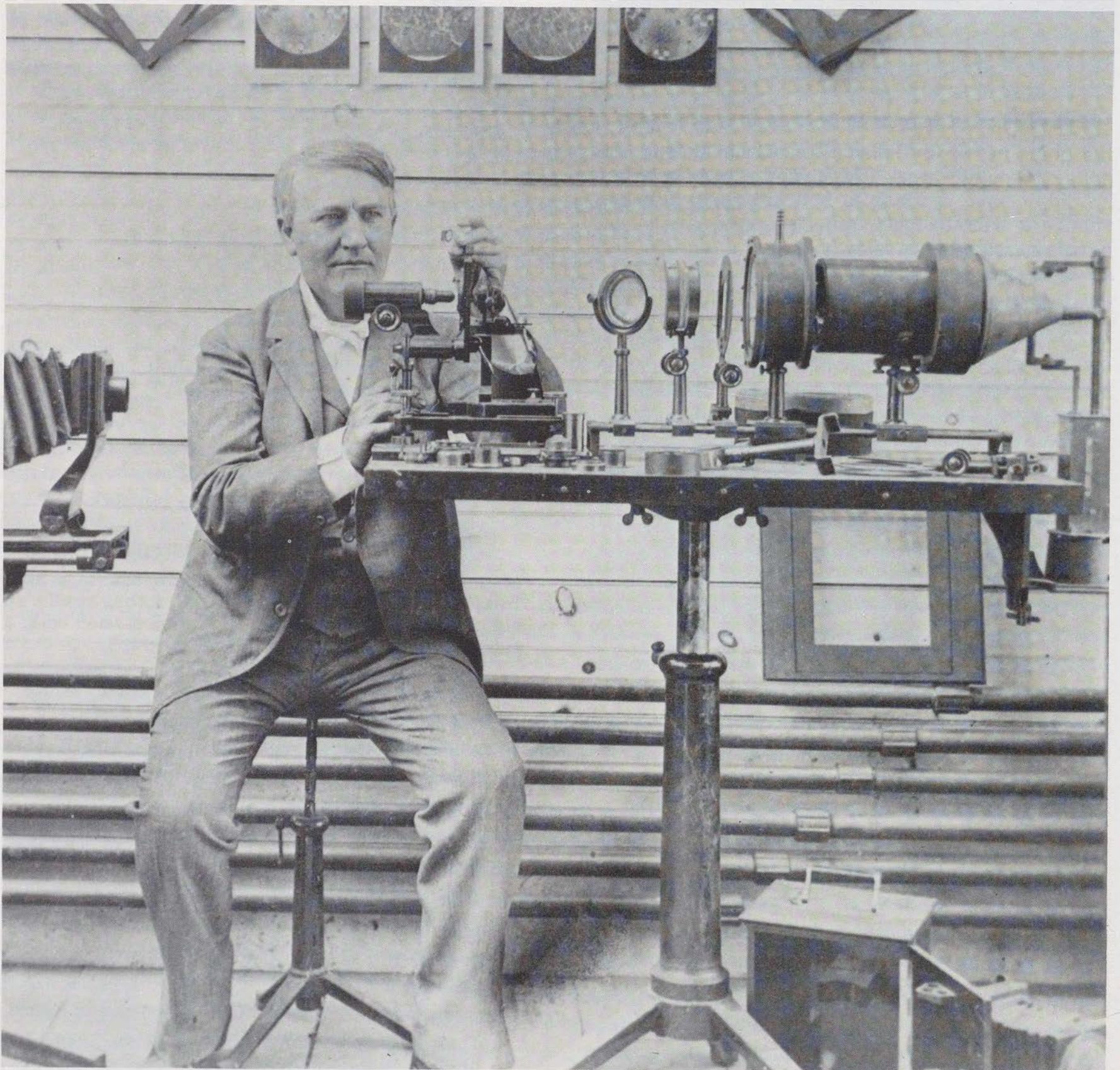


## MOTION PICTURE PROJECTOR

"Seeing is believing" was a lifelong motto of Edison, and he helped the world "see" more.

It was around 1884, in his West Orange, New Jersey, laboratory that Thomas A. Edison decided to do for the eye what his favorite invention, the phonograph, did for the ear. Over the next few years he worked closely with W.K.L. Dickson, an employee talented in photography. In 1888 they created the world's first motion picture machine. Edison, disappointed in this crude box-shaped device whose pictures were blurry, knew it could be improved but was stumped as to how. The solution to the problem was a flexible, celluloid film developed by a Newark minister, Reverend Hannibal Goodwin.

Using the new film, Edison and Dickson devised a rectangular-shaped viewing machine called the kinetoscope, or 'peep show machine' on October 6, 1889. Businessmen placed some of the machines in store rooms, giving birth to the popular kinetoscope parlor. The Edison motion picture camera was called the kinetograph. New advances led to the 'Projecting Kinetoscope', the forerunner of today's motion picture projector, which illuminated images on a wall or screen. Around the same time a similar machine was built by a Washington, D.C. inventor, Thomas Armat. Lacking funds to manufacture the projector, his design was improved by Edison. Called the 'vitascope', it debuted as a last act in a vaudeville program at Koster and Bial's Music Hall in New York City on April 23, 1896.



*In 1893, experimenting with motion picture lens.*



## Idea!

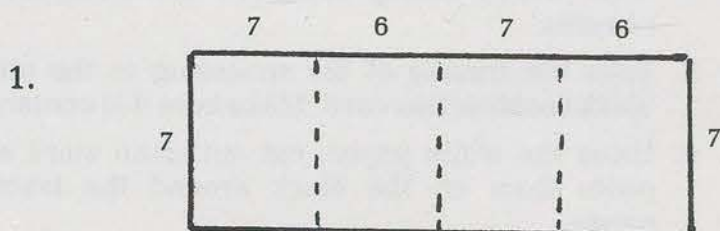
### Make a Pinhole Camera

Although a pinhole camera is only a cardboard box with a pinhole (lens) covered with a flap (shutter), it will take excellent pictures and illustrate the rudiments of photography. The only drawback is the long exposure time warrants only landscapes and still subjects. The camera must be held very steady.

**Materials Needed:** 1" square piece of aluminum foil; Elmer's or other white glue; one large piece of sturdy cardboard (14" x 26") black, or at least one side black (matte board would be best and is available at a good photography store); a #10 sewing needle; a utility (razor) knife; a pencil; one piece of very fine sandpaper; a ruler; and a candle.

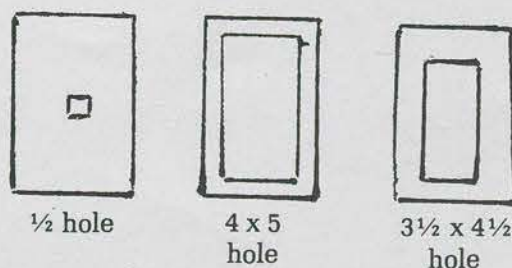
To make the camera body:

1. Cut a piece of cardboard 7" x 26". Then, by drawing a line, divide the piece into 4 sections. One section 7" x 7", one section 6" x 7", one section 7" x 7", and one section 6" x 7".



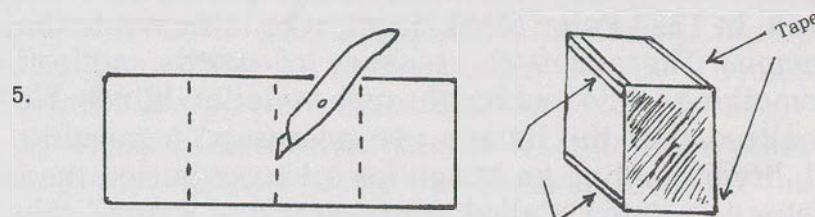
2. With the cardboard that is left, cut 4 pieces 6" x 7".
3. Take one of the 6" x 7" pieces and find the center by lightly drawing diagonal lines from corner to corner. In the center cut a hole 1/2" square. Taking one of the other 6" x 7" pieces, cut a rectangular 4" x 5" in the center. With the third 6" x 7" piece, cut a similar hole measuring 3 1/2" x 4 1/2". The remaining 6" x 7" piece will be used later. You should now have one piece with a 1/2" hole and two "frames"—one 1" wide; the other 1 1/4" wide.

3.



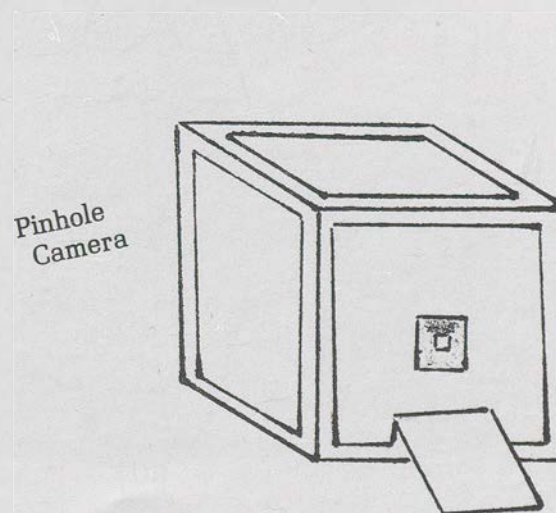
4. Put the wider (1 1/4") frame (black side down if only one side is black) down on a flat surface. Take the smaller frame and glue one side. Place the glued side on the larger frame so the outside edges meet, and press, wiping away any glue that seeps out. This double frame will be attached to the back of the camera where it will hold sheet film.

5. Take the 7" x 26" piece and carefully cut shallow grooves along the pencil drawn lines. Do not cut through the cardboard. Fold the piece and tape along the length of each of the four corners with black tape.



6. Place the film holder (the 2 frames glued together) on the back of the camera body. The outlined edges of the 2 frames should face away from the body. Then take the 6" x 7" piece of cardboard remaining from Step #3, and with black side facing the body, tape one of the 6" ends to the body forming a hinge. A small piece of tape attached to the other 6" edge will secure the flap to the back for instances when the camera is loaded with film.
7. On the other end of the camera body, tape the camera front (the 6" x 7" piece with the 1/2" hole in it). Black side facing in.
8. Take the piece of aluminum foil and gently pierce it with a #10 sewing needle. Sandpaper the burrs surrounding the hole. Then push the needle through the hole halfway up the length of the needle.
9. Blacken both sides of the foil by passing it over a candle flame. Place the pinhole, smooth side facing out, over the center of the hole in the camera front. Tape the foil. Cut a 3" square of cardboard and tape its bottom on the body so that it covers the pinhole if its top is held. This is the shutter. A small piece of tape at the top will keep it closed.
10. Load the camera with a 4" x 5" sheet film. Notches on the film must be in the upper left hand corner of the camera so the emulsion side of the film faces inward.

To take a picture, lower the front flap briefly, thus exposing the film. The exposure time will vary depending upon the amount of sunlight. Try 2 seconds for black and white film and 4 - 5 for color.





## A Thaumatrope

The basic principle of motion pictures, that the "hand is quicker than the eye" is demonstrated in this activity. Over 300 years ago men began experiments that led to the development of a Magic Lantern. The Lantern contained painted pictures on glass slides that were "magically" projected on a wall. In 1824 Peter Mark Roget, who later wrote the famous Thesaurus or treasury of words, noticed something while looking through venetian blinds. He realized that the human eye possessed a peculiar ability of holding an image for a longer period than actually existed. Called "persistence of vision" this is the basic theory of motion pictures.

When viewing a movie, the images do not move. Each image is a solitary picture called a frame of movie film. The human eye keeps seeing the image until a new one is shown. The faster they are shown the more they blend together and give an illusion of motion.

Soon after Roget's discovery, picture toys began to appear which capitalized on the persistence of vision. The *thaumatrope* was a disc with a picture on both sides. The pictures blended when spun. Widely used was a drawing of a bird on one side and a cage on the other. When the disc was spinning, the bird appeared to be in the cage.

The *phenakistoscope* was created by Joseph Plateau of Belgium. It consisted of a series of drawings ending with the first sketch. The viewer saw the drawings through a slot in the side of a cylinder. Inside, a mirror reflected the images. The *zoetrope* or "wheel of life," developed by George Horner in England used a revolving drum. One looked into the revolving drum via slots on its top outside edge. Another creation called the *praxinoscope* resembled the zoetrope. The thumb book also became popular. The suggestion of motion was created by flipping pages.

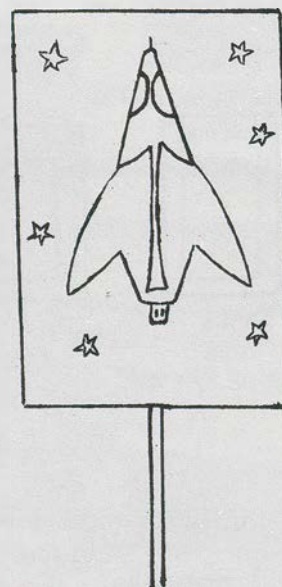
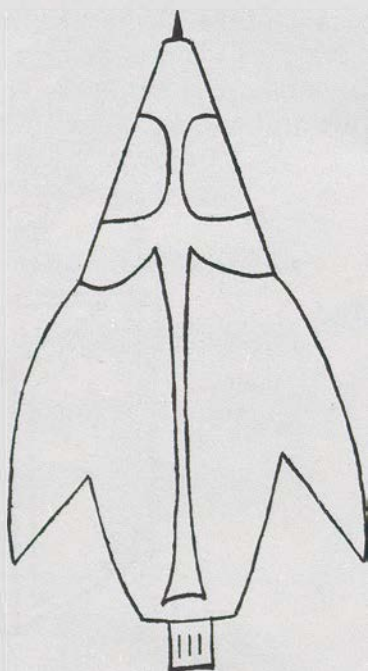
### Idea!

## A Card Thaumatrope

**Materials Needed:** A pencil, tracing paper, carbon paper, construction paper, scissors, ruler, index cards, crayons or marking pens.

This is a small card with images on both sides. To make a card thaumatrope, place two drawings together, back to back. The drawings can be almost any subject of your choosing, but in the following example a spaceship will be used.

1. Trace the spaceship.
2. Using the carbon paper, outline the tracing onto an index card.
3. Cut out the spaceship.
4. Cut two 3" x 5" pieces of black construction paper.
5. Glue the 3" x 5" pieces on two index cards.
6. Glue the index cut spaceship on one of the black construction cards. Center it.
7. Color the spaceship using felt marking pens or crayons.
8. Tape the tracing of the spaceship to the other black construction card. Make sure it is centered.
9. Using the white paper, cut out small stars and paste them on the black around the tracing paper.
10. Remove the spaceship tracing.
11. Tape a pencil to the inside bottom of one card.
12. Take both cards and glue together. Make sure the (1) spaceship and (2) spaceship outline are pointing 'skyward'.
13. When the glue dries, roll the pencil between your palms. The image should appear as one, sending the spaceship zooming through the sky!





### Idea! Biographical Slide Program

Make a slide program of Edison's life. Individual slides can depict his birth in Ohio, departure from school, difficult years . . . his inventions. There are many ways to do this. Actors (friends) can be chosen to portray Edison at various stages of his life. Many of the pictures can be taken under amber lighting to give an aged effect. Look at pictures of Edison in library books - pay attention to details - how is he dressed? Does his facial expression vary from each picture or remain unchanged? Based upon research, write a rough script of his life.

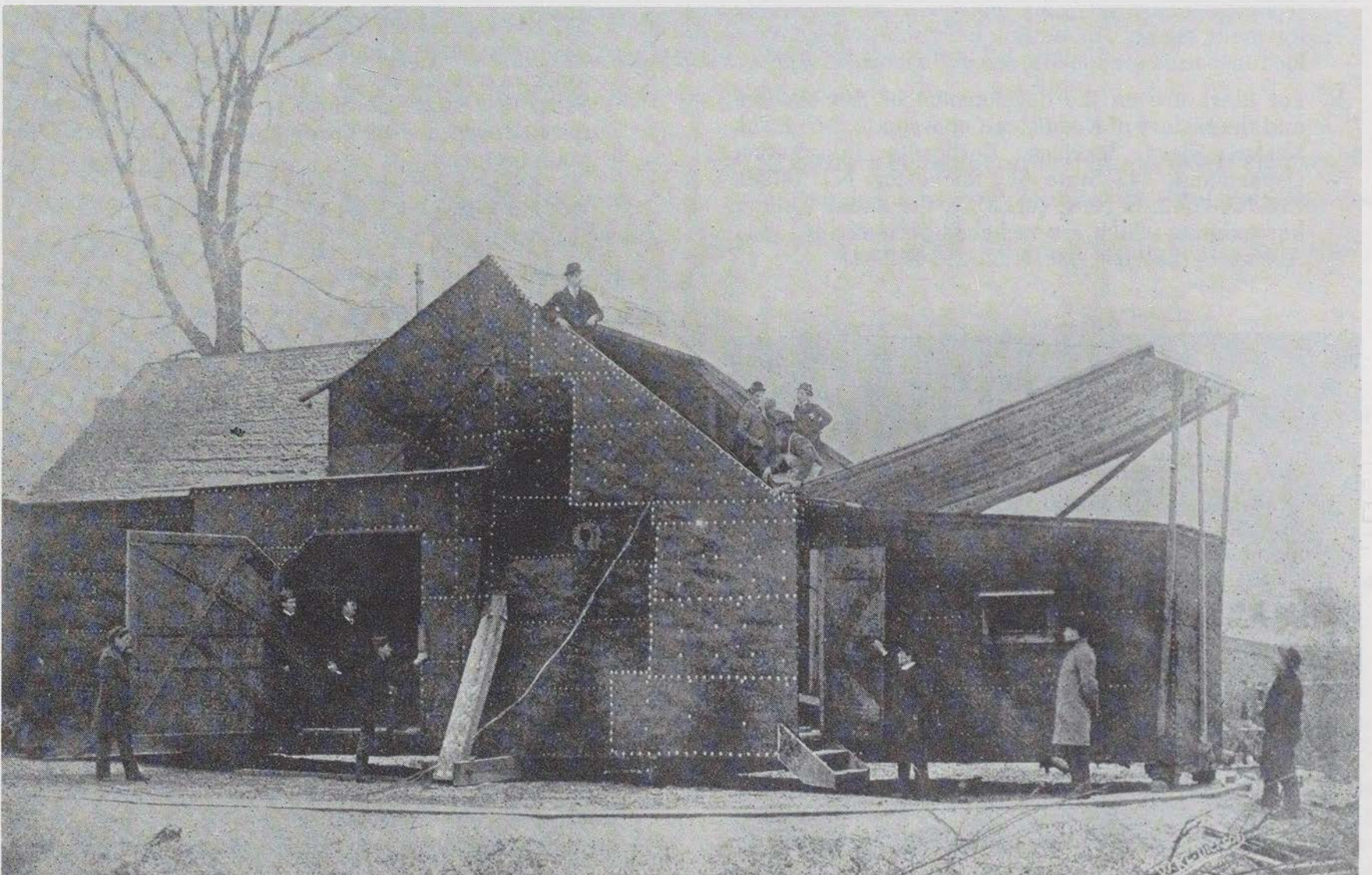
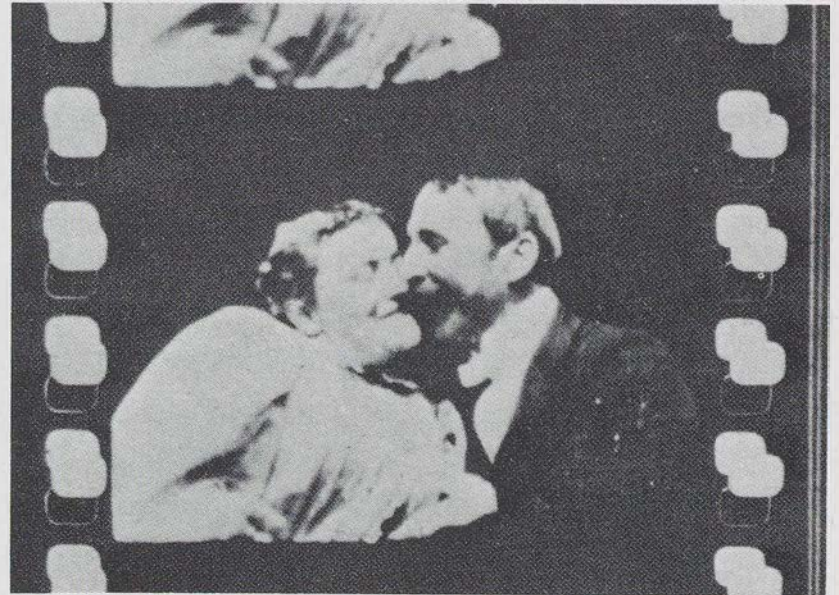
The next step is to pick out events you wish to highlight. For each highlight there should be a slide or a rapid series of slides along the same theme. Rewrite and polish the script, dividing it into these highlights. Be sure the narrative is not too lengthy for each slide; if so, then use more than one frame. At different times music can be recorded with or without narrative. Example: for slides dealing with motion picture development, "You Oughta Be in Pictures."

Another way to make a slide program is to take pictures from books rather than using live subjects - or combine the two.

### THE MOVIES COME TO NEW JERSEY

Early movie studios were located in New York City, which offered vacant warehouses and factories. Here the studios found the abundant space so necessary for filming at a price they could afford. As films became popular, new story ideas were needed. New York streets were fine for city scenes but could never do as a country meadow or forest. Studio executives followed the example set by Thomas Edison. They moved across the river to New Jersey.

While Edison made films in West Orange, other companies settled along the Hudson River in the communities of Fort Lee, Cliffside, Jersey City and Bayonne.



The "Black Maria" motion picture studio in West Orange.



## The Early Movies

- I. The Fort Lee Public Library has a 60-minute film entitled, "Before Hollywood There Was Fort Lee." This movie is available without charge to Bergen County schools. A small rental charge may apply to schools outside the county. Copies of the film may be purchased.
- II. Fort Lee Public Library also has several video tapes of interviews of early Fort Lee residents and pioneers of the movie industry. 25 film silent classics are available for school use.  
Contact: Mr. Steve Weckler  
Fort Lee Public Library  
320 Main Street  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024  
201-461-8020
- III. A booklet describing the early movie industry of Fort Lee and a map showing the location of movie studios and landmarks in the area can be obtained from the Fort Lee Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$3.00. The map clearly points out where studios were located and notes the few still standing. Rambos Hotel, a favorite spot of the early moviemakers and often used in films as a 'western saloon' still stands. The original proprietor, Gus Becker, died in 1977.  
Contact: Fort Lee Chamber of Commerce  
201-224-4475
- IV. A 14-page outline of the movie industry's origin is free to Jerseyman Clubs and School Members. The pamphlet "Fort Lee Before Hollywood, 1907 - 1925," has been made available through the New Jersey Historical Society, courtesy of the author, Thomas F. Hanlon. Mr. Hanlon has been involved in the technical and production aspects of movie-making for many years. The outline points out New Jersey locations used for specific scenes in movie-making.
- V. For literature on the development of flexible film and the history of Kodak, call or write to: Mr. Hank Kaska, News Services, Corporate Information Department, 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650, 716-724-7642. In New York City, the Kodak Gallery has exhibits which are replaced periodically. 1133 Avenue of the Americas, NYC, 212-262-6170.



Gentleman Jim Corbett and Pete Courtenay square off for the "pictures."

## New Jersey Movie Studios

When researching a film company, remember that more than one name was not uncommon. Occasionally, there are two or three names involved: 1. the name of the company owning the studio; 2. the name of the company producing the movie; 3. the name of the company releasing the picture.

The following is a brief description of New Jersey Movie Companies of yesteryear using the name generally considered to be the best known.

### 1. Thomas A. Edison, Inc.

or Thomas A. Edison or Edison Manufacturing Co., Main Street and Lakeside Ave., West Orange, NJ. A fire in 1914 destroyed a large portion of the complex.

### 2. The Biograph Company

or American Mutoscope Co., American Mutoscope and Biograph Co.; founded as the K.M.C.D. Co. in 1896 by Elias Bernard Coopman, Henry N. Marvin, Herman Casler and William K.L. Dickson.; 841 Broadway (1896), then 11 East 14th St. (1903), New York City.

D. W. Griffith - player, director

Mack Sennett - player, director

W.K.L. Dickson - cameraman

Players: Florence Lawrence, Mary Pickford, Billy Quirk, Lionel Barrymore, Lillian Gish, Mable Normand

### 3. Centaur and Nestor

or Centaur or Nestor. 900 Broadway, Bayonne. In 1913 built a new studio at Avenue E and East 43rd St., Bayonne; 1914, name change to Min A. (made in America); founded and operated by David Horsley. 1911, first studio to move to Hollywood, California. Horsley was one of the founders of Universal Film Manufacturing Co.

Alice Davenport - player

Art Acord - player

### 4. Champion Film Company

5th Street, Coytesville, NJ, near Fort Lee line. One of the first studios built, it is still standing; now the Hanford Brown Printing Factory. Founded by Mark Dintenas, who was also a founder of Hollywood's Universal Film Manufacturing Company.

### 5. Pathe Freres, after 1917 Pathe Exchange.

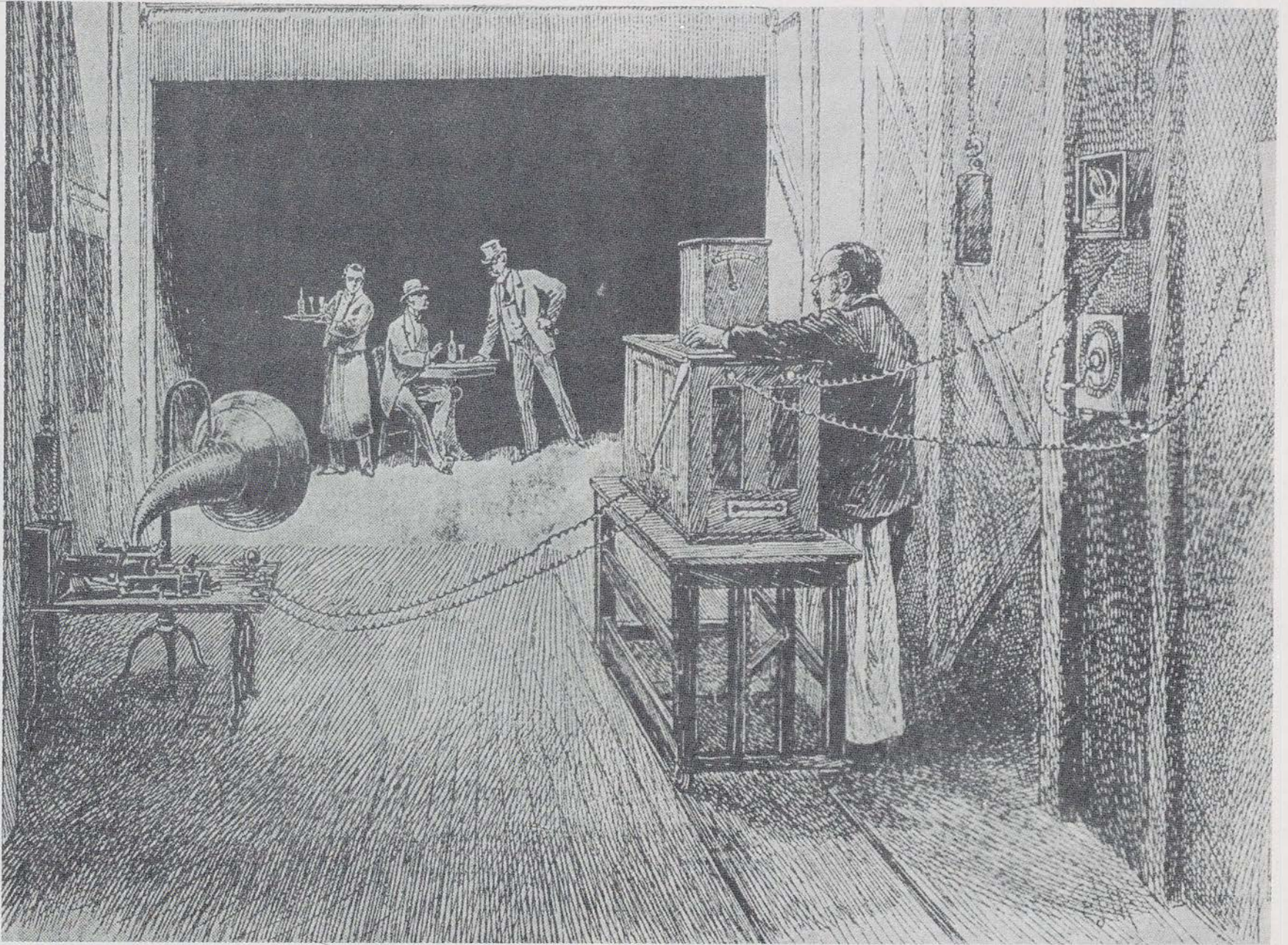
Affiliated with Pathe News, Eclectic Film Co., Astra Film Corp., Balboa Feature Film Co., California, 1 Congress St., Jersey City and Bound Brook. Arthur Miller - cameraman.

Players: Pearl White, Raoul Walsh, Warner Oland, Irene Castle, Harold Lloyd, Olga Petrova, Billy Quirk.

### 6. Eclair Film Company

Fort Lee, N.J.; main building destroyed by fire in 1914. Its first production, "Hands Across the Sea," depicted the camaraderie between the French and American colonists during the Revolutionary War. The battles of Monmouth and Trenton were elaborately reproduced.





The interior of the "Black Maria."

**7. Victor Film Company**

Founded in 1912 by popular actress Florence Lawrence, who lived in Westwood, N.J. Studio located in Fort Lee, N.J.

**8. Kalem Company**

Founded by George Kleine, Samuel Long and Frank J. Marion (K—L—M); Cliffside, N.J. (1912).

**9. Solax Company, later the U.S. Amusement Corporation.**

Fort Lee, N.J. Founded by Alice Guy Blache, who became artistic director.

Players: Billy Quirk, Olga Petrova, Ethel Barrymore

**10. World Pictures**

1914, Fort Lee, N.J. Lewis Selznick was one of the founders.

Players: Clara Kimball Young, Warner Oland, Lillian Russell, Barbara Tennant

**11. William Fox**

1914, rented space from Willat Studios, Fort Lee. Additional studios in Jersey City, Hoboken, Cliffside and Grantwood.

Players: Theda Bara, George Walsh.

**12. Selznick Pictures Corporation and Select Pictures**

Founded by Lewis Selznick in 1916. Fort Lee and Hudson Heights, N.J.

Players: Clara Kimball Young, Norma Talmadge

**13. Goldwyn Pictures Corporation**

Founded 1916 by Samuel Goldfish, Edgar and Archibald Selwyn. Fort Lee, N.J.

Players: Mabel Normand, Mae Marsh, Tallulah Bankhead

**14. Artcraft and Famous Players**

1916, Fort Lee, N.J.

Players: Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Irene Castle

**15. E.K. Lincoln Studios**

Actor, E.K. Lincoln, built studios at Grantwood, N.J.

Some companies had main studios located outside New Jersey but went to the Garden State 'on location'. Among these were Metro Pictures Corporation, Triangle-Fine Arts-Keystone and Universal Manufacturing Company.



### Idea!

Research one of the early movie companies.

**Materials Needed:** cardboard, dry-mark pens, paints, tape, 8mm motion picture camera preferably with 9 FPS speed, 8mm black and white movie film, mimeograph paper, stapler, artists, researchers, actors, costumer

#### Options:

1. Make an a/v presentation depicting its history.
2. Arrange a display or bulletin board in a meeting place (school lobby . . . town hall . . . library).
3. Take black and white pictures of friends dressed in turn-of-century style clothes - make them pose dramatically - snap the picture and add subtitles. Arrange the photos as part of your display.
4. Make your own 'old time' movie and show it to the student body. Publicize the movie on simulated movie film; that is, tape cardboard together lengthwise, with about 1' or 2' widths. After coloring in single movie frames of inserting photos, place on the school wall with small arrows approximately every 3 frames pointing in the same direction. Other frames could have silhouettes . . . The cardboard 'movie frames' should end at a room always available at a certain time of day such as the lunch hour. Outside the room post the 'show times' for your movie. The show will consist of short black and white movies spliced together. Each movie can have "stars" chosen from the student body. Examples: members of the football team as western bandits, a teacher as a villain dressed in black or as a Charlie Chaplin type. Shoot some sequences at 9 FPS (frames per second) or less. When shown at normal projection speed of 18 FPS, the figures will have the genuine old fashioned quickness of early movies. Be sure to obtain permission from school authorities.

**Note:** 4 rolls of movie film will produce about a 12 - 14 minute movie. One roll (50') equals roughly 3 minutes, 20 seconds viewing time. The original kinetoscope used 50' movie spools.

5. In a table in the room, place mimeographed pamphlets telling of the history of a local movie company or of movies in New Jersey.

### Idea!

Investigate and write about some early movie locations. If possible, visit them.

After the Palisades and surrounding areas had been used in countless movies, backgrounds began to look familiar. To insure that New Jersey scenery was not exhausted, a list of possible locations was compiled, each for a particular effect. There were suggestions for different background uses.

For example, in Hoboken, the Sunday School building at Holy Innocents Church was listed: "must be taken through fence at close quarters. Good setting for German barracks or tavern."

Also in Hoboken, "Rear of (new) Stevens Institute. Stone gateway and tower; suitable for the entrance to the grounds of a medieval castle.

"Willow Terrace, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, running through from Willow Avenue to Clinton Street. Three little parallel streets of quaint,



squatty houses in the Dutch style. Built in solid rows and resembling a European village street. Nice cobblesone effect."

Other towns were described:

"Montclair - gateway to Montclair Academy, facing east, showing a series of modern steps, flanked by shade trees on each side, receding upward and terminating distantly in a massive door. Suitable for a royal wedding procession or approach to a stately court.

"Lakewood - Lynch Castle. Suitable for medieval drama of kings and queens."

### Idea!

Locating backyard film settings.

Develop a scenario for a documentary, romantic or adventure film using settings found in your locale. The subject could be based on an historical theme such as the "Revolution" or a more contemporary topic such as the "Perils of Pollution."

#### Option:

Take photographs of the background sites, caption and present as an a-v slide show or bulletin board display.

#### Option:

Take a popular novel or short story and attempt to find Jersey settings that could be used for film backgrounds.



## IV. EDISON'S WORLD

Where did Thomas A. Edison work, who did he work with and where did he live are questions answered in this section. Guidelines for class visits to West Orange and Menlo Park are explained. Also included is a biographical list of figures associated with the inventor, which will serve as a springboard for further research.

### EDISON HISTORIC SITES IN NEW JERSEY

#### Menlo Park (1876-1886)

In the spring of 1876 Thomas Edison left Newark and moved to Menlo Park, New Jersey, about 25 miles southeast of New York. On a piece of land 250' wide and 300' deep, he erected several buildings, all of wood except the machine shop and office building, which were brick. The laboratory was a two-story clapboard structure 100' long by 25' wide. Nearby was the lamp shed. Inside kerosene lamps burned continuously giving off smoke. The smoke was pure carbon (lamp black) used to make carbon buttons for telephone transmitters, the first notable invention at Menlo Park. North of the laboratory was the pump house and carpenter shop.

This group of buildings was to become the world's first "invention factory." It was the forerunner of modern industry's vast research laboratories devoted to scientific discovery and improved technology.

About 800' from the laboratory stood Edison's two-story gabled house (eventually destroyed by fire) between Monmouth Avenue and Lincoln Highway. Across the street was a house occupied by Edison worker, John Kruesi. About halfway between the Edison household and laboratory, on Christie Street, was Mrs. Jordan's boarding house. Here resided most of the Edison employees.

In 1913 the Menlo Park complex was demolished by order of Thomas Edison, to be reconstructed later by Henry Ford at Dearborn, Michigan. On May 16, 1925, a large crowd gathered at Menlo Park for the dedication of a commemorative tablet in recognition of Edison's achievements there. Both Mr. and Mrs. Edison were present for the ceremony. The tablet reads:

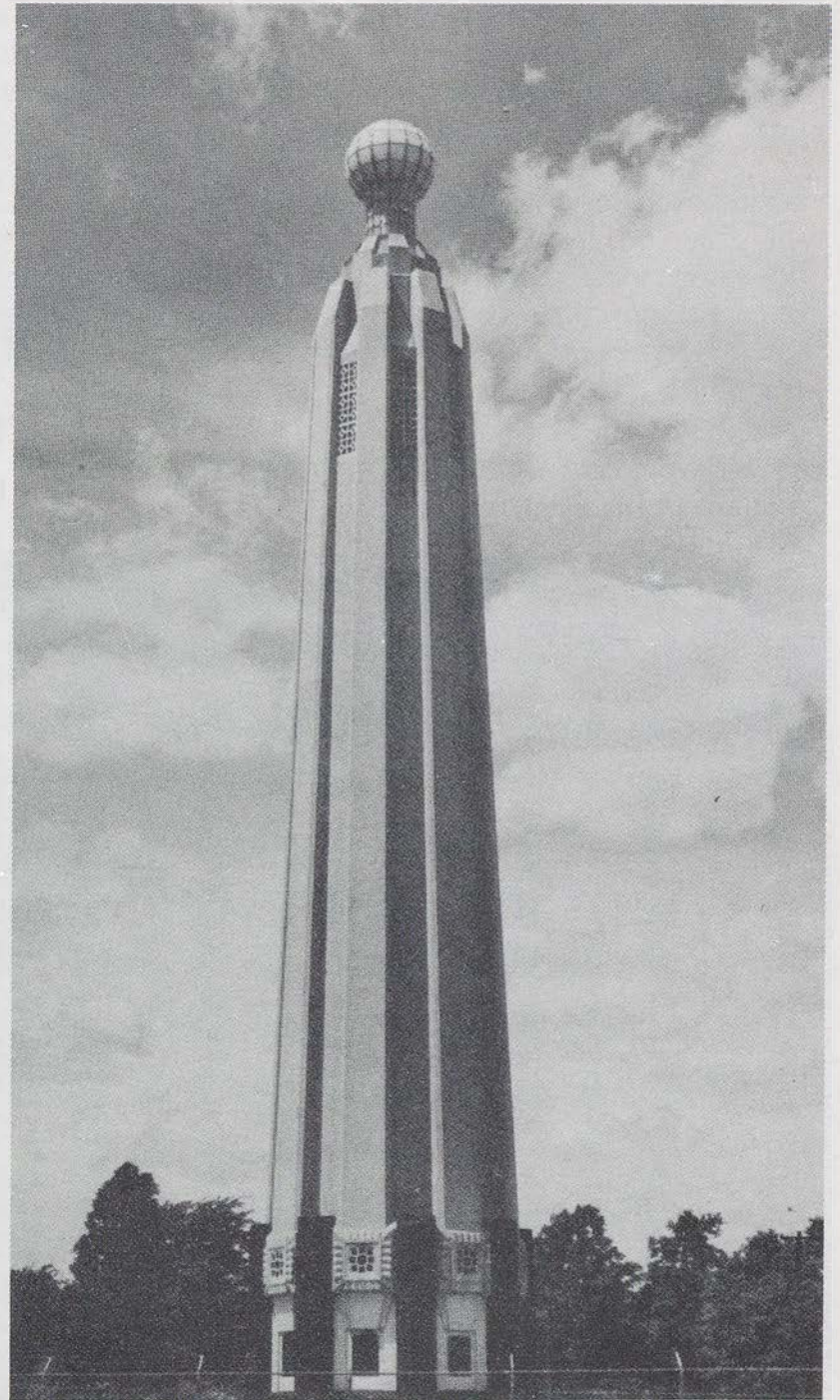
*On this site*

*1876 - 1882*

*Thomas Alva Edison*

*Began his world to service for the world of  
illuminate the path of progress and lighten  
labor for mankind.*

Also at the Menlo Park site is the Edison Tower visible for several miles distant. Erected in 1937, it rises 131'4" and is topped by a 3'8" representation of the original incandescent lamp. On seven of the tower's eight sides are plaques describing the major Menlo Park inventions. A bronze and glass door on the eighth side allows entrance into the tower. In-



*The Memorial Tower at Menlo Park in Edison.*

side is a darkened room and the "eternal light," a replica of the incandescent lamp which has been giving light continuously since October 21, 1939.

#### *Memorial Tower at Edison State Park*

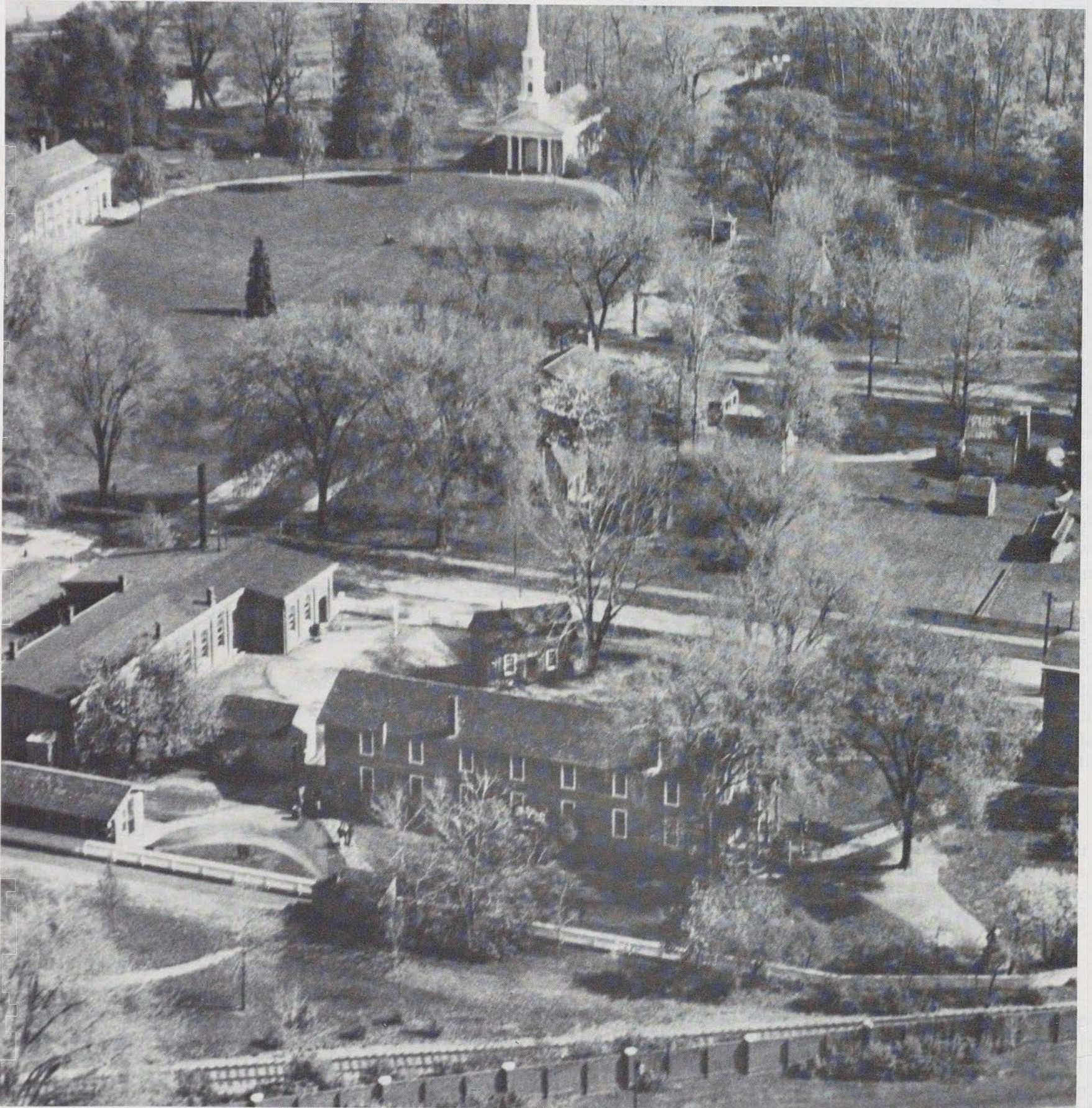
Entrance to the tower is not permitted. The eternal light is viewed through the glass wall. Next to the tower is a small museum containing inventions, scale model exhibits and reading material. Among the inventions is a generator, a phonograph, dictating machines and a working kinetoscope.

**Tour Information - Tours:** self-guided only. **Admission:** free, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. **School Groups:** Maximum, 75. Only 20 at one time in the museum. At least a 5-day notice should be given. **Hours:** Sunday, 1-6 p.m.; Wednesday, 9-12, 1-5; Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 9-12, 1-6; closed Monday and Tuesday. Special summer hours (May 30 - August 31), Wednesday, 12-5 p.m.; 6-8 p.m. **Address:** Memorial Tower at Edison State Park, 911 Christie Street, Edison, N.J. 08817, 201-549-3299.





*In 1880, an artist drew the Menlo Park community.*



*An aerial view of the reconstructed Menlo Park at Greenfield Village, Michigan.*



## West Orange

### *Edison National Historic Site*

Edison moved his "Invention Factory" to West Orange, where he built a new huge laboratory complex which was completed in 1887. In the ensuing decades, his fertile mind continued to churn out new ideas to astound the world. Here he completed work on the movie projector; built the "Black Maria"—a movie studio; worked on perfecting phonograph recordings; and on a durable, rechargeable battery. He tinkered with improved iron ore processes; concrete houses, and a practical substitute for rubber.

Thomas A Edison's West Orange Laboratory was presented to the National Park Service in 1956. It became the Edison National Historic Site in 1962. As at Menlo Park, most buildings are of wood and brick construction. The main building, about 200' long and 3 stories high, houses Edison's office and laboratory. Inside some of the "Black Maria," a movie studio built in 1893. There are eleven buildings at the site.

### *Glenmont*

The widower, Edison, purchased Glenmont for his second bride, Mina Miller. Located in Llewellyn Park,

a mile from his new laboratory, it became a luxurious private residence for the now wealthy inventor. Today, the rooms are preserved and appear as they were when Edison and his family lived there.

A tour of Edison's private residence is included in the price of admission. However, the main information desk near the entrance gate must be notified if a tour of Glenmont is desired in addition to the regular tour. Glenmont is closed Sundays.

**Tour Information - Hours:** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. **Fee:** 50¢ per adult, ages 16-62, otherwise no charge. **School Groups:** Are accommodated. A group larger than 60 must be divided. Reservations are necessary. It is best to call at least one month before. The historic site accepts two groups a day. **Tours:** No one is permitted to tour alone. Guides are available. Tours last 1½ hours. Last tour, 3:15 p.m. **Library:** Research on a limited basis is permitted. Reservations are necessary; at least a day in advance. Hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sunday. Contact the archivist, Leah Burt. **Address:** Edison National Historic Site, Main Street and Lakeside Avenue, West Orange, N.J. 07052. 201-736-0550.



*The Menlo Park Laboratory, Greenfield Village*



## PERSONALITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THOMAS A. EDISON

Edison's myriad interests and eventual fame led him down many walks of life. His friends and acquaintances included laborers, technicians, politicians, industrial giants, and artists in music and drama. By knowing more about his associates, one can better understand the complex nature of the inventor and the exciting and turbulent world in which he lived.

Do further research on some of the personalities known by Edison. The results could include: written articles, a dramatic pageant, a "Greek Chorus" of Edisonian figures, and a scenario of a "House of History" peopled by Edison's associates.

By no means does this list attempt to be a complete account of all personalities intertwined with the inventor during his lifetime. It is intended to serve as a springboard for further research.

**Thomas Armat** Inventor of a motion picture projector. He joined forces with Edison to market the "vitascope," a machine capable of "throwing" large images onto a viewing screen.

**Phil Baker** Singer, accordionist for Edison Recordings. Later in his career he became radio quiz master.

**Charles Batchelor** One member of the team of men who worked on the incandescent lamp.

**Alexander Graham Bell** Inventor of telephone, worked closely with Edison, who contributed his carbon transmitter button which increased the telephone's effectiveness.

**James Gordon Bennet** Self-made publisher of *New York Herald*. He offered Edison money to build a flying machine. Edison unsuccessfully attempted to build a helicopter.

**Ludwig Boehm** Edison worker and glass blower. He was responsible for making the first light bulb.

**C. A. Brown** Technician for the development of the kinetoscope.

**Luther Burbank** Famed horticulturalist. Edison visited him in California to discuss the feasibility of synthetic rubber.

**John Burroughs** Poet and author of nature writings. He was an acquaintance and an admirer of Edison.

**Joseph H. Choate** U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. He was an admirer and friend of Edison.

**Grover Cleveland** 22nd and 24th President of the United States.

**Buffalo Bill Cody and Annie Oakley** These famous western sharpshooters were filmed at the West Orange studio.

**Calvin Coolidge** The 30th President of the United States, who met Edison on numerous occasions. During his tenure a Congressional Medal was issued to the inventor.

**Peter Courtenay** Heavyweight Boxing Champion of New Jersey. He fought Gentleman Jim Corbett in a staged match at Edison's West Orange "Black Maria" studio, November 7, 1894.

**Josephus Daniels** Secretary of Navy under President Wilson. He requested the inventor's aid in compiling an "industrial inventory" of the United States.

**Dann Trio** A musical group that toured the United States promoting Edison phonographs. The trio would start playing along with an Edison recording, then stop midway through the piece. Hopefully, the audience would not be able to differentiate between the trio and the recording. Blanche Dann, pianist; Felice Dann, trumpet player; Rosalind Davis, violinist.

**Harry Davis** Pittsburgh real estate agent, said to be founder of the Nickelodeon.

**William K.L. Dickson** Cameraman, technician. He was important in the development of the kinetoscope.



The Menlo Park team in 1879. Edison in skull cap leans against pillar.





**Lee Deforest** Radio engineer who successfully joined sound to movie film in 1923.

**George Eastman** Introduced flexible movie film about the same time as Hannibal Goodwin of Newark.

**Mary Stillwell Edison** First wife of Thomas Edison. She died in 1884, leaving 3 children: Thomas Alva, Jr. (nicknamed 'Dot'), William Leslie, Marion Estelle ('Dash').

**Mina Edison** Became Thoms Edison's 2nd wife on February 24, 1886, at Akron, Ohio. They had three children: Charles, Theodore, Madeline.

**Alexandre Gustave Eiffel** The French designer of the Eiffel Tower. He entertained Mr. and Mrs. Edison when they vacationed in Paris.

**Michael Faraday** Perhaps Faraday had a greater influence upon Thomas Edison than any other scientist. He discovered electro-magnetic induction and laid the basics of the electronic power industry. At one time he worked for Sir Humphrey Davy.

**Harvey S. Firestone** A businessman involved in the manufacture of rubber, he made tires for Henry Ford's autos. Edison tried for years to discover a synthetic rubber. John Burroughs, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone and Edison were good friends.

**Martin Force** As Edison's helper, he was one of the men responsible for the development of the incandescent lamp.

**Henry Ford** Worked at Edison's Chicago plant as a young man. He was a major auto manufacturer and personal friend of Edison.

**James A. Garfield** The 20th President of the United States.

**Reverend Hannibal Goodwin** Of Newark, New Jersey. He was a minister who invented flexible movie film around 1887.

**Charles Gounod** French composer. He sang and played for the Edisons on one of their trips to Paris.

**Jay Gould** Financier. He purchased Edison's quadruple telegraph.

**Elisha Gray** Chicago inventor. He filed a patent for the telephone just a few hours after Alexander Graham Bell.

**George Green** Formed the Green Brothers Novelty Band together with Joe Green and Lewis Green. Around 1916 the group began recording for Edison Studios.

**David Wark Griffith** Movie player and director.

**William J. Hammer** Former President of Edison Pioneers.

**Warren G. Harding** The 29th President of the United States.

**Benjamin Harrison** The 23rd President of the United States.

**Rutherford B. Hayes** The 19th President of the United States. Invited the inventor of the phonograph to give a private demonstration.

**Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand Von Helmholtz** German mathematician who made contributions to studies of magnetism and electricity. His praises for Edison made the American respected throughout Europe.





In 1929, at the 50th anniversary of light, Edison, Ford and Francis Jehl reconstruct original incandescent bulb.

**James Hipple** Glassblower arrived about 1880 to help Holzer and Boehm.

**William Holzer** Glassblower who began working for Edison in January of 1880 as Boehm's assistant. He devised a method of mass producing bulbs quickly.

**Herbert Hoover** The 31st President of the United States, formerly a mining engineer. He and Edison had a great deal in common; the inventor also was involved in mining processes.

**Samuel Insull** Edison's private secretary, later a Chicago financier.

**Mary Irwin** Movie player.

**Francis Jehl** Author of Edison-related books. He was a member of the team that worked on the incandescent lamp.

**Lord Kelvin** (Born, William Thomson) Scottish mathematician and inventor, who worked with electricity, particularly telegraphy. He visited the United States in 1884 and was impressed by Edison's achievements.

**John Kreusi** Employee. He built the housing for the first phonograph and worked on the incandescent lamp.

**Dr. Irving Langmuir** A lighting expert at General Electric Schenectady plant.

**Eugene A. Lauste** Technician in the development of the kinoscope.

**Marshall Lefferts** President of Western Union Telegraph Company. He paid Edison \$40,000 for the universal printer or stock ticker.

**Elizabeth Lennox** Edison recording star.

**J. U. MacKenzie** A Mount Clemens, Michigan, railroad agent. He taught the 15-year-old Edison telegraphy as repayment for saving his 3-year-old son's life.

**Guglielmo Marconi** Good personal friend of Edison. He was the inventor of wireless (radio) communication.

**W. S. Mallory** Worked with Edison on iron ore experiments.

**Frank McGowan** Searched 15 months through South American jungles for lamp filament material.

**William McKinley** The 25th President of the United States.

**William H. Meadowcroft** Edison pioneer, he was Edison's personal assistant for 50 years.

**A. Harry Moore** Three-time Governor of New Jersey, who attended many public affairs with Edison.

**J. P. Morgan** A banker, financier and stockholder of Edison's Electric Lighting Company. He provided Edison with the necessary financial capital for the experimentation and eventual production of the light bulb.

**Dr. Otto Moses** In charge of Edison's library. He spoke French and German in addition to English which proved helpful with foreign business transactions and lawsuits.

**Samuel Dimmick Mott** Edison employee, inventor. (Manuscript collection at the New Jersey Historical Society).



**Edward Muybridge** San Francisco photographer famous for his single pictures of a "horse in motion," which appeared in *Scientific American*, October 19, 1878, p. 241. In February, 1888, he visited Edison's West Orange laboratory.

**Nipper** Popularly known as the R.C.A. dog who stares quizzically into the horn of a phonograph. Nipper was painted by his master, Francis Barrand, around 1893. Barrand tried unsuccessfully to sell the painting to Edison.

**Fred Ott** Movie player, famous for the "Fred Ott sneeze."

**Louis Pasteur** French bacteriologist, who developed vaccines. He often expressed admiration for Edison.

**Franklin L. Pope** Served as Edison's partner in a brief business venture - Pope, Edison & Co., electrical engineers.

**Edwin S. Porter** Cameraman.

**George D. Prentice** Editor of *Louisville Courier*. The journalist met Edison early in the inventor's career.

**James Ricalton** A Maplewood, New Jersey, school principal, who took an around-the-world trip in search of fibrous plants for Edison's lamp filament.

**Gladys Rice** Similar to the "Dann Trio," this soprano would sing in a darkened auditorium so the audience would not know whether it was live voice or a recording.

**Jim Rice** Movie player.

**George Bernard Shaw** Author and playwright. He worked briefly at London's Edison Telephone Company.

**Christopher L. Sholes** Inventor of the typewriter. He was assisted by Edison.



*Mina and Thomas Edison.*

**C. P. (Charles Proteus) Steinmetz** Electrical engineer and friend of Edison. He opposed the West Orange inventor's steadfast belief in direct electrical current and developed a number of essays on alternating current.

**Ernest Stevens** Edison's personal pianist during the 1920's. He now teaches music in Montclair, New Jersey.

**William Howard Taft** The 27th President of the United States.

**Nikola Tesla** Former Edison employee who patented an alternating current (polyphase) power system in 1888. He soon sold patent rights to George Westinghouse.

**John Tyndall** English physicist visited the United States in 1872-73. He was a strong supporter of Edison.

**Francis Robbins Upton** The first person to receive a Master of Science degree from Princeton University in 1877. One year later he came to Menlo Park as a mathematician and worked on the incandescent light. He was the first president of the Edison Pioneers. (Scrapbook collection at the New Jersey Historical Society.)

**Henry Villard** Financier and stockholder of the Edison Electric Lighting Company.

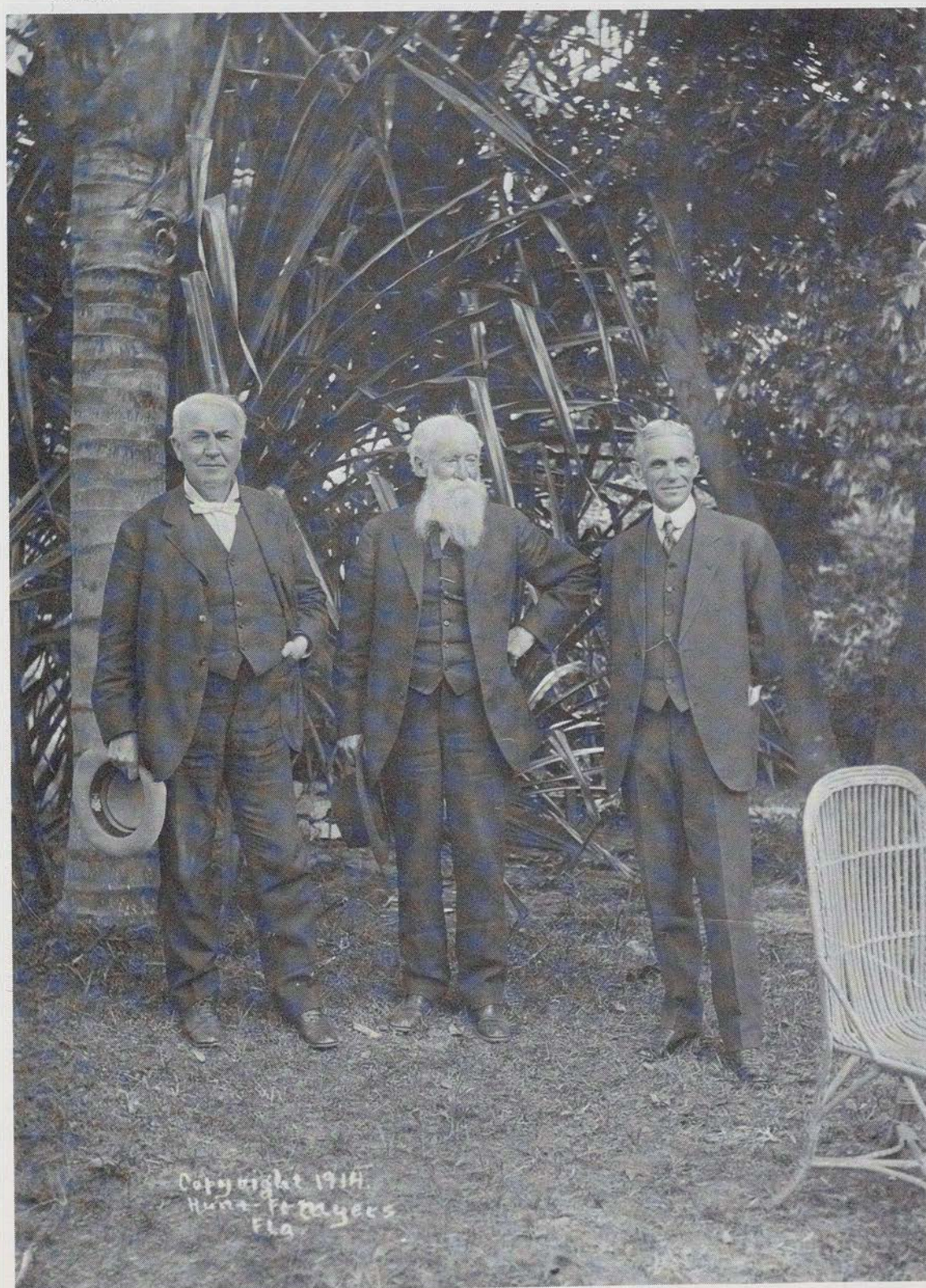
**Donald Vorhees** Beginning in 1926, he was the conductor of the orchestra for Edison Recordings. He later starred on the Bell Telephone Hour.

**William Wallace** Maker of the Wallace Farmer Dynamo and Arc lamps.

**George Westinghouse** Contrary to Edison's work on direct current, he promoted research on alternating current. He designed air brakes for trains and founded the Westinghouse Electric Company, a major competitor for General Electric. He employed former Edison employee, Nikola Tesla.

**Edna White** Trumpet player for Edison Recordings. She lives in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

**Woodrow Wilson** The 28th President of the United States.



*Thomas Edison, John Burrows, Henry Ford (left to right), Fort Myers, Florida.*



## V. "INVENTIVE" RESOURCES

In pursuit of Edison, one can follow many trails of research and discovery. This section provides a list of companies and institutions which have helpful materials about the inventor. There also is a bibliography of Edison reference works — some rare, some more commonly known and used.

### INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRY

#### *Institutions*

Charles Edison Fund, 101 So. Harrison St., East Orange, NJ 07018, 201-675-9000

Excellent teaching aids are available, without charge, to teachers who request them in writing. They take the form of a number of booklets, encompassing experiments, projects, energy conservation ideas and a "cartoon illustrated" biographical history. Include \$.50 for postage.

The Edison Institute and Henry Ford Museum, Oakwood Boulevard, Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan 48121

Contact: (313) 271-1620 Ext. 362 or 361, Mr. Don Adams, Mr. Don McDowell, Mr. Dave Wojek

Information and literature about the recreation of Edison's Menlo Park Laboratory, Fort Myers home and other buildings at Greenfield Village is available. An educational resource packet is also offered via Ext. 519, Mr. James Fowler.

Centennial of Light, Thomas A Edison Foundation, P.O. Box 1310, Greenwich, CT 06830

Contact: Livvy Floren or George Shea 800-243-8561

Educational programs and information about Thomas Edison, science and technology are available to teachers.

#### *Industries*

Corporate Editorial Programs, General Electric Company, Fairfield, CT 06431

Contact: Linda Vaughn or Kathy Walsh 203-373-2030

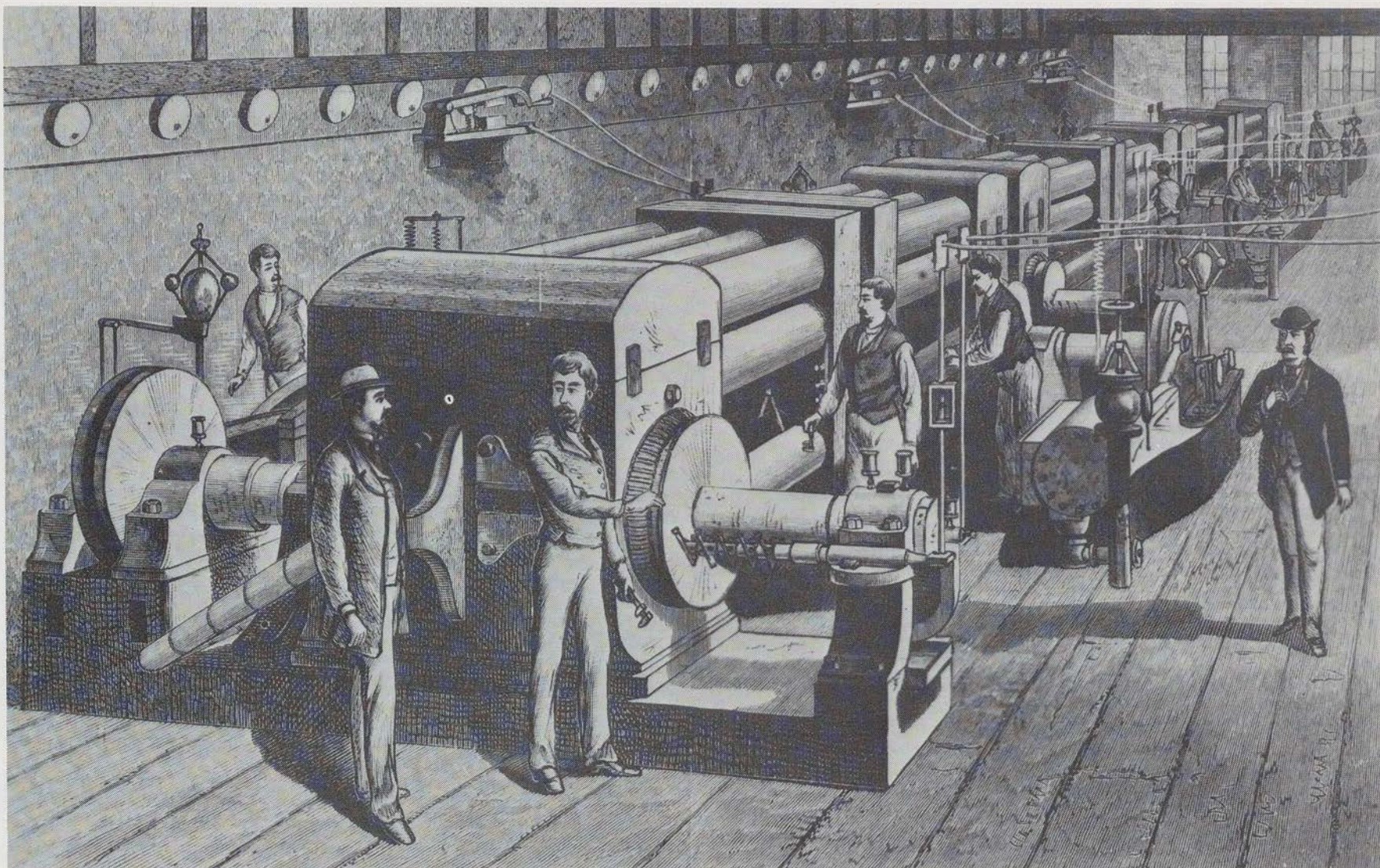
A series of educational booklets are available.

The Edison Electric Institute, 90 Park Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10016



Pearl Street power station in New York.





*Interior of the Pearl Street station.*

A library rich in material devoted to the electrical industry, power companies and Thomas Edison is open for outside use by appointment only. Call Miss Farley, 212-573-8700. The Edison Electric Institute is a trade association for the major power companies. Generally, the company servicing your area provides some educational services. An additional list of educational aids (fee charged) is available. Call 212-573-8743, Ext. 747, Dr. Richard Sheetz.

**Elfun Hall of History, General Electric, Schenectady Office**

A book, *The Edison Era*, traces the development of the General Electric Company 1876-1892. \$2.50. Call 518-385-8201, Mr. George Robertson.

**Jersey Central Power & Light Company, Madison Avenue at Punch Bowl Road, Morristown, NJ 07960, 201-539-6111**

Tours of the company's Yard Creek Pump Storage Station near Blairstown are available from April 1 - October 30. Contact Mr. George Metzger. Pamphlets can be obtained on a limited basis with preference to the residents of the territory served by J.C.P.&L. Co. Call Mrs. Linda Hand.

**New Jersey Bell Information and Research Center, 540 Broad St., Newark, NJ 07101**

Contact Miss Bartlett, 201-649-2124; Lecture groups, 201-649-2841.

Occasionally the local business office conducts tours of their building. Call the manager to see if a tour can be arranged. A teacher's "Program Planner," listing films, activities and educational aids. Call Miss Bartlett.

**Public Service Electric & Gas Co., Community Relations Department, Rm. 1178A, 80 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07101**  
Call Mr. Nicholas Sepio, 201-430-5866

Literature on energy sources, electrical safety, basics of electricity and other topics can be obtained on a limited basis with preference given to residents of the P.S.E.&G. service territory.

Films and speakers upon reservation. Tours of the Bergen Generating Station are provided to groups over 12 years of age. Call the station's superintendent.

**At Burlington, NJ:**

A floating museum called "The Second Sun" provides a fascinating look at the development of energy. The restored ferryboat offers museum displays and a film entitled "New Jersey 200". School groups are given a presentation and informal tour. Reservations are required. Call 609-387-3800. New Jersey Turnpike, Exit 5, then Rte. 541 West to Burlington.

(Just outside "The Second Sun" are horse drawn guided tours of historic Burlington. Reservations required. Groups limited.)

**Western Union, Public Affairs Department, Lake Street, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458**

Contact Mr. Donn Dutcher, 201-825-5730

For a look at Modern Communications visit the Glenwood Earth Station near Vernon Valley, off Rte. 94. Tour guides point out the equipment used to monitor satellites and show how a satellite network operates. Reservations are required well in advance, and tours are limited. The tour schedule is subject to change. Pamphlets describing the history of Western Union and modern communications are offered.



## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Most community and county libraries have an excellent selection of recent books pertaining to Thomas A. Edison. This bibliography lists older books that may be out of print as well as more recent ones. The \*asterisk represents a relatively hard to find or out-of-print book that offers worthwhile information. At least one institution is listed that possesses the book.

NJHS The New Jersey Historical Society  
ENHS Edison National Historic Site

Arvidson, Linda (Mrs. D. W. Griffith). *When the Movies Were Young*. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1925. New York: Dover Publications, 1969. \*NJHS  
A fascinating look at the early moviemakers and the New Jersey locations used for filming.

Beasley, Rex. *Edison*. Philadelphia: Chilton Books, 1964. \*NJHS and ENHS

Bowen, Harold G. (Vice Admiral). *The Edison Effect*. West Orange, N.J.: Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, 1951. \*ENHS  
Provides an explanation of one of Edison's two "purely scientific" discoveries.

Blum, Daniel. *A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1953. \*NJHS

Brush, Ted. *The Edisons: One Family, Twice Exiled*. "North Jersey Highlander," Vol. 12 No. 2, pp. 3-16. Newfoundland, New Jersey. Summer, 1976. \*NJHS  
The story of Thomas A. Edison's ancestors.

Calder, Ritchie. *The Evolution of the Machine*. New York: American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., pp. 70-79, 1968. \*NJHS  
Edison's contributions during the industrial era.

Ceram, C. W. *Archaeology of the Cinema*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1965. \*NJHS  
The early development of motion pictures, emphasizing the "pioneers."

Clark, Ronald W. *Edison, The Man Who Made the Future*. New York: G. P. Putnam, 1977.

*The Cockpit*, Vol. VIII, No. 4., 1971. Shepard, Peter. "A Defense Brief for Thomas Alva Edison's Iron Mining Site Located in Edison, New Jersey." NJHS, Newark.  
The story of Edison's mining operation outside of Ogdensburg, New Jersey.

*The Cockpit*, Vol. VII, No. 4, New Jersey Historical Society, Newark. 1970.  
Wolfson, Debra. "The First Electrically Lit Store in the World."  
An account of a Roselle Park, New Jersey groceryman who allowed his store to be lit by electric current.

*The Crossroads*, New Jersey Historical Society, Newark and manuscript collection, NJHS.

Vol. IV, No. 4. "Christmas in New Jersey, 1886; Pre-Electric Age."

Vol. VII, No. 8. "Thomas A. Edison; Wizard of Menlo Park."

Vol. XIII, No. 7. "Movies in New Jersey."

Vol. XIV, No. 6. "Samuel Dimmick Mott—A Successful Failure."

*Cyclostyle*, p. 4 & 5. Curwen Press, England. \*NJHS

Brief mention of Edison's contribution to developing the typewriter.

Davidson, George E. *Beehives of Invention* (pamphlet). "Edison and His Laboratories." Washington, D.C.: Office of Publications, National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior, 1973. \*NJHS, ENHS

*The Diary of Thomas A. Edison*, with introduction by Kathleen L. McGuirk. Old Greenwich, Conn.: Chatham Press, Inc. \*ENHS

Dickson, William Kennedy Laurie and Dickson, Antonia. *History of the Kinetograph, Kinetoscope and Kinetophone*. New York: Albert Brun, 1895; reprint ed. New York: Arno Press, 1970. \*NJHS

Dickson, William Kennedy Laurie and Dickson, Antonia. *The Life and Inventions of Thomas Alva Edison*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., 1894.

D'Humy, Ferdinand E. *The Birth of the Vacuum Tube — The Edison Effect*. New York: Newcomen Society, 1949. \*NJHS  
Traces the manner in which Edison discovered a scientific principle which he thought was impractical at first.

Dyer, Frank Lewis and Martin, Thomas Commerford. *Edison—His Life and Inventions*, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. New York & London: Harper Brothers Publishing Co., 1910. \*NJHS, ENHS

Firestone, Harvey S. in collaboration with Crowther, Samuel. *Men and Rubber*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1926. \*ENHS  
Mention is made of Edison, a close friend of Firestone.

Frost, Lawrence. *The Thomas A. Edison Album*. Seattle, Wash.: Superior Publishing Co., 1969.

*Giants of the Republic*, pp. 457-463. Philadelphia: World Bible House, 1895. \*NJHS

Greenwood, Ernest. *Edison the Boy — The Man*. New York: Dept. of Public Information, National Electric Light Association, 1929. \*ENHS

Guthridge, Sue. *Thomas Edison, Boy Inventor*. Indianapolis, Ind.: Bobbs Merrill Publishing, 1947.

Hammond, John Winthrop. *Men and Volts*. New York: Lippincott, 1941. \*ENHS  
The story of General Electric.

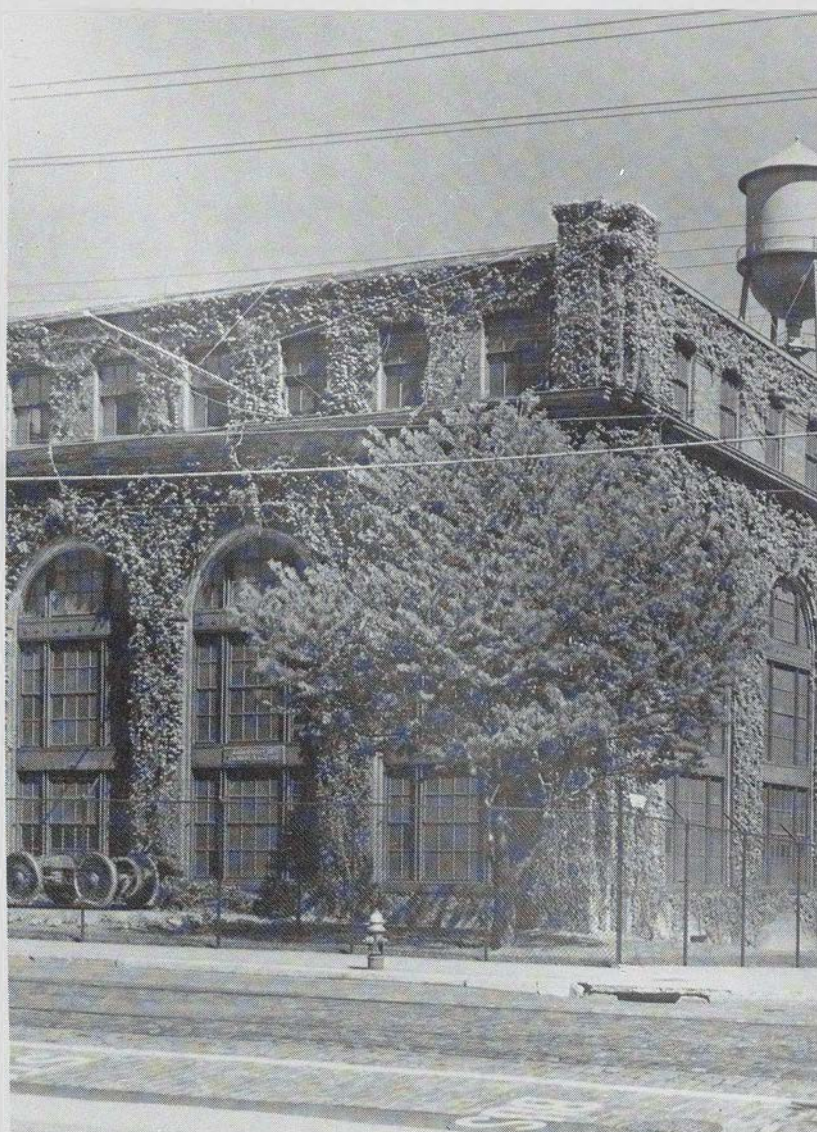
Hampton, Benjamin Boles. *A History of the Movies*. New York: Convici-Friede, 1931. \*NJHS

Hays, Will. *See and Hear*. Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, 1929.  
A tale of the early movie companies and the creation of "movie stars".



Glenmont in Edison's time.





The West Orange Factory.

- Hendricks, Gordon. *The Edison Motion Picture Myth*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1961. \*NJHS  
This book raises the question of authenticity regarding Edison's being the sole inventor of the movie projector and gives more credit to his assistant, W. K. L. Dickson.
- Hendricks, Gordon. *The Kinetoscope: America's First Commercially Successful Motion Picture Exhibitor*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Hiebert, Roselyn and Ray. *Thomas Edison. Immortals of Engineering*. Franklin Watts, Inc. 1969. \*ENHS
- "His Diary Reveals an Unsuspected Mr. Edison." *American Heritage*, Vol. 22, No. 1. (December, 1970). \*NJHS
- Howell, John W. and Schroeder, Henry. *History of the Incandescent Lamp*. Schenectady, New York: Maqua Co., 1927. \*NJHS
- Hutchings, David W. *Edison at Work*. New York: Hastings House Publishers, 1969. \*NJHS, ENHS  
An overview of Edison's life by a former employee at the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange.
- Jehl, Francis. *Menlo Park Reminiscences*, vols. 1-3. Dearborn, Michigan: Edison Institute, 1937, 1938, 1941. \*NJHS and ENHS  
A detailed account of the years spent at Menlo Park, by Edison's Laboratory Assistant.
- Jones, Francis Arthur. *Thomas Alva Edison*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1908; reprint ed., 1924. \*NJHS  
A general biography.
- Josephson, Matthew. *Edison*. (1st Edition) New York: McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc., 1959. \*NJHS and ENHS
- Josephson, Matthew. "Edison; The Last Days of The Wizard." *American Heritage*, vol. 10, no. 6 (October, 1959): 32-45.
- Kaufman, Marvyn D. *Thomas Alva Edison, Miracle Maker*. Champaign, Illinois: Garrard, 1962.
- Lewis, Floyd A. *The Incandescent Light*. New York: Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, Sherwood Publishing, Inc., 1961. \*ENHS

- Lindsay, Vachel. *The Art of the Moving Picture*. New York: Liveright, 1970.
- MacGowan, Kenneth. *Behind the Screen: The History and Techniques of the Motion Picture*. New York: Dell Publishing Co., 1965.
- Marshall, David. *Recollections of Edison*. Berkeley, California: Christopher Publishing House, 1931. \*ENHS
- Mast, Gerald. *A Short History of the Movies*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., 1971.
- McChesney, L. W. *A Light Is Extinguished*. \*NJHS  
The author, a former Edison employee who was present the night the inventor died, tells of the last few hours.
- McClure, J. B., Ed. *Edison and His Inventions*. Chicago: Rhodes & McClure, 1879. \*NJHS  
Incidents and anecdotes connected with the life of Edison. Also explanations on various inventions.
- "Men of Science and Invention." *American Heritage*. New York: Golden Press, 1960.
- Miller, Frances Trevelyn. *Thomas A. Edison; Benefactor of Mankind*. Chicago: John C. Winston Co., 1931. \*ENHS
- Mills, Joseph B. "History Lives at Greenfield." *Rotarian* (May, 1934): p. 27-29.
- Nerney, Mary Childs. *Thomas A. Edison, A Modern Olympian*. New York: Quinn & Boden Co., 1934. \*ENHS
- Noyes, C. W. *The C. W. N. Handbook — Use and Care of the Edison Phonograph and Instructions for Making Records*. Cincinnati: Macdonald Press, Ilson & Co., 1901.
- O'Toole, John. "Lights Golden Jubilee, October 14-21, 1929. "An address given to the Newark Chamber of Commerce. Newark: 1929. \*ENHS
- The Phonograph and How to Use It*. New York City: National Phonograph Co., 1900.
- Pratt, George C. *Spellbound in Darkness: A History of the Silent Film*. Greenwich, Conn.: New York Graphic Society, Ltd., 1966.
- Pope, Franklin Leonard. *Evolution of the Incandescent Lamp*. Elizabeth, New Jersey: Henry Cook, 1889. \*NJHS
- Prial, Frank J. *Seventy-Five Years of Packaged Power*. Bloomfield, New Jersey: McGraw Edison Co., 1964. \*NJHS  
Traces the development of storage batteries.
- Probst, George E., Ed. *The Indispensable Man*. As told by David Sarnoff, Mary Pickford, Harvey Firestone and others. New York: Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, Sherwood Publishers, Inc., 1962. \*ENHS  
Recollections of the inventor by his close friends.
- Ramsay, Terry. *A Million and One Nights: A History of the Motion Picture*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1926; reprint ed., 1964.
- Runes, Dagobert D., Ed. *The Diary and Sundry Observations of Thomas Alva Edison*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1948 \*NJHS; reprint ed. New York: Greenwood Press, 1968. \*ENHS  
Allows for keen insight into Edison's thoughts, ideals and beliefs. Based upon a personal diary, the book sheds new light upon a prominent figure so often viewed from only one angle—that of the inventor.
- "Salute to the Incredible Talking Machine." *High Fidelity and Musical America*, vol. 27, #1. (January, 1977). \*NJHS
- Berliner, Oliver. "The Original Painting of Nipper." pp. 90-91.
- Drake, James M. "The Parallel Careers of Edison and Bell." pp. 68-72.
- Long, Robert. "The Life and Labs of Thomas A. Edison." pp. 72-80.
- Marcus, Leonard. "Recordings Before Edison." pp. 58, 68.
- Pavlucci, Bridget. "Edison As Record Producer." pp. 85, 89.
- "100 Years of Sound Reproduction."
- Sarnoff, David. *Edison*. Newcomen Society, 1948. \*NJHS
- Simonds, William. *Edison; His Life, His Work, His Genius*. New York: Bobbs Merrill, 1934. \*ENHS
- Slide, Anthony. *Early American Cinema*. New York: A. S. Barnes, 1970.
- Spehr, Paul C. *The Movies Begin*. Dobbs Ferry, New York: Morgan Press, Inc., 1977.
- Tate, Alfred O. (Mr. Edison's Private Secretary) *Edison's Open Door*. New York: E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc., 1938. \*NJHS  
Provides an intimate look at Edison, the man, his personality, character and constitution.
- Untermeyer, Louis. *Makers of the Modern World*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1955. \*ENHS
- Upton, Francis, former Edison employee.  
Manuscript collection of NJHS. Personal papers and letters.
- Wise, W. E. *Thomas Alva Edison: The Youth and His Times*. New York: The Junior Literary Guild and Rand McNally Co., 1933. \*ENHS



THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
230 BROADWAY  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104

EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY







~~Dis Status~~

~~10/9/73~~



For information about the  
TOWNSHIP OF EDISON

Write or call

JOHN A. DELESANDRO

Business Administrator

Telephone 287-0900

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Woodbridge & Plainfield Aves., Edison



1976

Ask at  
Desk

EDISON TWSP. FREE

NOT TO BE TAKEN  
FROM LIBRARY

ASK AT DESK

Reference

Edison History -  
1976

"Edison - Dynamic Pace-  
Setter at the Crossroads  
of N.J."

# EDISON

DYNAMIC PACE-SETTER  
AT THE CROSSROADS OF NEW JERSEY







## ABOUT THE COVER...

### Edison Township . . .

Crossroads of New Jersey, at the heart of the rich eastern seaboard . . .

Within overnight shipping distance of one-third of the nation's population . . .

And symbolized by our cover, a complex of interlocking superhighways, the concrete arteries that help deliver our area's products to the country and the world.

Named for one of mankind's most brilliant inventors, Edison Township was known as Raritan before the first incandescent bulb cast its flickering glow here in 1879. And like its namesake . . . the inspired developer of the first laboratory devoted to industrial research . . . the township has evidenced steady growth and pursued a policy of enlightened planning.

The result: A rich and fruitful diversity . . . delightful residential areas that make Edison "home" for thousands . . . the accomodation of modern industry and business . . . and the opportunity to expand.

Indeed, it has been our vitality as well as our location that has made Edison the focal point for the movement of goods and people to all compass points.

Edison means movement.

And planned progress.

Today's township, retaining a deep pride in its past, continues to improve the present.

And to benefit the future.



### Here... Is The Heritage Of Greatness.

*"He has led no armies into battle—he has conquered no countries—he has enslaved no peoples—yet, he wields a power the magnitude of which no warrior ever dreamed . . .*

*This democratic, kindly, modest man has bestowed upon the human race blessings instead of serfdom, construction instead of conquest . . . He is humanity's friend."*

ARTHUR J. PALMER



# GOVERNING BODY OF EDISON

## **Municipal Council**

Edward W. Grygo, Jr., President  
Lewis M. Bloom  
Dorothy K. Drwal  
John J. Hogan  
Paul A. Nuzzo  
Herbert H. Daugherty, Jr.  
Margery S. Golin

## **Municipal Officials**

Thomas H. Paterniti, Mayor  
John A. Delesandro  
Business Administrator  
Joseph F. Hughes, Director of Finance  
William R. Godwin  
Director of Public Works  
Arthur J. Tucker, Township Clerk (deceased)  
William M. Lund, Township Engineer  
Gary M. Farinich, Tax Collector  
James A. Rossi, Building Inspector  
Stephen J. Capestro, Director of Parks  
and Public Buildings, Health, Welfare  
and Recreation  
Roland A. Winter, Township Attorney  
Paul E. Anderson, Magistrate  
William T. Fisher, Chief of Police  
H. Ray Vliet, Chief, Division of Fire  
Dr. A. P. Capparelli, Health Officer  
John W. Mooney, Tax Assessor  
Aurora E. Bacon, Librarian

## **Board of Education**

Dennis P. O'Shea, President  
Harry J. Russell, Vice President  
Dr. Allan D. Silverman  
Richard Hines  
Mrs. Ruth Ann Burns  
Mrs. Frances Malley  
Joseph Carlon, Jr.  
Charles A. Boyle  
Superintendent of Schools  
Joseph A. Kreskey  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Thomas J. McEvoy  
Board of Education Secretary  
John C. Thomas  
Board of Education Assistant Secretary  
R. Joseph Ferenczi  
Board of Education Attorney



It is gratifying to see how our community has grown into the progressive Township that it is today. Years have passed since Thomas A. Edison, the great inventor, established his renowned laboratory in our Menlo park section of Edison Township. Today, we can observe our numerous accomplishments and be proud of the tasks achieved.

As a result of our formative and structural Master Plan, Edison Township has become a promising and balanced municipality where we all can prosper through the expanded recreational, health and educational facilities and enjoy the advantages of a sound financial structure and stable government.

I will always have pride in my town and be grateful to the residents of Edison for their support and effort. The continued success of our community could not be possible without your cooperation, and for that, I sincerely and wholeheartedly say, "Thank You!"

*Dr. Thomas H. Paterniti*  
Thomas H. Paterniti  
Mayor



# COMMUNITY PROFILE

## Population

70,390

## Geography

Area of 32 sq. miles located on the Raritan River in central New Jersey; 25 miles south of New York City.

## Government

Mayor/Council form, Plan "E". Department heads are full time professionals under a Business Administrator.

## Education

Comprehensive education for vocational and career development. Public and private schools ... kindergarten through grade 12 ... colleges, in town and nearby.

## Medical

Hospitals, Keep-Well Clinics, Mobile Health Trailer, Rehabilitation Institute, Family Practice Training Center for Doctors.

## Utilities

Middlesex Water Co., Elizabethtown Water Co., Edison Township Water Utility, Elizabethtown Gas Co., Public Service Electric & Gas Co., New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.

## Transportation

Unexcelled rail, highway facilities in town. Newark Airport and Linden Airport are 15 minutes away via multi-lane, modern highways. Deepwater dock on Raritan River.

## Climate

Annual precipitation (mean): 45 inches. Extreme temperature range: 0 to 95 degrees.

## Industry

Over 250 diversified industries. Largest industrial park in the East. Several other industrial parks, large and small ... all fully serviced by utilities, major highways and rail. Excellent labor market.

## Banking

20 banks — full service commercial banks, savings banks, savings & loan banks.

## Communications

3 daily and 3 weekly newspapers, 1 radio station. Edison is also served by the newspapers, radio and television facilities of New York, Newark and Philadelphia.

## Houses of Worship

Over 30, representing all major and several minor denominations.

## Motels

Hundreds of rooms in modern facilities including major chains, Ramada Inn (198), Holiday Inn (120).

## Shopping Centers

All weather, temperature controlled shopping in major department stores at 120 unit Menlo Park Shopping Center. Several neighborhood centers of 10-20 stores. Free parking at all.

## Parks—Recreation

Two large county parks, over 20 well equipped and staffed neighborhood playgrounds, softball fields and several golf courses. A number of municipal parks are on the drawing boards as well as a state park at the Edison Tower.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Governing Body .....	Pg. 1
Community Profile .....	2
Proximity to Markets .....	3
Government of Edison .....	4, 5
Organization Chart .....	6
Planning Program .....	7
Statistics .....	8, 9, 10, 11, 12
How to Reach Edison .....	13
Transportation .....	14, 15
Utilities .....	16
Industrials .....	17, 18, 19
Public Safety .....	20, 21
Homes .....	22
Hospitals .....	23
School System .....	24, 25, 26
Higher Education .....	27
Parks, Recreation, Library .....	28, 29
Cultural .....	30
Shopping Centers .....	31
Master Plan Goals .....	32



# EDISON... PROXIMITY TO MARKETS

**NEW JERSEY and EDISON are at the heart of the great Eastern Seaboard Megalopolis.**

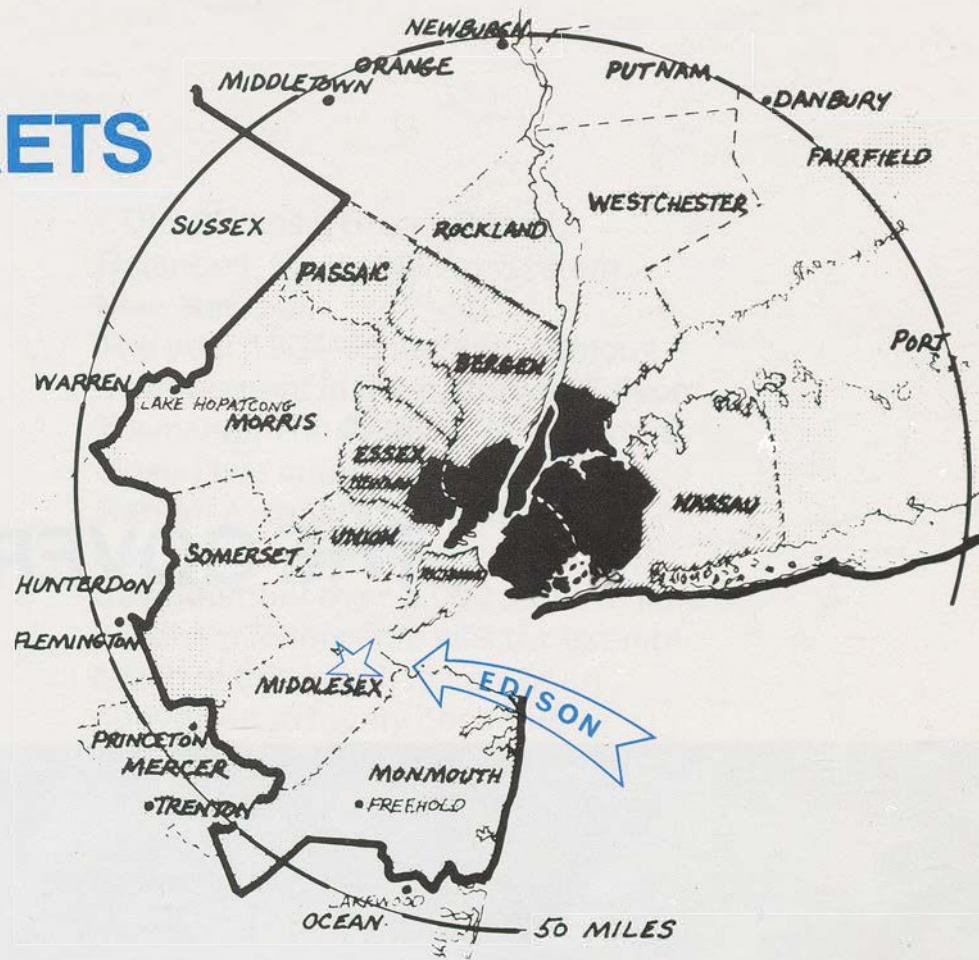
Megalopolis is the urbanized strip of land extending along the Atlantic Seaboard between Maine and Virginia and reaching inland some 150-200 miles to the Appalachian foothills. It has a unique constellation of large cities with more than a million population — Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D. C.

## **Networks Of Paths**

Edison's expansive area of 32 square miles is well suited to its role as the hub of a number of networks of air, rail, highway and water paths for the distribution of goods and services. Nearness to markets is enhanced by these networks which facilitate orderly movement of materials and people with consequent saving of time and money.

## **New Jersey — a Major Market**

New Jersey is a major market in itself, and has the third highest per family effective buying income in the nation, \$17,989 per household. Cross the Hudson into the Greater New York Consolidated Area and you will add 11,000,000 prospects with a per household buying income of \$14,946. At the other end of the state, cross the Delaware into the metropolitan Philadelphia area and another 4,778,000 people come into the marketing orbit with a per household effective buying income of \$15,003.



## **23,000,000 People of Wealth and Buying Power —**

Nowhere else in America is there a closely contained market of approximately 23,000,000 people representing such wealth and buying power. Interlaced highways and turnpikes speed the flow of traffic in this area and with New Jersey as the geographical center of the eastern seaboard, one-third of the nation's population is within overnight shipping distance! Further indication of New Jersey's marketing importance are its six cities with a population of over 100,000 people. They are Newark with 378,670; Jersey City with 259,790; Elizabeth, 114,795; Paterson, 149,095; Trenton, 106,625; and Camden, 105,600.



# THE GOVERNMENT OF EDISON





Edison's Government provides for a strong Mayor-Council form of Local Government. This "Plan E" is set forth in Article 7 of the Optional Municipal Charter Law which went into effect in Edison Township January 1958.

#### **Planning and Zoning in EDISON**

Township officials have been well aware of the need for proper zoning controls and for long-range planning to assure the orderly growth of the community. In 1962 a complete Master Plan was prepared for Edison with the help of the Fels Institute of Local and State Government of the University of Pennsylvania who were retained as consultants to the Township Planning Board.

In 1966 Herbert H. Smith Associates, highly regarded planning specialists, were engaged to study and update the Master Plan. This was completed and the revised Master Plan was adopted by the Planning Board in 1968. The Governing Body has arranged for the Smith firm to maintain a continuing review of the Plan to make recommendations for modifications when the specialists regard them as needed.

The Master Plan provides the township with guidelines for the full utilization of its resources while maintaining an orderly growth pattern. Particular attention is focused on land use, recreation areas, traffic circulation plans, capital improvements and other community facilities with a view toward coordination of all municipal efforts to achieve the creation of a safe, attractive, healthful and convenient physical environment for all.

Under the Plan, proposed residential acreage would amount to 6,323 acres; commercial, 645 acres; industrial, 6,744 acres; parks and recreation, 1,006 acres; semi-public and institutional use, 865 acres; railroads and utilities, 698 acres; and schools, 392 acres.

EDISON has a Broad-Based, Balanced, Equitable Tax System . . .

#### **New Ratables**

The year 1964-65 marked a unique development in the history of Edison Township. The Federal Government closed two military installations—Raritan Arsenal and Camp Kilmer—and made available for enlightened development over 3,000 acres of land which up to this time was tax exempt. Much of this land has now been converted to highly desirable industrial uses, one developer alone having created an outstanding industrial complex of over 2300 acres with excellent rail, water and highway transportation facilities on the site. The huge multi-million dollar Fedders plant has been built on another near-by 100 acre section of the former Raritan Arsenal, while much of the remaining acreage now contains numerous industrial plants of all sizes valued at several millions of dollars. These are grouped for the most part in modern industrial parks which are equipped with excellent water, sewer and transportation facilities. Within one year after the release of Raritan Arsenal and Camp Kilmer by the Federal Government, \$3 million in ratables, much in the form of land only, was added to the local tax rolls. Ten years later this same land with improvements was assessed at over \$117 million and growing at a rate of \$7 to \$8 million per year. This is expected to continue for another decade before leveling off.

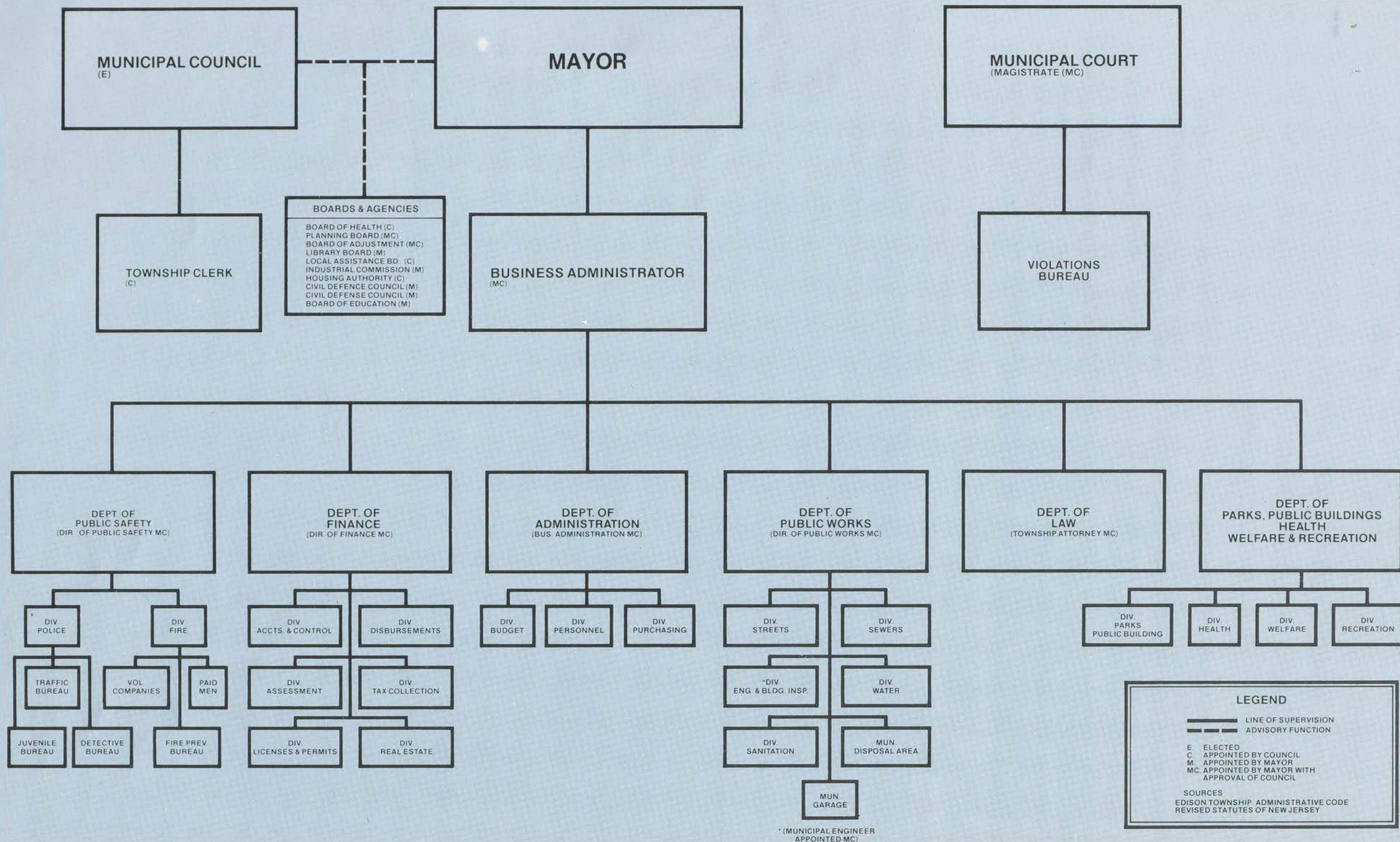
#### **THE FUTURE**

The summer of 1976 saw the completion of dredging operations in the Raritan River. It has created a 25 ft. deep channel which is now navigable for ocean going vessels as far as the Raritan Center docks. The center already has several distribution operations prepared to handle trans-ocean cargo.

Helicopter service at the center was inaugurated in 1976 and will be expanded.



# ORGANIZATION CHART





# EDISON TOWNSHIP HAS A PROGRESSIVE PLANNING PROGRAM

Edison Township has one of the most progressive and active planning programs in the State of New Jersey. The Township has an adopted Master Plan, an updated zoning ordinance, modern land subdivision regulations; an active urban renewal program and a program of systematic code updating and enforcement. A Comprehensive Master Plan was prepared by the Edison Planning Board in 1962 with the assistance from the Fels Institute of Local and State Government and the University of Pennsylvania. In 1966, the well known planning firm of Herbert H. Smith Associates was retained to study and update the Master Plan and to provide continuing professional planning assistance to the Township.

## **Master Plan**

Edison Township's Master Plan which was adopted in 1968 and has been updated, provide for changes in development trends. The Plan provides for balanced land use development, expanded circulation-system and strategically located community facilities to service individual neighborhoods and the Township as a whole. The Master Plan is a working guide for a planned ultimate population of approximately, 101,000 which will be serviced with an extensive system of public parks, libraries, schools, fire stations and other community facilities. The Plan provides for a variety of housing ranging from high-rise apartment developments to suburban-rural areas with extensive open spaces.

Commercial areas provide for neighborhood businesses and regional shopping centers. Industrial areas provide for a variety of uses ranging from small shops, restricted industrial uses and research centers to heavy industrial areas and large scale modern industrial parks such as the Raritan Center. Two of the prime goals of the Plan are the encouragement of a sound and diversified economic base and the maintenance of high aesthetic standards.

## **Development Codes and Ordinances**

The Township's zoning ordinance, land subdivision regulations, building code, health code and other municipal codes and ordinances are designed to provide for environmental protection and creation of a safe, attractive, healthful and convenient community. High standards in the codes and ordinances have resulted in quality and stable land development during the past two decades when the Township's population increased from 16,348 to over 70,390. Annual review and updating provide the Township with modern effective development codes and regulations.

## **Environmental Protection**

Edison Township officials have long been cognizant of the need for environmental protection. Through application and enforcement of development codes, review of development proposals by professional planners and engineers and coordination with State and County agencies, Edison has established a long record of environmental protection.

Our Environmental Design and Site Plan Review Committee guarantees that development of our business and industrial areas will be esthetically pleasing and environmentally sound.



# EDISON TOWNSHIP MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

## TABULATION OF POPULATION TRENDS 1940 - 1975

Year	Total Population	* BY RACE				Population Density per Square Mile
		White	Negro	Indian	Other	
1940	(1) 11,470					370
1950	(1) 16,348					527
1960	(1) 44,789	43,331	1,430		38	1,483
1970	(1) 67,120	65,467	1,367	30	256	2,223
1971	(2) 68,675	66,985	1,401	28	261	2,215
1972	(2) 69,435	67,727	(3) 1,416	(3) 28	(3) 264	2,240
1973	(2) 68,880	67,185	(3) 1,405	(3) 28	(3) 262	2,222
1974	(2) 70,280	68,551	(3) 1,434	(3) 28	(3) 267	2,267
1975	(2) 70,390	68,658	(3) 1,436	(3) 28	(3) 267	2,271
1978	74,000					

\* Not available 1950 and 1940  
 (1) U.S. Census 1940-1970  
 (2) N.J. Dept. of Labor & Industry  
 (3) Distribution of population estimated from other sources.

## POPULATION MAKE UP BY AGE AND SEX (1970 CENSUS)

Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 5	3,218	3,145	6,363
5 - 9	3,785	3,529	7,314
10 - 14	3,711	3,516	7,227
- 15	658	689	1,347
16 - 18	1,712	1,678	3,390
- 19	412	440	852
20 - 24	2,186	2,748	4,934
25 - 34	4,514	4,874	9,388
35 - 44	4,742	4,771	9,513
45 - 54	4,471	4,360	8,831
55 - 59	1,414	1,310	2,724
60 - 61	392	388	780
62 - 64	499	497	996
65 - 74	915	1,146	2,061
75 and over	531	869	1,400
TOTAL	33,160	33,960	67,120

## POPULATION CHANGES 1940-1975 EDISON AND RELATED AREAS

	1940(1)	1950 (1)	Change	1960 (1)	Change	1970 (1)	Change	1975 (2)	Change
Edison	11,470	16,348	42.5%	44,799	174.0%	67,120	49.8%	70,390	4.9%
Woodbridge	27,191	35,758	31.5%	78,846	120.5%	98,944	25.5%	101,705	2.8%
New Brunswick	33,180	38,811	17.0%	40,139	3.4%	41,885	4.3%	42,785	2.1%
Plainfield	37,469	42,366	13.1%	45,330	7.0%	46,862	3.4%	48,185	2.8%
So. Plainfield	5,379	8,008	48.9%	17,879	123.3%	21,142	18.3%	22,000	4.1%
Clark	2,083	4,352	108.9%	12,195	180.2%	18,829	54.4%	19,125	1.6%
Perth Amboy	41,242	41,330	0.2%	38,007	- 8.1%	38,798	2.1%	39,760	2.5%
Sayreville	8,186	10,338	26.3%	22,553	118.2%	32,508	44.1%	33,910	4.3%
Scotch Plains	4,993	9,069	81.6%	18,491	103.9%	22,279	20.5%	22,980	3.1%
Union Co.	328,000	398,000	21.3%	504,000	26.6%	543,000	7.7%	551,120	1.5%
Middlesex Co.	217,077	264,872	22.0%	433,856	63.8%	583,813	34.6%	610,255	4.5%
New Jersey	4,160,000	4,835,000	16.2%	6,067,000	25.5%	7,168,000	18.1%	7,433,920	3.7%

(1) Source: U.S. Census (2) N.J. Dept. of Labor & Industry



**EDISON TOWNSHIP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**TABULATION OF HOUSING UNITS  
1940 - 1970 AND PROJECTION TO 1980  
(U. S. CENSUS)**

Year	Total Housing Units
1940	2,809
1950	4,443
1960	12,576
1970	19,250
*1975	20,600
(Est.) 1980 Projected	25,000

\*Sales Management

**TABULATION OF  
OWNER OCCUPIED – 1 FAMILY HOUSING  
UNITS AND VALUE RANGES  
(1970 CENSUS)**

True Value	No. of Units	Percent of Total Units
Less than 5,000	7	0.1%
5,000 - 9,999	67	0.5%
10,000 - 14,499	432	3.3%
15,000 - 19,999	2,233	17.3%
20,000 - 24,999	3,267	25.3%
25,000 - 34,999	3,888	30.1%
35,000 - 49,999	2,428	18.8%
50,000 or more	602	4.7%
Total	12,924	100.1%
Total Aggregate True Value (1970) \$375,659,500		
Average Unit Value (1970) 29,067		

**TABULATION OF  
RENTAL UNITS BY MONTHLY RENTAL VALUE  
(1970 CENSUS)**

Monthly Rental Cost	Number of Units	Percent to Total Units
\$40 or Less	112	2.2%
40 - 59	59	1.1%
60 - 79	120	2.3%
80 - 99	204	4.0%
100 - 119	425	8.3%
120 - 149	1,844	35.8%
150 - 199	1,987	38.6%
200 - 299	228	4.4%
300 or more	26	0.5%
No Cash Rent	146	2.8%
Total	5,151	100.0%

**TABULATION OF  
CLASSIFICATION OF HOUSING UNITS BY TYPE  
(1970 CENSUS)**

Type	Number of Units
Owner Occupied 1 Family Units	13,481
Rental Units	5,560
Rooming & Lodger Units	176
Mobile Home/Trailer	203
Migrant or Seasonal	1
Unclassified	750
Total Housing Units	20,171

**COMPARATIVE RETAIL SALES GROWTH  
1950 - 1976 (000 omitted)**

	1976	1971	1970	1966	1960	1950
Middlesex County	\$1,708,089	\$1,034,429	\$969,690	\$774,025	\$518,109	\$257,619
Edison Township	207,578	128,546	119,295	103,686	21,621	-
New Brunswick	176,131	153,247	145,134	88,545	84,243	76,143

Source: Sales Management



**EDISON TOWNSHIP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**EXISTING LAND USE**

Use	1960 (1)		1966 (1)		1970 (2)		1976 (2)	
	Area	Percent of Total	Area	Percent of Total	Area	Percent of Total	Area	Percent of Total
Residential	2,966.5	15.1	3,986.3	20.4	4,161.2	21.3	25.5	4,993.5
Commercial	287.6	1.5	388.7	2.0	441.7	2.4	2.5	485.9
Industrial	1,424.1	7.2	2,270.3	11.6	2,528.3	12.9	14.9	2,907.5
Public, Recreational, Roads	1,768.0	9.1	2,429.4	12.5	2,601.4	13.3	14.1	2,750.4
Semi-Public & Institution	392.4	2.1	773.0	3.9	773.0	3.9	4.2	811.6
Railroads and Utilities	514.2	2.7	697.9	3.6	697.9	3.6	3.6	697.9
Military	3,780.0	19.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural	—	—	67.3	0.3	67.3	0.3	2.3	445.1
Vacant	8,387.2	42.9	8,907.1	45.7	8,249.2	42.3	32.9	6,428.1
Totals	19,520.0	100.0	19,520.0	100.0	19,520.0	100.0	19,520.0	100.0

(1) Source Master Plan Study

(2) Estimated from other sources

**ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY BY CLASSIFICATION**

Year	*Equalized Valuation Ratio to True Value (%)	Total		Residential		Apartments		Industrial		Commercial		Vacant Land		Farm Land	
		Assessed Valuation	%	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total	Assessed Valuation	% of Total
(1) 1950	20.00	14,116,333	100.0	8,187,473	58.0	282,327	2.0	4,234,900	30.0	564,653	4.0	705,816	5.0	141,164	1.0
(1) 1960	21.18	49,144,123	100.0	28,749,312	58.5	982,882	2.0	14,743,237	30.0	2,457,207	5.0	1,720,044	3.5	491,441	1.0
1967	40.17	207,846,368	100.0	127,022,340	61.1	9,095,700	4.4	37,709,725	18.2	27,631,609	13.3	6,112,390	2.9	274,604	0.1
1968	43.21	216,597,469	100.0	130,705,710	60.3	11,930,475	5.5	41,294,029	19.1	25,713,690	11.9	6,415,715	3.0	537,850	0.2
1969	41.60	227,823,491	100.0	134,827,960	59.2	14,124,125	6.2	44,899,809	19.7	27,581,615	12.1	6,230,965	2.7	159,017	0.1
1970	35.54	238,441,112	100.0	138,369,716	58.0	15,117,750	6.3	51,709,014	21.7	26,680,950	11.2	6,335,084	2.7	228,598	0.1
1971	36.11	250,919,497	100.0	142,404,975	56.8	15,606,450	6.2	59,001,739	23.5	27,348,360	10.9	6,332,825	2.5	225,148	0.1
(2) 1972	50.00	413,200,494	100.0	223,551,800	54.1	26,930,400	6.5	103,473,969	25.0	45,869,575	11.1	12,629,275	3.1	745,475	0.2
(3) 1973	91.59	914,903,650	100.0	500,715,450	54.7	60,269,250	6.6	223,040,250	24.4	103,562,500	11.3	26,369,050	2.9	947,150	0.1
1974	86.58	929,058,000	100.0	507,273,500	54.6	60,257,900	6.5	225,530,100	24.3	106,950,900	11.5	28,102,400	3.0	943,200	0.1
1975	85.47	945,907,718	100.0	513,142,400	54.2	61,269,100	6.5	235,644,218	24.9	109,756,900	11.6	25,151,900	2.7	943,200	0.1
(4) 1976	75.18	963,205,087	100.0	519,185,600	53.9	61,971,600	6.4	245,187,887	25.5	110,683,100	11.5	25,255,400	2.6	921,500	0.1

\* Ratios are calculated by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Taxation.

(1) Prior to 1965, assessed valuation ratios were determined by the Local Unit. Beginning with 1965, they are on a county basis which was placed at 50% assessment basis. The classification of assessed valuations were not available for 1960 and 1950 and were estimated from available sources.

(2) The Township conducted a revaluation program which was implemented in 1972 and properties were valued to 50% of estimated true value.

(3) The County of Middlesex placed assessments at 100% basis for 1973 and subsequent year per R.S. 54: 3-17 et seq.

(4) County Equalization Basis



**EDISON TOWNSHIP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**COMPARISON OF GROSS DEBT IN RELATION  
TO ESTIMATED TRUE VALUE OF REAL  
PROPERTY AND PER CAPITA GROSS DEBT**

Year	Equalized Valuation Ratio to True Value (%)	Estimated True Value *	Gross Debt Issued and Auth. but Not Issued	Percentage of Gross Debt to Est. True Value	Per Capita Gross Debt
1950	20.0	\$ 70,581,665	\$ 2,386,600	3.38%	\$ 146.03
1960	21.18	232,030,798	11,383,500	4.90%	254.10
1967	40.17	517,416,898	26,048,500	5.03%	389.71
1968	43.21	506,693,260	26,019,500	5.13%	382.69
1969	41.60	554,064,903	29,734,000	5.36%	432.49
1970	35.54	678,906,069	33,429,500	4.92%	498.06
1971	36.11	694,875,372	33,230,500	4.78%	491.61
1972	48.34	855,403,737	33,147,000	3.87%	477.39
1973	91.59	999,531,765	38,909,150	3.80%	551.82
1974	86.58	1,073,685,603	36,542,184	3.40%	519.95
1975	85.47	1,107,335,677	(2)35,169,171	3.18%	499.63
(1) 1976	75.18	(1) 1,281,821,113	33,628,652	2.62%	477.76

\* Adjusted to comply with the equalized ratio as certified by the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Taxation.

(1) County Basis For 1976

(2) To July 1, 1976

**COMPARATIVE TAX RATE RELATING TO TRUE VALUE  
PER 1,000 OF VALUE**

Year	* Actual Tax Rate (Assessed Valuation)	Adjusted Tax Rate	Allocation of Adjusted Tax Rate				
			Veterans & Senior Citizen Deduction	School Purposes	County Purposes	Municipal Operation Purposes	Debt Service Costs
1950	\$ 59.20	\$ 11.84	\$ -0-	\$ 5.73	\$ 3.23	\$ -0-	\$ 2.88
1960	99.62	18.30	-0-	9.86	3.81	2.42	2.21
1967	75.40	21.60	0.60	13.41	4.67	0.59	2.33
1968	63.00	27.20	0.65	17.14	5.55	1.01	2.85
1969	66.60	27.70	0.58	17.84	5.29	1.00	2.99
1970	77.50	29.50	0.56	19.35	5.49	1.21	2.89
1971	81.80	26.70	0.43	17.46	5.58	0.67	2.56
1972	58.90	28.40	0.40	17.70	5.30	1.17	3.83
1973	27.60	25.20	0.30	16.77	4.90	0.64	2.59
1974	31.30	27.00	0.30	17.65	5.30	1.06	2.69
1975	33.20	28.37	0.34	18.38	5.98	1.12	2.55
1976	36.50	27.44	0.30	17.22	6.09	1.37	2.26

\* Based on Assessed Valuations at the prevailing assessment basis for the year.



**EDISON TOWNSHIP  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**TABULATION OF CASH INCOME RANGES  
BY HOUSEHOLD EXPRESSED IN PERCENTAGES  
COMPARED TO MIDDLESEX COUNTY AREA  
1955-1975**

AREA	RANGES	1975	1974	1970	1965	1960	1955
Edison	* -0-	10.0%			6.8%		
Middlesex County	2,499	14.0%			8.6%	7.5%	19.0%
Edison	-0-		3.7%	6.8%			
Middlesex County	2,999		5.7%	9.3%			
Edison	-0-						
Middlesex County	3,000						
Edison	2,500				8.4%		
Middlesex County	3,999				9.3%	13.6%	20.7%
Edison	3,000		2.5%	4.7%			
Middlesex County	4,999		3.8%	5.7%			
Edison	3,001						
Middlesex County	5,000						
Edison	4,000				35.0%		
Middlesex County	6,999				35.3%	53.2%	40.4%
Edison	5,000		5.8%	16.7%			
Middlesex County	7,999		6.3%	16.9%			
Edison	5,001						
Middlesex County	8,000						
Edison	**7,000				22.9%		
Middlesex County	8,999				21.4%	20.4%	
Edison	7,001						
Middlesex County	and over						19.9%
Edison	8,000	4.8%	6.4%	20.5%			
Middlesex County	9,999	4.5%	5.4%	19.9%			
Edison	8,001						
Middlesex County	10,000						
Edison	10,001	19.7%	26.4%				
Middlesex County	15,000	18.0%	23.0%				
Edison	10,000			51.3%	26.9%		
Middlesex County	and over			42.2%	25.4%	15.3%	
Edison	15,000		55.2%				
Middlesex County	and over		55.3%				
Edison	15,000	48.4%					
Middlesex County	24,999	42.4%					
Edison	25,000	17.1%					
Middlesex County	and over	21.1%					
Totals		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

\* For year 1965 the range was 7000 - 9999

\*\* For year 1975 the range was 0 - 7999

Source: Sales Management

**MUNICIPAL BOND RATINGS**

**MOODY'S      Aa**

**STANDARD & POOR'S      AA**



# HOW TO REACH EDISON

An excellent network of super-highways, and frequent mainline and commuter rail service, contribute to the easy accessibility of Edison from all points. Situated at the crossroads of New Jersey, Edison also enjoys a close proximity to major airports in New York, Newark, and Philadelphia.

## VIA HIGHWAY

### From Newark and Points North of Edison

U.S. #1, U.S. #9—South to Edison  
Interstate #95—New Jersey Turnpike—South to Edison

N.J. #27—South to Edison Exit 10  
Garden State Parkway—South to Edison

### From New York City

George Washington Bridge, Lincoln Tunnel, or Holland Tunnel to Interstate #95—N.J. Turnpike—South to Edison Exit 10

### From La Guardia Airport, J.F.K. Airport, Brooklyn and Long Island

Various New York Expressways—South and West to Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge—West to Interstate #95—N.J. Turnpike—South to Edison Exit 10.

### From Wilmington, Del., Philadelphia, Camden, Pennsylvania Turnpike, and Points South and West

U.S. #1, U.S. #130, or N.J. Turnpike—North to Edison Exit 10

### From New York State Thruway and Points North and West

Direct connection to Garden State Parkway—South to Edison Exit 131

### From Allentown Pa. and Points West

Interstate #78—East to Interstate #287—South to Edison

### From Jersey Shore and Points South

N.J. #34, #35, U.S. #9 or Garden State Parkway—North to N.J. #440/#287 West to Edison

## VIA RAIL

### From New York City

Penn. Station—Commuter Train to: Metropark—Iselin (at Edison border), or Metuchen, Edison, New Brunswick (Edison residents use all four stations)  
World Trade Center—PATH Train to Newark, change to commuter train to: Metropark—Iselin, Metuchen, Edison, or New Brunswick

### From Philadelphia

Commuter train to New Brunswick, change to Local Train to: Edison, Metuchen, Metropark-Iselin

### From Amtrak Metroliner Stations at Washington, Baltimore, and Boston

Direct Service to Metropark-Iselin Station (at Edison border)

## VIA AIR

### From all Points to Newark, La Guardia, J.F.K., or Philadelphia Airports

Helicopter service available from LaGuardia and J.F.K. to Newark—Helicopter, via Ronson Helicopter Service, to Raritan Center—or south on N.J. Turnpike to Edison Interchange (See "VIA HIGHWAY" for direct routes from all airports)

### From all nearby points to Linden Airport (small planes only)

U.S. #1—South to Edison

## VIA BUS

### From All Points to Major New York Bus Terminals

To Port Authority Terminal—Frequent Express Bus service direct to Edison via Lincoln Tunnel and the 12-Lane N.J. Turnpike





# TRANSPORTATION

## Rail

Penn-Central east-west passenger service is provided at the Edison station near Plainfield Avenue. The nearby New Brunswick, Metuchen and Metropark-Iselin stations find more favor among township residents, however, because of convenience, better parking facilities, more frequent service and a wider choice of trains to points all over the country.

The Metropark-Iselin station located at the Edison-Iselin border practically within the shadow of the Edison Tower is a park and ride facility with space for almost 800 cars. Amtrak trains for distant points as well as electrified commuter trains make regular stops at this station. It is easily accessible by car from N.J. #27, Garden State Parkway, U.S. #1 and the New Jersey Turnpike.

Excellent freight service is provided to all industrial sections of the township by Con-Rail on former Penn Central and Lehigh Valley facilities.

## Air

Scheduled air service on major airlines to all parts of the country is provided from Newark Airport only 25 minutes from Edison. The J.F.K. and La Guardia Airports with service to all parts of the world are only an hour away. All three of these major airports are connected by frequent helicopter flights of New York Airways. Philadelphia Airport, 90 minutes away, provides the traveller or shipper with additional choices of schedules.

Linden Airport, located midway between Edison and Newark, caters to small aircraft.

Taxi, limousine and parcel pick up and delivery service is available for local and nearby destinations as well as to all airports. The fine interconnecting highway system in the area contributes to the excellence of service.

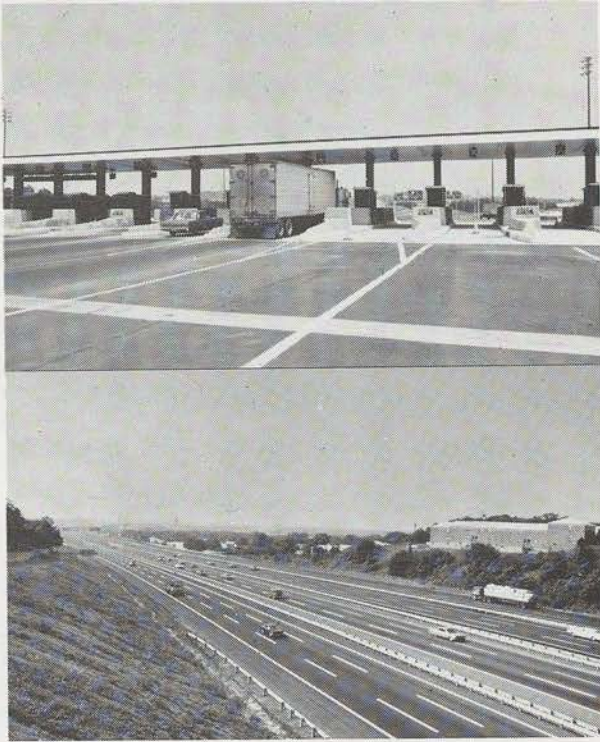
Helicopter service between Newark and Edison was inaugurated in the summer of 1976.





# TRANSPORTATION

## HIGHWAYS—INTERCHANGES



### Highways

The major East-West highway serving Edison carries three designations, 1-287, 1-95 and N.J. 440. More particularly, it is part of a belt freeway which will eventually encircle the entire New York metropolitan area. Under construction in a piecemeal fashion for a number of years, the completed stretch in the Edison area permits movement between Perth Amboy, Staten Island, New York's Brooklyn and Long Island to the east and Morris County, Rt. 22, U.S. 78 and U.S. Rt. 80 to the northwest, a distance of about 35 miles. As it passes through Edison, it is an East-West highway intersecting with New Durham Road, N.J. #27, U.S. #1, N.J. Turnpike and Woodbridge Avenue, all North-South arteries.

A quarter of a mile from Edison's southern border N.J. #18 intersects with U.S. #1, and a quarter of a mile from the township's eastern border the Garden State Parkway intersects with N.J. #27, U.S. #1 and the N.J. Turnpike. Edison's local roads are engineered to handle commercial traffic which must move freely between these interchanges and the township's industries and distribution complexes.

### Motor Truck

More than a dozen large motor truck carriers maintain terminals in Edison in addition to the great number of nationally known firms which have located their own distribution centers in the township.

Overnight trucking from Edison reaches a 12 state market area which is home to 30 percent of the nation's population.

### Buses

Plainfield Transit Company, Transport of New Jersey and Suburban Transit Company operate local bus routes to nearby cities. The latter two companies furnish frequent express bus service between Edison and the Port Authority Terminal in New York City.

### Water

A newly cleared 25 foot deep channel in Raritan accommodates deep sea cargo ships and tankers to docking facilities within the township.





# UTILITIES

Excellent utility services are furnished Edison's taxpayers through modern, superior distribution systems controlled by dependable suppliers. Sufficient quantities of water, gas and electricity are available to assure continued growth of the area for some time.

## **Water**

An excellent supply of high quality water is available to township residents and industries through three efficient distribution systems. One is under the control of Edison's own water utility and serves the southern one-third of the township. About 35 thousand people reside in this area. The remainder of the township is served by the Elizabethtown Water Company or the Middlesex Water Company. The New Jersey Public Utility Commission sets rates for all utilities.

## **Gas**

Natural gas is distributed through the facilities of Elizabethtown Gas Company and Public Service Electric & Gas Company.

## **Electricity**

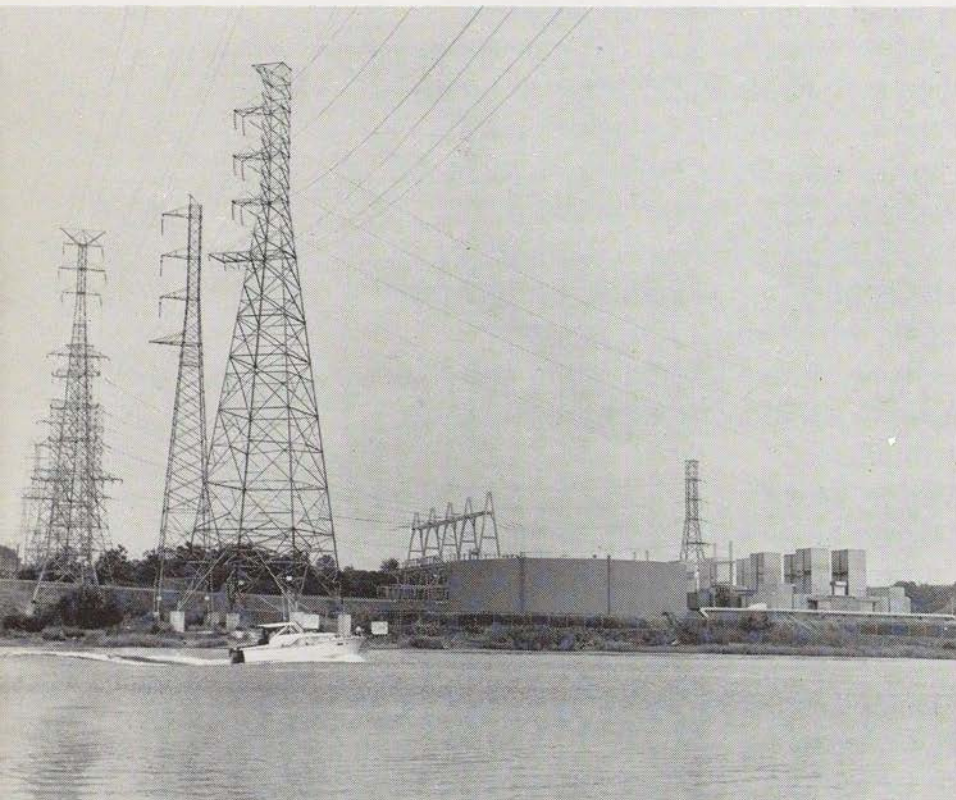
Electricity is furnished by Public Service Electric & Gas Company.

## **Telephone**

Telephone service is provided by New Jersey Bell Telephone Company.

## **Sewers**

Ninety percent of Edison Township is now served by storm and sanitary sewer facilities. Sanitary sewers are tied into lines of the Middlesex County Sewerage Authority which will complete a secondary treatment construction program of over \$100 million in 1977. A recent grant of \$87.5 million for interceptors and pumping stations will bring the Authority's expansion program for the seventies to over \$228 million.





# INDUSTRIAL PARKS

With over 6,000 people now employed and a projected full working population of 25,000 expected by 1980, Raritan Center is well on its way to becoming a city within a city. Manufacturing and commercial buildings, some with over 100,000 square feet and up to 250,000 square feet of floor space in a single story, are transforming the former Raritan Arsenal property into a beehive of activity. Between the 2,000 foot dock on the navigable Raritan River, only 10 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, to the nine story Ramada Inn hotel and restaurant lie 62 miles of rail, highway and utility networks all designed for heavy duty service to support dynamic industrial and commercial activity.

Located at the center of a 52,000,000 customer market within 300 miles, it has attracted such leading industrial names as Fedders, RCA, Chrysler, Procter and Gamble, U. S. Plywood, Dow Chemical, Owens-Illinois, American Hospital Supply, Baxter Laboratories, Continental Can, Schwinn Bicycle, Supermarkets General, Macy-Bambergers and others.

On the opposite side of the township to the northwest on former Camp Kilmer property, additional industrial and commercial development has been taking place to rival that at Raritan Center.

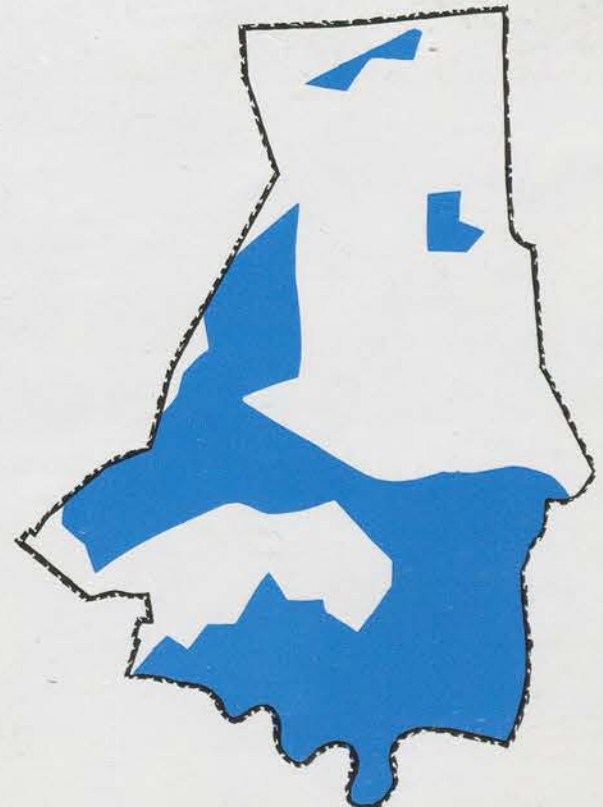
A. & P. Warehousing, General Tire, Maidenform, Kaiser Aluminum, Cascade Pools, Lee Filters, Twin County Grocers, Metex, Roth & Schlenger, American Can, Sportswear Industries, Skil Corp., A. G. Spalding and Akai-American Ltd. are some of the firms represented by significant industrial or commercial operations.

Between the two giant ends of Edison's industrial bow-tie are several well established sizable industrial or commercial operations such as Revlon, Westinghouse, Ford Motor, RCA, Mobil Chemical and S & H Green Stamps which stand astride Edison's Miracle Mile of 20 years ago and connect the now developing industrial parks of the seventies.

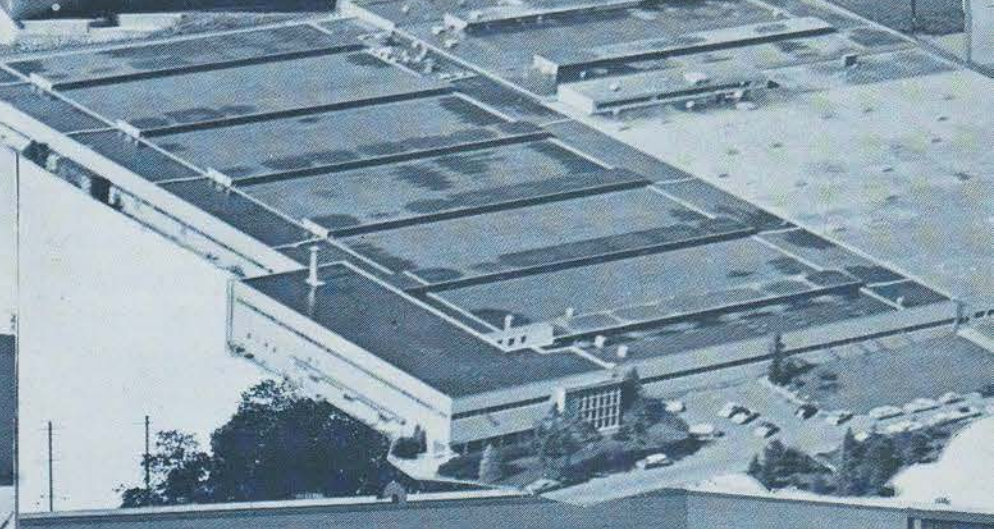
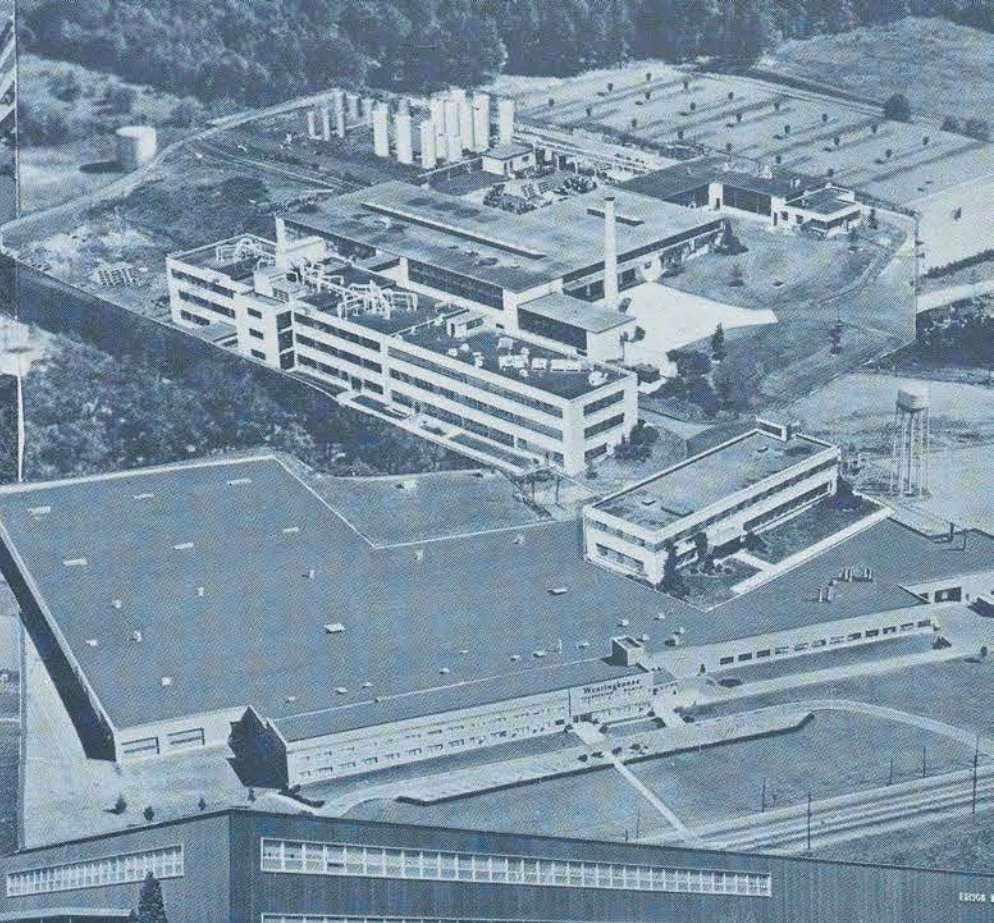
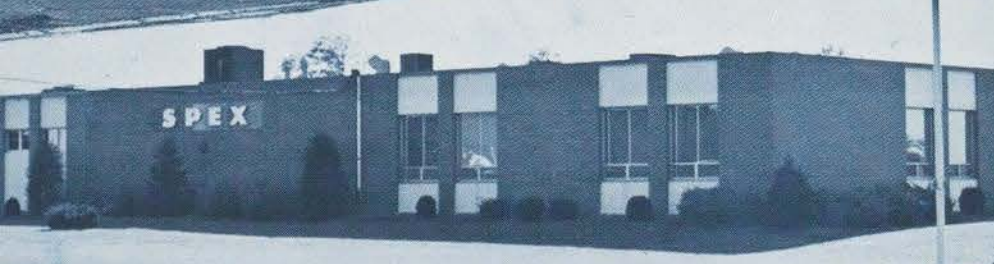
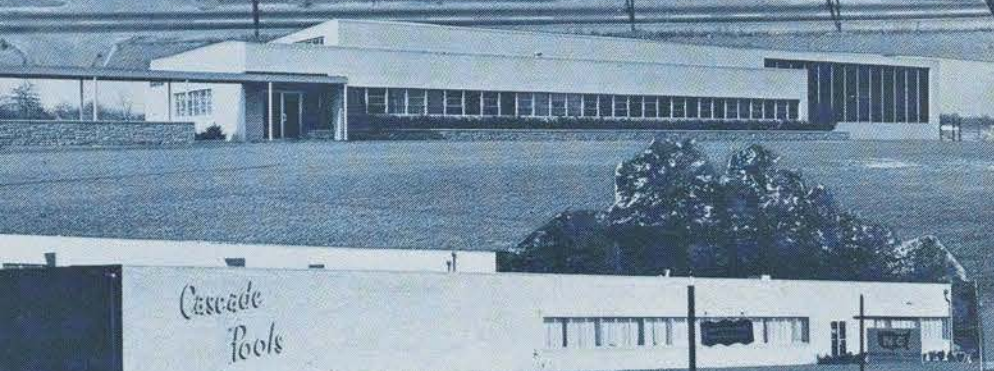
Situated between the Holiday Inn and Best Block Company on U. S. #1 is the Edison Industrial Center, a moderate size development which features a variety of enterprises ranging in size from 6,000 square feet to 144,000 square feet.

Isolated from the industrial bow-tie, but still an important industrial element of Edison's past, present and future is the L. A. Dreyfus plant located in the northwest section of the township.

Small enclaves of light industrial firms are to be found in other sections and more will appear in the future as welcome additions to areas zoned for light industry.



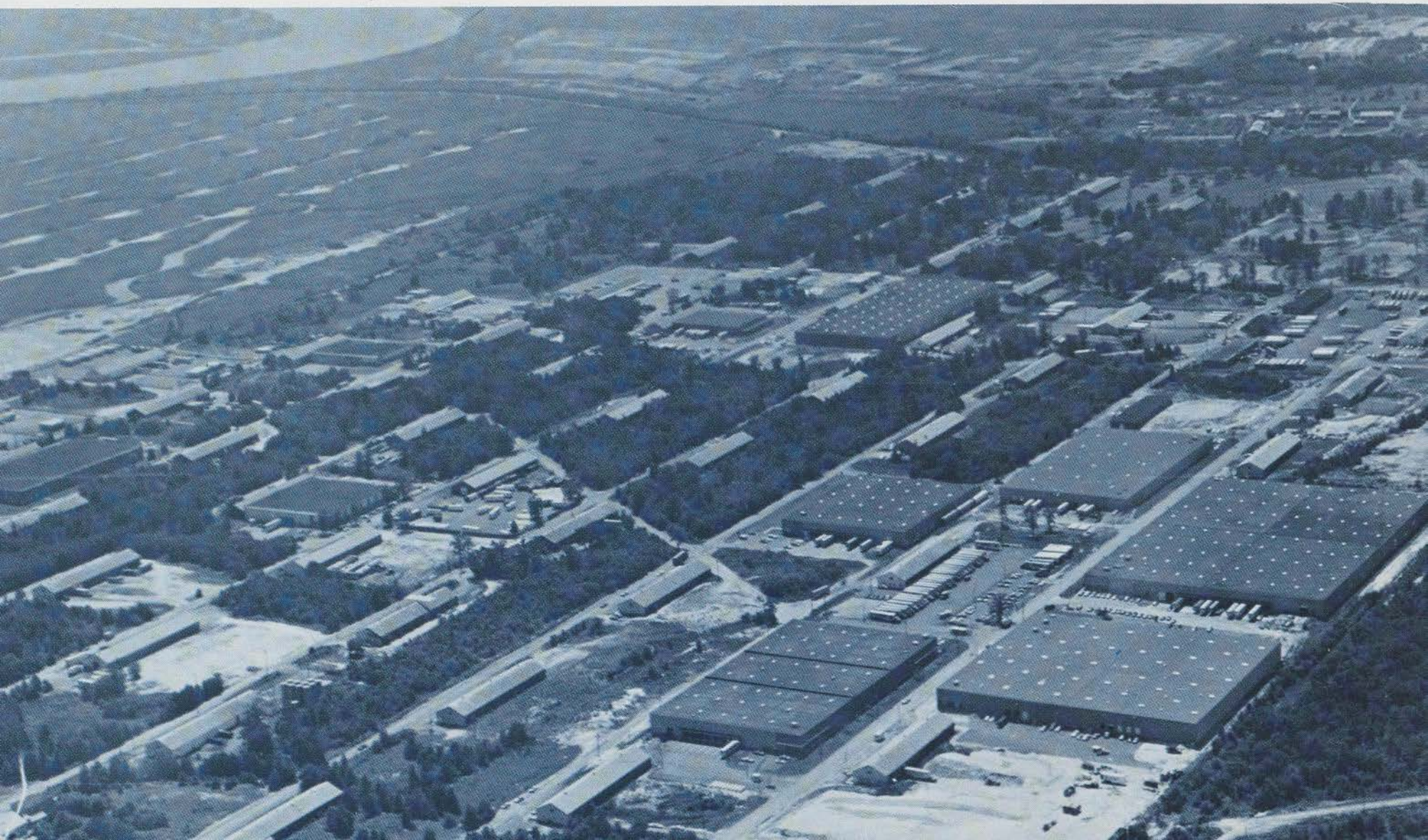






**TOWNSHIP OF EDISON**  
**1976**  
**TOP TWENTY TAXPAYERS**

1.	Menlo Associates	Shopping Center
2.	Raritan Center	Industrial Park
3.	Ford MotorCo.	Auto Manufacturer
4.	Revlon	Cosmetics Mfr.
5.	Fedders Corp.	Air Conditioning Mfr.
6.	Sutton-Kilmer Campus	Industrial Park
7.	Westinghouse	Appliance Mfr.
8.	Margate Apts.	Apartments
9.	Parkwood Gardens Inc.	Apartments
10.	A & P	Grocery Distributor
11.	Dreyfus	Chewing Gum Mfr.
12.	United Steel	Distribution Center
13.	Mobil Oil Corp.	Oil Chemical Research
14.	Greenfield Gardens Inc.	Apartments
15.	Trafalgar Builders Inc.	Apartments
16.	Twin County Grocers	Grocery Distributors
17.	Hilltop Associates	Apartments
18.	General Tire Realty	Tire Distributor
19.	Sperry Hutchinson Co.	S & H Green Stamps
20.	River Heights Inc.	Apartments









# PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department of Public Safety, consisting of the Division of Fire and the Division of Police, is under the direction of Mayor Thomas H. Paterniti, who serves as department head.

## Division of Police

Law enforcement, crime prevention, traffic regulation, narcotics control and juvenile aid are the responsibility of the three major bureaus of the Police Department; viz, Radio Patrol, Criminal Investigation, and Traffic Safety. Forty outstanding officers comprise the specially equipped and trained Tactical Squad. Each Bureau is administered by a Captain and the entire Division is headed by the Chief of Police.

The 129 man regular police force is equipped with over 37 vehicles, including patrol cars, K-9 patrol vehicle, three traffic maintenance trucks, and a specially designed BCI van for mobile criminal investigation support.

All new policemen undergo eleven weeks of intensive training at the Middlesex County Police Academy. Specialized training at the FBI Academy and State Police Academy, traffic institutes and other police training centers is encouraged for selected members of the force as a matter of policy. A volunteer, uniformed Auxiliary Police Corps of 151 men provides a reservoir of trained manpower as support, if needed, for the regular Police Force.

## Division of Fire

A firefighting force of 70 paid firemen and 180 volunteers is supervised by the Chief of Fire. Fire prevention inspection and protection service is provided by this division for Edison Township's residents and property owners.

These trained firefighters man 22 pieces of modern equipment including 13 pumpers which are kept at six strategically located firehouses. Pumpers capable of 11,000 gallons per minute.

Water availability as to quantity and pressure exceeds American Insurance Association minimum requirements.

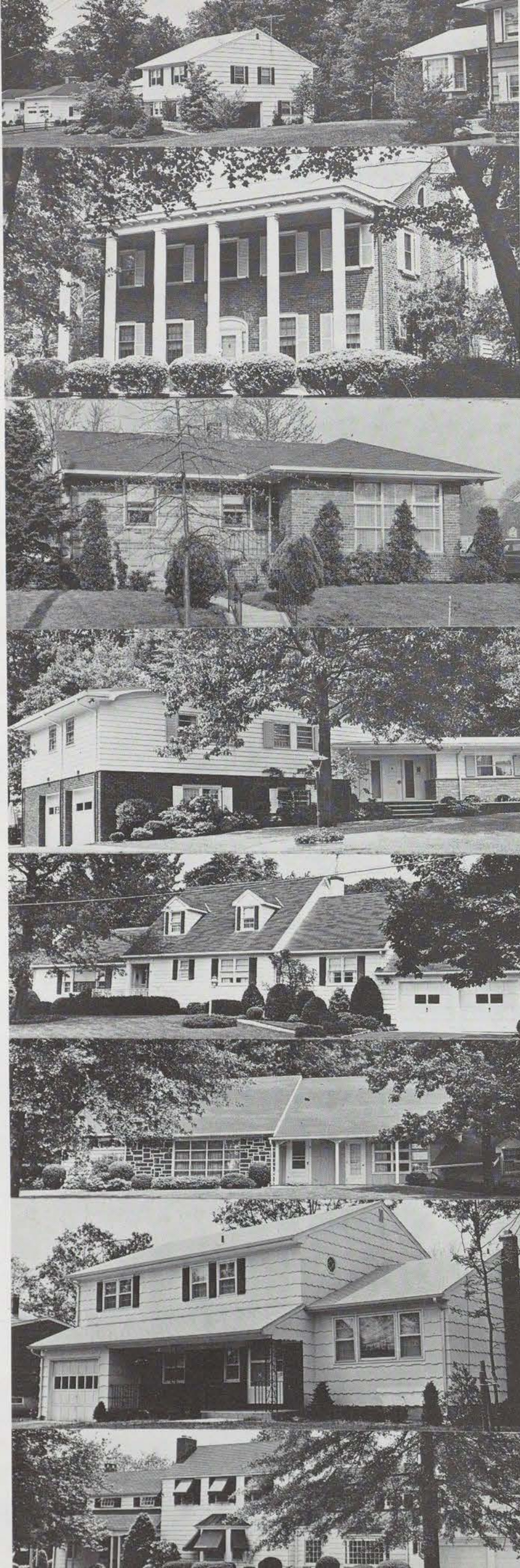
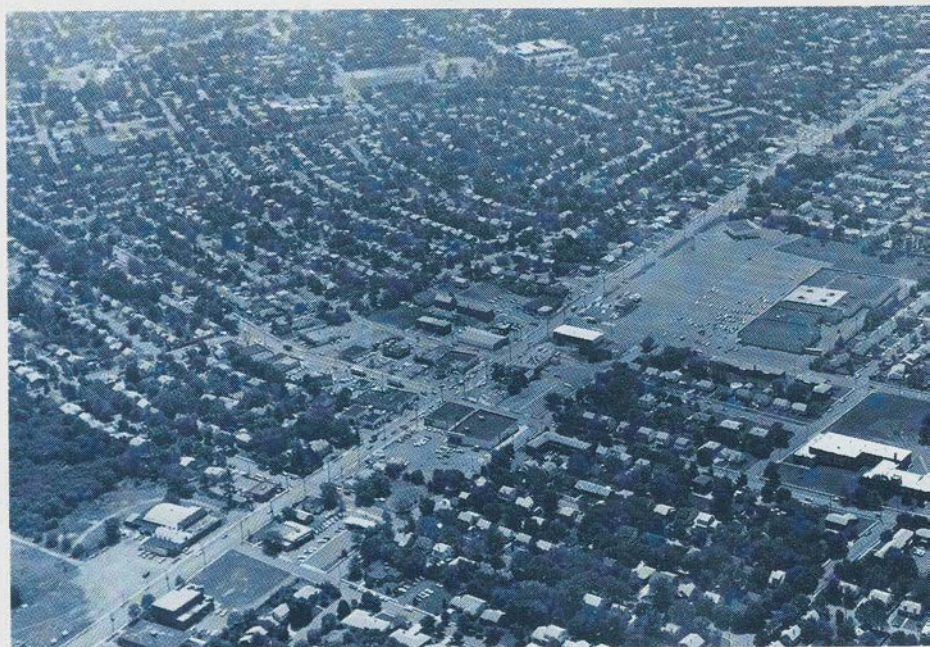




# HOMES

The Township of Edison serves the housing needs of people in every stratum of society. Many of the most worthy design patterns and goals for the cities of tomorrow have already evolved in Edison. There are homes for workers, blue and white collar alike, foremen and executives, senior citizens, stockholders and captains of industry. There are large gracious homes, numerous developments, each comprising hundreds of smaller homes, and many apartment complexes. There are excellent motel and hotel accommodations for those whose business or social commitments allow only a short stay in town.

Transportation networks for local and long distance movement of people, goods and services also provide easy access to the cultural and recreational offerings of New York, the Jersey shore, mountain resorts and the Garden State Arts Center, all of which can be reached in less than an hour. Workers in local industries who live great distances from Edison often find it very convenient and profitable in terms of travel time to continue their employment here. Employers also tap a vast reservoir of talents which may be distant in space yet very near in time.



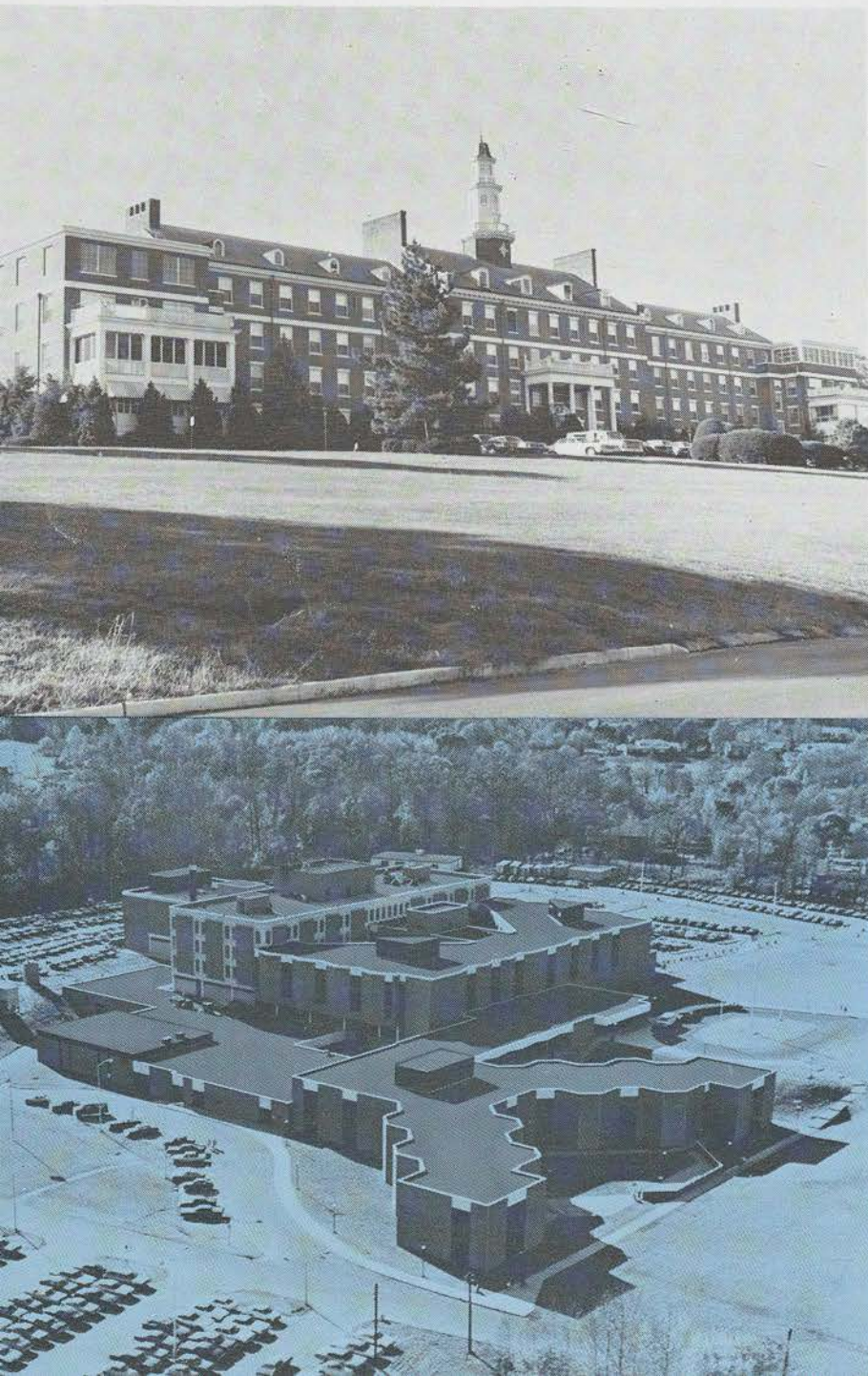


# HOSPITALS

Servicing the entire Central Jersey area, Edison is proud of its growing importance as a center for hospital care. The merger in 1970 of the 205 bed John F. Kennedy Community Hospital with the Middlesex Rehabilitation Center has resulted in the development of a modern 415 bed general hospital. In addition to the excellent in-patient care, an innovative out-patient program assures maximum utilization of resources and increased benefits for patients.

A Family Practice Residency program, approved by the American Medical Association, began in July 1976 at J.F.K. This program is designed to train family doctors with the skills associated with general practitioners but with the added dimension of intensive post-graduate training. It will accommodate 18 medical school graduates in a 3-year program. Also located in Edison is Middlesex County's 326 bed Roosevelt Hospital and Annex, specializing in the treatment of pulmonary and respiratory diseases. An additional 3500 beds are maintained within ten miles of Edison's borders at more than a dozen modern hospitals. Most of these are general hospitals which, like Edison's J.F.K. Community Hospital, have engaged in continuing expansion programs in recent years in order to keep pace with Central Jersey's dynamic growth.

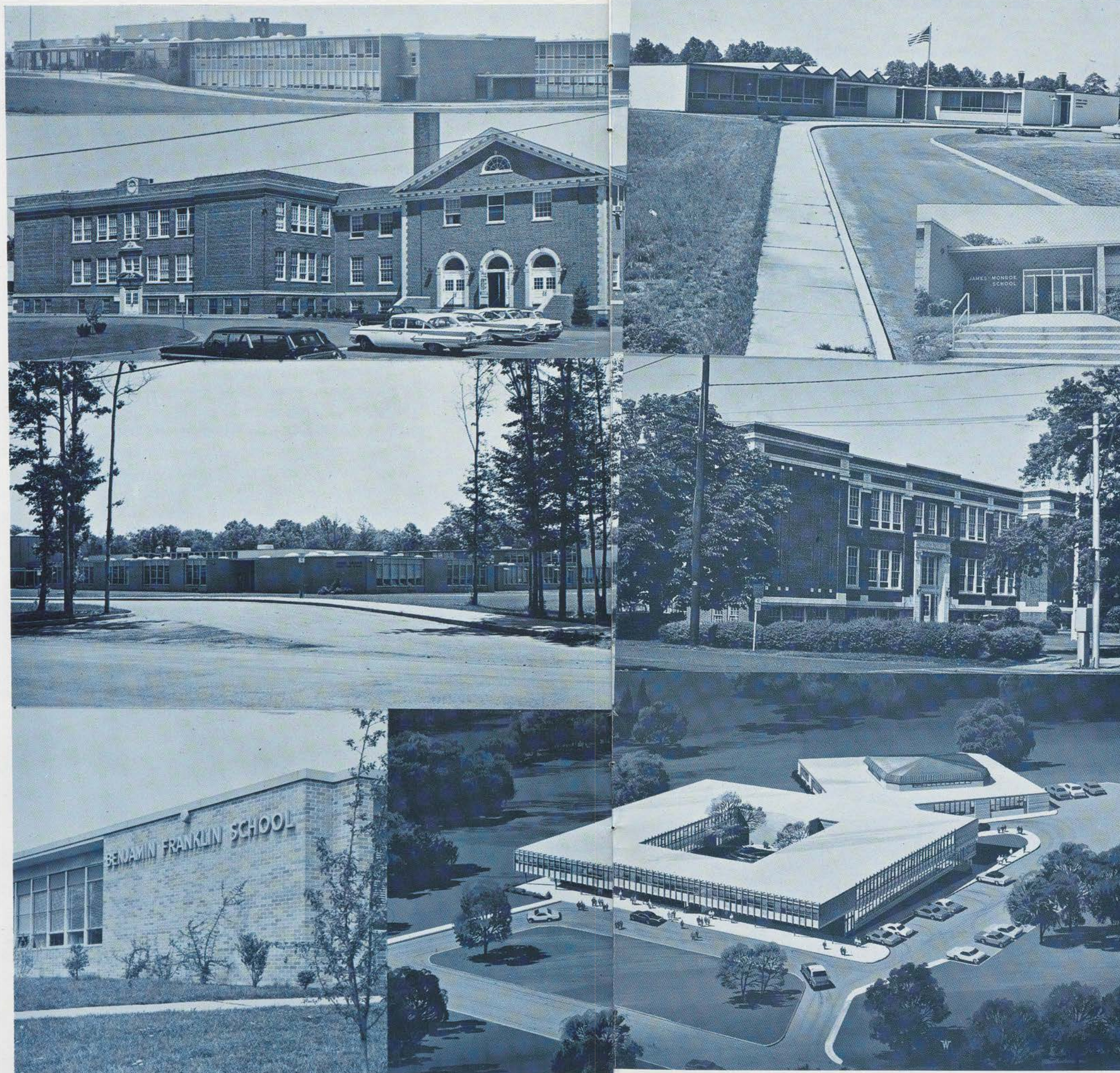
Seven ambulances, manned by trained volunteer first aid squads, provide round-the-clock emergency service to all hospitals at a rate exceeding 5,000 calls per year. Nearby are the fine hospitals and research facilities of New Brunswick, Newark and Union County. The Piscataway Campus of the Rutgers College of Medicine and Dentistry is just across Edison's boundary line and many world famous medical institutions and research facilities of New York and Philadelphia are only an hour away by rail or highway.





## EDISON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SYSTEM

The responsibility for the operation of the school system rests with a seven (7) member appointed Board of Education. The diligent and sincere service of Board Members has been demonstrated by the orderly growth and development of an outstanding educational program. In slightly over two decades the public school population in Edison increased from less than 2,000 students in grades K-6 to 15,000 students in grades K-12. During this period several bond referenda were approved by the electorate and the Board of School Estimate totaling more than \$27,000,000.00 for school facilities. Also, the Board of School Estimate has consistently approved increases in the annual school budget to insure necessary personnel services, educational supplies and equipment, and various other operational needs—Operating budgets approximate 28,000,000 per year. The development of a comprehensive educational program and the expansion of physical facilities has been accomplished while maintaining a comparatively moderate and stable tax rate for the taxpayers of Edison. There are, today, twenty-two school buildings in the educational complex—15 elementary schools, 4 junior-high schools, 2 senior-high schools, and a special education facility. Classroom space consists of 612 regular classrooms and 82 special-purpose rooms, exclusive of gymnasiums, libraries, and administrative areas. The professional staff of the school system has grown from less than 60 members in 1950 to 1043 members for the 1976-77 school year. In addition to classroom teachers and administrators, the professional staff includes speech therapists, reading specialists, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, learning disability specialists, nurses and the services of other specialists. The educational program is comprehensive and diversified.



## EDISON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SYSTEM

Approximately two-thirds of each graduating class enrolls in some type of higher education—4-year colleges, 2-year colleges, business and technical schools, etc. Vocational education and work-study programs are available for students seeking employment following graduation. The needs of severely handicapped students are met through the programs provided in the special education program. A summer school program offers remedial assistance and enrichment courses in various subject areas for students in grades 1-12. Programs of a similar nature also are available on Saturdays for students at the secondary level. Opportunity exists for students in their senior year of high school to enroll in courses at Middlesex County College. The Adult Education Program offers a variety of courses for the residents of the community. co-curricular program at the junior and senior high school level provides a variety of after school activities.

Enrollment in the Public School System peaked at about 15,500 in 1971 and has leveled off to 13,300 in 1976. School buildings already constructed can accommodate an enrollment of 18,000. Therefore, the need for additions to the present physical plant is not likely to be felt for at least another 5 to 8 years. Furthermore, the school expansion program throughout this period will include modifications in existing buildings in order to insure optimum physical facilities at all educational levels—elementary, junior-high senior-high.

Continuous evaluation of all aspects of the curriculum will occur with resultant changes in the educational program (K-12). Increasing emphasis will focus on developing and implementing programs to meet the needs of each individual enrolled in the school system. In all subject areas—at each grade level—new programs and new techniques of teaching will be carefully formulated and implemented so that all students can proceed most effectively through their educational program. Opportunities will increase for remedial instruction and enrichment courses during the



# EDISON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL SYSTEM

school year, on Saturdays, and in the Summer School Program. Accelerated courses enabling students to complete their educational program in a shorter time span will be more readily available. The work-study aspect of the Vocational Educational Program will be expanded to offer greater opportunity to explore career interests prior to graduation. The utilization of physical facilities on a twelve-month, day/evening basis will be more fully realized—Thus providing an increase in programs of an educational and recreational nature for school-age children and adult residents of the community.

The professional staff will increase so as to maintain a favorable student-teacher ratio. Increased specialized services by professional and para-professional personnel will be available in order to meet most effectively the individual needs of students. These changes and developments in the educational system will be achieved in an orderly and well-planned manner—providing maximum educational opportunity for our children and a favorable tax structure for the residents of Edison.

## Elementary Schools

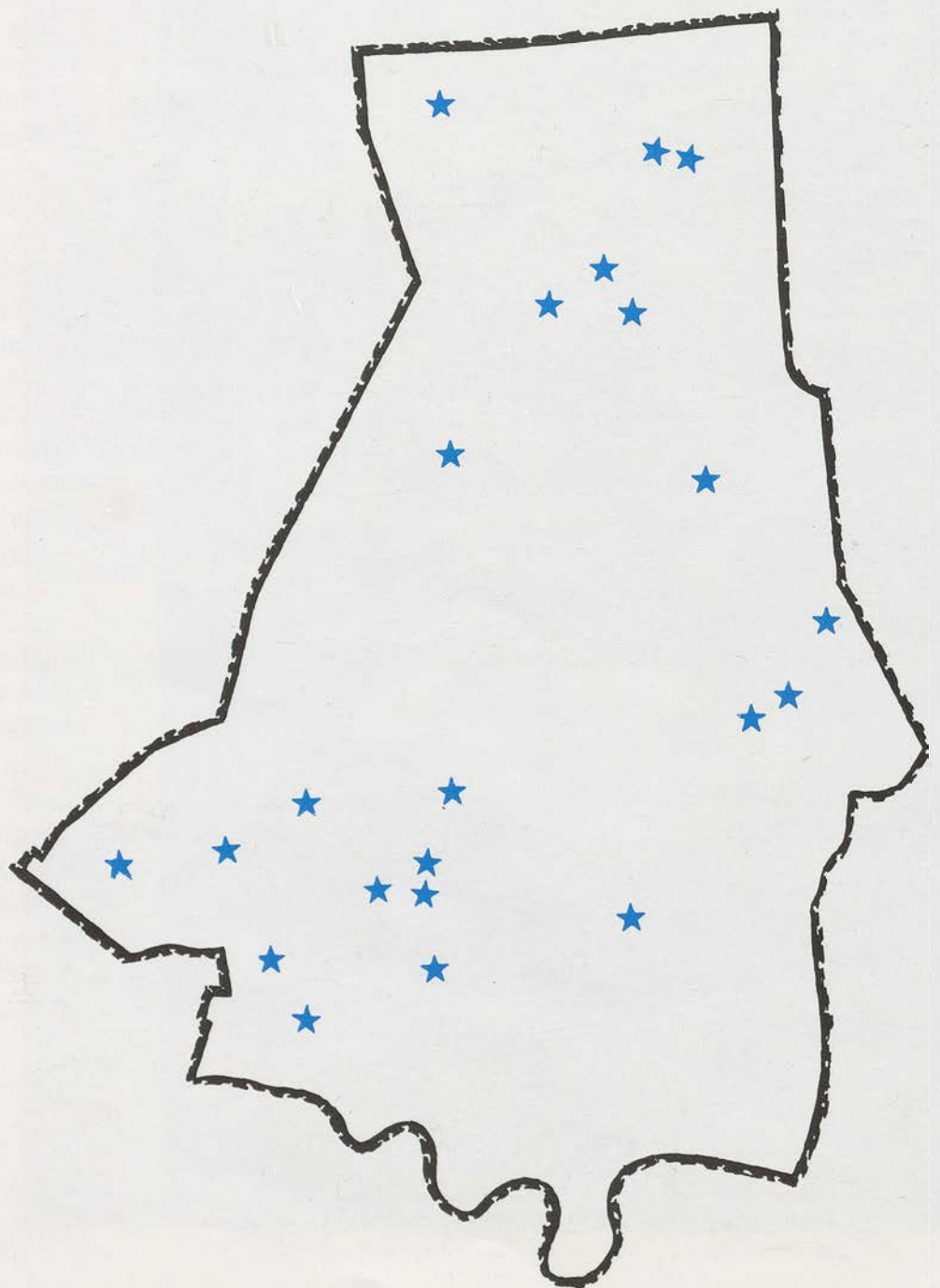
- # 3 Piscatawaytown
- # 5 Stelton
- # 6 Oak Tree
- # 7 Clara Barton
- # 8 Lincoln
- # 9 Washington
- #10 James Madison
- #11 Benjamin Franklin
- #13 John Marshall
- #14 Menlo Park
- #15 James Monroe
- #16 Lindeneau
- #17 Woodbrook
- #18 Martin Luther King
- #19 F.D.R. (Spec. Ed.)
- #20 James Madison

## Secondary Schools

- EHS Edison High
- JPS John P. Stevens
- TJ Thomas Jefferson Jr. High
- JA John Adams Jr. High
- HH Herbert Hoover Jr. High
- WW Woodrow Wilson Jr. High (Gloria Ave.)

## Offices

- BO Board Office
- SO Superintendent's Office





## Higher Education

Nearby, Rutgers, the State University is the largest educational institution in New Jersey. It is due to become even more important in the state's economy, with an impact that extends far beyond the purchasing power of its 4,000 employees and 19,000 day students. Situated in the center of an industrial state, Rutgers participates in the growing two-way exchange between industry and the university.

Recent development of the sprawling Rutgers University complex in Central Jersey focuses on the new Kilmer Campus located partly in Piscataway Township. Livingston College, the first of three colleges planned for the 500 acre site which was formerly a part of Camp Kilmer, is now completed.

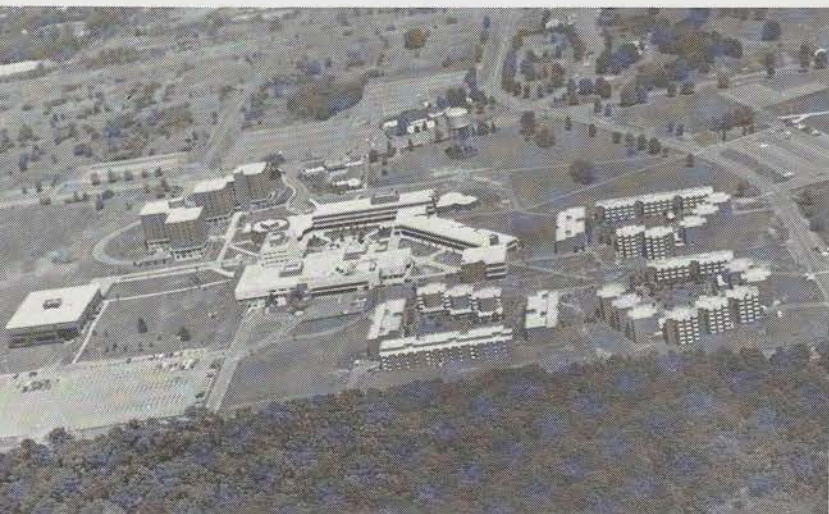
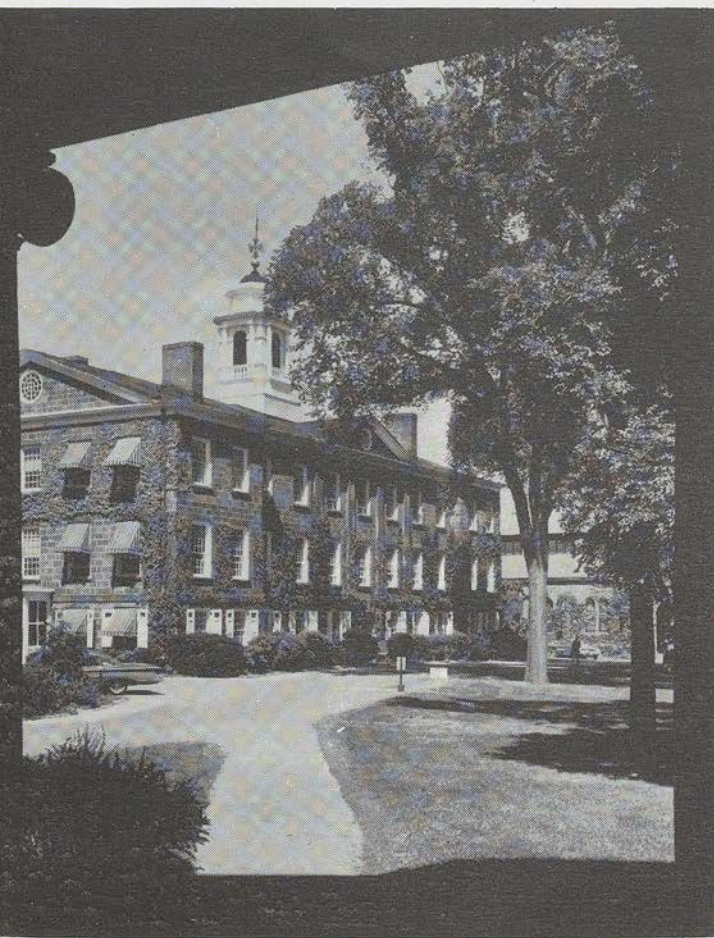
Middlesex County College opened in September 1966. The College offers a comprehensive curriculum designed to train technicians in demand by area industry or to prepare students to continue their education. The County College is unique in that it began with a ready-made campus providing ample room for future growth. The 200 acres of former Raritan Arsenal land turned over to Middlesex County by the Federal Government offers an attractive landscaped site ideally suited for educational development.

The County College opened in 1966 with an enrollment of over 1000 students. Present enrollment exceeds 17,000.

Several new buildings have been added to the campus in the past ten years. These include the following: Library, Main Hall, Physical Education Complex, Health Technologies Center, College Center, Academic Services, Community Learning Center and Performing Arts Building.

The College offers 2 year curriculums in Liberal Arts, Science, Engineering, Technologies, and Business. The Division of Continuing Education makes available the opportunity for individual and educational development on a part-time basis with courses scheduled during the day, evening, and weekend.

Within easy commuting distance, requiring one hour, or less, of travel time from Edison are a number of New Jersey colleges and universities: Cook, Douglass, Drew, Fairleigh Dickinson, Kean, Jersey City State, Montclair State, Monmouth, N.J. College of Medicine and Dentistry, N.J. Institute of Technology, Princeton, Rider, Seton Hall, Stevens, Trenton State, and Upsala as well as a number of county junior colleges.





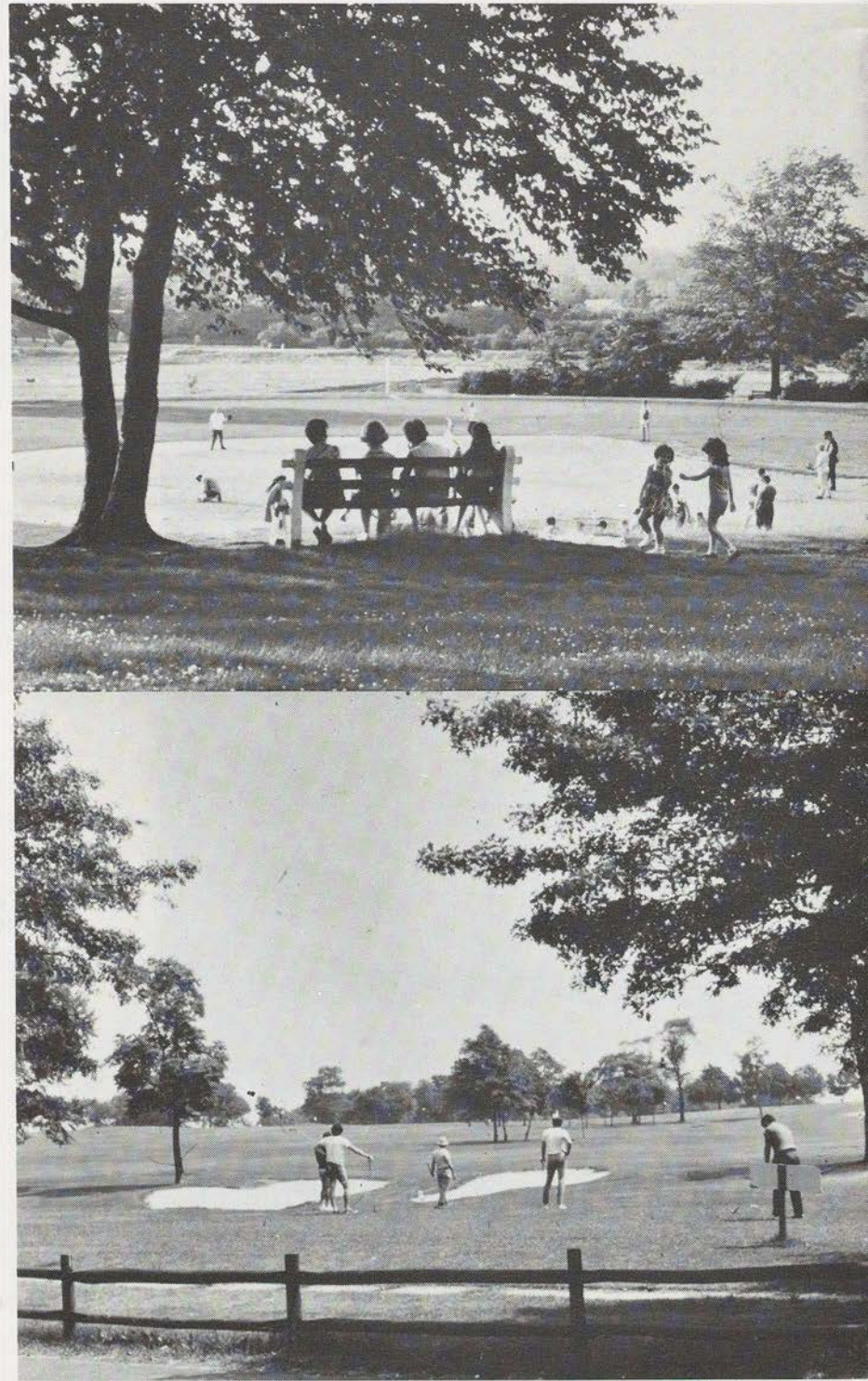
# PARKS, RECREATION, FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Parks

Roosevelt Park, developed and operated by the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders, is an attractive 200 acre facility located entirely in Edison Township. It provides wooded areas of century old trees, an attractive lake, streams, picnic areas, a stadium, tennis courts and an outdoor theatre. Another county park is being developed on former Raritan Arsenal land adjoining Middlesex County College. The State of New Jersey maintains the 30 acre Edison State Park and Museum in the Menlo Park section of town on the site of Thomas A. Edison's original laboratory at the Edison Tower. Six park sites which range in size from 3 acres to the 58 acre site adjoining the new municipal building complex in the central part of town are being developed by the township itself. Together they offer facilities for neighborhood areas in all sections of the township.

## Recreation

Year round supervised recreation activities provided for Edison residents of all ages, include hobby classes, field trips, indoor and outdoor sports leagues and tournaments augmented from time to time by special events and instructional programs. The township recreation department conducts a full range of programs at a number of public and private facilities including 35 playgrounds, several indoor and outdoor rinks, courts, playing fields, bowling lanes, swimming pools and a township-owned Raritan River boat basin.

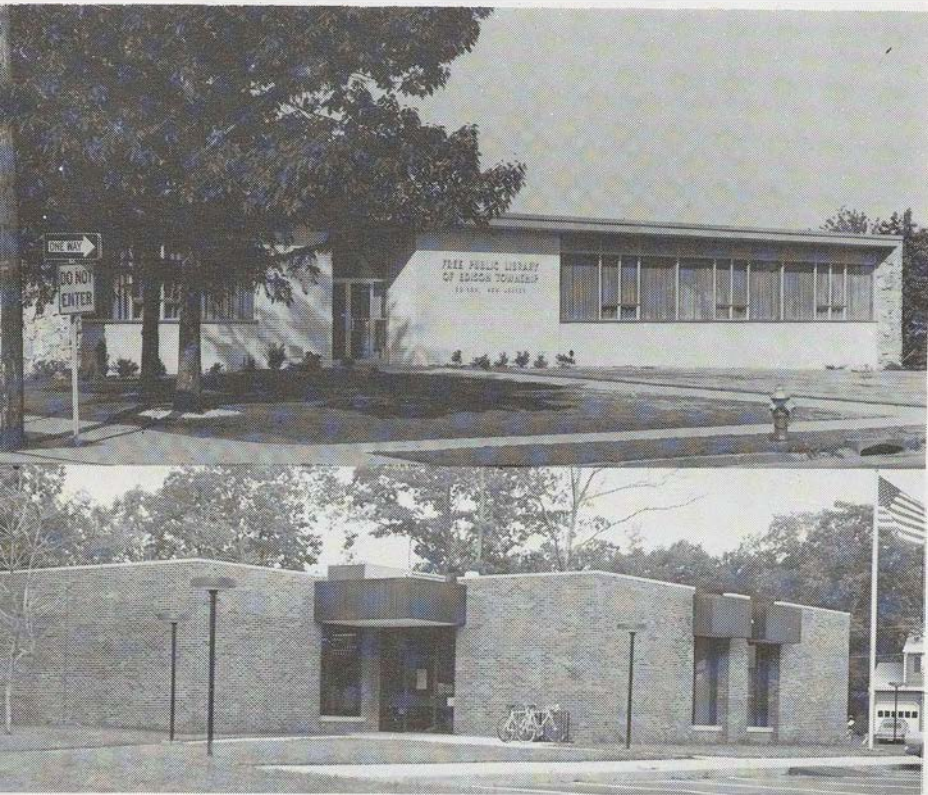


## Legend

1. Plainfield Country Club
2. Oak Ridge Golf Club  
(Union County Parks Commission)
3. Metuchen Golf & Country Club



# PARKS, RECREATION, FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



A varied senior citizens program provides interesting opportunities for less active people to fraternize or compete with others whose recreational interests and ability to participate are compatible with their own.

Major elements of the massive Gateway National Park being developed at New York Harbor and its approaches by the U.S. Government are less than an hour from Edison by car or by boat.

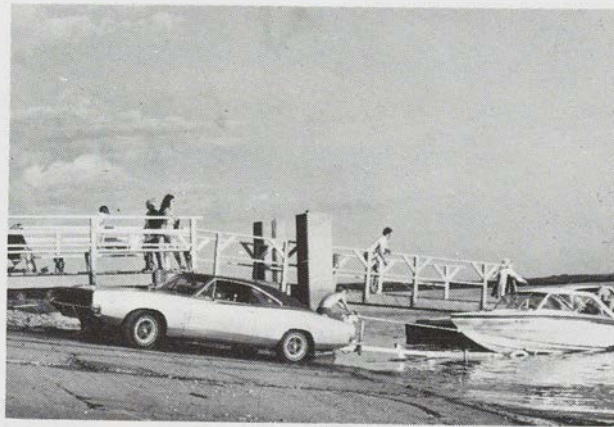
The Meadowlands Sports Complex, offering the finest in harness and flat horse racing on the newest race course in the country is a half hour from Edison via the 12 lane New Jersey Turnpike. The Meadowlands is also the new home of the National Football League's Giants. New York's Yankee Stadium and Shea Stadium are only an hour away and the big league sports facilities of Philadelphia are less than an hour and a half away. All are easily accessible by private and public transportation.

Edison is the home of three excellent well established private golf courses, a number of public and private tennis courts and private swim clubs.

More than 50 golf courses, public as well as private, are less than an hour's drive from Edison.

## **Libraries**

Edison's 33,000 registered borrowers may draw from just under 100,000 volumes available at the township's main library and two branches. As part of the New Jersey regional library network, several hundred thousand additional volumes are available to Edison residents from other larger libraries in the network. Expansion of the local library system is continuing at an accelerated rate with additional facilities being provided to keep pace with the community's needs.





# CULTURAL

*"The quality of mercy is not strain'd;  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath; it is twice bless'd.  
It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes:"*

Shakespeare

Undoubtedly much the same may be said of culture for, regardless of the art form, it cannot be denied that the artist or performer is a better person for having given of talent and the listener or beholder is culturally enriched for having been a witness to the artistic effort.

Cultural development opportunities abound in Edison and its environs for artist and patron alike. The aspiring artist or performer not only has excellent local training facilities at hand sponsored by Middlesex County College, Rutgers University and amateur theater groups such as Edison Valley Playhouse, but also the finest that New York City has to offer less than an hour from home.

Showcases for the display of the talents of developing artists are provided in town by organized programs sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders whose summer outdoor theater productions in Edison's Roosevelt Park are widely acclaimed, the local colleges with their excellent modern theater facilities, the Edison Valley Playhouse and nearby dinner theaters whose offerings often play to SRO audiences.

Less than a half hour away via Route #1, thespians on the move upward may audition for the productions of the nationally acclaimed McCarter Theater at Princeton. This regional theater enterprise attracts the finest talent from many northeastern states and encourages the participation in its auditions of non-professionals as well as members of Actors Equity.

Only 20 minutes away at Holmdel via the Garden State Parkway, the world renowned Garden State Arts Center every summer sponsors a comprehensive range of cultural presentations that include operas, art exhibits, symphony concerts, musical productions, variety shows, ballet, as well as cultural festivals with ethnic appeal featuring every imaginable type of talent from strictly amateur to the highest caliber of popular and classical stage, concert, movie and TV professionals and stars including such favorites as Sinatra, Liberace, Anthony Newley, Burt Bacharach, Robert Merrill, Leonard Bernstein, Mac Davis, Tom Jones and others.

Garden State Arts Center also provides free programs each summer for approximately 450,000 school children, senior citizens, disabled veterans, orphans and the blind.

Local shopping centers, especially the Menlo Park Shopping Center and Edison's next door neighbor, Woodbridge Center, offer year round programs in their enclosed modern malls that provide an excellent showcase for developing artists of all kinds. At the same time shoppers enjoy the entertainment and cultural enrichment.





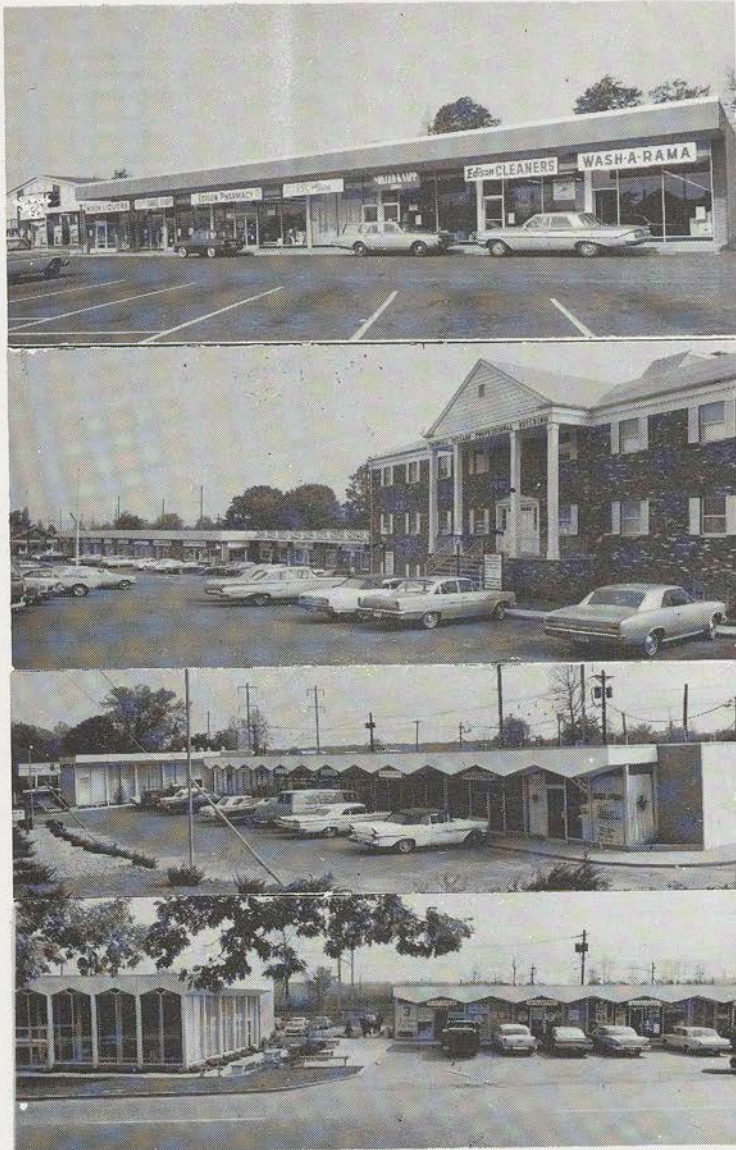
# SHOPPING CENTERS

## Menlo Park Shopping Center

A pioneer in the shopping center field, Menlo Park Shopping Center is located on a 77-acre tract at U. S. Route 1 and Parsonage Road. The sprawling complex has over one million square feet of selling space and enclosed climate-controlled malls extending over 1,000 feet. There are over 120 stores, including three multi-level department stores, two banks, a 1,500 seat movie theater and a five-story office building. The operators of the complex conduct a year round program of exhibits, demonstrations, concerts and presentations in a variety of forms with entertainment, educational or cultural appeal for patrons on a no-charge basis. These presentations are usually changed weekly. There is parking space for 7,500 cars.

## Other Township Shopping Centers

A number of smaller neighborhood shopping centers comprising 8 to 20 stores are to be found near concentrations of living units throughout the township. Among these are the Nixon, Raritan Valley, Edison, Wood Manor Shopping Centers and Kilmer Plaza, Oakwood Plaza, Colonial Village, and Tano Mall.





# MASTER PLAN GOALS

*The following Master Plan goals, as prepared by the Planning Board, provide the basis for all Master Plan proposals. These goals are revisions of the nine major objectives of the previous Master Plan of 1962.*

1. **Creation of a safe, attractive, healthful and convenient physical environment.** This can be accomplished by encouraging the proper relationship between the various types of land uses to provide for optimum conditions for residence, commerce and industry.
2. **Provision for a broad range of housing types** and densities to meet the needs of various age, income and family size groups. By appropriate admixture of single-family detached housing, townhouses, garden apartments, high-rise apartments and other types an attractive environment can be had by all.
3. **Development of a community and neighborhood identity** in the Township by a proper balance of land uses, appropriately placed community facilities, and a road pattern which strengthens the cohesiveness of the community and retains neighborhood identity within the community.
4. **Provision of adequate community facilities** to maximize the educational, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic opportunities of Township residents. Locations for needed facilities should be pinpointed on the Master Plan and where possible acquired through the cooperation of developers.
5. **Adequate provision of municipal services** to assure a safe and healthful community.
6. **Development of functional traffic circulation and street design** properly related to the varied pattern of land use and designed to provide convenient, safe and efficient movement within and through the Township. Creation of a functional street design will reduce the total area of the Township that has to be devoted to street purposes, will lower the cost of maintenance, will increase the safety and speed of through movement and will add to the amenity of residential and other districts.
7. **Encouragement of a sound and diversified economic** base as a source both of a stable tax base and of economic opportunities for the local labor force.
8. **Broadening of tax base** through the encouragement of industrial, commercial, and high-density residential uses to supplement the tax base and thus to provide sufficient financial resources to support the quantity and quality of urban services and facilities without imposing undue burden on the individual taxpayer.
9. **Maintenance of high aesthetic standards** in the determination of land development patterns. Aesthetic standards should guide the design and regulation of structures and other visual elements in the community.









Edison Twp. Pub. Library  
340 Plainfield Ave.  
Edison, N.J. 08817

NOT TO BE TAKEN  
FROM LIBRARY



EDISON TWSP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

For information about the  
TOWNSHIP OF EDISON  
Write or call  
JOHN A. DELESANDRO  
Business Administrator  
Telephone 287-0900  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
Woodbridge & Plainfield Aves., Edison



# EDISON

DYNAMIC PACE-SETTER at the  
CROSSROADS of NEW JERSEY

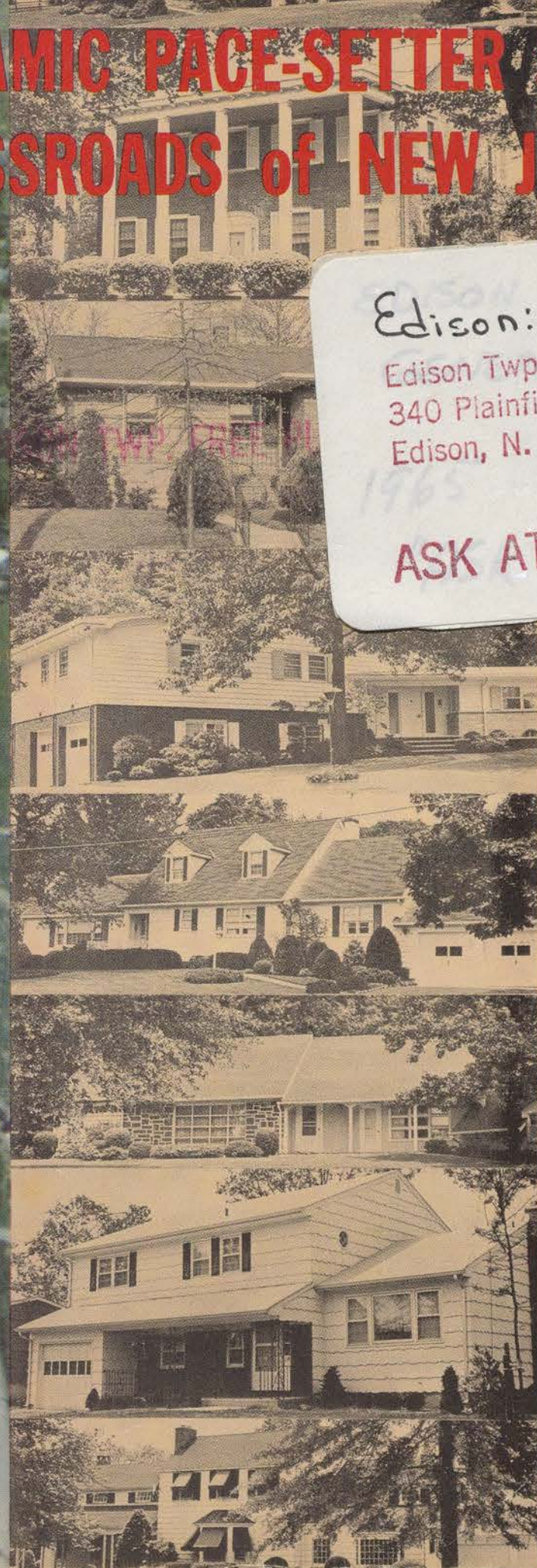
Edison  
1974



Edison: History 1965

Edison Twp. Pub. Library  
340 Plainfield Ave.  
Edison, N. J. 08817

ASK AT DESK





## ABOUT THE COVER . . .

### **The Edison Tower —**

*The Edison Tower, located on the site of the original laboratory at Menlo Park, New Jersey, to which Thomas Alva Edison moved in 1876, was erected in 1937 as a monument to the great inventor. The Tower was the gift of William Slocum Barstow to The Thomas Alva Edison Foundation of which he was President. It was dedicated on February 11, 1938, the ninety-first anniversary of the inventor's birth.*

### **Good Living in Edison —**

*Edison is an old community dating back to Revolutionary War days. Earlier it was known as Raritan Township. Fine old trees flourish throughout the area—deep rooted, as are many of our citizens, as is evidenced by the many fine, livable homes briefly illustrated on the cover.*

### **Major Highways Bysect Edison —**

*The cover aerial view shows a typical section of the fine highways that are a great asset to the township and surrounding area. Here are major highways serving Edison—among which are the New Jersey Turnpike, Route One, the Garden State Parkway and the new Freeway #287.*

### **Industry Thrives in Edison —**

*Shown on this section of the cover are representative industrial plants of many nationally known manufacturers. None less important is the ever increasing number of smaller and medium size factories that dot the area, all contributing to the economy and the bustling growth of the community.*

## **THIS BROCHURE**

This EDISON Industrial brochure is an important document that should be of interest to all Edison residents - - - It should be of special interest to Industry Executives already in our area, as well as those who are considering adopting EDISON as their business home.

## HERE . . . IS THE HERITAGE OF GREATNESS.

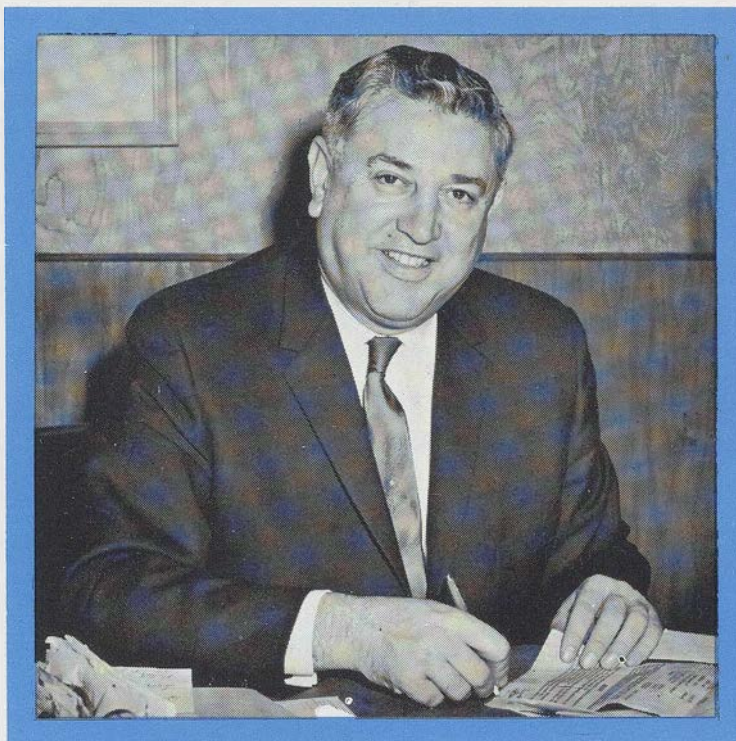


THOMAS ALVA EDISON  
*The Wizard  
of Menlo Park*

*"He has led no armies into battle — he has conquered no countries — he has enslaved no peoples — yet, he wields a power the magnitude of which no warrior ever dreamed . .*

*This democratic, kindly, modest man has bestowed upon the human race blessings instead of bondage, service instead of serfdom, construction instead of conquest . . . He is humanity's friend."*





## INTRODUCTION



*Anthony M. Yelencsics*  
Mayor  
Edison, New Jersey

## The EDISON STORY Low Taxes and High Purpose

**E**VER since the days when Thomas A. Edison made our Menlo Park the home of his famous laboratory, this community has symbolized success. Here, industry thrives in an environment of low and stable taxes . . . in a community where government knows the value of its industrial residents . . . where labor and management have achieved maturity.

The key to the continued growth that has attracted many desirable industries who

have made their home in Edison is in large measure due to our Master Plan, a professionally developed blueprint to keep progress orderly and balanced. It is within the scope of this Master Plan that Edison combines industrial leadership . . . and a fine residential community.

On behalf of all our new neighbors, I welcome and invite all its personnel to join with us in keeping Edison a "shining light" for the State.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Anthony M. Yelencsics". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



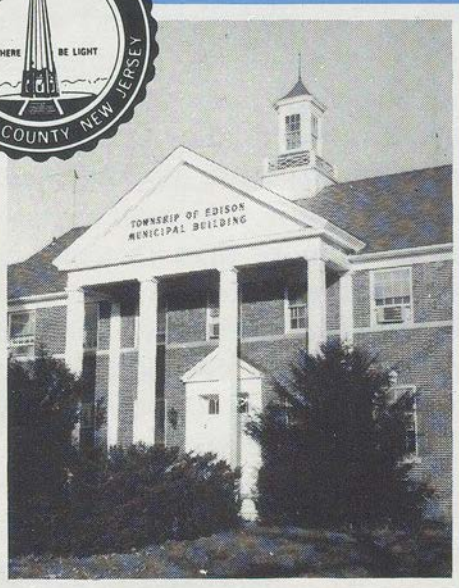
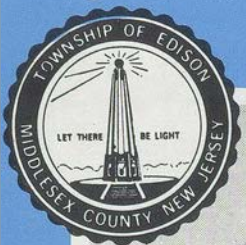
# CONTENTS

Page	
1	INTRODUCTION: The Edison Story — Low Taxes and High Purpose
2	Table of Contents
3	Facts about the Township of EDISON
4	NEW JERSEY — Land of Amazing Advantages
5	EDISON — Adjoining area seen as hub of great commercial — cultural center
6	The Government of EDISON
7	The Organization of EDISON
8	Good Living in EDISON
9	Business and Industry in EDISON
10-11	EDISON has attracted a great variety of Industries from far and wide
12-13	THE EDISON MIRACLE MILE and other nearby industries
14	Education in EDISON — The Public School System
15	Higher Education comes to EDISON — Middlesex County College
16	RUTGERS — The State University
17	Parks and Recreation
18	Safety and Protection in EDISON
19	MENLO PARK and other Shopping Centers
20	Churches — Hospitals — Other Organizations
21	(Inside Back Cover) — Map of EDISON





# Facts about the Township of EDISON and a bit of History



**EDISON TOWNSHIP** enjoys a heritage of greatness. It was here, at Menlo Park, that Thomas Alva Edison started his "invention factory". It was here, too, that he sparked the keen minds of men of science and industry which increased, beyond measure, employment opportunities and to cause the development and expansion of industry, not only in this area, but throughout the nation.

## **STRATEGICALLY LOCATED**

Edison is located in northern Middlesex County, New Jersey, to the north of Raritan River. Edison Township's thirty-two square miles stretch nine miles from the City of New Brunswick and Sayreville on the south to Clark Township and Scotch Plains on the north, and spreads five miles from Piscataway Township and South Plainfield on the west to Woodbridge Township on the east.

The Township is a combination residential and industrial community with a population exceeding 60,000 (second largest in Middlesex County), homes numbering over 14,000 and ratables in excess of \$400,000,000.00 true value. Edison's strategic location, approximately only 25 miles from New York City, is easily accessible to other large metropolitan areas; a matter of minutes to Newark and some ninety minutes to Philadelphia by rail or express highways. Then, too, close by are the Shore Resort areas.

## **TYPE OF GOVERNMENT**

Edison's government is the Mayor-Council form — Plan "E" under the Faulkner Act (strong Mayor and Business Administrator) and was adopted in 1957.

## **AGGRESSIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

Since 1958, when the new form of government went into effect, a great program of capital improve-

ments has been advanced to pace the orderly growth of housing and industry in the Township. Included are almost 300 miles of permanent paving on township-owned roads, installation of many more miles of curbs and gutters, storm and sanitary sewers plus sidewalks. At the same time, strengthening of subdivision regulations made developers assume a larger and more equitable share of similar improvements in subdivisions.

One of the original signers with the Middlesex County Trunk Sewer Authority, Edison is now in the final stages of its own sewer construction program which connects every section of the township with the large Raritan Valley system.

## **FAST, FREQUENT TRANSPORTATION**

Edison is on the mainline of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Suburban commuter schedules to New York surpasses similar service from Long Island and efficient freight transfer is served by the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia & Reading Railroads. Also, the most important highways in the state bisect Edison. The New Jersey Turnpike — the beautiful Garden State Parkway — Route One — Freeway 287 — The Lincoln Highway, plus other major arteries all give Edison a network of highways unsurpassed in the nation.

## **HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

The Township of Edison is located in the very center of an area rich in history, dating back beyond the Revolutionary War days, when hardy Dutch and Swedes arrived in the middle of the 17th Century.

Formerly known as Raritan Township, the name was changed to Edison in 1954. Raritan Township was part of Woodbridge and Piscataway Townships before 1870. The area was then incorporated as a Township with Washington, Metuchen and Raritan proposed as names. "Raritan" is derived from the Raritan tribe of Lenni-Lenape Indians which once inhabited the area.



# NEW JERSEY . . . LAND of AMAZING ADVANTAGES

The "Geography" of EDISON . . . its key location at the vital crossroads of the greatest industrial growth in Middlesex County and New Jersey

## New Jersey — a Major Market —

New Jersey is a major market in itself, and has one of the highest per family effective buying incomes in the nation: \$8,737 per household. Cross the river into the Greater New York Consolidated Area and you add 11,000,000 prospects with a per household buying income of \$8,328. At the other end of the state, cross the Delaware into the metropolitan Philadelphia area and another 4,500,000 people come into the marketing orbit with a per household effective buying income of \$7,924.

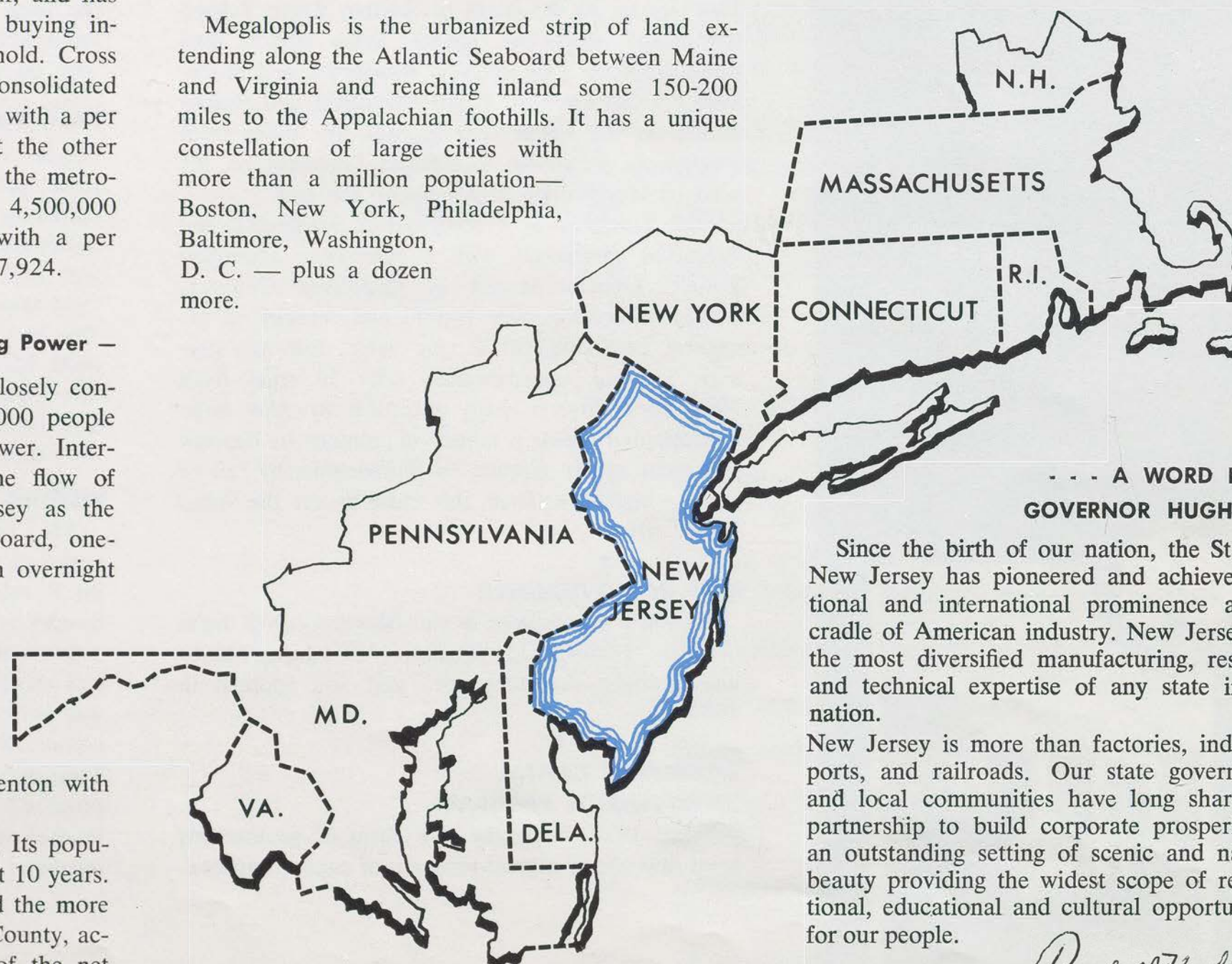
## 22,000,000 People of Wealth and Buying Power —

Nowhere else in America is there a closely contained market of approximately 22,000,000 people representing such wealth and buying power. Interlaced highways and turnpikes speed the flow of traffic in this area and with New Jersey as the geographical center of the eastern seaboard, one-third of the nation's population is within overnight shipping distance! Further indication of New Jersey's marketing importance, are its six cities with a population of over 100,000 people. They are Newark with 405,220; Jersey City with 276,101; Elizabeth, 107,698; Camden, 117,159; Paterson, 143,663 and Trenton with 114,167.

New Jersey is still growing—and fast. Its population has increased over 25% in the past 10 years. The northern section of the state showed the more rapid growth, in and around Middlesex County, accounting for approximately two-thirds of the net population increase.

NEW JERSEY and EDISON are in the middle of the great MEGALOPOLIS \*

Megalopolis is the urbanized strip of land extending along the Atlantic Seaboard between Maine and Virginia and reaching inland some 150-200 miles to the Appalachian foothills. It has a unique constellation of large cities with more than a million population—Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D. C. — plus a dozen more.



\* From Jean Gottmann's "Megalopolis"  
Published by Twentieth Century Fund

NEW JERSEY . . . in the geographic center of the world's richest market.

## ... A WORD FROM GOVERNOR HUGHES —

Since the birth of our nation, the State of New Jersey has pioneered and achieved national and international prominence as the cradle of American industry. New Jersey has the most diversified manufacturing, research and technical expertise of any state in our nation.

New Jersey is more than factories, industry, ports, and railroads. Our state government and local communities have long shared in partnership to build corporate prosperity in an outstanding setting of scenic and natural beauty providing the widest scope of recreational, educational and cultural opportunities for our people.

*Richard J. Hughes*  
Governor



# ...and now EDISON and NEW BRUNSWICK — MIDDLESEX County — Area seen as Hub for great Commercial, Shopping and Education — Cultural Center —

THE DAILY HOME NEWS NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

## Planners See Renaissance of Hub City

By NOEL LIPSON

PRINCETON — The role of the New Brunswick area as the cultural, commercial, educational and shopping hub of Central New Jersey by the year 2000 was forecast yesterday as a three-day metropolitan regional planning conference ended at Princeton Inn.

But the concept, which anticipates a Middlesex County population of more than 1 million, in no way resembles the overpopulated city as typified today by New York, Newark, etc., subject to slums, blight and increasing social and economic problems.

### Cultural Center

Planners and civic leaders from three states who met here, envision New Brunswick 34 years from now as a center for cultural facilities based around the present Rutgers

trium of cultural and broadly after New

There would be an extensive complex enlarged hospital, modern hotels and Residential dangers of blight population in outlying Present proper apart

## Regional Planners Feel Area Outstanding for Great Development

A long range proposal was released by the Regional Plan Association after a final meeting yesterday with the RPA Planners and a blue ribbon committee of civic and cultural leaders of the area.

Planners say development of such a long range study is necessary to prevent the spread of social and economic blight which has so badly crippled New York City and the immediate vicinity. Successful planning, they say, can make the inevitable urbanization beneficial rather than cancerous.

### Middlesex County and Edison in Spot Light

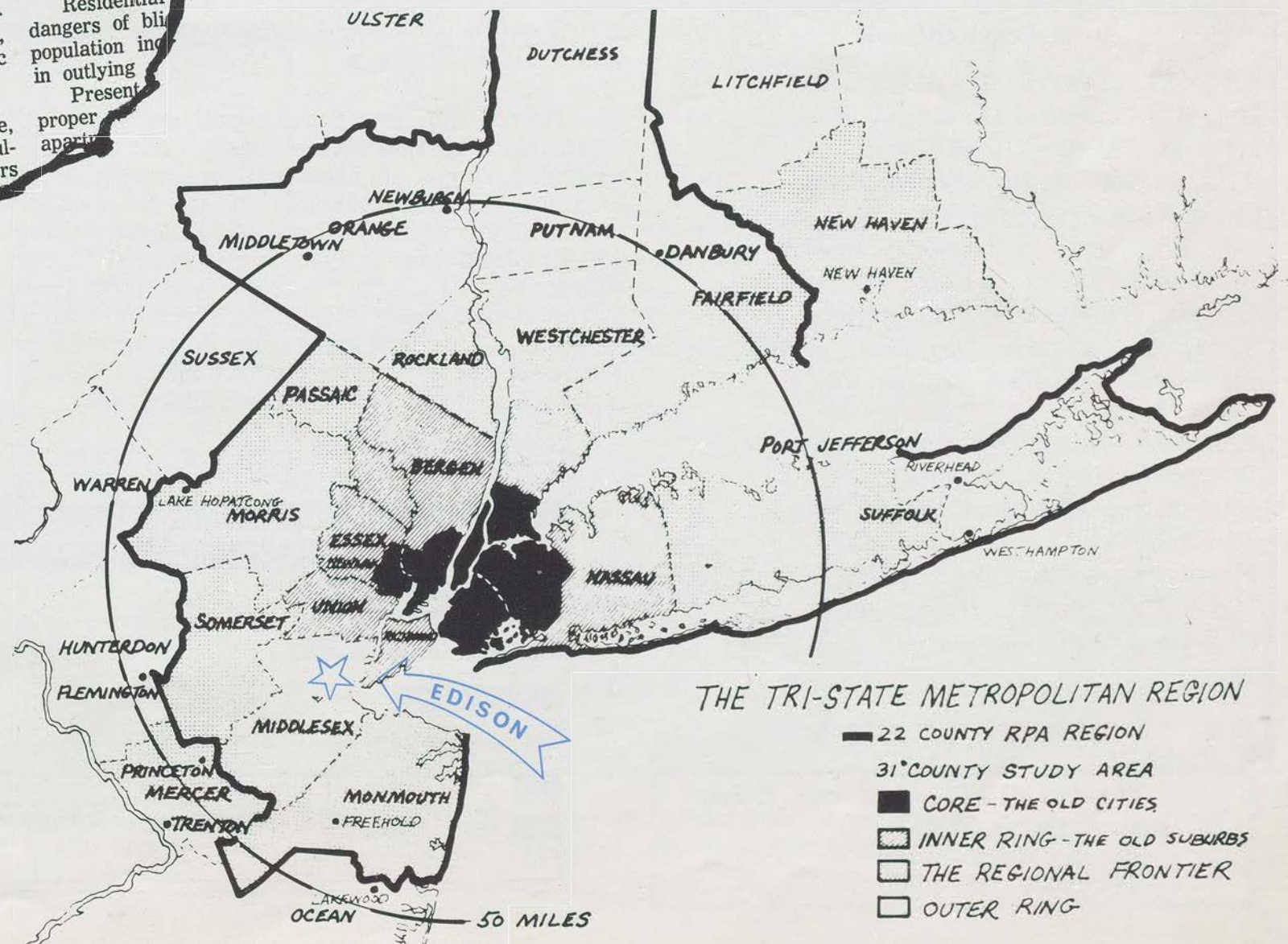
The RPA studies indicate the present Middlesex County population of close to 500,000 will swell to more than 1 million by 1985, a total necessary to economically support the type of central service facilities envisioned for this area.

Planners feel that the New Brunswick area, at least among the proposed New Jersey sites, is outstanding because of its possession of several essential requirements of the central service center concept.

These are rail and highway transportation facilities, a cultural anchorage and potential for industrial and commercial urbanization providing great increase in job potential and sufficient outlying open space.

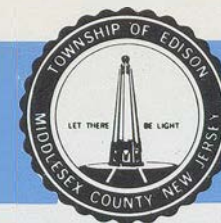
The transportation requirement is met here by the Pennsylvania Railroad mainline from New York City to Philadelphia which passes through New Brunswick and the modern highway arteries of the New Jersey Turnpike, Routes 1 and 287 and the nearby connection to the Garden State Parkway.

**Population Impact Area** Map indicates population spread outward from the "Old Cities" core (blackened area) covering New York City, Hudson County, Newark and Elizabeth, through "The Old Suburbs" (shaded area) to "the Regional Frontier" (remaining area within the circle), bringing population of 30 million to 22-county tri-state area by the year 2000, according to studies by the Regional Plan Association.





# The GOVERNMENT of EDISON



As stated elsewhere, Edison's Government provides for a strong Mayor-Council form of Local Government. This "Plan E" is set forth in Article 7 of the Optional Municipal Charter Law which went into effect in Edison Township January 1958.

## GOVERNING BODY OF EDISON

### Municipal Council

BERNARD J. DWYER, *President*

LEWIS M. BLOOM                      FRANK A. MARCHITTO  
NORMAN E. FREEMAN              JAMES J. McDONNELL  
FRANK G. LANKEY                  DR. WILLIAM TOTH

### Municipal Officials

ANTHONY M. YELENCICS, *Mayor*  
JOHN A. DELESANDRO, *Bus. Administrator*  
JOSEPH F. HUGHES, *Dir. of Finance*  
WILLIAM GODWIN, *Dir. of Public Works*  
OSCAR KAUS, *Township Clerk*  
JOHN J. ZIMMERMAN, *Township Engineer*  
RICHARD F. KNUDSON, *Tax Collector*  
GEORGE H. THOMPSON, *Bldg. Inspector*  
STEPHEN J. CAPESTRO, *Dir. Health, Welf. & Rec.*  
STEPHEN J. CAPESTRO, *Act. Dir. Pks. & Pub. Bldgs.*  
CHRISTIAN J. JORGENSEN, *Township Attorney*  
ROLAND A. WINTER, *Magistrate*  
JOHN W. ELLMYER, JR., *Chief of Police*  
JOSEPH SIMON, *Supervisor of Fire*  
HAROLD SAFFER, *Director of CDDC*  
DR. A. P. CAPPARELLI, *Health Officer*  
JOHN MOONEY, *Tax Assessor*  
MRS. I. CROOKER, *Librarian*

### TOWNSHIP OF EDISON

Municipal Building  
Woodbridge & Plainfield Aves., Edison  
JOHN A. DELESANDRO  
*Business Administrator*  
Telephone: 287-0900

## Planning and Zoning in EDISON

Township officials have been well aware of the need for proper zoning controls and for long-range planning to guarantee the orderly growth of the community. A complete Master Plan was prepared for Edison with the help of the Fels Institute of Local and State Government, and the University of Pennsylvania, who were retained as consultants to the Township Planning Board.

In 1966 the well known planning firm of Herbert H. Smith Associates, were engaged to study and update the Master Plan which provides the Township with guidelines for the full utilization of its assets in an orderly growth pattern designed with the best interests of all EDISON residents.

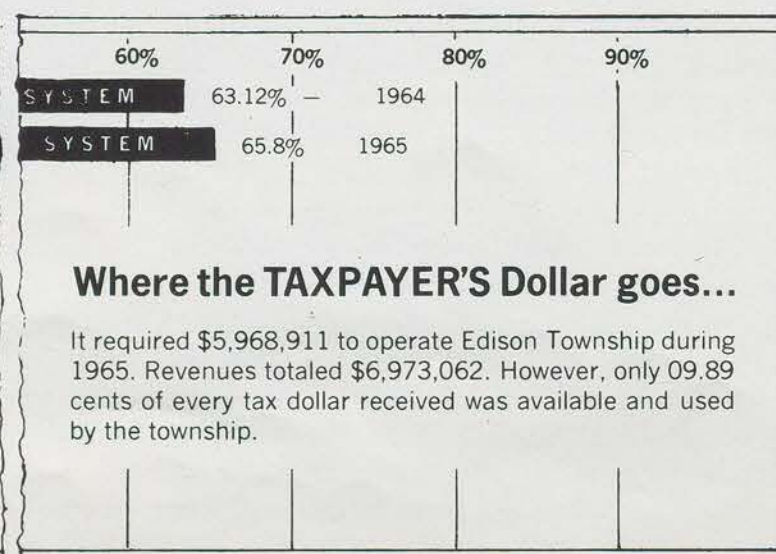
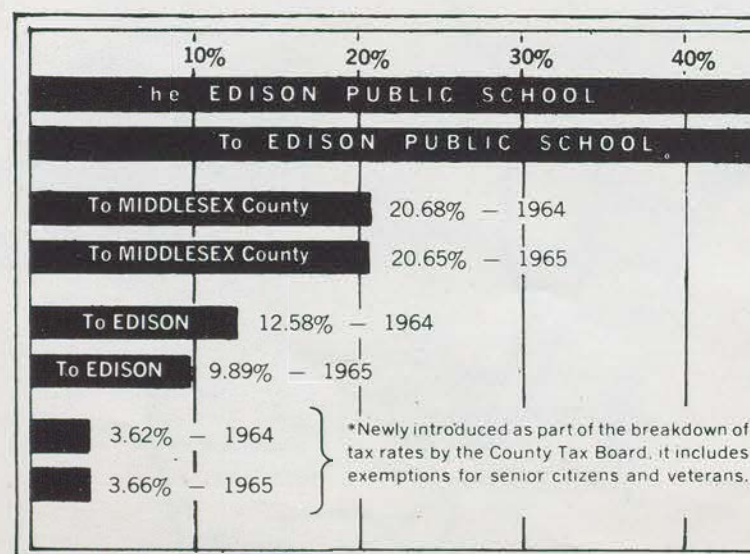
The Master Plan provides for land use, recreation areas, improved transportation and traffic plans, for scheduled capital improvement projects based on sound financial programming, and for the coordination of all municipal projects. As a direct result of the completed Master Plan, the Municipal Council adopted a new zoning ordinance in June, 1963. Under this ordinance, nearly 40% of the Township is zoned for industrial use, and about 35% for residential use. The remainder is zoned for commercial uses (approximately 3.2%), parks, playgrounds, public uses.

## EDISON has a Broad-Based, Balanced, Equitable Tax System . . . New Ratables.

The year 1964-65 marked a unique development in the history of Edison Township. The Federal Government closed two military installations — Raritan Arsenal and Camp Kilmer — and made available for enlightened development over 3,000 acres of land which up to this time was tax exempt. Much of this land has now been converted to highly desirable industrial uses, one developer alone having created an outstanding industrial complex of over 2300 acres with excellent rail, water and highway transportation facilities on the site.

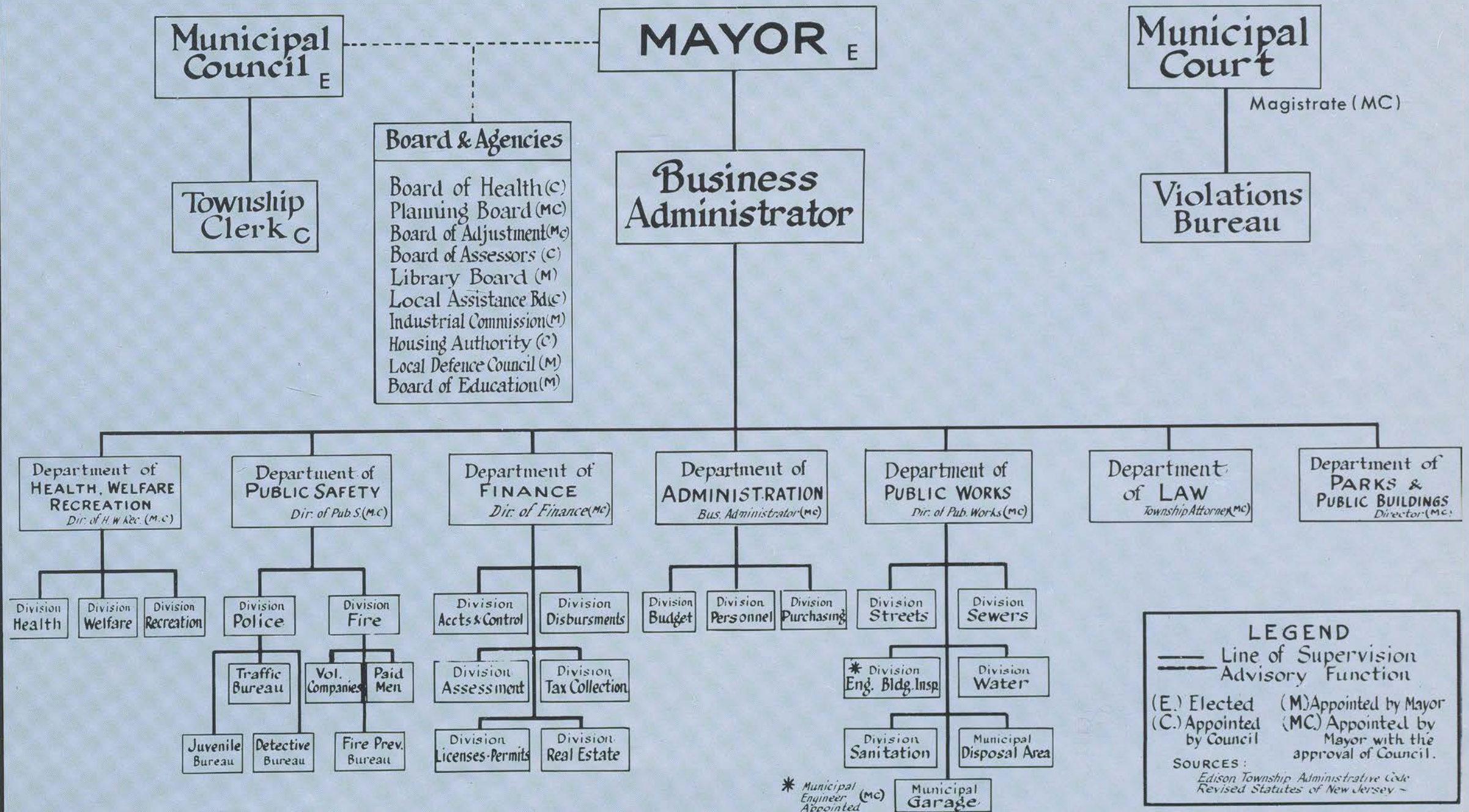
The huge multi-million dollar Fedders plant has been built on another near-by 100 acre section of the former Raritan Arsenal, while much of the remaining acreage now contains numerous industrial plants of all sizes valued at several millions of dollars. These are grouped for the most part in modern industrial parks which are equipped with excellent water, sewer and transportation facilities.

Within one year after the release of the Raritan Arsenal and Camp Kilmer by the Federal Government, \$3,000,000.00 in ratables, much in the form of land only, was added to the local tax rolls. An annual increase of several millions more is expected for at least the next decade as new buildings are completed and added to the tax rolls.





# EDISON ORGANIZATION CHART



The above organization chart is largely self-explanatory. The "LEGEND" (key) shows the lines of supervision and various advisory functions of boards and agencies. Also elected and appointed officials are designated.



# GOOD LIVING IN EDISON



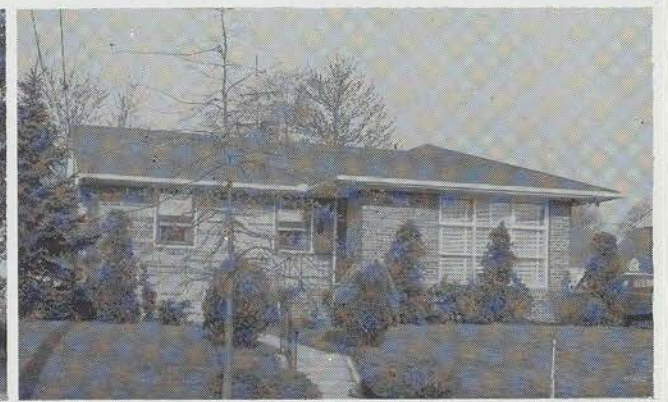
Gracious Homes — Medium and Low Cost Dwellings —  
Modern Housing Developments all abound in EDISON.



The Township of Edison is located in the center of an area rich in history, dating back beyond the Revolutionary War Days, when hardy Dutch and Swedes arrived in the middle of the 17th century.

From a prosperous farming community, this area has seen one of the most phenomenal transformations and developments of any township in New Jersey. Residential sections abound — from old established, stable home areas to newer, modern housing developments that offer attractive homes in every price level.

Important, too, is the location that greatly enhances this area and affords many plus advantages for fine suburban living. Metropolitan New York is but an hour away. Mere minutes get you to the finest shopping centers, plus quick accessibility to the seashore, with boating and inviting beaches — and other recreational facilities.

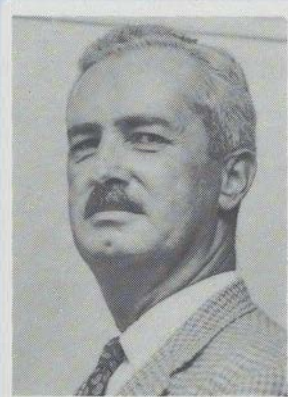




# BUSINESS and INDUSTRY IN EDISON



Business and Industry  
... writer - analyst  
Walter (Pete) Shepard  
of the New Brunswick  
Home News  
speaks his mind  
about EDISON —



With a namesake such as Thomas A. Edison — one of the nation's great geniuses — the Township of Edison could hardly help but be a center of greatness.

Located as it is within overnight distance of one-third of the nation's population, it is blessed with the many attributes necessary for a thriving center of industry, business and research.

Markets and manpower are readily available; transportation is fast and plentiful; educational facilities at all levels are at hand; and living and recreational opportunities are to be easily found to meet all needs.

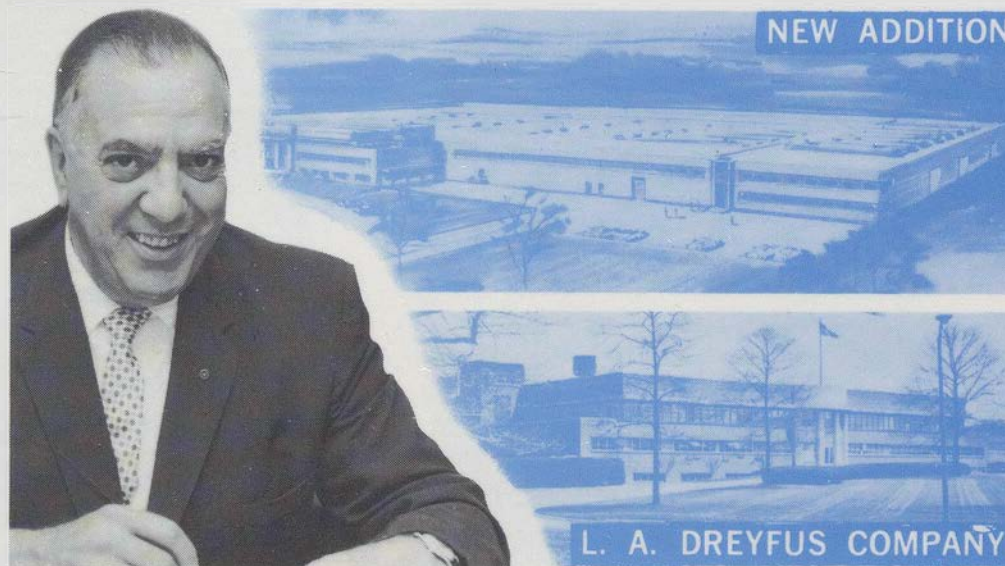
That these are very real assets is demonstrated to an impressive degree by the number and size of the Township's industrial, research and business installations which, important though they are, are only an indication of greater things to come.

The Edison light shines truly bright.

"Our continuing expansion is the best evidence of our confidence in Edison. We appreciate the co-operation that the community has given to our progress. We are happy to be here."

William M. Day, General Manager  
Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
Television - Radio Division

## WESTINGHOUSE

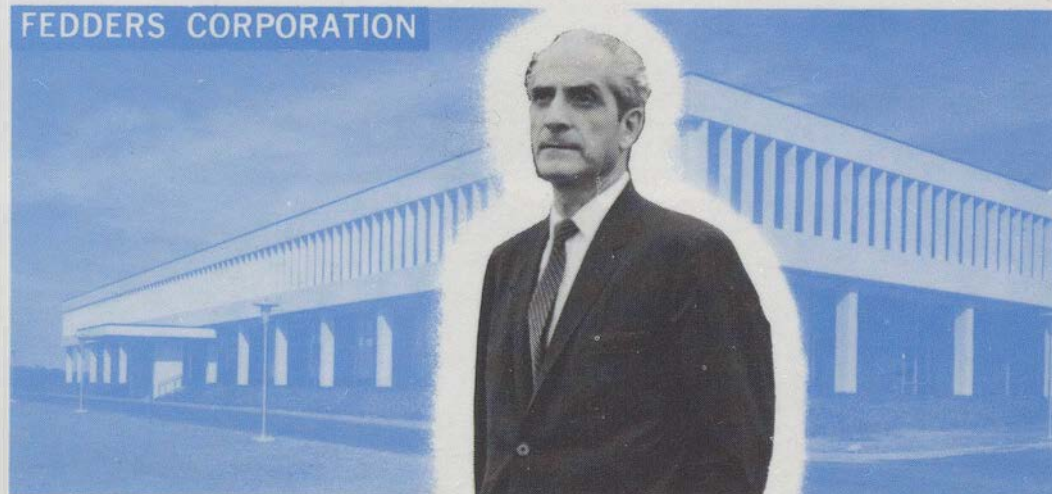


## NEW ADDITION

"We have enjoyed growing with Edison Township as our operation is a most successful one. The expansion of our facilities is testimony to Edison Township's industrial aggressiveness. We are proud and happy to be a part of this wonderful community."

Frank T. DeAngelis, President  
L. A. Dreyfus Company  
(Subsidiary of Wm. Wrigley Co.)

## FEDDERS CORPORATION



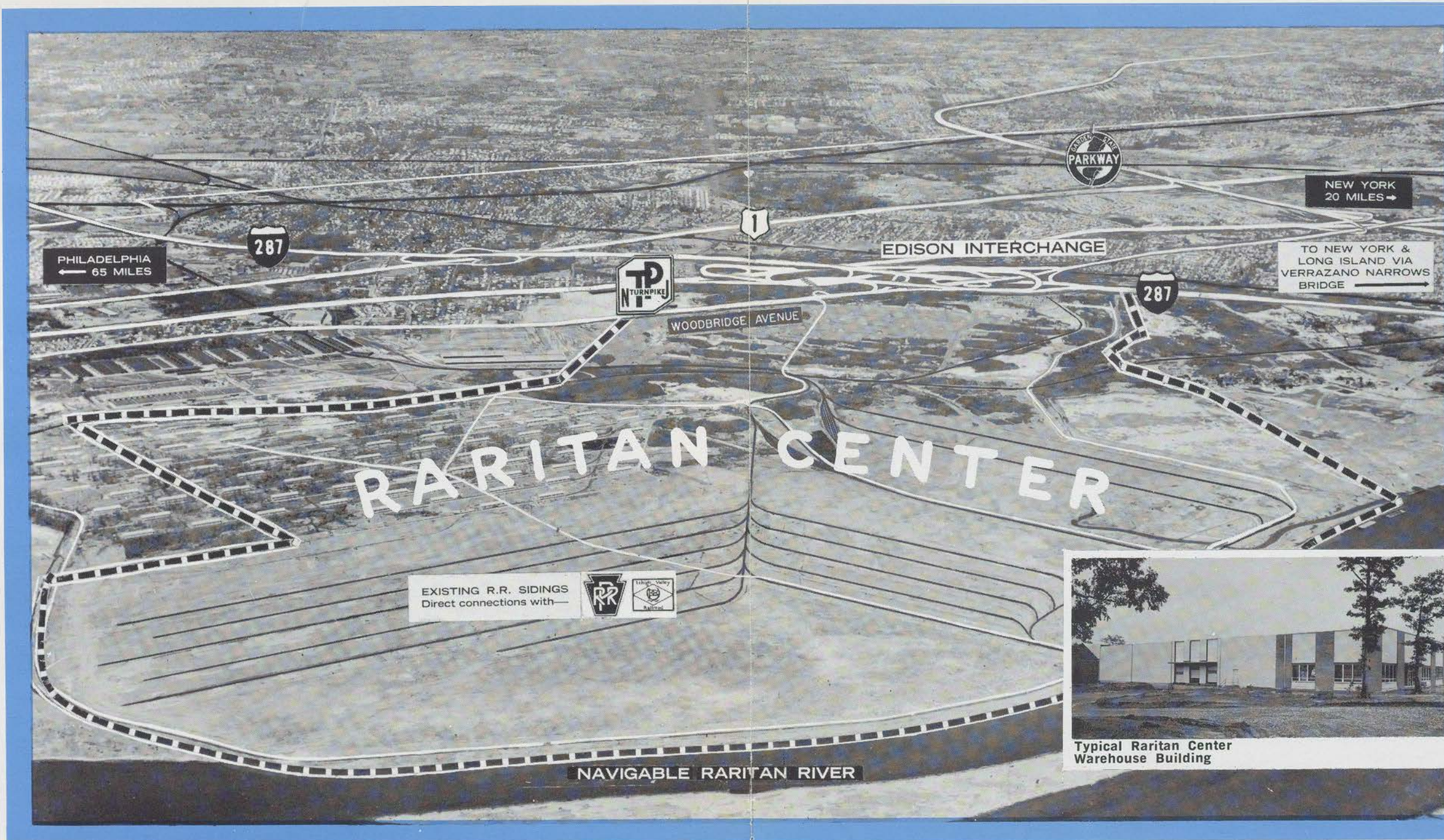
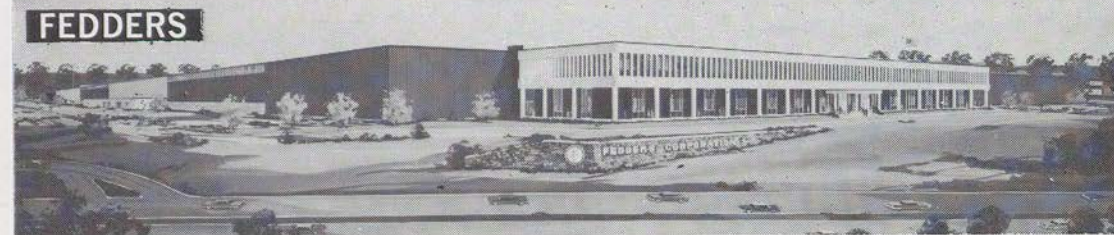
"Industrial advantages plus a favorable and congenial environment for business were compelling reasons for selecting Edison, as the site for Fedders newest and largest plant and corporate headquarters."

Salvatore Giordano, President  
& Chairman of the Board  
Fedders Corporation



## EDISON has attracted all types of INDUSTRY from far and wide

Edison can be justly proud and thankful that its unprecented growth has included the establishment of many large nationally known industries within its boundaries. The Township's ideal location, its unexcelled transportation facilities, its favorable tax rate and tremendous labor market of millions within 45 minute commuting distance are prime factors in attracting industry with the result that approximately one-third of Edison's ratables are industrial.



### Mammoth Raritan Arsenal goes Civilian

Raritan Center . . . 2,350 acres . . . is in large part the former Raritan Arsenal in Edison, New Jersey. It is presently being developed into the largest, newest concept of a planned industrial, commercial, research center on the East Coast.

#### AMERICAN HOSPITAL SUPPLY CORPORATION ►

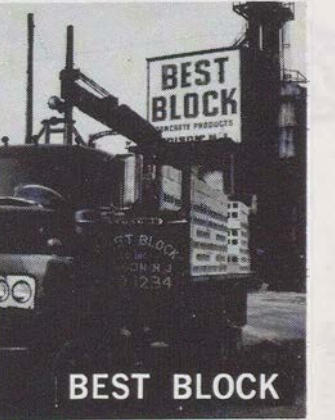
Eastern headquarters for American Hospital Supply Corporation of Evanston, Illinois. One of the largest hospital supply companies in the United States and one of the first large plants to be erected at Raritan Center.



### ... the New EDISON INTERCHANGE

One of the most important major highway link developments in all of New Jersey is the new Edison Interchange connecting the New Jersey Turnpike and State Freeway 287, which directly serve Edison. This proposed interchange will be one of the largest in the State, offering direct access to all the major highway systems. The construction of this strategic network connecting the expressways of the New Jersey Turnpike, Route 287 and Woodbridge Ave. plus the nearby interchange with the Garden State Parkway, adds greatly to the present existing efficient pattern servicing the entire Edison area.

It was a major victory for Edison Officials when this important interchange was secured.

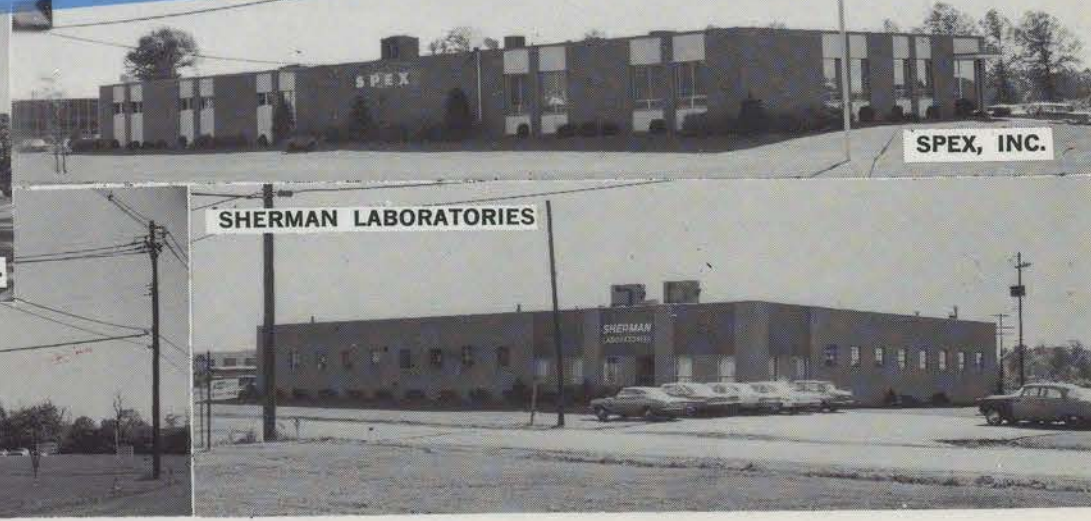
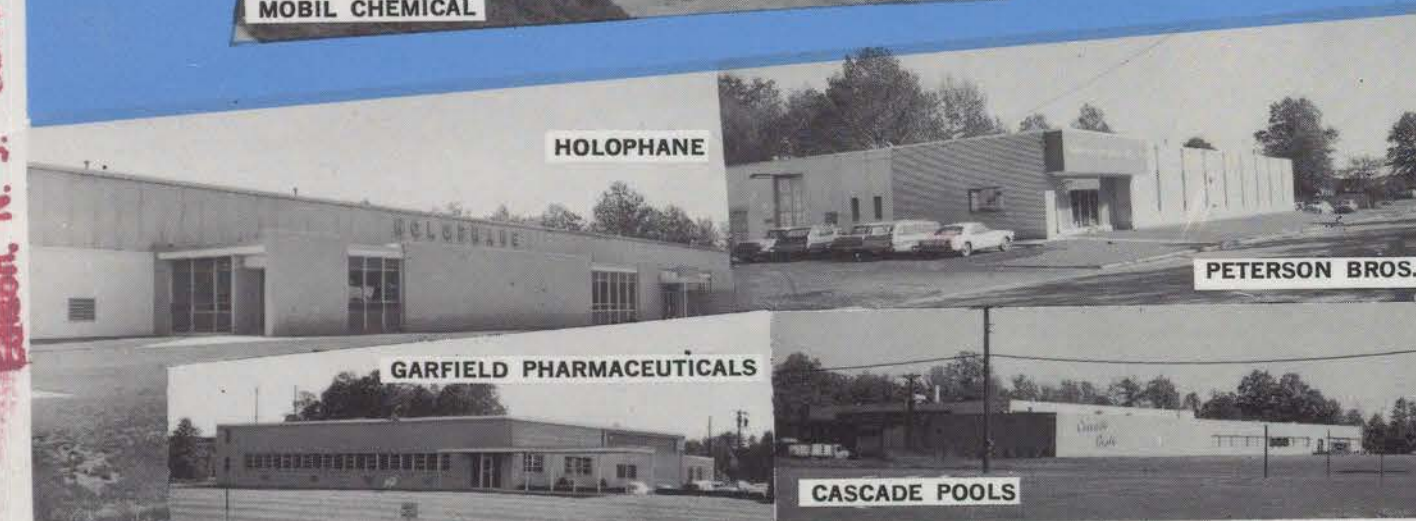
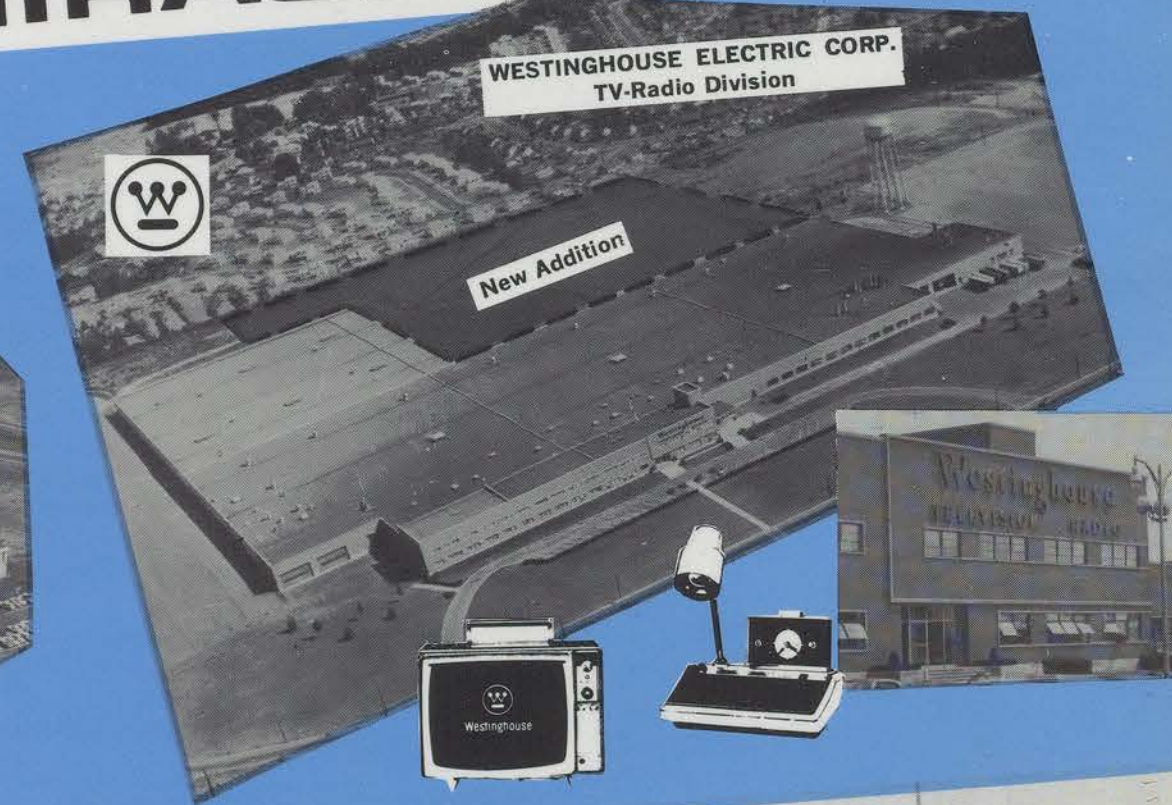




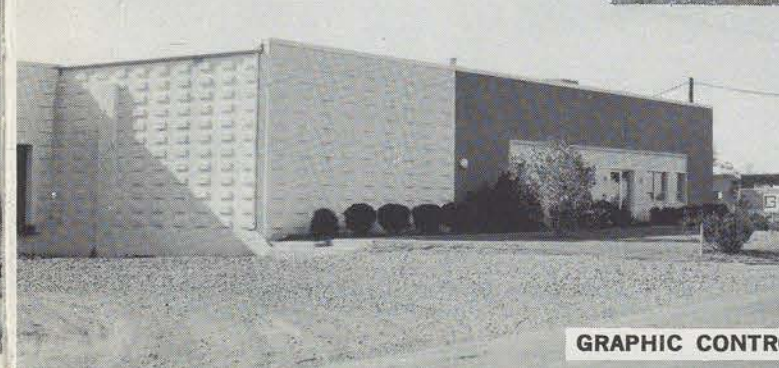
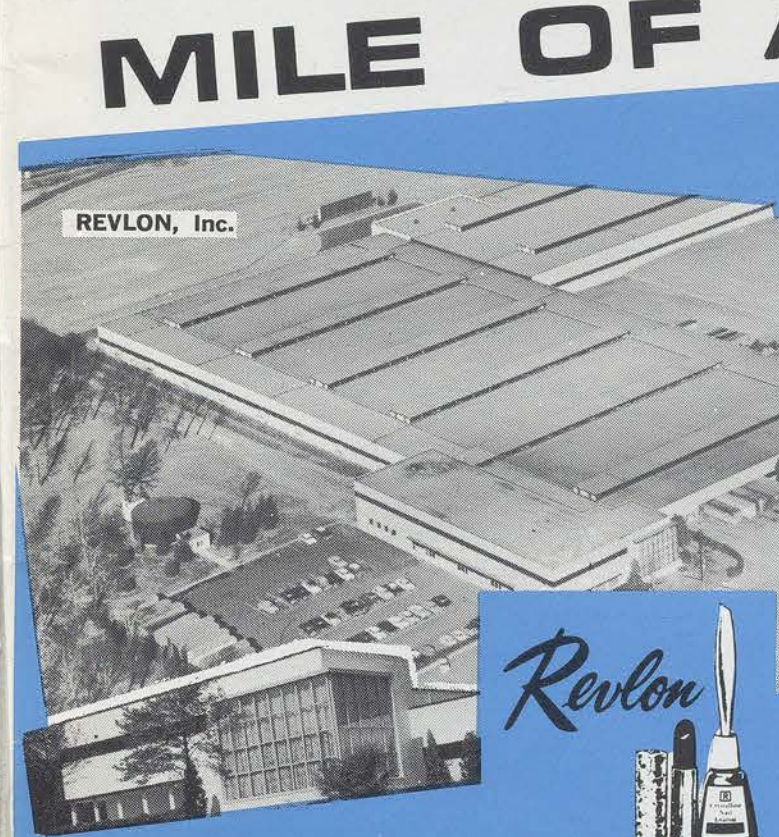
EDISON INDUSTRY PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN NATION'S TRADE



# THE EDISON MIRACLE MILE - A



# MILE OF AMAZING PRODUCTION



NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM LIBRARY

ASK AT DESK

Edison Twp. Pub. Library  
340 Plainfield Ave.  
Edison, N. J. 08817



# EDUCATION IN EDISON



## A Modern Public School System



EDISON TOWNSHIP HIGH



JOHN P. STEVENS HIGH



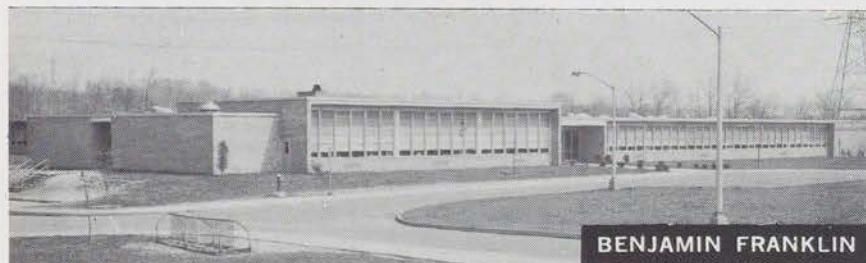
THOMAS JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH



JOHN ADAMS JUNIOR HIGH



JOHN MARSHALL



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Through the years beginning in 1950, the school population in Edison mushroomed from less than 2,000 pupils in grades K-6 to the current 13,858 in grades K-12. The professional staff has grown from approximately 60 people to 685. The number of buildings increased from 6 elementary schools to a total of 20 buildings — 15 elementary, 3 junior highs and 2 senior high schools. Classroom space has been increased through new construction from 65 classrooms to some 431 regular classrooms, and 43 special purpose rooms, exclusive of gym, libraries and administration areas.

Nine bond referenda were approved by the electorate and Board of School Estimate for more than \$18,000,000 in school facilities. The educational system and physical plant expansion has been accomplished in Edison while maintaining a moderate and stable tax rate to the taxpayers of Edison.

The educational program is broad and diversified and every effort is made to meet the needs of the pupils attending the Edison schools. Plans are being formulated to expand Edison school system at the present time. This expansion will be accomplished in an orderly and business like manner, as in the past, to maintain our favorable tax structure and to provide all necessary educational facilities for our children.



CLARA BARTON



HERBERT HOOVER JUNIOR HIGH



JAMES MONROE



OAK TREE



MENLO PARK



LINDENEAU



# Higher Education comes to EDISON . . .



# MIDDLESEX County College

The Middlesex County College, opening in September 1966, offers a comprehensive curriculum designed to train technicians in demand by area industry or to prepare students to continue their education. The County College is unique in that it begins with a ready-made campus providing ample room for future growth. The 161 acres of former Raritan Arsenal land turned over to Middlesex County by the Federal Government offers an attractive landscaped site ideally suited for educational development. Effective use of the natural beauty of the arsenal land and existing buildings in the initial stages of the college's operations has been an important part of County College planning.

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

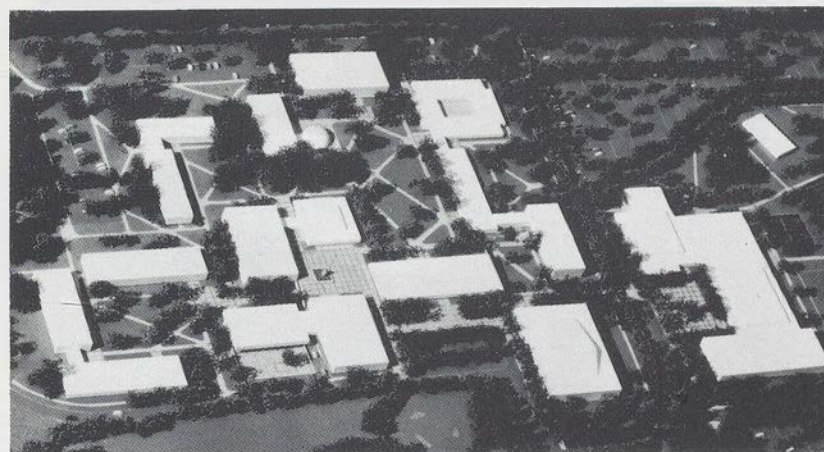
The County College's first class — approximately 700 full-time day students and 300 to 400 Evening Division students — will make use of several buildings turned over to the college by the government. The initial \$3,626,000 development program includes renovation of present buildings suitable for use as classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices and student facility areas.

By September 1967, when the college will start its second full year of operation, three new buildings to be constructed at a cost of \$2,400,000 will be ready. These are the Library, the Academic-Science Building, and Physical Education Building.

The college's Board of Trustees has directed the development of a comprehensive but flexible Mas-

"Middlesex County College will be the leader of community colleges in the State of New Jersey."

Richard J. Hughes, Governor



THE PROJECTED growth of the Middlesex County College to the year 1974 is shown in the illustration (above) of the model of the campus and buildings. The facilities to be constructed will have an estimated value of \$21,000,000.

ter Plan for overall development of the campus to the year 1974 when an enrollment of 5,000 full-time students is anticipated. The buildings on the campus at that time are expected to have a value of more than \$21,000,000.

## THE ROLE OF THE COUNTY COLLEGE

Middlesex County's phenomenal growth has

brought increased urgency to the need for expanded post-high school educational opportunities. On one hand, the higher education needs of youngsters and adults in the county must be met. On the other, industry's critical need for skilled technicians in an increasingly complex economy must also be filled. The College will be a multi-purpose, two-year institution offering curriculums to prepare students for specialized jobs in industry as well as curriculums to prepare students for transfer into the junior year of four-year colleges.

## WHAT THE COLLEGE WILL OFFER

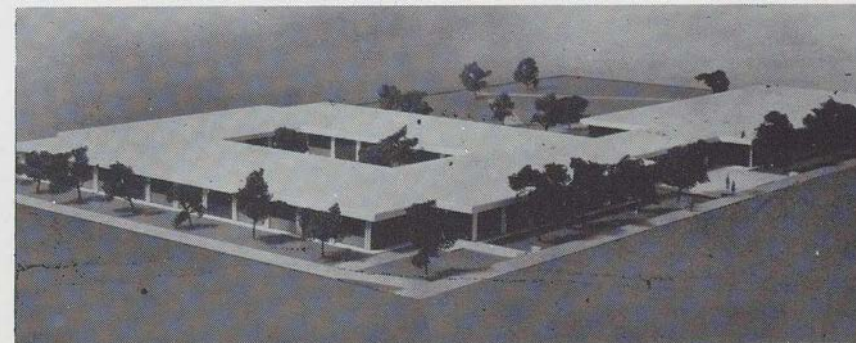
The College will offer curriculums in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business (Accounting-Marketing-Secretarial Science), Nursing Education (R.N. License Program), Engineering Science (first two years of engineering), and Electrical, Chemical and Laboratory Technologies. At the end of the two years, students will be eligible for the Associate in Arts or the Associate in Applied Science degree. All curriculums will include courses in English, history, mathematics, science and economics.

In addition, the college is participating in various loan, grant and scholarship programs provided by both the Federal Government and the State of New Jersey. The Middlesex County College Foundation, Inc., is a non-profit, independent agency formed as a vehicle to permit individuals, groups or corporations to donate gifts or financial assistance which would help students needing financial assistance.



◀ THE LIBRARY, now under construction, will have a capacity of between 30,000 and 40,000 volumes; it will be fully air-conditioned with a total area of 25,000 square feet. Future additions to the Library will expand the building to 100,000 square feet.

THE ACADEMIC-SCIENCE BUILDING ▶ shown here is one of three new buildings scheduled for completion by September 1967. The one-level classroom and laboratory building will cover 49,800 square feet and will include an academic wing and a science section.





## Nearby RUTGERS



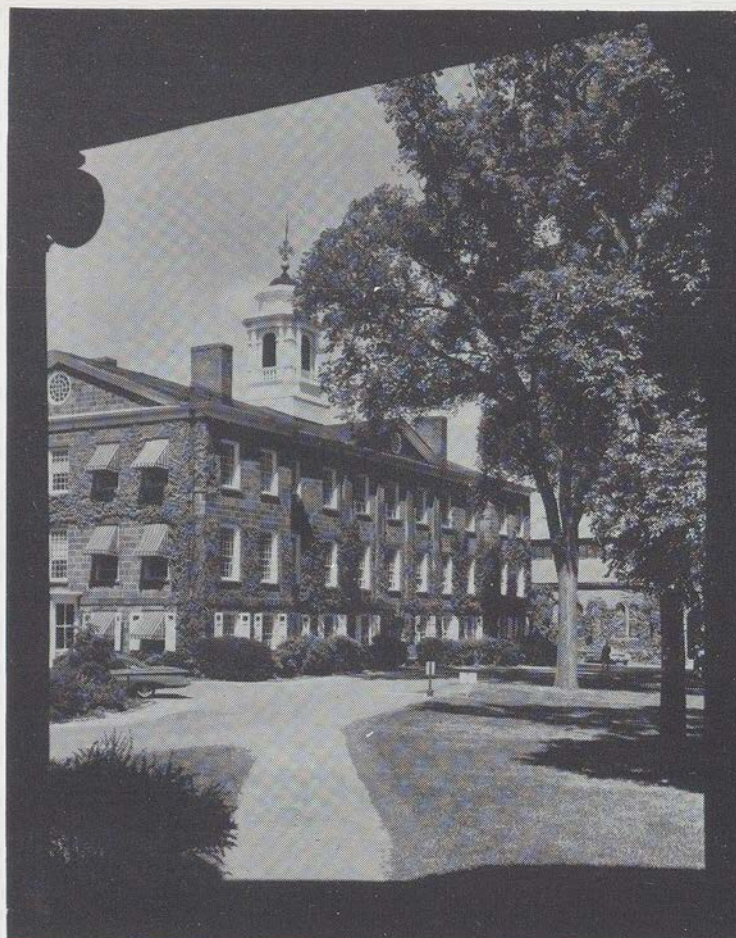
## The STATE UNIVERSITY

On November 10, 1766, William Franklin, Royal Governor of New Jersey and son of Benjamin Franklin, issued a charter for the establishment of the eighth college to be founded in the American Colonies. The charter was issued by authority of George III, King of England, and the college was named Queen's in honor of his consort, Charlotte of Mecklenburg.

In the fall of 1771 the college first began operation. Like many early colleges, it encountered rough going and only its Grammar School was in operation much of the time. In 1825 the name of the college was changed to Rutgers in honor of Colonel Henry Rutgers, a Revolutionary hero and philanthropist.

Perhaps the most significant landmark in the College's evolution occurred in 1864 when Rutgers was designated the Land-Grant College of New Jersey, and the Scientific School was soon established. In 1945 Rutgers was named the State University of New Jersey, and its growth since the end of World War II has been enormous.

In recent years, Rutgers has spilled across the Raritan River to grow on two nearby campuses. The Science Center on the University Heights campus has grown into an interdisciplinary complex of buildings that includes the world-famous Institute of Microbiology, built with royalties from the sale of streptomycin, discovered at Rutgers in the laboratories of Dr. Selman A. Waksman, Nobel Prize Winner of 1952.



**OLD QUEENS** — Now the administrative hub of Rutgers, Old Queens once housed the entire college. The three-story structure, created by John McComb, has been called one of the finest examples of federal architecture in the United States.

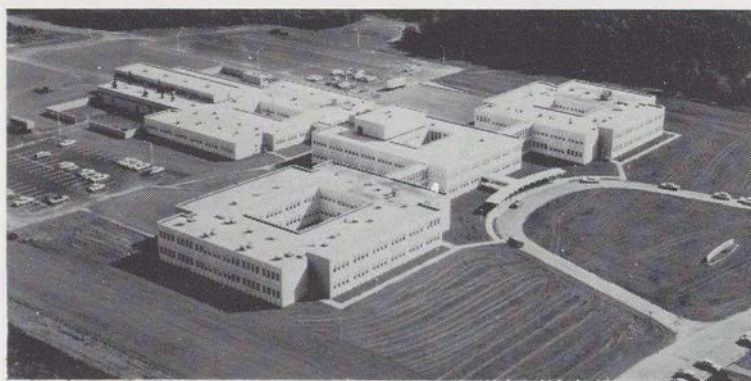


**DOUGLASS COLLEGE LIBRARY** — Douglass College, founded in 1918 as the New Jersey College for Women. The women's division of Rutgers is one of the largest women's colleges in the nation.

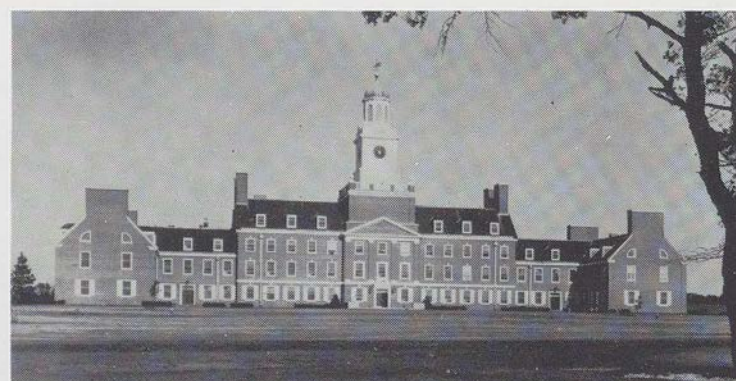
Already the largest educational institution in the State, Rutgers is due to become even more important in the state's economy, with an impact that extends far beyond the purchasing power of its 3,400 employees and 15,000 day students. Situated in the center of an industrial state, Rutgers participates in the growing two-way exchange between industry and the university.

Research and study are important factors in all divisions. Approximately \$9.7 million was invested in research at Rutgers during the 1964-65 year.

Nearby, Rutgers has been given 500 acres of land formerly part of Camp Kilmer. Three new coeducational undergraduate colleges are to be constructed on the site.



**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING** — The Engineering Center built with \$5.6 million in funds from the 1959 College Bond Issue, was opened in 1963. Another portion will be added to the building later. Elmer C. Easton, a member of the Middlesex County Planning Board, is Dean.



**PHYSICS BUILDING** — Institute of Microbiology — The Physics Building and Lecture Hall in the Science Center were dedicated in 1964. Also part of the center is the Institute of Microbiology, the Center of Alcohol Studies,



Nelson Biological Laboratories, Wright Laboratories (Chemistry), pilot laboratory for Rutgers Medical School, the College of Engineering, and the building housing the \$2.5 million Van de Graaff tandem accelerator, used to study the structure of the atom.



# PARKS — RECREATION — FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY — — —

Edison's most popular program of recreation by far is centered around playground activities at twenty well equipped and supervised locations throughout the township. Their instructional and recreational programs appeal to youngsters of all age groups who enjoy them either as participants or spectators.

During the summer season Edison Township maintains a boat dock on the Raritan River for use of residents on a permit basis. The Recreation Department also conducts softball, golf, bridge, track and basketball tournaments.

Other programs with special appeal to teenagers, adults and even senior citizens attract considerable interest on a year round basis.

The Middlesex County Board of Freeholders provides two extensive outdoor recreational complexes in Edison. Roosevelt Park with its attractive lake, stadium, tennis courts, outdoor theatre, and picnic areas contribute much to the enjoyment of all county residents as well as those of Edison. The County Golf Course at the former Raritan Arsenal site is very popular and highly regarded by devotees of the Scottish pastime.



*Parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities all receive enthusiastic use.*

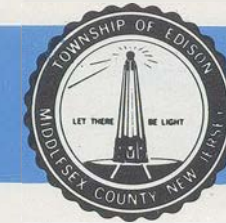


## THE NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Edison's \$250,000.00 main library and its satellite units located in various sections of the township offer a wide variety of material for reading enjoyment or reference.



# The Efficient Department of Public Safety



## DIVISION OF FIRE

The Fire Department of the Township of Edison, under the direction of Mayor Anthony Yelencsics, Acting Director of Public Safety is a highly efficient fire fighting unit, equipped with modern fire fighting equipment

The Uniformed Paid Division consists of a Supervisor, five Captains and 38 firemen.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is headed by the Supervisor and is charged with the enforcement of the National Fire Prevention Code.

The Auxiliary force consists of 190 volunteers, five companies, strategically located in five Fire Precinct stations throughout the Township. The Volunteer companies elect their own Precinct Fire Chief and other line officers and are charged with

the responsibility of extinguishing fires within their Precinct.

Three fire stations, located throughout the high value areas, are manned at all times by assigned paid personnel and backed by a volunteer force.

Fire headquarters receives all Fire alarms and dispatches men and equipment, activates fire sirens, in accordance with running-card set up designed for this purpose. The switchboard is manned at all times by men who are rated as dispatchers.

The equipment consists of twelve (12) triple combination pumpers, one (1) Aerial snorkel unit, two (2) brush units, and four (4) transportation units. All units are equipped with two-way radios.

The Supervisor of the Department is responsible for the administration of the Department.

## DIVISION OF POLICE

The task of providing constant maximum law enforcement is the responsibility of the 87 member Township of Edison Police Department.

Under the direction of the Chief of Police, the four well-functioning divisions, Uniformed Police; Detective Bureau; Juvenile Aid and Traffic Control operate at peak efficiency.

The department has four Captains, seven Lieutenants of Police, four Lieutenants of Detectives, six Detectives, twelve Sergeants, and 43 patrolmen which force is increased annually to keep pace with the growing population of the Township.

In addition to the aforementioned, Edison employs 42 School Crossing Guards and has a well trained and cooperative 175 men Corps of Civil Defense Auxiliary Policemen.

Edison has 20 police vehicle patrols in four police districts covering 5,000 miles each month.





# The best of SHOPPING CENTERS — — BUSINESS AREAS —

## MENLO PARK SHOPPING CENTER

The Menlo Park Shopping Center, a pioneer in the shopping center field, is located on a 77-acre tract in Route 1 at Parsonage Road. The sprawling complex has approximately one million square feet of selling space and more than 1,000 feet of Malls. There are some 65 stores, including three department stores, two banks, a 1,500-seat movie theater and a five-story office building.

Officially opened in 1960, the Center is presently undergoing extensive renovations which will make it Central Jersey's only all-weather, enclosed shopping center. The new malls will offer the latest in shopping comfort and beauty, with year-round temperature controlled climate, new flooring, rest areas, kiosks, and a revolving stage, as well as fish ponds and a television center.

This shopping center includes such nationally known stores as Bamberger's, Montgomery Ward, Franklin Simon, Wallach's, Bond Clothes, J. C. Penney, Woolworth's. There is parking space for 7,500 cars.

## OTHER NEARBY SHOPPING CENTERS

Kilmer Plaza shopping center, located on Route 27, includes W. T. Grant Co., Acme Markets, Sav-On Drugs, Pittsburgh Paints, Miles Shoes and other well known retail outlets.

Several other neighborhood shopping centers (illustrated), made up of a dozen stores or more, are to be found in every section of Edison Township. Banking institutions include the main office of The Edison Bank and two branch offices of the same institution, the Raritan Valley Bank, two branch offices of the First Bank & Trust Co., a branch office of the First Savings & Loan Association of Perth Amboy and a branch office of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Westfield.



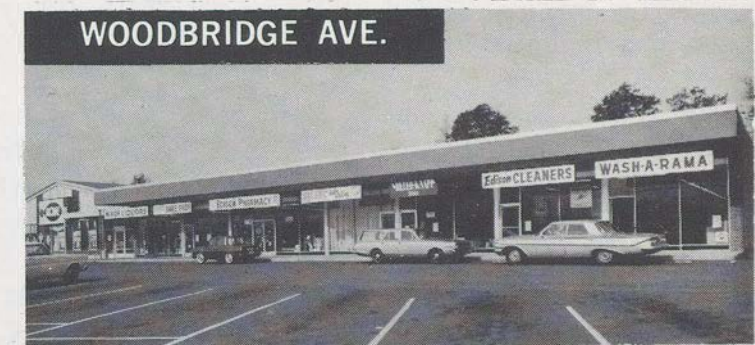
MENLO PARK SHOPPING CENTER



COLONIAL VILLAGE



KILMER PLAZA



WOODBIDGE AVE.



RARITAN VALLEY





# Friendly Churches — A New Hospital — Other Organizations —

April 1965 saw the unveiling of the new \$5,200,000 John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital (in miniature). This new hospital will serve more than 90,000 residents of Edison, Metuchen and Woodbridge.

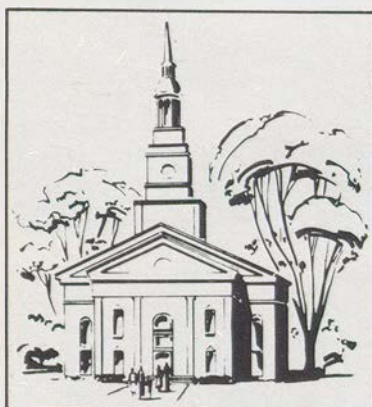
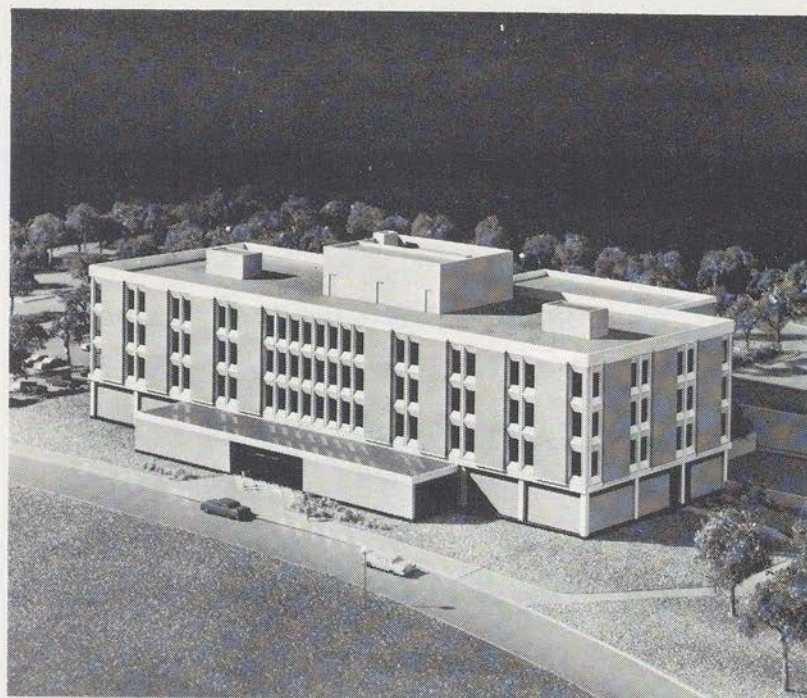
The five-level non-profit community hospital now under construction is located on 37 acres of land in the Menlo Park section of Edison, near the Metuchen line. It is expected to be completed in 1967.

Among the features outlined by the hospital officials are 203 beds, four completely-equipped operating rooms and a recovery room; an obstetrical suite; four diagnostic X-ray rooms; outpatient and emergency facilities; a pharmacy and a laboratory; business facilities; four high speed elevators and a centralized kitchen.

The basic planning for the hospital permits future addition for 150 beds without additional cost in the basic structure. A master plan being prepared includes facilities on the site for staff housing, a medical and dental professional building and a heliport for emergency admitting.

## Edison Unveils New Memorial Hospital

*Birds-eye views of new  
John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital*



### EDISON HOUSES of WORSHIP

#### Baptist Churches

Mt. Pleasant Baptist  
Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist  
Piscatawaytown Baptist  
Raritan Valley Baptist  
Stelton Baptist

#### Episcopal Churches

St. James Episcopal  
St. John's Episcopal

#### Lutheran Churches

Lutheran Church Our Redeemer  
Lutheran Church St. Paul's  
St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran  
Our Savior Lutheran

#### Methodist Churches

New Dover Methodist  
Wesley Methodist (of Edison)

#### Nazarene Church

Church of the Nazarene

#### Reformed Churches

Grace Reformed, Bonhamtown  
Grace Reformed Church  
Helping Hand Society

#### Presbyterian Churches

Community Presbyterian  
Oak Tree Presbyterian

#### Roman Catholic Churches

Church of the Guardian Angels  
Our Lady of Peace

St. Margaret-Mary, Bonhamtown  
St. Matthew's  
St. Theresa's  
St. Helena (to be constructed)

#### Synagogues and Temples

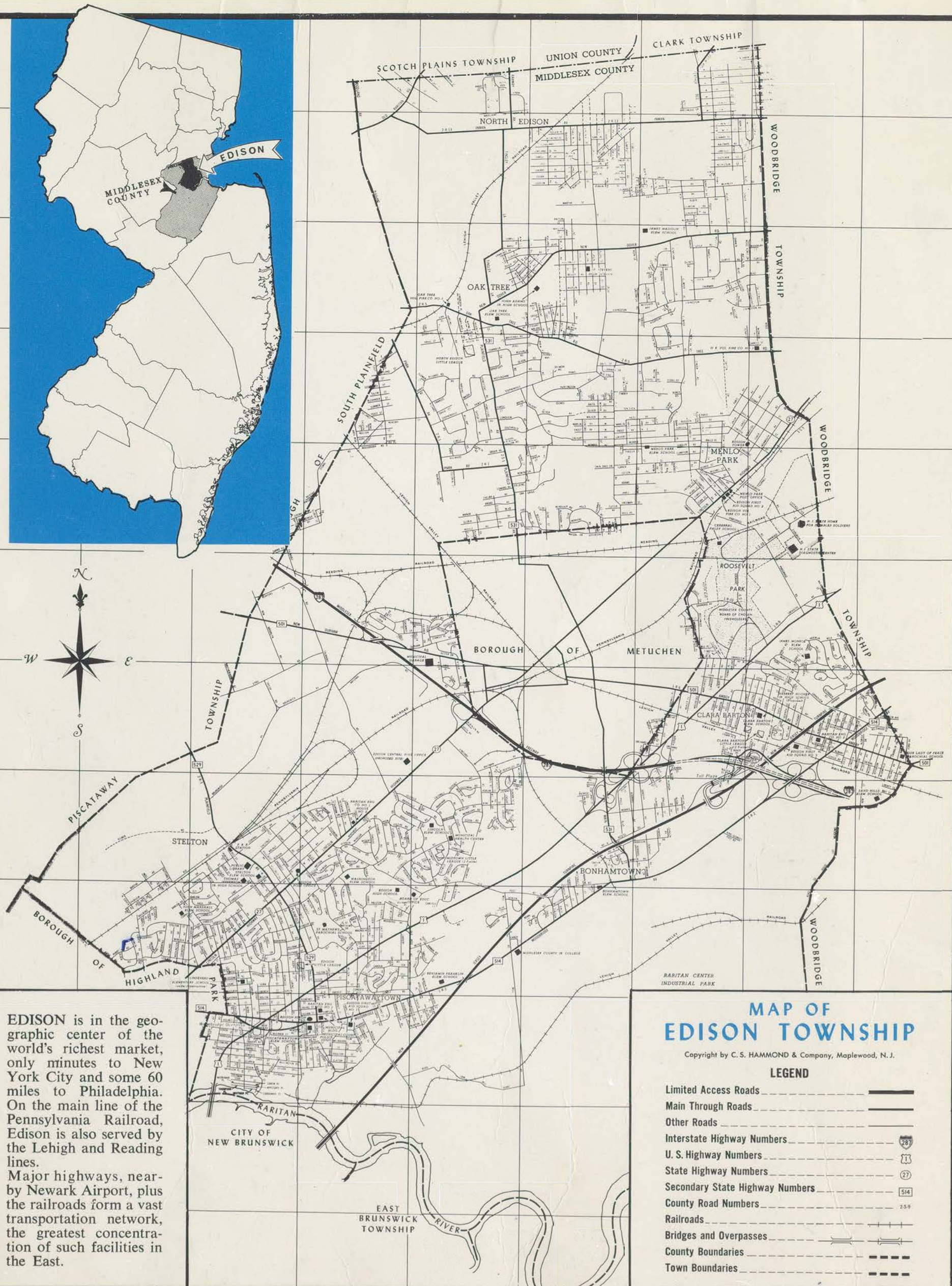
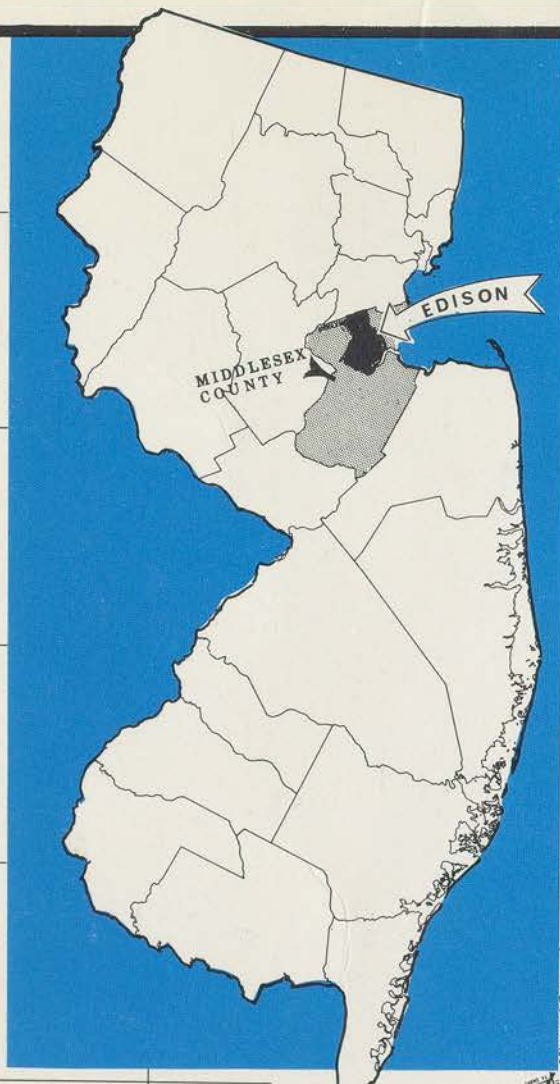
Edison Jewish Community Center  
Congregation Beth-El  
Temple Emanu-El

#### OTHER EDISON ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion  
Clara Barton Post #324  
Father & Son Post #435, Nixon  
Clara Barton First Aid Squad, Inc.  
Fords  
Community Hospital Group, Inc.  
Auxiliary  
Edison Chamber of Commerce  
Edison Exchange Club

Edison First Aid Groups  
Edison First Aid & Rescue  
Squad #1, Inc., Nixon  
Edison First Aid & Rescue  
Squad #2, Inc., Menlo Park  
Edison Friends of the Library  
Edison Jaycees  
Edison Township Exempt Firemen's  
Association, Fords  
Edison Volunteer Fire Co. #1  
Edison Township Memorial Post  
#3117 VFW, Nixon  
Elks, Metuchen-Edison BPOE #1914  
H. K. Volunteer Fire Co.  
Kiwanis of Metuchen and Edison  
Knights of Columbus Pope Pius XII  
Council, No. 4885  
Loyal Order of Moose  
Edison Lodge #1978  
Oak Tree Fire Co. #1  
Raritan Engine Co. #1  
Raritan Engine Co. #2





EDISON is in the geographic center of the world's richest market, only minutes to New York City and some 60 miles to Philadelphia. On the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, Edison is also served by the Lehigh and Reading lines. Major highways, near-by Newark Airport, plus the railroads form a vast transportation network, the greatest concentration of such facilities in the East.

## MAP OF EDISON TOWNSHIP

Copyright by C. S. HAMMOND & Company, Maplewood, N. J.

### LEGEND

- Limited Access Roads ————
- Main Through Roads ————
- Other Roads ————
- Interstate Highway Numbers ————
- U. S. Highway Numbers ————
- State Highway Numbers ————
- Secondary State Highway Numbers ————
- County Road Numbers ———— 259
- Railroads ————
- Bridges and Overpasses ————
- County Boundaries ————
- Town Boundaries ————



32228  
10/4/83

11/30/83  
due 11/30/83

# EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

DATE DUE



For information about the  
TOWNSHIP OF EDISON

Write or call

JOHN A. DELESANDRO

Business Administrator

Telephone 287-0900

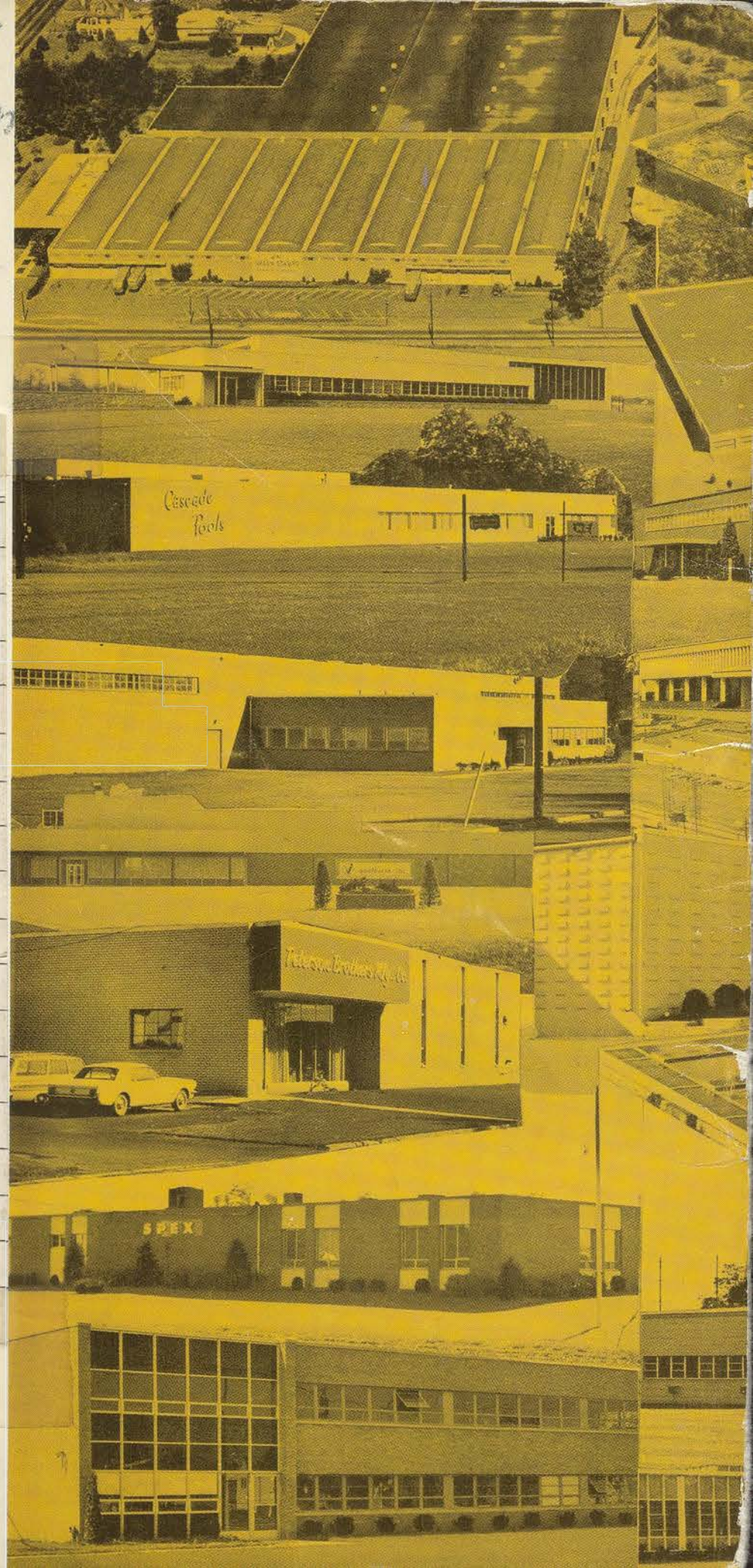
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Woodbridge & Plainfield Aves., Edison

HIGHSMITH 45-102

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Created for EDISON Township  
by Earl L. Hadley and Graphics 30  
in cooperation with  
Jennings Kitchen and Grygo Inc.





JAN. 15

History - 1600's - 1960's  
(Copy #2)  
**ASK AT DECK**  
Edison Twp. Free Public Library  
(Edison History)

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM LIBRARY



Seal of the



Township of Edison

# THE JERSEYMEN OF EDISON HIGH PRESENT Historic Edison

New Jersey

Tercentenary



People, Purpose, Progress

Vol. I, No. 1

June 28, 1964

Twenty-five Cents

## Three Hundred Years

By - Bonnalea Peterson

This year is New Jersey's 300th anniversary. The Jersey-men at Edison High have been doing research on the history of Edison Township. Some of the information we have uncovered is in this newspaper.

This area was once inhabited by groups of Lenni-Lenape and Algonquian Indians.

The name Piscataway was derived from the name Piscataqua. Settlers moving here from New Hampshire named the area Piscataqua after the town where they had previously lived.

Raritan Township was part of Woodbridge and Piscataway Townships before 1870. The area was then incorporated as a township with Metuchen, Washington and Raritan proposed as names. "Raritan," derived from the Raritan tribe of Lenni-Lenape Indians was chosen.

The first schools were set up in March, 1689. The first schoolmaster of the Oak Tree School was James Fullerton, and was a free school. Many schools at that time had an admission fee. A schoolmaster's salary at this time was about 24

pounds a year. John Baker was employed in 1694 to teach for six months on trial. The school orders were that:

"Ye school be kept this winter time until 9 o'clock at night."

During the Revolutionary War no classes were held. When school was resumed, money for teaching children who could not afford to pay for their schooling was obtained from a tax on dogs.

Piscataway school was built in 1695 of logs and had an ample playground. Inside the building were small unpainted desks, and rude oak slabs for seats. This school was demolished by the hurricane on June 19, 1835. A new school to replace it was built in 1837. Other schools developed in all areas of the township at about the same time.

One of the earliest industries was brick making in the area of Ford's Corner and Sand Hills.

Copper was first discovered in Menlo Park in the 18th Century. The mine was eventually purchased by Thomas Edison to secure copper for his experiments.

## Program Edison Tercentenary Celebration

**Official Opening of Edison Tercentenary Celebration—1:30 P.M., Sunday, June 28, Menlo Park Shopping Center.**

**An Afternoon of Music — 2:00 P.M., Sunday, June 28 Menlo Park Shopping Center**

**300 years of Fashion — 8:00 P.M., Edison Monday, June 29 High School Auditorium**

**Thomas A. Edison's First Motion Pictures Tuesday, June 30 — 8:00 P.M., Edison High School Auditorium**

**Historymobile — 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 Thursday, July 2 P.M., Edison High School Grounds Edison Players Present—"The Boyfriend", 8:30 P.M. — Edison High School Auditorium**

**Folk Dances—8:00 P.M., Roosevelt Park Friday, July 3 Amphitheater**

**Grand Parade—2:00 P.M., Clara Barton Sunday, July 5 Area**

Admission Free To All Events

## First Families Settled Here By 1668

Most of the "first families" of what is now Edison Township came from the area of Newbury, Massachusetts, and the rest as passengers aboard the vessels *Henry* and *Francis* and *Caledonia*, both of which sailed from Scotland and landed at Perth Amboy late in the 17th Century.

Names of these pioneer families are still to be found among the present-day inhabitants of the township. They include descendants of the Stelles, Martins, Campbells, Bonhams, Dunns, Dunhams, Edgars, Comtons, Tappens, Thornalls, Hamptons, Achens, Laings, Kellys, Ayres, Fitzandolphs, Freemans, Bloomfields, Paynes, Robins, Mundys, Carmans, Rowlands, and Laforges.

Their settlements were Piscataway (1668), Stelton (1668), and Bonhamtown (1682). Stelton was settled by the Stelles, and Bonhamtown by Nicholas Bonham who is recorded as owner of lands by allotment and as a Freeholder in 1682.

## Tavern Rates Officially Set In 1748

Hot meal of meat, etc. 10 pence  
Cold meal of meat, etc. 7 pence  
Lodging per night ..... 4 pence  
Rum by the gill ..... 4 pence  
Brandy by the gill ..... 6 pence  
Wine by the quart

two shillings 8 pence

Strong beer by the quart

5 pence

Cider by the quart ..... 4 pence

Metheglin by the quart

one shilling 6 pence

Tavern rates were regulated by the colonial assemblies, and each town was required to keep an ordinary or tavern for the relief and entertainment of "strangers." There was a fine for the omission of this civic responsibility at the rate of 40 shillings per month.

Only innkeepers were empowered to retail liquors in quantities less than two gallons. In 1677, the quantity was reduced to one gallon, and in 1683 innkeepers were debarred the privilege of recovering debts in excess of five shillings.

The assembly authorized innkeepers to retail strong liquors by the quart. These laws led to great excesses and drunkenness in several of the towns, with the

## Revellers Take Heed

Drunkenness was frowned upon—to the extent of a one shilling fine for the first offense, two shillings for the second offense, and two shillings six pence for the third. If you were unable to pay the fine, the alternative was corporal punishment. Unruly revellers were placed in the stocks until sober.

The fines were of little use, since they were not excessive. In 1682, there was a stiffening of fines—five shillings for each offense—or six hours in the stocks.

The records of the time seem to indicate that the increase in punishment may have been accompanied by an increase in the vice. This may be the reason for the eventual removal of restrictions on the sale of liquors in small quantities.

The administration of liquor regulations was modified under the Royal governors. Many of the earlier restrictions were eased probably because the use of strong spirits was considered necessary! (See story "Night-walkers to Meet Constable.")

people selling liquor in private houses.

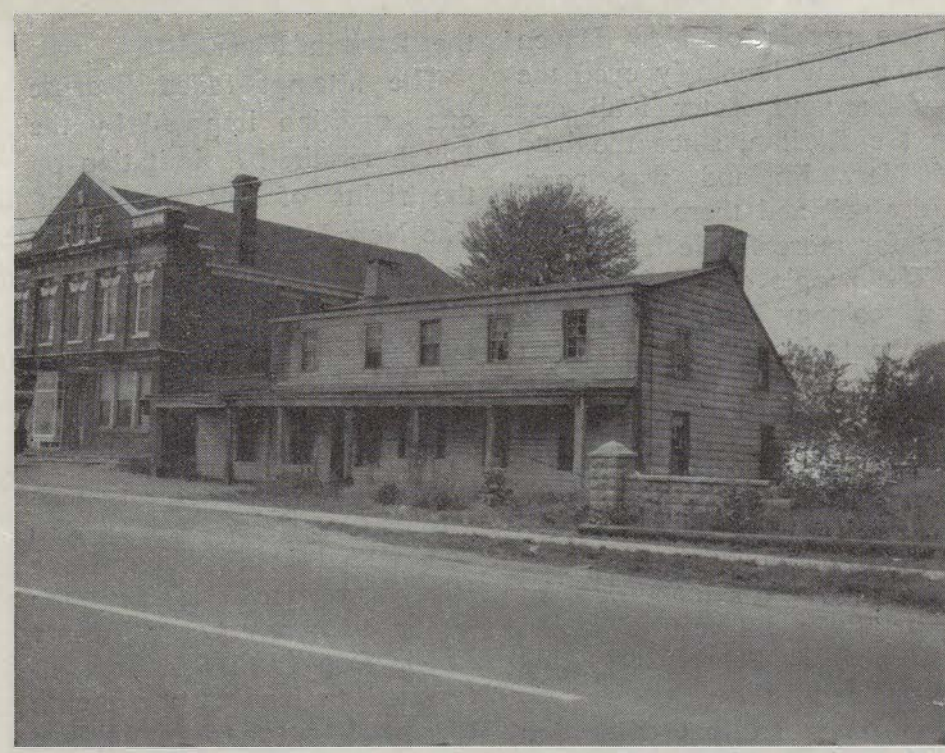
An excise law passed in 1692, and repealed the following year, confined the licensing of retailers to the governor.

## First County Court Here

The first court in Middlesex County was held in Piscatawaytown on June 19, 1683, Samuel Dennis presiding as both president and judge. There were five assistants, Edward Slater, James Giles, Capt. John Bishop, Samuel Hall, and Benjamin Hall. After this courts alternated between Piscataway, Woodbridge, and Amboy, for the remainder of the 17th Century.

A grand jury was first empanelled at Woodbridge, September 16, 1684.

John English, a servant of Hopewell Hull, Piscatawaytown, met his death by drowning in the Raritan River, May 25, 1685. Jurors decided that death was due to water!



Jackson Tappen Tavern, Bonhamtown, built 1740. Rumors have it that Washington stopped here. This is entirely possible, since it lay on the main turnpike. However, no documentation has come to light to confirm this.

EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY





Army troops relaxing near gate to Raritan Arsenal, 1918.

## Slater Blocks' King's Court

In 1700, five justices of the Middlesex County court were on their way to the Piscataway-town Town House to open the session of the County Court. Upon their arrival at the Town House, they found the door nailed shut, and were told they could not enter, since the building was the property of the town.

Edward Slater, of quitrent resistance fame, and several others tried to prevent the sheriff from opening the door. When that official kicked the door open, the mob that had gathered rushed in after him and threatened to throw him out. One of the justices, Samuel Dennis, tried to help the sheriff, but Slater grabbed him by the collar, demanding to know why he was there. Dennis answered, "To maintain His Majesty's Court." After that, Slater pulled away.

Three others in the mob demanded to know by whose authority the court was convened, and when told, "By the King's," they replied that court could not be held there since it was "the town's house."

This was probably too much for the justices, as they withdrew to the home of the local constable.

## Founder of R.I. College Born Here

James Manning, who became the first president of what is now Brown University, was born in Piscataway on October 22, 1738. His great-grandfather, Jeffery Manning, was one of the earliest settlers. He was also a descendant, maternally, of the Fitz-Randolphs, early settlers in the region. Manning graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) in 1762. During the last days of the French and Indian War in 1763, he was ordained an evangelist and travelled throughout the colonies.

He suggested the establishment of a college in Rhode Island for the Baptists, but before the idea bore fruit, he was sent as pastor to Warren, Rhode Island, where he organized a Baptist congregation. In September 1765, his idea for a college became a reality and he was chosen to be the first president of Rhode Island College (the name was changed to Brown in 1804).

### Acknowledgements

This paper would not have been possible had it not been for the assistance of many individuals throughout the township. Much of the material developed by research was not used due to lack of space. This information will be included in a later comprehensive history of Edison Township.

Foremost among those assisting are: Jerseymen Committee — D. Bolduc, R. Campbell, E. Campbell, A. D'Amico, R. Gottlieb, C. Henderson, S. Leonard, M. Merson, S. Nahama, B. Peterson, J. Petro, A. Petuskey, R. Smith, N. Tobiasson. Organizations — Special Collections, Rutgers University Library, Donald A. Sinclair, Curator; New Jersey Historical Society Library; Edison Laboratories National Historical Museum; Secretary, Board of Education, Edison Township; C. Boyle, Principal, Edison High School; Oscar Kaus, Township Clerk; D. Robinson, Chairman, Art Dept., Edison High School. Community Residents: A. Bell, J. Brinckmann, Rev. J. H. Martin, H. Sallitt, Rev. S. W. Stewart, H. VanBuskirk, L. Russell, G. Zalinsky, A. Burkhardt.

Our apologies to any who may have been inadvertently omitted.

## "Nightwalkers" To Meet Constable

The Puritan background of our earliest settlers was reflected in the "blues laws" which regulated conduct. Sabbath observance was strictly enforced. On the Lord's Day there was to be a complete abstinence from all servile work. Unlawful recreations and unnecessary travelling were, at the same time, prohibited.

Taking the Lords' name in vain resulted, at first, in a one shilling fine. This was increased to two shillings six pence in 1682. Again, inability to pay resulted in a sojourn in the stocks or in a public whipping.

"Prizes, stage-plays, games, masques, revels, bull baitings, and cockfights, which excited the baser passions of the people to rudeness, cruelty, looseness, and irreligion" were discouraged and punished by courts of justice.

Curfew laws there were, and they were enforced. "Nightwalkers" or revellers after nine o'clock were to be secured by the constable until the morning. Unless excused for their lateness, they were bound over to court.

Liars were also punished. Presumably, the first offense resulted in a warning. The second "fib" resulted in a 20 shilling fine. If not paid, it meant the stocks or corporal punishment.

We reported elsewhere that the administration of drinking regulations was somewhat lax during the administration of the Royal governors because it was considered "necessary." Keepers of public houses were not to allow "tippling on the Lord's Day, except for necessary refreshments!"

# 17th Century Area Surrendered to Rent Riots Dutch In 1673

The first serious trouble began in East New Jersey about 1670 when the first "quitrents" fell due. A vestige of the late Middle Ages, they were, in theory, a payment of the services owed by a tenant to the lord of the manor. The payment of such rents was common to all proprietary colonies—of which New Jersey was one.

When the settlers accepted the New Jersey Concessions and Agreements, the acceptance carried with it the requirement to pay a quitrent of one-half penny per acre each year after 1670. The settlers, as the time of payment approached, insisted that they held title from King James and the Indians and would not pay the proprietors. It must be assumed that the settlers were aware of this since they all held land grants. Their argument was not valid—they did not hold title from the King, but from the proprietors. In accepting grants of land, the patentees had agreed to pay James or "his Assigns" and, Berkeley and Carteret were his assigns.

For two years there was intermittent rioting. The towns of Elizabeth, Newark, Middletown, Shrewsbury and Piscataway were the fields in which were sown most of the seeds of discontent.

Philip Carteret wasted no time in attempting to resurvey the lands and redistribute them. He sent a warrant on April 4, 1670 authorizing a survey to his Surveyor-General Vauquelin, accompanied by a letter of explanation—"For the Piscataway men ther dividing ther meadows and land without order will signifie nothing for I am about to pattent ther land to particular persons which will be glad to have it upon the same conditions they might have hat itt, and to turne them out of the contrey; and then lett them go into ingland; and disput it in law with the Lords proprietors who hath the greatest interest. I have not more att present."

In November 1672, the Assembly was dissolved and two of the deputies from Piscataway—Edward Slater and John Gilman—held protest meetings at the house of Frances Drake. At the meetings, Slater read several "seditious papers" declaring the governor and government of the Province to be "odyouse in the eyes and hearts of the people."

Council members accused Slater of trying to stir up a mutiny against lawful authority and insurrection and open rebellion against the "King's Royal power and Government . . . and his peace in the s'd province."

It was not long before Slater found himself before two justices. They called no witnesses (other than themselves) and sentenced Slater to a year in the Woodbridge jail, or until he paid a Thirty-Pound fine and furnished bond for good behavior.

As it developed, Slater only spent six months as the guest of the Province. His sentence was remitted and he was released from confinement on April 1, 1682.

For a very short time the Dutch reoccupied their former possessions in what had become New Jersey. The *Minutes of the Council of New Netherlands 1673-1674* notes that a petition of the inhabitants of "the villages of Elisabeths Towne, Niework, Woodbridge and Piscataway" was granted.

The townsmen had requested permission to send delegates to New Orange "to treat with the Admirals and Associate Council of war respecting the surrender of their towns under obedience of their High Mightinesses, the Lords States of the United Netherlands, and his Serene Highness, the Prince of Orange, and that no audience be granted to their late Governor, Capt. John Berry, before and until the same be granted to the said Delegates, etc."

John Baker, Jacob Melyn, and John Ogden had been opposed to the Proprietary government under the English. These Piscatawaytown men saw this as a good chance to thwart Berry's influence with the Dutch.

On August 18, 1673, the Dutch granted the same privileges to the people of Piscataway "as will be accorded to native born subjects and Dutch towns." Their land titles were confirmed and the men were guaranteed that they would not be impressed into the Dutch Navy during any war between the Netherlands and Great Britain.

On August 19, the towns were ordered to nominate "a double number for Schepens or Magistrates of said towns." Also to be selected were two Deputies, three Schouts, and three Secretaries. From Piscatawaytown, John Ogden became

Schout, and Samuel Hopkins, Secretary. They formed a part of the representation of all the towns—"Elizabeth Town, Wood Bridge Shrousbury, New-Worke, Piscatawaij & Middle-towne."

September 6, 1673 was the day when Captain Kuyf and Captain Snell were commissioned travel with the clerk of the Council of War, Abram Varlet, to the towns to administer the oath of allegiance to all inhabitants. They reported back on September 14 noting that all of the men of Piscatawaytown—43—had taken the oath.

Militia officers were elected and sworn in at the same time, "Bennayah" Dunham was elected Captain; Joseph Snow Lieutenant, and John Longstaf, Ensign.

All instructions sent to Piscatawaytown and surrounding areas were written in English while they were under Dutch control.

## Committee Edison Tercentenary Celebration

Honorary Chairman—Mayor Anthony M. Yelenciesic  
Chairman—Alexander M. Bell, Jr.  
Assistant Chairman—Andrew J. Fogas  
Frank D'Aquila  
Historians—Earl S. Miers  
John R. Anderson  
Program—Bernard J. Griffin  
Vincent Gigi  
George Maryanski  
Stephen Capestro  
Coordinators—Miss Barbara Conrad  
Mrs. Vincent De Mers  
Mrs. Matthew Drwal  
Edward Kraszewski  
Mrs. Claire Zamonis  
Mrs. Eugene Childers  
Treasurer—Mrs. Albert Petro  
Secretary—Mrs. Samuel D'Amico  
Publicity—Mrs. William Presch

### ABOUT PAGE ONE PHOTOGRAPH

The photograph across the top of page one was originally published as an illustration in an 1876 atlas and history of Middlesex County. The Augustus Stelle, whose property is shown beyond the railroad, was a prominent agriculturist and land owner. The farm mansion, located where Camp Kilmer now is, was built by him in 1840, the same year the farm came into his possession. In 1921 it was the home of his daughters, who had known no other residence up to that time.

Augustus, the son of Isaac and Frances (Dunn) Stelle, was born October 23, 1815 and died January 14, 1899. He was educated in the district and was an influential democrat. A member of the Stelton Baptist Church, he married Maria Stelle February 12, 1840 in Plainfield. His wife, who had been born in Plainfield on October 25, 1817, died January 15, 1899, surviving Augustus, her husband, by only one day. They are buried side-by-side in the Piscatawaytown cemetery.

## Stuyvesant Frustrated Early Settlement

The people of New Haven Colony had longingly eyed the lands around Acter Kull and on the Raritan, since the land of New England was poor, rocky soil and there was a desire for more fertile lands.

The people of the New Haven colony contemplated a move into New Netherland, but no actual move was made, other than some settlements on Long Island. Deputations were sent to New Amsterdam (New York City) to inquire into details of liberal Dutch offers and to investigate the conditions of lands that might be available.

Governor Peter Stuyvesant entertained them courteously—so much so that delegation made a favorable report and a second deputation was sent to Stuyvesant. This delegation was authorized to negotiate for the settlement of a plantation near

the Raritan River.

The attempt failed because one condition imposed by the Dutch required a limitation on the rights of self-government. The New Haven people wanted an absolutely independent community with all rights of self-government. When they insisted on this, and the Dutch obstinately refused, negotiations were broken off.

In 1663, some of the English settlers from New England who had settled in Flushing, Long Island, revolted against the Dutch Government. Twenty Englishmen from that area attempted to land at the mouth of the Raritan to establish a plantation. Governor Stuyvesant however, prevented their landing by having an armed party awaiting them at the mouth of the Raritan.



## British Move

continued from page 6

near as possible, their destination the time of their sailing and above all how they are convoyed as to numbers and force of ships of War." To do this, it would be necessary to select a site on high ground which would permit the observer to see the ships as they passed Sandy Hook. "If an Officer acquainted with marine Affairs was stationed at Bonum Town and could give intelligence of the time of fleets sailing; endeavouring to distinguish the men of war from the transports."

General Orders, issued by Headquarters, Continental Army, dated December 22, 1778, give us an idea of the strength of the permanent garrison at Bonhamtown. "A Captain, two Subs, three Serjeants, a Drum and Fife and Fifty Rank and File to be sent to Bonam Town as an advanced Picket to be relieved every Monday 'till further orders. The Officer commanding it will receive his instructions from the Adjutant General."

Duty in Bonhamtown was not for those wishing to escape combat. In addition to the skirmish of March 1, 1777, Washington reported action on April 18, May 12, May 26, 1777, and on February 10, 1779. Other sources indicated that action in the neighborhood of this post was constantly a possibility.

On April 18, 1777, the General reported to the President of Congress that there was nothing to report in the military line, "except the Surprising a Small picquet guard of the Enemy, on Monday night at Bonam Town and bringing off Thirteen prisoners by One of our Parties." Another movement was made against Amboy at the same time, but was not successful.

Reports received by Washington from his field commanders often conflicted, and those describing activities in the area of Bonhamtown and Piscataway were no exceptions. Addressing himself to a Major General Adam Stephen from Morristown, the commander-in-chief called attention to the fact that while Stephen's "account of the attempt upon the Enemy at Piscataway is favourable, I am sorry to add, widely different from those I have had from others, (Officers of distinction) who were of the party." It appears that Stephen had reported that the British had left half their dead on the field, and that the Americans had withdrawn in an orderly retreat when the fight went against them. Washington's conclusions, founded on the reports of other observers, were that the British did not leave their dead on the field and, "that instead of an orderly retreat, it was (with the greatest part of the detachment) a disorderly route, and, that the disadvantage was on our side, not the Enemy's, who had notice of your coming and was prepared for it." Stephen answered this letter of May 12, 1777 two days later. He insisted on the truth of his former report, claiming that his troops were forced to retire for lack of support from those who deliberately held off half a mile away. The Major General insisted as well that the reports disagreeing with his version had

come from the very officers who had failed to support him.

Washington reported this skirmish to the President of Congress on the same day he wrote Stephens. "On Saturday a Smart Skirmish happened with a detachment of our Troops, who attacked a Number of the Enemy near Piscataway, in which our men behaved well and obliged the Enemy to give way twice, as reported to me, with loss; The Enemy receiving a strong Reinforcement, our People retreated to their Post. I cannot give the particulars, as they have not been sufficiently ascertained."

By May 26, 1777, the British had withdrawn from Bonhamtown and Piscataway, and marched into New Brunswick. Washington, in his Morristown headquarters felt that this was a defensive move.

Two years later, on February 10, 1779, Washington reported the "Surprisal of the guard from Bonham Town. A disgrace of this kind can never happen to an Officer who is attentive to his duty and takes common precautions. I desire therefore that Lieutt. Pierson, who had command of the guard, may be immediately put under arrest, and ordered to Camp if he was detached from hence or to the quarters of the Jersey Bridage, if he belongs to those troops that he may take his trial." From the few accounts we have of the actions involving the Bonhamtown detachment, it does not appear to have been too alert to surprise! Lieutenant Pierson's fate has not come to light.

An intelligence report mentioned by Washington on February 15, 1779, indicated that information was being collected by a Captain Stokes. Stokes had advised Washington that the "enemy on Staten Island appear to be in motion, and have been collecting boats both at New York and the Island." This intelligence was passed on to Brigadier General William Maxwell, who was advised by Washington to "redouble your vigilance and be ready to oppose any attempt they may make near you." Maxwell was also advised to remove "a considerable number of fat cattle" from between Woodbridge and the blazing star. He told Maxwell that "I have desired Capt Stokes to assist you in the business and to communicate to you any further discoveries he may make."

The French Alliance, which brought France into the Revolutionary War on the American side brought special orders for the Bonhamtown garrison. The treaty with France, naturally, brought a spirit of festivity to the Continentals, then located at Pluckemin. A celebration was planned for February 18, 1779 and Washington "directed the officer commanding at Bonum Town to be particularly vigilant and to transmit" to Colonel Abraham Buford "the earliest intelligence, shd any movement happen." Washington's orders were passed on to Captain Stokes, who was commander at Bonhamtown, by Alexander Hamilton. He was enjoined to exercise extra vigilance on the Thursday in question, both that night and part of the next day.

Washington was taking no chances of a possible surprise attack during the celebration.

## Area Residents on Revolutionary Committees

Since this area was a part of Woodbridge and Piscataway townships during the War for Independence, residents serving on committees working for independence were listed under those of the townships in which they lived. Two members of the Woodbridge Committee of Observation lived in what is now Edison Township — William Smith and Ebenezer Foster. Jacob Titsworth and John Dunn were listed as members of the Piscataway Township Committee of Observation.

The same four men have been identified as having made up the Committee of Correspondence in what was to become Raritan Township.

William Smith and James Dunn were listed as members of the Provincial Congress from this area.

There may have been others, however, the overlapping of names between Woodbridge and Piscataway townships presents a problem in identification.

A Thompson Stelle was appointed Commissioner for Middlesex County to dispose of confiscated property. He was probably captured by the British for on June 27, 1777, William Manning replaced him.

Committees of Observation and Correspondence were established throughout the colonies to keep tabs on plans and activities of the royal government, and to keep each other informed of what was being planned that might hinder colonial moves for more self-government.

## First Election As Township 1870

The first municipal election in Edison Township (then Raritan Township) was held on April 16, 1870 in the old Metuchen Academy. Up to this time, the government of the area was that of either Woodbridge and Piscataway.

Luther H. Tappan became the township assessor, Charles C. Campbell, the collector. John T. Martin was selected as township clerk, and Israel Thornall, overseer of the poor. Chosen Freeholders were Michael M. Lupardus. The township committee consisted of Manning Freeman, W. E. Crowell, Augustus Blackford, Theodore A. Wood and Augustus Stelle (whose home is pictured at the top of page 1).



Interior of the Mt. Pleasant School, circa 1890. Can anyone identify those in the picture?

## Mainline Railroad Arrived In 1835

When the first steam train passed through what is now Edison Township on January 2, 1836, on its way to New Brunswick, it signaled the beginning of an active railroading career for the Edison-Metuchen area.

Tracks on the New Jersey Railroad were completed between Jersey City and New Brunswick in 1835. The first train, drawn by a new locomotive, *New Brunswick*, pulling thirteen cars decorated with banners bearing the name of counties, cities and villages along the line, came down from Newark at the high speed of fifteen miles an hour.

Passengers had to transfer across the Raritan River bridge in stages at a charge of 6½ cents each. A railroad bridge was built across the river and opened for service on January 1, 1838. This line became what is today the high-speed electrified main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The next railroad to run through the township was the Lehigh Valley, chartered on March 11, 1858. Chartered as the Perth Amboy and Bound Brook Railroad Company, construction was delayed until after April 2, 1872, when the PA&BB RR Co. was consolidated with the Bound Brook & Easton, becoming the Easton & Amboy Railroad.

At one time the Reading Company had planned to run through service from Central Avenue, Metuchen to New York, with three trains daily. This idea never materialized, and service to New York was limited to the Lehigh Valley and Pennsylvania.

While the Reading Railroad never organized through service to New York, it has passed through this area since 1892. Construction began a year earlier, with traffic beginning in September, 1892. The Woodbridge Branch was opened in July, 1900.

This was primarily a freight line, but there are indications that passenger trains were operated at various times.

An interesting industrial line was that constructed to serve the clay pits that were located in what is now Raritan Arsenal. Surveyed in 1880, what was known as the "Raritan Ridge" railroad was constructed over a right of way filled in with sand, gravel, and strippings from the clay banks. A light locomotive and horses were used for motive power. As the tracks kept

sinking, Charles Bloomfield, the owner, had to keep filling in the right of way.

When the arsenal was constructed during World War I, this railroad became the "Arsenal Road," and was connected with the gravel railroad at Bonhamtown. It was also extended onto the salt marshes, and began hauling heavy freight with large motive power. In 1918, new rails were laid, but in two years these were as crooked as snakes. This resulted in army trucks, fitted with heavy flanged wheels taking the place of heavy locomotives. The tracks were ripped up in 1936, as a connection had been established at the arsenal between the Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley railroads.

In 1859, the New Jersey Railroad bought a tract of land at Bonhamtown, containing a deposit of yellow gravel. The railroad built a branch line from the main line at Amboy Avenue in Metuchen, to the gravel pit, a distance of three miles.

The single track gravel line was used for years as a siding for long freight trains which pulled in to clear the line for more important passenger trains. This is now the Bonhamtown Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

A lease was signed on June 30, 1871, taking effect the next day, whereby the New Jersey Railroad and Transportation Company, the Camden & Amboy Railroad, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company, known as the United Companies, was leased to the Pennsylvania for a period of 999 years.

Since then, there have been few striking changes on the system. As time went on, trains grew longer, faster, and more powerful, with a through line from New York to Chicago, and to Washington, D. C. and St. Louis.

## Area Had Heavy Civil War Loss

The company of the 28th Regiment, N. J. Volunteers, made up of men from this section almost wiped out in the Battle of Fredricksburg, December 11-15, 1862. Found dead on the battlefield were Harry Brantingham, George Boice, Peter F. Runyon, Joel F. Langstaff, Martin V. McCray, William M. Merrell, Jeremiah R. Field, Augustine Ryno, Charles W. Toubet, Clarence D. Green, Aaron H. Lane, and Samuel Baker.

The Union forces under Burnside lost more than 1,000 men out of a total of 12,653.

## Menlo Park

continued from page 5  
considering that he often worked 100 hours a week.

Through this dedication, not only to himself, and his inventions, but also to the people of the world, you can see why Edison is and should be called the "Genius of Invention." Had it not been for Edison, the progress of this century would have been kept at a slower pace.

At the time of his death, he was still attempting to find even better filaments for the incandescent bulb he had first invented more than fifty years before, where it all began — at Menlo Park.



NOT TO BE TAKEN  
FROM LIBRARY

EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HISTORIC EDISON

June 28, 1964



MAP OF RARITAN (NOW EDISON) TOWNSHIP  
CIRCA 1875



NOT TO BE TAKEN  
FROM LIBRARY

# A CENTURY OF LIGHT

EDISON 1879 FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

A major exposition honoring Thomas Alva Edison with particular emphasis on this year's 100th anniversary of the invention of the first practical incandescent light will be held Friday and Saturday at Middlesex County College in Edison.

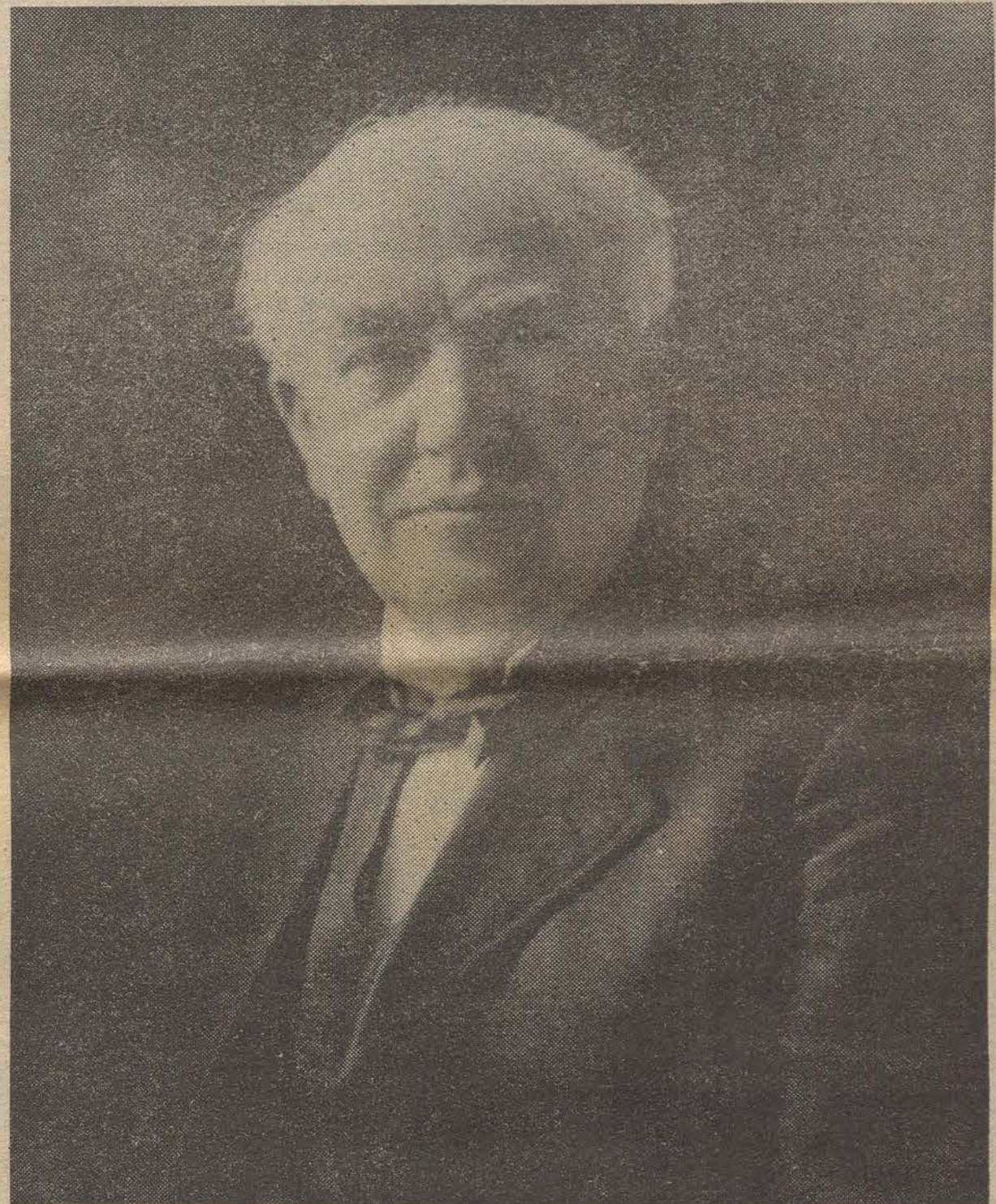
That invention and its later ramifications literally transformed the world, changing almost overnight whole patterns of social, business and industrial activity and giving birth to related applications that in turn created new patterns, new businesses and new industries.

The impact of that one single invention is still being felt today in additional applications and will continue to be felt in the future.

The exposition, to be held at Middlesex County College is being co-sponsored by the Edison Chamber of Commerce and the Edison Centennial Commission. It will feature nearly 100 exhibits including Thomas Edison memorabilia.

Much of Edison's contributions to the world originated in his Middlesex County laboratory at Menlo Park, located in a municipality that decades later took his name as its title in honor of his genius.

This special section focuses on the approaching exposition and describes some of the history and background of Edison as an individual and the accomplishments of Edison as one of the greatest inventors the world has ever known.



## 1979 EDISON CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

MAY 4th AND 5th  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

SPONSORED BY



EDISON TOWNSHIP



CHAMBER of COMMERCE



EDISON CENTENNIAL  
COMMISSION

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

1 HOOVER WAY  
WOODBIDGE, N.J.  
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1979





### Readying exposition

Edison Mayor Anthony Yelencsics stands in front of the Edison Tower, a memorial to Thomas Alva Edison, with Frank D. Hall and John J. Hogan, president of the Edison Chamber of Commerce. Hall is chairman of the Edison Centennial Exposition to be held Friday and Saturday at Middlesex County College in honor of the 100th anniversary of the electric light. The exposition is sponsored by the chamber. **Story, Page 3**

# Edison papers to be compiled

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Preparations are underway to launch a massive 20-year, \$6-million project to compile and publish the papers of Thomas Alva Edison.

Dr. Reece V. Jenkins, a scholar in 19th and 20th century science and director of the project, said he hopes to have about six researchers on his staff by the end of the summer.

"We (himself and his secretary) are now in the process of preparing materials," he said about the first of a 15- to 20-volume book edition. Selected papers will be placed on up to 225 reels of microfilm.

Why 20 years? Jenkins, an associate professor of history of science and technology at Case Western Reserve University, cited the enormity of the job as exemplified by the voluminous amount of materials.

There are, for example, two-and-a-half million pages of materials, 40,000 known artifacts and 20,000 papers scattered in locations around the world, he said.

At an underground vault in Edison's West Orange lab alone, there are 3,000 lab notebooks and 100,000 copies of letters by the inventor, among other items.

Moreover, there is a "substantial body of patents and applications," he said.

The project is being funded in part by the National Parks Service, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the N.J. Historical Commission and Rutgers.

In addition, a fund raising campaign is underway to raise money from private donors and foundations, he said.

Jenkins stressed that the project "represents a new direction" with the emphasis being focused on science and technology, instead of political figures, as in the past.

"People associated with technology and industry were badly neglected," he

said.

The professor also underscored the leadership role played by Rutgers, singling out in particular James Kirby Martin, vice president for academic affairs. He also stressed that the main goal of the project is to publish the papers.

Although the project headquarters is at Rutgers, much of the work will be done at the Edison National Historical Site in West Orange, where most of Edison's voluminous papers are located.

Born in Muncie, Ind., in 1938, Jenkins received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Ro-

chester in 1960. He received a Master of Science degree in 1963 and his doctorate in 1966, both from the University of Wisconsin.

He taught at the University of Wisconsin and Northern Illinois University before joining the faculty of Case Western in 1967 as an assistant professor of history of science and technology. He was promoted to associate professor in 1974.

He has written more than 20 articles and book reviews and collaborated in a book-length bibliography, "Chemical, Medical, Pharmaceutical Books Printed Before 1800."

## Don't Miss The



## Celebrating Thomas A. Edison's CENTENNIAL OF LIGHT

**FRIDAY MAY 4th - 5 P.M. to 9 P.M.  
SATURDAY MAY 5th - 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.**

**TO BE HELD AT  
MIDDLESEX  
COUNTY COLLEGE  
FREE ADMISSION  
Open to the Public**

### Featuring:

**EXHIBITS:** The Exposition will include all phases of activity in Edison. Civic, Business, Industrial, Educational, Governmental, Clubs, Hospitals, Police, Fire and Health Exhibitions will be displayed.

**MOVIES:** A film titled "Gathering of Minds" will be shown on a regularly scheduled time table. The film is a story of Thomas A. Edison and his Associates at work in their Menlo Park laboratory.

**SPECIAL EXHIBITS:** The U.S. Navy will exhibit a fighter plane at the exposition. Also on display will be a U.S. Army helicopter, closed circuit video plus blood pressure testing.

**SPONSORED BY**



EDISON TOWNSHIP

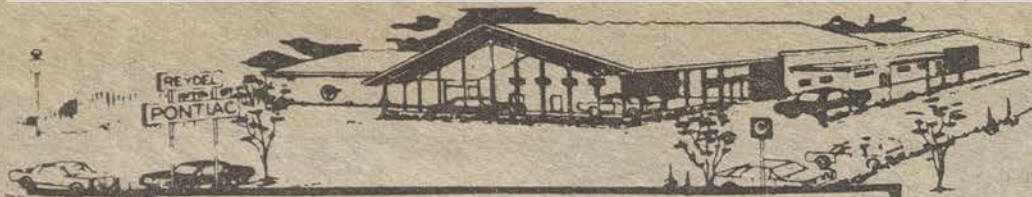


EDISON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



EDISON CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

## REYDEL PONTIAC



"Middlesex County's Largest Pontiac Dealer"

**On our  
25th ANNIVERSARY  
We applaud  
Thomas Edison's Achievement  
of 100 years of light.**

## REYDEL PONTIAC

ROUTE 27

287-2828

EDISON

## "A World of Difference"

**100 Years Ago . . .**

**Edison made a world of difference  
when he turned night into day.**

**THE DANA AGENCY  
Has Joined Realty World®  
To Make . . .**

*"A World of Difference"*

**TO THE HOME BUYERS AND SELLERS  
OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

**Dana Agency**



15 WOOD AVE. • MENLO PARK • 548-7500 • RMLS



# Edison exposition to open Friday

EDISON — Booths containing artifacts and memorabilia of Thomas Alva Edison, continuous showings of film clips of silent movies he produced and displays of a jet fighter, helicopter and snorkel fire truck are some of the highlights of the 1979 Edison Centennial Exposition which will be held Friday and Saturday at Middlesex County College.

In all, there will be 100 booths on display, representing various segments of the township including business, industry, education, government, organizations and police and fire departments, according to Louis Gruninger, executive vice president of the Edison Chamber of Commerce.

## List of exhibitors, Page 8

The Chamber is sponsoring the Exposition which will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, and continue to 9 p.m. The hours on Saturday are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Among the artifacts and memorabilia will be an electric light, electric iron, electric waffle iron and motion pictures, Gruninger said.

They are being supplied by the Chamber, Public Service Electric & Gas Co. and the U.S. National Park Service from the Edison Historic Site in West Orange.

The film clips, said Gruninger, will be shown in a replica of the "Black Maria" the world's first motion picture studio erected in 1893 on the grounds of the inventor's West Orange laboratory. The replica has been constructed by Edison public school students as a project of the Industrial Arts Department.

In addition, a movie dealing with Edison's work at his Menlo Park laboratory will be shown.

This was the first research and development laboratory in the world.

Called "A Gathering of Minds," the film's running time is 15 minutes. It points out that Edison's invention of the electric light was the beginning of a new field in the practical use of electricity.

The Navy will exhibit a Navy jet fighter at the exposition.

Music also will play a role at the exposition, said Gruninger. The Middlesex County College band and a group of square dancers will give separate performances.

All of the events are free to the public.

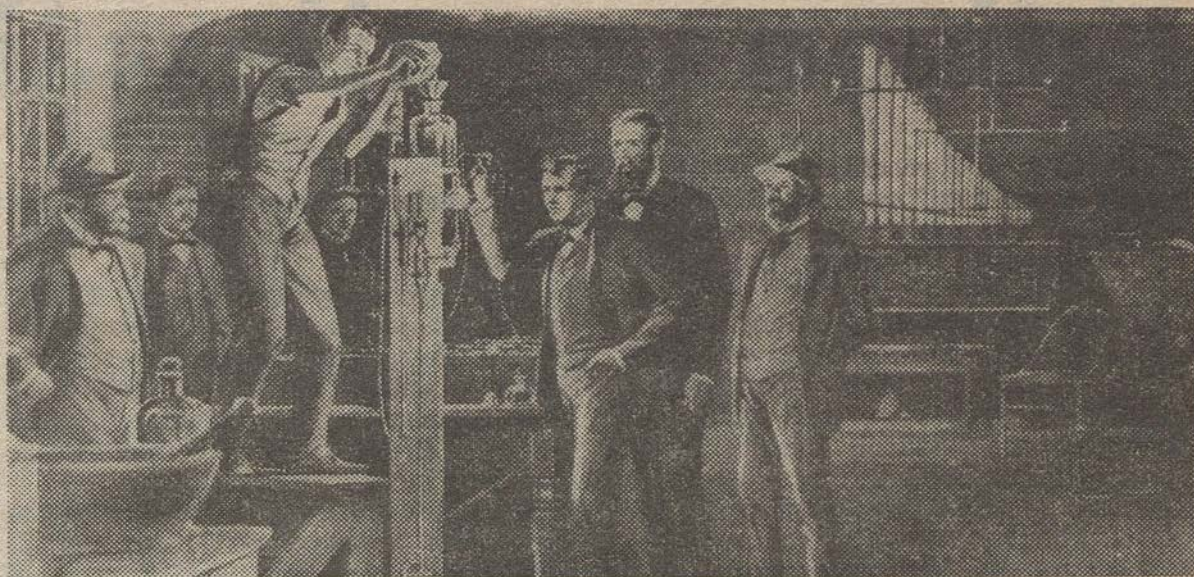
There are other events planned for the year-long celebration of the Centennial. The year long celebration was proclaimed by Gov. Brendan Byrne.

More than 1,000 persons are expected to attend the 100th anniversary of the electric light and the 25th anniversary of the naming of the township after Edison on Friday Oct. 19 at the Pines Manor.

In the meantime, the Chamber of Commerce is producing a souvenir map of Edison in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the invention of the electric light and 20,000 maps are expected to be available for distribution next month.

The Chamber also will present to the township a bronze bust of Edison and a bronze plaque listing his accomplishments while his laboratory was located at Menlo Park.

The bust and plaque will be displayed in the lobby of the new township hall which is scheduled for completion in October.



Testing the bulb

Artist's conception shows Thomas Alva Edison testing the first successful incandescent lamp at Menlo Park. The test was completed Oct. 21, 1879.

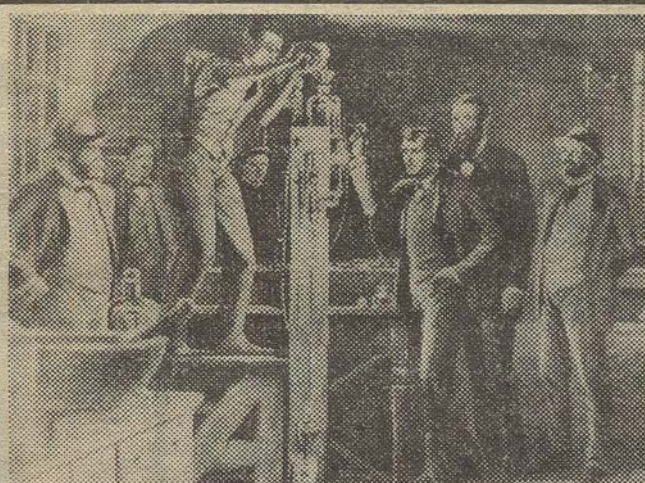
1869-1979

## More than 110 Years of Progress at the Perth Amboy Savings Institution

This bank was ten years old when Thomas Edison discovered the incandescent light. While his discovery has continued to serve the entire world... Perth Amboy Savings has continued to serve the families of Middlesex County with all of their personal banking needs...

**PERTH AMBOY SAVINGS INSTITUTION**

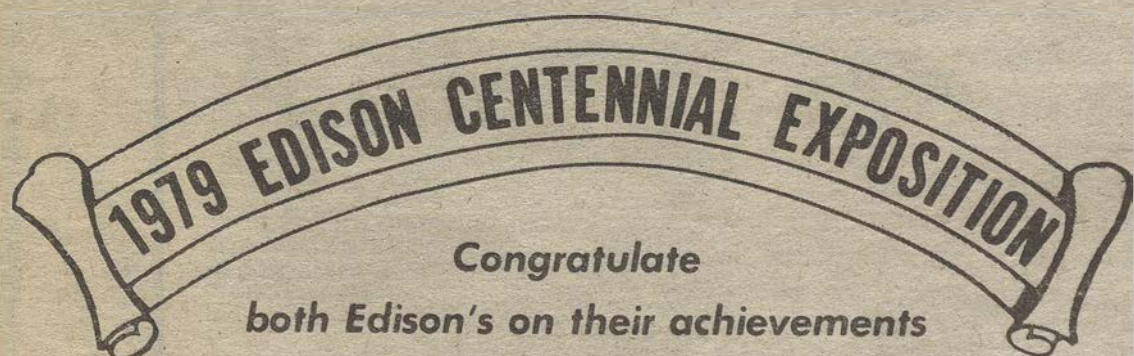
PERTH AMBOY: Downtown — Smith & Maple Streets  
Satellite — Maple Street between Smith & Market Streets  
Forbesdale — Florida Grove Road & Gornik Drive  
EDISON/METUCHEN: 1197 Amboy Avenue, Edison  
SAYREVILLE: Route 9 & Bordentown Avenue  
WOODBIDGE: 541 Rahway Avenue  
Telephone: 442-4100 — For Sayreville telephone: 721-4940  
Member F.D.I.C.



100 YEARS AGO

The Birth of a Great Invention

The following participants and supporters of the



**EDISON CETA**  
Plainfield Rd. & Woodbridge Ave.  
Edison Municipal Bldg.  
572-0900

**EDISON CHAPTER of DEBORAH**  
85 Burnham Dr.  
Fords 225-1368

**GERRUS MAINTENANCE CO.**  
GERRUS SANITARY & MAINTENANCE SERVICE  
GERRUS CONCRETE CLEANING & COATING  
Bldg. 431, Raritan Center Edison 225-0662

**BRUCE KIRKPATRICK INSURANCE CO.**  
2116 Oak Tree Rd.  
Edison 548-3394

**NAMETRE CO.**  
272 Loring Ave.  
Edison 985-5659

**RAMADA INN**  
3050 Woodbridge Ave.  
Edison 494-2000

**United Jersey Bank**  
CENTRAL  
11 OFFICES IN UNION AND MIDDLESEX COUNTIES  
Phone: (201) 354-7400

**Automatic Catering**  
58 Brunswick Ave.  
Edison 287-0676



# Edison penniless 'inventor' in 1869

Friendless and penniless, Thomas A. Edison arrived in New York City in the spring of 1869 naively believing he would be recognized as an inventor because he had so advertised himself.

True, he had secured one patent — for a mechanical vote counter that would immediately record votes as Congressmen pulled either a "yes" or "no" switch. He had however mistakenly thought politicians would welcome it.

Edison recalled the reception he received when he showed the vote recorder to a congressional committee.

"Young man," the committee chairman bristled, "that is exactly what we don't want." Anonymous, slow votes suited Congress just fine, the chairman explained.

Edison wanted to invent items that would be in "commercial demand."

On the second day of his visit, Edison called upon Franklin Pope, probably New York's best known electrical engineer at the time. Pope was employed by a major financial house that circulated prices of gold on a mechanical "Gold Indicator."

Since prices of gold fluctuated minute by minute, it was absolutely vital that the machines be precise and prompt. A few days later, Edison was in the company's headquarters observing the indicator flashing gold prices to dozens of offices around the city when the machine

stopped.

Panic gripped the company. Pope began extensive and complicated tests on the machine.

Unperturbed by the tumult, Edison calmly pointed out the trouble — a broken spring. He replaced the spring, reset the machine and put Wall Street back on the gold standard within minutes. Edison shrugged it off as merely common sense and good luck.

His quick work led to a job with the firm. Soon he and Pope formed a small company to construct "various types of electrical devices."

Edison lived in Pope's home in Elizabeth and worked 16 to 18 hours daily in a tiny Jersey City laboratory.

The real target for any inventor was Western Union and vice versa, since Western Union was not about to let upstart inventors become competitors.

Western Union bought out Edison and Pope within six months. Marshall Lefferts, a top executive, asked Edison to devote his talents exclusively to Western Union.

No financial terms were set. Edison made dozens of minor improvements to Western Union equipment.

Finally, when he made major improvements on the company's stock ticker, sure to reap huge savings, Lefferts decided it was time to settle accounts before Edison

recognized his real worth.

Lefferts summoned Edison to New York in 1871 and asked him how much the company owed him.

The inventor recalled in later years that he said he should get \$5,000 and would not settle for less than \$3,000. When Lefferts offered him \$40,000 he quickly accepted.

He cashed the check and by his own account went back to New Jersey by ferry-

boat and train with his overcoat and suit pockets stuffed with small bills.

Within 30 days Edison had spent virtually the entire fortune for new experimental equipment. He explained:

"Mine was too sanguine a temperament to keep money in solitary confinement."

But something more important had been released from confinement: Edison's genius. T.A. Edison, inventor, had arrived.



MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

is proud to take part in the

1979 EDISON

CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION



While Thomas Alva Edison made history by bringing the world out of darkness with the electric light one-hundred years ago, Middlesex, your community college, has dedicated itself to highlighting and making available diversified education, enlightenment, and enrichment in the world of today.

## Tower museum open to public

EDISON — A miniature light bulb that never goes out and other Thomas A. Edison inventions are among the items at the Edison Memorial Tower museum.

The museum is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m.

It is closed on Mondays.

Reservations and tour information may be obtained by contacting Richard Walczak at the museum.

The tower itself, darkened from 1976 to early this year, is shining brighter than ever.

The state Department of Environmental Protection rewired the tower at a cost of \$45,000 and the 13-foot lightbulb began to glow again in March.

# CONGRATULATIONS EDISON

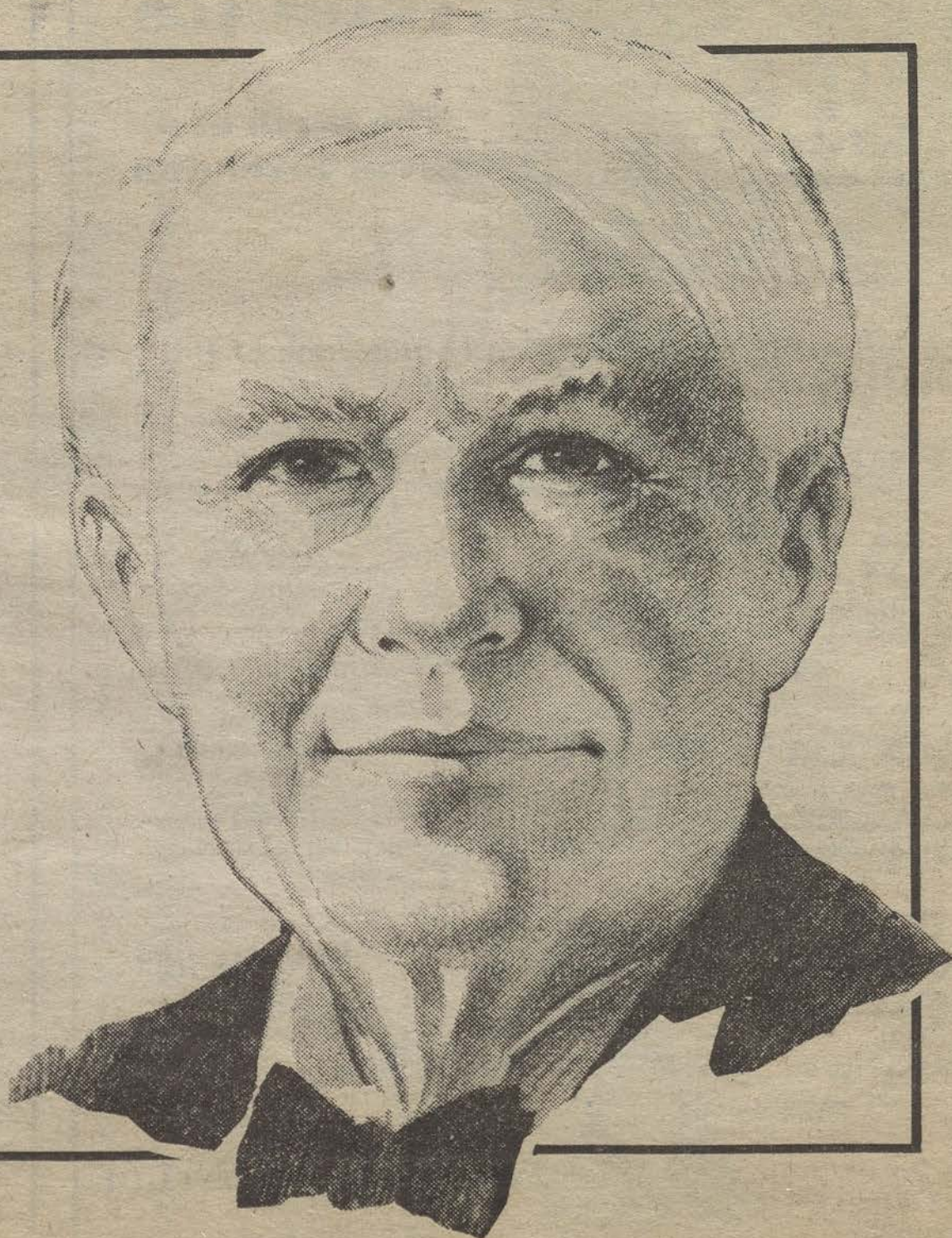
IN YOUR CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION OF  
THOMAS EDISON'S  
INVENTION OF THE  
ELECTRIC LIGHT . . .

**menlo park mall**

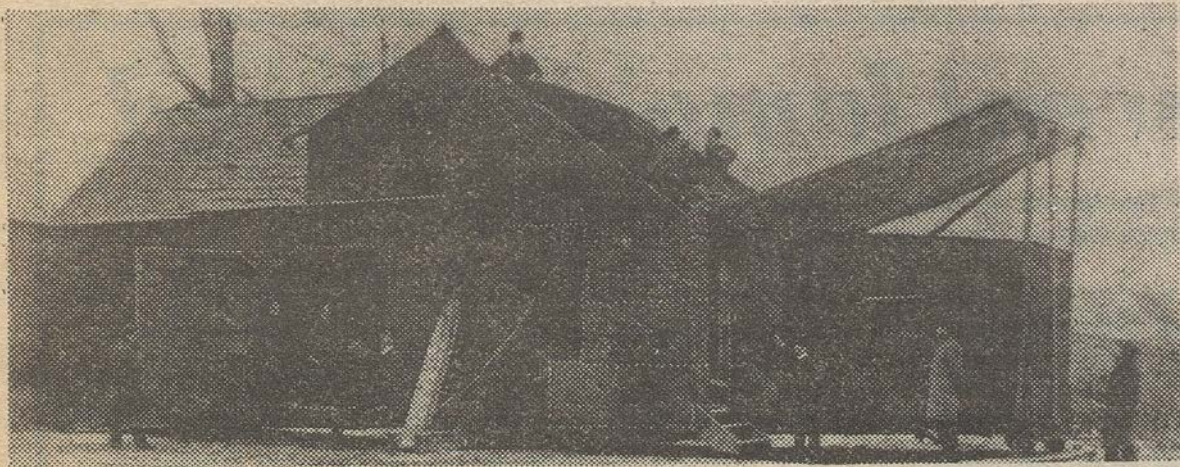
BAMBERGERS • JC PENNEY  
ALEXANDER'S • PATHMARK

Plus scores of other fine stores all under one roof.

U.S. Rt. 1 at Parsonage Rd. in Edison, N. J.







The Black Maria, the first film studio, was built by Thomas Edison in 1893.

## Film studio built

Thomas A. Edison did many experiments with motion pictures.

Though his role as a pioneer in the industry has been criticized by some scholars, it is known that, as early as 1887, he expressed an interest in a device to record motion to members of his staff.

Using a film developed by the Eastman Kodak Company, Edison and his assistants built Black Maria, the first specially-designed motion picture studio, in 1893.

The next year, a peephole device, the Kinetoscope, developed by Edison, presented the first paid public motion picture shows.

Edison favored the peep-show, individual projections, while other inventors — including Louis Lumiere, Thomas Armat, and others — went on to devise systems, using a screen on a wall, which were the forebears of the modern movie theater.

William K.L. Dickson, a key figure in Edison's laboratory development of motion picture cameras and projectors, said of the Black Maria: "With its flapping sail-like roof and ebony hue," The Black Maria "has a wierd and semi-nautical appearance, and the uncanny effect is not lessened when, on an imperceptible signal, the great building swings slowly around upon a graphited center, presenting any given angle to the rays of the sun, and rendering the operations independent of daily variations."

## Better battery made

Thomas A. Edison began working to make a better electrical battery at the turn of the century.

At the time, efficient electrical generators, called dynamos, were used to generate electricity. Batteries to store electrical current were in common use.

These lead-acid batteries were heavy and destroyed themselves. Edison's contribution to this field was the nickel-iron-alkaline battery, perfected after 10 years of research, some 50,000 experiments and

with \$1 million of Edison's own money.

The alkaline battery is still in use today.

The battery he created was lighter than the lead-acid batteries and slower to decompose. Also, upon recharging, the battery would reassume its former internal physical structure.

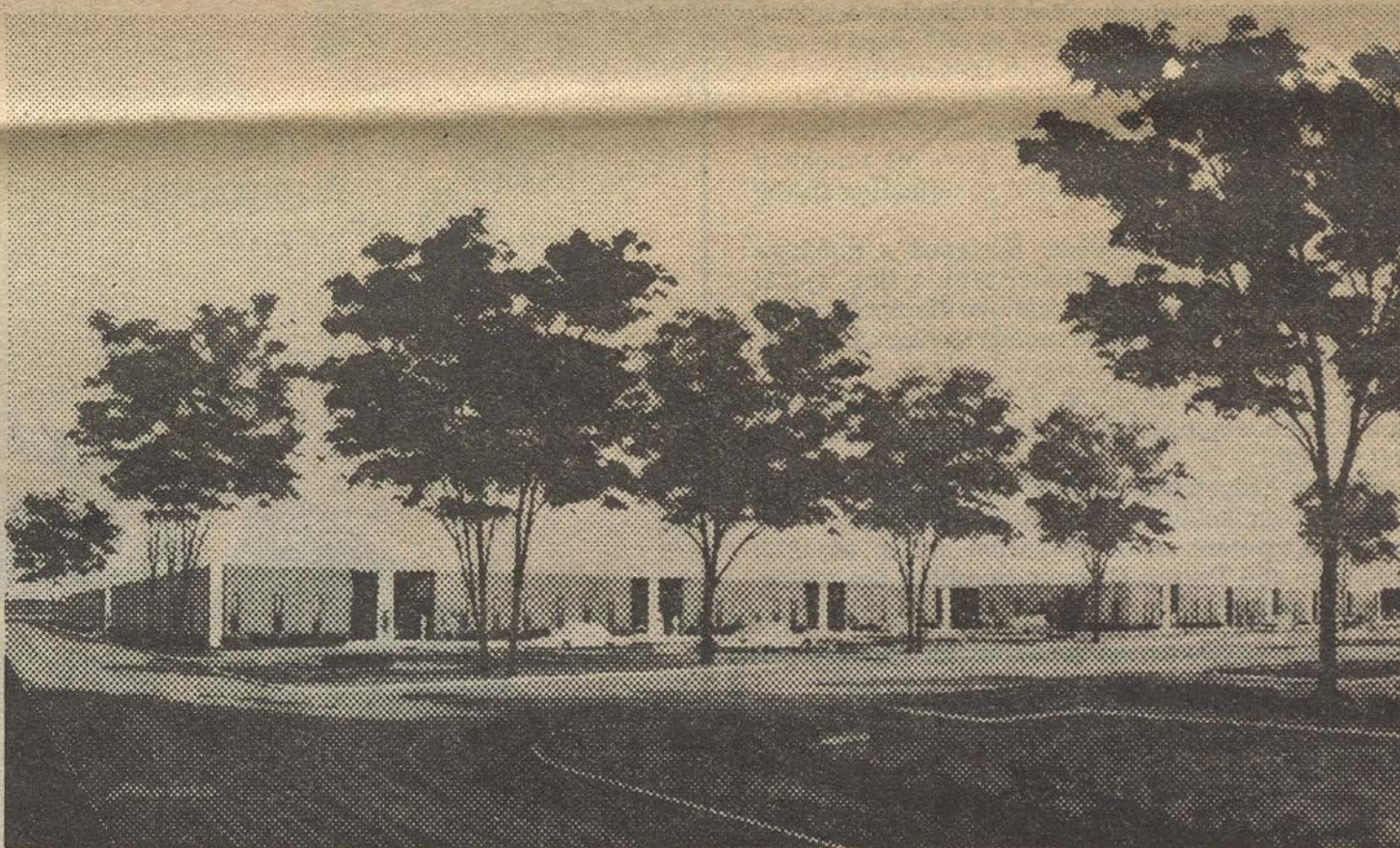
An electrical storage battery is a cell or a group of cells which are electrolytic units and produce electrical energy from a chemical action.

# PROGRESS

## TAILOR MADE!

### Federal Business Centers New Multi-Purpose Buildings

1600 Square Feet — 75,000 Square Feet Available



Designed for Utility by Federal Business Centers

### Converting Dreams into Factual Achievements

Space . . . designed to fit the requirements of a tenant's present needs with room for future growth, many built-in energy-saving features and a prime location. That was our goal in designing this five-unit complex! That goal is now a hard fact reality with the 3rd building scheduled for completion in June. Fourth building scheduled for completion in December.

For further information on the availability of Industrial and Office Space, call us or

VISIT OUR BOOTH ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY.

- A. Modular Construction—Means Tailor Made Space
- B. Prestige Location—At Raritan Center, Edison, N.J.
- C. Suitability—For Any Type of Business Office, Distribution, Manufacturing or Service
- D. Room for Growth—Whenever It Is Needed

Building 1—Fully Leased. Building 2—Under Construction  
Buildings 4 & 5—In Design Stage for 1979

Prime Commercial/Industrial Properties  
Warehousing/Distribution Services



## FEDERAL BUSINESS CENTERS

300 Raritan Center Parkway  
Edison, New Jersey 08817  
(201) 225-2200

*Boro Motors*  
Salutes the

100th  
ANNIVERSARY  
of

Thomas Edison's  
"better  
idea"

*Boro Motors*



Route 27 at Interstate 287  
METUCHEN  
548-5151





Lamp replica

The first successful incandescent lamp invented by Thomas Alva Edison in Menlo Park used a filament of carbonized cotton sewing thread and burned for 40 hours.

## Incandescent lamp developed

"The longer it burned, the more fascinated we were. None of us could go to bed, and there was no sleep for any of us for 40 hours.

"We sat and just watched. It was anxiety growing into elation. The lamp lasted about 45 hours, and I realized that the practical incandescent lamp had been born. TAE"

In these heartfelt words, the inimitable inventor Thomas Alva Edison remembered the events of October 19-21, 1879. Two years of laborious research had yielded this lamp prototype, the first to promise practical and inexpensive light to the world.

When Edison began his incandescent light experiments in the autumn of 1887, arc lights (large, brilliant electric lamps requiring a high current and emitting noxious gases) were already in use for lighting streets.

There was widespread interest among inventors to develop a system by which the electric light could be "subdivided;" that is, divide the intense light into many smaller, milder, individually-controlled lights for domestic use.

"The problem," said Mr. Edison, "appealed to my imagination also."

In early October 1878, the Edison Electric Light Company (later to become General Electric) was organized in New York City to attack the incandescent light problem.

Edison perceived that lamps employing high-resistance filaments and connected in parallel circuits were the key to practical "subdivision" of the electric light. Equally important, a higher vacuum had to be

attained inside the bulb, in order to extend the life of the glowing filament.

After months of extensive experimentation on hundreds of different filament materials, Edison settled upon carbon as the most satisfactory.

Edison and his associates tried passing electricity through a carbonized piece of cotton sewing thread bent into a horseshoe shape. The best vacuum pump available, further improved by Edison, was employed, creating a substantial vacuum within the sealed glass globe.

The lamp burned for what was then a remarkably long time. Two years after beginning work, Thomas Edison was victorious.

News of Edison's invention astounded the world. Edison Electric stock rose to \$3,500 a share while gas lighting stocks plummeted.

The first small, workable lighting system was frantically prepared for a demonstration at Edison's Menlo Park laboratory in December 1879; its lights displayed for the public on New Year's Eve.

Edison recalled the celebration: "The Pennsylvania Railroad ran special trains from New York, bringing a crowd of 3,000 people to see the new light!"

The "Wizard of Menlo Park" had established the basic principle of a successful light bulb.

Its practical use, however, would be dependent upon Edison developing a vast "system" of electrical generation and distribution.

Of the 1,093 U.S. patents Edison obtained during his 84 years, 356 dealt with electric lighting and the generation and distribution of electricity.

## Phonograph invented

The phonograph, a machine which reproduces sound, was developed by Thomas A. Edison in 1877 when he was searching for a high-speed telegraph transmitter.

While experimenting, he noticed that a mechanism he had developed, a paper tape with indentations representing the dots and dashes of Morse code, gave off a musical sound when the tape struck the end of an adjusting spring in the mechanism.

Using this observation, Edison designed a machine which consisted of a metal cylinder with a fine, spiral groove impressed on its surface, and two diaphragm-and-needle units, one of which would record the sound, and the other reproduce it.

The cylinder was mounted on a mechanism, so that turning a handle would make it both revolve and move from left to right.

It is said that Edison was astounded when the machine produced a recognizable reproduction of his voice.

Edison filed a patent for the invention on Dec. 24, 1877, and nothing in the Patent Office resembled the instrument he had created.

100 YEARS AGO EDISON HAD  
AN IDEA THAT IMPROVED  
ALL OUR LIVES . . .

We have lots of ideas to  
improve your life today!

Ask Us At The Centennial Exposition



WOODBIDGE AVE.  
EDISON

985-5252

1 mi. west of Middlesex Co. College

LET CLARKE LIGHT UP  
YOUR LIFE WITH A JOB!



VISIT  
BOOTH 68  
The busiest  
booth at the  
fair.

- WIN a dinner for 2 at the PINES, EDISON
- FREE typing test
- Literature and information on job opportunities in the area.
- Learn what it means to be a "temp."

CLARKE EMPLOYMENT  
AGENCY

495 MAIN ST., METUCHEN

549-2020



First  
National  
State

985-0500

You Can Always  
**BANK ON  
THE RAINBOW**

To cover the  
full spectrum of  
all your  
banking needs.

See our booth at the  
Edison Centennial Exposition  
May 4 and 5 at  
Middlesex County College

**First National State Bank-Edison**

A First National State Bancorporation Bank

Member FDIC

21 Offices conveniently located throughout Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties. **YOUR NEAREST GOOD NEIGHBOR OFFICES: EDISON:** Route 27 & Stony Road West • Menlo Park Shopping Center • 1630 Oak Tree Road • Raritan Arsenal, Woodbridge Avenue



# Edison's works listed

Most people can identify Edison as the inventor of the light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion picture camera. Beyond that, their knowledge of his works is limited.

Edison earned 1,093 U.S. patents in all, more than any other individual. Some of his more significant developments follow:

1868 — Invented electric vote recorder (Oct. 13).

1869 — Invented electric stock ticker.

1872 — Invented motor-graph and duplex, quadruplex, sextuplex and multiplex telegraph systems.

1874 — Invented "electric pen" and manual duplicating press.

1875 — Discovered "etheric force."

1877 — Invented telephone transmitter and the microphone (April 27). Invented the phonograph (Dec. 6).

1879 — Invented the incandescent electric light (Oct. 21). Gave first public demonstration of electric street and building lighting in Menlo Park (Dec. 31).

1880 — Discovered "Edison Effect," the fundamental principle of the science of electronics. Invented magnetic ore separator (April 3). Invented and installed first electric railway for freight and passenger use (May 13).

1883 — Patented the electric indicator using "Edison Effect" (Nov. 15).

1885 — Invented system of wireless telegraphy for use between moving trains and railway stations, as well as ship-to-shore (March 27).

1889 — First projected an experimental motion picture (Oct. 6).

1891 — Patented the motion picture camera (Aug. 24).

1894 — First commercial showing of motion pictures on Broadway in New York City (April 14).

1896 — Invented the fluoroscope, using principles of x-ray for medicine and surgery.

1899 — Invented the fluorescent light (May 16).

1902 — Invented the alkaline storage battery.

1905 — Established the first Portland Cement mill. Introduced new dictating machine which allowed the dictator to hear repetitions and note corrections.

1907 — Introduced the first universal electric motor which operated on all lighting circuits.

1912 — Introduced the Kinetophone (talking motion picture).

1914 — Invented a method for producing synthetic carboic acid. Invented the Telescribe, combining the telephone and the dictating phonograph. Patented electric safety lanterns for use by miners (Oct. 13).

1915 — Established plants for manufacture of coal-tar derivatives.

1927 — Commenced experiments to discover a domestic source of natural rubber.

## John F. Kennedy Medical Center —Growing to Meet Tomorrow's Health Needs



John F. Kennedy Medical Center undertakes its third major expansion program in 1979 in a development program keyed to providing both the facilities and programs needed to meet the present and future health needs of this region.

A \$3,700,000 project will expand the capabilities of the Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Rehabilitation Institute, a major division of Kennedy Medical Center. The Johnson Institute now provides 48 beds for inpatients in addition to comprehensive outpatient treatment programs and varied clinic

services. Sports medicine and cardiopulmonary rehabilitation are two programs included in the expansion.

The new program follows by just two years completion of a \$3,000,000 project adding the Radiation Therapy Center for the treatment of cancer patients and the Family Practice Center for the training of young doctors as family physicians. In 1974, a \$14,000,000 expansion doubled the size of the Medical Center to its present total of 415 beds and added the Johnson Institute.



### JOHN F. KENNEDY MEDICAL CENTER

EDISON, NEW JERSEY

#### Board of Trustees

ANTHONY M. YELENCIS  
Chairman  
MRS. EDWARD A. PARTENOPE  
President  
JOHN TIMKO, JR.  
Executive Vice President  
CHARLES DEARBORN  
Vice President  
HERBERT G. STOLZER  
Vice President  
THOMAS SWALES, JR.  
Vice President  
IRVING TRIPP  
Vice President  
DR. A. PETER CAPPARELLI  
Secretary  
J. ARTHUR APPELGATE  
Treasurer  
CHARLES L. GIFFORD  
Assistant Treasurer  
REINHOLD M. PAULUS  
Assistant Treasurer

DONALD T. AKEY, M.D.  
DR. RALPH P. BARONE  
WILLIAM E. BROTHERS  
MORRIS BROWN  
JOHN W. BURK  
NORMAN A. COHEN  
THOMAS O. COLEMAN  
ROY DOCTOFSKY  
SEN. BERNARD J. DWYER  
SOLOMON EPSTEIN  
R. JOSEPH FERENCZI  
MRS. ROBERT E. HOLMES  
LOUIS HOWARD  
STEWART M. HUTT  
ALEX S. KUDRON  
S. ELLIOTT MAYO  
R. BRUCE MCDOWELL  
ROBERT J. MCKENNA  
VICTOR F. MELIN  
VAL MESZAROS  
JOHN P. MOLNAR  
RALPH J. MUEHLIG  
EDWARD A. PARTENOPE, M.D.  
EARLE N. PETERSON, D.V.M.  
PHILIP SCHWALJE  
SOL SEID  
LEONARD SENDELSKY  
WALLACE A. STEINBERG  
G. NICHOLAS VENEZIA  
SEN. LAURENCE S. WEISS

#### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

WILLIAM H. AINSLIE, M.D.  
MAYOR JOHN J. CASSIDY  
MRS. STANLEY T. KOZAL  
MAYOR DONALD J. WERNIK

#### HONORARY MEMBERS

KENNETH BERG  
LEONARD BERG  
ROBERT N. BROWN  
DR. FRANK M. CHAMBERS  
JEREMIAH GUMBS  
OTTO MAYER  
FRANK VISCEGLIA, SR.  
WARREN W. WILENTZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
JOSEPH SHERBER



# Exposition participants listed

**EDISON** — The following is a list of exhibitors at the 1979 Edison Centennial Exposition.

Floram Travel Inc. of 1333 St. George Ave., Colonia; Whitmarsh Corp. of Edison; Bamberger Polymers (NJ) Inc. of 8 Greek Lane, Edison; Ed-Chem Corp. of 16 Letson Place, Edison; New Brunswick Saw Service of 5 Greek Lane, Edison; Video Corporation of America of 1913 Route 27, Edison; Skil Corp. of 6 Kilmer Court, Edison and United Jersey Bank-Central of Elizabeth.

Also Lynn Distributors of 2058 Route 27, Edison; Ramada Inn of 3050 Woodbridge Ave., Edison; Akai America, Ltd. of 6 Kilmer Road, Edison; Cooperative Office Education Program, care of Edison High School; Middlesex County Department of Industry and Economic Development of

841 Georges Road, North Brunswick; Nametre Co. of 272 Loring Ave., Edison; Brunswick Office Systems, Inc. of 1605 Route 27, Edison; and Garden State Health Services of 61 Jamaica St., Edison.

Also John F. Kennedy Medical Center of Edison; Clarke Employment Agency of 495 Main St., Metuchen; Edison Travel, Inc. of Route 27 and Parsonage Road, Edison; Automatic Catering, Inc. of 58 Brunswick Ave., Edison; Edison Division of Health, 80 Idlewild Road; Allsafe Ladder & Scaffolding Co. of 33 Gross Ave., Edison; First National State Bank on Route 27 and Stoney Road, Edison; Burmah-Castrol, Inc. of 30 Executive Ave., Edison; Edison Police Department and Public Service Electric and Gas Co. of Springfield.

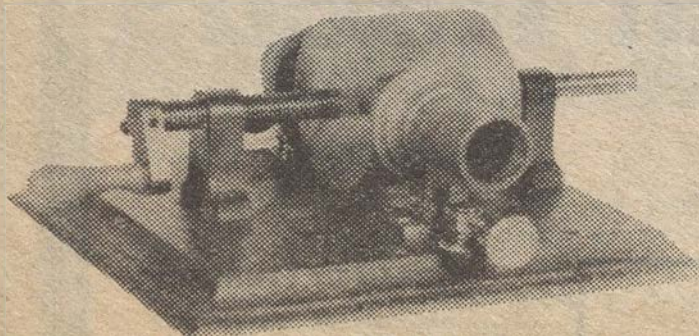
Also Edison Fire Department; Middlesex County College; Bridge Supply of New Brunswick; Raritan Supply of Meadow Road, Edison; New Jersey Bell Telephone of 445 Georges Road, North Brunswick; J.M. Huber of Thornall Street, Edison; Kiwanis Club of Edison; Edison Packaging of Route 1, Edison Industrial Park; and Metex Corp. of 970 New Durham Road, Edison.

Also YMCA Metuchen/Edison of 65 High St., Metuchen; Summit Associates of 20 Northfield Ave., Edison; The News Tribune; Edison CETA program; Suzuki of Edison, 920 Route 1, Edison; First Savings and Loan of Perth Amboy, 339 State Street; Edison Young Democrats of 736 Amboy Ave.; and MacPherson Agency of 1918 Route 27, Edison.

Also Snelling & Snelling of 100 Menlo

Park, Edison; Edison Chapter of Deborah, 85 Burnham Drive; Joe Marra Travels of 1199 Amboy Ave., Edison; Montgomery Ward of 1800 Route 27, Edison; Middlesex County Arts Council, 37 Route 27, Edison; Middlesex County Arts Council, 37 Oakwood Ave., Edison; Interstate Container Corp. of 2960 Woodbridge Ave., Edison; Edison Raritan Bay Area REACT; Edison Senior Citizens of 2965 Woodbridge Ave.; and Township Directory Corp. of Carteret.

Also B & M Lumber Co. of Woodbridge Avenue; Edison Garden Club; Fedders Air Conditioning Co. of Woodbridge Ave.; Sisser Brothers of 21 Progress St.; Edison Police Reserves; B & B Photo Graphics of 5 Lenox St.; Miller Knapp Inc. of Fulton Street at Route 1; U.S. Navy; U.S. Army and Federal Warehouses in Edison.



The original tin-foil phonograph invented by Thomas Edison in 1877

**EDISON  
NEVER  
HEARD IT  
SO GOOD**

COME SEE OUR  
EXHIBIT AT THE  
EDISON CENTENNIAL  
EXHIBITION



*The Electric Light is only  
34 Years Older than us . . .*

SEE OUR  
BOOTH  
AT THE  
CENTENNIAL  
EXPOSITION

**Sisser  
Broe.**

AGENTS FOR

**United Van  
Lines**

21 PROGRESS ST.  
EDISON

Call 756-3100

# WE ARE PROUD

## TO BE PART OF

# EDISON'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

In keeping with the tradition started by Thomas A. Edison, we are continuing to help with the growth of Edison Township through our part in the development of Raritan Center.

Over the years we have been responsible for the development of millions of square feet of industrial space, and thousands of jobs and we look toward a greater future. We are particularly pleased with the progress of our Raritan Plaza office complex.

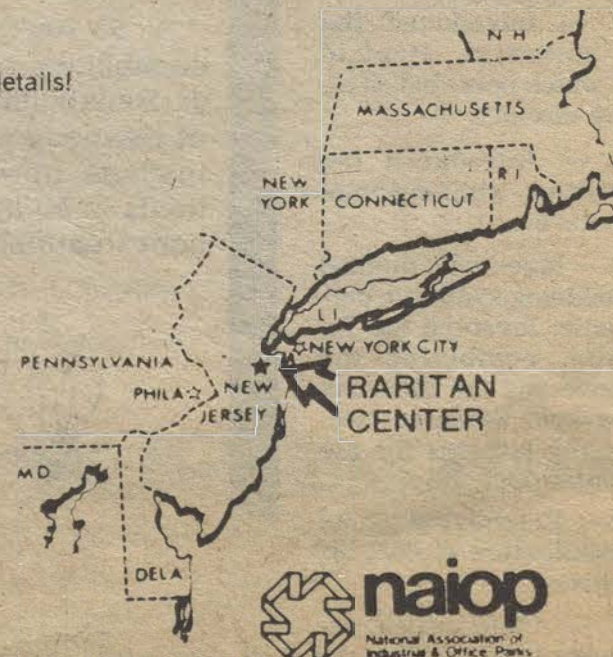
... And For Offices, Too!

Ask us about Raritan Plaza II where 82,000 sq. ft. of prime office space will be ready for occupancy in June 1979. It is located in a planned environment with on-site banking, restaurant, and hotel facilities.

Call Joseph Romano today at (201) 225-2900 for full details!

**SUMMIT**  
SUMMIT ASSOCIATES, INC.

Raritan Center, Edison, N. J.  
08817, (201) 225-2900  
Corporate Headquarters:  
155 Washington St.  
Newark, N. J. 07102, (201) 643-2222



For brochures and information on the availability of office and industrial space, be sure to stop at our booth at the

**EDISON  
CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION**  
Friday, May 4th or Saturday, May 5th.



# Edison Township took inventor's name in '54

By DEBRA RUBIN

Special to The News Tribune

EDISON — Edison Township has only been known by that name since 1954 when voters decided to change the name from Raritan Township.

The name change was made in honor of Thomas A. Edison, who worked in the Menlo Park section of the township from 1876 to 1887, perfecting his incandescent light bulb and laboring over a number of other inventions.

The name change also was aimed at clearing up some confusion, since the municipality was one of three Raritan Townships in the state. In addition, there was also a Raritan Borough.

First designated Raritan in 1870, the township was formed from portions of Woodbridge and Piscataway townships. An Indian word, "Raritan" means "forked river" and refers to the two streams which unite to form the area.

The earliest settlement in the township was the village of Piscatawaytown. Dating back to 1668, the Indian village once held the seat of justice for Middlesex and Somerset counties.

Another section of the township, Stelton, was also settled in 1668 and it was here that the first church in Edison was built 21 years later. It is the site of the present Stelton Baptist Church.

Piscatawaytown was the site of the first schoolhouse, built of logs in 1694. Old Post Road was the earliest road in Edison and was used by George Washington as he traveled to New York City for his inauguration as president.

Skirmishes took place in the nearby areas during the Revolution, but no major battles were fought here. However, the territory was an area of dispute as both armies advanced and retreated through the area.

The years following the revolution saw a rapid growth in the area. The ferry across

the Raritan River was replaced by a bridge and rail lines were laid in the township. Small villages developed around the railroad stations which were built at Stelton and Menlo Park.

Throughout most of the 1800s and early 1900s, Edison was a prosperous farming community. The Stelton Railroad Station was built in 1895, combining the depot, post office, store and dwelling. This building served as the railroad station until the 1950s.

The first trolley line was laid in 1900 and the Lehigh Valley and Reading Railroads later laid tracks in the township to provide freight service.

Some of the principal industries in the township dealt with mining, shipping and manufacturing of fire-clay, fire-sand and kaolin.

But as the township developed, controversies arose concerning services and capital improvements in the area.

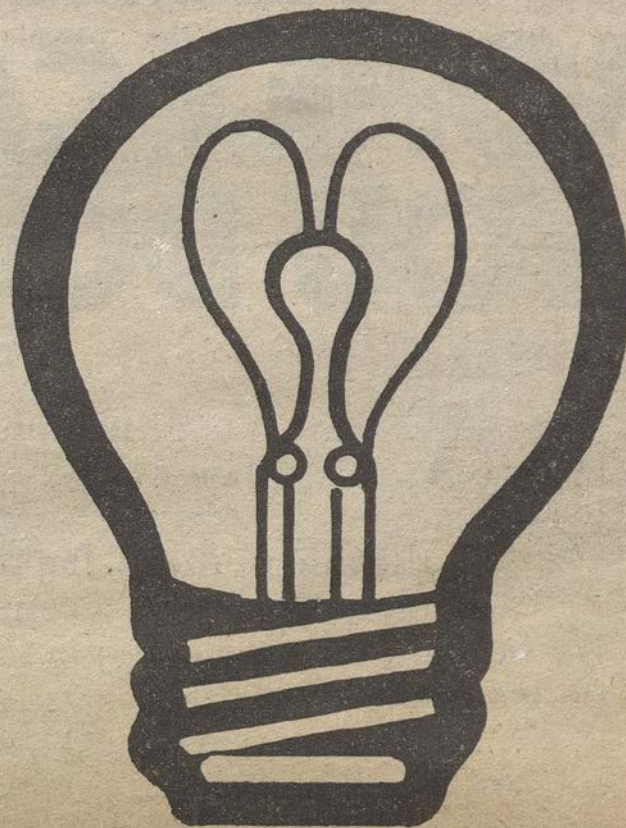
In 1905, residents of the Metuchen area petitioned the state for a separate charter, thus forming a three-mile township right in the center of Edison.

Highland Park-area residents followed this example in 1905 and that area was incorporated as a borough, reducing the township by two more miles.

Four and a half more square miles were lost to the township during World War I when the federal government bought land to build the Raritan Arsenal, a major munitions-producing center. Camp Kilmer was built after additional government purchases of land during World War II.

Most of the land used by these facilities has since been returned to public use. Part of the arsenal is now the home of Middlesex County College. A large portion of the land was also used for Raritan Center, a huge industrial complex which continues to expand and is currently building a major office building.

# light up your life!



Thomas Edison provided the world with incandescent light.

First Savings provides "financial light" to thousands of families in the Raritan Bay area. Savings Accounts. Certificates of Deposit. Mortgages. Home Improvement Loans. Christmas and Vacation Clubs. And so, so much more.

Put a little light in your "financial life." With First Savings.

Be sure to visit our booth at the Edison Centennial Exposition, Middlesex College, Friday, May 4 or Saturday, May 5.

# First Savings



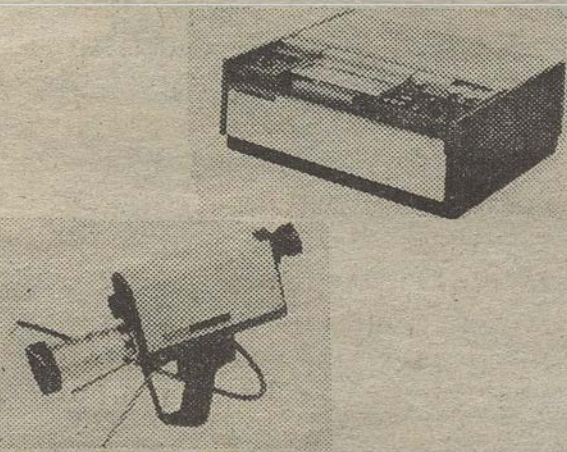
339 State Street, Perth Amboy • 325 Amboy Avenue, Woodbridge  
101 New Brunswick Avenue, Hopelawn • 980 Amboy Avenue, Edison  
• 1199 Green Street, Iselin



# AMBOY VIDEO SYSTEMS

Serving Industry Since 1945

## SONY-U-MATIC + BETA FORMAT



DESIGNED • INSTALLED • SERVICED  
"SALES TRAINING"

CCTV-IND. BANKS-SURVEILLANCE  
24 HR. SERVICE—FACTORY TRAINED TECH  
CAMERAS-MONITORS-VTR SYSTEMS  
PROJECTORS, 16 MM-35 MM-OVERHEAD  
UPDATE ANY SYSTEM

PRERECORDED TAPES ALL TYPES

ADVENT • SONY 6 & 7 FT. PROJ. TV  
SALES • RENTALS • SERVICE

## 442-1625

## 317 HALL AVE., PERTH AMBOY

(Off 287 & 440)



# THE MOST ADVANCED TELEPHONE SYSTEM MONEY CAN BUY IS THE ONE YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY.

Advances in telecommunications are happening so fast there's only one thing you can be sure of.

In the future, they'll happen even faster.

And, unless you've recently changed it, the business telephone system you have today is probably already obsolete.

And the system you get tomorrow will probably become obsolete in just a few years.

So what's the solution?  
The Bell System.

The telephone equipment offered by the Bell System is as technologically advanced as any in the world.

And we have a wide selection of systems. From our new Dimension® PBX to data terminals to paging systems.

But these are not the only reasons you should use Bell equipment.

Another reason is because you don't have to buy it.

That way, your business won't get tied down to today's state-of-the-art.

When we introduce better equipment, you can upgrade your system without

the bother of trying to unload your outdated equipment.

It can grow as fast as your business grows.

It can even shrink if (heaven forbid) your business shrinks.

There's also one more thing you should consider.

Money.

The money you can make by not tying up your cash in capital equipment.


If you want the most advanced telephone system money can buy, why buy one?

Get one from Bell.

We won't tie your money up.

And we won't tie your business down.

**The system is the solution.**

 **New Jersey Bell**





# Edison's writings show his genius, resolve

Thomas Edison was a prolific writer, a keen diarist, and sophisticated philosopher.

These are some of his remarks, gleaned from his writings and from interviews. They indicate not only the man's mark of genius, but his firm resolve of purpose.

— "Genius is ninety-nine percent perspiration and one percent inspiration."

— "My purpose is to stimulate the interest of the youth of America in mental development, with particular emphasis on scientific matters; and, more generally,

in the high ideals that make for the finest types of American manhood."

— "We sometimes learn a lot from our failures if we have put into the effort the best thought and work we are capable of."

— "When I want to discover something, I begin by reading up everything that has been done along that line in the past — that's what all these books in the library are for. I see what has been accomplished at great expense in the past. I gather the data of many thousands of experiments as

a starting point, and then I make thousands more."

— "Before I have done with it I mean to succeed. I have the right principle and am on the right track, but time, hard work and some good luck are necessary too. It has been just so in all of my inventions.

"The first step is an intuition, and comes with a burst, then difficulties arise — this thing gives out and then that — 'Bugs,' as such little faults and difficulties are called — show themselves and months of intense watching, study and labor are

requisite before commercial success, or failure, is determined."

— "Discovery is not invention, and I dislike to see the two words confounded. A discovery is more or less in the nature of an accident. A man walks along the road intending to catch the train. On the way his foot kicks against something and . . . he sees a gold bracelet imbedded in the dust. He has discovered that — certainly not invented it. He did not set out to find a bracelet, yet the value is just as great."

# EDISON

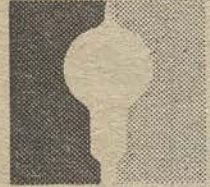
## the man who turned darkness into light

This year, 1979, is the 100th anniversary of Thomas Alva Edison's invention of the electric light. The event symbolizes the inventiveness of man, the promise of research, and the importance of energy.

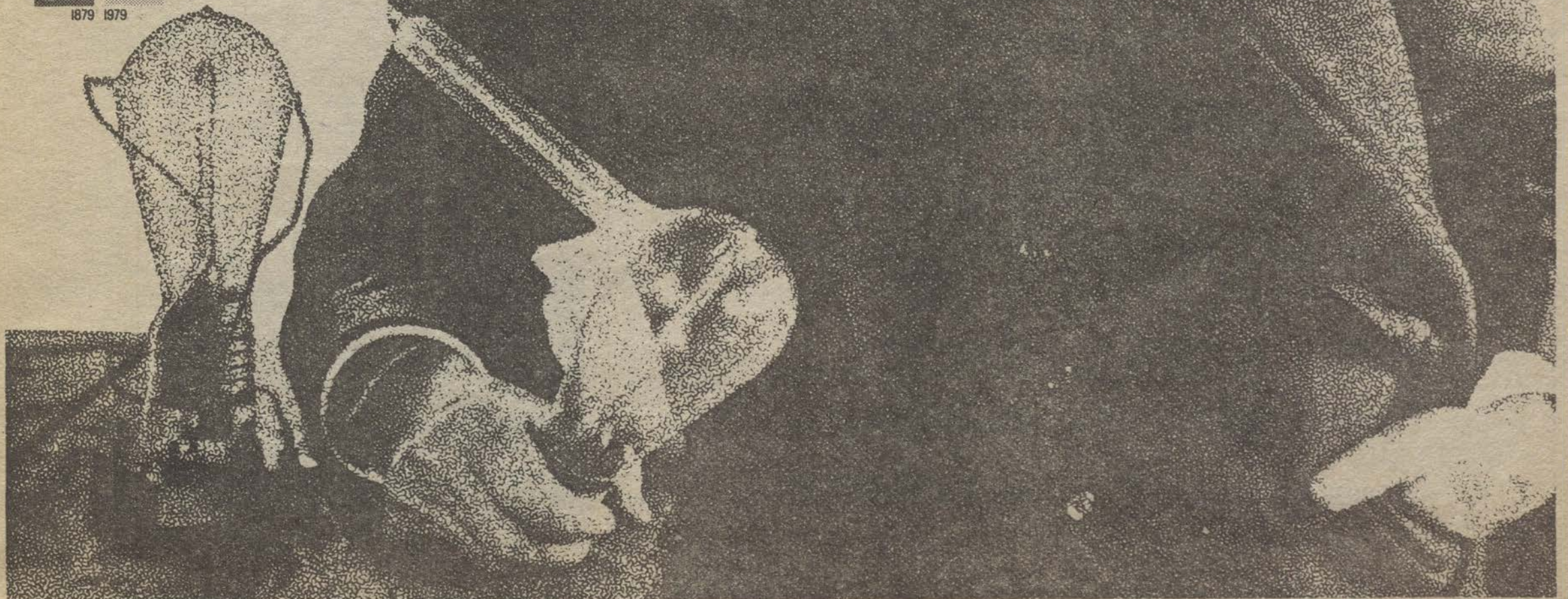
The genius of Edison touches all of our lives, every day, in many ways. The electric light, motion pictures, the phonograph, the discovery making radio transmission possible, and the concept of using talented scientific teams to develop new inventions are only a few of Edison's lasting contributions to mankind.

During this, the Centennial of Light, we pay tribute to this great American.

CENTENNIAL OF LIGHT



1879 1979



**PSE&G**

Public Service  
Electric and Gas  
Company

Visit the dramatic tribute to Thomas Edison aboard the Second Sun, PSE&G's floating energy information center on the Delaware in historic Burlington, N. J. "Century of Light" is an exciting, entertaining, multi-media theater presentation to delight all ages. Open Wed.-Sun. every week. Phone (609) 387-3800



EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM LIBRARY



# WE ARE PROUD!

Yes, we are proud of our town and the progress that we have enjoyed since the discovery of the incandescent light by Thomas A. Edison in 1879. Our business firms and organizations are proud too of their accomplishments over the years that they have been located in Edison. They therefore invite you to view their progress at the:

## EDISON CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

to be held at

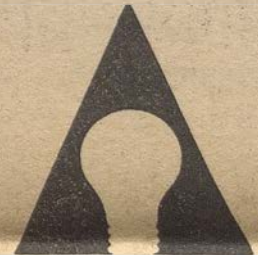
## MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

Friday, May 4th 5 P.M. to 9 P.M.  
Saturday, May 5th 10 a.m. to 3 P.M.

SPONSORED BY



EDISON TOWNSHIP



EDISON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



EDISON CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The following events are scheduled for the remainder of 1979 in Edison Township to commemorate the "Centennial of Light" . . .

1. Centennial Ball to be held at the Pines in October.
2. 25th Anniversary celebration of the naming of the township after Thomas Alva Edison. Governor of New Jersey and the President of U.S. have been invited.
3. Sunday, October 28 will feature a parade with Thomas Edison theme.
4. Distribution of 20,000 souvenir maps of Edison Township.
5. Presentation of a bronze bust and plaque of Thomas Edison and listing his accomplishments while his laboratory was located in Menlo Park.
6. Dedication of the newly constructed Municipal building.

## EDISON TOWNSHIP

**Anthony M. Yelencsics**  
MAYOR

DOROTHY K. DRWAL,  
Council President

GEORGE J. ASPRACOLAS

JOHN J. HOGAN

LEWIS M. BLOOM

JAMES MACK

MARGERY S. GOLIN

ANGELO A. ORLANDO, JR.



ANTHONY M. YELENCICS  
Mayor





1879 1979

"ASK AT DESK"

# Edison Centennial News

EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAY 1979

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 5

## Centennial scholars gather at GE in Cleveland

### *102 high school seniors commended for "spirit of creativity"*

All 102 Edison Centennial of Light Scholars — outstanding high school science students chosen competitively from all 50 states and the District of Columbia — assembled May 4 and 5 in Cleveland for honors ceremonies, lectures and science-related tours.

The Edison Centennial Scholars were chosen by individual state selection panels under varying procedures set up in each state. The selection process was coordinated by the National Science Supervisors Association and the Council of State Science Supervisors.

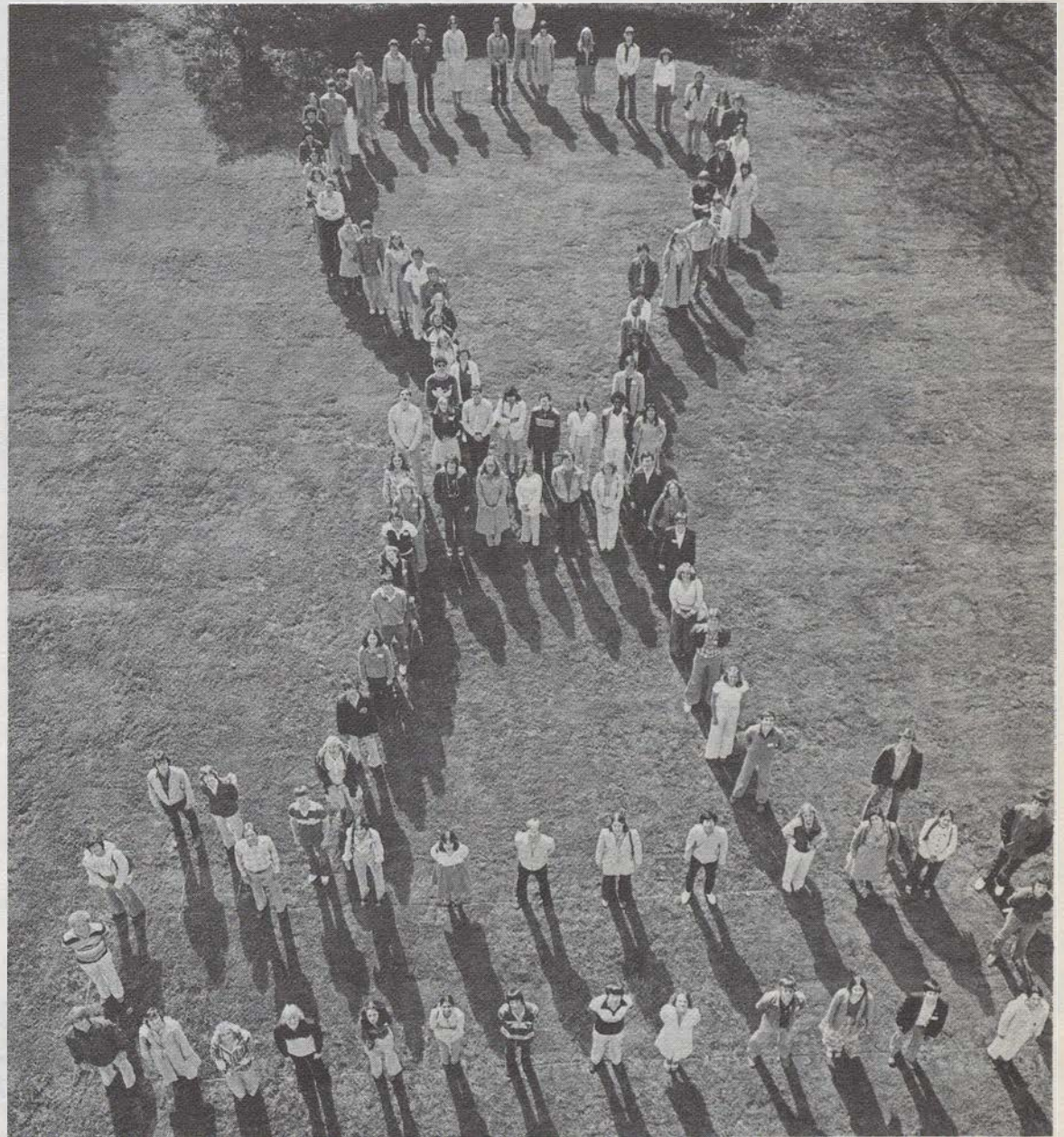
Students, parents and teachers who arrived Thursday evening, May 3, gathered informally at Cleveland's famed Crawford aviation and auto museum, where they were addressed briefly by James G. Cook, president of the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, sponsor of the Centennial of Light.

### **Earthquakes examined**

The formal program began Friday morning at General Electric's Lighting Division headquarters in Nela Park, with a presentation by Dr. Tuzo Wilson on the theory of earthquakes. Now director of the Ontario Science Center in Toronto, Dr. Wilson for 30 years was professor of geophysics at the University of Toronto.

Through a series of slides, satellite photos and demonstrations, Wilson entertainingly showed how, over the course of millions of years, the continents separated. He said the earth's surface is still shifting, as if on plates, over the soft underbelly of its inner core, and that its shifting causes earthquakes that can be devastatingly destructive.

"I don't really know why it was that



**The 102 Edison Centennial of Light Scholars form a replica of the original light bulb on the lawn of GE's Nela Park Lighting Division in Cleveland. The scholars were the first chosen in 50 years. In 1929, Edison personally corrected the tests of the Golden Jubilee scholars.**

we didn't realize this many years ago," Wilson said, "but life is full of things staring you in the face and one doesn't see it."

Dr. Wilson also observed that "because they are not politically motivated, scientists are able to travel almost anywhere in the world, even under the

most strained of international situations."

### **"Whole pictures"**

Dr. Mac Rugheimer of Montana State University in Bozeman detailed "holography," the art and science of

*please turn to page 4*



## Unique theatre company offers Edison Centennial of Light special

"Light Force," a 45-minute dramatization created specially to commemorate the Centennial of Light, is now touring the country.

The playlet was written, produced and directed by The Iron Clad Agreement, a professional theatre company from Pittsburgh that has spent the last three years developing performances on the lives of famous figures from America's "Gilded Age of Invention."

This latest production focuses on the masterminds behind the development of electric systems in this country—and, in particular, the conflict over the adoption of AC or DC current. During the course of the dramatization, the principal actors journey to Menlo Park, search for the perfect filament and hold discussions about their goals with Edison contemporaries and collaborators, Nicola Tesla and Charles Steinmetz.

The repertory group wears black jumpsuits for costumes and uses no props or sets. The actors emphasize themselves as the most important element of the performance. Their characterizations of the men and their inventions,



**The cast of *The Iron Clad Agreement*: center, producer/director Julia R. Swoyer; left to right, D'Arcy Webb, K. Wilson Hutton, James R. Krut, Christopher Josephs and M.M. Melozzi.**

their successes and failures are presented in a kaleidoscopic fashion—revolving from one character to another—in an entertaining and educational way.

The Iron Clad Agreement started in 1976, rehearsing in an old, unheated closed Pittsburgh-area school house. Founded by its producer, Julia Swoyer, and actors K. Wilson Hutton and James R.

Krut, the troupe is supported by 16 locally-based foundations, corporations and institutions.

Companies or organizations interested in having the group perform in their communities should write to: The Iron Clad Agreement, Julia R. Swoyer, Producer, 6351 Phillips Ave., Pittsburgh, Penn. 15217; or telephone: (412) 731-2445.

## Chautauqua Institution to dedicate week to Edison; Centennial lecturers to include Cunningham and Conot

The Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, New York, will dedicate the first week of its 9-week lecture series, which begins July 23, to Edison and his contribution to present-day technological progress. The Chautauqua Institution was founded by Lewis Miller, the father of Thomas Edison's second wife, Mina Miller Edison.

According to Mrs. Nancy Lewis Arnn, an Edison niece, the lecture series coincides with the birthday of Lewis Miller, who established in 1874, the first adult continuing-education program in the nation. Chautauqua, where Edison

first courted Mina, is now a summer community.

The lecture series is being funded by an endowment left to the Institution by the late Mrs. Edison, and by a grant from the Charles Edison Fund of New Jersey, founded by the late son of Mr. Edison who was a former governor of New Jersey. (See Edison Centennial News, January 1979, page 5.)

Speakers will include: Gerald O'Neill, professor of physics at Princeton University; Roger Caras, environmentalist and CBS radio commentator; neurosurgeon Dr. Richard Respak; and Albert

Rosenfeld, science editor for the Saturday Review.

John Cunningham, the historian and author whose 18-part series on Edison is now appearing in newspapers across the country, and Robert Conot, author of "A Streak of Luck," a new biography of Edison, are also slated to speak.

Those interested in attending the lectures or learning more about the Chautauqua Institution's programs should write: Ms. Marie O'Connor, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, N.Y. 47716; or telephone: (716) 357-5635. ■



# Centennial symposium probes future

More than 600 international leaders from industry, science, labor, and the academic world met in San Francisco April 1-4, for the Edison Centennial Symposium, sponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute and the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation. Included in the group were representatives from the media and some 70 college students.

Events the week before at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant lent an air of immediacy to the symposium's theme, "Science, Technology, and the Human Prospect," and to its questioning of technology's proper role in the future.

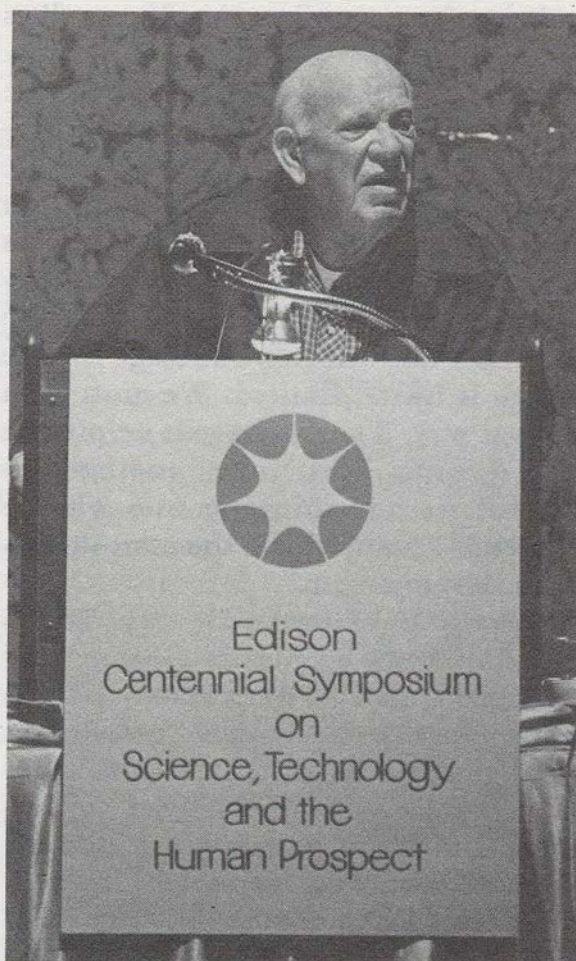
This was reflected in the opening remarks by Robert I. Smith, chairman of the International Committee for the Centennial of Light, who said: "Decisions made in the next few years on directions for science and technology will influence our lives for decades to come. We have an opportunity to coalesce the wisdom of modern thought as a basis for making choices in the best interest of humanity."

Smith's remarks followed an opening multi-image presentation produced for the symposium using 30 slide projectors and accompanying soundtrack. The presentation traced the course of technology over the past 100 years and depicted some of the ways it has affected life in the areas of food, clothing, housing, health, communications, and transportation.

Many of these same aspects were subjects of workshops held later that day to allow participants to examine more closely the effects of technology on specific areas of life.

In a keynote address, symposium chairman Chauncey Starr, EPRI vice chairman, pursued a "growth of limits" theme, contending that "science and technology have historically opened new frontiers for mankind." He said they are "powerful and unlimited resources for bettering man's condition," and can be used to reduce any undesirable by-products that result from their application.

A special session featuring electric power historian Thomas P. Hughes, chairman of the Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania, examined trends



**Philosopher Eric Hoffer stresses the need for an expanding technological base to serve civilization at the Edison Centennial Symposium banquet.**

and issues in the history of electric power asking, "Has the Past a Future?"

## Nontechnical issues cited

Hughes cited incidents from the history of electricity to illustrate his theme that major turning points have been influenced as much by organizational, financial, and political factors as by technical ones. He argued that policy makers facing the energy problem today should heed the past and recognize that such nontechnical issues are the heart of the matter and merit increased attention.

A highlight of the symposium was a rare public appearance on the second evening by writer, social philosopher, and former longshoreman Eric Hoffer. In an inspiring address at the awards banquet honoring the 1979 inductees to the National Inventors Hall of Fame, Hoffer spoke of technology's relationship to the "human factor."

He said: "In the post-industrial age

human rather than natural resources will be the wellspring of a country's wealth and vigor . . . . It is conceivable that if the exhaustion of raw materials and sources of energy makes it imperative for a society to tap the creative energies of its people, it may, in doing so, also tap a new source of social discipline. For the creative individual, no matter how highly endowed, must be hardworking and disciplined if he is to accomplish much. There is no invention that will take the hard work out of creating . . . ."

## Hoffer seeks "creative society"

Hoffer conceded that the "coming of the creative society will be slow and faltering" and called for human compassion to pave the way. "As things are now, it may well be that the survival of the (human) species will depend on the capacity to foster a boundless capacity for compassion," he said.

A number of permanent records of the symposium will be available in the future. Proceedings will be published in hardbound form by Pergamon Press, Fairview Park, Elmsford, N.Y., and will be available by mid-September for \$50 for orders received by August 31 and \$60 after that date.

Also, a one-hour documentary videotape of the symposium, including interviews with speakers, students and other participants, is now being completed. And a special Centennial issue of EPRI Journal distributed at the symposium is now available at \$2.00 per copy.

The Journal issue, entitled "Creating the Electric Age," examines the growth of electrification and the roots of modern R&D. It traces the career of Edison and notes such milestones in the electric industry as the first large-scale power development at Niagara Falls, the formation of the first industrial laboratories, the movement of scientists into industry, the creation of early utilities as electric grids stretched across the nation, and the strong acceleration in science and technology following World War II.

Orders for the special Journal issue may be sent to Susan Yessne, EPRI Journal, 3412 Hillview Avenue, P.O. Box 10412, Palo Alto, Calif. 94303. ■



## Scholars *continued from page 1*

taking "whole pictures" through the use of laser light patterns. As a result, greater perspective and dimension are added to objects being reproduced.

"The practical uses of holography," Rugheimer said, "are limited only by your mind." He described the possibility of their use in maps, movies, textbooks, and predicted that "in two to five years, holographs will be commonplace."

An afternoon tour of NASA's Lewis Research Center, where a great deal of data concerning man's space voyages is collected and assessed, was a fitting lead-in to the evening's main speaker, former astronaut William A. Anders, now a GE vice president at San Jose, Calif.

Anders, besides being a retired naval commander, was a member of the first Apollo team to orbit the moon on Christmas Eve 1968. It will be recalled that he movingly recited Genesis as the team sent back pictures of the moon to earth.

A nuclear engineer, Anders later served as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, forerunner to the present-day Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and concluded his public career as ambassador to Norway. In 1976, he joined GE to head its nuclear division.

### A "delicate" earth

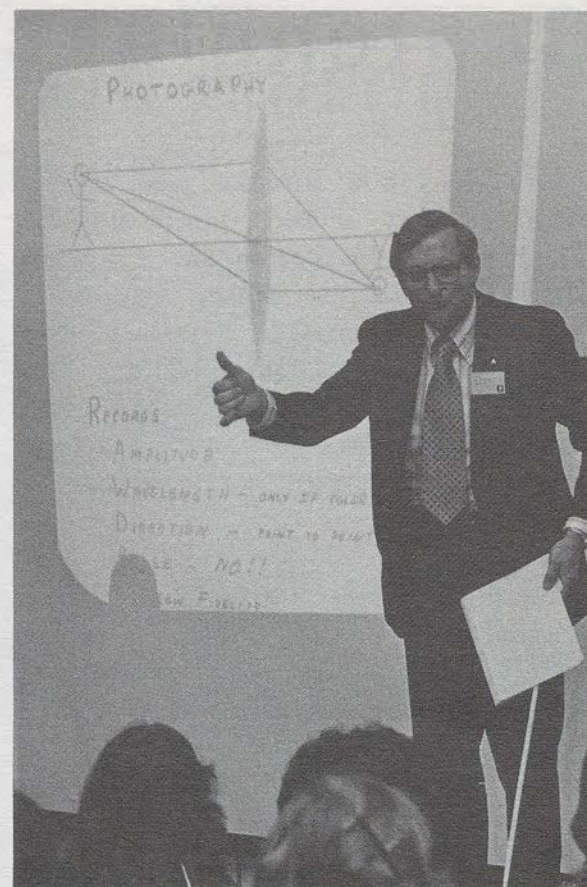
Anders reviewed for the scholars, with some breathtaking slides, the

Apollo 8 mission and the future of space exploration. Describing the lunar mission from a philosophical, as well as a technical, perspective, Anders commented: "More important than the scientific or technical accomplishments, seeing our own planet was the most impressive thing, how delicate it was — and how carefully we must treat it. The greater message was how small the earth was. The one small orb in black nothing. The message is: The earth is finite, limited. We must treat it that way. That message is helping us in dealing with one another. It stimulates our thinking into what is beyond. I think this is the most important development."

After his address, the two Edison Scholars from each state — one male and one female — were called up to receive special Centennial certificates. The citations noted that each is a student "whose spirit of creativity, dedication, and belief in individual initiative most favorably compares with the philosophy of Thomas Alva Edison." Individual \$1,000 scholarship checks will be presented, wherever possible, at the scholars' local ceremonies.

Anders was joined in presenting the certificates to the students by James G. Cook and James A. Baker, vice president and group executive with GE, who heads GE's Lighting Division.

The second day's sessions offered lectures on four areas of science of immedi-



**Mac Rugheimer explaining the principles of holography to an attentive audience.**

ate import: nuclear waste disposal, animal behavior and primate communication, industrial research and energy resources.

Dr. Klaus Keil, director of the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, described the technological solutions available to industry to protect the environment from nuclear waste. Keil said he believes that man-made storage facilities will afford the short-term protection needed while allowing time — say 50 years — to collect more data on the long-range implications of storage in salt mines and other geological formations.

Dr. Ivar Giaever, a biophysicist for GE in Schenectady, N.Y., described how industrial scientists seek solutions for real, everyday problems through the application of scientific research.

Dr. Roger Mellgren, a psychology professor at the University of Oklahoma, discussed his research and training with chimpanzees and their ability to communicate with themselves and humans, and what that teaches about human development.

John Miller, vice president, Standard Oil of Ohio, described his company's involvement in building the Alaskan pipeline, and the tremendous costs and technology involved. ■



**James A. Baker, left, and James G. Cook, right, present an Edison Centennial Medallion to former Apollo 8 astronaut William A. Anders, the featured speaker at the Edison Scholars symposium.**



## THE 102 CENTENNIAL OF LIGHT SCHOLARS

### ALABAMA

Byron Peel Newberry  
Julie Blackwell

### ALASKA

James Thomas Pinkerton  
Yvette Sasseen

### ARIZONA

Victor G. Bonilla  
Christina L. Bertch

### ARKANSAS

Mark Anthony Pippenger  
Karen Marie Hearty

### CALIFORNIA

George W. Crombie  
Maura Mitchell

### COLORADO

Mark Edson  
Ruth Kennedy

### CONNECTICUT

Steven Rushkowski  
Marybeth A. Lyons

### DELAWARE

Anthony D. So  
Tina Marie Scaran

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Carl V. Allen  
Angela Feeling

### FLORIDA

Bradley Hare  
Rosemarie Bigot

### GEORGIA

Timothy E. Williams  
Amy L. Hertz

### HAWAII

Jonathan V. Selinger  
Leanne M. Tanouye

### IDAHO

Kevin Karl Holsinger  
Camille DeAnne Bibles

### ILLINOIS

Michael Horberg  
Joan Novak

### INDIANA

Alan Lane Voliva  
Christine Rene Clements

### IOWA

Mathias C. Boddiker  
Rene A. Vincent

### KANSAS

Todd Wallace  
Nancy D. Leazer

### KENTUCKY

Stephen Noe  
Kathryn Ann La Geese

### LOUISIANA

Ronald Hobart Thompson  
Julie Dennery Simon

### MAINE

Gerard Nadeau  
Tara Geelhoed

### MARYLAND

Lawrence Michael Wong  
Leilani Drayer

### MASSACHUSETTS

David Gauntt  
Elizabeth Ann Lada

### MICHIGAN

Mark S. Andersland  
Lisa A. Matuszewski

### MINNESOTA

Kenneth Mishark  
Meena Subbiah

### MISSISSIPPI

Geoffrey Franks  
Mary Anna Sellers

### MISSOURI

William David Richard  
Lee Ann Heman

### MONTANA

Mark A. Palagi  
Gabrielle Savage

### NEBRASKA

Jeff Isaacson  
Patty Lawrence

### NEVADA

Robert Leslie Willyard, Jr.  
Rebecca Haag

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Kevin Sullivan  
Marcia E. Pokigo

### NEW JERSEY

William M. Thramann  
Dana Krafchick

### NEW MEXICO

Jeff Caylor  
Catherine M. Piveratto

### NEW YORK

John A. Kirby  
Nan Jody Morrison

### NORTH CAROLINA

Van Edward Morgan  
Rosanne Flack

### NORTH DAKOTA

Paul M. Muus  
Brenda Thompson

### OHIO

Mike Kupfer  
Cathy Getz

### OKLAHOMA

Gregory Judy  
Christy Clark

### OREGON

Scott R. Trappe  
Kay M. Dahlien

### PENNSYLVANIA

Thomas E. Rhodes  
Donna Gustitis

### RHODE ISLAND

Michael Howard Kagan  
Patricia Hensley

### SOUTH CAROLINA

Douglas Tybor Durig  
Susan Michele Delk

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Bruce Dingeman  
Sheri Kirley

### TENNESSEE

Wesley David Allen  
Lea Carol Owen

### TEXAS

Darrell Glenn Hill  
Judith Leah Passman

### UTAH

Kevin Bingham  
Wendy Matis

### VERMONT

Bret Benner  
Carol Jones

### VIRGINIA

Gary Bernstein  
Jennifer J. Spevacek

### WASHINGTON

Mark Yeager  
Rosemary Farrell

### WEST VIRGINIA

Theodore Bernstein  
Mary Ellen Connelly

### WISCONSIN

Bruce Wade  
Karen Middleton

### WYOMING

James A. Hare  
Leslie Vining



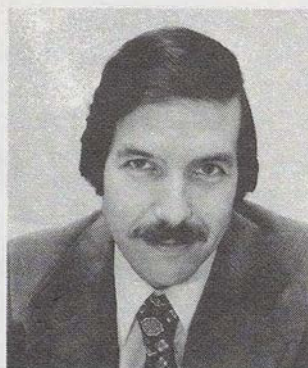
# What would you want Edison to invent today?

*Consolidated Edison of New York recently asked some of its engineers and coordinators what they would want Edison to invent if he were alive today. Three of the twelve responses are reprinted here to encourage others to present their views on the subject. Please send your comments to: Future Needs, Edison Centennial News, P.O. Box 1310, Greenwich, Conn. 06830.*



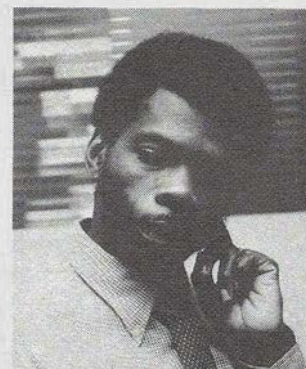
**Eve R. Hershkowitz**, shop coordinator, Power Generation Maintenance: "Edison harnessed electric power a century ago. If I could meet him today, I'd ask him whether he contemplated any more advanced methods of harness-

ing energy for our time, and if so, what those sources of energy would be. I'd want to know which alternate sources he would consider viable, and would want to work with—such as geothermal, or ocean wave. I might also ask him to invent a perpetual motion machine!"



**Edward G. Alfonsin**, engineer, Field & Application Engineering: "If he came through my office door, I'd tell him all his previous inventions lead me to believe he could invent a whole system to meet our energy needs. I'd ask him to invent a high-speed mass transit system, and electric generating equipment using tides and pumped storage as energy sources. I'd also ask him to

invent a fuel economy system for cars that would recirculate unburned combustible gases into the engine cylinders for complete combustion."



**George Watts**, engineer, Electric Station Engineering: "In 1908 Thomas Edison was involved in development of the storage battery. I wish he were

here today to develop a battery with about 10 times the capacity of those used in the new electric cars. The main problem with electric cars now is their limited range—about 35 miles. More range means more and heavier batteries, and each car uses about 20 now, at 50 pounds each. If Edison were alive, I'm sure he'd be working on it."

## Edison Cement was forerunner of modern construction techniques

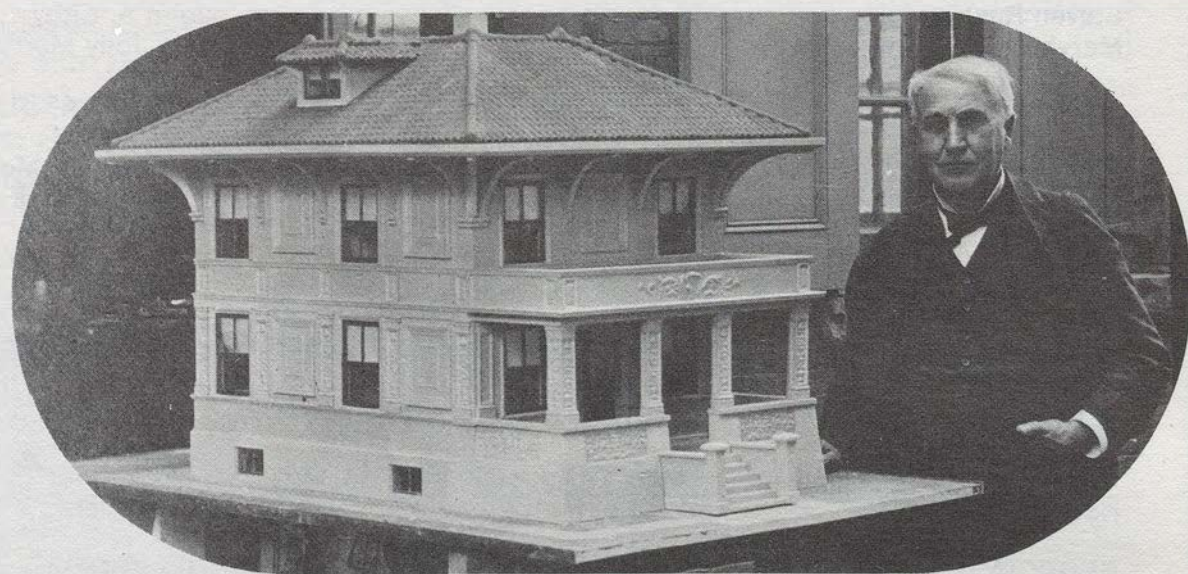
One of Edison's least-known inventions is Edison Portland Cement—the forerunner of modern construction.

More of a process than a product, it never caught on until the mid-1960s as a universal building method for large buildings. Its use is best demonstrated in contemporary buildings by the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill of New York.

However, when Edison developed it, he thought the process would best be used to supply low-cost housing. To promote his cement business, he devised a 3-foot-high model in the early 1900s. He claimed a full-scale house could be built "by machinery in lots of 100 or more at one location, or for a price which will be so low that it can be purchased or rented by families whose total income is not more than \$550 per annum."

The seven-room concrete house could be cast in six hours at the cost of \$1,200, plus another \$150 for labor.

Edison's scale model house is exhibited at the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, N.J. Last year it underwent extensive reconstruction at



**Edison in 1900 with his scale-model house made from Edison Cement.**

the National Park Service's Conservation Laboratory in Harper's Ferry, W. Va.

The scale model reached the furniture lab with missing railings, doors, windows and pillars. Restorers made everything from glass windows to porch columns. Conservator Allen Cochran made rubber molds for the missing pieces, and castings were made with

material like plaster of Paris and painted to resemble the originals.

In fact, Edison did have a chance to see some of his houses mass-produced. A project was begun in 1919 in Union, N.J., and the concrete was poured in one day. His mass production scheme never went national, but the houses built in Union still stand and now sell for about \$50,000 each. ■



# Kids do everything in new Edison musical

A new musical play for young voices, written by John Wilson and Grace Hawthorne, now being performed at schools across the country, depicts the life and inventiveness of Thomas Edison.

"Children run the whole show," said John Wilson, who wrote the music and is executive editor for Hope Publishing Co. of Carol Stream, Ill. "We've designed the package so the kids run everything. They do the acting, make their own costumes, and operate the lights, sound and equipment."

According to lyricist Grace Hawthorne, who has written for "Sesame Street" and lives in Atlanta, "'The Electric Sunshine Man' is an extremely flexible musical. Individual productions can range from a strictly stand-up-and-sing performance to a highly-involved dramatic extravaganza, with full staging, lighting, costumes and backdrops," she said.

Typical of the bright lyrics that are fun to learn and easy to sing are these from the title song:

Sunshine in a bottle  
Music in a box  
There was nothing he couldn't do  
He had a dream  
And it all came true  
The Electric Sunshine Man

©1978 Somerset Press

Others songs include "The Invention



**Pineda Elementary School in Cocoa, Fla: cast celebrates the grand finale of "The Electric Sunshine Man" with the song, "He Did It."**

Factory," "Gonna Turn On New York City," and "Lights, Camera, Action." The catchy lyrics, which are sung to prerecorded music, express Edison's inventiveness and perseverance.

Numerous companies have offered special technical assistance and publicity to the schools. Florida Power and Light, Rochester Gas and Electric, and Virginia Electric and Power companies also have supplied photographs of Edison, slides of some of his inventions and certain Edison artifacts.

A typical response to such cooperation appeared on the program for the

show staged by the Pineda Elementary School in Cocoa, Fla.: "We wish to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the Florida Power and Light Company. Their support and concern for endeavors to observe the Edison Centennial (of Light) are an outstanding display of community service."

Cost of the sheet music and script is \$4.95. Recorded music is \$5.95 for record, and \$6.95 for cassette. A full instrumental accompaniment tape costs \$25. For additional information, write to Somerset Press, Carol Stream, Ill. 60187. ■

## Edison remembered by close associate Stringfellow

Retired industrialist George E. Stringfellow of Arlington, Va., former general manager and president of Edison Industries, has recorded highlights of his eight-year close association with Mr. Edison. Stringfellow has given his recorded recollections to the N.J. Historical Commission.

Stringfellow, now 87, became sales manager of the Edison-headed company in 1923 when he was only 31, and was promoted to president and general manager

shortly thereafter.

"Mr. Edison's day at the laboratory began about 8:30 a.m. and ended at 6:00 p.m., with just enough time off for a small lunch," Stringfellow said. "He would bring home with him a 'bag full of problems' which he would work on in his basement laboratory after dinner."

Stringfellow most admires Edison for his integrity.

"On one occasion," he says, "Edison placed a product on the

market which had worked well in the laboratory, but its performance in the field was disappointing. He not only closed the plant where the product was manufactured, but requested his customers to return their purchases for a full refund."

According to Stringfellow, when some customers felt they should at least pay something for the service they received, Edison said, "My integrity is involved and that is not for sale." ■



# Montana State awarding TAEF's Cook honorary Ph.D.



**Edison Foundation President James G. Cook discusses the 28th Science Institute held at Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont., with Dan Regan, vice president, Montana Power Co., cosponsor of the Institute with the Foundation; Mac Rugheimer, assistant dean of MSU's College of Letters and Science; and Ellis Donahue, director of training, Montana Power Co.**

James G. Cook, president of the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation and executive secretary of the International Committee for the Centennial of Light, will receive an honorary doctor of science degree from Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont. The degree will be awarded at spring commencement exercises.

At the announcement, MSU President William Tietz said, "Mr. Cook is richly deserving of the honor. As chief operating officer of the Edison Foundation, he has worked long and successful-

ly for the advancement of science and engineering education."

Cook, 42, will be the youngest person ever to receive an honorary doctorate from Montana State. A native of Michigan, he has degrees from Michigan State University and Eastern Michigan University. Before joining the Edison Foundation in 1965, he was with General Motors Corp. He became the Foundation's executive director in 1967 and was named president in 1971.

Recently, Montana State University played host to the 28th Edison Science

Institute cosponsored by the TAEF and Montana Power Company. The three-day program assembled more than 330 Montana junior high and high school students and science teachers.

"The Institute serves as a forum to create a positive environment for science education in the country, thereby attracting and keeping talented students in the hard sciences, at a time when an anti-science mood is so prevalent," Cook said.

Edison Science Institutes have been held on university campuses throughout the United States for more than 20 years. The Edison Foundation has organized as many as seven major science conferences and institutes annually. ■



TM Edison Centennial News

Edison Centennial News is published by Reddy Communications Inc. to provide information on the Centennial of Light, an international celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Thomas Alva Edison's invention of the incandescent lamp.

Editor: George E. Shea

Contributing Editors: Robert D. Walsh, Livvy Floren, Trina Lawson  
Editorial Assistants: Kathleen D'Aloise, Swea Nightingale, Katie Meehan, Judy Cash

Sponsoring the Centennial of Light is the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, 143 Cambridge Office Plaza, 18280 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075. It will be responsible for overall policy and coordination of the celebration.

Directing the Centennial's numerous activities is The International Committee for the Centennial of Light, which is made up of industrial leaders here and abroad. The Committee's chairman is Robert I. Smith.

The official Centennial of Light emblem is the trademark of the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation and is to be used by permission only.

Inquiries or requests for additional information should be directed to The International Committee for the Centennial of Light, Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, P.O. Box 1310, Greenwich, CT 06830. Telephone: (800) 243-8561; or in Connecticut: (203) 661-4800.

## Energy awareness in Alabama

Because of its optimistic message, the Centennial was selected as the theme of the grand finale of the Seventh Annual Energy Awareness Program sponsored by the Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative in Rainsville, Ala. The one-day program on contemporary energy issues was repeated on three consecutive days, May 1-3, for 400 high school seniors in the area.

"Unfortunately, when we talk about energy these days, it can be very discouraging to young people," said Helen Longshore, Sand Moun-

tain's member-service representative.

"The Centennial, however, reminds young people that solutions can be found to the complex problems of our society if we create the right environment for innovation," Longshore continued. "It encourages young people to be enthusiastic about what they can do and reminds them that the attitudes of technological advancement, competition, profit-making and taking calculated risks are not anti-social, but are in fact very productive and beneficial to society."