

Hoboken three-alarm fire forces 50 to flee

By JEANNE M. HALL

A three-alarm fire, accompanied by billowing, heavy smoke, forced some 50 people to flee from a five-story Hoboken tenement into a cutting winter freeze in the early morning hours yesterday.

All 50 residents of 624 Park Ave. escaped, according to fire reports.

Five residents were treated at St. Mary Hospital, including four persons who suffered smoke inhalation and an 8-year-old boy, who was injured after tumbling from a fire escape.

"It could have been a very tragic fire," said Deputy Fire Chief Edward MacDonald. "It was one of the worst (in terms of smoke) I've seen in the last few months."

"Your heart goes in your mouth when you pull up to a job like this," said Acting Deputy Chief John Sheehan, referring to the late hour of the 3:52 a.m. first alarm, and the unknown number of people in the building.

McDonald indicated the fire may have been started by someone who carelessly discarded a cigarette.

Fire fighters, searching feverishly through the heavy smoke for residents who were trapped or asleep, found Jayanti Parkhi, 32, lying unconscious on the second-floor landing of the brick building at 624 Park Ave. overcome by severe heat and smoke.

Mrs. Parki, Sanjay Patel, the 8-year-old and another resident, Bharti Mistry, were all treated and released from the hospital. Two sisters, Juanita and Estevania Rivera, 60 and 72 years old, were listed in stable condition. The women lived in the first floor apartment which received the brunt of the fire.

McDonald, who commanded firefighters at the fire, said it started in the informal clubhouse in the building's basement. The clubhouse was apparently used by high school youths in the neighborhood, according to one neighborhood boy. The second and third alarms both went off simultaneously at 3:53 a.m.

The intensity of the fire and the rush to evacuate all of the residents led to the simultaneous return of the second and third alarms. Acting Deputy Chief John Sheehan said yesterday.

Many of the residents were "confused," MacDonald said. Some of them just froze and "some of them had to be dragged out of the building."

The smoke and heat prevented most of the residents in the building's 15-units from using the stairs and they took to the fire escapes.

A woman living at 622 Park Ave., who didn't give her name, said the smoke was so thick, she couldn't see across the street.

"We couldn't get out and we didn't know what was going on," one resident said. "We panicked so bad."

Residents from the fire-ravaged building crowded into the hallways of her building to stay out of the cold.

Kanti Patel, who lived in the first floor rear apartment, said his 28-year-old son Mahesh awoke him after 3 a.m. when he smelled smoke.

Patel, who was standing among the charred walls and water damaged contents of his apartment yesterday, said he gathered his family and ran outside.

"I called from outside to the upstairs people" once the alarm was called, Patel said.

The basement received the heaviest damage from the fire, with the first floor apartments receiving fire and smoke damage. The upper floor apartments were virtually untouched by the fire, according to reports.

The heat and electricity was turned off and the building's residents spent the night with family and friends.

Joseph Sardone, the building's owner, worked yesterday to repair the broken windows and get the heat and electricity turned back on. He hoped to have the utilities back in service yesterday evening.

Teachers opt for old union in Hoboken

The president of the Hoboken Teachers Association last night hailed as "a great vote of confidence" the easy victory the HTA scored over the Hoboken Federation of Teachers in a representative election.

The HTA, which has been the only bargaining agent ever to represent the city's teachers, scored a 264-59-179 win over the federation in an election conducted by the State Public Employment Relations Commission.

The federation had petitioned for the election, seeking to become the new bargaining agent for the 460 teachers. The 443 teachers who voted yesterday cast their ballots between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at three schools in the city.

Michael D'Ondrio, HTA president, said the vote showed teachers are satisfied with the type of representation they have been receiving through the HTA. He said salaries compare favorably with other districts and "our members got a good contract this year."

A federation spokesman conceded that "we felt we would do a lot better." He said the city's teachers were being shortchanged and could be better compensated. He said state money coming in but we have shortages in teacher personnel. The results are a blow for the children, the teachers and taxpayers.

New Hoboken public safety director confirms plan to lay off cops, firemen

Hoboken's new public safety director, James Giordano, said today that there probably will be layoffs in the police and fire departments, but as yet, he doesn't know how many.

Giordano is the over-all boss of both departments.

Replying to a report in another newspaper that 30 bluecoats would have to be laid off, Giordano said:

"I'll know more about it when I review the budget with Edwin Chiusi" (city business administrator).

Fire Chief James Houn said today he hopes to have "some help from other departments to avoid laying off 10 or 11 men and demoting another three."

"There may be some city departments which could afford to reduce by

as much as 30 percent," he said.

Houn said that any cuts in his department would have to come from its \$2 million a year salary expenditure since the Fire Department's other expenditures are "negligible."

Laying off 10 or 11 men would necessitate the closing of one of the city's engine companies, which is normally staffed by 12 men, Houn said.

"This is unfortunate, but I'd rather have more men staffing fewer companies than fewer men working at more companies," he said. "I don't want to do it, but if it's mandated, I'll have to," he explained.

Mayor Steve Cappiello has ordered all city department directors to cut their budgets by a minimum of 10 percent for the year beginning Jan. 1.

Macy parade starts in Hoboken

When thousands line Manhattan streets Thursday to welcome the arrival of Santa Claus in the annual Thanksgiving Day parade, they will be watching the colorful floats that rolled through the Lincoln Tunnel from Hoboken hours before.

For the annual Macy's Day parade is a holiday institution that begins and ends each year in a warehouse at 1505 Willow Ave.

Manfred Bass of Mountainside, the designer and builder of the floats, said the parade has been getting bigger each year and "we all seem to be able to work a little harder."

Creating the colorful floats is a year round job and with films like "Star Wars," and the newer television shows, the public expects more complex parades with a lot of special effects, he said.

In Thursday's 52nd annual parade, Santa Claus and his sled will be led by eight lively reindeer. "And they'll be anatomically correct," said Bass.

\$45M industry park seen

By SUSAN KELMAN

Hoboken officials hope to develop a nearly \$45 million industrial park at the northern end of the city as the first step towards reviving its tax base.

The industrial park is part of an urban renewal plan which will be revealed later this month at public hearings. The plan, officials say, will lead to new social, health and recreational programs in deteriorated sections of the city.

In the past 10 years, the city has lost approximately 3,000 jobs and more than 100 commercial and industrial employers. Although the movement to renovate brownstone buildings has greatly revitalized the city, the exodus of industry has placed a heavy burden on the individual taxpayer.

About 190 acres of land—some 21 percent of the entire city's area—is available for industrial development. The park, which officials say will be based on the Hartz Mountain industrial park in Secaucus, would be built with a combination of federal, state and local money.

"The need to rationalize and develop the city's industrial

districts becomes more urgent as its tax base dwindles and fewer properties carry a larger share of the tax load," said Ralph B. Seligman, consultant to the planning board.

Meanwhile, Mayor Steve Cappiello has asked the state Department of Transportation (DOT) to abandon a railroad track on the western perimeter of the city which could provide a truck route for the industrial park.

In a related matter, Cappiello hopes to turn the Conrail yard, along the southern edge of the city, into a truck route connecting Jersey City and Hoboken. Trucks would then be banned from Observer Highway.

The industrial park would probably have its own police and fire protection, Seligman said. The roads in the area would be upgraded and new roads would be constructed to attract industry to Hoboken.

While most of the attention of Hoboken residents has been focused on the waterfront, the planning board has quietly been developing proposals to revitalize the entire city.

A \$24 million project to revitalize the waterfront was rejected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development last month. The city may, however, reapply in the next grant period.

"Hoboken has to organize itself to take advantage of its prime location," Seligman said yesterday. "It is a very

opportune time to put energy into economic development."

Hoboken officials hope to have the master plan—including the industrial park—approved by the entire board by December. By the end of February, the city will be rezoned for industrial and residential uses, Seligman said.

The next public hearing will be at 8 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Elks Club.

Who's on first?

In Hoboken, parked cars that block the street sweeper are given \$10 tickets — not by police or meter maids, but by CETA workers.

Now it has been discovered that no one in the Hoboken city government supervises these CETA workers in their ticketing duties. No one in the city government directs them, controls them, takes responsibility for them, or notes what they do.

This absence of any supervision, the casual attitude toward disposing of the taxpayers' money which is used to pay these workers' salaries, certainly does not match Hoboken's carefully burnished image of a city on the move.

In fact, it triggers the same reaction expressed by Casey Stengel when he took over the faltering Mets: "Doesn't anyone around here know how to play this game?"

THE JERSEY JOURNAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1978



Hoboken City Clerk Anthony Ambruso, left, stands with James Giordano, right, as the city's public safety director as his wife, Evelyn, and son, Mark, watch.

Giordano cites role as safety director

Hoboken's new public safety director, James W. Giordano, described himself today as "an outsider when it comes to being director."

"I'm going to be out there finding out what the citizens need and what kind of protection they should have," he said.

Giordano was sworn in as director by Mayor Steve Cappiello yesterday at a ceremony in the council chambers at city hall. Prior to his appointment as public safety director he was a police sergeant and headed the vice squad in the detective bureau.

Giordano said he hadn't set any firm plans because he wants to learn more about the fire department. "I

know a lot about the police department, but I'll have to familiarize myself with the goings-on in the fire department."

The best way to learn, he said, is "to be with the ground troops." Giordano said he will visit fire houses, ride in patrol cars and walk a post with a man.

He said that he will make his rounds in both daytime and evening hours "to reach everyone and get everyone's point of view."

Giordano, whose headquarters will be in city hall, said that he will be accessible to the citizens of Hoboken and the men of fire and police departments. "I'll be around; they'll be able to see me," he added.

30 Hoboken cops and firemen to lose jobs to \$ jam

By SUSAN KELMAN

Hoboken officials have agreed to lay off at least 30 policemen and firemen amid charges that the city would become a haven for vandals and arsonists.

Fire Chief James Houn said yesterday that he would probably shut down one of the city's four engine companies. Police Chief George Crimmins said 10 percent of the men would be laid off and several more demoted to meet budget cutbacks requested by Mayor Steve Cappiello.

One of every six city employees will have to be laid off, Cappiello said. The jobs of approximately 100 employees in the city's six major departments will be eliminated.

Cappiello blames the federal government for the severity of the budget crunch. The 95th Congress failed to pass

an anti-recession aid package before it adjourned in October, thus eliminating about \$1.5 million in aid for the city, said Cappiello.

Several department directors refused yesterday to comply with Cappiello's demand that they cut the budget by at least 10 percent. Director of Public Works Andrew Amato said he has a blanket policy against layoffs and will refuse to comply.

Director of Health and Welfare James Farina said he will not make layoffs unless the city council committee on Health and Welfare orders him to do so. If layoffs are necessary, Farina said he will recommend that welfare employees be let go before the nine recreation workers patrolling the city's four parks are dismissed.

Thomas Meehan, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, said the city is operating with a minimum of patrolmen on its eight shifts. Hoboken could not be protected if the 144-member police force is cut, he said.

Meanwhile, all the city's police and fire dispatchers will be eliminated under new federal regulations governing the CETA program. They will be replaced with untrained CETA workers.

The police department has already left five positions vacant. Sgt. James Giordano, who was promoted yesterday to direct the department of public safety, will not be replaced.

The most severe cutbacks will be at the lowest ranks, in accordance with civil service procedure. Patrolmen will be dismissed first, and supervisors will be demoted.

In the recreation department, almost all temporary personnel, including a park attendant, two recreation aides and a carpenter assigned to the parks, will be released, Farina said. These cutbacks follow a report from the recreation commission, the department's watchdog, that the parks are severely understaffed.

The cutbacks proposed by Farina will only eliminate about 1 percent of the department's \$736,000 budget.

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Ranieri to caution cities on contracts

Councilman Robert Ranieri is the official delegate of Hoboken to the 1978 Congress of Cities of the National League of Cities which will take place until Wednesday in St. Louis.

The keynote speaker will be President Jimmy Carter. Three cabinet members and six sub-cabinet members will also attend.

Ranieri will address the member cities' delegates tomorrow. His topic will be police union negotiating. "My assignment is to present my viewpoint as both public official and negotiator," he said.

His talk will be based on a survey of labor contracts with police departments in 98 major cities. The survey was conducted by the league's labor relations committee of which Ranieri is a member.

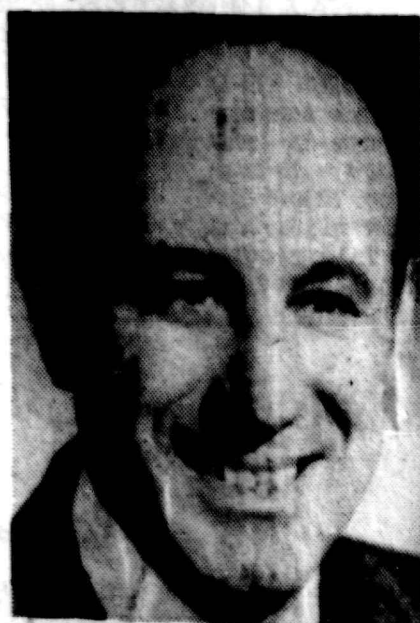
The results of the survey have evolved into a book called, "Police Collective Bargaining — National Management Survey," which is an analysis of the 98 contracts with police unions, the councilman said.

The book contains a breakdown of the contracts into 14 categories. "It shows the pitfalls of each category and how to avoid and correct them," Ranieri explained.

He said that cities have become "defenseless" in bargaining with the police unions because "the unions are well organized where the cities are not."

He gave the example of residency laws for police — "They can live anywhere in the state." Some policemen are working in "urban hard core centers" and living in the more affluent suburbs. The cities are expected to increase police men's salaries to meet that lifestyle "when we cannot afford it," Ranieri continued.

A no strike clause should be a



Councilman Robert Ranieri Speaker

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Cappiello bars Amato plea on budget cuts

By Julia Feeney

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has turned down a request by his public works director, Andrew Amato, for exemption from an order requiring all departments to cut their 1979 budgets by at least 10 percent.

Cappiello said today that all department directors "will have to live within the framework for the budget that is set up," and "no one will be exempt."

Amato said last week that cutbacks in his department would mean the end of Hoboken. "All directors want to be excluded from cutbacks and layoffs," Cappiello said. "What they have to remember is that we have a budget to meet, and it will have to be handled in a reasonable fashion."

Amato had said he had already saved the city well over 10 percent in expenditures in roll-off containers alone since 1976.

Commenting on this today, the mayor said: "The City Council and I were already aware of the large spending in public works at that time. Amato was instructed to make those cutbacks."

Meanwhile, city business administrator Edwin Chiusi said today that he is proposing specific amounts by which the directors will have to cut their department budgets.

The amounts are: Public Safety, \$500,000; Public Works, \$385,000; Health and Welfare, \$135,000; Administration, \$90,000; Revenue and Finance, \$60,000, and Law, \$30,000.

With the exception of Public Safety, all the other amounts exceed the 10 percent minimum the mayor is requiring in cutbacks.

Chiusi said "most directors could cut their budgets at least half this amount without laying off any personnel."

Hoboken to act on repossessing Grand Hotel from developer

It's three strikes and you're out for the developer who bought Hoboken's Grand Hotel well over a year ago and failed to live up to the conditions of the sale.

Councilman Robert Ranieri said today that he will notify the law department of the city to prepare a proper resolution for repossession of the Hudson Street property.

The developer, Pasquale Severino, announced at the time of the sale that the building would be converted into a quality steakhouse with either apartments or hotel

rooms occupying the upper floors.

One of the conditions of the sale was that work would start within 90 days after approval of the sale by the council and be completed within six months of that date.

Severino had received two six months extensions in addition to the original six-month period to renovate the building and make it a tax-generating and job-producing facility, Ranieri said.

In the 18 months, Ranieri said, the only work completed was to sandblast the exterior of the building

and install new windows. "I am firm in my knowledge that he (Severino) will never renovate this building," the councilman declared.

Ranieri said the city will have two choices as to what to do with the Grand Hotel after repossession. "It can be resold at auction," he said, "or I have a public commitment from Mayor Cappiello that we will raze the building if it cannot be sold."

"The City Council will not grant Severino any more extensions," the councilman added — "The time is up."

150 Hoboken workers face the budget knife

By SUSAN KELMAN

Bending under the loss of \$1.5 million in federal funds, Hoboken will send out termination notices to as many as 150 Hoboken city employees today in an attempt to make up the deficit, city officials said yesterday.

City officials estimated that the actual number to be laid off will be somewhere between 50 and 100, out of a total city work force of 650. The maneuver is expected to recover \$1.2 million of the deficit.

City Business Administrator Edward Chius predicted yesterday that only about 50 employees would actually lose their jobs by the Jan. 15 deadline, but Mayor Steve Cappiello appeared more pessimistic,

estimating that at least 100 city employees will be fired.

The layoffs are Hoboken's response to the loss of \$1.5 million in federal anti-recession aid. Hoboken is the first Hudson County municipality to cut drastically its proposed 1979 budget.

The cutbacks come just days after President Carter told a conference of mayors and urban officials that, because of the nation's inflation problem and the need to cut government spending, the federal government could not continue to pump money into the nation's cities.

City officials said they will "encourage" employees to retire early or voluntarily leave their jobs. Other employees will be forced to leave their

jobs when higher ranking civil service employees are demoted.

In an atmosphere of chaos and disbelief, employees discussed their possible terminations yesterday.

"I don't believe it," said a Payroll Department employee. "I'm sure the governor will step in."

"My heart goes out to the guy who is going to get the slip," Public Safety Director James Giordano said.

Giordano and the other department directors were still working late yesterday to determine who would receive the notices.

Director of Health and Welfare James Farina

said he would send notices to one-third of his employees—all of whom he expects to lay off. Farina still has to cut \$320,000 from his budget proposal, Chius said.

Plans to repair sidewalks and fencing at the four city parks have been canceled, Farina said, he predicted that the budget cuts would "practically mean the end of the Recreation Department."

Director of Public Works Andrew Amato, who has previously refused to lay off employees, said he will decide early today which employees are in danger of losing their jobs. Amato still has to cut \$362,000 from his budget to meet 10 percent cutbacks requested by Cappiello.

Fusilli may run for council post

By William Taft

Even as Hoboken's Second Ward councilman, Walter S. Cramer, was announcing today that he will run for reelection in May, supporters of County Freeholder Vincent J. Fusilli began circulating a petition to draft him to run for his old job, now Cramer's.

Cramer got off to a head start when Mayor Steve Cappiello, the city's political leader, told The Jersey Journal today that Cramer is his candidate for reelection.

Cramer is opening his campaign with a reception tonight at 8 in the Elks' Clubhouse at 10th and Washington streets.

Fusilli told The Jersey Journal: "I understand there's a petition of sorts going around, but I haven't seen it or heard just what it says."

"I am not a candidate at this time. However, anything could happen in the future."

Cramer was elected to serve the last two years of Fusilli's term as Second Ward councilman in 1973, when Fusilli moved up to freeholder. Cramer then was reelected for a four-year term in 1975.

In May, 1977 Fusilli broke with Cappiello and backed Anthony H. Romano for mayor. Romano lost. Fusilli was "in the doghouse" and Cappiello had himself nominated for freeholder in place of Fusilli last June and won election last month.

Cramer is the only one of Hoboken's six ward councilmen whom Cappiello has so far endorsed for reelection. Fusilli's term as freeholder ends at the end of this month.

One school to replace 3 old ones?

Councilman Robert A. Ranieri today said the Hoboken Board of Education appeared inconsistent in its approach to the locations and sizes of its schools.

"Early in the 1970s," he observed, "the board wanted diffused scattered sites with smaller buildings. The Calabro School, a so-called mini-school, was built as a pilot project for that policy."

"But now they are asking us for \$15 million to concentrate in one large building and close smaller buildings."

"Which way are we heading?" Schools Superintendent George

Maier replied today that the Calabro School was "experimental."

"It was good," he continued, "in the sense that it is educationally abreast of the newest procedures in education. It is a more specialized type of education. Not all children could be sent there."

Ranieri was referring to Maier's proposal to tear down the old Kealey, Leinlauf and Connors schools — all badly in need of expensive rehabilitation — and replace them with one centralized building, partly with state financing and partly with money obtained through a bond sale.

Maier pointed out that the three schools form a cluster "in the southwest quadrant of the city." (The Kealey School and the Leinlauf School are only a block and a half apart.)

If the building he proposes were located approximately in the center of the quadrant, Maier declared, almost no children would have to walk

more than about six blocks to school, and most of them not more than four blocks.

He said Ranieri appears to be advocating "a so-called neighborhood school policy within a perimeter of three or four blocks."

Maier conceded that the location picked would have to be central with respect to the three existing schools, but he added that this could be achieved through the city's right to condemn property.

"In a large complex such as is proposed," Maier said, "we would be able to provide advantages you would not find in a small school. The overall gain would benefit the entire community."

"The housing pattern in the area looks fairly stable," he added. "It looks as though the number of children in the area will remain about the same for a long time to come."

In the Department of Revenue and Finance, Director Frank Bartletta notified all his employees that they will be laid off.

"It's a matter of formality," Bartletta said. "Of course I can't lay off all of them."

Chius said several city employees will be replaced by CETA employees, according to George Crimmins Jr., coordinator of the program.

The confusion over how many employees will be laid off hinges on the civil service procedure of bumping, which allows higher ranking employees to take lower paying jobs in other city departments. If a large number of employees choose this option, the city will save money in salary cuts and fewer employees will be laid off, city Business

Administrator Edwin Chius said.

In requests submitted to Chius yesterday, directors managed to cut \$338,000 from the previous budget. Another \$945,000 in cuts are expected before the final budget is submitted to the City Council in February.

The Public Safety Department expects to lay off 42 crossing guards in May 1979. Another 15 cops and firemen may be laid off, Chius said.

In other budget cutbacks, the Administration Department canceled collision insurance on all city vehicles and eliminated the travel allowance for all city officials. Officials will no longer be reimbursed at 15 cents per mile for trips outside New Jersey.

"It's like a small Proposition 13. If California can cut spending, I'm sure Hoboken can," Chius said.

Ranieri wants parking at Maxwell House

Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri of Hoboken will ask Mayor Cappiello to call a meeting this week to plan for the construction of a parking garage above the parking lot of the Maxwell House coffee plant at 11th and Hudson streets.

Ranieri said the project would accomplish four objectives: 1. Provide parking for Uptown residents and businesses.

2. Ease the parking shortage for Maxwell House officials and employees. 3. Remove any problems which might arise from the construction of a projected bicycle path which would skirt the Maxwell House lot. 4. Provide replacements for parking spaces which would be lost by the elimination of all parking on River Road, which is provided in the city's proposed master plan, according to Ranieri.

The councilman said he has contacted a consulting engineering firm specializing in parking garages, which is "very interested" in the proposed Maxwell House project.

The money to build the garage,

Ranieri said, would come from four sources: The U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department, the Maxwell House Company, and the city.

Juanita Krebs, secretary of com-

merce, Ranieri said, has offered financial help to cities in implementing "innovative projects such as this."

The garage would be managed by Hoboken's parking authority, he added.

Hoboken Council to reject bids on library windows

Hoboken's City Council will discuss a resolution at Wednesday morning's meeting rejecting bids received by city business administrator, Edwin Chius, for replacement of some of the public library's windows.

"The bids were higher than we expected," Chius said, "and we also

want to alter some of the specifications before re-advertising for bidding." Some of the windows in the library aren't functional, Chius said, and have to be changed.

Chius said that the bidding would

probably be re-advised in February because the windows couldn't be replaced in the cold weather.

Critics call Hoboken master plan sham

A master plan for Hoboken, which was presented to the public at a hearing held by the planning board Wednesday night, is a "non-plan plan," a representative of Recreation on the Waterfront (ROW) said today.

Sally Aaronson, chairman of ROW, said the goals and recommendations of the plan were "meaningless" because no specific details were given.

"It has none of the elements of a master plan," she said. "There was no statement made as to where the city is going."

Ralph B. Seligman of Mayo, Lynch, consultants to the planning board, who made the presentation at the hearing, said earlier that the land

use plan "meets the requirements of New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law by providing a basis for a revised zoning ordinance and establishing a comprehensive framework for a coordinated city improvement program."

"Mayo, Lynch has been working on this plan for a year and a half and they've basically only produced maps of how the city is now," Ms. Aaronson said.

She added that one map did show some future goals for Hoboken but the categories were not defined clearly enough. "They showed us a proposed industrial district but couldn't tell us what type of industry would go there," she continued.

Plans for the waterfront or

special review area of the plan were "completely vague," according to Ms. Aaronson. "The planning board didn't tell us whether there would be any limitations on building as to height or density. We don't know if industry will be allowed there — they just didn't say," she continued.

The planning board did mention a recreation site as a possibility but no indication was given whether it would be a private recreation facility or public, she continued.

"There is no mention of recreation in any other place in the city yet," this was shown by survey to be of prime importance to the residents of Hoboken," she declared.

Representatives of ROW said that the planning board should have held more than two meetings with the public in a year and a half to discuss in detail the categories of land use.

"We" (ROW) weren't the only ones asking specific questions about the types of housing, recreation and

industry planned, she said. "Residents at the meeting were upset by the general answers, too," she asserted.

Under a state law on land use passed in 1975, all municipalities have to present a new master plan to the state by Feb. 1. Ms. Aaronson said: "Unless the planning board is withholding the more specific information, they're going to do a horrible job on the plan to meet that deadline."



OFFICIAL OPENING — Mayor Steve Cappiello snips the ribbon to officially open the "Bargain Box," a thrift shop run by the St. Mary Hospital Auxiliary at 601 Bloomfield St., Hoboken. With the mayor, from left, are Shirley Ondrick, chairman of the project; Sister Felicita Lichtenauer of the hospital and Carmelo Rivera, one of the volunteer workers. All profits from the store go directly to the hospital.

Hoboken councilman wants pay cuts at top

Councilman Walter S. Cramer of Hoboken said today that he will not vote to lay off any city employees as a budget-trimming measure until the mayor and directors of the municipal departments take a 10 to 15 percent salary cut and the councilmen either waive their salaries or "drastically" reduce them.

The city administration is preparing a 1979 budget which provides for up to 100 fewer salaries for city employees.

Cramer's term as Second Ward councilman expires next July 1 and he has announced he will run for reelection next May. Mayor Steve Cappiello has endorsed him. It is expected that Cramer will be opposed by his predecessor in the council seat, Vincent J. Fusilli, whose term as a county freeholder expires at the end of this month.

"I am very disturbed about the prospect of layoffs of city employees," Cramer told The Jersey Journal today. "If my recollection is cor-

rect, I think no one was laid off in the nationwide depression of the early 30s when things were much tougher than they are now."

"I wouldn't vote for any layoffs," Cramer continued, "unless I were shown in black and white that they are absolutely necessary and that we have done everything in our power to prevent layoffs, such as cutting top salaries."

"It may be necessary to cut the salaries of the mayor and the department directors 10 to 15 percent to forestall layoffs."

"And the city council, above all, should set an example by cutting its own salaries drastically or not taking any salary at all, until the crisis is past."

Cramer said he did not know whether his proposal would be supported by the other city officials. He said none of the councilmen depends on his \$6,000 salary for his livelihood. "I myself take home \$69 a week out of my \$129 gross pay," he added.

Bado, Serrano to be links to film industry

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello today appointed two men as "liaison" representatives to the New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission in an effort to make Hoboken the "Hollywood of the East."

The appointments will come before the city council at a caucus tonight in advance of the regular meeting Wednesday night, according to Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri.

Ranieri said Sidney Kingsley, commission chairman, made the request for appointment of liaison representatives in a letter to Cappiello.

The two men are Fred Bado, director of the city's Community Development Agency, and Patrolman Leo Serrano. Ranieri said Serrano had ten years' experience in the film industry before becoming a policeman.

Up to now, the councilman has

dealt almost exclusively with Kingsley concerning the prospect of creating a film center in Hoboken.

Asked about the mayor's choice of others as liaison, Ranieri replied, "Considering the amount of responsibility I already have to the people of Hoboken, I really don't care who the mayor appoints, as long as he gets the work done." He added that he thought Serrano was "an excellent choice," because of his background in the industry.

Ranieri said he wanted to arrange a meeting with Cappiello and an informal committee to discuss Hoboken's potential before the council meeting. The committee would include Ranieri and some Hoboken residents who are employed in the business, technical or production end of the film industry.

The proposed film center would be located on the Port Authority piers in Hoboken.

Hoboken board tables creating school business administrator

The Hoboken Board of Education has postponed considering Trustee Robert Wendelken's proposal to establish the post of business administrator by consolidating the jobs of business manager and board secretary.

Wendelken said an earlier board meeting had produced a consensus that such a position was necessary.

The move to delay or drop the idea came at last night's caucus from Board President Otto Hottendorf, who told Wendelken, "What you are suggesting is not possible."

The board first must seek approval from county and state education officials if the job is to supersede that of secretary, Hottendorf said, and "I suggest you do nothing" until state legislation gives boards of education the power to take such action on their own.

Wendelken also proposed hiring the firm of Strauss Associates to prepare a board policy manual. The board does not have a written policy covering all areas of its actions, Wendelken said, and the firm has promised to do the job for \$6,800.

Trustee Richard England added several items to the agenda for Tuesday's regular meeting. He presented a resolution that instead of listing members of the board's bargaining committee by name, they be listed by position, including the superintendent, assistant superintendent for personnel, the board's negotiator, the board attorney and the trustees on the finance and negotiation committees. Under the existing system, amendments are needed everytime someone leaves the committee.

England also offered a resolution requiring all board officers — including the board secretary, attorney, superintendent and other officers as listed by state statute — to attend all board meetings.

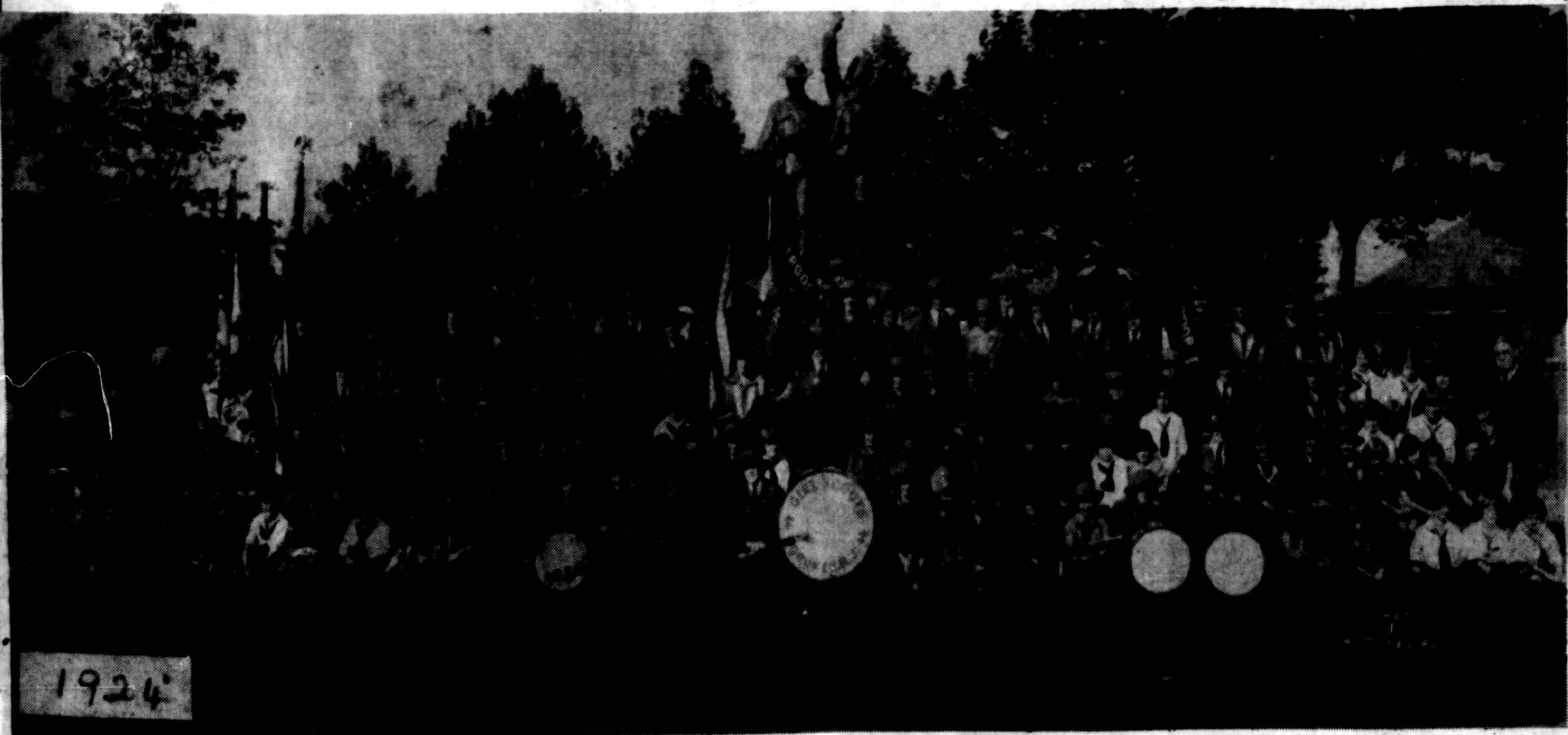
He suggested the formation of a three-member ad hoc committee to examine the board's policy on sick leaves. Under an agreement with the teachers, the board promised to re-

examine the policy and include teachers' representatives in the talks.

A suggestion by Wendelken that the position of board attorney/fiscal adviser be abolished and a new position of board legal advisor be established on a retainer basis also was tabled. Hottendorf said he felt the new position would cost \$20,000 to \$30,000 more a year than the board's salary to Robert W. Taylor, who now does both jobs. Wendelken promised to get further information on costs of attorneys hired by boards, on a retainer basis versus on a straight salary.

Although the board did not review a resolution outlining an contract agreement with school administrators, it was indicated at the caucus that such a contract may come up for approval at the Tuesday meeting. The board and administrators have been negotiating for a new contract for several months.

Hoboken Girl Scouts of the past



Fifty-four years ago Hoboken Girl Scouts banded which marched in community parades. Memories of bygone days will be recalled when the Pavonia Girl Scout Council holds its anniversary celebration tonight at the Archway in Secaucus. The council was made up of five Hudson County local councils which

merged. The Hoboken group set up its own scout house three years after this picture was taken, and a garden followed. Community organizations were generous in their cooperation with the council and were rewarded when the scouts turned around and worked in cooperation with projects of neighboring organizations.

Last call for wet one Hoboken bar cars run dry

Conrail sounded the last call for bar car drinks on last night's commuter train runs from Hoboken, claiming the well has run dry on subsidies.

The end of the service on the old Erie-Lackawanna lines isn't easy to swallow, regular riders say. Seven years of riding vintage, dingy cars convinced Art Sanders of Mendham that the bar cars were one of "the few things which make commuting bearable."

"We're mad as hell about this," said Frank Seifried of Madison. "The state should take some of the money it makes from casino gambling and subsidize this service, if that's what's needed."

"The drinks cost \$1.50 each and I'm sure the bartenders didn't make too much in salary, most of their

earnings are tips," said Gerald Murphy. "Conrail has a phony argument."

Clutching the discontinuation notice in his hand on a recent trip, Murphy explained: "A loss of \$178,000 is absurd. Conrail has to be making money with this service."

Bartender Marion Bouyer is a 25-year railroad veteran, first in dining cars and the last 14 years serving drinks on the 5:09 out of Hoboken, the 6:36 from Morrisown or the 7:30 from Hoboken.

"We're just like one big family here and I am really going to miss these people," Bouyer said of the unofficial but highly active "5:09 Club."

"I'm sure we'll all survive, although if I come home sober, my wife may not know me," joked Ted Adkins of Convent Station.

Fitting the crime

Nine Hoboken school children are to do cleanup jobs after school in the three schools they attend, to work off the \$1,000 damage they did at the Wallace School on a recent weekend rampage.

The penalty was decided on at a meeting of the city's Juvenile Board, the children and their parents. It spares the parents from paying the \$1,000 damage bill.

Considering that the offenders could have been sent away to the county's Youth House for their misdeed, this is a case of tempering justice with mercy. In addition, the punishment fits the crime.

The authorities should make sure, however, that the children are held to their task so that the punishment does not end up as a slap on the wrist, which could encourage vandalism.

A city in crisis

By SUSAN KELMAN

Hoboken resembled a city under siege yesterday as 135 city workers received termination notices, other workers walked off their jobs to protest further possible layoffs and Mayor Steve Cappelletto struggled to "keep this town intact."

City hall workers were in a state of shock and confusion yesterday when the employees received their pink slips because of the loss of \$1.5 million in federal funds.

Another 50 Department of Public Works employees walked off their jobs and demonstrated inside city hall because their paychecks were late.

All day long the mood was somber—almost like a funeral—when employees with 10 years experience or more were told they were in danger of losing their jobs. Some of the secretaries cried softly

as they handed termination notices to long-time friends.

But the mood switched from grief to anger when the nearly 50 DPW employees walked off their jobs and demonstrated for about a half-hour in the early afternoon outside the office of their boss, Andrew Amato.

The shouting blue collar workers demanded their paychecks, which were held up until 2 p.m. while secretaries attached the termination notices. Mayor Steve Cappelletto, however, was able to quell their protest and convince a local bank to stay open later than usual to cash the checks.

The layoffs, first announced two days ago, are Hoboken's response to the loss of \$1.5 million in federal anti-recession funds. Hoboken is the first Hudson County municipality to drastically cut its

proposed 1979 budget because of the anti-recession cuts.

The terminations affect 15 policemen, 15 firemen, 30 laborers and five lawyers. The Revenue and Finance Department and the Department of Health and Welfare sent notices to 48 employees who could be laid off Jan. 15.

Some jobs could be saved, however, if employees near retirement age leave early, or other employees agree to take a pay cut, according to city officials.

Shortly after the demonstration, several city department heads and officials gathered in the office of Business Administrator Edwin Chius and talked dejectedly about the layoffs.

"I hope the layoffs won't come," Public Safety Director James Giordano said. Others nodded slowly as they slipped wine and read newspaper accounts of the city's fiscal problem.

Mayor Cappelletto managed to quiet the DPW workers' protest by coming out of his office and listening to the employees' complaints.

"I hope nobody gets laid off," Cappelletto told them, with his arm around one of the men. "I work very hard at trying to keep this town intact and I want you to do the same thing."

The public works employees returned to their jobs after the mayor promised to convince the Trust Company of New Jersey, where city employees are able to cash their checks, to remain open.

In the morning, Anna Lyons, who works in the mayor's office, spent several hours making hundreds of copies of the termination notices.

"It's a wonderful job," she said sarcastically. Then she said: "I've been here nine years and this is just terrible."

"After all these layoffs, it will only be the mayor and the directors," a secretary in the City Clerk's office said. "It dampens everyone's spirits. I don't know what the purpose is. They can't fire the whole city."

When employees went to pick up their paychecks in the various payroll offices, some joked about whether they would receive the termination notices, and at least one employee refused to sign his termination notice—as required by civil service regulations—until the mayor ordered him to do so.

Many did not know if they were among those selected to possibly lose their jobs. In some departments, employees were asked to pick up their checks one at a time to lessen the embarrassment.

"People are more nervous than I thought they would be," Chius said. "We sent out notices to a lot of people who probably won't be fired," he added.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed that things might brighten up," Director of Health and Welfare James Farina said as he watched his secretary distribute the notices.

At least one employee, however, was grateful when he was handed one of the termination notices.

"I'll get \$110 in unemployment and I won't have to work when it rains and snows," said Bebe Welch, an employee of the Health and Welfare Department. "Besides, we get the 45 days notice and anything could happen."

To save Hoboken jobs, he'd cut his own pay

Edwin Chius, Hoboken's business administrator who told council members at last night's caucus that no more than 40 persons will be laid off has announced he'll do his part in helping with the city's financial problems by taking a 10 per cent pay cut in 1979.

Although 135 pink slips already have been sent out and additional employees will receive notice of a general layoff, Chius told councilmen, "I personally believe that no more than 40 persons will be laid off."

The city is facing the layoffs and a financial gap of \$1.2 million because it has lost federal counter-cyclical, anti-recession funds.

The number of potential layoffs could be reduced if those persons who are planning to retire during 1979 would notify city officials of their intentions now. This would allow for the budgeting of less than a full year's pay for that person.

Councilman Anthony Romano requested that Chius provide a list of all those persons who received more than an 8 per cent increase in their pay last year. Romano wants the pay raises listed by percentage increase, not by dollar amount, stating that he felt the council had limited raises to below eight percent.

Romano said every spare dollar in surplus accounts or reserve funds should go to helping the city meet its obligations next year.

"I don't want to cut essential services and I don't want to cut back on (police) men. Things are getting worse out there everyday," he said. Council President Martin Bren-

nan appointed Romano and Councilmen Walter Cramer and Nunzio Malfetti to talk to employee groups to see if the groups are willing to approach the job reductions voluntarily. Romano said he would do this "if the only motive is to try and save as many jobs as we can." Brennan replied that the council "would match their contributions."

Earlier yesterday, Councilman Cramer had suggested one way the council might "match their contribution." He said he would not vote to lay off any city employees unless the mayor and directors of departments take a 10 to 15 percent salary cut and the council either waives its salaries or reduces them.

Reactions to Cramer's proposal were favorable today.

Councilman Robert Ranieri said, "If economy is needed, it's needed on all sides." He suggested that it might be the time to reduce the number of councilmen. "I've seen cities 10 times the size of Hoboken with the same number of councilmen."

Ranieri added that whatever course of action is taken should be decided by the voters. "There should be public hearings to let the people be heard in this matter," he said. "We should even put it on a ballot if necessary," he declared.

Mayor Steve Cappelletto said today that cutting his salary and those of the directors and the councilmen was something "to throw on the table and discuss."

He added that action of this nature couldn't really stop a layoff. "That kind of dollars could only affect

one person's wages," he commented.

Councilman Salvatore Camelli didn't agree with Cramer on waiving councilmen's salaries. "It would be nice to see city officials and the council waive the eight percent pay increase they received last year," he said. "I really can't see any layoffs for anyone at this time."

Public Works Director Andrew Amato is willing to take a cut in salary. "I've said it before and I'm still saying it," he asserted. "Cut my salary to save a man's job."

Two weeks ago Amato told the mayor he was willing to cut his salary to avoid any layoffs in the Public Works Department.

Councilman Nunzio Malfetti said that he would go along with a salary cut "if it would help a man from being laid off." He added, "Everyone should do it."

Ranieri said that while attention has to be given to next year's financial problems, the council must also begin to solve any deficits that may exist in the current budget.

In other business at the caucus, Ranieri urged that the city, the Community Development Agency and the Parking Authority sit down with Maxwell House Coffee to discuss construction of a parking garage over part of the coffee company's property or utilization of an empty building there for that purpose.

Lower bid on Hoboken trash pickup a big jump

Hoboken has received two sets of bids for a new garbage contract but the lower bid shows a 30.61 percent increase in cost over the current contract which expires Jan. 31.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius said today that he would like to see a five-day-a-week garbage pickup but that "What we'd like to provide and what we can afford are two totally different things."

The bids were submitted by the LaFera Contracting Co. of Newark, the present contractor for garbage removal, and L. Pucillo and Sons Inc. of Lodi. "LaFera's bids were a lot lower than Pucillo's," Chius said.

Even if the city keeps the same

three-day pickup on alternate days, it will cost the city \$150,000 more for the service, Chius said. The present contracts cost \$400,000 a year as opposed to the new bid for \$550,000.

Pucillo's bids were higher in all categories and by as much as \$100,000 in one category.

LaFera bids were the following: Daily pickup except Sunday, one year, \$780,000; three years, \$2,530,000; and five years, \$4,620,000; daily pickup except Sunday and Wednesday, one year, \$730,000; three years, \$2,370,000; and five years, \$4,332,000; daily except Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, one year, \$600,000; three years,

\$2,273,000; and five years, \$4,138,000.

The LaFera bids for daily pickup except Sunday, Tuesday and Saturday are: one year, \$600,000; three years, \$2,340,000; and five years, \$4,075,000; and for three days weekly on alternate days, one year, \$650,000; three years, \$2,060,000 and five years, \$3,716,000.

Chius said a decision as to which category of garbage removal would be chosen probably wouldn't be made in time for the Dec. 20 council meeting, but added "I will recommend a one-year contract." He said that the built-in inflation factor on a three or five-year pact was too high for the city to meet.

Chius also said that the daily-except-Sunday category and the daily-except-Sunday, Tuesday and Saturday category probably would be eliminated because "comparison of costs with the others showed them to be too expensive."

"This is going to be one of the bigger decisions we have to make in the budget," he said. "The council might resist better garbage pickups because of the layoffs."

Chius said he would opt for more frequent garbage pickups "if the level of city services won't be affected by the layoffs."

Plan for condominiums at Hoboken piers dies

A plan to build a \$24 million highrise condominium at Hoboken's unused 5th and 6th Street piers floated off down the river today.

The developer who had won the city administration's blessing for the project notified Mayor Steve Cappelletto he was pulling out.

Joseph Barry, representing Applied Housing Associates, gave two reasons:

• "The incredible rate of inflation," made it impossible to hold to projected sales prices for the condominiums, or even to estimate what the prices would have had to be by the time the buildings were constructed.

• The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development is

still "dilly-dallying" on granting \$4 million to develop a recreation park on part of the site.

Two upland structures—one 28 stories, the other 11—had been planned by Applied Housing on the site it was to buy from the city. The company was to donate part of the land—the pier area and the adjacent water space—for the public park, as an inducement to the city to allow the highrises.

Barry said the continuing increase in the cost of construction was

not the only inflationary factor involved. The steep rise in mortgage interest also was responsible for the company's decision, he said, especially since it was a condominium project.

A builder can expect to have to "carry" unsold condominium units for 24 to 30 months, he said, which need not be the case with apartment rentals.

"We had figured that our selling prices would have to be 10 percent below comparable condominiums in

the area, because Hoboken is an untiered location for condominiums," Barry said.

He said that if HUD had gone through with its apparent intention to finance the park construction, this would have relieved the company of that expense, which would normally be the developer's, and thus would have helped to make the project financially feasible for the company.

"We still think the project is good," he added, "but it is the wrong time."

Hoboken official accused of abuse of power

By SUSAN KELMAN

Anthony Romano, business manager of the Hoboken Board of Education and a city councilman, is using his official status to solicit contributions from local merchants for a Christmas party sponsored by his civic association, other city officials charged yesterday.

The officials, supporters of Mayor Steve Cappiello, said that the merchants, many of them vendors who do business with the city and school board, have made contributions to carry favor with Romano, a political foe of the mayor.

"It (the party) has nothing to do with the board

of education or the city council," Romano asserted yesterday.

Hudson County School Superintendent Russell Carpenter and Cappiello said they would investigate the charges. Romano said that he was determined to hold the Christmas party, sponsored by the Anthony Romano Civic Association, this Sunday regardless of criticism.

One Hoboken merchant said he was told the Christmas party for senior citizens was a political function.

"They (a representative from the association) said it was a city function," Tom Borelli of

Hoboken Roofing said yesterday. "I told them 'no' because they don't give me any work in City Hall."

Another Hoboken merchant, who asked not to be identified, said he called up the board of education yesterday to find out where to send his annual contribution. A board secretary told him to send it to the home of the school business administrator, he said.

"We only use my home address until we get a new office," Romano said, when asked about the mailing address for the association.

The officials making the allegations would not allow their names to be used.

No merchants have filed formal complaints, city officials said yesterday. Several officials said they haven't heard one complaint about the annual event during its 13-year existence.

"I'm sure Romano has not done this intentionally," said City Councilman Robert Ranieri, a Cappiello supporter. "That would be political suicide."

Romano said yesterday he hopes to collect \$8,000 for the party from area merchants by the end of this week so the association can hire the United Nations choir and a comedian from the Catskills to entertain at the invitation-only banquet.

No more bar cars on Conrail trains leaving Hoboken

Conrail commuters out of Hoboken who have been enjoying the rail's 12 evening bar cars will have to carry their own booze in 1979.

Assistant Transportation Commissioner Robert A. Keith announced today that the popular bar cars, which evening commuters have dubbed "marini specials," will be eliminated, beginning Tuesday, to save money.

The cars, which serve other refreshments in addition to alcoholic

beverages, cost the state \$178,000 to operate during the last fiscal year and would cost \$228,000 if they were continued through the current fiscal year, ending June 30.

The bar car service has been paid by the state through its commuter subsidy contract with Conrail.

"While it is desirable to have refreshments available to passengers," Keith said, "it is no longer possible in light of extreme budget pressures to justify the high cost to the state of underwriting this part of the railroad service."

Keith noted that Conrail permits passengers to take their own food and drink on the trains and that "many already are doing so."

The 12 bar cars, which were introduced in the mid-1960s by the former Erie Lackawanna Railroad, have operated on the Morris and Essex Line, Gladstone Branch, Main Line, Pascack Valley Line and the Boonton Line.

Hoboken laws to be thoroughly modern

By SUSAN KELMAN

It's illegal to spit on a Hoboken street.

A Hoboken ordinance requires laundromats to close by 10 p.m., and owners to reject clothing of persons with communicable diseases.

Other ordinances license ice peddlers, slaughterhouses and street vendors.

These ordinances, drawn up in the late 1950s and early 1960s, are outdated. A New York firm is now in the process of updating and reorganizing these

ordinances and the entire Hoboken legal code at a cost of approximately \$16,000.

A preliminary report—five books dealing with the Board of Health regulations, general legislation and the city's charter—has recently been released. The 41-page report recommends at least 100 changes in city laws.

When the massive overhaul is complete, city officials say, indexed references will be distributed to each department. Directors would then be able to look up references to their departments, and need only turn to the law department for interpretation.

A Spencerport, N.Y., firm began researching the minute books, ordinances and all city documents in June. The report, published in October, recommends a complete review of the city code.

The book leaves all decisions involving policy decisions to the mayor and council. It recommends how to change outdated laws and points out conflicts between city, state, and federal laws.

The former city code has not been changed since 1959. After the general revision, ordinances will be added to the index annually.

City Council to correct Cappiello omission on Ranieri

Hoboken's city council today will correct an omission by Mayor Steve Cappiello.

In naming a liaison committee to try to lure the film-making industry to Hoboken, the mayor had surprisingly passed over Councilman Robert A. Ranieri—the man who had been

single-handedly pushing the project for weeks, in the face of the mayor's seeming reluctance to embrace it.

Cappiello picked two men, Patrolman Leo Serrano and Fred M. Bado, director of the city's Community Development Agency, to comprise the committee, and he asked the

council to pass a resolution formally constituting the committee.

But when the proposed resolution came before the council at a pre-meeting caucus Monday night, the councilmen voted unanimously to amend it by adding Ranieri to it, Council President Martin J. Brennan

observing that the project was "Ranieri's."

This action was to be formalized at a council meeting today.

Ranieri's idea is to turn over the Port Authority's three little-used Hoboken piers for use as film studios. Anticipating that he is on the

committee, Ranieri announced today that he has asked Bado to notify the Port Authority of the committee's existence and the fact that it was created at the request of Sidney Kingsley, chairman of the New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission.

He asked Bado to have the Port Authority provide "all information as to the physical layout of the piers," and to select "someone in authority" to discuss with the committee the possibility of converting the piers to studio use.

3 councilmen say no new tax

The possibility of having a payroll tax in Hoboken was met today with "thumbs down" by three of the city's councilmen.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said earlier that he would speak to Assemblyman Christopher Jackman of West New York about introducing legislation enabling the city to implement the tax "if we need it."

Councilman-at-Large Robert Ranieri said, "I can understand the mayor's reasoning—that the tax would be a last resort—but it's a stifling thing to industry and businesses."

Ranieri said he would much rather see "the financial inefficiency in the city eliminated rather than placated by additional funding."

He cited the findings of the recent Board of Education audit, showing overexpenditures of \$865,000, as an example of financial inefficiency.

Ranieri said that employees would suffer as much as businesses. "How can we tell the boys in blue not to expect anything this year and in the same breath tell them they'll have a payroll tax to pay?" he asked.

"I can't see the City Council

receiving the idea of a payroll tax very well," he declared.

Councilman Walter Cramer was "totally against any payroll tax."

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Cramer said that there is a lot of industry in the Second Ward, which he represents, and he wants it to remain there.

"I would prefer that they levy a head tax on commuters who come into Hoboken on the Erie Lackawanna to go to New York—if it could be done," he observed.

He said that the city could "expect to have legal squabbles with employers who don't want to deduct the tax. If the employer doesn't want

to do it, how could the city collect from the employees?" he asked.

Councilman Thomas Kennedy said, "I don't think big business or little business or the people of Hoboken will stand for it."

"If someone gets a raise, you'd be taking it right back and giving it to the city," he said.

Kennedy said he didn't think the City Council would agree to such a measure "unless there are alternatives to it."

School board won't pay \$16,000 bills

Feeling an end-of-the-year pinch for money, the Hoboken Board of Education last night declined to pay nearly \$16,000 in bills.

"In all probability, we will be finishing the year in the red," said James Farina, board vice president, "but I'm not yet sure of the amount."

Meanwhile, there were these developments:

• Frank Bartletta, city finance director and custodian of school funds, nixed a board request to appear before the board to explain why he wants the board attorney's private phone "removed" and why he hasn't filed certain reports due Aug. 1 with the county schools superintendent.

• An audit of the district's fiscal operations for the 1978-79 school year by the Jersey City firm of Donohue & McCann received last night is being kept confidential until the Jan. 9 board meeting.

• The board voted to borrow \$150,000 at 5 percent interest from the Trust Company of New Jersey to pay what Farina called the "balance" of the money owed the Pisanelli & DeBari Construction Co. for the Calabro School.

• What one board member termed "long-term savings" is expected to be realized from the board's approval of a new two-year pact with its 25 administrators and supervisors that replaces a "ration salary guide" with "differential salaries."

• A tentative budget in the \$15 million range proposed for the 1979-80 school year, that board officials said represented little change from the current \$15.4 million in operational expenses, was approved by the board for submission to the county schools superintendent.

The board deleted from its list of nearly \$80,000 in claims those items pulled by members of its finance committee, headed by Robert Wendelken.

Only those items defined "essential for the children's education" were retained, said Jack Raskowski, committee member.

Many of the pared bills were for repairs to school buildings and vehicles; others were for school supplies including \$3,476.75 worth of stationery for all schools and administrators.

Among the miscellaneous expenses were these: \$940 in tuition for two special education students for last month; \$100 in reimbursement to Anthony Costello Jr.,

district music director, for attending a two-day convention last month; and a phone company bill for \$1,311.71 including payment for board counsel Robert W. Taylor's phone.

Trustee Richard England noted that Bartletta—who'd asked the board to take out Taylor's private phone—had returned to the board "blank" copies of reports he's reportedly obliged to file with Dr. Russell W. Carpenter, county schools superintendent.

England then asked board secretary Thomas A. Gallo to confirm that Bartletta, as custodian of school moneys, was "mandated" to do so by state statutes. Gallo confirmed it.

Bartletta could not be reached for comment.

England then urged the board to send a letter to Bartletta demanding that he appear before the board to "explain why he's violating the law."

Farina, chairing last night's meeting for board president Otto Hottendorf, absent due to a death in the family, advised the board to wait until next month's meeting.

However, the board, at England's behest, voted to compel the attendance of all district officers or their representative (which includes the custodian of school funds) before the board "at any time a request is made."

In other business, the board voted to:

• Create a committee of board members and staff to review employee sick leave policy and a negotiating committee consisting of the superintendent, assistant superintendent for personnel, board attorney and labor negotiator and members of the board's finance committee.

• Designate Hottendorf and England to serve as the board's representatives on the new Board of School Estimate which will be organized next month when Hoboken reverts to a Type I (appointive) district.

• Voted to enter the district's luncheon aides in the state Public Employees Retirement System with an appropriation of \$15,289.54; provide the district's contribution to the state pension plan for 246 certified employees (no amount was specified), and pay a monthly premium of \$2,424.24 for a new prescription plan for 666 board employees.

• Hired Matthew Pastore at \$12,000 to audit the district next year, paid Pastore \$11,500 for this year's accounting services and retained Strause Associates for \$6,800 to

prepare a board policy manual.

• Named Emiliano Rosu of the Bronx, N.Y., as a math teacher at \$13,300 a year and L. Melendez of Hoboken as a bilingual instructor at \$12,100 annually.

Some private carting seen for Hoboken

Hoboken Councilman-at-large Robert A. Ranieri today called for a study of the city's policy toward free garbage collection for restaurants and other commercial establishments.

Noting that in New York City, business places are required to have their refuse hauled away at their own expense, Ranieri said he would push for an investigation to determine "why New York does this and we don't."

He said the investigation would determine how much the city could save in garbage collection costs if the restaurants were held responsible for removing all their refuse, and, alternatively, if all commercial establishments were similarly made responsible.

Some of the larger Hoboken restaurants already hire garbage contractors to pick up part of their garbage, Ranieri said.

The councilman said that in order to meet the prospective 30 per cent increase in the cost of collecting the city's garbage next year the city's budget-makers "are going to have to cut in other areas."

"We will have to do things with our employees that won't be pleasant for anybody," he added.

Mayor Cappiello was not positive on this point, however.

The mayor said he didn't know whether the prospective increase of \$150,000 a year in the city's garbage removal costs would force the city to lay off more employees than had been anticipated.

Bids were received last week on 15 categories of garbage removal, ranging from three-days-a-week to six-days-a-week, with alternatives for one-year, three-year and five-year contracts.

The current contract, which expires on Jan. 31, calls for a three-day pickup on alternate days and costs the city \$400,000 yearly. The lowest of the new bids for the same service is \$640,000.

The mayor said he would meet with Business Administrator Edwin Chius, Public Works Director Andrew Amato and a member of the Law Department before a decision would be made as to what type of garbage pickup the city can afford.

Chius raps 'stall' claim

Hoboken Business Administrator Edwin Chius today denied that he is stalling on giving Councilman Nunzio Malfetti a copy of the proposed departmental budgets for 1979.

"How can I give him a copy of a budget that we don't have yet?" he said. He added that the budget requests, not a final budget, were presented to Mayor Steve Cappiello, and not to him, as Malfetti had asserted.

Malfetti is a member of a three-man city council committee appointed last week to study ways of saving jobs.

"I told Malfetti he could get a copy of the requests from the mayor or individual department directors," he said, "and I offered him a copy of my department's request." Chius added that Malfetti never "showed up" to get the copy.

Chius said that Malfetti's information concerning plans for a new garage is "totally erroneous. It's a central garage to house all city vehicles, not a Public Safety garage," he said, "and the maximum cost is \$500,000 not \$700,000."

Hoboken would only be modernizing by taking care of its equipment through a central garage, Chius said. "The garage is a capital expenditure that's been recommended in various reports for years," Chius said.

"The sweepers are a perfect example of why we need that garage," he said, "nobody knows if they're working or not." The central garage would have a dispatcher who would be specifically designated to know if the sweeper is in working order and what its schedule is. "The director would be able to know if the sweeper is out with just one call," Chius said.

"If Malfetti is so concerned about layoffs, why didn't he or the rest of the council come forward when I asked them at a meeting if they wanted to contribute an input in the reduction of personnel?" Chius said.

Chius said that borrowing money at interest, as Malfetti had suggested, wouldn't stop layoffs. "The city of New York got into a lot of trouble doing that," he declared. "Besides New Jersey law prohibits it."

Chius repeated that he is still working on the budget. "I'm not about to pull figures out of the hat to give to Malfetti," Chius said. "I'm in the process of compiling figures from the 1978 budget to see what we need for 1979."

Sound off!

In Hoboken a policeman is assigned daily to shoo away trailer trucks blocking one line of traffic on a main street in front of trucking terminals leased from the State of New Jersey. The police chief says this is virtually a full time assignment.

Mayor Cappiello thought the state should be concerned about this persistent illegal parking by its tenants along a half mile stretch of a city highway. He wrote to the State Department of Transportation a month and a half ago, but has not yet received the courtesy of an answer.

The mayor has not followed up his complaint. When asked why, he replied in effect that a city government is too puny to compel state bureaucrats to cancel leases.

This does not seem a worthy attitude on the part of a mayor who in other instances has stood up for his city. The mayor says he is contemplating laying off policemen because the city is so short of money.

How about the policeman who spends practically all his time chasing away those trucks?

Kick up enough fuss, Mayor, and you will catch the state's ear. The squeaking wheel is the one that gets the grease.

Councilman urges anti-litter campaign

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri today proposed that police issue summonses to Washington Street storeowners who put their garbage out the night before pickup instead of early morning.

Dirt and debris are so prevalent that "you can barely walk down the street," the councilman declared.

Ranieri said he has received numerous complaints from city residents about the conditions "which seem to become worse everyday."

"The main responsibility for keeping the city clean lies with the city administration," he said, "and they are not enforcing the laws."

Ranieri said there should be a "fixed campaign," directed by the mayor, public works director and the chief of police to have police enforce the laws.

"The police department is absolutely vital in putting a stop to this problem," he said. Foot patrolmen and officers in radio cars could issue summonses whenever they see garbage out before it's supposed to be, he said.

Public Works director Andrew Amato agreed that the street is dirty. Amato said he had already removed some of the litter baskets from certain corners because residents were depositing household garbage in them.

"Show me a corner without one of

those litter receptacles and I'll show you a clean corner," he said.

The Jersey Journal observed today that bags of household garbage are thrown against the sides of the receptacles, and not in them.

"Very little litter is thrown into these receptacles," Ranieri said, "and I would go along with Director Amato if he wanted to remove more of these from troublesome corners."

"Director Amato told me that his men have trouble emptying the cement containers because the garbage cans inside them have been taken," Ranieri continued.

The public works men have to roll the cement container on its side and scoop the garbage out with a shovel, Ranieri explained. "This is madness."

Amato said this was one of the reasons he does not favor a mechanical form of garbage removal in Hoboken. The mechanical service provides large cement containers to be placed on the sidewalks where people can deposit their garbage. The containers would be placed at roughly 20 to 30-foot intervals depending on population density.

"If the container becomes full before a pickup, I can see large piles of garbage thrown around them," Amato said. "People aren't going to walk home again with their garbage. They'll just drop it."

Hoboken is drifter's Santa

He had just been released from a Hoboken hospital. He was sickly, tired, weak, penniless, without family or friends, and with no place to rest his frail body. But with the help of Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello and the police department, 69-year-old Matthew Marinar was able to return to his room in the Hotel Victor until welfare officials can handle his case.

"My body is very weak. I'm tired of kicking around. I feel very weak, listless and useless," he mumbled, as he lay tucked under the covers in his bed. His rumpled, dark green suit jacket still had the tags on it and the shoes on his feet stuck out from beneath the worn blanket.

According to police, neither the hospital or the hotel would take in Marinar Thursday night. Elaine Shimono, director of nursing services at St. Mary Hospital, said Marinar is being treated on an out-patient basis but she would not say what for. Police said Marinar was

"incoherent" and "not in very good condition" at the time, but he told them he had just been released from the hospital. He also wore a hospital arm tag.

Apparently, the elderly man left the hospital and returned to the Hotel Victor but was not allowed in. Police said the owner of the hotel called an ambulance to take him back to the hospital, where he was refused admittance. He was then transported to police headquarters.

"I was called at my home from police headquarters by a citizen who said there was a man there who was very ill. I have no control over who is admitted to any hospital but I'm sure he would not have been denied emergency treatment," Cappiello said.

The mayor said Marinar had apparently gone to the clinic and it was closed. "Obviously he was a patient because he had some hospital tape and a tag around his wrist. However, had he been ill, the doctors would have looked

at him and he would have been treated," he said.

Marinar said he was suffering from "overall weakness" and a bad back which he injured in an accident in 1962. He said he was a bellhop and elevator worker, and had made the rounds of New York and New Jersey hotels.

"My ambition is to go to a nursing home," he said, because he can barely walk and care for himself. He was described by those in the hotel and city officials as being "a Skid Row-type alcoholic," but he said he hasn't had a drink in two weeks, which may also have contributed to his present condition.

A spokesman for the Hoboken welfare agency said his case was being referred to Hudson County welfare authorities.

"He has a small amount of his own Social Security. We're doing the best we can. His case should be handled early next week and he should be put into a nursing home," she added.

What the Hoboken Jaycees do

By Joe LaBruno

The Hoboken Jaycees are an organization made up of 35 members who meet once a month.

The Hoboken Jaycees (Jaycee stands for Junior Chamber of Commerce) has been in existence for 2½ years. In these 2½ years we have excelled in helping the people of Hoboken.

We are one of many chapters in New Jersey who are affiliated with the officially recognized organization of the United States Jaycees.

Our most recent involvement in Hoboken was the skateboard competition which took place in October. About 30 young skateboarders participated in the event which lasted three hours.

Plaques were awarded to the winners and refreshments for all were served.

In the past two Little League seasons the Hoboken Jaycees gave out the sportsmanship of the year award. The chosen ball players receive a trophy and have their picture taken with the president of the Jaycees and the umpires and put in the local newspapers.

We all sponsored a boxing show which took much time and effort by the members to make possible. Half of the proceeds went to the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps to purchase vital equipment.

We also sponsored a car wash with all the proceeds going to St. John's Parish.

We also sponsored a junior foot-

ball league each year in which some members coach or referee in the games held on Saturdays.

This past May we held our first annual carnival. The proceeds went into our organization to keep it functioning.

All activities sponsored by the Hoboken Jaycees have been on the members' spare time. All money made has been spent on equipment and other accessories needed for the various events, or else to keep our nonprofit organization in existence.

Another important contribution to the city made by the Jaycees has been a Christmas party given at the pediatric ward of St. Mary's Hospital

in the last two years.

Our current list of officers for this year includes: Tom Turner, president; Frank Tatuli, internal vice president; John Chirchella, external vice president; Danny DeConella, treasurer; Marco Ciccollella, secretary; and Joe LaBruno, public relations director.

This is written with the intention of making the Hoboken citizens aware of our organization and also to make the Jaycees more available to anyone or group in need of our services.

The Hoboken Jaycees can be reached by writing to: Hoboken Jaycees, Box 1016, Hoboken, N.J. 07030.

Fixing Hoboken sewers now will cost millions

By Julia Feeney

Hoboken's sewers are so clogged and broken down that it will require "millions of dollars" to make them work right, according to a report issued by Mayo, Lynch Associates, the city's engineering consultants.

The report referred to a survey made by other consultants in 1955 which stated that at that time the job could have been done for \$600,000.

Today's cost "is several million in the light of federal and state

restrictions as to cleaning and ultimate disposal of sewage," the new report states. "Annual maintenance costs are significantly higher than in the city's present budget."

Tidegates, regulators and pumping stations installed by the city in the '50s have been subjected to "abuse and extraordinary wear and tear," the report continues.

The city's pumps are being rebuilt and "minimum repairs" are being done on the pumping stations to extend the station's life until more

funds are available and a final sewage treatment is determined, the report says.

"Tide gates are in very poor condition and require immediate repair to control the waste of power and the treatment of river water at the Hoboken treatment plant," the report continues. "It is clearly a time for decision."

"Years of neglect" on the present sewage system have prompted Mayo, Lynch to recommend that "the city should make every effort to secure

federal funds that are now available for this work."

The report warns that if Hoboken does not secure the grant money the city "will have to assume the entire burden of cost."

Once a sewage treatment has been determined, the report says, application for federal funds for improvement may be processed.

"The first application for federal funding should be for improvement to

See SEWER—Page 2B.

Housing Authority rejects bids

The Hoboken Housing Authority last night rejected bids to repair balconies and railings at the Fox Hill Gardens Apartments and replace the authority's compactors.

Authority executive director Joseph Caliguire said the bids were too low.

Multi-Pak Corp. of Hackensack bid \$54,000 to replace the present compactors and service them for five years. The bid is \$9,000 over the budget, Caliguire said.

The authority had budgeted \$110,000 for the balcony repairs at Fox Hill Gardens, a senior citizen apart-

ment building at 13th and Willow Streets. It received bids of \$188,985 from Wathertrol Co. of Cranford, and \$217,000 from John Amentas, Inc., Whitestone.

Caliguire said the authority would readvertise for new bids, and also ask

the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for more money to pay for the contracts.

The authority approved a change of name for Bekay Engineering Co., Hoboken, which is putting up the commercial building at Grogan Marine Plaza.

The name was changed to Bekay Urban Renewal Associates, to conform to HUD urban renewal regulations, Caliguire said. Bernard Kenny is a principal officer in the firm.

Continued from Page 1

the wastewater treatment plant including provisions for secondary treatment and sludge removal," the report says.

Mayo, Lynch advises that applications shouldn't be submitted until "a decision is made by the governing body as to whether or not it shall become a part of the Hudson County Utilities Authority."

Mayo, Lynch also recommends that the work of the pilot study be referred to the county Utilities Authority "with the recommendation that treatment methods so determined may be incorporated into the county plan after consultation with county engineers."

THE JERSEY JOURNAL, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

State finally will listen to Cappiello

Officials of the state Department of Transportation are to meet with Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello soon to observe and discuss conditions on Observer Highway, which have been the subject of a complaint to the department by Cappiello.

The state is the landlord for three trucking companies whose trailer trucks block traffic lanes.

Prompted by a Jersey Journal editorial Saturday and wanting "to cut through the red tape," Cappiello called Trenton yesterday morning after having received no response to his letter of complaint written in late October.

Martin E. Robins of the state department of Transportation to whom Cappiello directed his letter apologized to the mayor for the delay in responding. "Robins told me he had a response all ready to go but he was hospitalized before he could get it out," the mayor said.

Robins told Cappiello that several officials of the transportation department would meet with the mayor and take a look at the Observer Highway facilities to see what could be done.

Cappiello said last week that conditions had improved "very slightly" but today he said, "I'm still getting complaints about congestion."

The mayor said the state can do something about correcting conditions. He suggested that the state build platforms at different angles to take the trucks and the cargo. "I know the state can do some work down there," he said.

Hoboken school board to ask state's advice on overrun

By Tom Golobit

The Hoboken Board of Education will turn to the state's Department of Education to see if it has any suggestions for dealing with a deficit of about \$300,000 in the 1977-78 budget, uncovered by a recently received board audit.

While overexpenditures last year totaled \$665,362, unexpected revenues from the state and free balances in the budget will bring that total to half that amount, according to Trustee Robert Wendelken, head of the board's finance committee.

At last night's board meeting, trustees accepted the bad news in the form of the auditor's report which it had received from Matthew M. Pastore last week.

Wendelken said he would set up a meeting with state education officials to see if they have any ideas "as to how we can handle the deficit."

He listed several possible ways the board can deal with the overexpenditures including cutting down on the use of schools at night and limiting overtime. He also said the board might be able to use \$150,000 it had set aside to make up a previous deficit in summer pay for teachers, but that would require state approval, as would the use of unexpended state aid.

Whatever action the board takes, it is inevitable that the board will have to make up the \$300,000 in some way. "We have a few alternatives,"

Wendelken said. "All can solve the deficit problems but they may impede us in coming years by cutting into future budgets."

In addition to talking to state officials, Wendelken said the board would immediately review the line items that contributed to the overexpenditures to insure the overruns are not repeated in the current budget.

The board will also institute a six-month audit by its internal accountant to see that all line items fall within amounts appropriated.

Questioned about the audit report, Wendelken said it showed the board "was not carefully watching our money. We're not making a serious effort to live within the budget guidelines."

Among the comments and recommendations listed by Pastore was criticism of the board's accounting procedures.

"In general there is no direction provided by anyone in the function of accounting. Clerical personnel receive little or no direction from any responsible employee or official of the board."

While the board has established the position of internal auditor to supervise this year's budget, there was no similar position last year.

Asked who would have been a "responsible employee or official," Wendelken said "I guess Mr. (Robert) Taylor (the board's fiscal advisor) and from what I see of the job description Mr. (Louis) DePascale (board consultant and

former mayor) and Mrs. (Thomas) Gallo (the board secretary and an assemblyman.)"

Explaining that he and Richard England, another member of the finance committee, had "constantly" requested information on the status of budgetary problems after becoming board members last March and had gotten continuous verbal assurances "we'd be okay," Wendelken recalled.

Wendelken also said that many recommendations his committee made at the beginning of September, based on last year's auditor's report, were tabled by the board when they were received.

The audit showed a total of almost \$934,000 in over-expended line items while another \$268,500 was listed as unexpended balances for other line items.

The biggest overrun came in instructional costs with \$654,836 more than budgeted spent on teachers' salaries. There was another overrun of nearly \$70,000 in this area for the child study team.

Total over-expenditures for fixed charges came to almost \$95,800 and for administration, nearly \$35,000.

On the plus side, balances remained of nearly \$72,000 under

operation of plant, \$166,425 for special projects, \$14,305 for student body activities, and \$14,437 for special equipment.

Pastore blamed many of the problems in overspending of current

Hoboken to cancel most of its layoffs

By SUSAN KIELMAN

The majority of the Hoboken employees who received layoff notices earlier this month will be able to keep their jobs because of drastic cuts in spending and overtime, city officials said yesterday.

Approximately 65 employees, including 20 policemen and firemen, will be kept on the city payroll, officials announced yesterday. Another 45 employees will find out next week whether they will lose their jobs.

Hoboken's budget woes, which brought the city to a near-crisis state early this month, are not as severe as had been estimated, city Business Administrator Edwin Chius said yesterday. He predicted that only 40 of the city's approximately 650 employees will be laid off Jan. 15 as a result of the loss of \$1.5 million in federal anti-recession funds.

Mayor Steve Cappiello denied charges that the layoff notices are part of a campaign by New Jersey's urban mayors to regain the anti-recession aid package. Jersey City

Mayor Thomas F.X. Smith and a contingent of urban mayors have lobbied for the restoration of the aid package, which provided Hudson County with more than \$1 million.

City officials have charged that Cappiello sent termination notices to 136 employees to shock the state and federal governments into restoring the aid package. Others say it is part of an effort to cushion the effect of raising the municipality's tax rate, the highest in Hudson County.

The 96th Congress declined to renew the anti-recession aid package before it adjourned in October. Cappiello said he has given up hope that the 98th Congress will restore the aid package, which is designed to aid depressed areas.

Budget cutbacks include a \$75,000 reduction in overtime for the fire department and virtual elimination of overtime in the police department. Public Safety Director James Giordano said yesterday. A major shakeup of the police department, including the reassignment of the majority of patrolmen, will be necessary to eliminate the overtime.

(Continued on page 2)

appropriations as "directly attributable to the lack of proper reporting and accounting."

In other business at last night's special meeting, the board approved contracts calling for increases of

between 4.3 and 5.6 percent for the Attendance Officers Association, the Hoboken School Employees Association, the School Transport Unit and the Hoboken Non-certificated Personnel.

(Continued from page 1)

Giordano said.

The Department of Revenue and Finance has asked 30 of its 23 employees to continue working for the city. All 23 employees received termination notices at the beginning of December.

The Administration Department expects to retain five of the 10 employees who have received termination notices. The directors of the Hoboken Departments of Public Works and Health and Welfare will determine this weekend

how many employees are in danger of losing their jobs, officials said.

In another budget cutback, Chius has proposed consolidating the city's two bus lines. The city's crowdfest has an annual deficit of \$42,000, Chius said. A public hearing will be held on this plan shortly.

In a related matter, the city has received a \$35,000 payment from Stevens Tech in lieu of taxes. The tax-exempt institution contributed \$60,000 to the city last year.

School deficit looming larger in Hoboken

The deficit of Hoboken's Board of Education for the year that ended June 30 may turn out to be much greater than the \$665,362 the board's auditor has calculated it to be, County Schools Superintendent Russell W. Carpenter said today.

Carpenter said he questioned whether the auditor's figure for the board's over-spending took into account losses from lawsuits against the board by teachers.

Some of these amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars, he said.

"The board has had to pay teachers \$400,000 in extra compensation," Carpenter said. "Teachers are suing now for \$300,000."

The county superintendent commented on the board's decision at its meeting last Tuesday night to ask the state Department of Education for "ideas" and "suggestions" for dealing with the deficit.

He said Vincent Calabrese, assistant state commissioner of education in charge of the Division of Disputes and Controversies, already had explained to the board last year "how to make up its deficits and avoid them in the future."

Hoboken CETA probed

By SUSAN KIELMAN

The U.S. Attorney in Newark has convened a federal grand jury to examine the time sheets and payroll records of all Hoboken CETA employees following an intensive investigation of the \$1.1 million program. It was learned yesterday.

John Scott, fiscal officer of the Hudson County Consortium, which oversees the federal program, appeared before the grand jury Wednesday after getting a federal subpoena from FBI agents last week. Scott delivered three large cartons of documents, including all records of the program since January 1978.

Edward N. Farrelly, Hudson County CETA director, said his office would conduct its own probe into the Hoboken program. "I want to make sure there is no pattern of political patronage," Farrelly said.

A Dispatch investigation conducted last week revealed that half of some 150 CETA employees in Hoboken are relatives or supporters of city officials.

George Crimmins Jr., CETA program director in Hoboken, admitted yesterday that 34 members of political clubs and three county committeemen are on the CETA payroll. He also confirmed that a "small number" of relatives of city officials are paid with CETA funds.

It was not immediately known if the U.S. attorney would investigate the allegations of political patronage. Federal sources said the investigation deals with charges of fraud dating back to January 1978.

A Hoboken city attorney said yesterday that the probe may be linked to similar investigations of the Hoboken Public Works Department or the city's Safe and Clean neighborhood program. He said he didn't expect the grand jury to return any indictments or take further action.

Robert J. Del Tufo, U.S. attorney for New Jersey, would not discuss the investigation.

Sources close to the investigation said, however, that the Labor Department will cooperate with the U.S. attorney in the probe.

Hoboken may collect its own garbage in '79

With three new garbage compactors on the way, Hoboken has "the nucleus of its own garbage removal service," Councilman Robert A. Ranieri said today.

By purchasing one more compactor, he said, the city would have the same number of trucks that La Fera, Hoboken's present garbage contractor, uses to pick up the garbage. "The city's trucks are heavy duty, Mack trucks and are slightly larger than La Fera's," the councilman added.

Ranieri said the vehicle could be purchased from the difference between the cost of a five-day pickup, which the city hoped it could afford, and a three-day pickup which it has now.

"I will recommend that we go for the minimum service during the fiscal crisis," he said. "A one-year contract with the same three-day service — and concentrate on developing our own garbage removal service."

In bids received by the city last

Hottendorf asks state OK for longer hours

By William Tait

Otto Hottendorf, president of Hoboken's board of education, will ask permission to challenge the state's compensatory education program for children who need remedial instruction, by substituting longer hours or an extended school year or some other type of pilot program recommended by the city's superintendent of schools.

Hottendorf is making the request in writing to Fred G. Burke, state commissioner of education. He said schooling today is arranged on the premise that teachers must teach only 180 days a year and only five hours a day.

"What ought to count," he declared, "is 'what will best enable the child to learn' — not what's the easiest way to arrange the teachers' work load."

Reminded that his condemnation of compensatory education was disputed by Russell W. Carpenter, the county's superintendent of schools, Hottendorf said he wasn't surprised, and retorted:

"I would like Carpenter to give some facts — not opinions — to show that, after five years of compensatory education at a cost of 30 or 40 million dollars a year in the state, children are learning more. If he can, I'll shut up."

"In the last 15 years," the board president continued, "test scores across the nation — all of them — have been going down."

Alongside any such new program to be established in Hoboken there would be a control program to check the results, Hottendorf said.

Hottendorf said he is initiating his proposal because the Legislature has looked unfavorably on State Sen. Wynona Lipman's bill to provide intensive remedial instruction which could include a longer day, a longer year, or additional school years.

He said Burke already has the power to authorize a school district to establish such a program.

In compensatory education, children deficient in some areas are taken out of their regular classrooms for part of the day and given special instruction in their weak subjects.

Hottendorf contends that whatever the child gains in the remedial class is canceled out by a loss of what he would have received in the regular class.

Report rips Hoboken schools

By Patrick Ford

A "political and self-serving" board of education has given Hoboken "not a school system but a \$15 million employment program," according to an independent analysis sanctioned by Mayor Steve Cappelletto.

The report of the analysis, conducted over the past four months by Steven Block of Hoboken, an experienced educator and administrator, concludes that years of "pathological neglect, political intervention and lack of administrative evaluation and planning" have caused Hoboken's public schools to fail in

"their obligation to the majority of children."

It also blames the "rip-off mentality" and "crisis planning" over four decades for the lack of education given to children and the deterioration of every building in the system.

"The dominant concern is not what you do but who you know," the report states.

"While this attitude had reached all levels of the system, its origin rests with the board of education," Block asserts. "What excellence there is in administration, teaching and learning exists in spite of rather than because of the system."

He charges that the board has violated "with regularity" the code of ethics established by the New Jersey School Boards Association by, among other things, intervening in personnel matters involving friends or relatives, failing to exercise independent judgment or to educate the trustees on their responsibilities.

"Seeing to it that the schools are run well was apparently never a priority of the board," Block writes. Board President Otto Hottendorf said today he could not immediately comment on the report. "I can't com-

ment on something I haven't seen," he asserted.

School Superintendent George Maier, Board Secretary Thomas A. Gallo and Business Manager Anthony Romano could not be reached for comment.

School buildings have been allowed to deteriorate, programs and personnel have gone without evaluation for years, no written policy or procedure guide was adopted, and the board has allowed attorney Robert W. Taylor to become its most influential "member" without any duly-constituted authority, the report says.

"However, the board is very concerned about who gets hired," the report states sarcastically.

"Positions are not widely advertised... and everyone has a 'god-father' among the city or school leadership," Block states.

He says, without mentioning names, that former Superintendent Thomas McFeeley, who retired last June after 34 years as top executive, stayed in office "four decades too long."

The school leadership was "ineffective, self-serving" and lacking in effective management or inspiration, he adds.

But, he saves his most bitter criticism for the business and secretary's office, headed by Gallo and Business Manager Romano, both of whom hold elected political office.

"The business affairs of a \$15-million educational organization have been conducted by an office staffed by politicians who have been accountable only to their peers on the board."

This has resulted, according to Block, in:

• A \$685,000 budget deficit for years of faulty accounting practices; budget cuts being made without consulting or informing affected educators; a "complicated and mysterious" budget that groups large sums into broad categories that are nearly impossible to figure out;

• Questionable expenditures for personal luxuries such as dinners, coffee, food in the office.

"The fat in the school budget is in this office," the report says about the business office.

Block writes that the practices are most damaging on the professional morale of employees, who see "no incentives to perform in ways other than the politically-motivated board and politically-motivated and fiscally-questionable secretary's office."

The report blasts the system for "haphazard instruction," lack of planning in budgeting, maintenance or curriculum.

It notes that even the brightest Hoboken students average 150 to 200 points below their suburban counterparts in college board scores.

Hoboken students are far below national norms in basic skills tests, he says, and this is directly attributable to poor school management.

As proof, he shows that kindergarten and first grade students in Hoboken compare favorably with the national norm on skills tests. They start to slide towards the end of second grade, and the gap widens con-

tinuously for the rest of their school days in Hoboken.

"The more time children spend in (Hoboken's) schools, the further behind they get," the report says.

Principals, which researchers increasingly point to as vital to the educational process, are "ineffective" and have little contact with parents or staff. In fact, the report asserts, in four schools vice principals actually call the shots.

Teachers have low expectations of the children, parents and the system, despite the fact that research has shown a direct link between a teacher's expectations and pupil performance, Block says.

Affirmative action is almost nonexistent, causing a cultural gap between the community and the school system, he says.

While 65 percent of Hoboken's school children are Hispanic, there is only one Hispanic board member, none with administrative rank and 7 percent in the teaching ranks.

Press relations are "abysmal," the report declares.

"Defensiveness and refusal to acknowledge the many shortcomings while failing also to highlight the positive features" of the district are given as reasons for the low public image.

Block does find reason for hope. The Calabro School has been a success, he says, as has the bilingual program and the high school music program.

He gives several reasons why the district can turn around:

• Cappelletto is willing to curtail political interference;

• There is a "surprising majority of talented, caring teachers;"

• There's a large number of parents who want to be involved;

• "One of the strengths is the relative absence of violence and vandalism for an urban school district;"

• The new administration of Superintendent Maier has taken "an active stance" towards improvement;

• There's a variety of sources for new funding;

• The system is small enough to change without bureaucratic red tape — "in fact, there's insufficient administrative staffing now," he says;

• The system can adopt an improvement plan detailed by Block which would take care of most of the problems.

Included in this is a reorganization of the board, affirmative action plan, computerization, effective planning and evaluation, more parent involvement and the appointment of two new assistant superintendents.

Cappelletto is planning to appoint Block to one of nine school board posts opening later this month, informed sources said yesterday.

"Block is the kind of guy we need on the board," the mayor said. Several school and city officials who saw the plan praised the analysis. "These are things we've all known for a long time," said one. "It's just more effective to see them written altogether."

Block spent four months on the analysis, and conducted interviews with 71 teachers, 27 parents, 13 high school students, 11 central office administrators, seven principals, six vice principals, three state education department officials and two evaluation consultants.

He also paid two lengthy visits to a "model" school district elsewhere in the state.

Giordano revamping force

By Peter Mallam

Hoboken's new public safety director, James Giordano, isn't wasting any time making his presence felt. A massive reorganization of the police department has been ordered and will take effect immediately.

Although almost the entire department will be affected by the changes, the main thrust of the director's action will be the creation of a full-time motorcycle squad, which will assume many of the duties of the patrol cars, and greater concentration of youth-oriented police details.

"I wouldn't call it a shake-up of the department but the implementation of some of my ideas on how we can get greater utilization from ex-

isting manpower," said Giordano. "I'm also trying to use my men so that we can make the best use of their abilities and expertise."

The director has taken the department and consolidated it into two major divisions—Patrol and Investigations—with various subdivisions under each.

Under the Patrol section will be radio car patrols, walking patrols, communications, desk duty, traffic control, the jail, and the motorcycle squad.

Under Investigations will be the detective bureau, narcotics, the anti-gambling or vice squad, the auto

squad, identification, youth bureau and community relations.

Capt. Russell Sweeten and Patrick Totaro will head the Patrol section. Capt. Edward Sheehy and Anthony Rinaldi will head the Investigations section.

Three minor sub-sections have also been created—planning, vehicle maintenance and training—and are under the direct supervision of the chief.

The new youth bureau will have nine members, seven more than before. Lt. Joseph Periera, head of community relations, will be in charge. The other members are Cecil Vincent, Joseph Reinhard, Sgt. Frank Turso, Anthony Anich, Francis McCourt, August Sutura, Robert Edgar, and John O'Neill. Most will have other duties but their primary function will be youth-oriented matters.

The men will be working two shifts a day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Giordano said he felt the department should do more than just process youngsters when they became youthful offenders. Some effort should be made to work with them and get them on the right track.

"I've tried to pick men for this detail who I feel have shown that they can work with youngsters or have experience in that area," he added.

The same thinking went into the selection of the seven-member motorcycle squad. Those men are all young and most are motorcycle enthusiasts in their free time. A few are even members of a local motorcycle club comprised of police officers.

That squad will be headed by Sgt. John Aiello. The other members are William Lemp, William Gohde, Anthony Falco, Simeon Cumberbatch, Edward Garcia and William Wehrhahn. They will be working a steady 4 p.m. to midnight shift.

Giordano said that it is hoped that the motorcycle patrols will assume many of the duties now being handled by radio patrol cars and free them for their primary function—patrolling the city—during the high crime hours.

"They can't be on patrol if they are being called to handle minor incidents that could be handled by a motorcycle officer," he continued.

"A minor accident or traffic jam could tie up a patrol car for an hour or so, if it can get to the scene. Motorcycles are more flexible and can get to the scene of such occurrences even if there is traffic congestion."

Giordano said he will hold off putting the squad on duty until the weather warms up. In the meantime, the men are being assigned to radio car duty on the 4 p.m. to midnight shift.

Councilmen feel rebuffed by school board members

Some members of the Hoboken Council feel they are owed an apology by the city's Board of Education over a confusing incident involving a "meeting" of the Board of School Estimate.

The difficulties, angrily discussed at last night's council meeting, apparently began when the board invited Mayor Steve Cappelletto to a meeting on Tuesday to brief him about financial problems that may be caused by reduced outside funding.

Cappelletto could not make the meeting, and, assuming he was being invited as a member of the Board of School Estimate, asked the two council members on that board, Walter Cramer and Salvatore Cemelli to attend, along with Councilman Robert Ranieri who would represent Cappelletto.

Instead of listening to reduced funding problems, however, the councilmen believed they would be asked to help the board solve a \$220,000 deficit. They were somewhat surprised. Ranieri said, when school board members of the Board of Estimate, Otto Hottendorf, board president, and Richard England, told them the deficit problem had been solved via transfers of funds and that there was really no reason for the meeting.

"We came together Tuesday," England recalled, "and a discussion started about what we were doing there. No one seemed to understand what the purpose of the meeting was."

"We wanted the mayor to come down and get a first hand view. I really don't know what happened. I'm just

as surprised as everyone else. I'm embarrassed and upset."

While that item may have caused a lot of discussion at last night's council meeting, one that was expected to did not.

What the city will do with its proposed garbage contract was supposed to have come up at the meeting — in fact there were two resolutions concerning garbage collections that were withdrawn before the meeting — but the subject was put off until a council conference meeting on Jan. 29 at 7 p.m.

Ranieri said that there were three different ideas about what should be done to handle the garbage and for this reason the council decided to table the matter until more information about the various methods could be obtained.

The council authorized the mayor to enter into an agreement with Storch Engineering for a complete survey of the town's sewerage system. Ranieri, who is head of the water and sewerage committee, said the system is in "horrible disrepair" and the Storch firm will recommend ways to bring it to first-class condition.

The council also rejected bids received for the improvements to Elysian Park and will readvertise for new proposals. It will receive bids Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. for the reconstruction of Harrison and Jackson streets with state road funds and for various equipment and services needed by the city. It approved a \$73,000 contract with Ray Wright for renovating part of Trinity Church as a day care center.

Cappelletto to pay for Dominican jaunt

By SUZAN KELMAN

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappelletto's trip to the Dominican Republic will not be charged to the taxpayers, City Clerk Anthony Amoroso said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Cappelletto drastically reduced his estimate of the cost of the business trip from \$3,000 to \$400, saying his earlier estimate was "just a joke."

"It's impossible to spend that kind of money in two days," Cappelletto said yesterday. "There would never be any charge to the city."

Cappelletto said he went to Santo Domingo Dec. 26 to discuss bringing business to the city. He told The Dispatch Wednesday that he planned to charge the trip to the taxpayers.

"The Dispatch is always trying to harass a political figure, hoping he did something wrong. I

didn't think I should cooperate with you," the mayor said when asked why he would joke about a trip at the taxpayers' expense.

"If you know him, he's too cheap to spend \$1,000 of the city's money. He wouldn't even spend that kind of money in China," City Business Administrator Edwin Chius said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the mayor taped yesterday's conversation with a reporter as a result of the article which appeared in yesterday's Dispatch. Later in the day, he changed his mind and told editors he would not tape further conversations.

"If he did this tongue in cheek, it's an awful thing," a city councilman, who refused to be identified, said yesterday.

Cappelletto said he kept his trip a secret to protect "sensitive negotiations."

"I think the sensitive part is that I have found in

the past that when you're working on a project, you have to worry about other people finding out," the mayor said.

During the two-day trip, Cappelletto said he paid a social visit to the president of the country, who he identified as Louis Guzman. The president of the Dominican Republic is Antonio Guzman.

"He's not going to get a penny of that money because the city did not authorize him to go," Amoroso said yesterday.

City officials speculate that Cappelletto was negotiating with a company which might be interested in developing the Fifth and Sixth Street piers. Applied Housing of Hoboken recently withdrew an application for federal funding of a condominium project on the waterfront.

Although Cappelletto told city officials yesterday that he went to Santo Domingo to buy real estate, informed sources said he was there on city business.

U.S. may sue Hoboken to integrate fire department

By Peter Weiss

Failure to reach a compromise on the hiring of minority group members as firemen probably will mean a Justice Department suit, against Hoboken, Jersey City and 10 other municipalities will wind up in court.

The Justice Department expects to refile its discrimination suit against the municipalities in several days, and March 10 has been set for the start of a trial before Judge H.

Curtis Meador in U.S. District Court in Newark.

The Justice Department wants the makeup of the fire departments in the 12 municipalities to reflect the percentage of minority-group members in the general population. It has proposed that 40 percent of all new members of those fire departments be minority group members, until the proper percentages are reached.

Jersey City has 20 minority group

firemen in a department of 671 men, and Hoboken has only one out of 100.

The municipalities contend that they are required by state Civil Service rules to hire, from the top down, from a list prepared as a result of state Civil Service tests.

The state has indicated it would modify its testing procedures to give minority-group members a better chance to finish near the top of the lists, but it has balked at a Justice Department demand to guarantee

that minority-hiring quotas will be met.

Thomas Fodice, Jersey City's first assistant corporation counsel, said the "guarantee" issue seems to be the main point of contention.

The cities, meanwhile, are in the position of being asked to violate either state or federal laws, he said.

He predicted that whichever way the court case turns out, there will be further legal challenges which could last several years.

Maier cites changes planned for schools

By Patrick Ford

Hoboken's top school administrator today refused to comment on charges that the city's school system is politically dominated, but told of efforts he already has underway to correct shortcomings outlined in an analysis of the schools by an educational consultant to Mayor Steve Cappelletto.

"I learned from the past," said Schools Superintendent George Maier. "We have been working for

the last six months on administrative reorganization, greater parent participation, curriculum development and many other weaknesses outlined in the Block Report."

Steven Block, who was assigned by Cappelletto in September to prepare a comprehensive analytical report on the conditions of the schools, turned in a scathing criticism of the school board, business office and Maier's predecessor, but praised the "activist stance" taken by Maier.

Maier replaced former

Superintendent Thomas McFeeley last July after the latter stepped down from the job he held for 34 years.

"I won't comment on the first 50 pages of the report," Maier said. "Those things have happened. I was interested in the rest, which gave recommendations on improving the schools. There were many good suggestions, but we are already doing many of the things he listed."

The first 50 pages blasted the board for being "self-serving, political" and concerned with who gets hired rather than how the children are educated. It said the board is running a \$15 million employment program.

The remaining 24 pages of the report gives a "Proposal: The Hoboken School Improvement Plan." The plan calls for reorganization

of the board itself and of the central administration; individual school reorganization, which would involve the parents more in running the schools.

Specifically, the report called for hiring two new assistant superintendents, replacing the present members of the board, establishing a district-wide parents council and stronger parents councils at the individual schools, adopting a sound affirmative action plan, adopting a policy manual and starting a mastery learning approach to basic skills, which involves setting objectives for students, determining weaknesses and aiming instruction at the weaknesses.

Maier chided Block for using the Newton school system as a "model" as one of the better districts in the state.

"How can you compare Newton, which has 122 teachers, to our 500; eight administrators to our 25 and three schools to our nine?" he asked.

"That's a suburban district; we're inner city. There's no comparison."

Maier then listed many of the steps he has taken over the last six months which coincide with needs identified by Block.

Among these are:

• Hiring Robert Strauss and Associates of Morristown, educational consultants, to help develop a policy manual for the system; Maier said he and his staff have been working on the policy manual for six months;

• Developing unit control — a suggestion of Mayor Cappelletto's in August — which would place the business affairs and most administrative responsibilities in the superintendent's office (and take it away from board secretary Thomas Gallo, Business Manager Anthony Romano and attorney Robert Taylor);

• Maier said he agrees that there should be another assistant superintendent for business, but sees no need for an assistant superintendent

for planning and evaluation, as proposed by Block; he said he has just appointed Peter Vecchio as supervisor in charge of curriculum development, a job that would cover the planning aspect;

"I'd rather have two people at a lower level to support Vecchio than another assistant superintendent," Maier said.

Reorganization of the administration — Maier wants to eliminate the "lucrative" titles now held by many administrators and hire all "administrative assistants in charge of..."

• In-house computer — Maier said he and Trustee Richard England have already priced a computer that would suit Hoboken's needs at a cost of only about \$30,000 over six years, but is uncertain whether the board will purchase it;

• Affirmative Action — Maier said he wrote the affirmative action plan himself four years ago, and it had been updated and approved by the state every year since then; "It takes time to see the full effect of this kind of action," he said.

Hoboken petitions seek restoring fluoridation

A drive to restore fluoridation to Hoboken's water supply was launched today.

Maria Minazaganian, a dental assistant to Dr. Nathaniel Coyne, Hoboken dentist, began circulating a petition to Mayor Steve Cappelletto on which she hopes to obtain at least 1,000 signatures.

Hoboken buys its water from Jersey City. Last year, the Jersey City Council voted to drop fluoridation, and as a result Hoboken's water ceased to be fluoridated too.

Ms. Minazaganian, mother of a child, said today she will seek signatures from all dentists in Hoboken and from school officials and teachers. She invited any interested persons to express their views by writing to her at 629 Washington St., Hoboken 07030.

Hoboken water officials say there is no way Hoboken can add fluoride to the water en route from Jersey City to Hoboken.

Ms. Minazaganian said that if this is impossible, the city government should undertake legal action to get

fluorides restored to the water Jersey City delivers to Hoboken.

Coyne said today if fluoridation cannot be revived, "topical application" of fluorides should be resorted to. This means painting children's teeth with it every two years, he explained. The fluoride works into the enamel, he said, and reduces decay in children's teeth by 40 per cent. It is not effective in adults. In this method, he added, the fluoride is not ingested.

There are federal grants and foundation grants for topical application, and in fact, many Hoboken school children already get it because their families qualify for Medicaid, he said. Many other Hoboken families on Medicaid do not know about its availability, he believes.

Topical application can be done just as well by nurses or dental auxiliaries and hygienists, Dr. Coyne said.

The grants cover the entire expense he added. The best times for painting the teeth, he said, are considered to be ages 3, 5, 7 and 11.

Parking meters revenue in '78 in Hoboken up \$14,000

Revenue from Hoboken parking meters last year went up more than \$14,000, and the amount has more than doubled over the last five years, said Joseph Hottendorf, executive director of the city's parking authority.

Meter income in 1978 was \$82,852.88, as compared to \$68,077.98

in 1977. In 1973 and 1974, noted Hottendorf, this revenue came to only about \$31,000 in each year.

The director said there has been a slow improvement every year also on the average collected per meter. This amount has climbed from \$70.92 to

\$87.51 to \$104.90 to \$108.88 in the last four years.

He said he consulted the Duncan Meters Co., the large meter manufacturing concern, and they told him the national average income a year for meters is \$115.

Hottendorf said his goal is to surpass that national average this year.

He attributed the increase in revenue to a new management policy started in 1975. Elements of the new policy, which he administers, are an improved maintenance system and improved meter enforcement, he said.

He said repair costs have gone down, because now the authority trades in 20 percent of its meters every year, thus replacing its older machines constantly.

Cutting down on repairs helps in two ways — the authority doesn't have to pay a worker to repair them, and if there are less repairs, more meters are actually in operation, generating revenue.

"I'm delighted," Hottendorf said of the increased revenue, and he said the program is ahead of its goals.

Hoboken's master plan won't alter neighborhoods

By Tom Golembi

Hoboken's proposed master plan, which will not attempt to change existing neighborhoods, will probably come before the city's planning board for final adoption within a week to 10 days, according to Ralph B. Seligman, a Mayo, Lynch & Associates planner who worked on the proposal.

The plan, discussed at last night's final public hearing, now goes to the county's Planning Division for approval before the local Planning Board considers it.

The plan was characterized by Seligman as a going "with the grain" of the city.

He recalled that the city's previous master plan, developed in 1966, exhibited a belief in "money, bulldozers and endless resources" as a way of solving the city's problems,

pointing out that "resources were more available for tearing down than rebuilding."

"We have avoided this in large scale," he said last night. "The city is not a piece of real estate but an organism."

The plan is "essentially a continuation of the city's pattern" and is "a blueprint for an attainable promise." The Planning Board rejected "the drafting of a wish book," he added.

Some of those attending the hearing were dissatisfied that the plan did not outline specific objectives for the city.

William Bern, for example, said the plan's vagueness made it "very difficult" for residents to understand exactly what it called for.

Sally Aaronson, president of Recreation on the Waterfront, called the land use plan "still very general

and dealing primarily with the past. It should be focused on the future."

She was disappointed particularly that the plan did not specify parks and other acreage to be dedicated to recreation.

Seligman explained that the land use plan "is not a dictatorial document," that is, it seeks only to

spell out general objectives that other implementing agencies — for instance, the zoning board — and regulatory functions like building inspections would develop more precisely.

Dominick Casulli requested that instead of including Stevens Institute of Technology within a residential area, the school be placed within a separate classification.

"I believe there are different regulations for residential and educational districts," he told the board. "If we do not separate them we will sow the seeds of conflict for a long time."

He was told that though the two will be considered part of residential District R-1 — falling between 4th and 14th Streets, and including buildings on both sides of Park Street and extending eastward — the zoning code would in fact limit the Stevens area to educational uses.

The report said District R-1 has the soundest overall housing and the most uniform scale, with the highest percentage of its land area in one- to five-family homes, and practically no vacant land or non-residential uses.

District R-2, called the city's most stable residential segment, wraps around District R-1 on two sides, extending from the west side of Second Street to the west side of 14th Street, with an irregular western border that runs along Jefferson and Grand Streets.

About one-tenth of the land there is utilized by light manufacturing.

District R-3 is located on the southwestern end of the city, forming a "U" that runs west from Bloomfield Street to the border with Jersey City and north from portions of Newark Avenue, Observer Highway and Patterson Street to 8th Street, sharing Madison Street as a border with R-2.

The master plan called this the residential area most in need of major programs for residential rehabilitation and replacement.

A large U-shaped tract bordering Union City and Weehawken and a portion of the northern waterfront has been designated as District I-1 and recommended for use by light industry.

The city's major industrial employers are located at the eastern edge and other employers of consequence, the report noted, are distributed throughout. One-quarter of the district is used industrially, another quarter in roads, while a third quarter is vacant.

The other industrial zone, District I-2, is a narrow strip along the city's entire southern border and about 65 percent of the land here is under the jurisdiction of the state Department of Transportation.

A central business district has been mapped in around the transportation terminal and includes apartment buildings off Hudson Street, City Hall, professional offices, banks and retail stores. The retail development on Washington Street from Observer Highway to 4th Street is included while the remainder of Washington Street is incorporated into District R-1.

The final area is the waterfront district, extending from Newark Avenue north to the tip of Elysian Park and located east of River Street and Shore Road. Port Authority piers and upland space comprise more than half of this partially used and intermittently active area.

Hoboken may take church to court

Hoboken Building Inspector James Caulfield said today that if representatives of the burned-out Mount Olive Baptist Church don't have a "hazardous" section of the western wall removed or stabilized by Monday, he will direct the city law department to initiate contempt proceedings.

Caulfield said if the city is forced to make the demolition, the whole building will be razed. He said, though, that this would be a last resort, used only after taking the church into court.

The building inspector said he received a letter Dec. 28 from Thomas Fitzpatrick, the architect designing the rebuilding of the church.

Fitzpatrick said the church had decided to proceed with the rebuilding of the church, starting by April 1, and hoped to sign contracts for the work next month.

Caulfield on Jan. 11 sent a letter to the Rev. Odell Stewart, pastor of the church, directing the church to remove or stabilize a section of the western wall of the remains, facing

Washington Street, between two bell towers.

"This office does not feel that the west wall of (the church) should remain standing in its state until April 1," the letter said.

It further gave the church seven working days to effect the repair, or the matter would be turned over to the law department.

"I'd like to see it go back up," Caulfield said, of the church.

He said if the city does any work at the building, it would become liable for injuries there, and so the entire building would be razed to prevent possible lawsuits.

He noted, however, that there has been no trouble with the building, even during high winds in November and last month.

A boy was injured last month there when he was hit by a fence that the wind blew against him. Caulfield said a new fence was put up, but no other work has been done there.

A city renaissance:



Mrs. Cathy Garfinkel prepares a wall in her home, which formerly served as St. Matthew's Church, for the opening of Hoboken Art Works, a museum which will open on Jan. 23.

Dispatch Photos by Ted Boud

Hoboken Art Works

By SUSAN KILMER

A colony of Hoboken artists, momentarily forgotten in the wake of the city's fiscal crisis, have formed a coalition which they hope will mark the beginning of an artistic renaissance in the city. For starters, the group has turned a century-old Gothic church into a public art museum.

The former St. Matthew's Church, located at 131 Garden St., now the home of Max and Cathy Garfinkel, will have its first public show on Jan. 23. The exhibit will focus on the local artist in the urban environment.

"We want to show elements of what goes on in our daily lives, including how the artist works," Mrs. Garfinkel said as she began to prepare the second-floor of her spacious home for the next show.

The Garfinkel family moved into the church five years ago, and they have been renovating their home ever since. Mrs. Garfinkel, a professional dancer, and her husband Max, a cinematographer at ABC, are financing the upcoming exhibit themselves. Their daughter Dahlia, 6, attends the combined Denarest and Rue schools in Hoboken.

Hugh Kilmer, a local artist who has painted several murals in Hoboken, will exhibit his work at the new museum which will be called Hoboken Art Works.

"I think it's very important for people who live in a community to do art work in that community," Kilmer said as he painted a mural in a Washington Street store.

The two-story church will provide the first gallery for local artists. Until now, artists exhibited their works in private studios, restaurants and small stores on Washington Street.

Kilmer's work, for instance, is displayed on large ornate murals which dot Washington Street and River Road. Two of the city's schools have murals by Kilmer.

"We're just hoping the museum will succeed," Kilmer said. "We'll just have to see what works and what doesn't."

Tracy Everitt, owner of a Hoboken dance studio, is helping Mrs. Garfinkel with the renovation of the church. Dancers from Everitt's School will perform at 7 p.m. on Jan. 23 to celebrate the museum's opening.

(Continued on page 16)

Mrs. Amato files to run in 4th Ward

Mrs. Florence Amato, wife of Hoboken's public works director, today became the first person to file petitions to run for the City Council in May.

She filed nominating petitions with 100 signatures to run in the Fourth Ward against incumbent Louis Francone — who is believed to have Mayor Steve Cappiello's endorsement for election. Only 35 signatures are required.

Mrs. Amato's husband, Andrew, is a direct appointee of Cappiello.

Mrs. Amato ran against Francone in 1975. She got 600 votes to Francone's 1,504. Francone has been a councilman since 1965.

In 1977 he incurred Cappiello's displeasure by supporting Councilman Anthony H. Romano in the election for mayor against Cappiello. Since then, however, it has been believed that he has gotten himself back in the mayor's good graces.

Up to now, Cappiello has refused to say whether he is backing Francone again.

A city renaissance: Hoboken Art Works

(Continued from page 15)

Mrs. Garfinkel, who has invested a great deal of her own money into the museum, wants to involve local children in the project. She is working closely with Sue Ellen Newman, director of a private school, and Gerard Costa head of the H.O.P.E.S. Head Start program in Hoboken, to find young artists.

Students from Hoboken High School and other local schools will display their works in the next exhibit, Mrs. Garfinkel said. The children will put prices tags from 25 cents to thousands of dollars on their masterpieces — and the public is welcome to buy them.

"We're not going to be confined to what we think of as the fine arts," Mrs. Garfinkel explained. Exhibitions will include photography, ceramics, silk screens, oil paintings, pottery and

weaving. Professional musicians are expected to perform occasionally.

"The artist is not a person in an ivory tower, but a real working person," Mrs. Garfinkel said. "He survives through his art."

"To us, it's a very fine and beautiful old building," said Mrs. Garfinkel of her home. She views the museum as a way of combining her family and professional lives.

"The idea of being a working mother in this kind of environment brought me to the idea of working in my home. I found it was very difficult for me to go outside my home to the job market," she said.

Local artists praise Mrs. Garfinkel for her dedication to the

Hoboken community. Since the city doesn't even have a public stage, the artists have to depend on a private entrepreneur, like Mrs. Garfinkel, to display local talent.

"We finally have a place of our own," one Hoboken artist said as he admired the large panes of stained glass windows glistening just beyond the wrought iron gate.

The architecture of the old church is just another part of the show. Two thick, wooden doors with large iron hinges lead to the museum. A large spiral staircase welcomes the spectator to the second-floor gallery.

The museum, which will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, will be conducting a membership drive in the next few weeks. There will be no admission charge.



HOBOKEN CHAMP — Edwin Rivera of Hoboken, right, state bantamweight professional boxing champ shows off his belt for his father Rufino, center, and Mayor Steve Cappiello as the mayor presents Edwin with plaque commemorating Dec. 1 fight at the Jersey City Armory that gave him the

The Hoboken tragedy

The probe

By Patrick Ford

The grim search continued today through the rubble of a Hoboken tenement where a suspicious fire, the worst in the last 75 years in the city, killed at least 19 people and injured 25 with two children presumed dead among the ashes.

The spectacular blaze, which, witnesses said, turned the five-story brick structure at 131 Clinton St. into an "inferno," started around 3:52 a.m. Saturday in the first-floor hallway and completely engulfed the structure within minutes.

See ARSON — Page 10.

Relief fund

"Hudson County is making me proud," a Red Cross volunteer said. Less than two days after the tragic Hoboken fire, contributions to help the victims had passed the \$2,000 mark and were still climbing.

"The Red Cross has set up the Clinton Street Fire Fund to help bury the dead and support the survivors," Joseph P. Lecowitch, executive director of the Hudson Red Cross, estimates some \$30,000 will have to be raised.

See FIRE FUND — Page 1.

Violations

By William Taft

The five-story Hoboken tenement in which at least 19 persons burned to death had 190 housing violations, Michael Curcio, Hoboken's chief housing inspector, disclosed today.

Curcio said his inspectors had sent a report of the violations to the New Jersey Housing Inspection Bureau in October, but the state bureau had never ordered Hoboken to make a reinspection.



Hoboken firemen gather across the street from the pile of rubble that was the site of Saturday's fire that took 19 lives. Two more persons are still missing and feared dead.

Fire fund set up, need for \$20,000

Continued from Page 1

Donation should be mailed to the Red Cross at 612 Bergen Ave., Jersey City, 07304.

The Jersey Journal is donating \$100 for the fund.

Lecowitch said the Red Cross is temporarily sheltering 46 people from 15 families at the Jersey City Holiday Inn.

A total of 74 people from 22 families suffered losses and injuries as a result of the fire and will require Red Cross assistance, according to Lecowitch.

Because practically all of the dead were members of two families, the Red Cross will have to provide burials, he said.

"It's doubtful whether any relative could bear such a cost,"

Lecowitch added.

The Red Cross involvement in the fire began shortly after the first alarm was sounded. It will continue long after the final body count is verified and the story fades from the front pages of the newspapers.

It was the Red Cross workers who made the initial determination of how many people were missing. They questioned survivors and neighbors to find out who was unaccounted for while firemen battled the blaze.

The Red Cross will be assisting the survivors until they find new places to live or are reunited with family members who can take care of them, Lecowitch said.

The Hoboken Jaycees will also be collecting clothes from 12 to 2 p.m. every day this week at 217 Willow Ave.

Investigators from the State Police, the Hudson County prosecutor's arson and homicide squads, the Hoboken Fire Department and the local police gathered at police headquarters this morning to organize a full-scale probe into the cause of the blaze, which they believe was deliberately set.

Police questioned more than 25 people yesterday, including one man who admitted that he had publicly threatened a resident of the building two weeks ago, but police Chief George W. Crimmins said all the leads were "dead ends."

Charred debris from the site of the blaze was taken to the State Police labs in Little Falls, where tests will be made within a few days to look for signs of an accelerant, according to Neal Hunt, forensic chemist for the county arson squad.

The samples were mainly pieces of the stairway and bannister, which officials suspect were drenched with accelerants and set off with a match. "That's a classic method for arson," said one police investigator.

The 19th victim of the blaze was pulled from the hollow shell of the tenement yesterday by a huge crane that dumped piles of debris onto the street for fire-fighters to sift through.

All 19 bodies were identified by family members yesterday, even though many were reportedly charred beyond recognition.

The identification was made by noting where the bodies were found, and using various means of identification, including pieces of jewelry on the bodies, officials said.

The last two bodies remaining in the rubble are believed to be those of Adrian Drepaul, 11, and her brother Fatpay, 7, police said.

The dead were all from three of the families in the building. Jacob Drepaul, 36, who moved to Hoboken from Guyana in June, was killed along with his wife, Casturi, 35, and at least five of their children — Roxanne, 17; Bill, 14; Goita, 13; Raymond, 9; People, 4.

Gangli Rampersaud, 33, the sister of Mrs. Drepaul, who moved to the doomed building just last week after coming from Guyana in November, was killed along with her seven children, ranging in age from 2 to 13. Her husband was due to join them in Hoboken some time this month.

Family members said. He has been notified of their deaths.

Both families were trapped in their fourth-floor apartments by the general alarm blaze, which burned for over three hours.

Placida Soto-Torres, 51, managed to escape her third-floor apartment, but her four children were trapped and died. The bodies of Manuel, 21; Teresa, 18; Margeria, 16, and Mary, 14, have been positively identified by family members.

Nineteen of the injured were treated at St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken, six at St. Francis Hospital in Jersey City.

Five of the injured were admitted to St. Mary, and two are listed in guarded condition.

William Bosch, 19, a Hoboken CETA worker, who saved the life of his five-month-old son, William Jr., was in guarded condition in traction in the intensive care unit with multiple fractures of his legs and arms.

Bosch jumped from the second floor with the baby clutched to his chest to break its fall. The baby suffered smoke inhalation and a concussion, but was in stable condition at the hospital.

Aida Rivera, 20, who police said lived with Bosch, also jumped from the second floor, and she was in guarded condition in the Hoboken hospital's special care unit with multiple leg fractures.

Bosch was barely coherent in his hospital room yesterday, but told police he had been threatened by a man with whom he was arrested last month, police said.

Bosch was arrested in Hoboken on Dec. 6 in an alleged break-in, entry and larceny at the C&A Furniture Warehouse at First Street and Park Avenue, police said.

190 violations in tenement

Continued from Page 1

"Reinspections are out of the hands of the Hoboken bureau until and unless the state orders them," Curcio said.

The state does not penalize landlords until after a reinspection has disclosed that violations continue, according to Curcio.

One of the men arrested with him allegedly threatened him during an argument several weeks after their arrest, police said.

The man was questioned yesterday, but had an alibi for the time of the fire, police said.

Kussile Budha, sister of Mrs. Rampersaud and Mrs. Drepaul, said she sponsored the two families in their immigration to this country.

She said they came here for "a better life" than they had on the Corentyne Coast in Guyana. Both worked in local factories, she said.

Ceterman Drepaul, brother of Jacob, the fire victim, said his brother was anxious to find a place for himself in this country.

"They liked it here," Ceterman said. "They came to be permanent residents. This is terrible."

Mrs. Budha said the children from the two families had been enrolled in the Hoboken schools and were enjoying their life here.

They are expected to be buried in this country, she said.

The fire was reported at 3:52 a.m. Saturday by Police Sgt. John Carrier and Patrolman John Smith, who were passing in their patrol car.

They tried to go into the front of the building, but were turned back by a wall of flames. Carrier and Smith and the fire-fighters who arrived moments later ran through adjacent houses to the backyard, where people were hanging from hot fire escapes and one woman was reportedly hanging from a clothesline.

They evacuated as many as they could, but the flames were "shooting through the roof within minutes," according to Fire Chief James Houn.

It took over three hours and 100 firemen to extinguish the flames, but the search for bodies didn't start until around 8 a.m., when it was light.

Persons moved among the upper floor ashes, managing to pull out 14 bodies, but it was deemed unsafe to have anyone walking around.

Ambrosio and Sons, a Jersey City demolition firm, was called in the afternoon to use its crane to dismantle the burned-out shell from the top.

The fire-fighters found four more bodies during the remainder of Saturday, and one more after starting again at 10 a.m. yesterday.

The search was called off because of darkness at 5:30 p.m., and was expected to begin at 9 this morning.

Throughout both days, hundreds of people standing behind police barricades watched grimly as the debris was hoisted out. Baby Diaz of Hoboken, wearing a large Red Cross on his chest, asked for money and clothing over a loudspeaker in Spanish.

Around the corner, at 200 Willow Ave., a clothing drive was collecting hundreds of articles.

The injured included Carrier and Smith, as well as Fireman Richard Schubring. All suffered smoke inhalation. Carrier had lacerations on both hands and his head; Smith had back pains; Schubring had a sprained right ankle.

All three were treated at St. Mary and released.

The two other victims still in St. Mary were Pablo Ramirez, 3, who had abdominal pains and lacerations of the face and chin, and Eroleida Arroyo, 51, who suffered smoke inhalation. Both are listed as stable.

Fire officials said the only fire in recent years which could approach Saturday's tragedy was the one on 11th Street in 1973 in which 11 persons died.

they did," he asserted.

According to Curcio, the burned building and the connected tenement at 129 Clinton St. are owned by Isaac Haim of Jersey City.

The other adjacent house at 133 Clinton St. is owned by someone else, he said.

He thought that that building was clear of regulations.

It spread too fast, says chief

"The rapid spread of the fire indicates a torch job."

That is the pronouncement of Hoboken Fire Chief James Houn on the cause of the blaze at 131 Clinton Street that left 19 dead, two unaccounted for, and many burned, injured or homeless.

The fire department's response to the alarm, Houn said, "was exceptionally fast."

"The men had just returned to their firehouses from a previous run, and they hadn't had time to change form their working clothes," the chief explained. "So they were able to get to this one without losing any time at all."

The fire scene was only three short blocks from the nearest firehouse, at Second and Jefferson streets, and about midway between two other nearby firehouses, at Eighth and Clinton and at Observer Highway and Madison Street.

The speed with which the fire apparatus responded, Houn commented,

makes the spread of the flames almost inexplicable except on the theory of incendiarism.

He said it was strange, however, that none of the occupants had telephoned the Fire Department — the alarm was given by radio from a passing police car — considering that the first fire-fighter at the scene, Deputy Chief Francis Hunsinger, found flames showing on the third, fourth and fifth floors in the front, and almost every window ablaze in the rear.

The fire escape, Houn said, was in working order, and the outer walls in the building were brick. The interior walls were of material normally fire-resistant.

"There is a strong possibility that the fire was set," he continued. "But

as yet we had no evidence."

State arson investigators took samples of debris in the stairwell between the first and second floors until 2 p.m. yesterday, he added.

Houn expressed the opinion that the large number of deaths was related to the type of occupancy of the building. Close to 100 people were said to have been living in this 10-flat tenement, he observed. He added that he had heard that many of the tenants were "transients who lived there for a few days at a time."

"Apparently these people were not used to our type of housing," he continued. "It would appear that none of them thought of calling the fire department."

The search for remaining bodies is being conducted very thoroughly,

the chief added.

"Each bucket of debris scooped up is being sifted very gingerly by firemen," he declared. He said he expected the sifting of the debris would not be finished until late today. Fire companies are taking turns doing this work.

The adjoining buildings at 129 and 133 Clinton St. must remain vacated for the present, the chief said. Firemen pulled down the ceilings of the top floor of each building to make sure there is no smoldering fire in the space between the ceiling and the roof, since the wooden beams of these buildings were in contact with adjacent beams of the burned building.

There was no fire damage in the adjacent buildings, he added, but utilities had to be cut off, and there was severe smoke and water damage.

Hope displacing pain for fire victim

By Patrick Ford

The short, Hispanic man slumped against a wall in Hoboken City Hall, with pain and weariness etched across his face.

The pain was from seeing his wife and one of his children injured in the tragic weekend fire that killed 31 at 131 Clinton St. in Hoboken; the weariness was from worrying about where he'd live, where he'd get clothes for his family, how they'd survive.

Angelo Ramirez, 27, had been to the brink. He came face to face with death early Saturday. As flames and dense smoke swirled around him, he actually threw his two children from the window of his second-floor apartment.

Joanne, 7, was caught by a neighbor and escaped without a scratch. Paul, 3, was not caught. He remained in St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken until yesterday with lacerations and abdominal pain.

Ramirez' wife, Elsa, 26, also jumped from the second floor to es-

cape the flames. She suffered only bruised legs. Someone came with a ladder before Ramirez had to jump.

He stayed over the weekend with his sister, Isabelle Cabrera, at 339 Jackson St. in Hoboken, but she could only accommodate him for so long.

Joanna couldn't go to school because, Ramirez said, "She has no clothes."

Yesterday, he seemed almost hopeless. He was unemployed, and was collecting unemployment benefits, which makes it almost impossible to get welfare immediately.

He has no other relatives in this area, and he speaks almost no English. He gets no food stamps. He received a small amount of clothing from the Red Cross emergency center at 200 Willow Ave.

Thomas Olivieri, a social worker for the city's Community Development Agency, took Ramirez under his wing, however. They went to Mayor Steve Cappiello to seek aid, but learned that the city has no emergency funds.

Cappiello said he is trying to get money for the fire victims from the Red Cross, but that agency is desperately seeking aid itself from the public, because it has to provide emergency lodgings and burials for all the 100 homeless from the Hoboken blaze and about 20 from another fatal fire in Jersey City yesterday.

"He's lost," Olivieri said. "It's a helpless feeling."

Luckily, things brightened from there.

Paul was released from St. Mary in the afternoon and was pronounced in "satisfactory" condition by the hospital.

The child had been in good spirits all along, Ramirez said. He told one and all that his father threw him from the window "and I was flying. I was flying!"

More clothes poured into the Red Cross for the fire families, so Joanna should be able to return to school.

Finally, in late afternoon, the Ramirez' and two other families were

told they would be placed in units owned by Applied Housing Associates.

Applied Housing owns many rehabilitated units in the city. They had set aside several for tenants displaced by rehabilitation projects, but decided yesterday to open them up to the fire victims, according to Joseph Barry, a partner.

"Our policy has always been to provide units for fire victims," Barry said last night. "We'll try to help them all we can."

Vidalina Milan, director of relocation for CDA, said the fire victims would receive priority for any available units in the city.

She and Olivieri will take more victims to look at units today. Their office is not required to do it, but they are assisting the city relocation office.

Meanwhile, Ramirez and his family are expecting to move into the new apartment today. The pain and weariness is still there, but, for the first time since their lives were disrupted early Saturday, there is hope.



Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello watches as crane digs into the remains of 131 Clinton St. looking for victims of Saturday morning's fire.

'How can you stop an arsonist?'

Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he did not know of a way the disastrous tenement fire could have been averted or the death toll lessened.

"If someone is determined to set fire to a building," he asked, "how can you stop him?"

"Of course, one can be a Monday morning quarterback, a second-guesser," Cappiello added.

The Hoboken mayor said he understood that the upper floors were only recently occupied "by people ap-

parently not used to living in tenements, not aware of the potential danger of living in turn-of-the-century tenement houses."

The Missing Persons' Bureau had "great difficulty" in identifying many of the dead, Cappiello said, adding: "for one thing, many of the people who lived in the building apparently didn't know each other."

"Bodies were burned beyond recognition," he continued. "Some of the identifications had to be based on

such things as the size of the people."

The cost of providing meals and lodging for homeless victims in the Holiday Inn in Jersey City is being borne by the Red Cross, "at least for the present," according to the mayor.

City engineer James Caulfield was to determine today what needs to be done before the two adjoining tenement houses can be reoccupied, Cappiello said. "And he is being very wary."

Rites Saturday for 17 killed in Hoboken fire

Services for 17 members of two related families from Guyana, whose search for a better life ended in the smoke and flames of Saturday's fire in Hoboken, will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Leber-Schlemm Funeral Home, Union City.

Edris Rampersaud will come from Guyana to be among the mourners. The 17 Guyanese victims of the fire, which claimed a total of 21 lives, included his wife, their two children and five of her children by a previous marriage.

The family in this area directed the arrangements for the funeral.

After the services the 17 victims will be privately cremated.

Rampersaud had still been working in Guyana. His wife and children came here three months ago to get work. His wife's sister, with her husband and seven children, were killed in the same fire at 131 Clinton St.

Family members said the fire victims had come from Guyana "looking for a better life," with the intention to work and save and to move eventually to New York City and then to its suburban areas.

A sister who had come to the area 10 years ago, sponsored the immigra-

Continued from Page 1

tion into the United States of both families. All were born in South America.

The dead included Rampersaud's wife, the former Gangli Rampersaud, and their two children: Sherman Rampersaud, 3, and Lilawattie Devica Rampersaud, 1.

She had been married once before and her husband had been killed in a car crash. Her children by that marriage who died in the Hoboken fire were Sandra Ramjeet, 12; Bholaram Ramjeet, 10; Kaloutie Ramjeet, 11; Tulsie Ramjeet, 9 and Inder Ramjeet, 6.

All the school-age children were pupils at Kealey School, Hoboken.

Mrs. Rampersaud had worked in the Dan Dee Belt and Bag Co., and

her sister Gungpatty Drepaul, 37, formerly Gungpatty Rampersaud, was a housewife. Mrs. Drepaul's husband, Jacob Drepaul, 43, worked in the Textile Combining Corp., Hoboken.

Their oldest daughter, Roxanne, 17, also worked in Dan Dee Belt and Bag.

The other Drepaul victims were Adrian, 15; Hebron, 13; Veronica, 12; Raymond, 9; Benjamin, 7 and Norman, 5. The bodies of Benjamin and Veronica were the last to be pulled from the rubble of the building. The Drepauls had come from Guyana nine months ago.

Of the six surviving brothers and sisters of the two Rampersaud sisters killed in the fire, three live in Hoboken, two in Jersey City and one in New York City.

'People were hanging out windows'

By William Taft

"People were hanging out of windows so clinging to ledges outside wanting to jump. Flames were shooting out of the windows. It was impossible for us to get in. The front entrance was on fire."

"Looking up, I saw a man with a small child in his arms, jump from a third-floor window, and at the same time a woman jumped, too."

"On their way down, the child slipped out of the man's hands and landed on concrete on the top step. I grabbed the child and as I did so, a chunk of burning debris fell on the peak of my hat and drilled a hole through it."

Police Sgt. John Carrier was describing what he saw as he stood in front of the blazing building. It was he who called in the first alarm while cruising in a radio car.

Carrier thrust the child into the hands of a tenant who managed to make his way out of the flaming house. The child could have been anywhere from 1 to 3 years old and Carrier got the impression it was a boy. It was conscious, but made no sound.

"The man—he may have been the father—was in bad shape," the sergeant continued. "He had two broken legs and a broken arm, and his face was mangled."

For those who survived, it was

fortunate that Carrier and his partner, Patrolman John Smith, had been in the vicinity and saw the flames shooting skyward from the tenement house. No one had telephoned an alarm.

As they sped to the scene, Carrier called the fire department on his portable radio, asking also for another police car and ambulances.

"We tried to get people not to jump," Carrier related. "Stay there," we shouted at them. "We knew there would be a fire truck there with ladders in another 60 seconds."

But Smith did have a man drop a girl, 3 or 4 years old, from a second-floor window and he caught her.

"A second patrol car came up with two other officers," Carrier continued. "I went to the connecting house next door at 133 Clinton Street with Patrolman Willie Pittman. We had to kick open the front door. The hall was full of smoke; I was lucky I had just put new batteries in my flashlight. Then we went up floor-by-floor, banging on doors, trying to wake the tenants. I went on up to the roof."

"From the roof, I saw detective Vincent Lombardi on the fire escape at the rear of the top floor. He shouted to me that there were people on the fire escape (the one on the burning building)."

"We yelled to them to come up

their fire escape to the roof of 133 Clinton, the building we were on. From there they could get down through the building."

"Then we saw Fireman Richard Schubring on the top floor of the burning building. He handed me a baby girl. I handed her down the roof hatch to Vince Lombardi."

"Then I went back to the burning house and saw a man standing on the fire escape at an upper floor in the smoke and flames. He seemed unable to move. I helped him to 133 Clinton, too."

Meanwhile, Patrolman Smith and Patrolman Thomas White had gone into the connecting house on the opposite side, at 129 Clinton, and they too banged and kicked at apartment doors to rouse the sleepers.

"Smith went down to the first floor (of 129) and jumped out of a rear first-floor window into the yard, injuring himself," Carrier went on. "He saw people on the fire escape at 131 Clinton, afraid to move. He yelled to them to come down. And he had them go into the basement at 129 where they could make their way to the front of the house and get out."

Later, Carrier learned that although he feared the child who had fallen from the man's arms in front of the house must surely have a broken back, the child was not seriously injured.



Rafaela Santana, left, and Julia Madera, a volunteer from Our Lady of Grace Church, sort clothes for the fire victims at 280 Willow Ave., Hoboken, where a fund-raising headquarters has been set up.

They were the lucky ones —they lost only possessions

Roberto Mendez had 27 stitches in his left arm as a reminder of what happened when his home was turned into a blazing inferno early Saturday, but he didn't feel sorry for himself. Quite the contrary.

"Thanks to God," he said yesterday. "My children were not hurt. We're all alive."

Despite the injury and the loss of all his worldly goods in the general alarm blaze that swept through his home early Saturday, the Mendez family was, indeed, one of the lucky ones among the eight families living at 131 Clinton St. in Hoboken.

At least 19, probably 21, from three families in the five-story brick tenement died in the fire, which state, county and local officials believe was deliberately set.

"I never want to experience anything like that again," said Mendez yesterday at the Holiday Inn in Jersey City, where his family and seven others were relocated by the Red Cross. "I couldn't believe it was truly happening."

Mendez, 35, his wife Doris, and their daughters Luz, 6, and Elba, 5, and Doris' brother, Manuel Roldan, woke up a little before 4 a.m. Saturday.

Mrs. Mendez heard glass breaking outside and smelled the smoke immediately. She woke her husband and brother, and they grabbed the children. Flames and heavy smoke in the hallway outside their second-floor apartment prevented them from going out the front, so Mendez pushed his arm through the window in back, causing the gash that required the 27 stitches at St. Francis Hospital in Jersey City later.

(Many windows in the building had been broken out because they had been nailed shut to keep out burglars.)

They climbed out onto the fire escape, Mendez said, and made it to the courtyard behind the tenements. The ground was covered with glass. None

of them had taken time to put shoes on.

A neighbor threw them a pair, and Mendez put them on Elba. The neighbor, Juan Rodriguez, lowered the ladder from a nearby fire escape, allowing the Mendez' and several others to climb through his apartment in an adjacent building and out to safety.

Roldan arrived from Puerto Rico, the birthplace of all three adults, on Thursday. He was to have remained until the end of the month.

"The \$200 for his plane ticket back to Puerto Rico burned in the fire," Mendez said as Roldan nodded sadly. "We don't know where we're going. We don't know how he's getting back. But we're alive. Thanks to God!"

The Rivera family had similar luck. They were apparently the first to escape the inferno, jumping from their first-floor window.

Jose Rivera, 31, also cut his left hand breaking the window in front of the apartment. He needed three stitches. His wife Carmen, 35, children Moses, 9, Abimelec, 7, and Jose Jr., 3, and Carmen's brother, 25-year-old Betasasar Romero, all escaped safely.

Romero, who arrived Friday from Puerto Rico with the intention of settling in this country, was sleeping on a couch when he awoke to the smell of smoke.

While Romero got outside to take the children, Rivera grabbed blankets to wrap them against the subfreezing temperatures outside.

Once safely out of the building, Rivera tried to alert his neighbors.

"I kept yelling 'fuego, fuego (fire, fire) fire,'" he recalled. "Someone threw a baby from the third floor. Another man jumped out near me and held his baby over his chest as if it wouldn't be hurt. The fire was all over the building."

"It was very hot. It seemed like

bright light was on. I tried to call everybody."

Rivera's eyes were moist as he sat on the bed in the basement room at the Jersey City Holiday Inn. He seemed to be just realizing what had happened. He looked down when asked what he plans to do.

"I don't know. Everything was burned. I have no relatives here. I don't have a job. I don't know what to do."

He made his way to the back of the blazing house by going through the adjacent building at 129 Clinton Street, then jumping about 12 feet from a window to the yard, tugging with a clothes line and a telephone wire as he did so.

"I saw a window and two small boys and a little girl planned down the fire escape at the second floor,"

Ptl. Smith suffers injuries, but children are saved

Patrolman John Smith, one of the two officers in the first radio car to reach the fire, is off duty today with a strained back and a seared throat.

He made his way to the back of the blazing house by going through the adjacent building at 129 Clinton Street, then jumping about 12 feet from a window to the yard, tugging with a clothes line and a telephone wire as he did so.

"I saw a window and two small boys and a little girl planned down the fire escape at the second floor,"

he recounted. "Flames were shooting out at the fire escape from a first-floor window, and they were afraid to go up because of the dense smoke."

"I went up the extension ladder at the bottom of the fire escape and took the little girl, telling the others to follow me (I speak a little Spanish—Spanish I call it—because my wife is Puerto Rican) when they saw I had made it, first up and then down, the others escape carrying the little girl,—they came down, too. I led them to the back of the yard to get

away from the falling debris. Then I led them through the basement of 129 Clinton out to the street."

Smith stayed on duty "because the adrenaline was still flowing," he recalled. He eluded a first-aid station nearby, but "when Chief Crimmins heard me coughing and choking and saw me walking funny—and I began to feel pain—he had me go to the hospital where I had X-rays and got a prescription to keep my lungs from drying out."

Both fatal fires were arson, prosecutor and police rule

Hudson County Prosecutor James T. O'Halloran declared today that the Hoboken tenement blaze which claimed 21 lives last weekend was definitely "an arson fire." Late yesterday the tenement blaze at 308 York St., Jersey City, which took seven lives, also was upgraded to arson, police said. It had previously been termed "suspicious."

As the announcement was made, these were the latest developments in the aftermath of the two fires:

• O'Halloran's office said that although state arson tests on materials from 131 Clinton St., Hoboken, were not completed, it has been branded as arson based on statements from witnesses and the extent of the blaze.

• Jersey City police and the prosecutor's office want to question a man who once worked for the owner of the York Street building who may have been carrying out a vendetta against the landlord.

• Jersey City and county authorities are also probing fires in a restaurant-social club at 982 Summit Ave., and an apartment house at 41 Palisade Ave., both attributed by fire officials to arsonists. No one was injured in those blazes.

• The Puerto Rican Alliance has launched a drive to raise funds for the Hudson County Chapter of the Red Cross to help the York Street fire victims.

• At the request of Assemblyman Thomas A. Gallo of Hoboken, the Assembly yesterday approved a resolution commending Hoboken and Jersey City fire-fighting units that battled the two blazes. A silent prayer also was offered for the victims.

The prosecutor's office said the method of ignition and the manner of spreading the accelerant has not yet been determined in the Hoboken blaze "but there is every indication that the fire is arson and that is our official determination at this point."

Lt. John Farley, of the prosecutor's homicide squad, said the investigation will proceed with interviewing of fire victims and tenants in adjoining buildings, canvassing the neighborhood for possible eyewitnesses and urging anyone with information to come forward.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello estimated that the overtime and demolition costs incurred by the fire at \$25,000. As soon as itemizations on costs are completed, possibly today, the city will file an application for relief to the Governor's Council for Emergency Services.

Business Administrator Edwin Chius had estimated the amount at

\$30,000. Chius said Community Affairs Commissioner Joseph LePante, who visited the fire scene Saturday, said Hoboken should apply for the funds.

He said the money was available for "completely extraordinary expenses." Cappiello said that the cost of the operation, while not extremely high, "would deplete areas we know we're going to need."

He said he hoped to get the relief, but said of the Governor's Council, "I'm not sure they meet regularly."

Cristiano Diaz, one of the volunteers mounting a Red Cross organized relief drive for the fire victims, said the effort had raised \$8,219 through Wednesday.

Jersey City police said they want to question a man who once worked for Kirby Kevelson, owner of the York Street building and more than a dozen other tenements. Kevelson told authorities yesterday he had found that the man had been withholding rents and accused him of embezzlement. "The next thing this guy did was set fire to 339 Montgomery St.," Kevelson said.

One of the staffers in Kevelson's Newark office told a reporter that the man was arrested in November and she identified him in Jersey City Municipal Court as the man who allegedly withheld the \$2,000 in rents from the firm.

"He told me we would pay for this," the staffer said. During a mix-up in the court, the man managed to slip out, the staffer said. He hasn't been seen since, and the warrant for the embezzlement charge is still pending.

Jersey City Homicide Squad Commander Thomas Fitzpatrick said a contempt-of-court warrant is out for the man but no warrant charging him with arson has been issued.

The Puerto Rican Alliance fund drive for the York Street victims was launched with a \$100 check from Assemblyman Thomas Cowan of Jersey City. Luis Rodriguez, Alliance president and an aide to Cowan, said the organization is contributing \$30.

Rodriguez said checks can be made to the Puerto Rican Alliance Red Cross Fund Drive. Anyone who wants to donate food, furniture or clothes may also drop off items at the Alliance office, 313 Grove St., he said. Donations also will be accepted at Grace Van Vorst Church, Second and Erie Streets, or at Cowan's office, 99 Montgomery St.

In the Assembly yesterday, the Gallo resolution commended the work of public safety personnel in Hoboken, Jersey City and Hudson County for their performance at the two blazes. In praising the "heroism and devotion" of the firefighters and other personnel, the resolution noted that the blazes occurred in old tenements, which made the job more difficult.

Horrible dreams' for fireman

Hoboken Fireman John Smith didn't eat much yesterday.

He didn't eat at all on Saturday. His sleep was fitful Saturday night, filled with "horrible dreams."

Smith was one of the grim searchers in the aftermath of Saturday's tenement fire that killed at least 19 people. He personally pulled many charred bodies from the site of the blaze, and he says he'll never forget it.

"They were like dolls, like mannequins covered with black soot," he said yesterday. His body twitched just thinking about it. "It was an unbelievable sight. I know I'll never forget it."

Smith, a hardened veteran with 23 years on the Hoboken Fire Department, was visibly shaken as he recalled his first foray into the hollow shell that had been 131 Clinton St., a five-story brick tenement housing 48 residents, most of them children.

"We went into a window on the fourth floor, right side," he said. "It was horrible. There were nine bodies scattered around the kitchen."

"One woman was right under the window sill. Two of the bodies were fused together. One baby had no head. Two teenagers were lying on their backs under the table, and they weren't burned that badly—their clothes weren't even burned and their hair was straight black and silky—but their arms were sticking straight up in the air."

The tenants on the fourth-floor right apartment were Gangi Rampersand, 33, and her seven children, ranging in age from 2 to 13. They had moved into the building only one week before the fatal blaze. All are dead.

Smith, who was working with Capt. Michael Simone and Firemen Joseph Vitolo and Felix Santiago, had to be tied to a ledge before venturing into the left apartment on the fourth floor.

"The floor was too shaky," he explained. "I was tied to the ledge and I worked my way toward a woman's body with no feet—they'd been burned off. I had to use a long pole to pull the body toward me, and then I pulled it out."

That apartment was the home of Mrs. Reampersand's sister, Casturi Drepaal, 35; her husband Jacob, 38, and their seven children, ages 4 to 17. All are presumed lost, though two of the children have not yet been found.

Capt. Alan Brouse, a 14-year veteran, was one of those who had to sift through the debris dumped on the street in front of the building yesterday by the cranes of Ambrosio and Sons, who did the demolition.

Brouse was injured last May in another suspicious fire at 70 Washington St. The cause of that blaze was never determined. He took yesterday's task as part of the job.

"You have to detach yourself," he said with a sigh. "You can't let it bother you, or you'd go crazy."



Placido Torres is comforted by her son, Angel, as they attend funeral services for four family members who perished with 17 other persons in last weekend's tenement fire in Hoboken. (UPI)

Teacher mourns dead pupil as fire victims laid to rest

"He was a beautiful child," said Mary Atkinson, Norman Drepaal's kindergarten teacher at Hoboken's Kealey School.

Norman, 5, and 11 other students at the school perished in Saturday's tenement fire at 131 Clinton St., which claimed a total of 21 lives.

"I see him in my sleep sometimes," she said, eyes misting.

As she was speaking, graveside services for the four members of the Torres family who died in the arson fire were held at Rosedale Memorial Cemetery in Linden.

They were the first funerals held for the 21 persons who lost their lives in the Hoboken tenement fire and the seven who died in a similar blaze at 358 York St., Jersey City, last weekend.

More than 100 friends, neighbors and family members attended the

services yesterday for Nicholas Torres, 24, and his sister Maria Theresa, 17; Margarita, 16; and Marilyn, 14.

Services for Wilson Milan, 22; Maria Gonzalez, 35, and her five children Anita, 1; Suzanne, 3; Albert, 10; Edward, 11; and Papa, 12, all fatalities of the York Street fire, are being held today at St. Peter's Church, 114 Grand St., Jersey City, at 9:30 a.m.

A Guyanese man who lost his wife, two children and five step-children in the Hoboken blaze has been granted a "humanitarian parole" to attend the victims' funeral tomorrow, according to James Dolan, an aide to Rep. Frank Guarini Jr.

Edris Rampersand, who served four years in a Guyanese prison after

being convicted on an assault charge, was initially denied admission to the U.S. when the State Department classified him as an "undesirable." Dolan said. Guarini was able to help the man through the office of Vice President Walter Mondale, Dolan reported. Guarini had been working with the Hudson County Red Cross Chapter.

Besides the 12 dead students, the Hoboken grammar school, at Fifth and Adams streets, also has other children who survived the fire but have not yet returned to the school.

Mrs. Atkinson said her kindergarten class prayed for Norman on Monday. "The children miss him," she said.

She said that Norman was scared at first, when he started school in September, but later "he became very, very happy."

She showed a visitor a picture taken at a Christmas party. Norman, surrounded by classmates, is exuberantly holding up a Christmas gift.

"They were beautiful children," said Alfred Drepaal, the school's vice principal. The victims include six members of the Drepaal family, five children in the Ranjeet family, and Marilyn Torres, who was scheduled to transfer to the Wallace School, but never did.

The Drepaals began school in September, but the Ranjeets only entered on Dec. 11.

Drepaal said the children were very quiet and well behaved. "It was quite a shock," he said.

Giovanna Uva, who teaches the

first grade class that under Ranjeet, 7, attended, said her class at first did not realize the meaning of his death.

"They were hoping that Inder would come back," she said.

She said she herself started to feel the reality of the situation when she had to clear the boy's desk. "I'm sorry he's not there any more," she said.

Michael Jacobson's sixth grade class had the sad job of emptying two desks — those occupied by Marilyn Torres and Hebron Drepaal, both 14.

Jacobson said they found some beautiful shells there from Hebron's former country, Guyana, and that they put them in the class' fish tank.

"They were very nice kids," Jacobson said. He said Hebron was quiet, but that Marilyn was friendly with many in the class.

"Hebron was just coming into his own," the teacher said. "It's really sad, it's tragic," he said of both deaths.

The school has made collections of clothes and money to assist the Red Cross fund drive to aid the survivors of the fire.

Jacobson said that one of the students in his class was one of the Red Cross volunteers going around every night asking for collections.

The other children who attended the school were Benjamin Drepaal, Tulsie Ranjeet and Boharion Ranjeet, all in second grade; Raymond Drepaal, in third grade; Sandra and Kuloutie Ranjeet, in the fourth grade; Veronica Drepaal, in the fifth grade, and Adrian Drepaal, who was in the seventh grade.

Man was seen fleeing fire scene

Confronted with the arsons of three crowded tenements and an Italian social club-restaurant, detectives in Jersey City and Hoboken today continued to check clues and question witnesses that may lead them to the culprits.

Here are the latest developments:

• In Hoboken, a man was seen leaving the tenement at 131 Clinton St. at the time the disastrous fire which took 21 lives started there early Saturday morning, The Jersey Journal learned.

• In Jersey City, a woman who claimed to have seen an arson suspect running from a tenement fire at 358 York St., which took seven lives, has now balked at giving police a description. Authorities said her refusal makes it impossible for a likeness of the suspect to be drawn by a State Police artist.

• Fire officials throughout the county said some of the recent fire tragedies could be attributed to the widespread local practice of boarding up windows or erecting metal gratings to keep burglars out of or wandering toddlers inside the apartment.

• Inspectors from the Jersey City Fire Prevention Bureau and Property Conservation Department combed tenements belonging to Kevelson Enterprises of Newark, looking for obstructions in hallways or windows that could block a fire escape route. The firm owns the tenement at 358 York St., scene of the fatal blaze.

• The Hudson County Chapter of the American Red Cross, having endured the "overload" of providing emergency care for those left homeless by the tragic Hoboken and Jersey City blazes, is pressing its drive for funds.

• Hudson County Prosecutor



These metal grates on the windows of one of the fire ravaged buildings on Clinton Street in Hoboken are prevalent but illegal throughout Hudson County because they make escape or rescue almost impossible.

Continued from Page 1

James T. O'Halloran, whose investigators are looking into the arson cases, said they have a "couple of leads" but no suspects. They are also looking into the arson at the Dante Alighieri Society and Salerno's Restaurant, 362 Summit Ave. and a blaze in an apartment house at 451 Palisade Ave.

In Hoboken, Felix Guzman, a tenant at 129 Clinton St., said he saw a man leaving 131 Clinton just before the fire started. Guzman provides the first apparent evidence to support their belief the fire was set, police said.

Today, a State Police artist was to make a sketch of a man, using Guzman's description as a basis.

Building Inspector James Caulfield said he inclined toward approving a request by Philip Ortiz, owner of the tenement at 133 Clinton St., to remove the top two floors of the five-story building to avoid having it ordered demolished.

Jaime Munoz, organizer of Red Cross volunteers at the Chambron Club, 200 Willow Ave., reported that collections for the fire victims had reached \$5,400 in three days.

James Farina, heading the city government collection effort, announced that he has received many pledges of support. The Hoboken Jaycees plan a benefit disco dance Saturday at 8 p.m. at the St. Francis Youth Center, Third and Jefferson streets.

Four victims of the fire remained

in guarded and temporary conditions in various hospitals.

At least two persons gave police a description of a man seen running from the York Street tenement. He was described as a black male, about 20 years of age, six feet tall, and wearing a dark jacket, white cap and white sneakers.

According to some witnesses, there may have been two men seen leaving the building. A container found at the scene is believed to have been used by the arsonist to pour an "accelerant" in the first-floor hallway. Five children, their mother and a 22-year-old man died in the blaze.

Fire chiefs throughout the county warned against cutting off escape routes by nailing windows shut or putting up grates.

Union City Fire Chief James Moran said local residents often ask permission to erect a grate for protection against burglars. He said the requests are always turned down.

Even if family members knew how to unlock the gate in an emergency, Moran said, during the panic of a fire emergency, most people can't remember simple instructions. He suggested instead attaching burglar alarms that sound when windows are raised.

Raymond Maloney, Jersey City fire director, said a less expensive method is to buy a small hinge-type lock that is nailed to the frame and prevents the window from being raised more than a few inches.

Other fire officials had similar suggestions but all had the common feature of leaving the glass unobscured.

Deputy Fire Chief John Mohr of West New York said his inspectors come across apartments where windows have been nailed shut more often than placing obstructions in front of them.

Blocked windows are least prevalent in Bayonne, according to Chief John T. Brennan. "We don't have that type of a situation," he explained. The only fire violation that shows up with any regularity, he said, is an air conditioner that extends from a bedroom window onto a fire escape.

Kearny Fire Chief Edward J. Beesley said his men "have been pretty lucky so far" in getting through window obstructions when there is a fire in a home. He said his rescue crews carry axes and cutters that "can break through anything," but he pointed out that this slows down rescue attempts.

According to sources in the Jersey City Fire Department, a bathroom window of the fire-ravaged

York Street house was nailed shut and kitchen windows were boarded up with plywood, apparently to discourage burglars.

Thomas Shell, city Property Conservation director, said inspections will be made of a number of Downtown properties owned by the Kevelson Corp.

The Red Cross and Hudson County Division of Welfare are looking for permanent apartments for some of the persons made homeless by the fire.

James Young, county welfare director, said James Orrico, service supervisor, was coordinating efforts to help the eight Hoboken families with 56 members and three families with 15 members left homeless in the Jersey City blaze.

"We can no longer accept any clothing," Leckowitch said. "What we will accept is canned food, sheets and pillowcases and small useful household items. Donations also may be sent to the Clinton Street Fire rescue attempts.

Fund in care of the Red Cross, 612 Bergen Avenue, Jersey City. Donations to the Jersey City fire fund also may be sent to the chapter, he said.

Man questioned, freed in Hoboken blaze

Hoboken police yesterday questioned a man described as seen leaving the tenement at 131 Clinton St. about the time of the fire which killed 21 started there Saturday morning. He was later released, however.

In Jersey City, investigators are checking a theory that Monday's York Street fire in which seven people died, may have been a result of a vendetta against the landlord.

Kirby "Kibby" Kevelson, of West Orange, the landlord of the tenement, reported an incident involving a man who used to work for him about a year ago at 330 Montgomery St. Kevelson said he discovered that the man was withholding rent payments and it was verified by workmen who were sent to repair a vacant apartment and found it occupied.

"I made a charge and the next

thing this guy did was set fire to 330 Montgomery St. But I think he was arrested. Now I'm told he's been going around telling everybody to watch out. I own 12 buildings on York and Montgomery streets and I've lost about 30 percent of my tenants."

Capt. Russell Sweeten, in charge

of Hoboken's investigation of the fire, said the man who was questioned, whose name he would not give, was not a suspect in the possible arson of that building.

The man was brought in for questioning because he fits the description given by Felix Guzman, a

tenant at 129 Clinton, who told police he saw a man leaving 131 Clinton at the time the fire started there. Sweeten said. The man's nickname also fit the one police were looking for, Sweeten said.

Police at first did not believe



Gangade Ramme, second left, mourns at the coffin of one of her two sisters who were killed in the Jan. 29 tenement fire in Hoboken. Funeral services were held at Leber-Schlemm Funeral Home Saturday for the 17 victims of the blaze.

Arson's anguish peaks at mass funeral

By Patrick Ford

The anguished screams of women pierced the somber atmosphere at the Leber-Schlemm Funeral Home.

"Oh God, oh God, what's going on in this world?" an elderly woman cried.

More than 200 friends and relatives of the Drepaul and Rampersaud families jammed into a large white room Saturday with caskets containing 17 of the 21 victims of Hoboken's killer fire of Jan. 20.

The old woman, an aunt of Gangpatty Drepaul and Gangi Rampersaud—who were sisters—was overcome with grief. She banged her hands on one of the three large, gray caskets with the bodies of the adult victims. She moved past the 14 white caskets containing the children,

and sprayed cologne over them, wailing as she reached each one.

Her reaction seemed to touch off many of the other mourners. Men and women all over the room took up her crying.

The mass catharsis continued for more than two hours.

Edris Rampersaud, whose 30-year-old wife Gangi, two children and five stepchildren died in the blaze, arrived at Saturday's funeral and stood motionless in front of his wife's casket, weeping silently.

Rampersaud had arrived the previous night from Guyana. He was given a one-week visa to attend the funeral through the effort of Rep. Frank Guarini of Hudson County.

He learned of the tragedy by telephone last week in Bushy Village

on the Corentyne-Berbice coast, where he is a farmworker. He stood daily vigil on the steps of the American Embassy all last week waiting word that he would be allowed to attend the funeral of his family.

The government had delayed allowing him entry because of a criminal record in Guyana, an offense committed 16 years ago.

Now, he stood among all the grieving friends and relatives and seemed numb. When asked questions by reporters, he mostly stared blankly and allowed his brother-in-law, George Budhu, to answer.

Gangade Ramme, whose two younger sisters—the two women—died in the blaze, stood near him,

shaking her head and crying intermittently.

Finally, after what seemed like an eternity of voiced grief, the mourners filed into another large room where John Catholic-Hindu services were held.

The Rev. Wilfred Yoo of St. Francis Church in Hoboken said a briefly locally for the victims. Jacob Drepaul, 41, who died with his wife and seven children, had been a Catholic.

Then Pandit Badri Sharma and Pandit Omadatt Marai, two Hindu priests, led the mourners, most Hindu, in prayer for the victims.

The Drepaul family had emigrated from Guyana last May; the

Guzman because of discrepancies in his report, but he passed a polygraph test on Tuesday.

Sweeten said the man's statement hadn't given them any leads. He told police he was in bed next door at 129 Clinton at the time of the fire, he said.

The fire is still listed as "suspicious." Results of state police tests for possible incinerants on samples of the building's staircase were not expected to be available until today.

Sweeten said the investigation, which includes Hoboken fire officials and officials from the county prosecutor's office, has not turned up any evidence of arson.

Meanwhile, Hoboken Building Inspector James Caulfield approved a request by the owner of 133 Clinton St. to remove the top two floors of the building, which is tilting toward the site of the burned building. The owner, Philip Ortiz, retained engineer Richard Mitchell of Jersey City to determine the building is safe.

A crane yesterday almost completely demolished the remaining back wall of 131. Caulfield had wanted to see if the building would tilt any further when the support of the adjacent wall was finally removed.

He said yesterday there was no immediate slippage when the wall was removed. However, he directed the owner to begin the demolition of the two floors immediately.

Caulfield said he closed the building because he thought bricks loosened by the demolition work were falling from the parapet. Tenants of the building will be allowed to pick up their belongings before further demolition work starts, he said.

The owners of the other adjoining building, 129 Clinton, are also getting an engineer to survey their building.

Caulfield said that that building would not be occupied until water damage there is repaired, beams in ceilings are checked for fire damage, and any housing violations are cleared. The north wall of the building, the wall adjacent to 131, will also have to be braced by wall ties, Caulfield said.

The building at 133 will also have to be cleared of any housing violations before it can be occupied, Caulfield said. He said it could be three or four months before either building is ready for occupancy.

Vidalina Milan, director of the Hoboken Community Development Agency relocation unit, said that five more displaced families found apartments yesterday.

She said three families were accepted by Applied Housing for rehabilitated apartments, and two more by the Hoboken Housing Authority, in buildings it operates at 400 and 320 Marshall Drive.

Mrs. Milan said a total of 10 families have been relocated so far—six with Applied Housing, two with the Housing Authority, and two who found apartments on their own.

She said a list from the Red Cross showed 22 families in need of relocation, although she said other families may be staying with relatives.

Cristino Diaz, one of the volunteers in the Red Cross fund drive for victims of the fire, said that collections had reached \$8,173 as of Tuesday. More donations yesterday brought that total to \$7,173, the Red Cross reported.

He said no more donations of clothes are needed, but furniture and more money are. The drive is being run from the Chambron Club, 200 Willow Ave.

Diaz said that volunteers would continue to canvass Hoboken yesterday, even in the rain.



Edris Rampersaud, right, whose wife, two children and five stepchildren died in last week's Hoboken fire, is joined by other mourners at the funeral Saturday.

"He shouldn't have to pay for an indiscretion committed 16 years ago," Guarini asserted. "These people from Guyana who live in Hoboken are good, hard-working people. He just happened to get caught doing something

many people do — fighting." The congressman, a former Red Cross county chairman, worked with Red Cross Executive Director Joseph Lecowitch to secure passage to the U.S. for Rampersaud. Now, he says,

he'll try to get special consideration for the Guyanese farmer to allow him permanent residence. "It's a matter of preserving human rights," the legislator declared.

Statue of saint to be placed at Hoboken academy

A statue of Mother Elizabeth Seton, America's first Catholic woman saint, will be permanently placed in Sacred Heart Academy, Hoboken, tomorrow at 2 p.m. in honor of Sister Mary Richard, who served 10 years as principal of the academy.

As another event in the academy's observance of Catholic Schools' Week, the Fathers' guild will meet at 8 tonight to plan a social event, "A Night of Fun," scheduled for Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Thursday at 7:30 p.m., "Teenage Communication" will be discussed by a panel comprising the Rev. Terence Pascatore, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Hoboken; Ms. Betty Fitzender of the Hoboken Family Planning Council; Sister Mary Rita Higgins of the Sisters of Charity, and Paul Donnelly, a private schools educational consultant.



Last 2 bodies found in Hoboken rubble

1/23/79
JJ

By William Taft and Mark Fogarty

A five-story Hoboken tenement house next to the one in which 21 persons perished is tilting toward the ruins, and the city's building inspector says he may decide by tomorrow whether to order it torn down.

The last two of the 21 known victims of the fire at 131 Clinton St. were recovered late yesterday as a crane methodically demolishing the structure came upon the bodies of Adrian Drepaul, 11, and her brother, Fatpay, 7.

See Editorial: FIRE! On Page 14.

Police Chief George Crimmins said the bodies were found in a shower room on the fourth floor. They were fully clothed, not burned at all, and had evidently suffocated from smoke and heat.

The bodies were taken to the county morgue.

This morning the crane again took up bucketfuls of debris and depositing them on the street where firemen continued to sift through the debris with rakes.

Other Story, Pictures on Page 6.

"Others whom we do not know about conceivably may have been in there," said Mayor Steve Cappelletto.

The fire, which broke out at 3:52 a.m. Saturday, is still believed to have been set, possibly by a man with a grudge against one of the tenants. Many persons have been questioned.

Building inspector James Caulfield said the top of the adjoining building at 133 Clinton St.—on the cor-



These bystanders watch in silence as firemen search for victims in the charred debris of the Hoboken fire that took the lives of 21 persons.

Police sketch arson suspect

In Jersey City, meanwhile, police are using descriptions supplied by witnesses to prepare a composite drawing of one of two possible suspects believed to have set the tenement blaze that took the lives of seven persons at 335 York St. early yesterday. There have been suspicious fires in the building during the past few months, police said.

One of Second Street—is "out of plumb by eight to 10 inches," according to his instruments. The tilt can easily be seen by the naked eye.

Caulfield said he would talk today to the owners of this building and also of the one at 129 Clinton on the other side of the burned structure, and order them to hire their own engineers to report on whether the two buildings are safe.

"If I don't hear in a day or two," Caulfield said, "I will bring in a second engineer myself to corroborate my findings."

The fate of the two buildings will be determined after at least two engineers have discussed it, he added.

The 20 families that were evacuated from these two houses will not be allowed to return while there is any question of the safety of the buildings, Caulfield declared.

The owners of the corner building have a restaurant on the ground floor, and Caulfield said they proposed to have it allowed to take off the two upper stories. He said he told them this would be accepted.

The situation may change drastically when the crane pulls down the rear wall of the burned structure, the only one left standing. This wall supports the corner building at five points, he said.

Caulfield said he will have his

3 kids set Hoboken blaze

One of them among 21 victims

By Patrick Ford, William Taft and Mark Fogarty

A boy and a girl, one 8, the other 9, are blamed for the downtown Hoboken tenement house fire early last Saturday that killed 21 persons.

Police believe that a third child, who died in the fire, also was involved.

The two surviving children are reported to have been staying with a relative in the building.

After being interrogated by police yesterday from mid-morning until late in the afternoon, the two children were released in the custody of their parents.

According to the report, this is what happened:

The three children were playing tag in a hallway of the tenement house. They spread newspapers and rubbish on the first and fourth-floor landings, then lit a match and started a fire, more from an impulse of mischief than maliciously.

Alarmed when the flames got out of control, two of the children ran to the apartment in which they were staying and aroused their relatives,

and they and the relatives then fled the blazing building.

But the third child panicked and ran back into the apartment of his sleeping family.

The suspicions of Hoboken police were aroused by the fact that the two children were the only persons seen leaving the burning building fully clothed.

See Editorial: SECOND LOOK On Page 22.

Hoboken Detectives Rafael Cruz and Raul Torres, both of whom speak Spanish, had worked around-the-clock since the fire, talking with people in taverns and elsewhere in the neighborhood, seeking clues.

Police and officials were tight-lipped about the solution.

Late in the afternoon, it was learned that they were questioning children in the Juvenile Aid Bureau across from City Hall on Newark Street.

Shortly before the interrogation ended and the children were released, Mayor Steve Cappelletto disclosed that two children, aged 8 and 9, who had

lived in the tenement house, were being questioned.

At the end of the day, Hudson County Prosecutor James O'Halloran issued a written statement saying that "juveniles" were "involved" in the fire at 131 Clinton St., but he would not go beyond that.

Asked if he had reason to believe the fire was set by juveniles, O'Halloran responded, "I have reason to believe that the fire was set, period."

In the statement, O'Halloran said the investigation of the fire, which killed 21 persons, had turned up information from witnesses which confirmed the fact that the blaze "was a set fire and was assisted by an accelerator in the form of papers and other solid material in the central stairway of the building."

The statement continued, "The information, however, involves juveniles, and for that reason we are precluded by law from making any comments regarding the identity of the juveniles, or the specific details surrounding the setting of the fire."

O'Halloran said he didn't ant-

See 3 KIDS — Page 4.

participate making any arrests, juvenile or adult.

"I hope that by Monday or Tuesday we will have concluded this aspect of the investigation and perhaps the entire investigation," he said.

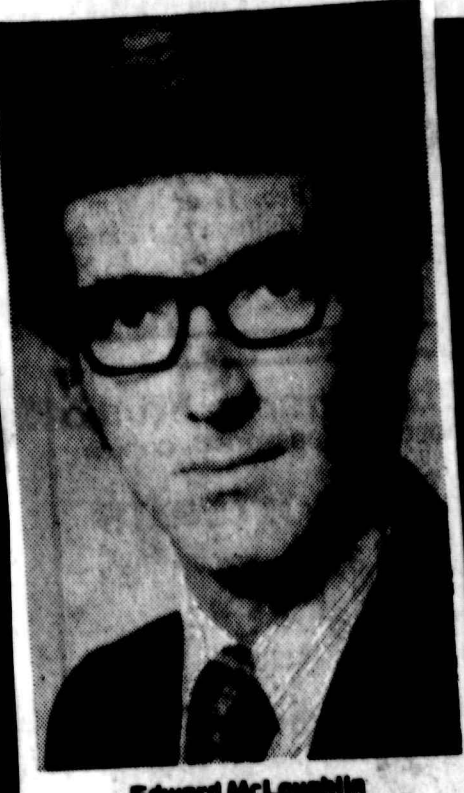
Police now have no juveniles in custody, he said. Any juveniles found to be responsible for the fire, he said, would be charged with juvenile delinquency.

O'Halloran refused to name the children involved.

Captain Russell Sweeten, heading the Hoboken police investigation, refused to comment after the prosecutor gave his statement.

O'Halloran's statement ended a suspenseful day which several times promised a dramatic breakthrough in the weeklong investigation of the fire.

Officials indicated yesterday morning that something important would be occurring during the day. They shuttled back and forth between Police Headquarters and the Juvenile Aid Bureau. A guard posted at the door of the bureau refused reporters' admittance, on orders of Police Chief George Crimmins.



Edward McLaughlin seeks 4th Ward seat
McLaughlin to run again for council

sighting apparatus trained on the top outside corner of 131 Clinton while the rear wall of 131 is being knocked down, and if it then shows any further listing, he will probably order the building demolished immediately.

A fire code violation may have contributed to the death toll: A rear window of one of the second-floor apartments had a security gate strung across it, blocking access to the fire escape.

After the fire, the gate was found in the closed position.

The tenant probably installed the gate (similar to those used by merchants to protect storefronts at night) to keep out burglars, officials said.

Michael Curcio, chief housing inspector for Hoboken, today said access to the fire escape from the window was not blocked when one of his men inspected the building on Oct. 31 and found 190 violations. He said he had to assume that the occupant put up the gate sometime after that.

Curcio said the state Housing Inspection Bureau was given a list of the 190 violations on Nov. 3 but that the bureau never directed him to make a reinspection.

"If we had been directed to reinspect," Curcio said, "we would have reinspected, and if we had found the means of egress blocked on the reinspection, I would have given the landlord and the tenant three days to end the violation."

Curcio said he is powerless to make a reinspection without orders from the state, unless someone makes a complaint.

Police Capt. Russell Sweeten, heading the city's investigation of the fire, and Fire Marshal Raymond Falco said the state arson squad is testing pieces of burned stairwell to see if an "accelerator" had been found on it.

Sweeten said the investigation had not yet turned up anything to indicate arson, but the fire still is listed as "suspicious."

The rapid spread of the blaze has led officials to believe it was started deliberately. Survivors, relatives and neighbors are being questioned, Sweeten said, in an investigation involving Hoboken detectives, the county prosecutor's office, the fire marshal, and the state arson squad.

The 20 families evacuated from the two adjoining buildings were in some respects almost as bad off as the survivors of the burned building. They had to leave without any personal belongings, and in most cases with little more than night clothes.

One of the more enterprising, Juan Gonzales, obtained permission from Fire Capt. Eugene Falla to go to his apartment on the top floor at 133 Clinton St. to retrieve some clothing for his wife, their four children and himself.

Falla led him up the dark stairwell with the help of a flashlight, accompanied by a Jersey Journal reporter. The apartment, which had a common wall with the burned structure, was in confusion, as firemen had ripped down part of the ceiling to look for any smoldering from fire that might have crossed over from the

contiguous beams or air space between the ceiling and the roof.

Gonzales gathered up enough clothing to fill a small trunk plus some shoes, but he had to leave many garments.

He remarked that he had picked up whatever he could lay his hands on, adding ruefully, "I don't know whether I am taking the best things or the worst things. I hope my wife will like what I bring down."

His wife, Maria, was pleased as Juan reappeared on the sidewalk with the fire captain and the reporter, all carrying clothing, enough to clothe the parents and their four children, Juan, 8; Maria, 7; Miranda 6, and Maritza 4.

Gonzales said the family is on welfare.

Meanwhile, a relief effort coordinated by the Red Cross gathered momentum.

Jaime Munoz, head of a committee of 20 neighborhood volunteers, reported that about \$3,800, as well as piles of clothing, had been collected on Saturday and Sunday. He did not have figures for yesterday.

Rafaela Santana, owner of the Chambon Club at 200 Willom Ave., donated the use of the club to the volunteers. Money donations or clothes can be brought there.

Mayor Cappelletto authorized installing a temporary phone on the city's Centrex system at the club yesterday. Anyone needing information on how to donate can call there at 420-2088, Munoz said.

Louis Paccheco, director of the Ethnic Center, at 297 Grove St., Jersey City, said it also is collecting donations, food and clothing for survivors of the Hoboken fire and for survivors of a fire at 358 York St., Jersey City.

Paccheco said donations could be made by calling the center at 451-3887.

A drive for funds from city employees was started yesterday at Hoboken City Hall. Health and Welfare Director James Farina, in charge of the drive, reported that Superintendent of Schools George Maier made a \$1,500 commitment to the drive from the school system.

George Koenigsfest, superintendent of Church Towers apartment houses at 5th and Clinton Streets, put up signs in the building yesterday asking for donations of clothing. By yesterday afternoon, according to an official at the building, there was "a mountain of clothing" in the building's lobby, waiting to be picked up by the Red Cross.

Cappelletto said the city will apply to the state Emergency Fund as soon as estimates of the cost of the firefighting operation can be made.

"It's hard to say at this point," said Cappelletto of the total cost, but he noted the job required overtime by police, firemen, the water department and public works.

Cappelletto said he had talked to Ann Klein, state commissioner of institutions and agencies, and Joseph LeFante, commissioner of community affairs.

"They're going to check it out and see what can be done," the mayor said, but he had received no specific offers of assistance.

Cappelletto said he had no specific plan for the eventual rehousing of the

people left homeless by the fire, but he said they would be given preference for apartments in buildings operated by the city's housing authority.

Joseph Lecowitch, executive director of the Red Cross, said 48 persons from 14 families, residents of the adjacent buildings at 129 and 133 Clinton St., were still being housed at the Holiday Inn in Jersey City while a decision was awaited on whether those buildings were fit for habitation.

He said that if these families are forced to relocate, the Red Cross will assist them, joining with the mayor's office and the relocation office of the city's Community Development Agency.

Lecowitch said all the families involved should come to the chapter's office at 612 Bergen Ave., Jersey City, as work can begin on each family's case individually.

The director said Rep. Frank Guarini has assigned an aide to work with the chapter. He said he was hopeful the congressman might be able to get temporary visas for relatives of some of the deceased so they could come here from Guyana to attend the funerals.

Services for members of the Torres family, which includes Nicholas, 24; Marie Theresa, 17; Marilyn, 14; and Margarita, 16, will be held tomorrow night at 8 at the Las Americas Funeral Home, Jersey City.

A graveside service is scheduled for Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in Rosedale Memorial Park, Linden.

Arrangements were incomplete for the other 17 victims.

They include the two Drepaul children, found in the debris yesterday, along with their mother and father, Jacob, 38, and Casturi, 35, and five other children, Roxanne, 17; Bill, 14; Getta, 13; Raymond, 9, and Peppie, 4.

Another victim was Gangi Rampersand, 33, the sister of Mrs. Drepaul, along with seven of her children, including Sandre, 12; Inder, 10; Paul, 8; Sherman, 4, and Bever, 2.

'Good old legwork' broke arson case

By Mark Fogarty

Hoboken Police Capt. Russell Sweeten interrupted his conversation with a Jersey Journal reporter last Friday morning to take a phone call.

It was Sergeant Carmen LaBruno calling to say that two children whom he and Detective Rafael Cruz were in-

See Editorial: AFTERMATH On Page 12.

terviewing had said they knew who started the night-time fire at 131 Clinton St. where 21 perished a week ago Saturday.

"I think we have it," Sweeten said after hanging up. "I think we have the whole thing."

It was "good old-fashioned legwork" that led to the breaking of the case, LaBruno said yesterday. A team of Hoboken detectives worked on it 16 hours a day and over the weekend.

The two children, a boy, 8, and a girl, 9, and a third boy who died in the blaze are blamed for the fire. Police say the three were playing in a hallway and lit papers and rubbish on two floors of the five-story tenement building.

By Thursday the investigators were getting discouraged.

"Everything we investigated fizzled out," Sweeten said.

Cruz said he even went as far as

to say to his partner, "Carmen, it looks like we're going to have this unsolved on the books."

Sweeten said that on Thursday an informant told them that there were children in the halls of 131 Clinton just prior to the fire, and they also realized that there was one family from the building that had not yet been extensively interviewed. This was the family of the two children.

The legwork involved in interviewing and re-interviewing the tenants of the building, neighbors and police, firemen, and detectives on the scene was "boring, time-consuming, frustrating," according to Sweeten.

"We were in every phase" of the investigation, LaBruno said of Hoboken's team, which included him, Sweeten, Cruz and Detective Ernest

Mack.

"We worked our tails off," LaBruno said. Both he and Cruz gave up tickets to the King Tut exhibition in New York City to work on the investigation.

He said Hoboken detectives helped evacuate tenants of the burning building, helped remove the bodies of victims, and examined debris there.

They made background checks on the owner and tenants of the building. They interviewed and re-interviewed people about landlord problems as possible motives for arson, but all struck out.

With the assistance of Fire Capt. Ray Falco, they eliminated electrical or gas problems as the cause.

"You talk to people and talk to them again and talk to them again,"

Sweeten said.

"There's nothing sensational about it," the captain added.

He said, "We couldn't have conducted this investigation without a Spanish-speaking detective."

Cruz said that everyone he questioned spoke Spanish. He not only had to conduct interviews in Spanish, but also translate when his colleagues asked questions.

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"As far as solving this case, we got no information from the public," Sweeten remarked. He added that the public responded more to the plight of the survivors and fund-raising attempts than it did to the investigation.

LaBruno said the investigation is continuing. Asked if he thought anyone else was involved, he said, "Not really, but we're not knocking that out either."

But the detectives were obviously thinking more of what had already been accomplished in the investigation than with anything that remains to be done.

A relieved Sweeten commented: "I would hate to have 21 homicide cases hanging on the books."

Hoboken plans recreation areas

By the beginning of summer, Hoboken expects to have transformed parts of two adjacent city blocks into recreation areas and a municipal parking lot at a cost of about \$300,000.

The larger of the two vacant areas to be developed comprises most of the block bounded by Observer Highway and Garden, Bloomfield and Newark Streets. It has been vacant since the demolition of the Condenser Service building and tenement houses.

The smaller area is vacant land in the adjoining block, between Garden Street and Park Avenue.

Fred M. Bado, director of the Hoboken Community Development

Agency, which is in charge of the project, said today that the larger site will have the parking lot and also a basketball court on the Garden Street side.

Included in the design is a strip of greenery along Bloomfield Street.

Bado said CDA officials would meet Thursday with the city's recreation commission, headed by Sue Newman, to discuss the design.

Discussions on the use of the Park Avenue side of the tract have centered on leaving most of the space open, for stickball, soccer, or touch football, with an additional basketball court, or handball court, or a children's park.

The number of spaces for cars in the offstreet lot is still uncertain, Bado said, but would probably be about 100. It will probably be a metered lot, and another idea is setting a portion aside for use by city employees.

The CDA is still working on the design of the project. Bado said he hopes to have this finished by the end of February. Then an architect will prepare plans and specifications.

The project would then go out to

bid late in March, with construction starting in the early spring.

"I don't see it as a very long period of time of construction," Bado said.

Bado said the lot at the Condenser factory site has been cleared for some three years, and had been abandoned for years prior to that.

He said the CDA had wanted to put senior citizens' housing on the site five years ago, but that the department of Housing and Urban Development rejected it as a site.

There were also plans to put a small factory on the site at one time, but these didn't work out either, Bado said.

to say to his partner, "Carmen, it looks like we're going to have this unsolved on the books."

Sweeten said that on Thursday an informant told them that there were children in the halls of 131 Clinton just prior to the fire, and they also realized that there was one family from the building that had not yet been extensively interviewed. This was the family of the two children.

The legwork involved in interviewing and re-interviewing the tenants of the building, neighbors and police, firemen, and detectives on the scene was "boring, time-consuming, frustrating," according to Sweeten.

"We were in every phase" of the investigation, LaBruno said of Hoboken's team, which included him, Sweeten, Cruz and Detective Ernest

Mack.

"We worked our tails off," LaBruno said. Both he and Cruz gave up tickets to the King Tut exhibition in New York City to work on the investigation.

He said Hoboken detectives helped evacuate tenants of the burning building, helped remove the bodies of victims, and examined debris there.

They made background checks on the owner and tenants of the building. They interviewed and re-interviewed people about landlord problems as possible motives for arson, but all struck out.

With the assistance of Fire Capt. Ray Falco, they eliminated electrical or gas problems as the cause.

"You talk to people and talk to them again and talk to them again,"

Sweeten said.

"There's nothing sensational about it," the captain added.

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Fear overrides the desire to return home



Hoboken firemen sift through the rubble at 131 Clinton St. in the aftermath of Saturday's fire which claimed 21 lives.

By SUSAN KELMAN

Hoboken's building inspector has not decided if tenants can move back into the apartments adjoining the Clinton Street tenement where 21 persons died this weekend. But most of the tenants don't care what he decides. They're not going back.

"They were so scared they don't want to come back. They don't even want to come back to a public building," Minerva Ortiz-Diaz of the Community Development Agency (CDA) relocation office said of the survivors of the tenement disaster.

Another three families were relocated late Monday and yesterday by the CDA relocation office. Vidalina Milan, director of the relocation office, estimates that another 20 families need to find apartments.

Applied Housing of Hoboken has given fire victims first priority in its vacant apartments, according to Joseph Barry, a partner

in the firm. Three families have already been relocated in Applied Housing apartments.

"The survivors have no money. They couldn't even come from the Holiday Inn to Hoboken because they don't have enough money to take a bus," Mrs. Ortiz-Diaz said as Red Cross Volunteers collected clothing and money.

The Red Cross has collected more than \$5,000 for survivors of the blaze. Some of the money will be used to pay for funerals for the 21 victims of the inferno at 131 Clinton St.

But the money is not available to residents of 129 and 133 Clinton St. who have also been displaced by the tragic fire.

"These people might run into problems because the city is hung up on whether they can return and the Red Cross won't qualify them for aid," Mrs. Ortiz-Diaz said of the families who are staying at the Holiday Inn in Jersey City.

James Caulfield, chief housing inspector, has asked the owners of the two tenements to hire an engineer to determine if the buildings are safe. Caulfield says that the tenement at 133 Clinton St. is leaning approximately 10 inches.

Meanwhile, friends of the victims asked the police department whether they could hang a black flag across the block in memory of the dead. It was not known late yesterday when the flag would be raised.

Ovidio Badillo of 107 Clinton St. and Pedro Rivera of 95 Willow Ave. asked officials yesterday if they would be able to hang the black flag, a procedure usually associated with the death of a policeman or fireman.

"We know so many people there. We feel like a part of the family. The people who died were friends of ours," Badillo said.

William Bosch, 19, and Aida Rivera, 20, were in guarded condition yesterday at St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken. Erolinda Arroyo, 51, was in satisfactory condition.

Byrne left Hoboken stuck with fire costs

Because Gov. Brendan T. Byrne took 40 days to sign a bill passed by the legislature Nov. 20, Hoboken cannot get its hands on fire insurance proceeds to compensate it for expenses connected with the fire in which 21 persons died at 131 Clinton St. on Jan. 20.

The city's taxpayers will have to pay the cost of demolishing the burned building, which will run into thousands of dollars.

A bill allowing municipalities to get first crack at fire insurance in

such cases was passed by the state Senate last April 24, then passed with amendments by the Assembly Oct. 10, then repassed by the Senate with the amendments Nov. 20.

The bill provides that it does not take effect until 30 days after the governor signs it. That will be Feb. 7. The bill also provides that the city council of a municipality must pass an ordinance to get in on the new law, if it wishes to.

However, Hoboken officials commented that if the governor had

signed the bill a few days after passage, there would have been time for the council to pass the ordinance and meet the 30-day waiting period.

Governors ordinarily wait a few weeks before signing a bill.

The fire insurance bill was sponsored by Assemblyman Francis Graves of Passaic. Its co-sponsors were three Hudson County legislators: Sens. William V. Musto, Frank E. Rodgers and David Friedland.



Andrew Hopper, left, principal of the Kenley School, Hoboken, presents a \$1,500 check to James Farina, health and welfare director and Mayor Steve Cappiello, right, to aid the victims of the recent fire. The money was raised among school personnel who are giving another \$1,500 directly to the survivors. Eleven children who died attended the school.

Homeless Hoboken fire victims offer 'solutions' to their plight

By DIANE CURCIO

A small band of homeless victims of Hoboken fires last night issued a formal declaration describing their plight and offering possible solutions.

Although last night's meeting at St. Joseph's Hall was organized so the fire victims could discuss their problems in a public forum, only 25 persons attended. Tom Oliveri, an official at the Community Development Agency (CDA), who has attempted to relocate the victims, was disappointed at the small turnout and said "the people at 129 and 131 Clinton St. have already been forgotten."

Most of the victims present were from

the two-alarm fire at 65 14th St. Fifty people from eight families were left homeless by the Feb. 9 blaze.

Only two families have found new apartments. Six families—a total of 30 people—remain without homes.

The low income housing shortage in Hoboken is the main complaint of the fire victims. The eight-member Rosado family, which is being housed by the Red Cross at the Holiday Inn in Jersey City, has sought a six-room apartment priced near \$225. But Oliveri termed their search "impossible."

He said 75 percent of the city's multi-family structures are substandard. Sub-

standard housing comprises most of the vacant apartments in the city. Unless a vacant apartment is available at the CDA, But Oliveri said he "cannot in conscience send them (fire victims) to these apartments which I would not ordinarily recommend."

A self-proclaimed spokesman for the fire victims, a small light-haired woman in her 30s, said landlords do not want "large or Spanish families."

"This burns me up," another retorted.

However, in the declaration which the victims addressed to Hoboken, the government of the United States and their

fellow residents, various suggestions were offered to remedy the situation.

•a shelter to accommodate the victims of fires as temporary housing.

•having certain funds available to help fire victims.

•more low-income housing geared to accommodate large families.

•stricter code enforcement measures, especially in multi-family dwellings.

•certificates of occupancy to deter overcrowding in apartments.

•smoke detectors mandatory in all multi-family dwellings.

Hoboken sues for \$17,152 on fatal fire building

Hoboken Business Administrator Edwin Chiusi has directed the city's law department to sue the owner of the tenement house at 131 Clinton St. to recover the \$17,152 bill the city has received from the contractor who demolished the burned-out building after the fire in which 21 died.

Chiusi said the city could act under a law passed last year which allows municipalities to sue the owner of fire-damaged buildings to recoup costs the city incurs in demolition.

Before this law, the administrator said, the best the city could do was file a lien on the amount on the property itself. The new law will make it somewhat easier to be reimbursed, he said.

Gov. Brendan T. Byrne on Jan. 8 signed another law which would allow municipalities to file a lien against the fire insurance on burned-out

buildings they demolish, but this law does not go into effect until Wednesday.

Chiusi admitted that the city had no chance to file liens on fire insurance for the demolition at 131 Clinton St.

The city apparently will not be able to file a lien on the insurance of 107 Jackson St. either. The city demolished the building this week, after a cornice on the fire-ravaged building toppled onto the street below.

Chiusi said the fire insurance law would apply only to either new or renewed policies issued after next Thursday.

Chiusi said that the city would take legal action after it pays the bill, submitted by A. Ambrosio and Sons, Jersey City, the contractor.

The owner of 131 Clinton St. is Isaac Haim of Jersey City.

Ranieri asks removal of Taylor, DePascale

Hoboken Councilman Robert A. Ranieri today called on the newly appointed board of education to remove board attorney Robert Taylor and former Mayor Louis DePascale.

"Certainly Mr. Taylor should go," Ranieri said. "He has a previous record of acting in a very arbitrary, capricious fashion. He has seated himself quite like an emperor at the board."

Ranieri said Taylor had "defied" the city council, the state Department of Education, and parents, in his dual capacity of board attorney and fiscal officer.

As for DePascale, the board's labor negotiator, Ranieri said, "let them go together." He said the former mayor's negotiations have brought "a fiscal burden on the city every year."

Neither Taylor nor DePascale could be reached for comment last night.

"In general," Ranieri said, "there should be a complete shakeup in the administration."

Asked if this should include Board Secretary Thomas A. Gallo and Business Manager Anthony H. Romano, Ranieri replied, "I leave it up to the board."

Cappiello: Workers better clean up act

By DIANE CURCIO

Following the suspension of two Hoboken public works employees on charges of insubordination and goldbricking yesterday, Mayor Steve Cappiello reprimanded the remaining members of the city work force for their "politicizing and inefficiency."

The mayor said he has received several complaints about the operation of the Public Works Department.

On Thursday morning, Cappiello said, he found the city garage on Newark Street and Willow Avenue littered with garbage and asked the foreman to have the area cleaned. Upon returning to the garage that afternoon, the mayor said, he found the area still dirty.

The foreman, John Wallington, was suspended by Cappiello for three days. An equipment operator, Francis Belfiore, was also suspended for three days on charges of goldbricking.

Angered by this and other incidents, Cappiello called the employees of the garage to a special meeting in the municipal court house yesterday afternoon.

"Sometimes it takes the top guy to get down there and straighten things out," Cappiello said.

Cappiello demanded "an end to the petty bickering in the department." He also called for each worker to "respect those who are your supervisors or face the disciplinary consequences."

In addressing some 40 workers gathered he said, "I don't want to hear any discussion of politics in the garage."

The wife of Andrew Amato, the director of the public works, is running for city council. Amato was not present at the meeting. Also, the former head of the department is the brother-in-law of Louis Francese, a member of the city council.

There was speculation yesterday that the mayor called the special meeting because the Public Works Department was moving to unionize.

The department has attempted to unionize before, according to Hoboken Business Administrator Edward Chiusi.

But Cappiello said the meeting was not called to discuss unions, but work output. He added, however, that it was within the prerogative of the department to unionize.

Beginning Monday, workers will be assigned to a job on the night before to increase efficiency, he said.

Families evicted by blaze stage protest to Cappiello

Angry tenants displaced from their apartments by Friday's three-alarm fire at 65 14th St. gathered outside Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello's office yesterday to protest what they called the "runaround" they've been given in finding new housing.

"What more can I do?" Cappiello said later. "Where can I house them?"

"I don't think there are apartments available," he said. "If there are, please tell me about them."

He said all the city could do is to continue what has been done—having the relocation offices of the Community Development Agency and Hoboken Housing Authority assist in the relocation effort.

"We've been given the runaround," charged Miguel Rosado, an Amtrak employee who, with his wife and six children, were left homeless by Friday's fire.

Representatives of four families, representing 22 people displaced by the fire, went to the mayor's office

yesterday. They did not see Cappiello, although the mayor came out briefly to tell Tom Oliveri of the CDA relocation office, "we don't have apartments."

The group then went up to the Office of Hispanic Affairs, Ralph De La Pena, who heads the office, also promised to look for apartments. But the group left dissatisfied.

"The only way people listen to you is when you raise hell," Rosado said.

"All we want is a decent place to live," he said. "I can afford a good rent." Rosado paid \$185 a month for his five-room apartment, but said he can afford more.

He attended Monday's meeting with Cappiello, where the mayor promised the city's help in the relocation effort. He went to the CDA relocation office.

There he was shown a list of apartments available, which he said were all slums.

Marie Sosa, who has four

children, was sent by the Red Cross to the welfare board, which advised her to stay at the Holiday Inn—but would give her money only for housing and feeding the children, not herself.

Rosado said that Tuesday, he was told to leave the Holiday Inn by noon, and didn't know where his family would be staying that night until the last minute, when they were sent back to the Holiday Inn.

Oliveri agreed that most of the apartments on the CDA list were substandard, and that relocating the families there would be like "taking them from the frying pan and putting them into the fire."

Oliveri said the families were looking for reasons why there are no emergency funds available in these situations.

Cappiello said that fire victims have been disqualified from the state relocation aid program, and he said that it could be a legal question whether the city itself has the right to maintain such a fund.

Cappiello drops four school trustees

By Mark Fogarty

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has replaced four members of the city's nine-member Board of Education.

The mayor was unavailable for comment, but authoritative sources revealed that Aurelio Lugo, James Giani, Leo McLaughlin and Jack Raslowsky were not reappointed in

the list the mayor submitted to board secretary Thomas Gallo late yesterday.

The board, when it reorganizes in approximately a week, will have four new faces: Steven Block, an educational consultant; Donald Pellicano, an executive for a shopping center developer; Selma Luga, Aurelio Lugo's wife and an operator of a family sporting goods store in

Hoboken, and John Pope, an executive of the Westinghouse Co., in Kearny.

Block, Pellicano and Mrs. Lugo were appointed to three-year terms, Pope for one year.

Block is the author of a report released last month which was harshly critical of the operation of the Hoboken school system. Pellicano is a former candidate for the board and a

member of the Hoboken Parking Authority.

Sources said Cappiello's choices indicate the mayor wanted business-minded, fiscally-conservative people on the board.

Five of the current board members have been reappointed. James Monaco, Richard England and Robert Wendelken, all of whom won election last year with Cappiello's

support, were reappointed to two-year terms.

Board President Otto Hottendorf and Vice President James Farina have been reappointed to one-year terms.

It is reported that Wendelken will be the next board president, replacing Hottendorf.

Hoboken's voters last spring ap-

proved a switch from an elected to appointive board. The same vote established a Board of School Estimate which is composed of the mayor, councilmen and two members of the Board of Education.

The State Department of Education, after a request by The Jersey Journal to clarify the situation, ruled that Cappiello had to make his appointments by yesterday.

Hoboken 2/14/79 H.D. cops join hooky team

By DIANE CURCIO

Hoboken truant officers have joined forces with a newly-formed police juvenile unit in an effort to crack down on students playing hooky.

The month-old juvenile unit, under the direction of Lt. Joseph Pereira, is composed of nine officers who are assigned to mingle with the children and gain their confidence, said Hoboken Public Safety Director James Giordano.

Giordano has told police to pick up any truants on the streets. Officers from the youth bureau then meet with the hooky players and try to find the reason for the truancy. "If it's a family problem we go to the home, and talk with the parents," Pereira said.

Since the program has been in operation Pereira said his unit has reformed two chronic truants.

However, Superintendent of Schools Walter Fine said it was too early to comment on the effectiveness of the new program. "Truancy has probably been going on since Adam and Eve and it's a hard thing to solve," he said.

Truancy in the high school alone averages 10 percent daily, he said, adding that during holidays, truancy increases as many older children get jobs.

Fine is the liaison between the school district and the police department in the new program. Before the police became involved, the district handled the truancy problem by telephone, mail or home visits. Fine said that attendance officers were given lists of hard-core truants to check on every day.

Giordano said that truancy is only one objective of the police program; the other is to prevent crime. "We want to grab the kids before they reach the courts and give them a new sense of direction," he said.

"If we can save five kids a year from being hardened criminals that in itself is an accomplishment," the director said. "And I'm not against one of my men taking his jacket off to play a little basketball to do it," he added.

Once the program gets into full swing, groups will be organized with high school students to get feedback on the program, Pereira said.

Officers from the plainclothes juvenile unit are available at the 109 Newark St. office from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Hispanic woman fills 2 Hoboken board needs

The new Spanish-speaking woman member of the Hoboken Board of Education was appointed by Mayor Steve Cappiello after her husband recommended her to the mayor, saying that he was too busy to remain on the board.

Former Trustee Aurelio Lugo, one of four members replaced by Cappiello, said his night job on the

Hoboken detective squad along with his involvement in running a Hoboken shop didn't allow him to devote enough time to do a proper job on the board.

He recommended his wife, Selma Lugo, to the mayor, saying that she was conscientious and had the time to devote to the task. He said his wife also had the advantages of being Hispanic and a woman.

Cappiello said he suggested Mrs. Lugo for the slot "because of her involvement in many civic affairs."

The newly appointed board, consisting of five members reappointed from the elected board and four new faces, will meet Wednesday to temporarily reorganize.

A spokesman for the State Department of Education confirmed that Commissioner Fred Burke had



NEW MEMBERS — It may only be coffee, but these four new members of the Hoboken Board of Education toast themselves after swearing-in ceremonies at the board offices at Wallace School. From left are trustees John Pope, Steve Block, Selma Lugo and Donald Pellicano.

directed the board to set up an informal organizational structure so that it can function between now and May 16, the mandated date for reorganization for the state's appointed boards.

A law signed last year mandates board elections in April and reorganizing of appointed boards on May 16. Hoboken, in going from an appointed to an elected board, faced a "period of change," between Wednesday, the day Cappiello appointed the new board, and May 16 when the old board's term expired.

Wednesday's meeting will include a public caucus at 6 p.m., swearing in at 7 p.m., and the reorganization at 8 p.m., according to Gallo's office.

A president and vice president will be chosen, committees selected, a bank named as depository of funds, and a custodian of school money will be appointed.

It is reported that Robert Wendelken will succeed Otto Hottendorf as board president.

The present school administration will be held over and does not face reappointment, Hottendorf said.

Mrs. Lugo, Steven Block, an educational consultant, Donald Pellicano, a shopping center developer-executive, and John Pope, an executive of Westinghouse Co., Kearny, are the mayor's four new appointees.

Hottendorf, Wendelken, and trustees James Farina have been reappointed.

Replaced were Lugo, Jack Raslowky, proprietor of the Falla Funeral Home, Hoboken, Leo McLaughlin, a member of the International Longshoremen's Association, and James Giani, a city fireman.

Cappiello said of his new appointees, "I think all of them are high quality people, and their past record

has shown a "get involved" attitude which I think is an indication they'll dedicate themselves to the needs of the school system."

Cappiello said he hoped his appointees would "restore some fiscal sanity to the board."

"I think we will be looking to cut that budget," he said of the board's tentative budget, which calls for an increase of \$306,000 to be raised by local taxes. Cappiello is a member of the board of school estimate, which has the power to cut the budget.

The mayor said he was not in favor of the board's budget having that increase. He said he chose his new appointees "so that good business practice be followed" by the board.

He would not comment on the board members he replaced, besides saying that Lugo had a conflict with his working hours.

Raslowky said yesterday morning that he had not been notified officially he hadn't been reappointed. He said he couldn't say why he'd been replaced.

"I'd love to hear it from him," he said, referring to Cappiello. He also said he would have liked to stay on.

"I felt I did my job the way I wanted to do it," he said.

"I guess that's his prerogative," McLaughlin said of his replacement. He said maybe Cappiello doesn't want

anyone connected to organized labor on the board, since he was the only one who was.

"I know we did a good job in the past three years," McLaughlin said. Giani said he also wasn't notified of his replacement. "If it's true, it's unbelievable," he said. He said he would try to find out what his rights are.

"I don't see how he could replace us," he said.

Giani supported Anthony Romano when the councilman and board of education business manager challenged Cappiello in the mayoral election in 1977.

Hoboken board names coaches, principal next

The vacant principal's post in the Hoboken school system remains unfilled.

Though action on the appointment had been listed on the agenda for last night's special board meeting, board President Robert Wendelken said school officials were still studying the 60 applications from persons within the Hoboken system.

"We're continuing to search for candidates," he said. "Now we're just narrowing down the process."

The board did name four persons to coaching positions at the meeting but will report the position of assistant coach for outdoor track because no applications were received for that one.

Carmino Ronga was named head baseball coach, replacing Michael Costello who resigned; Hector Morales was named assistant baseball coach, replacing James Malloy, who also resigned; and Ken Johnston was reappointed head coach for boys' tennis as was Jerimiah Smith to the head coach for outdoor track position.

In other action, the board rejected a pay package presented for eight administrators, saying it will not negotiate with them as a unit, only on an individual basis. The eight are the board secretary, the business manager, the negotiator, the attorney, the superintendent of maintenance, the administrative clerk, the coordinator of food programs and the internal auditor.

The board met with Tracy Everett following last night's meeting to try and work out an agreement that would allow students at Everett's school to use Hoboken High's auditorium to stage a show about comic strips.

Because of an accident involving a student that occurred after a previous Everett production, the board received an \$800 claim for medical bills from the student. They want Everett to pay the claim and hoped to come to an agreement on that and the use of the auditorium before the next meeting, March 13.

Hoboken schools to return to former 8-4 grade setup

By Thomas Goledik

Hoboken will return in September to a traditional kindergarten-through-eighth grade elementary school and a freshman-through-senior class high school program, known as the 8-4 program, following last night's Board of Education vote approving the changeover.

The system is now divided into three levels, a kindergarten-through-sixth grade elementary level, a junior high school containing the seventh, eighth and ninth grades, and a senior high school containing the upper three grades. This is known as a 6-3-3 program.

In explaining the return to the 8-4 system, Assistant Superintendent Walter Fine noted three benefits:

- It will be more economical since fewer teachers will be required.
- There will be better discipline since students in the seventh and eighth grades won't have to change classrooms as they do now.
- The switch will allow for the implementation of curriculum changes that will emphasize basic skills.

"We hope to delete some of the subjects in the seventh and eighth grades and stress more basic skills," Fine said. "In the suburbs the 6-3-3 system is good, but here, with the types of training and types of feeding we do, the 8-4 is better suited for us. We don't want to give the children too much to think about."

One of the new trustees, Steve Block, suggested at the meeting that a search team of three parents, three teachers and Fine be formed to draw up a list of three or four names to be proposed for the principalship of the Salvatore Calabro School.

That drew fire from Fine, who said that a principal should not be "locked into" assignment at any one school and that he said, would be the case if the search committee were drawn only from the one school. It would also, Fine said, take away rights and responsibilities of both the board and the superintendent.

The appointment of a principal

for the school has been placed on the agenda of an executive session the board has scheduled for Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. The board will move into public session at 8 p.m.

Other items on the agenda for that executive session include appointments to the coaching staff for spring sports, and administrative personnel salary requests.

The board approved a resolution from Trustee Richard England setting board policy for trips taken by employees or board members.

England said he proposed the policy after a "long and bitter struggle with the custodian of school monies (Frank J. Bartletta, the city finance director) about who goes on trips and who gets reimbursed." The board should approve travel request and should determine the amount to be reimbursed," England said.

In response to a suggestion from Trustee Donald Pellicano, the board voted to have all claim prepared at least a week before board meetings in order to give board members enough time to review the payments. Pellicano complained that he had to vote on the claims without having seen some of them. England abstained on their approval for the same reason.

The Hoboken Teachers Association said it would file a grievance against the board over a difference in interpretation of contract language.

The association questioned why the board had only advertised for one assistant track coach for spring sports when it claimed the contract clearly specified there be two assistant coaches.

Former board president Otto Hottendorf disagreed and said establishing the numbers of coaches—or the number of teachers for that matter—was strictly board prerogative and his version was affirmed by Robert Taylor, board attorney.

The association also complained about the lack of heat in the Brandt School and in the high school gym, and asked about the board policy for

deciding when to cancel classes and when to send children home.

Superintendent George R. Maier said if the superintendent learns of a heating problem before school opens, he may take action to close the school or curtail classes but once students enter the school it is the principal's decision. Sending students home is a problem because many come from homes where both parents work, he said.

Yesterday's problem at Brandt school was apparently just a case of running out of fuel. Anthony Romano, the business manager, said that gauges that measure the quantity of oil in the tank are being repaired and there was no way of knowing how much was left. The oil company is supposed to automatically deliver oil to the school but either consumption was up sharply or the delivery fell behind schedule. The situation is expected to be normal today.

The heating problems at the high school gym are caused by faulty switches and inoperative blowers, the superintendent said. He has recommended they be repaired.

New Hoboken board policy Wendelken aim

Four new faces are not the only thing that's new about the Hoboken Board of Education. At an organizational meeting last night the board elected a new president, Robert Wendelken, and a new vice president, James Monaco.

The four new faces are John Pope, Donald Pellicano, Steve Block and Selma Lugo, who are replacing John Raslowky, Leo McLaughlin, James Giani and Aurelio Lugo.

In addition to Wendelken and Monaco, members retained on the

board by Mayor Steve Cappiello are Otto Hottendorf, the past president; James Farina, past vice president; and Richard England. All were sworn in by City Clerk Anthony Amoroso.

Wendelken, in remarks after the session, said the board would first concern itself with the formulation of policy and by-laws, in order to "better carry out our meetings."

It would also strive to insure less inconvenience for those wishing to attend the meetings and to make all presentations "clearer." One immediate change along these lines he said, would be to have agendas ready in advance of meetings outlining topics to be discussed.

Wendelken also predicted that citizens would find the new board "more objective, if only because the trustees do not have to worry about re-election." Board members, he explained, are more likely to act on con-

troverial matters on how they affect the school system, rather than worrying about how they will affect their re-election chances.

Hottendorf, the board's president for the past two years, said for several terms in prior years, said he told the board he would not be seeking another term as president because he wished to devote more time to his role as a member of the board of directors of the New Jersey School Boards of Association, where he serves on the urban school committee.

In comments after his election, Wendelken thanked the board for its "vote of confidence" and said he hoped "to show my thanks by the leadership I provide."

In action at the session, the board set the second Tuesday of each month as the regular meeting time with board meetings at 8 p.m., and closed caucuses at 7 p.m.

meetings on personnel, budgetary or negotiation items set for 6 p.m.

The board designated the Trust Company of New Jersey as the depository of school funds. Trustee England suggested that the board secretary or attorney investigate the possibility of reorganizing the accounting and payroll reporting statements from the bank.

England's suggestion was for program budgeting, which breaks down costs for each individual program, rather than the currently used line item appropriations, which break expenditures into general groupings.

The board named its representatives to the Board of School Estimate, made up of the mayor, two councilmen and two school trustees. Wendelken as president, automatically serves, and the other trustees selected England to be the second representative.

Cappiello tells new board: 'Improve our schools'

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he'll ask the newly appointed Board of Education to investigate both the business and educational aspects of the city's school systems.

Pressed on whether he thought top board administration officials should be retained, Cappiello said, "I wouldn't pinpoint any individual."

He expressed "some reservation" about the present administration. "I think it can be better."

Hopefully, it will become better," he said.

"If it's necessary, changes should be made," he added.

Cappiello said Hoboken seems to be paying a little more per child than other cities the same size.

He also said the situation would have to be looked at "to see if we're not wasting talents and dollars."

"If the board determines in its wisdom that there should be changes

made, fine," Cappiello said. He said he had not told the new board of his views about retaining the present top administration officers, which include Board Attorney Robert Taylor, Board Secretary Thomas Gallo and Business Manager Anthony Romano.

The new board, consisting of five members remaining from the previous elected board, and four new members, will hold a temporary reorganization meeting Wednesday night.

Police superiors reassigned

Reassignments of some Hoboken police superiors have been made by Public Safety Director James Giordano to provide more supervision at night when it is most needed.

Capt. Edward Sheehy has emerged from the anonymity of the Bureau of Criminal Identification to take over as the daytime detective commander.

Sheehy was acting chief of police for a long period several years ago, after being head of the Detective Bureau.

Two other of the city's four police captains are going on night duty. Detective Captain Anthony Rinaldi has been changed from daytime to nighttime detective commander, while Capt. Patrick Totaro

has been shifted to night commander of uniformed police. Capt. Russell Sweeten, formerly captain of the tactical squad, has become the daytime uniformed commander.

Giordano said that with the new arrangement, "We now have coverage days and nights, which we didn't have before."

Under Giordano's reorganization, the Tactical Patrol Squad has been taken into the uniformed division.

In other moves, Lt. Robert Davis has become head of the Bureau of Criminal Identification, replacing Sheehy. Lt. Joseph Pereira, who was assigned to the tactical force, is now in charge of the expanded community relations and youth bureau.

Sheehy and Sweeten are the senior captains on the force. Sheehy is a 32-year veteran.

Lt. John Del Boccio has been

transferred from the uniformed division to the night detective squad. He replaces Lt. Frank Garrick, who has been on sick leave, Giordano said.

Cappiello vows to 'ride herd' on new recreation project

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he intends to "ride herd" on the construction of recreation and parking facilities planned for lots on two blocks adjacent to City Hall.

Cappiello made his announcement in reply to a recent editorial in The Jersey Journal which urged him to make sure the project is finished as promised by the beginning of the summer, when it is needed.

The mayor said it was "a tall order" to have it ready by then, but that it can be done, "by making the specifications real tough."

An offstreet parking lot accommodating some 100 cars, a basketball court, some greenery, and

other recreational facilities are planned for lots on two blocks bounded by Observer Highway, Bloomfield Street, Newark Street and Park Avenue.

The city's community development agency is funding the project, at an anticipated cost of some \$300,000.

Cappiello said that to insure the project being finished on time, penalty clauses for non-performance should be written into the specifications.

Asked if this might scare away prospective bidders, he replied "I don't care."

He said he will direct the CDA "to get moving, to get the architect working, and specifications put together as soon as possible."

Hoboken's mayor says

"In spite of the uncertain economy and the cutback in federal and state funding for urban areas, the City of Hoboken intends to continue its efforts to increase housing and employment, opportunities for its residents. . . city government must act as a catalyst. . . with the support and investment of the private sector. . . in order to be successful with an urban economic development strategy, the city must use what small public sums it has and leverage them to make it as desirable as possible for economic development to occur in the city. —Steve Cappiello, mayor of Hoboken."



Steve Cappiello 'City must act'

Fire department 'biased' blamed on Civil Service

Three Hoboken officials gave depositions yesterday to a federal Department of Justice official in preparation for the department's discrimination suit against Hoboken, Jersey City, and 10 other state municipalities. The trial starts March 19.

The Department of Justice wants each fire department to reflect the percentage of minority group members in the municipality.

Hoboken, with a large minority population, has no blacks and only one Hispanic on its fire force of 132. Hispanics make up the largest minority group in the city.

Andrew Woods, a Justice Department lawyer, took depositions on the case yesterday from Fire Chief James Houn, Business Administrator Edwin Chius and Public Safety Director James Giordano. Mayor Steve Cappiello, who was the city's public safety director until Nov. 21, was not asked to give a deposition but may be in the future, according to assistant city attorney Thomas Callagy.

Has followed the rules and regulations of state civil service laws.

Giordano said firemen were chosen strictly by their scores on the civil service test, with disabled veterans and veterans given preference, by law.

Asked why there aren't more "minorities" on the force, Giordano said, "Because either they're not taking the test or not passing the test."

"Mr. Giordano is right to a certain extent," said Selma Lugo, the newly appointed Hispanic member of the city Board of Education.

She said that for the last Hoboken fire test, given last year, her husband, Aurelio Lugo, a Hoboken detective and former member of the board of education, distributed applications

for the test. She said he gave applications to a certain group of young men who didn't show up for the test.

Both Lugo and his wife, however, agreed that there was little public notice of the last fire test. "I think it was really kept very quiet," Mrs. Lugo said, and Lugo said he had to travel to Trenton to pick up applications to distribute, because he couldn't get any in Hoboken.

Lugo said he decided to recruit Hispanics to take the last test after finding out about the Justice Department suit. He said he got 25 to 30 Hispanics to take the test last year, of which a few finished in the top 10, he said.

However, no one has been hired from that list due to the city's financial problems, he said.

Leo Serrano, who is also a Hoboken detective, said he thought one of the reasons there aren't more Hispanics on the fire department is that there is more enthusiasm about joining the police force.

He estimated that there are some 10 Hispanics on the police force, and perhaps half as many blacks.

He said Hispanics had the opportunity to take the fire test, but more seemed to take the police test.

Rudy Rosario, owner of Van's Liquor Store on Second Street, agreed with Serrano that Hispanics seemed to prefer to become policemen.

He said the Hispanic community should arrange to help prepare, its members who want to take the test.

Cappiello said the city would be willing to sponsor such a program. He said he favored continuing using the civil service method, and that he is pleased with the results it has given Hoboken now.

The mayor said Hoboken was caught in between the federal order to integrate and the state laws which mandate using the civil service method.

The trial will begin March 19 in U.S. District Court in Newark, before Judge H. Curtis Mearns.

Councilman seeks change in Hoboken government

By DIANE CURCIO

Hoboken Councilman Nunzio Malfetti is seeking legal consultation to draft a referendum for the May 6 election calling for a change in the form of city government.

Malfetti favors a commission form of government as opposed to the council-type now administered in Hoboken. He said a commission-type of government is more economical. A commission form of government, convened under the state

Walsh Act, requires five commissioners to administer city affairs. The people elect the commissioners. Approximately a week later, the new administrators select a mayor, and public safety, public works, recreation and finance commissioners.

Malfetti, an opposition councilman in Hoboken, has calculated that neighboring municipalities under a commission government (Union City, West New York and North Bergen) pay \$38,000 as the

combined salary of commissioners. Hoboken spends \$146,000 annually in the salary of nine councilman and six directors of various city affairs, Malfetti said.

He added that in a commission form of government "each man is responsible for his own department. There is a distinct advantage of elected officials as the administrators of the five municipal departments rather than appointees (directors) solely responsible to a single individual," he said.

Malfetti conceded that the commission government denies the people a direct election of a mayor. He said he hoped an amendment of the Walsh Act could be enacted in the state legislature to require commission candidates to run for a specific office.

Changes in the Walsh act are not before the legislature.

Mayor Steve Cappiello said "either form of government is as good as the

people chosen by the electorate." But the mayor added that it is "unhealthy to judge between the two just on a statement of which form is cheaper." He said the issue should be discussed in an open public forum and invited Malfetti to

organize such a debate.

Before a referendum calling for a change of government can be placed on the ballot, Malfetti must obtain 4,500 signatures on a petition requesting the referendum, according to the city clerk.

Commission forum asked by Cappiello

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said he would be willing to have public forums on the question of whether the city should return to the commission form of government, which independent councilman Nunzio Malfetti advocates.

Cappiello invited Malfetti to air his views on the subject at such a forum, and said he would also appear.

Malfetti said he'd decided to advocate a return to the commission form, which Hoboken abolished in 1933, after a recent study he performed.

He said that the salaries of the mayor and four commissioners in Hudson towns which had that form of government were \$38,000 annually. Each elected official is in charge of one of the town's departments, such as public works or public safety.

In Hoboken, he said, the salaries of the mayor, the council, and the appointed department heads came to \$146,000.

"An immediate savings in excess of \$100,000 in administrative costs together with the distinct advantage of elected officials as the administrators of the five municipal departments rather than appointees solely responsible to a single individual are the main reasons for the change back," Malfetti said.

The councilman said he was trying to get enough signatures on a petition to have the question put on a ballot for the May election, but he thought it more likely that it couldn't be put on until the November election. Cappiello questioned the councilman's figures on the savings. He said he didn't know if it would save money.

He also said that with the commission form of government, any three commissioners could band together and take over control of the city, perhaps not in conformance with the wishes of the public.

THE JERSEY JOURNAL, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1979



FINAL CURTAIN — Demolition crews begin razing the onetime Liberty Theater building at First and Grand streets, Hoboken. The theater, famous in its heyday, closed its doors in 1947. The building had been condemned as a fire hazard.

Hoboken loses rail tax appeal

State Tax Director Sidney Glaser has turned down Hoboken's appeal to restore 75 percent of more than \$800,000 the city is losing this year in state aid in lieu of railroad taxes.

Cappiello said Herbert Fine, the city's tax counsel, who has been negotiating in Trenton to get the slashed money restored, told him Glaser had rejected Fine's contention that Hoboken was entitled to some \$800,000 of rail tax aid in 1979 and again in 1978.

Hoboken's rail tax aid has been cut to \$3,483 this year, from \$828,169 last year. The state has been collecting taxes from railroad properties in the city, and redistributing the money to Hoboken.

The state has informed the city that most of that property, including the Erie Lackawanna Terminal, has been removed from the tax rolls because the state Department of Transportation owns the property.

In 1977, when Conrail took over commuter operations at the terminal under a lease from the state, Hoboken was notified that its aid would be cut in half. Assembly Speaker Christopher J. Jackman then

introduced a bill which restored the aid at its previous levels for the years 1977 and 1978.

Fine has been contending that the Jackman bill, which expired at the end of 1978, provided for funding the aid for two additional years at 75 percent.

Cappiello said today he would try to arrange a meeting with Glaser "as soon as possible," through Fine and city tax appraiser Hugh McGuire. Business Administrator Edwin Chius also might join the delegation going to Trenton, the mayor said.

Cappiello said he would tell

Glaser that the property is still being used for railroad operations, so the city should continue to receive rail tax aid for it as it has done in the past.

He reaffirmed that the loss of this money would mean additional municipal layoffs, but would not speculate on how many. He said it might also mean cuts in the school's budget.

The mayor said he would "keep fighting" to get the money back. If his appeal to Glaser fails, he said, he will ask the state legislators who represent Hoboken to introduce a bill to regain it.

Hoboken job cuts reach 33

Hoboken yesterday laid off a junior library assistant and will lay off a part-time worker in its Public Works department on March 6, bringing the total number of municipal jobs cut to 33.

In addition, layoffs of CETA workers, caused by a reduction of funds for the Hoboken CETA program, will begin in March, Business Administrator Edwin Chius said today.

The city lost another worker this week through attrition, Chius said. George Paproth, the city's payroll supervisor, was given mandatory retirement. An existing city worker will take the position, but no one will be hired to replace Paproth, Chius said.

Chius said there were no additional layoffs planned now, but he said, "I wouldn't predict there will be no further layoffs."

One of the adverse economic factors in Hoboken's loss of more than \$800,000 in state aid in lieu of railroad taxes, Hoboken officials had been hopeful of an early restoration of at least 75 percent of the cut, but Chius said he doesn't expect

any decision for a month or so.

He said the library assistant layoff came about when he had to cancel his plans to merge the city's crostown bus line with its senior citizen bus line.

He said a public hearing proved to him that a lot of people who have no cars consider the bus a service they'd like to keep.

Hoboken won't give up on rail tax aid

Hoboken will mount a two-pronged attack for the restoration of lost state aid in lieu of railroad taxes, Mayor Steve Cappiello said today, after learning that the state's tax commissioner again has turned down the city's appeal for restoration.

Cappiello said he has directed special tax attorney Herbert Fine to begin to prepare a lawsuit against the state division of taxation, and he said legislation to regain the lost aid is now being prepared for introduction by Assembly Speaker Christopher J.

Jackman and State Sen. William Musto.

Fine and city tax assessor Hugh McGuire met Thursday with tax commissioner Sidney Glaser, and Musto spoke to him separately, Cappiello said.

He said they reported that Glaser was sympathetic, but claimed to be handicapped by an adverse opinion by the state attorney general's office.

That opinion, according to Cappiello, is that railroad properties in Hoboken, including the Erie Lackawanna terminal, which are owned by the state, are exempted from local taxation.

The state collects taxes from railroad properties in the city, and reimburses the city in the form of state aid. The city was informed last month that this aid was dropping more than \$800,000 as a result of the attorney general's opinion.

The mayor said Hoboken's argument was that the property continues to have railroad operations, so the city should continue to receive the rail aid as before.

Jackman introduced a bill which restores this aid in 1977 and 1978. The city also has been contending that the Jackman bill, which expired at the end of the year, provided for a 75 percent continuation of the aid for 1979 in 1980.

That contention, too, has been rejected, Cappiello said.

Both the possible lawsuit and the legislation will aim at the restoration of the aid at the 75 percent level, Cappiello said, because this is all officials think the city is entitled to.

The sum of 75 percent would come to approximately \$800,000. The city currently is slated to get less than \$3,500.

Hoboken on the rise

For the first time in more than a decade, Hoboken's population decline has reversed itself, according to a recent estimate by the city's Community Development Agency.

The CDA survey claims the city now has 47,300 people, a moderate increase over past CDA estimates, according to Fred M. Bado, agency director.

The city's estimates differ with those of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry, which does annual estimates to update the U.S. Census figures. The Labor and Industry, which does annual estimates to update the U.S. Census figures. The Labor and Industry figure for Hoboken was around 42,000 in 1977.

City officials believe the bulk of the new Hoboken residents are either emigrants from Manhattan, who come for the brownstones available, or ex-suburbanites, who are attracted by the convenience or urban living.

"Hoboken's changing image has been good for business," says an aide

to Mayor Steve Cappiello. "If the discount stores and ethnic markets are visible, so are the small dress boutiques, artsy gift shops and the SoHo-type bistros. Hardly a month goes by without a new retail store or restaurant opening."

The city is making it easier for businesses to brighten Hoboken's general appearance by helping stores get grants and low-interest loans from the federal government for storefront facelifts.

The CDA lays the ground work for storeowners to get Uncle Sam to pick up 30 to 40 percent of the cost of storefront renovations.

"I want the city to act as a catalyst to boost the private sector," says Mayor Steve Cappiello, the son of a bootblack who went from the city's police department to the City Council and on to the top executive post in 1973.

"The mayor's office can play an important role in this effort by cutting red tape to expedite decisions and

make it easier for businesses to remain and expand in the city," Cappiello says.

Hoboken's selling points, according to S. Kenneth Pal, CDA economic development director, are low rentals and proximity to New York.

"The retail market is growing, and industrial lots offer plenty of flexible space that can be adopted to different uses economically," he notes.

There's office space available in Hoboken right now, Pal points out. Construction is nearly completed on a 100,000-square-foot office building at Grogan Marineview Plaza, just one block from the PATH tubes to Manhattan.

Many merchants are excited by the "new" Hoboken.

"Both newcomers and old-time residents want the kind of interesting stores which they see in Manhattan and in suburbs," says Alice Genese, co-owner of Things We Like, a Washington Street shop. "We are answering their needs."

Hoboken sees itself in the funny pages

By DIANE CURCIO

As a claim to fame, Hoboken can point to the film classic "On the Waterfront," where its docks were immortalized. Or it can turn to one of its favorite sons and singers, Frank Sinatra.

But a new achievement has been added to the city's list—Hoboken now appears in a comic book.

The city is the scene of an armed robbery in the most recent issue of Marvel Comic's "The Avengers"—a comic book about a superhero team composed of characters with names like The Vision, Ms. Marvel, Iron Man, The Beast, Captain America and The Falcon.

Comic book superheroes chase villain after holdup set in city

The villain in this issue is Crusher Creel. He is an escaped convict who has the power to turn his body into any kind of material he touches. It's kind of a reverse Midaas effect that works with gold as well as every other kind of material.

When last seen Crusher, alias the Absorbing Man, transformed himself into glass and was then shattered into a thousand pieces.

The fragments were taken to a New Jersey

landfill—probably in the Meadowlands—where he recomposed himself.

But alas the giant hulk (no relation to the television star) has no nice clothes to wear. So he finds his way into Hoboken and breaks into a clothing store to the surprise of the clerk.

"I come to borrow some clothes!" he tells her. "An' these slacks'll do fine—they remind me of my old prison duds!"

"Look, flippo," the clerk says, "this may be Hoboken, but we've still got a couple of honest cops around! An' I'm callin' one of 'em right now."

But the Crusher swings his wrecking ball arm on top of the telephone, destroying it before she can use it. Crusher speeds away with The Avengers hot on his trail.

But enough of the plot, we're only interested in Hoboken. Marvel editor Roger Stern said he included the city in the comic strip because he "liked the sound of the name."

Real people and places are often mentioned in his comics, Stern said. For example, Jimmy Carter made a recent appearance in the Giant Hulk comic series recently.

Hoboken Police Chief George Crimmins said he was surprised to hear his city mentioned in the comics.

"Hoboken has been the butt of many jokes," Crimmins said. Hoboken was the main embarkation point for troops leaving for France during World War I, Crimmins recalled. And the soldiers had a slogan: "Heaven, Hell or Hoboken."

The chief did not blink an eye at the mention of corruption on the city's police force. "There's none finer than my men," he said.

Mayor Steve Cappiello was also surprised by Hoboken's latest claim to fame. He said, after all, "Hoboken has always been a very popular city."

Hoboken will try again on smoke detectors

By Mark Fogarty

A public hearing on Hoboken's proposed smoke detector ordinance, the latest draft of which now mandates such detectors for one and two-family houses, will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the city council chambers.

The ordinance had been expected to be introduced at the council's Wednesday meeting, but it ran into opposition from the council at its Tuesday caucus.

Public Safety Director James Giordano, who is heading a group of city officials preparing the ordinance, says the ordinance now will be introduced at the council's March 7 meeting.

He said he expected the ordinance to be passed in basically its present shape. It now mandates detectors for almost all of the houses in the city—7,500 buildings, Giordano estimated.

Excluded are buildings made of fire resistant materials, having two stairwells and closing doors leading to stairways. Buildings conforming to these specifications include the Marineview Towers, Applied Housing rehabilitated units, and buildings operated by the Hoboken Housing Authority.

The ordinance mandates an electrical system, in which detectors are hooked into a bell which would alert all the residents of the house at once.

It mandates an installation deadline of June 30, 1980, for all buildings with three or more apartments. A deadline for one and two-family homes has not been decided yet, Giordano said. Installation of detectors there will be a second phase of the program.

Councilman Robert Ranieri raised several objections to the ordinance as it now stands, although he said he is not against mandating smoke detectors.

He questioned the necessity of having licensed electricians required to perform the installations. He also said there were only eight or 10 of them in Hoboken, making it impossible for them to complete the installations by the deadline.

Giordano responded by saying any licensed electrician in the state could do the job, and he speculated there might be a "gold rush" of such into Hoboken.

Ranieri said that an across-the-board \$40 license fee was unfair—owners of smaller homes should pay less, he said.

He also objected to the cost of the system, which he said could come to \$100 per floor in tenement houses. Most homeowners he's spoken to would prefer battery-powered detectors which can be bought for some \$30 apiece, he said.

Ranieri named to cities' group

Hoboken Councilman Robert Ranieri has been appointed to the steering committee of the National League of Cities' committee on finance, administration, and intergovernmental relations.

Ranieri called the appointment

"a mark of recognition for the city and myself." He said the committee was the most prestigious one in the league.

He said councilmen from larger cities than Hoboken usually get the

nod for the steering committee. The appointment, he said, is "as high as a councilman from a small city can go."

Ranieri will serve until November.

Smoke detector plan too strong, says Cappiello

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today he'd like the city's proposed smoke detector ordinance changed to exclude one-and-two-family homes that are free from building and housing code violations.

The latest draft of the proposed ordinance mandates smoke detectors for nearly every residence in Hoboken—including one-and-two-family homes.

A public hearing on the ordinance will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, and the mayor said that if the majority of people who attend seem satisfied with the ordinance as it stands, he will go along with their will.

"You have to be concerned with

some of the housing regulations you come out with," Cappiello said.

"I feel strongly that a good home, well kept, without violations shouldn't be mandated," Cappiello said. "A lot of people take all precautions necessary in their homes."

Cappiello also questioned the high installation price for small homeowners. Public Safety Director James Giordano, who is heading the group of city officials preparing the ordinance, estimated that it would cost \$150 for a one-family home.

Giordano has estimated the ordinance would cover approximately 7,500 buildings in Hoboken. He hopes to have the ordinance introduced at the city council's March 7 meeting.

Hoboken waterfront may be down, but it's not out

On a warm May evening in 1973, a group of show-business celebrities descended on Hoboken. After dinner at the Clam Broth House, they headed toward the waterfront to look at the docks, 20 years after. And as soon as they turned the street corner, one of the celebrated visitors exclaimed "They have torn down all of River Street — the whole damn thing!"

The occasion was the 20-year anniversary of the filming of "On the Waterfront." Elia Kazan, the director, and Budd Schulberg, the playwright, and several other people who had worked on the movie returned to Hoboken for a nostalgic night on

the town. The city's Community Development Agency was the host.

Kazan recalled filming some scenes at the Holland-American Line piers, and reminisced how River Street was lined with hotels, 40 bars, and sailors everywhere. A busy port in the greater New York Harbor, which Kazan remembers well from his nine weeks stay in 1953.

The waterfront a quarter century later is a desolate place by comparison. Gone are passenger ships, dockworkers and sailors. Even the abandoned Fifth Street pier buildings that remained for years as a sad

witness to the bustle of activities were gutted by fires, then razed almost to the ground. The Port Authority's three piers now stand alone as reminders of Hoboken's past as a port city. But these piers may not remain very long if the city of Hoboken and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey carry out what officials hope will be a dramatic redevelopment plan.

These piers have been operated by the Port Authority in a tri-partite agreement involving the United States Maritime Administration and the City. In a lease signed in 1952, the P.A. subleases the piers for \$1 per year for a 50

year period. The city obtained the piers earlier through another lease signed with the U.S. Maritime Administration. The federal government had, still earlier — during World War II — seized the property from the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, an enemy property.

Because of changes in the technologies of the maritime industry, primarily the growth of container shipping, most ports that do not have sufficient upland area for container storage and handling have been closed. Piers that can accommodate only conventional bulkhead ships are now "virtually useless," according to a Port Authority spokesman.

"These facts have led to a dramatic decline in waterfront employment and, consequently, to a severe economic hardship to Hoboken," he said.

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has been trying to put the piers to a new revenue-producing use for a long time. According to S. Kenneth Pal of the city's Community Development Agency, the city's objective is to develop these piers in such a way as to "complement" the future development of other areas along the waterfront in the city's plan.

The Erie-Lackawanna Terminal rehabilitation project, which is in the first part of what Hoboken's CDA hopes to be a commercial and cultural complex, is under construction through a \$5 million federal grant which CDA helped to obtain. The construction work is being supervised by the state of New Jersey.

Over the last couple of years, several concepts have been mentioned by Hoboken city officials. One idea was a jail along the waterfront, before last November's state-wide referendum rejected the proposition. Another one was a motion picture and TV production center, a "Hollywood of the East." Last December, Mayor Cappiello and the city council appointed Councilman Robert A. Ranieri, Fred Bado, director of Hoboken's CDA, and Leo Serrano, a Hoboken police officer with prior experience in the film industry, as a committee to serve as a liaison with the New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission.

Is there a plan for the redevelopment of the P.A. piers? This is a major reason for the establishment of the Policy Committee by the city, the P.A., and the state Transportation Department, according to Pal.

Plans for this site must be developed jointly by the City and Port Authority, and the Policy Committee has been very helpful in serving as an on-going coordinating group, he said.

The inflation, the energy shortage, the nationwide trend "Back to the city" all buoy the hopes of Hoboken for a revival. After all, not even Brooklyn has such a stretch of waterfront real estate, with such a convenient, 10 minute ride from Midtown Manhattan on PATH, a subsidiary of the Port Authority. The steamships are gone, but apparently the city believes the waterfront will offer Hoboken and its citizens a new reason for being.

Cappiello has dilemma in Sixth Ward

Sources close to Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that the mayor, as head of the city's Democratic Organization, faces a dilemma over whom to endorse in the Sixth Ward election because three of the candidates are his supporters.

The three, according to the sources, are Edward McLaughlin, Patrick Pasculli and John Giacchi.

McLaughlin is a former councilman. He ran against Cappiello in the 1973 election, but subsequently supported the mayor's reelection in 1977.

Pasculli, a Hoboken school teacher, is a member of the Hoboken Young Democrats, a group headed by city Health and Welfare Director James Farina.

Giacchi is the president of the city's barbers union and has been active in the Elks, the Knights of Columbus, and the St. Ann's Parents Guild.

The three, and John Ciriello, are running against incumbent Councilman Nunzio Malfetti, an Independent.

Councilman Anthony Romano said he was not surprised and not disappointed that the mayor had given Board of Adjustment chairman Frank Cameron his endorsement for the seat in the First Ward, where Romano is the incumbent.

Romano ran against Cappiello in 1977. He also said he was not disappointed that James Giani, a Hoboken fireman, a friend and supporter, had filed for his seat. "It's his right to seek office. I wish him luck," he said.

Romano said he was seeking reelection in order to continue to try to bring his ward up "from last to first" in the city.

Public Works Director Andrew Amato, whose wife, Florence, is running in the Fourth Ward, said he felt Cappiello should endorse her. The mayor has made no endorsement there.

"I'm not going to tell the mayor what to do," Amato said. "He's the boss."

But he said that his wife supported Cappiello in the 1977 race, while incumbent Councilman Louis Francione did not.

He said again that he would support his wife's bid, with or without Cappiello's backing.

Malfetti turns down request for debates

Edward McLaughlin, a former Sixth Ward Hoboken councilman running for the job again, has asked the incumbent, Nunzio Malfetti, to take part in a series of debates with him on cable television in Hoboken.

McLaughlin said cable television would be available, free, for at least one such debate and possible a series. He emphasized that the debates "would be monitored by an impartial third party."

In a letter to Malfetti, McLaughlin said residents of the ward "would have the opportunity to judge us on ability and qualifications alone, without the usual diversions which are a large part of any political campaign."

He added that Malfetti, in accepting his request, would be "show-

ing the Sixth Ward voters that you are willing to discuss vital issues."

Malfetti said he was sending a reply, saying:

"Thank you but 'no thanks.'"

"I am not interested in an ego trip — just in good government."

"Cable TV may be your way to make yourself visible to the people I represent, but it's simply not my cup of tea."

"Representation is not a matter of posturing until Election Day but year-long personal attention and concern for the constituents to whom I am wholeheartedly dedicated."

"Long after the TV sets are turned off and you again vanish from sight, the people of the Sixth Ward will have access to me, and I in turn will be with them, whether it be as an elected official or a private citizen."

Cappiello expects \$1 tax rate rise

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello said today that city residents — who already pay the highest taxes in the county — may be saddled with a rise of about \$1 in the tax rate this year.

The two factors which he said would lead to the rise in the rate, currently \$107.30 per \$1,000 valuation, are rises in the amounts to be raised by taxes in the budgets of the county and the local school board.

The school board's request adds some \$300,000 to the tax levy, and Hoboken's share of the \$1.5 million additional levy in the county budget comes to some \$100,000.

This would add some \$4 to the tax rate — but both budgets are still subject to cutting.

Cappiello has said before that he wants the school board's budget cut,

although he will not say how much. The Board of School Estimate, composed of the mayor, two councilmen, and two members of the board of education, meets March 10 to discuss the budget.

Asked if there would be any further cuts in the county budget, Cappiello, who is also a freeholder, said, "It's hard to say."

Cappiello did not include the results of arbitration with police and fire departments as possibly adding to the tax rate. The municipal part of the budget calls for no raises for city personnel.

Instead, he raised the possibility that the departments might be told to lay off some of their people to provide the money for the raises. "If the council doesn't want to raise taxes, that's what'll have to happen," he said.

Census splits difference, adds 3,000 to Hoboken

By Mark Fogarty
Hoboken's population rose nearly 3,000 Thursday.

The influx of people into the city was surprisingly placid, causing no traffic tie-ups or housing problems. Parking was no harder to find than it normally is in the city.

That's because the population increase actually took place in Washington, in the federal Census Bureau.

Mayor Steve Cappiello, Business Administrator Edwin Chius, and city CETA director George Crimmins Jr. went to Washington Thursday to protest what they felt was the bureau's low 1976 estimate that the city's population stood at 38,500.

They were looking for approval to conduct a population survey to prove their contention that the city's count is closer to 45,000 or 46,000.

They didn't get the permission,

but they did return with some happy news — census officials told them that their latest estimate of the city's population is 41,228.

Crimmins, who is coordinating the city's effort to combat the low estimate, which would cut the amount the city receives from some aid programs, said the revision came about through figures supplied by the state Department of Labor and Industries.

Crimmins explained that the city's building inspector sends the department copies of permits issued for housing construction and demolitions.

The state then subtracts the number of demolitions from the new constructions and rehabilitations, and multiplies the difference by an estimate of people per household.

The state's estimate, using an average of 2.76 per household, was around 45,000, Crimmins said. The 41,228 figure represents a compromise accepted by the Census Bureau, he said.

The bureau said it would study Hoboken's request for a survey. Crimmins said very few communities have ever had requests for surveys approved.

Under a new provision, however, the city will be able to sit down with census personnel before they begin the 1980 census next year, and also will have a local review period afterward.

This way, the city can point out places it feels the bureau has undercounted, Crimmins said.

The survey would involve covering 60 city blocks in a maximum time allowed of 20 days. It would require a team of 10 employees, Crimmins said.

Poll mayors on merging fire forces

Hudson County officials, following plans by Weehawken and Hoboken officials to study consolidation of their fire departments, will write the mayors of the county's 12 municipalities to see if they are interested in a county-wide merger of firefighting services.

County Counsel Harold Krieger said that it would be a step in the right direction even if only two, three or four departments decide on a merger.

Weehawken Mayor Wally P. Lindsley said at last night's Township Committee meeting that because of the township's fiscal crunch, it was "incumbent" to study the possible merger of Hoboken and Weehawken fire departments. "I can see no harm in doing so," he added.

Informed sources noted that while all 12 mayors will be invited to give their views as a matter of protocol, it is expected that Secaucus would appear unwilling to give up its all-volunteer fire department since it is saving the town's taxpayers a lot of money in contrast to contributing toward paid firefighting services.

The same sources believe the West Hudson municipalities of

Kearny, Harrison and East Newark might not go along with the fire department consolidation plan, but it would be implemented in the North Hudson area, where some fire houses from different towns are located within a short distance of each other.

The county's "plan for the implementation of a county metropolitan fire department" was completed in September, 1976, but shelved after some public hearings.

While Krieger spoke enthusiastically about the plan at yesterday's mini-caucus of the freeholders, County Executive Edward F. Clark Jr. cautioned that the municipalities should be consulted.

Freeholder-Chairman Morris T. Longo said the board should "go over all angles," hearing from the municipalities and fire unions before taking any action.

Freeholder Anne H. O'Malley stated, "We should find out what the mayors want, first. Otherwise, we may be superseding their power."

It was finally agreed on Freeholder Samuel D. Kaye's motion to write letters to the mayors asking if they are still interested in the original survey.

Longo cautioned that it is not "a one-shot deal to knock everybody out of work."

At the time of the survey, informed sources recall, it claimed a merger would afford better fire protection, result in savings over \$8.2 million a year during the first year and savings up to \$20 million in five years, would not displace any firefighter since reduction of the force would be through attrition, would improve fire communications, provide for the addition of a marine division, reduce fire hazards and meet the approval of Insurance Services Office, (a national fire defense evaluation body).

The same sources say that a merger of Jersey City, Union City and Hoboken fire-fighting services would be "the key" to successfully implementing the plan.

A personal look at Hoboken

By William Taft

"I Was Born in Hoboken" is the title of a movie just completed and available for showing.

It was shot by Louis Tiscornia, assistant director of the Media Arts Department of Jersey City State College, under the auspices of the department and the Hoboken Arts Council.

Tiscornia calls it "not a documentary, but rather a personal look at Hoboken."

"It's told by lifelong residents and filmed by a person born and raised in Hoboken," he continues. "It's a light look at stories, memories, people, places — old and new — which allows the true character of Hoboken to emerge."

The movie is on 16-millimeter color film, with sound. It runs 40 minutes.

There will be a screening for 150 invited guests the evening of March 9 in the Hoboken Elks Club.

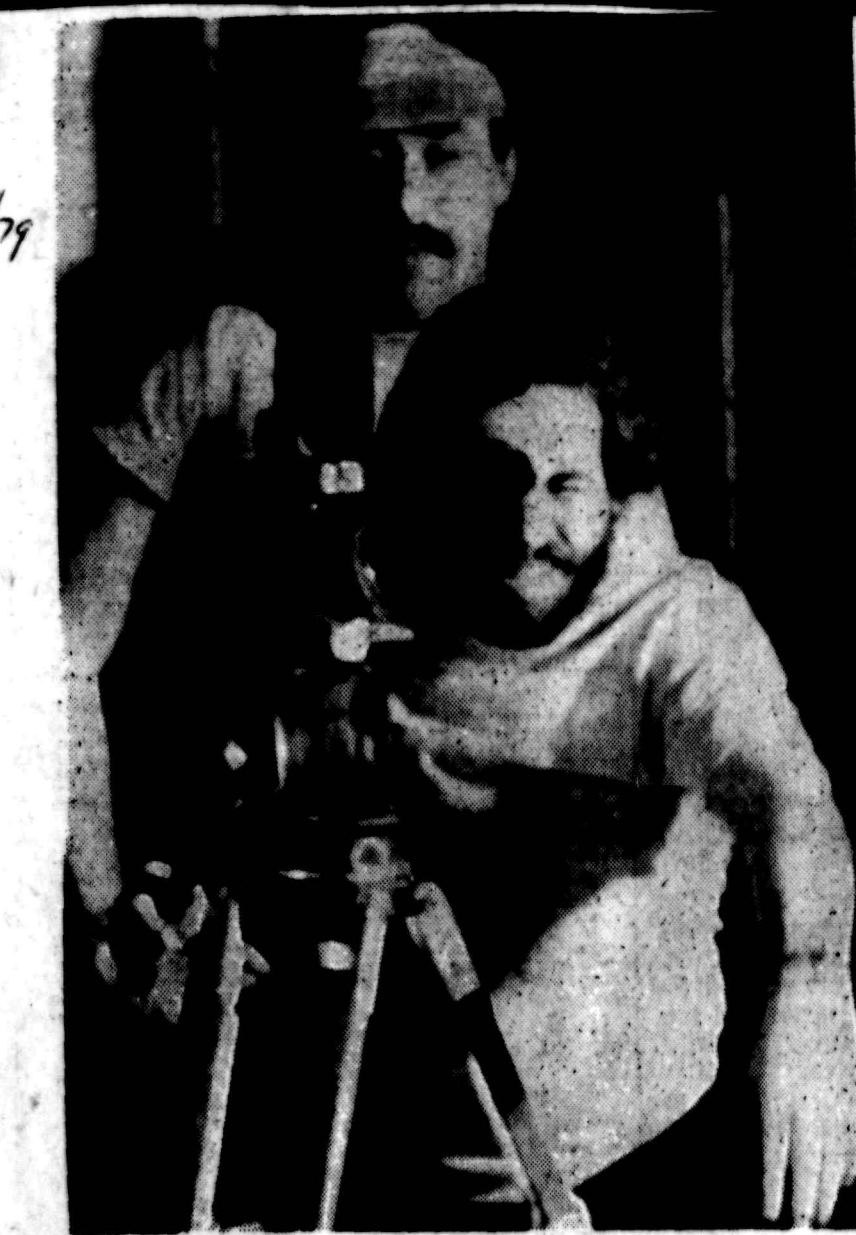
Tiscornia, 27, married, a Hoboken native, lives at 908 Hudson St.

He says his interest in making such a film dates back to the time he was 10 or 12 years old when he read "Halo Over Hoboken."

It was revived when he saw two movies, "They Don't Laugh at Hoboken Any More," and one showing how urban renewal had revitalized the city.

Tiscornia says his is actually a "counter-film." "Those pictures were done by out-of-towners," he says, "and the persons interviewed were mainly out-of-towners. So the picture was slanted and not very accurate. My film shows what Hoboken really is. We interview old-timers, and also some people who moved away from Hoboken and then moved back."

"These other movies,"



Louis Tiscornia, left, and cameraman Richard Allaire work on a film about Hoboken.

Tiscornia continued, "I treat Hoboken as though it didn't exist until four years ago. They tell about rebuilding. That's good — to a certain extent. But the people who've lived here all their lives should have something to say about it."

"Recently there has been much said about Hoboken and why it has become an 'in' place. Many Hoboken residents feel Hoboken has always had a special meaning for them, and they wanted to tell that to the world."

Anyone interested in seeing the film is asked to contact Tiscornia. His home number is

963-1704, his office number 547-3155.

Tiscornia started on the film in January of 1978 after it was adopted as a project by the college's Media Arts Department. He finished it last month.

The movie was financed mainly by the department, the Hoboken Arts Council contributing \$1,000 it had obtained in donations from 10 or 12 Hoboken industrial companies, Tiscornia said.

The council has a copy of the film and proposes to show it to raise money to assist local artists, he added.

Hispanics differ on test needs

A call for Hoboken's Hispanic community to make Hispanic residents aware of scheduled Civil Service tests for the fire department and help prepare them for the examination has met with a mixed reaction in the Spanish-speaking community.

The call, in a Tuesday editorial in The Jersey Journal, came in the wake of a federal suit against Hoboken for discriminating against minorities in its fire department. Only 1 of 123 firemen are Hispanic, the city's largest minority group, and none are black.

Justo delaTorre, a Hoboken realtor and municipal Court interpreter, said, "I think it's a very nice idea." He thought a group should be formed of Hispanic social and civic leaders, not only to help prepare residents to take the test, but to advise them about anything that would be good for them.

He said, however, he didn't know

of any such group presently existing that could do this.

On the other hand, Frank Durey, who is chairman of the bilingual department at Essex County College, said, "I do not like the editorial. The editorial subtly gives the reader the opinion that Hispanics cannot pass the civil service test."

Durey said that many of Hoboken Hispanics are too young to take the test. He said 60 percent of the Hispanic population is under 18. Another three or four years will see Hispanics becoming policemen and firemen here, he said.

Thomas Oliveri, a relocation officer for the city's Community Development Agency, said he favored a community effort to encourage Hispanics to take the test, but he said he felt the average Hispanic would not need coaching to pass the test.

Oliveri said the main beneficial function of such a group would be to combat the Hispanic community's "lack of awareness of what's going on."

Thomas Ayende, community organizer for the First Ward Block Association, agreed with Oliveri. "There are plenty of young guys out there who could take the test and pass it," he said. "They don't need help."

He said that there should be a community effort to recruit Hispanics to take the test. He said he didn't know of any Hoboken Hispanic agencies that could do this, but suggested Aspira and Comunidad Unida Nueva Accion (CUNA), which he said were based in Jersey City but also served Hoboken.

Jersey City's PACO also attempts to organize Hispanics to take the test countywide, he said.

The Civil Service Commission also should attempt to recruit Hispanics for the test through Spanish language papers, he said, which they don't do now.

Abraham Lao, an employee of the

board of education's bilingual program, said he thought federally funded agencies and not the community should be the ones to mount such a program.

He suggested the CETA or HOPES programs as two which could do it.

"We (the community) don't have any agency or organization that could take up such a task," he said.

Lao agreed with Ayende that the civil service commission does not make use of the Spanish media, so that the community is ignorant of when and where tests are given.

For the last test, given last year, former Hoboken board member Aurelio Lugo conducted a recruitment effort on his own to get Hispanics to take the test. Ayende said PACO also recruited in Hoboken, but that of four Hispanics who signed up to take the test, only one actually did.

Hoboken jail to start TV surveillance

By DIANE CURCIO

Following an incident in the Hoboken city jail yesterday in which a prisoner wounded himself and broke lighting and electrical fixtures, Public Safety Director James Giordano said the city would be installing a closed-circuit television system to monitor cell blocks.

Giordano said the \$400 system would probably be installed within several months. Currently, a policeman inspects the cell block every half hour. The electronic facility would allow the guard to

observe the entire jail, Giordano said. The director said a Hoboken firm demonstrated a model system several weeks ago.

Early yesterday morning, Ludwig Dorr, 30, who had just been arrested, broke a light bulb fixture and tore six feet of electrical tubing from the ceiling, backing out the south cell block, police said.

Less than two weeks ago a prisoner gouged one of his eyes out while being detained at the Hoboken jail.

In yesterday's episode, Dorr fractured a rib on his left side, bruised his chest and forehead, and cut his left forearm, police reported.

Dorr was arrested at 1:30 a.m. and charged with breaking and entering and larceny. Police said the suspect robbed a Hoboken real estate and law office located at 1208 Washington St. Dorr was seen coming from the offices, carrying two white envelopes addressed to Norman Sweeten, an occupant of the Hoboken office, police said.

After the incident in the cell, Dorr was also charged with malicious injury to city property.

He was treated at St. Mary Hospital for the injuries and detained for observation.

Dorr has been arrested more than 40 times since 1963, police said. Charges against him have included vandalism, auto theft, assault, attempted suicide, disorderly person, and impersonating a police officer.

A Hoboken love story

By JEFF BENKOE

The actress Amy Irving of Los Angeles, Hoboken was quaint. To Canadian-born actor Michael Ontkean, Hoboken was home. And the city, made famous by "On The Waterfront," became the emotional center for the movie "Voices," a story of love between an ambitious, aspiring singer, who struggles to lift himself out of an urban indifference, and a shy, sheltered deaf woman, who is afraid to face the challenge of dancing.

"Voices" is the first feature film to be shot in its entirety in New Jersey. Every street and interior shot was filmed in Hoboken, Jersey City, Bayonne, Rutherford, East Rutherford, Newark and Monmouth Race Track. And the movie certainly shows in realistic, and often complimentary, photography the streets of these towns.

The film represents a measure of success for the state's Motion Picture and Television Development Commission in luring the production of a major motion picture to New Jersey. Several have been filmed here for a day or week, but none in its entirety.

Ontkean is the type of actor who immerses himself in his character. After he won the role of Drew, he spent several weeks rehearsing with Ms. Irving in Los Angeles. Then he asked the producers to find him a place to live in Hoboken.

His background, personality and professional experience had not prepared him for the character of Drew, who faces the struggle of building a career as a singer, compounded by the conflicts of working and living with his younger brother, father and grandfather.

"What made Drew so inviting is that he's different," Ontkean says. "Drew is out there, exposed, his rhythm was fast. He is very generous...he extends himself, reaches out."

"There are big chunks of me that are very private and very internal," he continues. "and I spend a lot of time in Maine and write poetry. Show business is so crazy and hectic. I need something to balance that."

Ontkean, born in Vancouver into a theatrical family, divides his time between Los Angeles, where he keeps his hand in professionally, and an old, simple cabin in Maine near the ocean, which he shares with a girlfriend.

He's been to metropolitan areas in the U.S., but had never come across cities like Hoboken, Union City and Jersey City. "They're much more like small towns. They're closer knit," he says.



Michael Ontkean and Amy Irving fall in love in Hoboken.

In February 1978, he moved into a five-room apartment in a brownstone on Garden Street between 10th and 11th Streets in Hoboken, one block from Asen Cleaners, where several scenes were filmed.

Until filming began, no one, except for his neighbors in the brownstone, knew he was an actor living undercover.

Ontkean lived in the apartment until shooting ended in May.

He bought his fruit everyday, like many other neighborhood people, at a fruit and vegetable store on 10th Street. Ontkean also shopped at a health food store on Bergenline Avenue in Union City.

(Continued on page 26)



Michael Ontkean has a talk with his brother, played by Barry Miller, on a Hoboken street corner.



Asen Cleaners in Hoboken was used as the site for the Rothman family business in "Voices."

'Voices' beckons deep emotions of the viewer

By JEFF BENKOE

"Voices," a modern day fairy tale set in all places Hoboken, tries to add some dimension to its two main characters. But the incomplete way that their lives and struggles are treated makes the film too hard to digest emotionally.

Amy Irving plays Rosemary, a young, deaf woman from

New York, who teaches deaf children. Her secret ambition is to become a dancer. Michael Ontkean as Drew, lives with his brother, father, and grandfather in a brownstone, and is pushing for a career as a popular singer.

Drew's father, played by Alex Rocco, who had featured roles in "The Godfather," and "The Friends of Eddie Coyle," has a gambling habit that leads the family into financial straits.

Drew, the singer, sees Rosemary, the deaf teacher, while

he is recording a song in one of those five and dime booths, and she is making an identification medallion. They meet each other for the first time later at a bus stop. It is then that Drew discovers her deafness.

Naturally, they have problems talking to each other. And they have problems because Rosemary's mother, played by Viveca Lindfors, opposes her relationship with "this boy, who

works in his father's dry cleaning store, and wants to be a singer."

Their love and his career flourish as the story unfolds. Eventually, he convinces Rosemary, who is fearful her deafness will prevent her success, to audition for a dance troupe.

He promises to be there to support her as she auditions.

(Continued on page 26)

Tax break for Hoboken industry?

Hoboken industries that want to expand and new industries that want to build plants in the city can expect an inducement—a 100 per cent tax abatement on the expansion in the first year.

The City Council cleared the way for the abatement at its meeting yesterday by approving a resolution requesting that Joseph LaFante, head of the state Department of Community Affairs, certify "that the entire city of Hoboken is endangered by blight and in need of rehabilitation."

so that the city can qualify to give the abatements.

Councilman Robert Ranieri, a strong proponent of the abatement plan, explained that the "endangered by blight" certification is necessary under Chapter 12 of the state laws of 1977, which allow municipalities to abate taxes on industrial structures in areas in need of rehabilitation.

The entire city was included in the "endangered by blight" certification request because there are industries all over the city, Ranieri said, and "every area of town is still endangered by blight."

Ranieri said that the abatement of taxes on the expansions would be 100 per cent in the first year, and then 20 per cent less each successive year. After five years, industries would be paying the full amount, he said.

Hoboken advised against own census

By DIANE CURCIO

The federal Census Bureau discouraged Hoboken from conducting a local census this year, since the 1980 national tabulations will soon begin and render the Hoboken figures obsolete, said George Crimmins, city liaison officer with the federal census bureau.

Crimmins, Mayor Steve Cappiello and Business Administrator Edwin Chius outlined their proposals for a local census to the federal bureau in Washington on

Thursday. "They (census bureau) didn't say yes and they did not say no," Crimmins said.

The census bureau agreed to review the package presented, but Crimmins added that only three municipalities in recent years have received federal approval to measure their local populations.

Instead of the local census, which the federal officials said would be negated by the 1980 figures, the census bureau advised Hoboken to participate in the

3/10/79 H.D.

new local review program. Under the review program the cities can hold public education classes to ready the people for the poll. And the city can challenge the figures before they are officially accepted.

The city leaders challenge the 1977 federal census figures. The national population tolls estimate 38,551 persons in Hoboken.

Federal income records are a prime source for the national population estimate, Cappiello said. But the state Department of Labor and Industry measured the new construction in the city and subtracted the demolition numbers, bringing the estimate to 45,557.

After much "haggling," the federal bureau averaged their figures with the state estimates, Crimmins said. The adjusted Hoboken population estimate is 41,225.

If the true population differs from the census figures by a wide enough margin, the federal government will owe Hoboken a retroactive payment in revenue sharing funds, Cappiello said.

Crimmins said a door-to-door census covering a 90 block area can be accomplished by 13 Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) employees for \$30,000.

Should the government approve the local census, Hoboken must still weigh their decision to conduct the poll. Crimmins, who is also director of the CETA program, explained that the standard deviation is set at plus or minus 10 percent. For the Hoboken poll to be effective, the numbers must be 10 percent more than 41,225 or the federal government will strike the estimate.

Crimmins estimated the population at about 46,000, which is more than the 10 percent margin. But he said the "magic number" is 50,000. If the city's population were 50,000, it would receive more federal monies, he added.

Cappiello presses Jersey City to fix those water valves

Hoboken Mayor Steve Cappiello has renewed his demand that Jersey City fix two leaking water valves which Public Works Director Andrew Amato estimates are costing the city nearly \$500,000 a year.

Cappiello said he was calling on Jersey City Business Administrator Joseph Giorgio to make good on a month's old promise to fix the leaking valves, located at Observer Highway at the border between the two cities.

The mayor said he would also direct the city law department to seek a credit for the water lost from Jersey City.

Jersey City supplies Hoboken's water. The leaking valves are located just past the point where Jersey City measures how much water Hoboken is receiving.

Hoboken gets nod for battleship site

The Liberty National Park committee has endorsed Hoboken over Liberty State Park as the site for the home of the Battleship New Jersey.

It also plans a meeting with Rep. Frank Guarini to press its proposals to convert the park on the Jersey City waterfront into a national park joined with Ellis Island and Liberty Island.

John D. Murphy Jr., president of the St. Peter's College-based committee, said it has over 50 members, and last met several weeks ago to discuss Hoboken as a site for the battleship.

Murphy said it remains to be seen whether the ship could support itself as a tourist attraction and even whether the Navy would ever actually release the ship, now docked at Bremerton, Wash., from its reserve status for use as an historic museum.

If those problems are resolved, though, the committee said, the

Hoboken Erie-Lackawanna terminal would be the best site because it is a "transportation hub" easily accessible to the public.

The committee met with Alan Straten of the Hoboken Battleship Memorial Committee.

Murphy, a senior at the college, said the committee has sent its national park proposals to over 200 officials. Setting up a meeting with Guarini is one of its major projects now, he said. The commission last October opposed putting the battleship in the park.



COACH HONORED — For his outstanding coaching of the Hoboken High School track team, Jerry Smith has been awarded a certificate of merit from the city. Presenting the award to Smith, second from left are, from left, James Rongo, high school athletic director; Mayor Steve Cappiello, and James Farina, director of recreation for the city.