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Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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Landmarks group targets 4,000 businesses to help raise curtain on county arts center

In an effort to get the Union County business community to back the arts center project, Railway Landmarks has launched a direct mail campaign aimed at a select list of some 4,000 business, entrepreneurs and managers.

The mailing went out on Dec. 22, 1983.

It was hoped the spirit of holiday giving, the principal piece in the package being a letter from county manager Arthur J. Cris, conveying "an important message from your county manager on a rare opportunity to endow the county with an enduring gift."

Mr. Cris's letter went on to explain the "gift" is the old Railway Theater, restored for use as a county arts center.

"The arts center," he said, "can house the county's symphony orchestra and some 60 other performing groups that are seeking a home base. To this end, I have accepted the voluntary post of manager of a fund drive which will ultimately create the arts center our citizens so rightly deserve."

The letter pointed out if each of only 2,000 county businesses were to contribute as little as \$150, not only could the purchase be consummated, but there would be enough left over to begin restoration.

The theater, although more than 50 years old, is a solidly-built structure and of sufficient size and ap-

pointments to accommodate stage productions of all sorts.

The present owner's asking price is \$175,000, of which about \$16,000 has been raised so far.

Railway Landmarks, the non-profit organization that was formed specifically to save the theater, has until only Sunday, March 4, to raise the remaining funds, or it will lose its exclusive purchase option and the final \$15,000.

At a general membership meeting on Dec. 22 the officers and active members of the Landmarks group were treated to a presentation fund-raising strategy by a group of Union professors from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

The lecture, which took place at the Columbian School on New Brunswick Ave., Rahway, was the culmination of a special assignment the students undertook for Dr. Hugo Taliaferro's public relations and advertising course. It was prepared specifically for the county arts center project.

The five Rutgers students, Adam Pawler, Barbara White, Jackie Tryzyna, Laurie Corral and Sheila Sammons, prepared a 95-page written report in addition to the flip-chart presentation.

Based on research which included a list of 100 local theaters and hundreds of other social activities, the students recommended that the county arts center be a broad-based, multi-

mail campaign, a high school "drama" group, tours of the theater and a benefit dinner.

They also suggested the greater involvement of local youth in the project, through the medium of a benefit rock concert.

This could be balanced, they said, by the benefits of greater access to the adult community. A "Golden Oldies" night was specifically mentioned.

The group acknowledged a lack of volunteerism and of public awareness as chief deterrents to the Landmarks' progress to date. Although a list of the theater's past and potential sponsors was included, it was noted that the county arts center is a non-profit organization and that the county is not a potential sponsor.

County businesses mentioned above, others were judged to be quite original and worthy of serious consideration.

An honest admiration for what seemed a very professional effort on the part of the students was evident at the meeting, reports a Landmarks spokesman.

Students in an earlier class of Dr. Taliaferro prepared a flip-chart presentation for the Landmarks' use in approaching prospective funding sources. It is in the process of being converted to slides.

Besides having to raise an additional \$159,000 for outright purchase of the old theater, assuming the acquisition is successful an additional, and even greater sum will then have to be raised for complete restoration, the spokesman con-



FRANCIS CONTRIBUTION: The Rev. Francis J. ... the pastor of St. Mark's R. C. Church in Rahway, presents a donation check to ... the president of Railway Landmarks Inc. ...

Workshop opens eyes to drug abuse

In a recent attempt to make teachers more aware of substance abuse the staff members at Clark's Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School and Keelworth's David Breyer Regional High School of the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 met for an in-service workshop conducted by staffers of The Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center of Summit.

At the pre-Christmas workshop at Johnson some 175 teachers heard center director Barbara Ball describe the symptoms and circumstances surrounding the abuse.

Often the "drop-out syndrome" occurs over a long period, according to the director, so parents and friends of an abuser may

not be totally aware of what is happening.

"Symptoms of a child who is chemically dependent can often be confused with normal adolescent problems of growing up," said the director. "But of the 93% of kids who try drugs or alcohol, 12 to 15% have a serious problem. It's not just a school problem but a community problem."

The treatment center representative spoke at the in-service session in hopes of eliciting a positive response from teachers. The teachers were asked to voluntarily fill out and return a referral form for each student suspected of substance abuse. The referrals would then be submitted to a "key committee" of staff members for further study and evaluation.

If a student is suspected of having a genuine problem, it will then be the responsibility of the director of the committee to advise and counsel the parents to seek professional help. The teacher who indicated the referral will be kept anonymous and at no time during the process will the student be involved. Teachers assisting parents to seek help will be the major priority.

Barbara Ball said the teachers are the best opportunity in the world of potential problems.

The teachers then heard testimony from a parent whose teenager underwent treatment and then became someone who had been a

Admitted one, "I had to want the help myself before I could be helped." But family participation is almost essential to the rehabilitation success.

Speakers throughout most of the presentation many teachers agreed at the conclusion to become part of the procedure. It was clear they were keenly concerned not only for the academic but also for the personal welfare of the teens, reports a school spokeswoman.



PROVEING THE SPIRIT - For Clark's Pee Wee Pop Warner Football Team to win the championship were the members of the team's cheerleading squad.

FBI graduates Frank G. DeSanto

A Clark resident who is a captain on the Hillside Police Dept., Frank G. DeSanto of Coldevin Rd., was among the law-enforcement officers graduated from the 135th session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, Va. on Dec. 16, 1983.

A 1957 graduate of Hillside Regional High School, Capt. DeSanto received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in 1973.

He is married to Mrs. Barbara DeSanto and they have two children, Dawn and Dawn.

president of the National Sheriffs Assn., located in Washington, D. C.

The class of 250 officers was represented by the elected class spokesman, Bruce Austin, the senior criminal investigator for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.

The ceremonies concluded the 11 weeks of management-oriented training for the officers who represent 48 of the states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, 11 foreign countries, five United States military organizations and four federal civilian agencies.

Council announces 1984 meetings

The next executive meeting of the Clark Township Council will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 9, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Westfield Ave. The Council's next regular meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Tuesday, Feb. 21
March 19
April 16
May 21
June 18
July 16
Aug. 20
Oct. 17
Nov. 19
Dec. 17

Executive meetings for 1984 follow: Executive meetings will be held at 8 p.m. on the following dates:

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Feb. 6
March 5
April 2
May 7
June 4
July 2
Aug. 6
Executive, Sept. 4
Nov. 5
Dec. 12