

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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Salary equity dispute threatens Hyatt future

By R.R. Faszczewski
Although the Hyatt Clark Industries board of directors has cleared the way for more of a worker voice in the operation of the company-owned automotive parts manufacturing operation, salary negotiations are still a stumbling block in a pact which could help save the township plant from going out of business, according to an official of Local No. 736 of the United Auto Workers, which represents 1,250 to 1,300 employees at the Clark facility.

James Zarelli told The Clark Patriot last Friday the board recently agreed to a corporation council and a workers council, which could give the employees more of a say in the operation of the unique company.

However, Mr. Zarelli added, unless the board of directors agrees to make the salary-increase setup for hourly employees more equitable with the setup for salaried workers, a contract settlement will not be able to be reached.

The shop chairman pointed out his local members are willing to accept what the board of directors has called its final offer about a \$1,000 per year raise over a three-year contract, if the 200 or so salaried employees, who are not members of the United Auto Workers, get a flat salary increase equivalent to the approximate 30 cents per hour raise proposed in the firm's final offer.

Although Hyatt-Clark officials in April, reportedly after forecasting a \$5 million profit for 1984, voted down the profit sharing to use profits to pay off debts and purchase new equipment, Mr. Zarelli said he projects no profit this year.

The union leader did say however the lack of efficiency and slowed production which have contributed to the dismal profit picture could be turned around if the wage earners' morale is boosted by a more equitable agreement on salary increases.

He added if the General Motors agreement is not renewed it would almost certainly mean the facility would have to shut down, since none of the other parts purchasers could possibly make up the huge volume of sales which goes to the nation's No. 1 automaker.

Hyatt-Clark, which was a part of the New Departure Hyatt Roller Bearings Division of General Motors until 1981, has an 83-year history.

It was decided in 1981 because General Motors was getting away from the use of the tapered roller bearings produced in Clark, which were mostly from wheel drive cars it would put the township facility up for sale.

He said up to now salaried workers have been getting increases based on a percentage of the aggregate of the total amount of salaries paid, which has put them way ahead of the hourly workers in terms of increases.

Mr. Zarelli estimated the difference at a \$2,000 per year increase for wage earners while salary earners were getting a \$6,000-per-year boost.

Meanwhile, Hyatt Clark, once a subsidiary of General Motors Corp. until it was taken over by the workers on Oct. 30, 1981, is seeking renewal of a multi-million-dollar agreement under which General Motors purchases about 85 percent of the roller bearings produced at the facility.

General Motors officials have warned that contract will be terminated unless a new pact, which has no lockout clause in it, is signed by Saturday, Dec. 15.

Mr. Zarelli told The Clark Patriot the union considers the General Motors statement serious and his group is willing to go along with the provisions of the pact as long as the board of directors can come to an accord on the salary increases with the hourly workers.

Under a previous contract employees were given 10 percent of net profits up to \$50,000 and up to 30 percent of everything over \$2 million in a profit-sharing agreement.

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After several months of negotiating the new employee-hold firm was set up with a board made up of representatives of the workers and the attorney who helped set up the new company under an employee stock ownership purchase plan.

Because of the critical need for additional manufacturing space in 1942 General Motors offered what was then Hyatt its Inland Manufacturing Division plant in Clark.

The plant, which had been set up for the manufacture of rubber

automobile parts, had massive rollers, extruding and mixing machines and hundreds of feet of hydraulic line conveyors and partitions removed to make room for new bearing-producing machinery. All the material was removed within six weeks.

Seven months after Hyatt took over the plant the new equipment was installed and the first bearings were on their way to help the World War II effort.

Originally Hyatt set up the Clark plant to produce aircraft engine bearings and by the end of the war it was

one of the largest producers of these products in the world.

With the drastic drop in the need for aircraft bearings after the war the township facility was converted to the production of high-volume tapered bearings for passenger cars and diesel locomotives.

Because the Clark plant's highly-automated material-handling systems were more adaptable to high-volume manufacturing than a multiple-story Hyatt com-

plex in Harrison it was expanded even more.

Roller bearings for freight cars developed into a high-volume business line. This line was set up in the township plant along with diesel-locomotive and passenger-car lines.

Although General Motors has gotten away from the use of tapered roller bearings changes in the manufacturing process in Clark recently along with orders from other automobile firms and other industries have kept Hyatt-Clark going at a pretty steady pace up to now.

Legislators offer new officials Trenton's hand

By R.R. Faszczewski
Newly-elected officials from municipalities, including Mayor-elect George Nucera and Councilman-at-Large Fred Eckel of Clark, and the two counties, Union and Essex, in the 22nd Legislative District Friday got a run down of exactly what to expect—and what not to expect—from their legislators at a breakfast sponsored for the second consecutive year by Assemblyman Bob Franks.

Citing the surplus in the state budget and waste disposal as two of the major issues confronting New Jersey, Assemblyman Franks pointed out thanks to the urging of officials from Berkeley Heights, which recently experienced a potentially harmful waste spill, a law he co-sponsored, which gives local officials the right to be notified when a spill happens in their municipalities, was due to be signed by Gov. Thomas Kean Friday.

The assemblyman added another bill would stop discrimination against the poor and the elderly in nursing homes by eliminating private-pay contracts for nursing home patients covered under Medicaid.

He noted \$12 million in state funds have been appropriated to allow the Medicaid patients to be admitted.

Another accomplishment cited by the lawmaker, which, he said, was brought about because of notification from local officials, was over \$2 million in aid recently given to state libraries because it was pointed out money in unexpended school aid was lying dormant in local budgets because state law had forbidden its expenditure, despite the fact it had never been used.

Responding to a question about the use of the surplus to have the state assume the costs of the county court system, the legislator said the local officials would have to realize state government would have to pay that cost in years when the budget did not have a surplus as well as this year, when it does.

Assemblyman Franks, responding to a question from Councilman Robert Vignelli of Mountainside about the state setting up an annuity of the surplus so it could be spread over a number of years, said a so-called "rainy-day fund" has been proposed.

On solid waste disposal the lawmaker said a state-wide solid waste siting committee may be needed to decide where resource-recovery plants should be located.

Union County Freemaker Edward Stomkowski said an education process is needed to help local residents understand what all the implications of resource recovery are.

Rep. Rinaldo added tax reforms does not necessarily mean a tax cut and one of the biggest problems to be faced is everyone says to cut programs relating to someone else.

He said stopping the tax exemption for municipal bonds would hurt local financing of indebtedness and problems with mass transit and solid waste could occur if those areas were cut too drastically.

The legislator said he was more in favor of a freeze on spending, the creation of enterprise zones to encourage economic growth and the attacking of the "underground economy" by catching up with tax evaders.

He pointed out the Internal Revenue Service had a \$100 billion shortfall this year and would have a \$110 billion shortfall next year because of taxes not paid.

The Grace Commission's recommendation to reduce spending through the greater use of computerization in the federal government was applauded by the Congressional representative.

He also said the plan proposed by Treasury Secretary Donald Regan to reform the tax system "is not set in cement" and would probably be changed considerably by the time it got through Congress.

The lawmaker concluded by saying no pure flat tax, where everyone would pay the same rate of income tax with no deductions allowed, had seriously been considered because it was unfair and a modified tax structure with varying rates would probably eventually be decided on.

One of the areas where local officials can help the state legislature, according to Sen. Donald T. DiFrancesco, who also represents Clark at the state level, was by expressing their feelings on proposals before the state body such as the one which recently failed in the Senate which would have allowed a "CAPS" exemption for the purchase of police cars.

He said there were feelings both for and against the issue which could have



SUPER ARTIST...Union County Freeholder Edward J. Stomkowski, left, presents a certificate of achievement to Darren Smith of Valley Road School of Clark, a winner in the Union County Drug Poster Contest. Looking on is Anita Pesko, a member of the Union County Narcotics Advisory Board.

Souvenir book relives theatre history

To help finance restoration of the old Rahway Theatre on Irving St., Rahway Landmarks Inc. (RLI) is publishing a souvenir history book on the theatre, which opened in 1928 as an elegant showcase for vaudeville and first-run movies.

The non-profit RLI acquired the theatre in September and has contracted with the Conrad Schmitt Studios of New Berlin, Wis. to restore it to its original elegance for reopening as a county arts center, reports a spokesman.

The 50-page illustrated book, authored and designed by Daniel M. Costigan, a professional writer and

RLI's voluntary publicity director, will sell for \$3.95 a copy.

"While it is primarily the history of one theatre," says Mr. Costigan, "it will evoke fond memories of a whole exciting era when theatres were sumptuous palaces in which, for a few cents admission, patrons were magically transported to delightful fantasy worlds."

Besides three published over 70 illustrations, some of them representing rare "coffee table book." It has over 70 illustrations, some of them representing rare "coffee table book." It has over 70 illustrations, some of them representing rare

Besides three published hard-cover books on special technical subjects, Mr. Costigan has had articles published in "Road & Track," "Medical Times,"

"Popular Electronics," and various other newsstand and trade periodicals.

His writing career spans nearly 30 years, during which he has also been gainfully employed in communications technology.

RLI is accepting mail orders for the book, which it hopes to begin delivering in time for the holidays.

Anyone interested may mail a check for \$3.95 to Rahway Landmarks Inc., Post Office Box 755-D, Rahway N.J. 07065. For additional information, interested parties may telephone RLI at 736-7769.

Publication of the book, entitled "ENCORE: For a Worthy Performer," will consist of a first printing of 3,000 copies.

BETTER SAFE SCHOOLS IN-DRIVE CAREFULLY



ANCIENT WORLD REVISITED... Parent Visitation Day at the Carl Kumpf School in Clark brought many parents to the mini-museum developed by sixth grade students in Mrs. Elsa Dreyfus' social studies classes. Students recreated ancient artifacts of the Egyptian, Sumerian, Phoenician and Hebrew cultures and presented their projects to the visitors. An array of mummies, masks, tablets, pyramids, and chariots adorned the room. Looking over the mini-museum exhibits, shown, left to right, are: Curt Grausa, Lee Cohen, Mrs. Perette Doss, an invited guest of Lee Cohen who spoke to the class about life in her former homeland, Egypt, Brian Montgomery and his mother, Mrs. Linda Montgomery.

Papers set holiday deadlines

The offices of the Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will be closed on Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24, Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 1984, New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31, 1984, and New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1985.

In order for our staff to enjoy the holidays THE DEADLINE FOR THE THURSDAY, DEC. 27 ISSUES OF THE NEWSPAPERS WILL BE 5 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19, AND THAT FOR THE THURSDAY, JAN. 3, 1985 ISSUES WILL BE 5 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26, 1984.

ALL COPY RECEIVED AFTER THESE DEADLINES BY THE EDITOR, AT 219 CENTRAL AVE., RAHWAY, WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE TRANSFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE FOLLOWING WEEK'S ISSUES.

Clark sets budget hearings

Public hearings will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 18, by the Clark Dept. of Administration for all department heads concerning the Township's 1985 proposed budget.

SHOP LOCAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS

