

Clark Patriot

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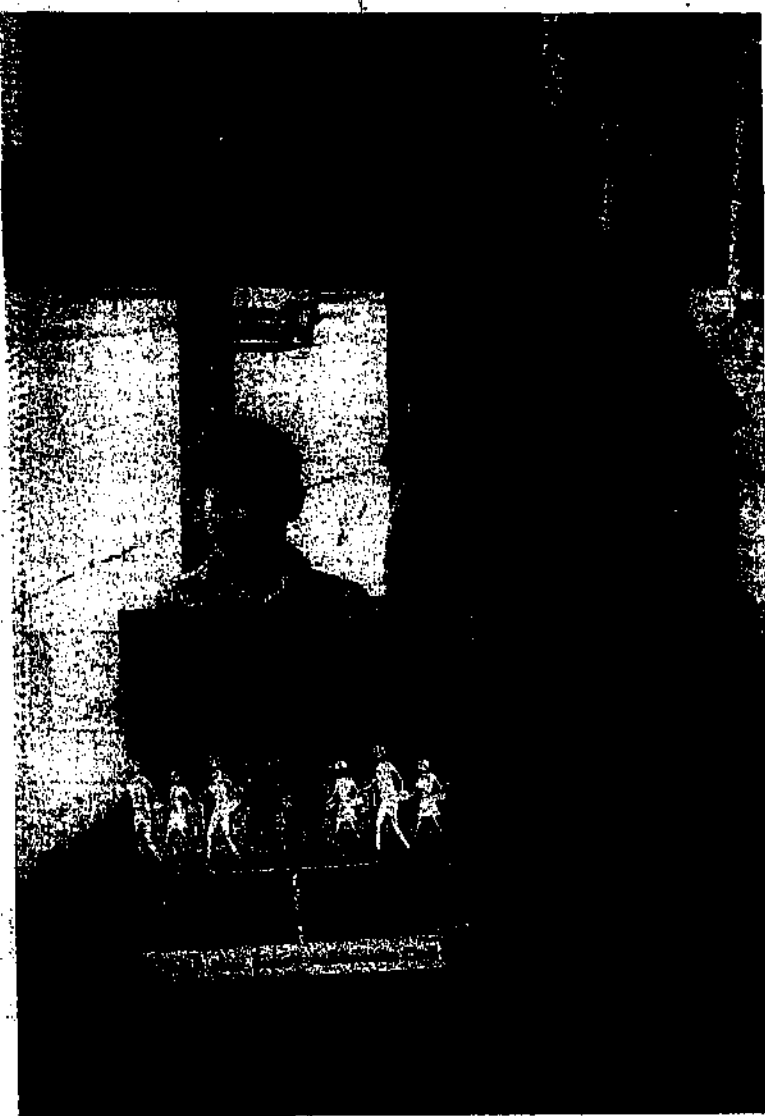
'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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SAFETY'S UP TO YOU . . . Morris Township Police Officer John McGuinness reviews New Jersey Automobile Club school zone safety guidelines with Louis and Steven Corlino at a Speedwell Ave. crossing in front of Vall School in Morris Plains. American Automobile Assn. "School's Open - Drive Carefully" posters, teaching guides and other instructional materials are being distributed to area schools and police departments by the club's safety department from its offices in Florham Park and Springfield.

Auto club: School's open drive carefully

"September may not be the beginning of the calendar year, but it is the beginning of a new school year and an appropriate time for motorists to make resolutions regarding their driving habits," advises Matthew J. Derham, president of the American Automobile Assn.'s (AAA) New Jersey Automobile Club, in announcing the 1985 "School's Open - Drive Carefully" campaign.

Supporting the association's annual effort to promote conscientious driving at the summertime ends, Mr. Derham quoted the latest available statistics, and revealed over 1,500 child pedestrians under 15 years of age were killed in motor vehicle accidents during 1983.

"Thousands more children were injured, some seriously," the AAA spokesman pointed out. "Traffic accidents are always a tragic occurrence, especially when children are involved."

He urged motorists to be particularly alert in areas designated by school zone and school crossing signs and along routes normally used by children.

"Almost 1.5 million pieces conveying the 'School's Open - Drive Carefully' message are distributed nationally by AAA clubs.

The New Jersey Automobile Club is distributing safety posters and bumper stickers to 85 municipal police departments.

In addition, "Out of the Auto" safety stories and teacher's guides are being distributed to 680 elementary and junior high schools in Essex, Morris and Union Counties. The club also assists school officials, parents and police in utilizing the AAA "Safest Route to School" project to help children develop safe walking habits.

Mr. Derham said schools, parents, police and safety patrols can and do play a large part in the traffic safety education of youngsters.

"Children returning to school, and particularly those enrolling for the first time, need help in understanding, remembering and following the safety rules of their school and community. Self reliance in traffic situations is the key," he explained.

"Through the AAA-sponsored school safety patrols, Mr. Derham believes children are provided with a positive lead to follow within the immediate school vicinity.

"However," he cautions, "patrols, parents, police and school officials cannot do the job alone. They need

the co-operation of drivers to ensure a safe pedestrian environment. Driver vigilance in school-zone areas and around bus stops can pave the way for a safe and successful new school year."

Careful drivers never know when they save their own lives.

Deborah Dente cited for studies

A Clark student, Deborah A. Dente, received her bachelor of science degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University on Saturday, May 25 at the Brendan Byrne Arena in Rutherford.

Lions test eyes, ears, blood at celebration

As part of the "Pride in Clark Day" celebration the Lions Club of Clark will offer free eye, hearing and blood pressure testing. The Lions Eye/Ear/Mobile will be located at the Charles H. Brewer School field on Sunday, Sept. 8 between 2 and 6 p.m.

The Clark Lions will be conducting a membership drive at this time and will have an information table on site.

Busing policy may bring legal action

By R.R. Faszczewski
The safety of school children versus state school busing regulations — these may be the two sides of a dispute which could lead to a lawsuit against township or Board of Education officials.

A Clark couple, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lanigan of 15 Ginesi Dr., told the elementary Board of Education, in effect, at its Aug. 27 session unless their daughter, who is in the first grade at Frank K. Hehly School on Eastian Rd., is allowed to ride a school bus they will pursue legal action to ensure her safety.

The dispute centers around part of the state school administrative code which says local school boards will not be reimbursed for transportation provided to students who live less than two miles from school.

Clark's elementary school district, however, has a "courtesy bus" system under which it provides transportation at its own cost for kindergarten students who live a half mile or more from their school and for first and second graders who live a mile or more from school.

The state regulation is applied to third to eighth graders.

The state law also provides that the distance must be measured from the front door of the school to the front door of the student's home.

The differences between the Lanigans and the Board of Education arose over the system for measuring the distance.

According to school business administrator, H. Edward Flanagan, who has measured the distance from door to door at least twice, including once last Thursday after the Lanigans had brought their complaint to the school body for the second time in three months, the Lanigans live less than a mile from the school.

Therefore, their daughter is not entitled to the transportation.

However, when the Lanigans do the measuring they consider the fact school children are taught to cross the street only where there is a school crossing guard, and this makes the distance to the school from 30 to 60 feet more than a mile.

Mrs. Diane Lanigan told the education body on Aug. 27 if her daughter is to take the shortest route to the school, which involves walking down Madison Hill Rd. to Raritan Rd., she will be forced to cross three busy intersections without the benefit of a crossing guard.

Although the Lanigans acknowledge the fact the state law does say the measurement should be done door to door, they also think the safety of the children should be taken into consideration when determining the routes.

The township is reportedly preparing a request for a traffic light to be put up at the corner of Raritan and Madison Hill Rds., which would make it safer for a crossing guard to bring children across the busy intersection.

As to the busing situation, that will probably not be resolved at least until the end of this month, the earliest the Board could take formal action at a regular meeting, according to Mr. Flanagan.

Although the administrator said he could sympathize with the plight of the parents, he noted the Board probably couldn't do much about it without opening up a flood of requests for exceptions to its policy and the state code.

travel it are a danger to students crossing the road.

Mr. Faria replied the school district had no control over safety on the streets in the township such as providing more crossing guards or safer places for students to walk — this was up to the police department and the township's administration and Governing Body.

He did, however, instruct Mr. Flanagan to write a letter to township officials about the safety aspects of the situation and to go out again and measure the route with two members of the Board and Mrs. Lanigan — which he did last Thursday accompanied by Mr. Faria and school body member, Toby D'Ambola.

However, after being contacted by The Clark Patriot on Thursday both Mr. Flanagan and Mrs. Lanigan reported their interpretations of the measurements remained the same.

There is at least one hope for improvement of the safety conditions for the students, however.

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In other action, the school body:

—Accepted a \$73,877 bid from Tami-Githens, Inc. of Woodbridge for the installation of a new boiler at Hehly School.

—Approved the addition of a part-time kindergarten teacher at Valley Road School to teach an additional class made necessary by the district's registering two more students than it expected at the end of the last school year.

—Introduced a policy on the detection of missing or abused children which would require the school attendance officer to telephone parents of students absent from school one day when no information about the absence was known and to notify local police of a possible missing child on the second consecutive day of absence with no explanation.

—Adopted on first reading a procedure to be followed in medical emergencies related to athletic activities.

—Abolished one position under a federally-funded program for compensatory education because of a recent court ruling that teachers whose positions in compensatory education are funded by the federal government cannot instruct in parochial schools.

—Reduced an application for funding under the Federal Education for Economic Security Act for science and mathematics instruction from \$1,445 to \$1,309.32 because the profit-making Featherbed Lane School was not eligible for the funding.

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Reception to honor new superintendent

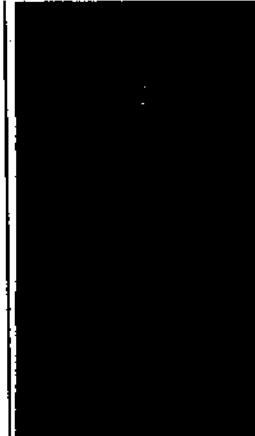
A community-wide reception to welcome Dr. Paul J. Ortenzio, the new superintendent of the Clark public schools, will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carl H. Kumpf School.

Thomas Faria, president of the Clark Board of Education, extended an invitation to everyone in the Clark community.

Dr. Ortenzio assumed the leadership of the Clark elementary schools on July 1. He served as superintendent of schools in North Haledon for five years before coming to Clark. He also served as acting superintendent and school principal in that district.

Dr. Ortenzio taught in the Woodbridge Township schools at every grade level. He taught all the elementary grades including kindergarten as well as language arts and social studies in the junior and senior high schools.

A graduate of the University of Dayton, the new superintendent earned a master of arts degree at Kean College of New Jersey in Union and a doctorate in education at Rutgers University. He was on the education faculty at the



Dr. Paul J. Ortenzio

graduate school of education at Rutgers for four years.

Dr. Ortenzio resides in Fords with his wife and three children.

He is eager to meet with the residents of Clark.

"I want to meet the township officials, parents of school children and interested citizens to set lines of communication for future meetings where the aspirations for our schools will be discussed," Dr. Ortenzio noted.

Hopefuls told release dates

ATTENTION: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE TUESDAY, NOV. 5, GENERAL ELECTION AND THOSE WISHING TO COMMENT ON CANDIDATES AND ISSUES.

The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will publish their pre-election advance issues on THURSDAY, OCT. 31.

All biographies and/or pictures of the candidates which they would like to appear in the advance issues should be in the hands of the editor at 219 Central Ave., Rahway, N.J. 07065 NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, OCT. 24 AT 5 P.M.

FURTHERMORE, ALL CANDIDATES OR THOSE WRITING ABOUT ELECTION CONTROVERSIES WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO ONE-AND-A-HALF PAGE SUBMISSIONS, TYPED

AND TRIPLE SPACED — PER WEEK — DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

In order to give candidates a chance to respond to any charges made by opponents NO CHARGES WILL BE ACCEPTED LATER THAN 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY, OCT. 17 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OCT. 24 EDITION.

EACH PIECE OF ELECTION-RELATED COPY SUBMITTED MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PROPERLY NOTARIZED FIDAVIT. THESE ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PAPERS OFFICES.

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTION TO THE DEADLINES. IN THE CASE OF AN ELECTION CANCELLATION THE EDITOR WILL DECIDE WHICH DEADLINES TO IMPOSE AND WHICH MATERIAL TO USE.



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAY

Clark's own hometown newspaper, The Clark Patriot, is 20 years young this year and the paper plans to celebrate in real style.

We are looking for stories, photographs, proclamations or historical pieces about the newspaper and the township and we are asking our readers to help make this a banner year for the only newspaper Clark can really call its own.

A special anniversary edition will be published in October.

If you have any contributions please send them to: ANNIVERSARY ISSUE, EDITOR, THE CLARK PATRIOT, POST OFFICE BOX 1061, RAHWAY, N.J. 07065 or drop them off at the office at 219 CENTRAL AVE., RAHWAY FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

Patriot mail
Now at Brewer
The Clark Patriot makes mail pickups at the Clark Municipal Building on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Since the municipal government has moved its offices to the former Charles H. Brewer School on Westfield Ave., across the street from the former municipal building, a mail slot has been provided for the newspaper at that facility.

THE THREE CLARK PATRIOT PICKUPS OF ANY MATERIAL TO GO INTO THE NEWSPAPER OR ANY COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE STAFF OF THE PAPER WILL BE MADE AT THE SCHOOL ONLY. THERE WILL BE NO MORE PICKUPS AT THE CLARK POLICE HEADQUARTERS OR THE FORMER MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

ALL ABOARD . . . Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Puocelli of 191 Westfield Ave., Clark are shown on the deck of the new luxury liner, "M.V. Atlantic," just before sailing from the Isle of Manhattan to the sunny Isle of Bermuda on a week's holiday cruise. They are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary during the cruise.