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Clark Youth Aid Bureau "steers kids straight"

by Pat DiMaggio

When Anthony T. Smar was appointed Chief of Police in Clark he made several changes and additions to the Police Department. One change was to create a traffic bureau, another was to add to the Detective Division and one was to institute the Youth Aid Bureau.

Detective Michael E. Kuch has been with the Clark Youth Aid Bureau for 16 years, a total of 26 years with the Police Department, and is known as a pioneer in the field. "At that time juvenile crime was quite high in Clark as well as nationwide," said Kuch. "I was involved in Pop Warner and Little League and the Chief knew I was interested in kids. I went around to other towns to see how they operated and they were all different. My philosophy was that I

would treat all kids like I would like my own kids to be treated."

The Youth Aid Bureau investigates all police matters relating to anyone under the age of 18. The police officers will offer counseling and will try to guide the kids along by helping them out in any police-related matter. They will also try to "steer them straight." "We are active in the Lifers Group at Rahway Prison," explained Kuch. "We bring kids down there to show them what it's like to be in a prison. If they're going to lead a life of crime, this is how they're going to end up."

Mike will retire in November and he feels he is leaving the department in good hands. Detective Robert L. Clark has been with the Youth Aid Bureau since 1980 and has been on the Police Department for 17



SHAPING THE FUTURE... Det. Mike Kuch and Det. Bob Clark of the Youth Aid Bureau of Clark (l-r) help juveniles in Clark Township "steer straight" when they become involved in police-related matters.

years. "Bob has a good relationship with the kids," said Kuch. "He is involved right now with a boy who is a runaway, he's had a lot of family problems. Here it is 10 a.m. and Bob's not due in until 3 p.m., but he has a personal interest in this kid."

He will use his own time to take the boy down to Borden town. This is the kind of dedication we see in this division."

Bob Clark would like to see more programs implemented for the kids. "Mike and I are working very closely now with the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ortenzio, to establish new programs for the kids at school, to try to reach them," said Clark. "We have been in touch with other Youth Aid Bureaus throughout the county and in other counties to see what new programs are being initiated. We are trying

to find something that will suit the kids in our town."

One addition that has added to the overall quality of the Youth Aid Bureau is the National Crime Information Center computer. Mike also pointed to the high caliber of young patrolmen now coming on the job. "A lot of the young superior officers are really sharp," said Kuch. "It makes you feel good to know that they're going to be around. When I leave I feel the department will be in good shape because of people like Bob. The people of Clark should feel confident that the Police Department is in good shape."

"The youth of any municipality is the future of the country," explained Clark. "If you really care you want to see them grow up to be good citizens. And the way to do it is to have the right kind of communication with them."



JUNIORS SUPPORT POISON PREVENTION WEEK... Mayor George G. Nucera of Clark and Mrs. Andrea Twombly, President of the GFWC Railway Area Junior Woman's Club met to proclaim the week of March 16 through March 22 as Poison Prevention Week.

March 16-22 proclaimed Poison Prevention Week

Over the past 25 years, the nation has been observing Poison Prevention Week to call attention to the many hazards and tragedies that occur when products such as cleaning aids, medicines and other solvents fall into the hands of innocent children, a spokesperson reports.

Thirty-six percent of accidental poisonings are attributed to young children taking their grandparents' medications. The juniors have helped to sponsor Brownies troops in Clark, Colonia and Edison in a campaign to make the public aware of this, through poster contests.

The Railway Area Junior Woman's Club joins with Mayor Nucera in strongly urging adults to become more aware of the safeguards necessary to be taken to prevent accidental poisonings.

**POISON HOTLINE
1-800-962-1253**

B'nai B'rith to honor Peckman and Schisler



Bernard Peckman
"Citizen of the Year"



Ellen Schisler
Junior Citizen Award

Clark B'nai B'rith, Lodge number 2882, President Alan Krebs, and B'nai B'rith Women, Tov Chapter, President Rayna Warner, announces that on Sunday, March 16 at 8 p.m. the annual "B'nai B'rith Citizen of the Year" award for 1986 will be presented to Mr. Bernard Peckman, an outstanding Clark citizen.

The Clark B'nai B'rith Junior Citizen of the Year award will be presented to Ellen Schisler, a senior at

Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark. The award ceremonies will be held at Temple Beth O'r, 111 Valley Road, Clark.

Art Kovar is the chairman of the program. The guest speaker will be Stanley John Abrams, current Executive Director, B'nai B'rith District Three, which encompasses Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Rates set for Clark pool

Rates for the 1986 Municipal Swimming Pool were set by the Clark Swimming Pool Utility. Memberships are as follows: family, \$210 resident, \$240 non-resident; husband and wife, \$180 resident, \$200 non-resident; parent and child, \$180 resident, \$200 non-resident; individual, \$110 resident, \$125 non-resident; senior citizen (62 by June 1), \$50 resident, \$60 non-resident; and late fee (after June 1) \$10.

Other fees include: swim lessons with Red Cross registration, \$7; swim team, \$5; lost I.D. cards, \$3; Senior Life plus Red Cross registration fee, \$15; guest fees, weekday, \$3 and holidays and weekend, \$5.

Pool parties, per person are, adult member \$3, and guest, \$4; "Teeny boppers," member \$1, and guest, \$2; Movie night, member \$1, and guest, \$2; and Family Night is free.

A contract for the operation and maintenance of the food concession stand for a two-season period was awarded to Associated Concepts Concessionaires, Inc., Mountainside, the highest bidder at \$5,200 for the 1986 season, and \$5,600 for 1987, subject to execution

of the contract to be prepared by the attorney for the Clark Swimming Pool Utility.

Appointed, at no additional compensation, to the Community Pool for 1986 were Frank E. Suplee, Auditor; Joseph J. Monaco, Purchasing Authority; and Jeanne Decker, Treasurer.

Also appointed, compensation provided for in the 1986 Swimming Pool Utility Budget were Max Schloff, Attorney; Thomas Paduano, Pool Director; Charlotte Liotine, Budget Control; and Catherine Clancy, Membership Control.

Recycling Coordinator needed in Township

Mayor George G. Nucera is looking for a dedicated Clark resident to assume the responsibility as Township Recycling Coordinator.

The Coordinator, which is a non-paid, voluntary position, will be responsible for the conduct of the township recycling program.

Anyone interested can call the Business Administrator at 388-3600 for an appointment.



Sandra K. Jones

Clark Library appoints director

The Clark Public Library Board of Trustees has announced the appointment of Sandra K. Jones as Director for the Township.

Sandra comes to the library with over seventeen years of library background, ranging from school systems, Baker & Taylor Company, and Franklin Township and Hillsborough Public Libraries where she served as reference librarian. She received her Masters in Library Science from Rutgers and has participated in the Continuing Education program for computer related coursework. Sandra is active in the New Jersey Library Association's Reference division, serving as president in 1985.

She is married to Barry Q. Jones, technical writer of Somerset Editorial Associates of Somerset. They have two sons, Daniel and Owen.

Mrs. Jones is involved in the League of Women Voters.

Accept the Challenge to Become



ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS... Diana Kielczynski, center, and Jennifer Silco, right, are pictured receiving \$50 savings bonds from Sister Donna Marie, principal of St. John the Apostle School in Clark for winning an essay contest sponsored by the Linden Knights of Columbus. The theme of the contest was The Statue of Liberty. Nala Augustyn, language arts instructor, brought the contest to the attention of her students. Diana, an 8th grade student, is a resident of Clark; and Jennifer, a 7th grade student, is a resident of Rahway.



CLARK CHAPTER 3733 AARP TO HONOR VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR... Mr. and Mrs. William Langstaff, seen above, will be honored at the AARP meeting to be held on March 14 at 1 p.m. at the Brewer School Center, Westfield Ave., Clark. Their selection has been forwarded to the National AARP as part of a nationwide recognition of volunteers. April 1986 has been designated as Volunteer Month and homage will be made to all those persons serving their communities by giving of themselves in helping others. Mr. and Mrs. Langstaff organized, collected and distributed the Holiday Gift Project wherein articles of personal care were given to area hospitals, geriatric centers and nursing homes. A survey of participation in area wide volunteer services by members of Clark Chapter #3733 is being conducted by Dorothy Flynn, Secretary.

Clark FIRE DEPARTMENT SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Clark Volunteer Fire Department is accepting applications for new members. Any township resident interested can obtain an application any Thursday evening between 7 and 9 p.m. or on any Sunday morning between 9 and 12 at Fire Headquarters located on Broadway.

Requirements: A good driving record, between 18 and 40 years of age and residing in the Township of Clark.



NEW DETECTIVES... A recent scene at a Clark ceremony, to present gold detective badges to new detectives. Seen from left to right: Director of Public Safety Joseph Comarata, Councilman Fred Eckel, Detective Robert Clark, Detective James Toma and Mayor George G. Nucera.