

Clark Patriot



'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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MODEL MUSEUM... Gov. Thomas H. Kean, right, Col. Clinton L. Pegano, State Police superintendent and New Jersey Bell President Anton J. Campanella unveil a model of the proposed New Jersey State Police Memorial Museum at the State House rotunda. Campanella is heading a campaign to raise \$2.6 million to build the museum on the grounds of State Police Division Headquarters in West Trenton.

McSweeney:

"It's the greatest bus in the world"

by Pat DiMaggio

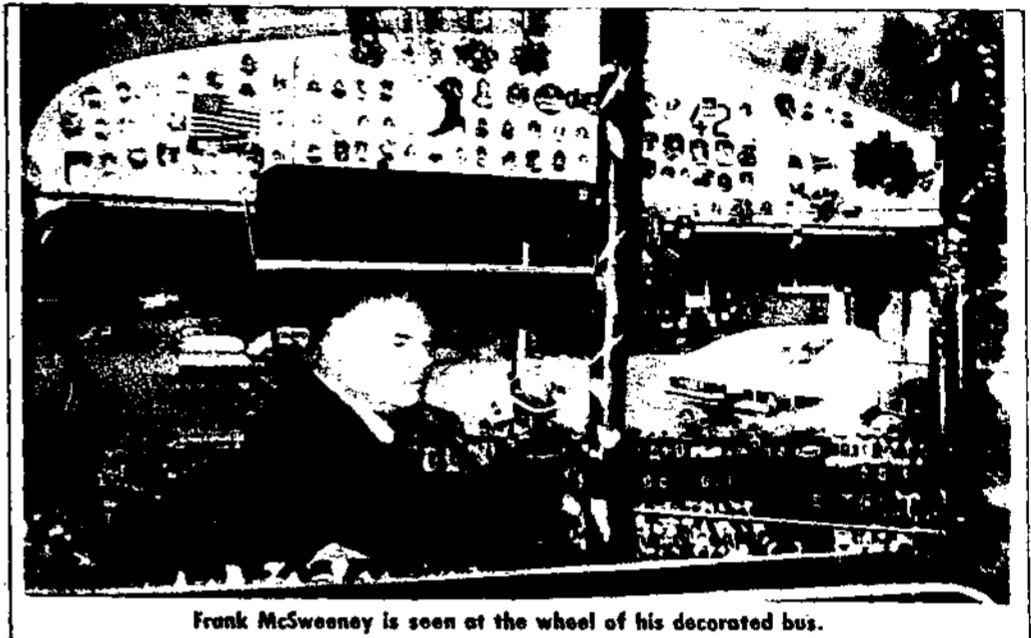
You've seen him driving your children to and from school in this one of a kind bus. But have you ever boarded to see the display of pictures and decorations?

"It's the greatest bus in the world," says driver Frank McSweeney. A part-time bus driver for the Rahway Bus Company, Seton High School in Clark and Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains. He's been driving for 22 years and he and "his kids" have been decorating the bus for 17 of those years.

The bus acts as a bulletin board, trading center and photo gallery, and is in its glory around Christmas time. Frank estimates more than 150 pictures of kids adorn the inside of the bus. "Years ago, if a kid liked you he gave you his picture," explained Frank. "I kept putting them in my wallet. After about 40 pictures my wallet was too big to put in my pocket so I asked the kids if they would mind if I put them up on the bus."

Pictures led to newspaper clippings of school sports teams for the older kids and small toys and figures for the younger children. Items cover almost every available space on the walls of the bus and on the dashboard. "Then the kids wanted to know if they could trade," said Frank. "So now we trade once a day, when the bus is stopped at the school. In order to take something, they have to replace it with something else. Then they started with stickers; everyone has a personal sticker on the bus."

Frank says he gets along great with "his kids." "It breaks the monotony," he said. "If the kids are too little I help them put up their pictures or help them with the decorations. They sing



Frank McSweeney is seen at the wheel of his decorated bus.

along with the Christmas songs and they have fun. I get a wise guy once in awhile, but most of the time I don't have any problems with them."

Frank is also known throughout Rahway and Clark for his animal shows, which he performs, mostly free of charge, for area organizations.

He's played at the Rahway Geriatrics Center and Day Care Center and for Children's Hospital and Unico.

His act consists of five cats and two dogs, all trained by Frank. "I think I started this animal therapy for people," said Frank. "I started in 1960 in hospitals before people realized how important pets can be for patients and the elderly. The doctor would come in the front door, and I'd sneak out the back door. Now people are waking up to the fact that animals are great therapy."

All of the animals live with Frank in his apartment in Linden. "Wait until my landlady finds out I have seven pets," said Frank. "She comes to me and says 'how many cats do you have now?' and I always say about three."

Frank has two wishes he'd like to share with you — "I just wish they didn't have to put so many animals to sleep," he said. "And for my kids, I'd like to see them all grow up to be fine, outstanding adults."

Adult school at ALJ slates registration

by Pat DiMaggio

In-person registration for the Arthur L. Johnson Adult School spring term is on Feb. 18 with classes to begin Mar. 2. Class sessions run on Mondays, from Mar. 2 through Apr. 27, except Apr. 13 and 20, Tuesdays, from Mar. 3 through Apr. 28, except Apr. 14 and 21 and Wednesdays, from Mar. 4 through Apr. 29, except Apr. 15 and 22.

Courses to be offered include: Beginning Typing, Typing Workshop, Stenograph I and II, Basic Word Processing, Bookkeeping and Accounting, Introduction to Word Processing, Basic Antique Pendulum Clock Repair, Electricity for the Homeowner, Advanced Auto Mechanics I and II, Small Engine Repairs, Spanish I and II, German I, Assertive Training, Yoga, Nutrition, SAT Review - English, SAT Review - Math, Active Slimmatics, A New You, Volleyball (teaching, Volleyball advanced), Knitting and Crocheting, Quilting, Cake Decorating, Microwave Cooking, Greek Cooking, Chinese Cooking, Oil Painting, Tin Piercing, Dancing I and II, Beginning Photography.

Additional courses include: Money Management for Women, CPR, Helping Smokers Quit, Principles of Banking, Accounting, Law and Banking, Business English, Typing I, Real Estate Finance, Bank Cards, Economics and Supervision and Personnel.

Stephen Signa chosen for recognition program

by Pat DiMaggio

The Union County Regional Board of Education, governing Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, gave its approval to the selection of a teacher to participate in Governor Kean's Teacher Recognition Program at its regular meeting held on February 3.

Stephen Signa, a social studies teacher, was chosen to represent Johnson by a panel of nine selected by the Board of Education, and the American Federation of Teachers, Local 3417.

As required by the State Department of Education, Superintendent Dr. Donald Merachuk has reviewed the personnel records of the nominee and attested to the fact that they include exemplary evaluation reports and are free of recent sanctions or deficiencies. Mr. Signa's name will now be submitted to the State Department of Education as the Arthur L. Johnson representative in the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program.

If approved, Mr. Signa will receive a certificate of commendation from the Governor and will be expected to participate in the Governor's Convocation on Excellence in Teaching during the spring. In addition, the Regional District will receive a \$1,000 grant to be used for educational purposes.

In other business, the board: —Approved a special neurological examination for an Arthur L. Johnson student. Recommended by the child study team, this examination will be administered by Dr. Margaret Symonds at the Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside at a cost of \$150.

—Adjusted the salary of Ms. Phyllis Harwood who completed ten consecutive days as a substitute teacher in the English department to \$98 per day. —Approved the following appointments: Head

Baseball Coach, Lawrence Stuchlik, \$2,581; Assistant Baseball Coach, Anthony Falzone, \$1,713; Golf Coach, Jack Matkos, \$1,138; Head Tennis Coach, Robert Nadasky, \$1,851; Head Track Coach (Boys), Ralph Johnson, \$3,210; Assistant Track Coach (Boys), Denis Borat, \$1,914; Head Track Coach (Girls), Robert Kowalski, \$3,210; Head Softball Coach, Betty Linaberry, \$2,581.

—Approved the participation of a student in a special needs vocational assessment at Union County Vocational Center, Scotch Plains, at a cost of \$130.

Clark Library lists meetings and closings

The Clark Public Library Board of Trustees has scheduled the following meeting dates:

Mar. 11; Apr. 8; May 13; June 10; July 8; Sept. 9; Oct. 14; Nov. 4; and Dec. 9.

The following holidays have been approved for closing: Feb. 12, Lincoln's birthday; Feb. 16, President's Day; Apr. 17, Good Friday; May 25, Memorial Day; July 3, Independence Day; Sept. 7, Labor Day; Oct. 12, Columbus Day; Nov. 3, Election Day; Nov. 11, Veterans' Day; Nov. 26, Thanksgiving; and Dec. 25 and 26, Christmas.

1987 budget deliberations

The Municipal Council of the Township of Clark will conduct budget deliberations with the Township Auditor on Sunday, February 15, at noon, in Room 16, at the former Brewer School, located at 430 Westfield Avenue.

Clark Board of Ed channels business

by Pat DiMaggio

Clark Board of Education President Thomas Faria announced at the February 10 board meeting that the last day for filing nominating petitions for a seat on the board has been changed from February 12 to February 13. February 12 is a legal holiday. The drawing for position on the ballot will be held immediately

following the February 13, 4 p.m. deadline. School board elections will be held on April 7. The board also approved a resolution including the Lion's Quest Program "Skills for Adolescence" in the academic program for the 1987-88 school year. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Ortenzio explained that the program deals with

the preparation of student responses to peer pressure and their involvement in drugs and alcohol. A twelve month employee calendar was approved to include the following holidays: July 3, Independence Day; Sept. 7, Labor Day; Oct. 12 and 13, NJEA Convention; Nov. 26 and 27, Thanksgiving Recess; Dec. 24 and 25, Christmas Recess; Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, New Year's Day Recess; Jan. 18, Martin Luther King Day; Feb. 15, Presidents' Day; Apr. 1 and 4, Good Friday and Easter Recess; May 30, Memorial Day.

In other business the board: —Approved Advanced Study Grants for Paul Westerfield, Jersey City State College, applications in the Curriculum, and Elsa

Dreyfus, Kean College, Advanced School Curriculum and Literature of Children and Youth. —Appointed Traci Roman as a Special Education teacher at Hehny School for a period of three hours per day at a rate of \$15 per hour. —Appointed Albert Pendleton as a Music Coach for the spring 1987 musical at Kumpf School at a rate of \$1465. Mr. Pendleton has been involved with over 25 musicals.

—Approved the attendance of Mrs. Barbara Rutz at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting to be held April 8-11 in Anaheim, California, travel and expenses to be reimbursed.

County tax rate cut under 1987 budget

The 1987 Union County tax rate will be cut four cents to \$49.54 under the 1987 budget. The budget was introduced at the county administration building in Elizabeth. The rate cut will be made in the face of a \$3.2 million loss in revenue sharing.

face problems because of revenue sharing cutbacks and state-mandated costs. "It is difficult to smile over our situation when Elizabeth and Plainfield, two of our most populated cities, are faced with budget problems that will mean a loss of jobs," he added.

The proposed budget runs \$145,821,145, less than last year's approximate total of \$149 million. But it is an actual increase of \$9.9 million, or 7.28 percent, from sale of a 63-acre tract of land next to Runnells that brought an extra \$13.5 million.

"The greatest impact we face is the loss of revenue sharing and escalation of mandated and non-controllable costs," said County Manager Donald F. Anderson. "It accounts for approximately 50 percent of the budget."

Despite the tax rate drop, Anderson said many of the county's 21 municipalities

Holiday closings in Clark

Mayor George G. Nucera has announced the Municipal Offices and the Disposal and Recycling Center will be closed Thursday, February 12, and Monday, February 16, in observance of the holidays.

Franks announces student intern program

Assemblyman Bob Franks, who represents Clark in the New Jersey General Assembly has announced the formation of a high school student intern program. The program is open to high school students throughout our area. "For many years we have successfully conducted an intern program for college students," said Franks. "These students have found the experience of learning firsthand about the process of government to be extremely valuable. But this is the first year we have created an intern program for high school students."

Interns will work on special projects, conduct research into bills, and learn how a legislative office operates. "The internship program gives students an opportunity to be directly involved

with state government in New Jersey," said Franks. Students interested in becoming an intern for Assemblyman Franks can receive an application by calling his legislative office at 665-7777. After the application is completed and returned to his office, the student will be contacted for an interview with Assemblyman Franks.

The intern program for high school students was first suggested at Assemblyman Franks' highly successful Student Leadership Day, a program in which top high school students from around the district are invited to an all-day seminar with key figures from state government. Over 100 students participated in Student Leadership Day last November at Bell Labs in Murray Hill.

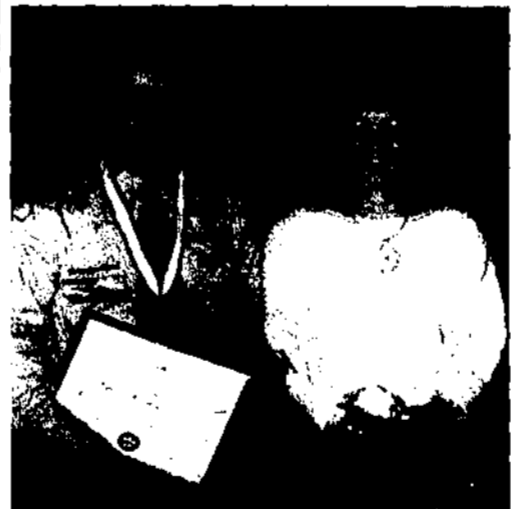
IRS volunteers assist seniors with returns

Joseph Monaco, Business Administrator of Clark Township, has delegated areas for trained I.R.S. volunteers to assist members of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

In addition, trained counselors are visiting senior citizen clubs to answer questions about federal and state income tax returns.

Friday, Feb. 13, will be Contact Day from 12:30 to 2 p.m. for all A.A.R.P. members in Clark at their regular monthly meeting at the Clark Municipal Building.

Clark seniors should phone 388-3600 for an appointment. All assistance is free. Persons are requested to bring copies of their federal and state income tax returns, W-2s, W-2Ps, 1099s and any other income records along with any medical and charity figures will help to make the reports complete.



SCOUTING AWARD ... Dr. Paul J. Ortenzio, Superintendent of Schools, was recently presented with the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to youth by the Thomas A. Edison Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Silver Beaver is the most prestigious presentation a local council can give to a Scout. He is pictured above with his wife, Dr. Ortenzio began his career as a Cub Scout and earned the Eagle Award in 1958. He has served as a Scoutmaster and Cubmaster. He is the Chairman of the Eagle Scout Review Board. This Scout Week marks the beginning of his 36th year in the Scouting Program. The Silver Beaver Award was presented at a Council Dinner held at the Victorian Manor in Edison.