

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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KLETT HONORED. Henry Louis Klett, founder and charter member of the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, was honored by the Municipal Council last week. Accepting a resolution in honor of the late Henry Klett from Council President Joseph Pozniak was Frank Klett, nephew, pictured holding plaque, accompanied by members of the Volunteer Emergency Squad. Residing in Clark since 1938, Klett was a maintenance

man for the DuPont Company in Linden for 35 years, retiring in 1957. He was a member of the Osceola Presbyterian Church and the Azure Masonic Lodge 129, Cranford, for 73 years. Until his death, Klett was the oldest active member of a Volunteer Emergency Squad in the state, serving since 1941. Mr. Klett died on June 16.

Clark Recreation programs provide "new dimensions"

by Pat DiMaggio
Clark's Recreation Department, under the auspices of Mayor George Nucera and Business Administrator Joseph Monaco, strives to provide activities to young and old. Although in direct competition with organized sports, the Recreation Department still fills a need in the community.

The Recreation Department began in 1984 with the administration of Nucera. Before that all the township offered in way of recreational activities was an annual festival. "The old 'rec center' on Bryant Avenue was closed. The young people had no where to go and nothing to do," said Recreation Department

liaison and Clark Councilman William Caruso.

"In 1984 this administration had the vision to secure the Brewer School as a new administration building, senior citizen center and recreation department," said Caruso. "It opened up a new dimension for recreation in the community."

Before that, said Caruso, the township had to rely on cooperation with the Board of Education to use gym facilities in the old Bryant Avenue building. "We were very fortunate that the mayor and Councilmen Fred Eckel and Joseph Pozniak were supportive in securing this facility. The fact that we have two gyms, partially used by the

seniors, and the cafeteria, enhanced our opportunities to perform and give the community a broad-based recreation program," continued Caruso.

A specific budget was approved and funds were used to activate programs. The 1987 budget for the Recreation Department is \$15,035 used mostly for a director's salary, supervisory personnel, general supplies, playground and recreational equipment, training and educational manuals and special services, said Caruso.

Tom Dunn, who has just rendered his resignation after three years as director of the Recreation Program, was instrumental in reactivating the roller skating program for pre-teens and teenagers. "It's very successful," said Caruso. "On Friday nights the gym is really humming with residents and their children."

The Recreation Department also hosts basketball tournaments between teams sponsored by some of Clark's industrial companies and a wrestling program supervised by the Police Department. A new addition to the program is co-ed volleyball. "It's basically to get some of the people out for physical exercise," said Caruso. "We've tried to encourage as many young marrieds as possible to get involved. There is a definite future for volleyball, it's a very popular sport."

Caruso admits that the recreation center is utilized

mostly during the winter months. "Clark is a very unusual community because we have a lot of recreation programs going on besides our department," he explained. "We find ourselves competing with our own Clark pool and a lot of young people go away with their families for the summer. We operate on a limited basis in the summer. It's difficult to attract youngsters in this town. We have a Babe Ruth League, soccer and Pop Warner. It's like taking young people and trying to divide them. We are most successful in the winter because young people are looking for a place to go."

The Brewer School offers a clubhouse, art center, two gyms, basketball courts, a baseball diamond and even a pool table. Caruso said plans are underway to host teen dances. "The seniors use the facilities during the day, but not too much at night," he said. "We had a teen disco last year which drew a good crowd. We hope to bring in a D.J. next year. It will keep the teenagers off the streets."

A program for the future, and one close to Caruso's heart, is the development of a summer theatre. Already available is a stage to rehearse and some stage equipment. "I would like to encourage people in the town to come forward to get interested in theatre," said Caruso. "People who want to be actors or actresses or people who are

writers are invited to get involved. We'd like to get some people interested in building a summer theatre, like in Roosevelt Park. Our industry in town would help us with the arts to build a summer stage to provide the community with a little evening entertainment plus recreation." Interested people are advised to contact either Mr. Caruso or the new director of the Recreation Department when appointed.

Plans are underway to repair one of the gyms at the Brewer School and to resurface the basketball and tennis courts.

"The more recreational programs we give to this town the better the community will be," said Caruso. "Sports builds leadership. It teaches kids how to work with one another. We are making sure they have a place to play and would like to go forward with more programs in the future."

Family camping offered by GSC

The Delaware-Raritan Girl Scout Council is offering family camping at Camp Sacajawea in Sparta during Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7. Campers may bring their own tent or trailer, or rent one. Phone 821-9090 for further information.

Clark pool bringing much needed relief

by Pat DiMaggio
In spite of complaints of overcrowding and lack of shade, the Clark Community Pool is having a banner year.

Built 20 years ago, the township is in the process of



COOL GUARD. Special Police Officer Al Miller oversees Security Operations at the Clark Community Pool.

making its final payments by the end of next season, said Pool Assistant Manager Jim Wilson.

The pool is 210 feet long and 80 feet wide. "It is the biggest in the tri-county area," said Wilson. "It's almost as wide as it is long."

A new children's playground was constructed last year at a cost of over \$50,000 for equipment and sodding, said Wilson. The pool also offers a kiddie pool, showers and dressing areas for men and women, a concession stand and a picnic area.

The pool, hosting 1100 people on a hot day, is open to residents and non-residents and offers special programs for adults and

teenagers. It employs 13 lifeguards, two maintenance people and two assistant managers as well as the director, Tom Paduano.

Special Police Officer Al Miller has recently been hired to control the gate, checking membership and overseeing parking on weekends.

The pool is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.



Kean names Clark grads

The following Clark residents recently graduated from Kean College:

- Kathleen A. Cunningham, bachelor of arts degree in political science;
- Robert Della Salla, bachelor of science degree in MGS marketing;
- Kathy Genakos, bachelor of science degree in management science;
- Carol J. Goldblatt, summa cum laude, bachelor of science degree in nursing;
- Dolores M. Holler, bachelor of science degree in accounting;
- Karen Meister, master of arts degree in reading specialist;
- Linda Ann Saldutti, bachelor of arts degree in music education;
- John B. Sutter, bachelor of arts degree in English;
- Virginia Kiernan Thompson, magna cum laude, bachelor of arts degree in nursing.

Next week: ALJ's annual Athletic Senior Awards Dinner



SCHOLARLY HONOR. Jon-Henry Barr, left, of Clark, who will be a senior at the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in September, is pictured with New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean after a question-and-answer session at the Governor's School on Public Issues, held recently at Monmouth College in West Long Branch. Jon-Henry was one of just 100 high school juniors from throughout the state chosen to participate in this intensive four-week course on public affairs and the future of New Jersey. Students are recommended for this program by their respective schools, through the offices of the county superintendents of schools. Final selections are made by the Governor's School administrative staff, based on such qualifications as academic achievement, leadership, organizational ability and willingness to explore new ideas.

