

RAHWAY News Record

New Jersey's Oldest Weekly Newspaper—Established 1822

VOL. 170 NO. 35

RAHWAY, N.J., THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1992

USPS 454-160

25 CENTS



CELEBRITY READER . . . Mayor Jim Kennedy was guest Celebrity Reader in Mrs. Bazarowsky's Third Grade at Roosevelt School last month. After mesmerizing children with Scary Stories, Mayor answered questions about his job and family. Many of town's "celebrities" have made time to read to Mrs. Bazarowsky's class. What better way to remind children that even busy professionals make time to read?

Dems Have Contest, Too GOP Races Not Only Primary Action

by Pat DiMaggio
A full slate of Democratic candidates will be offered to voters in the June 2 primary in Rahway. Only one seat is contested, however. In the First Ward, former Councilman Jerry Coleman will face off against organization candidate James Young. The winner of the primary will face a Republican challenger in the November election.

Coleman, employed by Health Care Center, Plainfield, served as the First Ward's representative from 1985 to 1988. He was the co-founder and first chairman of the Concerned Citizens of Union County, and says he has been and always will be opposed to the siting of the incinerator in Rahway. "While I was on the council, I always questioned why this facility was being placed in our community," said Coleman. "I still don't see any benefit."

Coleman also is a former member of the Rahway Action Community's Board of Directors and is former president of the Union County Coalition of Senior Citizens. "I want to make sure the First Ward is properly represented on the council with reference to the incinerator project," continued Coleman. "I am not pleased with the mayor's position. He has done absolutely nothing to try to salvage the environmental beauty of Rahway."

The Concerned Citizens led the fight; the mayor has done nothing. In my opinion, he is a puppet on a string being controlled by state legislators such as Mr. (State Sen. Raymond) Lesniak. We need someone from the First Ward who is not afraid to stand up to the administration. I am that person, and I have proved to be that person in the past."

James Young's candidacy is his first attempt at an elected office. Employed by Preston Trucking, Jersey City, Young is a member and trustee of the Second Baptist Church. He is a member of the board of the JFK Center, and is involved in the senior citizen food distribution program. Young also is the president of the Democratic Club of the First Ward and a member of the Rahway Municipal Alliance Committee. He attended Jersey City State College.

Young said he has always been against incineration in Rahway. "But the incinerator is coming, and I want to know how many people from Rahway will get jobs," he noted. "If we have to have the incinerator, people from Rahway should benefit."

Young's platform also includes the promise to improve services for residents, and he has pledged his support to helping senior citizens in the City. "I will try to eliminate some of the noise around the Geriatrics Center," said Young. "Also, I believe we have to offer more recreational opportunities to the kids. We have to open more schools in the evening for programs. Kids need things to do, and we have to work together."

Rahway Scout Flea Market

Boy Scout Troop 47 is holding its Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 9, at Roosevelt School, St. Georges and Lake Avenue, Rahway, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If more information is needed, call 381-5671.



Spring Flea Market Sat., May 9

Students from Rahway Police Explorers



POLICE EXPLORERS STUDY ENVIRONMENT

Can learning happen in 16,000 acres of forest? Students from the Rahway Police Explorers believe it can, and did.

On Wednesday, April 22, 16 students and four advisors arrived at the New Jersey School of Conservation for their resident environmental studies program. The Police Explorers, organized on a volunteer basis by the Rahway Police Department, encourage high school students to pursue careers in law enforcement. The students are involved in many after-school activities.

This was the first residential experience for the Police Explorers at S.O.C. Located in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, the School of Conservation is the environmental field campus for Montclair State College and is the largest facility of its type in North America, in continuous operation since 1949.

During their three days at the School of Conservation, the students studied regular school subjects of Science, Social Studies, Language Arts and Physical Education, but with a difference. Instead of using textbooks and studying in a classroom, the high school students had all their classes outdoors, using the natural environment of the forest as their "text." All of their classes were designed to help the pupils understand how important forests and other natural areas are to support life.

At the School of Conservation, the high school students were involved in first-hand activities which make learning exciting. Shortly after their arrival, they took part in a unique outdoor experience called "Action Socialization," in which they were divided into small groups. Each group then was presented with a series of problems, none of which were considered solved until all group members participated. This group problem-solving experience was designed to show the students how important cooperation is in making decisions, especially intelligent decisions about environmental issues.

FAMILIES JOIN TO SHARE ARTS

"Ethnic and cultural diversity," said M.C. and storyteller Bill Mooney to the audience. "Those are big words, aren't they? What they mean is that everybody should gather together just like we have today, to share our world, to celebrate what makes us the same and what makes us different, too."

And gather together they did at the Union County Arts Center on Sunday afternoon, at the ArtsKids Family Concert sponsored by Merck & Co. Inc. The audience included families in their Sunday best, just back from church, and families dressed for a casual spring afternoon, children of all ages, families of all races, and scores of nationalities gathered to share in the magic and acrobatics, music and dance.

It was impossible not to contrast this scene with the pictures coming from Los Angeles and other urban centers around the country in the wake of the Rodney King verdict. But by the end of the first act, when the Los Pleneros de la 21 band invited the audience up on stage to dance the bomba, it was almost possible to forget these troubles, too.

"This music is about family and community," said Juan Gutierrez, leader of Los Pleneros, and today, we are the community together. Join us." Dozens of audience members jumped up on stage - kids and parents, young and old, African-American, Caucasian, Hispanic and

Asian all dancing to the explosive music of the people of Puerto Rico, all dancing together.

The ArtsKids Family Concert was presented by Young Audiences of New Jersey a non-profit organization dedicated to multicultural arts education for children.

"Children don't often get the chance to see artists of this calibre," said Young Audiences' Artistic Director Stephen Mosel. "Certainly, not for free. Los Pleneros is known around the world. They were the stars of the Masters of Folk series at Carnegie Hall last year. Bill Mooney has been on Broadway and national television for years. Jocko the Clown and the Shanghai Chinese Dancers are among those special artists who can delight both adults and children. In fact, all these Young Audiences artists are gifted professionals, who develop programs especially for children because they believe in the importance of art in the lives of the young and because they believe in passing on their own special cultural heritages."

Merck & Co. Inc., the New Jersey-based pharmaceutical corporation and concert sponsor, shares Young Audiences' commitment with its primary focus of supporting math and science, because the arts can stimulate students' interest in learning about the world around them.



RAHWAY RESIDENT HONORED AS WPC FACULTY AUTHOR
Dr. Anthony Mazzella, Professor of English at William Paterson College and resident of Rahway, was honored at recent campus reception for faculty authors. Mazzella is holding copy of book, "Hitchcock's Released Films: From 'Rope' to 'Vertigo,'" in which his article, "Author Auteur: Reading 'Rear Window' from Woolrich to Hitchcock," was published.

City Recyclables Picking Changed

Union County Utilities Authority Chairman Angelo E. Romano has announced that beginning Monday, May 11, all residential recyclables for the entire City of Rahway will be picked up on Monday, and there will no longer be separate Monday pickups for the east side of Rahway.

The Union County Utilities Authority has released the revised schedule for the remainder of 1992 for the entire City of Rahway. Newspapers, glass and aluminum will be collected every other Monday according to the following schedule:

- May 11
- June 8 and 22
- July 6 and 20
- August 3, 17 and 31
- September 14 and 28
- October 12 and 26
- November 9 and 23
- December 7 and 21

There will be no pickups on Memorial Day, May 25.

Residents are reminded to not set out their recyclables by 7:30 a.m. every other Monday, and to prepare their materials according to the following guidelines:

- Newspapers - Must be clean and tied in bundles no more than 12 inches thick. Bundles may not include paper bags, magazines, telephone books or junk mail.
- Glass Bottles and Jars - Must be well-rinsed, with all caps and lids removed. Labels, styrofoam, metal rings and plastic do not have to be removed. Glass must be placed at the curb in a sturdy reusable container. Only bottles and jars will be collected. No window glass, dishes, Pyrex, mirrors or crystal.

• Aluminum Beverage Containers - Must be well-rinsed and placed in a sturdy, reusable container. Cans, paint cans and spray cans cannot be recycled. (Note: A spray can with a stick in the side is considered a recyclable aluminum can.)

Fifty Years Of Planning

Since 1942, Philip Soppas has helped Merck & Co. Inc., get materials and products to the right place at the right time.

On March 30, Soppas celebrated 50 years of service in the planning and materials management area at the firm's Rahway headquarters. Soppas started his career with Merck at the age of 18 in the government export area - at 71 cents per hour wage. Drafted into military service from 1943 to 1946, he returned to the company while earning a Business Administration degree at night from Rutgers University.

Soppas was the second person hired into the International Planning Department when the former Merck Sharp & Dohme International Division was formed in 1955 in New York City. In 1959, he became Planning supervisor, and was promoted to Materials Planning Manager in 1976. Currently, Soppas is Manager of International Human Health Planning.

During his 50 years, Soppas' career ranged from packing epsom salts to planning the timely introduction of Zocor in the European markets. Most recently, he was involved in the initial materials planning of Proscar.



Philip Soppas in his office

Soppas even spent time some years ago at the former MSD - Colombia, at Colombia's request, helping the office start its own planning function.

What has kept Soppas at Merck for 50 years? "It has been a good living, and Merck, its fortunes and its people became another family unit in my life," he explained. "I raised my two daughters and sent them to the best universities by working here." One of his daughters is a pediatrician and, he noted, a believer in Merck products; his other daughter is a computer program analyst manager.

Many people attended a special reception held for Soppas on April 9 at Merck's headquarters.

Although he hasn't yet chosen a date for retirement, Soppas said he looks forward to a future of traveling with his wife of 43 years, Irene, throughout the U.S. and abroad, and to spending more time with his children and four grandchildren.

Barry Grass, Senior Director of Planning and Logistics, said he is grateful Soppas has stayed with the Department and trained most of MMD's current International Planning staff. "His expertise and his knowledge are legendary. People all over the world know and rely on Phil," he said.

from the Rahway Police Department

All instruction was done cooperatively by the Rahway Police Department and the School of Conservation resident faculty, including Jerry Schierloh, Assistant Director; Regina Kelly, Humanities and Social Studies Specialist; Walter Myers, Recreation Specialist; Dr. Randy FitzGerald, Coordinator of School Programs, and Dr. John J. Kirk, Director. Also, resident teaching fellows, Joseph Harbor, Steven Rizzoli, Patricia Straughan and Dorothy Westhead, and graduate teaching interns Elizabeth Brick, Philip DeRea, Larisa Pierson, Michelle Morrell, Takashi Tsurukawa and Mike Wilks assisted, along with Dr. Suzanne Costanzo, Scholar in Residence.



LESSER BUILDING PLAQUE . . . Dr. Thomas H. Brown, President of Union County College, and Victor M. Richel, chair of Elizabeth Campus Dedication Committee, are dedicating Elizabeth Campus as Sidney E. Lesser Building. Lesser, former UCC Board Chair and Elizabeth civic leader, Elizabeth Campus was former headquarters of Elizabethtown Gas Co., 12 West Jersey St. Dedication started Monday.

Have a
Happy Mother's Day
Sunday, May 10th