

## Irish Luck

Don't let anyone kid you about the luck of the Irish.

The last baby born in Scotch Plains, according to Muhlenberg Hospital records, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Flanagan of 321 Cook Ave. He was born at 12:31 p.m. on Dec. 29th.

Thus the Flanagans get one more income tax deduction just in the nick of time. There are no other recorded births to Scotch Plains families later than Dec. 29.

Apparently no Scotch Plains family had the honor of starting the year with a birth. There were no New Year's babies recorded at Muhlenberg hospital.

## A Blow for Scotch Plains

The news that there will no contest for any of the nine posts for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education is a bit alarming. This is the first time in at least ten years that there will be no contest. This year, more than any other, the selection of board members is important because in 1963 NINE members are elected. In the future only three will be elected annually. This year the entire policy-making body is elected at once. In 1964 only a third of the board will be elected, not enough to charge policy of the board, if that is what the public wants.

## Present Board OK, but...

Generally speaking the present board has done a fairly good job. However, even if they were near Utopian in the handling of school matters, the public would not like to be told that these men would remain in power almost indefinitely. This would upset the set of balances that has made America the great democracy that it is.

## Whose Fault???

It certainly is not the fault of the nine candidates, seven of whom are incumbents, or of the Joint Civic Committee which is backing all the candidates that there is no competition for the school board posts. Wherein then does the fault lie? We suggest that the following factors are responsible for denying the public of the opportunity to have the benefit of choosing from a greater selection of qualified candidates:

1. The lack of interest in public school affairs by those who do not feel they are directly concerned. In this group are included some parents of parochial school children and some parents who no longer have children in the public schools, but it also includes some parents of children in public schools.
2. The unfortunate series of misunderstandings between the public and the school board that have taken place over the years.
3. The high cost of conducting a campaign to run for office in Scotch Plains.
4. The growing need for organization backing in order to be a successful candidate.
5. The antiquated laws concerning voting in school board elections.

## Where's the Inspiration???

Let's face it. All of us know that among the more than 20,000 residents in Scotch Plains and Fanwood there are at least nine other well qualified candidates. However, before these men will give up the time and money to run for office they must be inspired to do so and then feel they have a reasonable chance of winning.

To achieve better schools we must encourage these other outstanding citizens who have not stepped forward this year to do so next year so that Scotch Plains can not only have the benefit of the selections of the Joint Civic Committee, but of other qualified men as well.

To make this possible we are going to have to take a greater interest in our schools and turn out in larger numbers at the polls. It is only when there is a larger vote that the independent candidates have a good chance of competing with organization strength.

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## Route 22 Roundup...

Holy cow! Bessie is naive.

Bessie probably was in such good company -- at the Christmas Pageant display in front of the Scotch Plains municipal building -- that she probably forgot that there was a few bad things in the world.

Bad things like the traffic on Route 22, for instance. Bessie lost her head -- and almost everything else -- by taking a stroll down busy Route 22 on New Year's Eve.

Route 22 is bad enough under normal conditions, so you can imagine the chagrin of wide-eyed motorists who traveled down what has been described as one of the "world's worst highways" and saw a cow ambling along.

The grumbling motorists forgot that Bessie was a lady. She was rapped soundly in the rump -- not severely, just enough to notice it.

This action brought Bessie's misadventure to the attention of the Watchung police, sometimes known as the Watchung Rangers.

The boys in blue managed to round up poor Bess and bring her to her coral at the Christmas pageant.

At last reports Bessie was playing it safe and staying away from Route 22.

It has not been determined who it was that advised Bessie that Route 22 was a quiet cowpath. No doubt whoever did so was giving her a bum steer.

## Retiring Mayor Peterson Praises Township Police

Retiring Mayor Edward Peterson cited the work of the township police department as one of the most rewarding efforts of his year's administration.

"I am particularly proud of the fine work of our police department, the former mayor said. "In fact the work of all of our township employees was a source of great satisfaction to me."

The mayor listed the following as among other "pluses" during his one year in office:

"1. The accomplishment of our goal of continuing to run the town on a sound business basis.

"2. The completion of arrangements for financing sewers on the north side of Scotch Plains, thus enhancing the new look of the community.

"3. Work on the revision of the master plan which is about

to come before the public in its final form."

The mayor said he was preparing remarks for his talk tonight before the township committee in which he would thank the many people who had helped him achieve a successful administration.

## Montuori Elected

Miss Judith A. Montuori of 321 Henry Street, Scotch Plains, has been elected secretary of the Economics Association of Union Junior College, Cranford.

A sophomore, Miss Montuori is a liberal arts major in Union Junior College's Day Session. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Montuori and a graduate of Scotch Plains High School.

# LACOMBE BECOMES NEW MAYOR OF SCOTCH PLAINS TONIGHT

## Norman Lacombe Slated To Replace Peterson

# Scotch Plains Times

A MEMBER OF THE WATCHUNG WEEKLIES NEWSPAPER CHAIN

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TEN CENTS

## Board Election Is No Contest

For the first time in more than a decade there won't be a contest in the school board election in Scotch Plains.

The nine candidates backed by the Joint Civic Committee are running unopposed. Seven of the nine candidates are incumbents. Robert R. Risher Jr. of Scotch Plains and Edward L. Bell of Fanwood are the two newcomers. Each is seeking a three-year term.

Incumbents Thomas Denitolo and Daniel C. Helms did not file as candidates. Denitolo was the one candidate who was successful in defeating an organization candidate last year. In an apparent display of unity Denitolo served as the major petitioner for the other candidates.

Because the new Board of Education will include Fanwood this year under the regionalization plan, only three of the candidates are running for three year terms; three others are

running for two-year terms; and the other three are running for a single year term. After this year there will be an election each year during which three members—two from Scotch Plains and one from Fanwood—will be elected.

Besides Risher and Bell, Richard Bechtolt is also running for a three-year term. Running for two-year terms are William Kitz, John Lawson, and Lawrence Andrews. Running for solitary terms are Robert L. Cochran, William A. Waskow, board president, and John E. Rannels Jr.

The election will be held Feb. 5th at which time voters will also cast their ballots on the school budget.

Despite the lack of a contest, the Good Schools Association will still hold their annual candidates night. This year candidates night will be on Jan 10 at the South Side Firehouse.

## Helen Reidy Mayor Tonight

Township Clerk Helen Reidy will be "Queen for a Day" tonight.

For a few minutes Miss Reidy will serve as acting mayor of Scotch Plains. She will preside over the reorganization meeting of the township committee in which capacity she will be the chief executive officer of the community until Norman Lacombe is nominated and made mayor.

Actually Scotch Plains has been mayor-less since Dec. 28 when its past mayor, Edward Peterson, finished his year's duties. In the event of an emergency during this period the Township Committee would have had to meet and name a temporary mayor if a mayor's action was needed. However this would be an extreme case.

Miss Reidy will open the meeting by asking for nominations. It is expected that former Mayor Peterson will suggest Mr. Lacombe for the post. When he has been nominated, seconded and voted in, Miss Reidy's short reign will end.

## Checchio Family Appeals Charges

The Checchio family of 1954 Mountain Ave. is appealing its sanitary sewer assessment of \$915 for its 113 foot frontage lot.

The Checchios live in a 50-foot-frontage zone. The Assessment Commission assessed owners of 50-foot frontage lots \$350 plus \$75 for one curb sewer connection. Owners of larger lots were assessed higher in proportion to the lot frontage.

At a public hearing on these assessments last month several owners of single houses on 100-foot lots objected to being assessed for two 50-foot frontage lots. Assessment officials explained that the assessments are based on the value of the property which results from installation of sanitary sewers.

Named as defendants of the suit of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Checchio are the township, the tax collector and the township clerk. The Checchio's lawyer, William P. Taub of Plainfield expects to apply to Superior Court for a trial date.



ELECTED TO BOARD—S. Edward Bagley, Jr. of 1332 Graymill Drive, Scotch Plains has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Chicopee Manufacturing Corp., according to an announcement by John J. Smith, president of the corporation. Bagley, who has been with the firm since 1959, lives in Scotch Plains with his wife and two children, Carol & Mark.



SKI TOW READY TO GO—650 foot ski tow at the Galloping Hill Golf Course receiving finishing touches from Union County Park Commission maintenance crews. The tow will be in operation with first good snowfall.

## Postmaster Christie Thanks All Patrons

Postmaster Verona K. Christie strongly urged citizens of Fanwood to be sure and place the correct postage on their letters when the new postage rate increase goes into effect January 7, 1963.

Postage rates for first-class letters will be increased from four cents to five cents an ounce with air mail letters costing eight cents an ounce instead of seven. First class post cards will cost four cents instead of three with air mail cards going from five to six cents.

The extra charge of one cent for stamp booklets containing the five-cent and eight-cent denominations has been dropped. The booklets will be sold at their face value at \$1 and \$2 respectively.

In addition, the Postmaster continued, the booklets will contain a handy postage chart on the inside cover.

Postmaster Christie warned residents that letters with insufficient postage will be collected from the addressee or returned to the sender.

Additional information on the new postage fees is available at your local post office.

"I am laid up with an ankle broken in three places but wish to thank all my patrons for having cooperated so well with the Post office this year in mailing their parcels and cards early and I feel it was the best Christmas ever for my staff as there wasn't the last minute rush. I wish all the residents of Fanwood a very prosperous New Year."

## Legislators-1963

Here is a list of senators, congressmen, state senators, assemblymen and freeholders who represent the area served by The Berkeley Beacon. Save this list for future reference.

### UNITED STATES SENATORS

Clifford P. Case, 345 Elm Ave., Rahway, Capitol 4-3121, Extension 3224.

Harrison A. Williams, Jr., 231 Elizabeth Ave., Westfield, AD 2-8686, home; Federal Building, Newark, MI 2-2020; Gregory 1-3805 (offices).

U.S. Senators may also be reached at the Senate Office Building, Washington D.C.

### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Florence Price Dwyer, 320 Verona Avenue, Elizabeth, EL 3-0382 (home); 286 Broad Street, Elizabeth, EL 5-0400 (office) Sixth District.

Congressmen may also be reached at House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

### STATE SENATOR

Nelson F. Stampler, 879 Floral Ave., Union (Union) EL 2-8883 (home); 29 Broad Street, Elizabeth, EL 2-2653 (office)

### ASSEMBLYMEN

Mrs. Mildred B. Hughes, Blue House, Morris Ave., RFD, Union (Union) EL 3-7511 (home).

James M. McGowan, 236 Crawford Place, Elizabeth (Union) EL 5-4231; 1201 Chestnut Street, Elizabeth, EL 2-2170 (office).

John J. Wilson, 517 Dorian Place, Westfield (Union), AD 2-8491 (home); 6 Alden St., Cranford, BR 6-9100 (office).

Jerome Krueger, 112 Harvard Street, Linden (Union) HU 6-0076 (home); 1143 E. Jersey Street, Elizabeth, EL 5-2600 (office).

Assemblymen may also be reached at the State House, Trenton, N.J.

### UNION COUNTY FREEHOLDERS

Miss Mary C. Kanane, 912 Lakeside Pl., Union, EL 5-6697 (home), Courthouse, EL 3-5000 (office).

Raymond Moore, 19 Coe Ave., Hillside, EL 2-1203 (home); 800 Passaic Ave., Harrison HU 3-4495 (office)

J. Andrew Stemmer, 990 Raritan Rd., Clark, FU 1-9099 (home); Stemmer Agency, FU 1-9099 (office).

Harry V. Osborne Jr., 5 Dartmouth Rd., Cranford, BR 6-2634 (home); MA 3-1138 (office).

Peter J. McDonough 3rd, 925 Oakwood Pl., Plainfield, PL 5-3916 (home); Plainfield Lumber Co., PL 6-4000 (office).

Edward H. Tiller, 502 Locust Ave., Garwood, SU 9-1565 (home); BI 3-2141 (office).

John V. Donohue, 619 Drake Ave., Roselle, CH 5-9319 (home); Courthouse, EL 3-5000 (office).

Scotch Plains gets a new mayor tonight.

The Township Committee is expected to elect Norman Lacombe of Clinton Lane its new mayor. He will replace former Mayor Edward Peterson whose term ended Dec. 28.

According to tradition the Township Committee annually elects one of its group to a one-year term of mayor. Norman Lacombe is being selected because he is the only one of the five who has had township experience and has not served as mayor.

Three of the other committee men—George Johnston, Mauro Checchio, and Edward Peterson—have all been mayors. The fifth member, Russell Patterson, was just elected last November. He will be seated tonight. Mr. Patterson replaces Oran Davies who did not seek reelection.

Mr. Peterson is sales manager for the Block Drug Co. Mr. Lacombe is vice president for manufacturing for the Ortho Pharmaceutical Co. He was in charge of public housing during his two years on the Township Committee.

The new mayor will be elected and installed at tonight's reorganization meeting of the Township Committee. At the same time other routine appointments, such as township attorney, will be made.

## Dembach Serving Aboard Cruiser

Herman F. Dembach, Jr., USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman F. Dembach, 1115 1/2 Ave., Scotch Plains, is serving aboard the USS Newport News, the recent United States quarantine forces in the Caribbean.

The quarantine forces were under the command of Vice Admiral Alfred G. Ward, USN, Commander Second Fleet.

The Newport News is the flagship for Commander, Second Fleet.

## 20 Years At Esso

Andrew F. Sayko of 2098 Princeton Avenue, Fanwood, this week celebrates his 20th service anniversary with Esso Research and Engineering Company, the principal scientific affiliate of Standard Oil Company (New Jersey). Mr. Sayko is a chemist in the company's Enjay Laboratories.

## After 29 yrs. Man Retires As Supervisor

After 29 years of service, John J. Couser of 886 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights, retired New Year's Day as supervisor of grounds at the John E. Rannels's Hospital, also Berkeley Heights.

In observance of his retirement, Couser recently a luncheon guest of the Carpenter and Painting Departments at the hospital, who presented him a watch. Other employees of the hospital joined with the Grounds and Chauffeur Departments in presenting Couser a purse.

Prominent among guests at the luncheon were Mrs. Couser, their daughter, Mrs. Charles J. La Sola, members of the Board of Freeholders, the Board Managers, Dr. and Mrs. John E. Rannels, former superintendent and present hospital officials.

## To Discuss Best Seller

The popular best-seller "Fail-Safe," by Eugene Burdick will be reviewed by Mrs. Thomas Richards, of Chatham, at the January 9 meeting of the Summit YWCA Thoughtstirs.

Anyone interested in attending these mid-week programs may call Mrs. Walter Stankievich, Young Adult Program Director, at the YWCA - CR 3-4242.