

Armort Homes Intends To Meet With Town

JOSEPH MESSERSMITH

New Man To Carry Banner For Dems

Scotch Plains Democrats last night, in a stormy meeting, elected Joseph Messersmith of Elm Court as their fourth municipal chairman in history.

The election of Messersmith signifies a major switch in tactics by the Scotch Plains group, who now say they stand ready to take off the gloves and battle the town's administration on conflict of interest charges as a basic part of their strategy.

The five man township committee has been solidly Republican for the last 48 years.

Thomas DeLuca of Willow Avenue, municipal chairman for the last seven years, stepped aside rather than abandon his policy of projecting positive campaign programs.

During DeLuca's tenure of office Democrats initiated thinking which has led to a town library. Democrats are also

pushing for a township swimming pool to solve the teenage recreational needs, for a leaf collecting service to minimize fire hazards in the fall; and for reduced speed limits on local streets until sidewalks are installed.

In his final statement, DeLuca pointed out that Democratic votes have doubled in seven years despite the club's fighting a full-time political machine, hiring more than 50 persons. He said that Democrat Candidate Edith Powers of Hetfield Avenue -- the first woman in the town's history to run for major office -- could beat the administration's machine with a positive program.

Messersmith, while agreeing that a positive program was desirable, claimed that it is now imperative to reveal the performance of local administration officials -- both elected

and appointed -- to give the town's taxpayers the information on how their tax dollars are divided.

Since DeLuca and Messersmith are close personal friends, a split in the Democrat party is a very remote possibility. However, the vote for Messersmith shows the anger now unchecked among the rank and file of Democrats.

Before DeLuca became municipal chairman in 1957, the post was held for one year by Mort Weiser of Hill Road. Before that, the position was filled for a decade by Jack Clawson of Westfield Avenue.

In naming Messersmith their standard bearer, the local Democrats also elected Robert Haug of Concord Road as vice chairman; Jeannette Dietze of Elizabeth Avenue as vice-chairlady; and Sandra Bendix of Union Avenue, secretary.



MAKE DONATION - Scotch Plains-Fanwood Womens Club make sizable money donation to the Scotch Plains Fanwood Libraries. Left are Mrs. Eugene Staehle, Club President; Mrs. Paul Montgomery of the Fanwood Library; Mrs. Stella Darway of the Scotch Plains Library and Mrs. Arthur Taylor, Club Civic Chairman.

(Al Wrigley Photo)

Residents Present Formal Complaints

In answer to four lengthy letters from residents of new houses complaining about the construction of their dwellings, the Scotch Plains Township Committee set April 28 as the date they would meet with the residents and representatives of the construction firm, the Armort Homes, Inc. of Springfield, when they convened on April 22.

The residents, Carlos H. Larkin of 11 Kevin Rd., Mrs. Ann Dillonaire of 7 Aberdeen Rd., Mrs. Virginia M. Dekle of 1 Balmoral Lane and Ira Eglewstein of 9 Kevin Rd. all live in houses built by Armort. The firm has been notified by Building Inspector M. Joseph Durkin that no more certificates of occupancy will be issued for its houses "until the complaints are taken care of."

Visual proof of the complaints in the form of pictures accompanied one of the letters. They complained of water in basements, leaking roofs and torn roofing shingles, cracked foundations, improperly functioning heating systems, and faulty construction on walls, floors, tile, doors. The residents said construction of their dwellings does not conform to the local building and housing codes.

Hearings on assessments for sanitary sewers against 321 owners will be held by the Township Committee on May 1 and 12.

The hearing on May 5 at 8:30 p.m. in the Municipal Hall will be for the assessment of property owners who are involved with individual assessments of \$691.62.

The May 12 hearing will be held at the same time and place for sewer assessments in portions of Front St., Farley Ave., Westfield Rd., William St., Park View Dr., Evergreen Blvd., Jerusalem Rd. and Beechwood Pl., and in all of Hoe Ave., Jackson Ave., St. Ann St., Greenside Pl., Rhoda Pl., Pearl Pl., Track Circle and Birchwood Ct.

A total of \$163,251.54 for cost of installation of the sewers is to be assessed against the property owners. Individual assessments range from \$100 to \$1,325, with most of them in the \$500 range.

The Township Committee accepted the resignation of Durkin, who was named building inspector last year. The resignation will take effect May 1. Durkin wrote that he is physically unable to fulfill his duties.

Police Chief James Osnato was commended in a letter from Springfield officials for assisting as one of a team of examining chiefs in selection of a police lieutenant there.

Major medical coverage through payroll deductions was authorized for the Police Department.

The committee awarded the following contracts: Purchase of a 1964 pick-up vehicle for the Department of Public Works, Romond's Garage Inc., Plainfield, \$3,360.61; sidewalk construction on the north side of W. Broad St., from White Oak Rd. to Graymill Dr., Edward Manfra & Sons, \$4,058.75; sidewalk construction on the west side of Henry St., from Mountain Ave. to Plainfield Ave., \$3,003.50, and on the west side of Hetfield Ave. from South Ave. to Fieldcrest Dr., \$4,064.50, both to J.A. Drive-ways, and maintenance and care of municipal lawn areas, beds and shrubbery, Dominick Di-Francesco, Jr., \$3,900.

An ordinance was adopted to appropriate \$26,000 in capital funds for acquisition of property at 1842-1844 Front St. to be added to the Municipal Building Land area.

Acquisition of the final piece of property to complete the site for the proposed new municipal library was authorized for \$14,000 in a resolution adopted. The property, a 50-by-130-foot lot with a one-family house at 370 Forest Rd., will be purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Groloto.

An agreement was voted with the state Highway Department for installation of a traffic light at Route 28 (South Ave.) and Hetfield-Summit Ave.

The township has been seeking a signal there for some time, officials said. The total cost of the signal will be \$7,200, of which the township will pay \$1,800.

The state Motor Vehicle Department has approved new speed limits, ranging from 25 to 45 miles an hour, along Woodland Ave. and Terrill Rd.

A resolution was adopted to authorize the township treasurer to open a bank account for the Scotch Hills Country Club, the new municipal golf course.

In a resolution, the committee voted to request Union County officials to construct a bridge over Robinson's Branch, a stream, on Cooper Rd.

It was announced that cleanup week will be held the week of May 11.

Referred for further study was a recommendation by Mrs. Joan M. Hiker of 1530 Frank St. that the street be repaired and that a sign be posted to warn vehicles traveling it to remain in the center of the road.

Mrs. Hiker wrote that trucks often go over the edge of the street into ditches because it is narrow and has many holes. In a report, Township Engineer Ernest Lawrence recommended that the street be widened to a 20-foot right-of-way.

An ordinance was introduced to appropriate \$36,000 in capital funds for the paving of Westfield Rd. The township expects to receive \$10,000 in State aid for the project, officials said. Public hearing will be held May 5.

Bids for a street sweeper will be received at the township clerk's office May 5 at 3 p.m.

Youth Employment Service Will Open To Kids May 5

BY DOREEN KOVACSOWSKY

On May 5, the Youth Employment Service of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, a non-profit organization, will be opened for business at 3:00 p.m. at 366 Forest Road. Sponsored by Plainfield, Y.E.S. and prominent businessmen and residents of the area, Y.E.S. will notify industrious students of job openings and assist them with their vocational problems.

Applications can be obtained in the Guidance Office at either the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Junior High or High School or from any member of the Y.E.S. student committee, the only requirement being that the student applicant be between the ages of 14 and 18. As soon as there is a job opening, whether for one night of baby-sitting or 10 weeks of a summer job, Y.E.S. will promptly notify the best qualified workers.

Office hours will be 3-5 p.m. daily, 1-12 p.m. Saturday until the end of the school year. The summer schedule is 9-12 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The members of the committee who volunteered their services to Y.E.S. are chairman, David Ringle; Don Krautter; Ellen Newland; William Burker; Ginger Heald; John Westberg; Charles E. Thatcher; Louis Prusnick; James Field; and Helen Robinson.

Y.E.S. student committee members are Tom Southard and Lynn Gracely of the Junior High School, sophomores Chris Putnam and Keith McCarroll, Juniors Bette Ann Korker and Bill Muesig, and seniors Eileen Reeves and Steve Rutishauser.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Home Captures Flavor Of Colonial Times

The perfect marriage of Yesterday and Today has been achieved in the home of Dr. and Mrs. William L. Sampson of 2148 Gamble Road, Scotch Plains. Their sunny yellow, salt-box style house is set like a jewel in landscaped grounds and gardens reminiscent of Colonial Williamsburg while retaining modern outdoor work and play areas. A precious collection of antiques blends beautifully with colonial reproductions and accessories enhanced with Early American Decoration creating a charming American heritage interior in a home with all the latest comforts and conveniences.

Someone once said, "It takes a lot of living and loving to make a house a home," and this old adage couldn't be truer as far as Emma and William Sampson's harmonious home is concerned. In over forty years of married life, this happy couple has never quarreled, we suspect they have been too busy building a marriage and a home while becoming part of the community.

"I can't think of anything that brings a couple closer together than having hobbies together," disclosed Mrs. Sampson who is Emma to half the townspeople.

Through the years, the Sampsons have shared many interests; but today they work as a team insuring "the perpetuation of craftsmen that did Early American Decoration." It is Mr. Sampson's task to mend and restore antique chairs and tinware to their original condition before Mrs. Sampson applies the Early American Decoration, supplying the finishing touches by stenciling or painting the traditional designs with all the skill and patience of those early craftsmen.

The finished piece is truly a labor of love and the antiques or reproductions the Sampsons turn out are much sought after. Currently, one of their restorations, a Hitchcock chair is on display at The Stapleton's Shop in the Stage House Village, the Sampsons have donated this prime example of Early American

Decoration to the Scotch Plains Womens Club to be used as a prize at their luncheon on April 29 at the Shackamaxon Country Club for the benefit of the Nurses Scholarship Fund.

Practicing the ancient craft of stenciling and painting the time honored designs on tote trays and tinware, chairs and furniture, as well as skillfully reverse painting on glass (an art in itself) has become a hobby for the Sampsons. It is a hobby that has an abundance of patience and previous time that has been artistic endeavors.

"Early American Decoration is not just an art or a craft but hard work," stated Emma who has been conscientiously taking lessons and developing her skill since 1951.

The Sampsons were always interested in antiques, Emma's pride was her collection of tinware and it was the gift of an old, rusty role tray which led to her participating in the revival of Early American Decoration. At that time, all she desired was to have someone paint her tray restoring it to its former beauty--the woman she approached suggested she invest her money in lessons and undertake the task herself.

Soon after Emma was journeying to Cranford for weekly lessons and devoting hours to painting patterns. It was a long time before Emma attempted to paint her first piece, but she finally got around to painting her tray which now hangs in its new-found splendor above the living room fireplace. She now studies with Madeline Hampton of Teaneck.

It didn't happen overnight, but Emma developed all the skill and artistry of the Colonial craftsmen and for a while the pupil even became a teacher to give lessons to friends and neighbors. Today, it takes her about ten hours (not all at once she reports) to hand decorate a chair, in that case Emma would have to live to be 105 in order to finish all the antique chairs resting

in the historical graveyard in the basement awaiting a new life under the skill of her husband's hands.

"I like to do anything where you are working with your hands," noted William Sampson. "I prefer to take hours to do something, slowly and carefully, that someone with a machine could do in ten minutes." Working slowly with hand tools, he has not completed his 1953 job of stenciling and reverse painting on glass in the process of building a wall of built-in ironing boards.

Although an extremely active man, William Sampson started his life with a vacation; he was born while his parents were at their summer home in Bradley Beach. His boyhood days were spent in his hometown of Scranton, Pa., and faith stepped in while he was attending high school for mutual friends introduced him to a visitor from New Jersey who was destined to be his future wife.

The young teen-agers didn't see much of each other until William attended Lafayette College which was only twelve miles away from Emma's hometown of Chagewater, Hunterdon County, N.J. He graduated as a chemical engineer and they were married in 1921 and resided in Highland Park. William was associated with Squibb and Company and was in charge of a pilot plant manufacturing new drugs and chemicals.

While attending Rutgers College of Pharmacy on a Kraft fellowship, William developed his fundamental interest in nutrition starting with the A vitamin and later working on synthetic vitamins. In 1929, the Sampsons moved to Newark while William became a member of the Rutgers' faculty. Emma attended the Newark School of Fine Arts becoming a pastel and watercolor artist. Children and cats were her favorite subjects.

In 1934, William joined Merck and Company of Rahway in the research department but achieved the rank of assistant director with administrative duties. Soon after, the Sampsons took up residence in that town.

"You might say my entire career has been associated with the prevention of disease and the alleviation of suffering in mankind," said Dr. Sampson. While with Merck Institute, his efforts were in the fields of therapeutic and biological research, he was privileged to work through with the development of synthetic vitamins.

The Sampsons decided to leave Rahway in December 1941 when the war started--they wanted a home "just for the duration" and decided on Scotch Plains because "it looked like open spaces." They had an option on a piece of land and were in the house planning stage when they discovered they "couldn't get this and couldn't get that" and were getting discouraged. One day driving through town they spied their present home, liked it and bought it out of desperation.

"We're extremely happy in Scotch Plains and wouldn't live anywhere else," reported Mrs. Sampson. The Sampsons literally put down roots and it promises to be a long duration.

"I had an avocation of liking people," revealed William, "and became involved (along with Emma) first in War Bonds and Red Cross and other activities going on in this war period." "We went heart over hands into war work," added Emma noting they even packed a box a month to send to war victims.

While joining the war effort, the Sampsons didn't neglect their new community. They helped keep the Willow Grove Chapel alive although they are members of the First Methodist Church of Westfield. Emma joined the Scotch Plains Womens Club and the Republican Womens League, and still serves on the Juvenile Conference Committee of Union County. She is also a member of the Highland Park Order of the Eastern Star and the American Historical Society's Early American Decoration Club.

William entered a new field of endeavor when he was elected to the Scotch Plains Township Committee in 1949. During the post-war period of rapid growth, he served two terms as Mayor, first in 1950 and then in 1957. "The characteristic of our Township Committee is that it is not the function of any one individual, but the efforts of the group," summarized William Sampson when queried as to his achievements during that time.

Although he modestly denies any personal credit, the record disclosed that the town increased three-fold during the time he served on the Township Committee and the Master Plan was introduced with a planning program that was instituted and brought to fruition. Today's sewer program is a direct outgrowth of these efforts.

"I've always maintained that if you want to have the privilege to gripe, you have to do something to earn it," revealed William who more than earned that privilege by serving on the Planning Board and later becoming the first chairman of the Redevelopment Agency. Echoing his sentiments, Emma stated, "The only thing that provokes me is people who do nothing but gripe!" Groloto.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS - Dr. and Mrs. William L. Sampson of 2148 Gamble Rd., Scotch Plains relax in front of their fireplace and admire chair Mrs. Sampson hand-painted. (Al Wrigley Photo)

Supermarket Robbed Of \$300 In Cash

A holdup man made a getaway after robbing the Waybest Super Market at 39 S. Martine Ave., Fanwood of \$300 in cash receipts on April 22.

"Listen. Put paper in the bag. Don't make any noise and you won't get hurt," the man said to checkout clerk, Mrs. Dorothy Diamond of 1145 South Ave., Westfield, according to Police Chief Joseph Gorsky.

The man stood before her with his right hand in his coat pocket and gestured, as if he carried a weapon in his pocket she reported.

Mrs. Diamond told police she opened the cash register and took out only paper money, then put it into the bag and handed it to the holdup man.

The man then ordered her to the rear of the building and advised her not to turn around. After he escaped, another woman employee called police, who arrived within minutes but could find no one in the area answering the description, Gorsky said.

A woman customer and a child were in the rear of the store when the holdup occurred at about 1:10 p.m., as was a stock clerk, but apparently were unaware of what was happening, according to police.

The two owners of the supermarket, Michael and Emil Frino of East Orange, were in the basement at the time.