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Women's Club Plans Active Community Improvement Program

Members of the Community Improvement Program of the Scotch Plains Women's Club played hostesses to a group of local civic leaders, Scotch Plains businessmen, representatives from clubs, and library trustees in a program combining an advance peek at the new library and an appeal for improvement in the appearance of its surroundings. Mrs. Edwin Adams, Chairman of the CIP, showed a series of slides illustrating the cluttered appearance of the rear of stores along Park Avenue from Bartle Avenue to Grand Avenue. The back entrances of the stores border the municipal parking lot, which runs in front of the main entrance of the Library, which stands at the corner of Bartle Avenue and Forest Road. Mrs. Adams cited piles of boxes, dirt, crates, rubbish, laundry, and peeling paint. This sight is clearly visible from the main desk of the new library.

Using several before-and-after shots, Mrs. Adams showed the improvement achieved by Westfield storeowners whose business establishments back onto the municipal parking lot in that community. The pictures showed the redecorated back entrances of John Franks, Baron's Drug Store, Jeanette's, and several other Broad Street stores. Mrs. Adams pointed out that expensive and extensive rebuilding is not necessary. SHE asked that local businessmen install attractive white trellising behind their stores to screen out the view of their loading areas. She then showed sketches of the uniform type of installation that the club members would like to see.

The stores of which she spoke front on Park Avenue, and include a supermarket, a bakery, a shoe store, an electronics firm, a meat market, a photography store, and a new brick building housing a stationery store and a liquor store. Two of the business owners pledged cooperation. Mrs. Marie Losavio, wife of John Losavio of John's Meat Market, said that she has always had "a very warm feeling about town". Any way in which the Losavio business could improve

appearance would be willingly undertaken, she said. M. LoPilato of Park Avenue Photography also indicated an interest. Mayor Santo Salvo said that the Library location in the heart of the business district should prove most beneficial to store owners. He said that the Township Committee would encourage the businessmen to dress up their establishments. It was pointed out that in today's mobile world, actually the rear of most stores is the most frequently used, so that the rear entrance greatly reflects the image of the business.

Cooperation was pledged by Mrs. Leonard Sacher, speaking for the Junior Women's Club, and by Edward Evans of the Businessmen's Association. Evans said his organization was most interested, and planned to form a committee. P.E. Peterson of the Peterson-Ringle Real Estate Agency on Park Avenue traced the development of Park Avenue on the opposite side of the street, and pointed out examples of attractive buildings drawing attractive businesses. He said that from a real estate value point of view, the project is important.

Prior to the program, small groups toured the Library with members of the Women's Club serving as guides. Although there is still some work remaining before the March or April opening, much of the building is completed. The predominant features of the massive main reading room include oyster white walls, heavy arching wooden ceiling beams, used brick columns, groups of long cylindrical lighting fixtures, and chairs upholstered in bright yellow. Large glass-walled "box" in the center of the children's area has tiered steps for children to sit upon during story hours within the soundproofed area. Accommodations for children are evident throughout the library, from the step-ups at the water fountain to the slanted book rests in their section.

An enclosed music room is walled in used brick. Facilities include two turntables and a tape deck plus four sets of earphones. A record library and a tape library will be housed therein.

Laberge Named to Top School Job



F. J. LABERGE

Nationwide Search Ends at Home

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Board of Education, at a special meeting held Wednesday, January 24, announced the appointment of Fernand J. Laberge, former Assistant Superintendent of the Scotch Plains - Fanwood school system to the position of Superintendent of Schools, effective February 1, 1968. He succeeds Dr. Paul W. Rossey who is currently District Superintendent of Schools for Nassau County, New York.

Board of Education President Sheldon S. Anderson announced that seven candidates were interviewed by the board. These candidates were recommended by two consultants, Dr. Herold C. Hunt of Harvard University and Dr. Willard S. Elsbee of Columbia University who were employed by the board to assist in selecting the most qualified candidate for the Superintendency.

Anderson stated that a total of 58 candidates from 17 different states applied for the post. The consulting team screening reduced to seven the number of men recommended to and interviewed by the board. The board was unanimous in its selection of Laberge.

Laberge is a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science, and holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees from New York University where he is a doctoral candidate. He served in the Army from 1952 to 1954. After three years as a teacher in Englewood, he was appointed Assistant to the Superintendent in that community. Since 1958, Laberge has served as Assistant Superintendent and Secretary to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

Fred, his wife Arden, and their two children who attend Shackamaxon and Terrill schools, live on Graymill Drive, Scotch Plains.

Fund Drive Nets \$14,200

Robert H. Geer, chairman of this year's United Community Services drive in Fanwood, announced last week the successful completion of the campaign with a total contribution of \$14,200. "I would like to thank all the citizens of Fanwood" Mr. Geer said, "for again contributing so

generously to the support of those agencies which directly benefit our community. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to all those who assisted in the campaign. Special thanks are due the area chairmen, district captains, and the solicitors - all the persons who gave up so many hours of their time to organize and carry out the door-to-door campaigning".

Other features of the new building include a microfilm room, a basement room for display of art collections, a community meeting room on the lower level accessible when the main library is closed, and a kitchen and lounge for library workers.

Let's Hope For a Cloudy Day Tomorrow

The world's most unreliable weather prognosticator makes his annual prognostication tomorrow.

According to folklore, the groundhog, or woodchuck, awakens from his long winter sleep on FEB. 2. He sticks his head out of his home in the ground and looks around.

If he sees his shadow he crawls back into his hole and this is supposed to mean that there will be six more weeks of winter weather.

If he doesn't see his shadow, he stays out of his hole, and this is supposed to mean that spring weather soon will come.



Scotch Plains Womens Club members left to right, Mrs. Emery B. Gebert, Mrs. John G. Carboy, Mrs. J. Robert Shellenger, Mrs. James P. Gilgannon, Mrs. Edward J. Schaack, Mrs. Edwin H. Adam, Chairman; Mrs. Wilbert T. Reilly, Club President; Mrs. William L. Sidun, Mrs. Harold L. Wolfe, Mrs. Robert E. Barnum, Mrs. Harold Fusselman.

In This Issue of the TIMES

A considerable amount of space has been allocated to the subject of the school budget, and we think, justifiably so. Our school system is important to the community, to every property owner, every businessman, every parent, and certainly to the future of every child.