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Council Acts To Authorize Tax Assessor Appointment

Great News!

Howard Clickenger, Assistant to Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge, reported this week that Mr. Laberge's doctors were very pleased with his progress medically, following his coronary attack last month.

Mr. Laberge is now resting at home, is able to conduct some discussions of school affairs at home on a limited basis, and, Clickenger said, feels fine and looks very good.

The medical prognosis for the next several weeks will be limited activity at home.

Fanwood Borough Council initiated action in one of the last steps to provide an appointed tax assessor for the community under terms of an ordinance introduced Wednesday night.

The ordinance recognizes a recently passed state law allowing Fanwood mayors to appoint an assessor, instead of electing one. The appointment would be subject to the approval of the Borough Council. The new legislation also would allow an assessor to live outside the community, within a radius of ten miles from Borough Hall.

With the retirement of former tax assessor George Draper in the Spring, Fanwood was unable to find a replacement from within the town, and appealed to the state for legislation to change the requirements.

S. Arthur Gaylord of 47 Hull Drive in Clark was recently named as chief assessing clerk. It is expected that he will soon be appointed to fill Draper's dual jobs as tax assessor and building inspector.

In another ordinance initiated Wednesday, the present ordinance spelling out salaries of borough officials would be amended to provide a \$200 raise for the tax assessor, up from \$690.00 to \$7100. The building inspector position, also held by Draper and by Gaylord, would remain the same, at \$1600.

Public hearing and final vote on both ordinances will be held on September 11.

Eighteen residents of Trenton Avenue attended the meeting, expecting information on assessments they would be required to pay for the paving of their street. The assessment report had not been studied completely by Council members who had not received it until just before the meeting, so final determination of assessments against the homeowners was not available. The Mayor did note, however, that the amount included in the total cost of the projects for sidewalk installation in Trenton Avenue and other areas of Kramer Manor would not be levied against homeowners.

The sidewalks are installed at the suggestion of the Joint PTA Safety Council and costs are absorbed by the community.

The residents questioned why they were required to pay for the paving, a fairly uncommon occurrence within the Borough. Mayor Roland Beetham explained that several of the Kramer Manor streets had been only dirt roads, and had never been improved or accepted for maintenance by the community. In most other Fanwood streets, a developer had purchased land and completed the street, with homeowners paying for the paving, but indirectly, with costs reflected in the price of the homes. He (Con't on page 20)

Freeholder Candidates Hit Hughes' Veto Threat

Union County's three Republican Freeholder candidates expressed their dismay at Governor Hughes' announced intention to veto Senate S-721 this week before leaving the State for the Democratic political convention. The bill, introduced by State Senator Matthew J. Rinaldo, R-Union, would return \$25 million in State sales tax revenues to the municipalities. It had passed both houses of the legislature with wide majorities.

"Although our Democratic opponents for the Freeholder posts this year have endorsed the Governor's position, there has been wide bi-partisan support for those of us who seek relief for the property taxpayer", the candidates said.

David B. Zurav, one of the Republican Freeholder candidates, pointed out that "1968 is a particularly bad tax year. Virtually every community in the county had a substantial tax rate increase this year and we are all feeling the pinch of the new 10% Federal Income Surtax. The Governor's intended action is particularly frustrating in the face of inflationary pressures and high taxes at all levels of government."

Fanwood Councilman Donald C. Dunne, another GOP candidate, pointed out that the \$25 million is less than 10% of the \$268 million anticipated in the new State budget from sales tax revenues. "It would appear that the Governor has conveniently forgotten that he sold the sales tax to the people on the premise these revenues would be used to reduce the burden on the property taxpayer. The bill he intends to veto would do exactly that."

Clark Mayor William J. Maguire, the other GOP candidate, said he had personally urged the Governor to sign the bill into law. "We challenge our Democrat opponents to reverse their position and join us in urging the Governor to reconsider," Maguire said. "The simple fact is that property tax relief is ur-

gently needed and the Governor's action, supported by the Democrat minorities on the Freeholder Board, is inconsistent and non-responsive to public need."

The republican candidates pledged that, if elected they would use economy in budgeting and would use their influence to reduce the property tax burden at all levels of government.

They Went Thataway!

Backyard privet hedges became the hedgerows of hunt country . . . and Fanwood driveways second only to Monmouth Race Track for two local young horses who couldn't resist a run and a taste of freedom on Tuesday afternoon.

The horses, one brown and one white, escaped from their "corral" at their Scotch Plains home, and "did the town", leading Fanwood police on a merry chase through the highways and by-ways of the borough.

The rascals jumped fences, cavorted in Herbert Avenue backyards, rounded into Helen Street at full speed, and clipped through Burns Way. When last spotted, they were blithely trotting thru the middle of backyards, as two police cars split up, trying to corner them - one car down Crest Lane, the other down Second Street. We must report that there were no lassoes in evidence on the part of the officers.

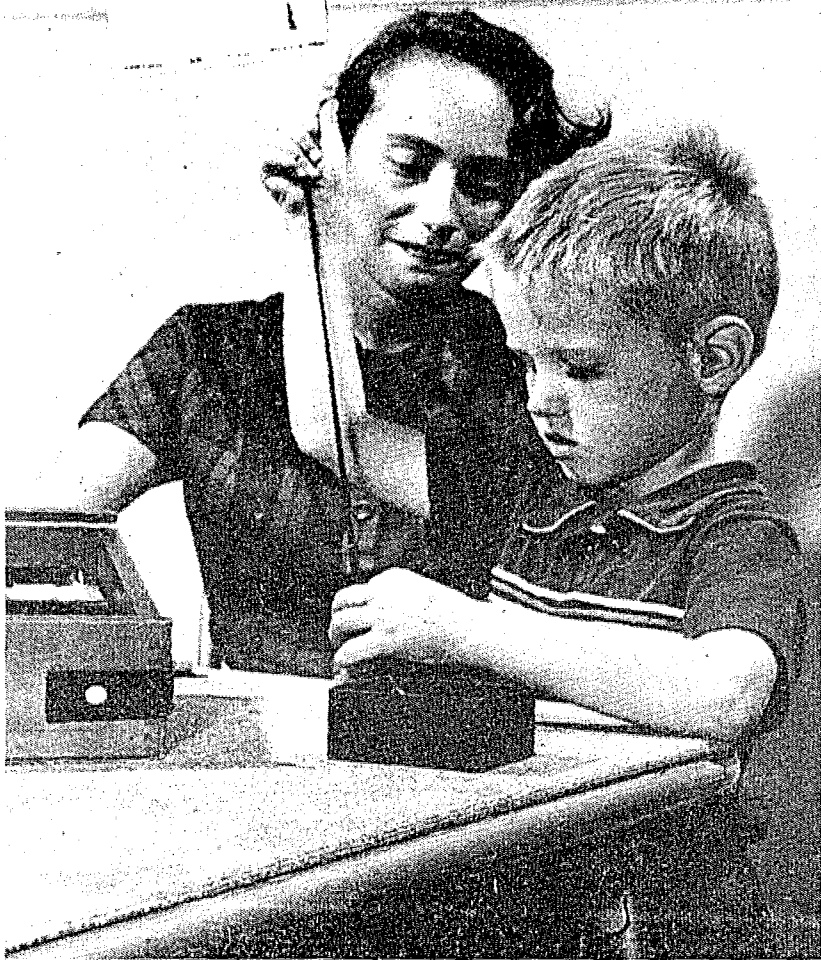
The unusual visitors had residents out in full force on several blocks just before the dinner hour, and provided a good bit of excitement for children.

At last report, the Fanwood Police watched them sail into Scotch Plains, and the Scotch Plains police have no record of their escapade!

Correction

Last week, in an article covering the August 13 Scotch Plains Township Committee meeting, we mentioned a hassle which occurred over the appointment of an alternate member of the Board of Adjustment. Our article stated that the replacement was necessary, due to the fact that Lawrence Wolf was resigning from the Board of Adjustment because he is a candidate for a seat on the Township Committee.

We were misinformed, and in error. Robert Hill, an alternate member of the Board of Adjustment, will fill the unexpired term of John Mange, who is resigning due to company re-assignment. A new alternate member is required to fill Hill's position.



Psychologist observes child serving as model with psychological evaluation equipment.

Psychiatric Clinic Performs Important Community Service

The Union County Psychiatric Clinic a member of the Fund serves the residents of Scotch Plains. Last year 592 hours of service were given to 96 Scotch Plains patients. The bulk of the cases involved children. Through this service many cases were corrected before hospitalization was required.

The staff of the clinic are all highly trained people ready to serve the community.

The clinic a non-profit organization is governed by a Board of Trustees and Scotch Plains is represented by Mr. Russell Patterson and Mrs. Ernest DiFrancisco Jr. In addition the community has a committee to act as liaison. Its job is to know community needs and inform the community of the services available.

How does the clinic operate? A call is made to the Plainfield office at 111 East Front Street. An interview is held, the staff decides if further work is necessary. Then the process begins: interviews, tests etc. Come into play and the problems are resolved. This of course takes time but the results justify the efforts.

As some families cannot pay the full costs of the treatments the community is asked to help. This is where the Scotch Plains Community Fund helps out. A part of the contributions received are given to the clinic to cover the costs. One thing to remember no person is denied treatment because of ability to pay.

The clinic is another reason to support your Community Fund.

Joint Civic Committee Sets Open Meeting

The Joint Civic Committee of Scotch Plains and Fanwood will hold an open meeting on Thursday, September 12, to give residents of the two towns an opportunity to learn more about the workings of the Committee.

Comprised of two representatives of interested civic organizations, the Committee encourages and endorses well-qualified persons to become candidates for election to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School Board.

The meeting will be at 8:15 p.m. in the Community Building at the Fanwood Railroad Station. Residents may recommend possible candidates to the School Board posts by completing the committee's data sheets which will be available at the meeting. Forms may also be obtained by writing to the Joint Civic Committee, P.O. Box 187, Fanwood.

Charles Schadle, 59 Beech Ave. Fanwood, is chairman of the (Con't on page 8)