

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1973

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## Lynn Berry Of Fanwood Authors Poetry Volume

"Double Take" is the title of slim, 69-page volume of poems. Some of them have been authored by Max Ellison, an elderly minstrel who wears a battered old black felt hat and drives a pick-up truck which houses most of his earthly belongings. The other half of the "Double Take" is much the opposite of Max. She's a slim Fanwood native of 24 - a girl with the wispy long hair and bright, clear look of youth. Their poems are the unifying force between them, in the volume published recently by Conway House.



LYNN BERRY

Poetry is not the only talent of Lynn Berry. She's a junior high school art teacher at Hillsborough Junior High in Hillsborough, and capable painter with an abstract orientation. She drums and she bicycles in addition to her long hours blending words into lovely poems.

Miss Berry was born in Brooklyn in 1948 and moved to Fanwood with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Berry, when she was seven years old. Her father's talents are obviously a source of Lynn's aesthetic bent. Mr. Berry is an architect, and has recently been involved with a feasibility study of new municipal facilities for the borough of Fanwood.

Although poetry has been a part of her life ever since she can

remember, Lynn originally planned to be a physical education major when she entered Notre Dame College in Cleveland. However, she switched to art along the way, and received her degree in that area. She taught in Cleveland for a year, then toured the country for a year before taking her Hillsborough teaching assignment two years ago. Her education is continuing, via graduate studies at Trenton State.

Her first contact with her co-author occurred last year at Hillsborough Junior High, where the wandering minstrel had come to entrance students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. He gave up farming in northern Michigan ten years ago to take to the road with his poetry readings, and he's been featured at schools, colleges, clubs and fraternal organizations throughout the country ever since. He is a magical entertainer, and he encourages poetry in others as he weaves his own spells. He stumbled upon the talent of Miss Berry, and she became the second poet with whom he has collaborated. She illustrated their joint work.

Max's first book was entitled "Happen'stance." Another he authored, "The Underbark" written in 1969, sold 50,000 copies.

Together they chose Dr. George Gonzalez to dedicate their volume to. He was formerly the principal of the junior high and

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## New School Construction Hits Snag

Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge reported that new additions to four elementary schools are coming along, and should be available for occupancy when school opens in September. There have been some problems with some construction unions, but the expected strikes had not occurred, he noted. However, a single snag is holding up advances in the construction of the new School One on Willow Avenue.

Concrete panels which are to be placed between windows were awaited for many weeks, guaranteed two weeks ago, and never arrived. Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Jerry Coffman actually went to the plant in Massachusetts, and found the panels had not even been started. Without the panels in place, windows cannot be plumbed, lighting, carpentering, etc. cannot be installed, Laberge noted.

Several substitutes are under consideration, such as seeking another supplier or substituting another material. The school architect is being consulted at present. Laberge expects the new school to be ready by early fall, he said.

## Fined On Drug Charge

Fanwood Municipal Court Judge Melvin Whitken fined James Paardecamp \$510 last Monday night on a charge of possession of marijuana. Paardecamp of 115 Martine Avenue, was also given a six month suspended jail sentence and placed on probation for one year.

The arrest of Paardecamp came as a result of an investigation by the Union County Narcotics Strike Force.

In other court action the cases of Robert Spingler of 48 Watson Road and Gary Gerling of 14 Mary Lane, Scotch Plains, were adjourned with a new court date not yet set at this time.

Spingler, 21, and Gerling 19, were among a group of seven youths who were arrested after a confrontation with police at La Grande Playground in June. The youths are charged with refusing to leave the park upon police orders.

The Superintendent noted that he expects to submit a formal recommendation to the Board next month regarding the old School One.

## Board Gets Sampling Of Community Opinion On Lunch In School

### Majority Favored Cautious Approach To Problem

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education got a small sprinkling of community reaction to school lunch policy during its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, July 19. To date, the local school district has had no specific policy governing the eating of lunches in the elementary schools. The Board hopes to adopt such a policy before school opens in September, and community reaction was invited, both at last Thursday's meeting and at a special public hearing set for August 14, just two days before the August 16 meeting, at which the issue hopefully will be settled.

There were approximately 15 representatives of the general public in attendance last Thursday, and the majority of them spoke regarding the lunch issue. Overwhelmingly, they urged the Board of Education not to adopt a completely free policy which would allow any child to remain for lunch any day he wished, with adequate supervision from paid teacher aides.

John McCormick, who heads the policy committee, said he expects that on August 14, the Board will present some form of proposal to the audience, glean public reaction, and then work to revise the policy if necessary, before the August 16 meeting. McCormick outlined the possibilities regarding lunch. The Board has the following choices:

1. Providing coverage for all classes in the elementary schools. This is obviously an extreme position.
2. To close the schools completely during the lunch time which is another extreme.
3. Allow only legally bus students to stay.
4. Use some distance criterion.
5. Use some grade level criterion.

At the present time, children must bring lunches and eat them in classrooms, where they may purchase milk. There are no cafeterias in any elementary school. The children are supervised by a district-wide total of 25 elementary school teacher aides. These aides receive \$2.25 per hour for a four-hour day, totaling \$40,950. The aides spend the other three hours of their shift in clerical work, teacher assistance, listening to children read orally, etc. According to McCormick's report, at times there are eight or nine classrooms, with an average of 20 children in each, under the supervision of a single aide.

What would it cost to provide adequate supervision for all who wished to stay? McCormick said only 48 percent of the McGinn student body remains for lunch, 67 percent of LaGrande, and 82 to 90 percent of the other elementary schools. If an aide were to be provided for every two classrooms, it would require 62 aides, costing the district slightly over \$100,000, or an ad-

ditional \$60,000. These aides would have to be employed for a full shift, since it is impossible to get people to come in for only an hour's pay.

"Ultimate coverage" was termed "horrendous" by Mrs. Mary Hodge, who stated that she couldn't conceive of such a policy when "we couldn't even pass a budget." She urged a look at communities like Westfield, where children go home daily.

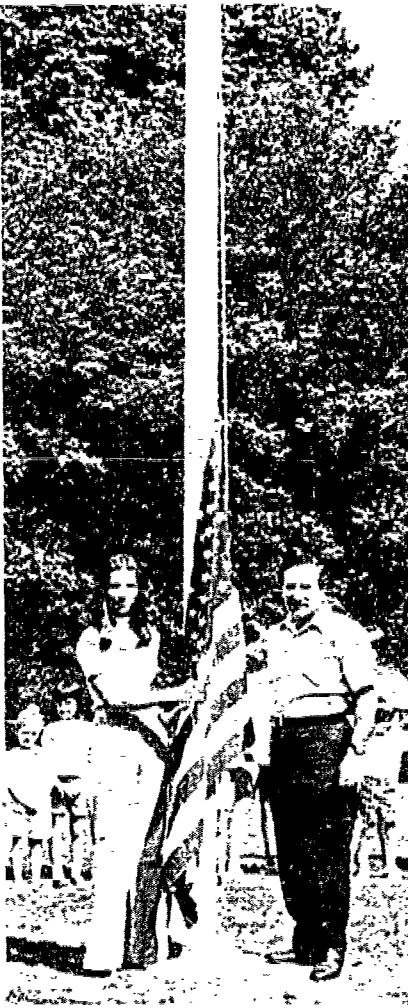
Mrs. Taylor asked what sort of program could be provided to avoid children being forced to sit in seats all through the lunch hours, as has happened to date on occasion. She urged pressure to avoid provision of ultimate coverage. Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge said the elementary expansion will allow use of multi-purpose rooms, which could hold two groups of 200 each, in half-hour shifts, at lunchtime.

Two mothers spoke of problems which small children face if they would have to go home for lunch, with a good distance to walk. Mrs. Thorne said her young child would have to walk 1.4 miles from Shackamaxon School, over a route she didn't feel the child was able to handle on a bicycle at a young age. Mrs. Thorne said, however, that better supervision is definitely needed for those who do eat in school. Conditions were such in the classrooms and playgrounds last year that she and neighbors were forced to chauffeur young children home for a break.

Volunteer mothers to supervise was questioned, but Board members said such approaches had been tried, with no success in some schools and limited success in others. School insurance policies do not cover the smaller children, and therefore they cannot accompany mothers, one Evergreen mother said she was told. The PTA Council is of the opinion that the volunteer programs are not the answer, and some Board members pointed out that the volunteer mothers have no disciplinary backing and have been harassed by children on occasion.

The Board will continue to consider public opinion on August 14, and would welcome opinion letters on the matter.

## New Flagpole



The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Y Women's Club presented a new flag and flagpole for the Martine Avenue Y Family Center site at a recent ceremony there. Club president Mrs. Mary Traina presented the flag to Executive Director Joseph Y. Qutub.

Day campers from Y Camps Weeto-Wewanchu participated in the ceremony.

Funds for this two-year project were earned from garage sales. This Y service club also provides day camp scholarships for qualified campers, as well as assisting with holiday special youth programs. In addition, gifts of maintenance and office equipment have been donated recently to the Y by this club.

The Y Women's Club is a YMCA Service Club for women which meets at the Y's Grand Street and Union Avenue Building in Scotch Plains, the third Wednesday afternoon of the month from September through June. Any area resident is eligible to join, whether or not they are Y members. Babysitting is available during meetings. Contact the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Y or Mrs. Mary Traina, 322-2228 for further information.

## Notice

The Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains will not meet during the month of August. The next scheduled Public meeting will be on September 17th at 8:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers.