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Miriam Lehr Dies, Served "Y" For Fifteen Years

Mrs. Miriam Lehr, who has been the cheerful, greeting face in the front office at the YMCA, passed away on Tuesday, August 28, 1973. She had been hospitalized at Muhlenberg Hospital for several weeks.



MRS. MIRIAM LEHR

Miriam had become the symbol of YMCA friendliness through the years, as she carried on her duties as Office Manager with both dispatch and good humor. She was most familiar with the fantastic growth of the YMCA, for she had served for 15 years. She first answered a "Help Wanted" ad and took the job for an hour and a half three days a week in 1958. She drew upon her past experience working with the Red Cross abroad and service organizations in the United States. During her earliest days, her office included a single typewriter and a hand-operated mimeograph. She watched the office grow to a staff which included three additional office personnel using four electric typewriters, an electric mimeograph, and a folding machine. Back in 1958, "Y" activities covered only four areas: skills, open gym, day camp, and swimming at the Plainfield Y. To-

day, the YMCA offerings cover the pages of a lengthy brochure. Through it all, Miriam has measured up and more, for she has managed to coordinate the full program and the confusion which goes hand in hand with a two-building operation.

Mrs. Lehr had thoroughly enjoyed watching the Y growth and the total community involvement which came with it. "I've seen a whole generation of youngsters grow up in this Y," she once commented.

Joseph Qurub, current Director of the YMCA, expressed the feeling of loss on the part of the staff and all the people who knew Miriam. "For many years, she had been the backbone of the YMCA. She has truly dedicated her life to our goals, and she had a wonderful talent for working things out, for coordination, and for keeping all the staff, both full time and part time, happy."

Mrs. Lehr was the wife of Frederick Lehr and the mother of Darrell (now Mrs. J. Robert Snyder) and Craig. The family lives on Kempshall Terrace in Fanwood.

Mrs. Lehr lived in Fanwood for 20 years, and in Plainfield for seven years before that.

Services are scheduled for Friday, August 31, 1973 from Gray's Funeral Home, E. Broad Street, Westfield, with a 1:30 p.m. funeral at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Visiting hours are today (Thursday, August 30) from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9, at Gray's. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that contributions be made to the local Heart Fund;

Elementary Lunch Policy Is Detailed For Affected Parents

The recent decision by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education setting specific policy on who may and who may not eat lunch in the classrooms of the elementary schools has necessitated an extensive information campaign by the administration, in order that all parents affected by the new policy may be notified well in advance of the opening of schools.

Under the new policy, children in first through third grade who live over a half mile from school may remain at school when they desire. Children in grades four through six must live over a mile in order to qualify. Milk will be sold to those who desire it, children bring their own lunches, and are supervised in the classroom for dining and in either multipurpose room or playground for play period.

The big question now being asked is "How far do we live from the school?" and that question is being answered by letters to parents. The letters have been prepared by the superintendent and will be distributed by building principals. Mileage measurements were expected to have been completed last Tuesday, and parents should receive letters informing them

of their status prior to this weekend.

Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge said only a few instances of public reaction had been received, and that primarily from people asking if exceptions to the policy will be made. School principals have been instructed that there will be absolutely no exceptions to the policy.

The administration, which bears the responsibility of administering the new policy, is seeking parental cooperation in many forms, Laberge said. He said children should be sent back after lunch so that they will arrive no earlier than ten minutes before afternoon classes begin. Those who are sent back early will be relegated to a section separate from the supervised areas set aside for those who are eligible to remain for lunch.

Much Will Be New When Schools Open Next Wednesday

Summer Construction And Improvement Program Nears End

Every last new piece of paneling may not be in place, and every single new classroom isn't completely finished, but the picture is fairly optimistic as schools open next Wednesday after a spring and summer of extensive construction work in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district.

School bells will toll at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday morning, as the 1973-74 school year kicks off. It includes changes in several areas - some in physical plants, some in program, others in policy.

According to Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge, the projected enrollment for next Wednesday is 7,800 - down slightly from the last year totals. The staff will include 34 new faces among the teaching staff, as well as a new Director of Language Arts Dr. Martha Booth and a new principal at School One, James Cerasa. Teacher orientation was held this week, and work sessions under the direction of school principals and Office of Instruction will follow.

In addition to the customary pre-opening tasks such as teacher orientation and checking on building conditions, Laberge has been spending frantic days keeping track of construction work at the many project sites. They include a new school on Willow Avenue, improvements and an addition at Park Junior High, and additions at four elementary schools. The building schedule is "very tight," Laberge said, due to failure of contractors to meet deadlines. He detailed the conditions at each school.

At Park, where new lighting was to be installed throughout the building, electricity for the opening days will be provided by temporary lighting, since fluorescent fixtures were held up due to a strike and won't be delivered for three weeks. Incandescent lighting will be hung, and will provide the necessary state required lighting in a safe manner. There is a good amount of finishing work within Park, Laberge said, and it will be done during the school day and after school, depending upon location of the work. Contractors working at Park have been notified that no disruptions in classroom programs will be permitted. The contractors will have to work around the school routines, Laberge noted.

The addition to Park is being prepared for plaster work, and is scheduled for completion in mid-October. All but seven classrooms at the junior high are available for classrooms and there are sufficient areas within the school to properly house all educational programs. Home Economics, Art and Science rooms are among those not expected to be ready on opening day, necessitating shifts in curriculum. In short, the areas of

Listening Post

The regular monthly Listening Post session conducted by Scotch Plains Committeemen Alan Augustine, Walter Grote and B. Lawrence Newcomb has been set for Saturday, Sept. 8 from 10 to 12 noon. The sessions have been planned by the committeemen in order to provide for Scotch Plains residents an opportunity to present their views, seek information, and inform themselves on questions of concern. The public is invited to the informal meeting, which is held on the first Saturday morning of each month in the Committee Chambers, Municipal Building, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

Parental Help Needed

In several locations around Scotch Plains, last minute construction work is underway to insure that children in the school district will have a place to go when next Wednesday rolls around. The construction sites are at McGinn, Brunner, Evergreen, Coles, Park Junior High School and School One. Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge has emphasized the importance of watching these neighborhoods for vandalism for the construction schedule is so tight that the theft of even relatively small amounts of equipment could throw off the building and finishing schedule.

Laberge said the Police Department has been alerted and requested to provide careful patrolling, and letters have been sent to homeowners near the schools seeking their help in watchdog efforts.

Laberge further warned parents to keep their children away from construction areas, since they are not safe yet. He said buildings will be fully enclosed by Monday, and until that time there are dangers inherent in playing within the new school additions.

Those who lunch at home will not be able to avail themselves of the supervision and the recreational facilities afforded the lunching students, since provision has been made only for the safe supervision of those who live within the prescribed limits. Laberge pointed out that whenever any policy or district change is made which involves distances from schools, it is customary for some residents to question

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the courses which require no equipped classrooms or laboratories will be presented in the first part of the school year.

Among the elementary school improvements, Coles is furthest ahead, with no problems foreseen. Teachers were already visiting the school last weekend and will continue to come in this week to arrange furniture, textbooks, etc.

Evergreen is in reasonably good shape, with only glass for windows in the addition still to be installed, a job which should be completed by the end of this week.

A heavy concentration of work still remains at the end of this week in order to finish up in time for opening at Brunner and McGinn, Laberge said.

The original buildings at the elementary schools are all in excellent shape and have been cleaned, the Superintendent pointed out, and 80 members of the district's maintenance, grounds and custodial crew will report in for the three days of the Labor Day weekend to insure that buildings are cleaned and to clean up after the contractors.

Over the summer months, there have been interior changes at LaGrande and Shackamaxon, which have been accomplished by the school district personnel as part of a three-year budgeting, at \$30,000 per year. The work in these areas is completed, with final projects for next year still dependent upon a Board decision to include the final \$30,000 in the budget package to be presented to voters next year.

The new School One on Willow Avenue will open according to schedule in late fall, with students who will ultimately attend that school to be housed in the meantime at the old School One and Muir School, with both these schools now in condition to accept students. Transportation will be provided for those students who are temporarily housed at Muir and meet transportation requirements, and parents have been so notified.

EARLY CLOSING FOR NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

Because of the Labor Day holiday on Monday all advertising and news copy must be in our office by noon Friday, August 31!