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VOL. III — No. 10

A PUBLICATION OF THE STRATHMORE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JUNE, 1966

Where Do We Go From Here?

The outlook for full school programs in Matawan is dim indeed. Population growth will outspeed the current building plans unless steps are taken to fill the void with a stop-gap program.

It all started when the Strathmore development opened. The first influx of 1,300 young, child-bearing families descended en masse on a small, old, rural community. Levitt estimated .6 of a child per family and offered to build a 20-room K-6 school. The Township Fathers and the Regional Board of Education realized that the Levitt estimate was much too low and negotiated with the developer to build the Strathmore Elementary School with 34 rooms.

In looking back, the first misjudgment took place when Levitt was given the O.K. to build an additional 600 homes in what became the Oxford, Fordham and Waverly sections. Instead of negotiating for an additional school or \$500 per family toward a new school, the Township administrators agreed to a road-building program that would encompass the entire township—not just Strathmore.

The School Board in late 1963 and early 1964, after prodding by the Educational Committee of the Strathmore Civic Association, embarked on a building program. A door-to-door census was conducted by the Cliffwood PTA, Matawan PTA and the Strathmore Civic Association and based on census figures, a 10-year-long term-plan was presented to the school authorities in Trenton and accepted.

The proposed program encompassed the period 1965-1975 and provided for the construction of four new school buildings capable of housing 2,700 pupils; an addition to the high school for 200 pupils, the renovation of the old high school building on Broad Street and the acquisition of land for the total program. The long-range program had to be divided into three phases due to the financial limitations imposed by the State:

PHASE I Target Date

Partial renovation of old Matawan High School Building 1964-5-6

New construction —
Lloyd Road School (K-8) 1965

New construction —
Ravine Drive School (K-6).... 1965

PHASE II

Continued renovation of old Matawan High School Building 1968

New construction —
K-8 Cliffwood 1967

PHASE III

New construction —
K-6 Cambridge 1970

Complete renovation of old Matawan High School Building 1972

New construction —
High School Addition 1973

The Building Committee of the School Board made its report to the Board on the feasibility of renovating the old Matawan High School in October 1965, but to date no action has been taken.

Consideration of the beginning of procedures for Phase II was scheduled to start in September 1965.

What happened to Phase I? The Ravine Drive School began operating in February 1966 as K-4 school, but probably will be a K-3 school before long.

The K-8 school? Drive on Lloyd Road near Ivy Hill Drive and you have your answer — February 1967 at the earliest.

The facts speak for themselves. As a result of delays, the Board included \$44,000 in the 1966 - 1967 budget to rent portable classrooms to fill the gap until permanent facilities were available. The purpose of renting ten classrooms was to avoid double sessions in Grades 6 and 9 IN ADDITION to Grades 7 and 8, which were on double sessions for several years.

Like a bolt out of nowhere the Board by a majority of one, voted to forego rental of temporary classrooms in lieu of a staggered high school schedule which would still preclude an extra curricular program for many students.

Also suggested was a three-session kindergarten term instead of two sessions. This proposal would release six additional rooms, but can you imagine the administrative difficulties in the Strathmore Elementary School alone with such a program.

The portable classrooms are costly and no substitute for permanent facilities. But isn't it worth less than \$2.50 per resident to give our children a full program pointed toward a quality education? The Superintendent of Schools, the High School Principal, the Matawan High School PTA, the Strathmore PTA and the Strathmore Civic Association thought so, but five members of the nine-member Board didn't.

The Board now realizes that Phases II and III must be consolidated and expedited. But in order to build, you must have money and there are existing limitations restricting the issuance of school bonds imposed upon school districts.

Due to the bonding limits imposed by law, the Matawan Regional Board is in a dilemma. How then do they provide the classroom facilities for a school population which is 5,700 for the present session and will grow at the rate of 300 - 400 a year to a projected 8,000 for the 1972 - 3 school year?

[Continued on Page 7]

YES Needs Volunteers

Mrs. Walter Kibble and Mrs. Carroll B. Hall, speaking to the Matawan Regional High School PTA, outlined the background and operation of Y.E.S. (Youth Employment Service) for the Matawan - Keyport area. A Y.E.S. office, manned by volunteers, is maintained at Matawan Borough Hall.

Three primary problems confront the organization: a) need for a continuous flow of job listings; b) money to pay for incidental expenses; and c) personnel shortage. Mrs. Kibble emphasized that donations are tax-deductible, and that volunteers work only two hours a week.

Mrs. Hall pointed out that 194 girls and 113 boys have registered for employment, and some 200 job requests already have been filled. These cover services ranging from baby-sitting, mothers' helpers, tutoring, entertainment and nursing aides for girls — to lawn mowing, window washing, painting and entertainment groups for boys.

Y.E.S. is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2:30 to 4:30. It is a non-profit organization, formed with the cooperation and guidance of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry.

THE STRATHMORE OBSERVER

published monthly by the
**STRATHMORE - AT - MATAWAN
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Marlene Ewing's

Letter to Editor

The undersigned have carefully studied and discussed the idea advanced by Mr. Bradley, president of the Matawan Regional Board of Education, concerning the construction of a "stripped" building.

This idea, advanced at the May 16 meeting of the board, was wrought with "ifs." According to Mr. Bradley the "stripped" school could be built if certain revenues were forthcoming on income and interest from investments, if the citizenry would approve the transfer of \$207,000 in current expense funds to capital funds and if \$300,000 were withdrawn from surplus.

There is no doubt that permanent construction of schools is more desirable than portable classrooms, but we feel obliged at this time to adopt a firm position against the construction of a "stripped" building.

We will not support this program for several reasons.

1. It does not satisfy the needs of this community. We are weary of incomplete and inadequate schools that are overcrowded before the doors open. Why not take time to accurately assess our school population and future needs?

2. The proposed referendum to transfer \$207,000 from capital expenses is also unacceptable. We feel that our existing schools should be properly equipped out of these funds. Teachers have asked for well-deserved pay increases. Additional full-time remedial reading teachers are needed. Full-time psychologists should be hired, to name only a few.

3. The spending of all available surplus funds, in our opinion, poor financial management.

The latest statement by Mr. Foster which solves split sessions for the present, does not offer a satisfactory solution to the problem. Increasing the size of classes will decrease the standard of education and the efficiency of teachers. Theoretically, staggered sessions would seem a reasonable solution, but in actual fact they will seriously curtail extra-curricular activities, so vital to a well-rounded high school education.

[Continued on Page 7]

President's Corner

On February 1st the citizens of the Matawan Regional School District voted for approval of the annual budget by an overwhelming margin. The Board, prior to election date, mailed a detailed copy of the budget to every registered voter. One of the specific items listed was a \$44,000 appropriation for ten portable classrooms. (On the front page of this issue of the Observer, an article appears commenting on this phase of the school problem.)

The Board procrastinated and when it finally got down to brass tacks to authorize the rental of the classrooms, the price had risen 25%. Despite many articles, speeches and resolutions from all parts of the Township and Borough in favor of the rental program, the Board reneged on its implied promise to supply the classrooms by voting down the rental program, 5-4. The five negative voters were Board Chairman Mr. Bradley and Mr. Manville from the Borough—Mr. W. Davis, Mr. Dolan and Mrs. Smith from the Township. Mr. Dolan and Mrs. Smith are up for re-election next February.

As an alternative proposal, Mr. Bradley suggested a far-out scheme for financing a \$600,000 "stripped school" by using \$300,000 from the surplus account; adding about \$100,000 income from interest and investments and THEN asking the voters of the District to authorize the transfer of \$200,000 in current expense money to capital funds through a special school referendum.

The Board, as in the classroom rental case, is under no legal obligation to spend the funds for the purpose indicated. Since the majority has not seen fit to keep faith with the public in the past, why then should the public trust this Board now or in the future?

The Trustees recommend a NO vote on any referendum for the expenditure or transfer of money UNTIL the make-up of the Board is changed.

Bob Chesterman — A Profile

Some insight into the character of Bob Chesterman, president of the Strathmore Bath and Tennis Club, and past president of the Strathmore Civic Association, can be gained by examining his dining room table.

If there is no meeting scheduled or in progress, then it is covered with papers, membership lists, official documents and letters relating to the current activity in which young Bob is involved.

Bob and his wife, Connie, and their daughter, "Young" Connie, moved into 507 Line Road in January, 1963, and within a short time the dining room table was covered with papers and has been ever since.

Bob's first activity in Strathmore was joining the Recreation and Zoning Committee of the newly-formed Strathmore Civic Association. A group of citizens had met the prior month, December 1962, and formed the basis of an association and had elected a temporary set of officers.

The first temporary president was T. Neville Boat and he presided at the first public meeting in January, 1963. Bob attended that meeting, joined the Zoning and Recreation Committee and was later appointed as a representative from that committee to the nominating committee.

At that first public meeting, a second temporary slate of officers was elected, with George Hill as President. The other officers were: Bob Healy, vice president; Mrs. Mary Lou Smith, corresponding secretary; Jay Krivitzky, recording secretary, and Richard Schwartz, legal counsel. At the next meeting of the association in May, 1963, a permanent set of officers was elected, with Bob Chesterman as the President. The dining room

table was covered with papers that next year because the Association was very active and covered a wide range of activities.

The most notable were: recommendations to the Township for a Master Plan which was subsequently enacted; recommendations of the charter study committee under Mr. Hill which is the basis of our present Township government. The association members made a survey of the school children in Strathmore and found that about half the children were of pre-school age. A fund-raising drive was held and two law suits instituted, the 15% Case and the Stakes Survey Case.

The association first recommended purchase of the Strathmore Water Company, which has been done and has resulted in lower water rates. A committee of the Association surveyed the streets, sidewalks and curbs in Sections 1 to 9 prior to their acceptance by the Township. Their exceptions totaled many pages.

In December, 1963, Bob was elected one of the first trustees of the Strathmore Bath and Tennis Club and the following May the Board elected him secretary of the club. He has been twice re-elected to the Board and in December, 1965, the Board elected him the second president of the club, a position he holds today.

In addition to these activities, he finds time to go camping occasionally, assist Boy Scouts and serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Monmouth County Red Cross.

Bob is 36 years old, was born in New York City and raised in New Rochelle, N.Y. In 1947 his family moved to Bay

[Continued on Page 7]

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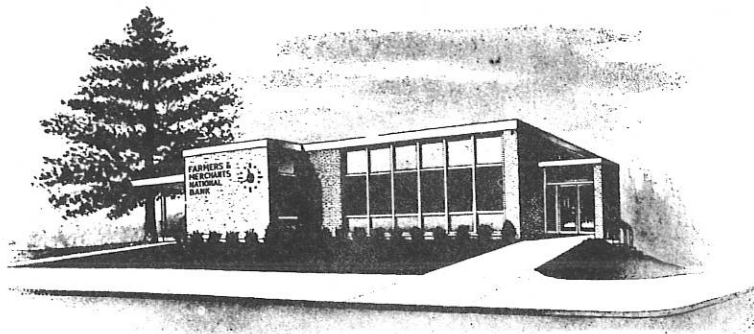
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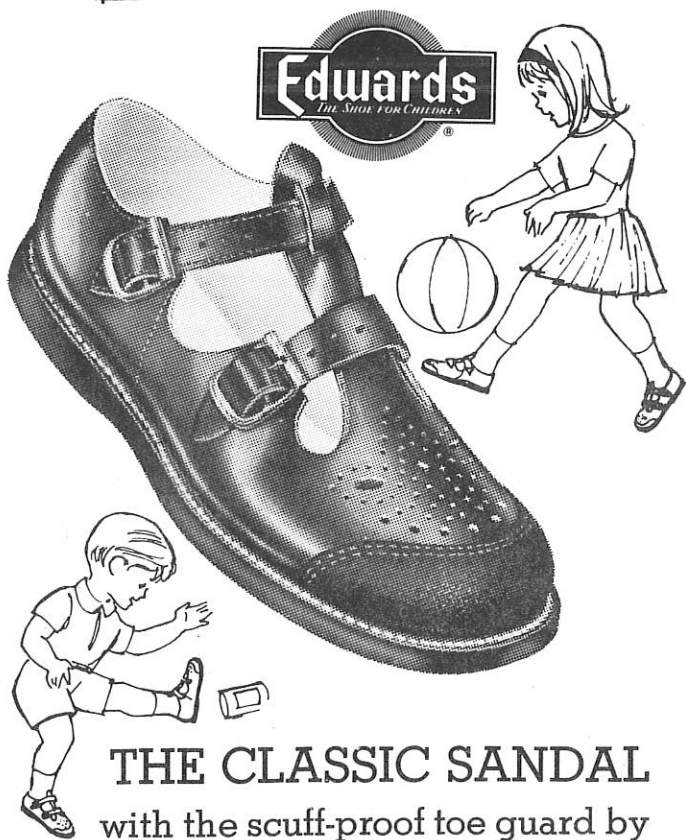
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY, 1966

4

ST. CLEMENT'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY
Strathmore Lanes, 8:00 p.m.
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
Municipal Building, 8:00 p.m.
V.F.W. — Post House, 8:00 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BD. OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION, Church House, 8:00 p.m.
AMERICAN ASS'N. OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
Presbyterian Church House
WOMEN OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Church, 8:30 p.m.
KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS J.F.K. CENTEN. LODGE
Oak Shades Firehouse, 8:30 p.m.

5

FIRST AID & RESCUE SQUAD
Cliffwood First Aid Bldg., 8:00 p.m.
MASONIC LODGE
Masonic Temple, 8:00 p.m.
MUNICIPAL COURT
Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
TOASTMASTERS — Magnolia Inn, 8:30 p.m.
BAYSHORE HOSP. MAT. TWP. AUXILIARY
Strathmore Elementary School, 8:30 p.m.

6

HARBOR COMMISSION
Municipal Bldg., 8:00 p.m.
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CARDINAL NEWMAN COUNCIL
Strathmore Lanes, 8:30 p.m.

7

AMERICAN LEGION POST 176
Post House, 8:00 p.m.
V.F.W. AUXILIARY
Post House, 8:00 p.m.
GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP
Middlesex Rd. Rec. Ctr., 8:00 p.m.

11

LOCAL ASSISTANCE BOARD
Municipal Building, 8:00 p.m.

12

MUNICIPAL COURT
Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LADIES' AID
Church House, 8:00 p.m.
MAT. BRIDGE CLUB MASTERS POINT GAME
American Legion Hall, Mat., 8:00 p.m.
CIVIC ASS'N. EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Strathmore Elementary School, 8:15 p.m.
O R T, Strathmore Lanes, 8:30 p.m.

13

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
Masonic Temple, 8:00 p.m.
SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Municipal Bldg., 8:00 p.m.
MAT. TWP. REPUBLICAN CLUB
Oak Shades Firehouse, 8:30 p.m.

ATTENTION — ORGANIZATIONS

If you have not been included in this month's calendar; if the time or place of your regular meeting has been changed, or if you have a special event coming up in August, please notify the OBSERVER

BEFORE JULY 15

Call 566-3165 (Barbara Fitzgerald)

14

JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Magnolia Inn, 8:30 p.m.

18

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Mat. Grammar School Library, 7:55 p.m.
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
Municipal Building, 8:00 p.m.
V. F. W., Post House, 8:00 p.m.
KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
J.F.K. CENTENNIAL LODGE
Oak Shades Firehouse, 8:30 p.m.

19

MUNICIPAL COURT
Municipal Bldg., 7:00 p.m.
MASONIC LODGE
Masonic Temple, 8:00 p.m.
TOASTMASTERS
Magnolia Inn, 8:30 p.m.

20

PLANNING BOARD
Municipal Building, 8:00 p.m.
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CARDINAL NEWMAN COUNCIL
Strathmore Lanes, 8:30 p.m.
DEBORAH, Mindy's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BD. OF TRUSTEES
Church House, 9:00 p.m.

21

AMERICAN LEGION POST 176
Post House, 8:00 p.m.
V.F.W. AUXILIARY
Post House, 8:00 p.m.
GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP
Middlesex Rd. Rec. Center, 8:00 p.m.
MAT. TWP. UTILITIES AUTHORITY
30 Noble Place, 8:00 p.m.
HADASSAH — Strathmore Lanes, 8:30 p.m.

22

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, COUPLES CLUB
Church, 8:30 p.m.

25

BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS
Municipal Building, 8:00 p.m.

FIRST AID & RESCUE SQUAD AUXILIARY
Cliffwood First Aid Building, 8:30 p.m.
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
Strathmore First Aid Building, 8:30 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BD. OF DEACONS
Church House, 8:00 p.m.

26

MUNICIPAL COURT
Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Magnolia Inn, 8:30 p.m.

27

ZONING BOARD
Municipal Building, 8:00 p.m.
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
Masonic Temple, 8:00 p.m.
B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN
Oak Shades Firehouse, 8:30 p.m.
STRATHMORE DEMOCRATIC CLUB
Strathmore Lanes, 8:30 p.m.

28

TWP. COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Municipal Building, 8:00 p.m.
COLUMBIAN AUXILIARY
CARDINAL NEWMAN COUNCIL
Member's Home, 8:15 p.m.

29

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION
Municipal Building, 8:00 p.m.

Shift of Balance In Softball Play

As the Strathmore Softball League approaches the end of its first half of play, it appears evident there has been a shift in the balance of power.

Only four of the 12 clubs are playing better than .500 ball through games of June 19. Two of the four — the Oxmen (5-0) and Juniper Park (5-1) — are strangers to success in the league, while the Angels (5-1) and Anchormen (6-0) have been consistent contenders through the first two years of the league, though neither of them took down a title.

On the other hand, Poison Ivy and the Pioneers, which met in last year's championship tilt, reside in the nether regions of their respective divisions. Through June 19 champion Poison Ivy stood 2-4 and the Pioneers 1-4.

Fortunately, the schedule-makers have given both teams — as well as eight others — a second chance. The second half of play opens July 10 and everyone starts from scratch.



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PTA Passes Two Motions

Two motions were passed during the business portion of the final meeting of the Matawan Regional High School PTA.

The first, introduced by Mrs. Harold Gordon, was to draft letters to Frederick M. Raubinger, New Jersey Commissioner of Education, and to Earl Garrison, County Superintendent of Schools, pertaining to the Board of Education's vote concerning split sessions and portable classrooms.

The motion further directed the Matawan Regional High School PTA to request advice from the two officials as to what recourse can be made.

A second motion, introduced by Frank Gilbert, was to send a letter to the Matawan Regional Board of Education expressing displeasure at the May 9 and 16 votes.

Other business during the meeting included a report on the allocation of the balance of funds in the PTA account. Checks had been presented to various school departments during the April meeting, and the balance remaining was earmarked for scholarships in the amount of \$250 each, to be awarded a boy and girl from the June graduating class. A sum of \$100 was to be left in the scholarship bank account and \$100 was left in the general fund.

Robert Meseroll thanked the PTA for its donation of a sum to pay for a week's tuition for a student attending a music seminar at Trenton State College. The award was made at the second spring concert of the high school band.

LETTER TO EDITOR

[Continued from Page 2]

Permanent construction is the ideal solution and we will support it when plans are carefully prepared for future needs, when sufficient funds are available, and when existing schools have a well-paid, capable staff ready to teach with adequate equipment.

We can only repeat that at this late date portable classrooms here and now are the only reasonable solution to our immediate problem.

JUDITH LEVY

Warren Dr., Storyland

CAROL GORDON

40 Union Pl., Mark Woods

JOAN BROWN, President

Cliffwood P.T.A.

BARBARA FRANK, President

Matawan Grammar P.T.A.

DIANA FALICK, President

Strathmore P.T.O.

MARLINE EWING, Vice Pres.

Strathmore P.T.O.

FRANCIS MOOREHEAD, Pres.

Mat. Reg. H. S. P.T.A.

FRANK GILBERT

Strathmore Civic Ass'n.

ROBERT WERT

Strathmore Civic Ass'n.

Mrs. Morehead PTA President

Mrs. Richard Morehead of 8 Idol Place is the new president of the Matawan Regional High School Parent-Teachers Association.

Mrs. Morehead was installed recently by Mrs. Jack Goldberg, director of the Monmouth County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. Other officers installed for the 1966-67 season are: Mrs. George Mc Craw and Mrs. Robert Miller, vice presidents; Mrs. Paul Marino, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Sioss, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Franklin Gay, treasurer.

★

WHERE DO WE GO?

[Continued from Page 1]

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

1. Press claim for new school bonding with the Department of Local Government in Trenton, stressing dire community needs despite the fact that our regional district combined (Matawan Township and Matawan Borough plus the Regional Board of Education) have materially exceeded the prescribed bonding limit.

a) Ask the Department of Local Government to deduct sewer and water bonds (which are revenue bonds) in computing the percentage of the Matawan community debt to ratables.

2. Wait until the school bonds currently outstanding are paid:

Date of Issue	Maturity Date	Outstanding as of 6/30/63
1951	1971	\$ 85,000
1957	1983	785,000
1961	1982	2,268,000

(New bond issue \$2,625,000 just sold—Phase I)

3. Build permanent construction from current expense budget. (A practical impossibility.)

4. Do nothing.

5. Buy portable classrooms (average cost \$19,000 - \$25,000 a room) as needed to house the 300 - 400 school population increase each year. These rooms are pre-fabricated, wholly integrated units similar to the pre-fab houses being built by the thousand over the country these days. They are attractive, durable (estimated life 20 - 40 years) and educationally acceptable.

We live in a dynamic society. The old concepts and shibboleths are being shunted aside and replaced by bold new ideas, especially in education. Francis Keppel, former Federal Commissioner of Education, termed it—"The necessary revolution in the United States." Unless our local Board of Education reflects this revolutionary image and acts now, our children will receive an education geared to the conservatism of the past, rather than to the innovation of the future.

SUPPORT YOUR BAYSHORE
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New Play Areas Ready July 1st

Work is proceeding on the various play areas within Strathmore.

Northland Park and Fordham are to be fine-graded and stocked with "creative" playground equipment, with a target date of July 1. Juniper Park currently is being levelled and the excess trees removed. Playground equipment is planned there for next year.

Andover and Cambridge already have received water fountains and Andover also is to receive a full-length macadam basketball court. Negotiations are in progress to fence in the various Strathmore play areas.

A recreation program, under the direction of Leon Seyglinski, will be conducted through the Summer, starting in the first week of July.

Applications were distributed at the local schools in which registration dates were listed. The program, slated for the Cambridge and Andover sites, will include arts and crafts, ballgames and outings to Sandy Hook State Park.

The program also will sponsor a local acting group, which will enact "As You Like It" and "The Sound of Music" among others, at the Regional High School.

★

BOB CHESTERMAN

[Continued from Page 2]

Head, and his parents live there at present. During the summers Bob worked as a lifeguard on the local beach and in 1951 was named the head guard.

He graduated from Iona Prep and went to Philadelphia Textile Institute for two years. In January, 1952, he was drafted out of the school as a result of the Korean War and served in the Corp of Engineers for two years. He spent eight months in Japan during this period and his house contains many memorabilia of Japan.

On his return from service Bob worked as a laboratory technician for several chemical companies, was head life guard at Bay Head in the summer of 1955 and then started his present vocation as Fire Safety Engineer with an insurance company. At present he is the regional manager, Engineering and Audit of the New York region for the Glens Falls Insurance Company.

Bob's wife Connie (actually Konstanze) was born in Berlin when the family was on a visit to Germany and was raised in the Richmond Hill section of Queens. She and Bob were married in August, 1956, and prior to moving to Strathmore lived in Berkley Heights. Their daughter, Connie, is nine years old.

With all these activities Bob lacks the frenetic quality of many busy men. He is usually relaxed and at ease and devotes his full time and attention to the person or problem with which he is immediately concerned. Despite his many activities, he does find time for his family, home and garden.

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