



# Strathmore

# OBSERVER

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## Classroom Requirements of the Matawan Regional School District

by MICHAEL A. RAPPEPORT

In 1963-64, a census was taken of school age and pre-school population on the entire district. Based on this census, the school board designed short-range and long-range construction programs. One part of this program was presented to the voters on a bond issue on November, 1966. One reason, although not the only one, why this bond issue was defeated was the failure of the school board to up-date the 64-64 census.

Objections were raised on two grounds: possible changes in the figures over a three-year interval, and the lack of good faith on the part of the board in failing even to make the effort to obtain the most up-to-date figures possible.

For these reasons, the Civic Association joined in an up-dating of the census on the Strathmore, Storyland and Strathmore Apartment areas. While a complete new census would be preferable, it was felt that these three areas were least liable to have stabilized prior to 1963, and therefore most liable to show any changes. The writer, as a professional statistician, volunteered to help interpret the results.

While the raw figures are too extensive to be given here, they are available to anyone with a reason to examine them. We begin with an overview of the community.

At the time of the 1963 census, only about 1,300 homes in Strathmore were occupied. The 63-64 census simply projected the age-by-age totals to 1,900 homes. However, people tend to buy homes as a function of the age of their children. Thus, as the figures clearly bear out, there is about a two year age difference in the age distribution of children between Andover and Oxford.

As new families buy in, this initial difference in age distribution will smooth out. However, this will not happen for some time. The general effect of new families buying in is on the average to continuously replace older families with younger ones. Thus there is a continuous replenishment of pre-school age children.

A second major factor is that parts of Strathmore are in three different Catholic parishes. Two of these presently operate schools, one does not. Therefore, a very great difference exists between the percentage of children in non-public schools in St. Clement's Parish (Cambridge, West of 34) and St. Benedict's

(Ivy Hall, Andover). This difference seems to stem in part from some people buying where a school is available. However, preference figures show there is a demand for the school that St. Clement is to build. Thus it is assumed that in 69-70 there will be one class in St. Clement's School and an additional class each successive year.

### PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS

Chart I presents some actual and projected enrollments of school population on a grade by grade basis. The first column gives the 63-64 actual population as projected by the school board to include the 1,900 Levitt homes. Columns 2, 4, and 6 give board projections for 66-67, 69-70, and 72-73 school years respectively. Column 3 is the actual school population as of October, 1966.

Columns 5 and 7 are the new projected figures based on this new census and including allowances for St. Clements and a moderate (50% total) dropout rate throughout the high school years.

The main differences between the board's figures and the new ones are a redistribution in the grade school years and a rather sharp drop in the high school years. The high school difference is probably a delay rather than an equilibrium figure. The equilibrium figure is probably about 2,400.

In addition, the new figures allow for 200 new homes being built while the board figures make no such allowance. Thus, there are sufficient differences between the new and board figures to amply justify the updating of the census.

It is worth noting that the board itself recognized the need for this updating in the original survey. "The influx of new people into the district is expected to alter existing trends and an annual review should be made for the next several years and enrollment estimated adjusted accordingly" 1964 Board Report, Page 10.

### CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS

Chart II gives overall teaching station requirements for the next six years based on the various projected figures. Three different sets of figures are given based respectively on an average of 25, 27, and 30 children per teaching station. A teaching station is a physical location for a teacher and a class. For example, the high school gymnasium has four teaching stations.

The 66-67 figures include the condemned old Grammar School and the new Lloyd Road Intermediate School. All future figures assume that the Old Grammar School will be closed.

In each column the first number is the estimated teaching station requirement, the second number the estimated deficit or surplus on teaching stations (surplus shown in parenthesis).

### CONCLUSIONS

The figures on chart II which are relevant to the November bond issue are those for K-8. The board's proposal was for 49 classrooms. Whether this is a sufficient number or not depends on what one's personal beliefs as to what is an adequate school system.

Three points seem worth noting. First, the figures in Chart II are averages. By law, kindergarten class sizes must be smaller than the average figures shown. Moreover, there is obviously no possibility of each and every class having exactly the average number of students. Thus, if all classes are to be kept under 30, it's probably necessary to have an average near 27.

Second, the figure of 59 or 60 classes needed for a class size of 27 is about ten more than the boards plan. It was brought out prior to the bond referendum that ten added classes could be built into the board's plan without need for expanding the core services of the buildings. Thus, these added classes would be obtained at a much lower cost per classroom. In fact, Mr. Parker contended that sufficient money could be saved on the board's program to pay for this many additional classes without increasing the total cost.

Finally using the board's estimates on a K-12 basis (i.e. assuming some ninth graders moved to the 6-8 buildings), the 49 projected classes are not sufficient even for a 30-student average. Using the new figures, the 49 rooms would just about handle a 30-student average with new classrooms needed as the high school moved towards equilibrium.



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## Bayshore Hospital Aux. Luncheon - Fashion Show

The Matawan Township Auxiliary of the Bayshore Community Hospital is sponsoring its Third Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show to be held on Saturday, February 11, at the Buttonwood Manor, Matawan, at 12 o'clock noon.

The fashions to be shown will be from Franklin Simon, Monmouth Shopping Center, and will feature advance spring fashions, resort wear, and formal attire. The models, all members of the Auxiliary, include Mrs. Edward Healy, Mrs. Richard Mattone, Mrs. Gerard O'Neill, Mrs. Donald Gerlich, Mrs. Louis Gomlick, Mrs. James Miller, Mrs. William Kitchen, and Mrs. Edward Pearl.

Mrs. Al DeRosa and Mrs. Edward Brando, co-chairmen of the luncheon committee, will be assisted by Mrs. Gregory Brennan, Mrs. Frank Johnson, and Mrs. Verne Bowman.

Tickets are \$4 and may be obtained from Mrs. Walter McGill, 19 June Place, 566-9342, or Mrs. Howard Haug, 35 Fordham Drive, 566-8666.

The Auxiliary is also sponsoring a 5-day flight to the Oceanus Hotel, Freeport, Grand Bahamas, via Eastern Airlines, which leaves on April 27. Information is available from Mrs. Gregory Brennan, 11 Imbrook Lane, 566-7553.

★

## P.T.O. Backs Gilbert-Sutliff

We, the Executive Board of the Strathmore Parent-Teacher Organization are acutely aware of the importance of the School Board elections taking place on February 7th.

We consider Mrs. Virginia Sutliff and Mr. Frank Gilbert to be the best qualified candidates to fill the two offices for Matawan Township.

Their backgrounds and platform indicate an intense interest in elevating the educational standards for the entire community.

Their creative and forward-looking approach to community problems are considerable assets for this position, but more important is their concern for evaluating all facets of our entire community's educational needs before making final decisions.

We strongly urge that all eligible voters use their privilege on February 7th and take an active part in the progress of their township.

# What Did Referendum Vote Accomplish?

by HERBERT J. PARKER

What does the two to one NO vote on our school building referendum mean? What should the Board of Education do? To some, the answer is clear. The votes analyzed on a District basis, show that in the Districts where the Building Program was opposed because it provided inadequate facilities to allow improving the quality of education, the program was overwhelmingly defeated. In those areas where the chief objections raised were location e.g., Clifford Beach and Freneau, the voters discounted the objections and voted for the Program.

The Matawan Regional School District has an unusual reversal of roles compared to most Districts in the State. In most areas the Board of Education faces the problem of convincing the public that the schools need improvement, that buildings with adequate facilities must be built, that school budgets must increase to provide the equipment and services needed to keep up existing standards let alone to improve the quality of education offered. The referendum results show that the problem we face is that the public, the people who get out to vote, have much higher aspirations than the majority of the Board of Education does. Those who believe that simple lack of double sessions is proof positive that no further improvement of the system is possible do not reflect the desires of the voters.

The Board's reaction to the referendum is quite interesting. Those who held that the Building Program as offered was perfect just as it was, those who refused the idea of any change or any need for more information on which to determine our needs suddenly have switched position and now, many months after Frank Gilbert requested it at a public meeting of the Board, have decided that what we should do is get a Professional Consultant to analyze our needs.

It is impossible to guess what the whole motivation for this switch is.

Whether it is a sincere effort to improve the system's educational results, an attempt at self-justification, an effort to prove that a ten-month delay will result from a defeat of the referendum or simply anger, matters less than the fact that we will have a Consultant, qualified to study our system and recommend an educational program together with the buildings necessary to house it.

The possibilities of what can result from the Consultant's report are intriguing. The good that can result is well worth the delay involved. It is ironic that the study is to occur only because the building program was defeated. Our Elementary System has never been thoroughly studied. The 1959 Englehardt Report centered on the needs of the upper grades and it culminated in the construction of our present High School Building. That report dealt with the elementary grades only by a short evaluation of room needs, the prediction that a building would be needed in the southern area of the District in the future. The Report, without giving recommendations for improvement contained the following statement, "The elementary school program is limited largely to activities within the home rooms. . . . At this time when it is essential that facilities be redeveloped it seems appropriate to reconsider the program which is offered to make certain that new facilities will permit Matawan to move forward and obtain improved educational results."

The parents and voters of the Matawan District can only hope that the Consultant selected for the study is the one best able to analyze our future educational needs and when his report is presented the Board will be such that it is willing to implement the suggestions for educational improvements and to, with minimum delay and with due regard for architectural economies, construct the buildings and facilities needed for the recommended educational program.

## Medicare Accepts Emery Manor

The Emery Manor Nursing Home will participate in Medicare. The Matawan Nursing Home has just received final approval from the Social Security Administration of the United States Government as an Extended Care Facility for Medicare patients.

Acceptance of the Manor is based on it fulfilling eighteen conditions for participation set up by the Medicare Administration. These stipulations cover the area of personnel, equipment, facilities, and program. One of the requirements is establishment of a transfer agreement with a Medicare-approved hospital. Richard D. Emery, President, announced that he has negotiated such pacts with three major hospitals.

Under the Medicare program a patient may receive aid for a Nursing Home stay after being in the hospital for at least three days, if diagnosed as

requiring an extended care facility. If qualified, patients will be entitled to 100 days of nursing home care with the government paying for the first 20 days and the remaining 80 days billed to the patient at \$5.00 per day. Based on his experience with the length of stay of convalescents, Mr. Emery feels the time allotted under Medicare will prove satisfactory.

"We have been looking forward to this news of our approval," Mr. Emery said, "and are delighted with this opportunity to serve the community by freeing valuable hospital beds for the seriously ill while providing active, supervised recuperation for the convalescent."

The 100-bed home will continue to accept private patients who will, Mr. Emery feels, make up the major part of his guest list.



# OUR CANDIDATES

## FRANK GILBERT

Frank has been active in civic affairs since becoming a Matawan resident three and one-half years ago. In addition to Chairing the Education Committee of the Civic Association, he has also served on the Taxation and Library Committees. Mr. Gilbert was a Trustee of the Civic Association and Business Manager of the Strathmore Observer before submitting his resignation to run for a seat on the Board. Last year he was appointed a Trustee of the Matawan Free Public Library.

Mr. Gilbert has been a member of the Building Committee of the Matawan Regional Board of Education and also was an appointee to the temporary subcommittee investigating the feasibility of renovating the old Matawan High School on Broad Street.

A devoted worker for excellence in education in Matawan, he has been in the forefront in the fight for higher budgetary allocations for school libraries, a competitive teacher's salary guide, an independent survey of the entire school system to determine its current and future needs, a complete guidance program, proper facilities for the teachable and

educable; a Board operated transportation system within the limits prescribed by the State, closed circuit educational T.V., a master recruitment program for teachers, etc., etc.

Mr. Gilbert received his B.B.A. degree from C.C.N.Y. in 1942. After serving four years in the U.S. Navy, he returned to C.C.N.Y. for post graduate work and was a recipient of the M.B.A. degree in 1962. His major was Credit and Financial Management.

He has been employed as an executive of Meinhard - Commercial Corporation, the world's largest old-line factoring firm, for the past ten years. In 1964, he was appointed a corporate secretary. Mr. Gilbert is a member of the N. Y. Credit and Financial Management Association, the Credit Men's Fraternity, the Men's Wear Credit Advisory Council and is a past President of the Men's Furnishings Manufacturing Credit Group.

He resides at 83 Irongate Lane with his wife, Selma, and their two children, Judy, 14, a freshman at Matawan Regional High School and Richard, 12, a seventh grader.

## VIRGINIA R. SUTLIFF

Mrs. Virginia R. Sutliff, 31 Cypress Lane, has been a resident of Matawan for 3 and 1/2 years. She attended the University of Rochester, majoring in Chemistry, and has been active in civic and church organizations since moving here. She was a choir member and co-founder of the Couples Club of the First Presbyterian Church and an active mem-

ber of the Civic Association. She directed the Strathmore School PTO Newsletter last year, chaired the PTO Art Show last May, and was elected Treasurer for this year but recently resigned to devote full time to her campaign. In business, she had experience in the accounting department of an insurance company branch office. Mrs. Sutliff has three daughters, two of whom attend Matawan schools.

## THEIR PLATFORM

### TEACHER'S SALARIES

Competitive with neighboring districts and sufficiently high to encourage the better teacher to remain in the system.

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The current Superintendent has indicated on several occasions his intention to retire. Since the Superintendency is the most important administrative post in the school system, procedural steps should be outlined now so that the ultimate selection is based on a thorough review of all potential, qualified candidates.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. Agenda of Monthly Board Meeting should be published one week in advance of meeting.
2. Improve Board-Teacher relationships.
3. Board members should attend the meetings of more Civic groups.

### SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Allocations of funds for school libraries should be increased to meet the mini-

mum standards of American Library Association.

### CONSULTANT

A qualified consultant, preferably associated with a Department of Education of a recognized University, should be employed on a permanent basis to advise on all current and future educational problems.

### FUTURE PLANNING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Educators tell us that in the next 10 to 20 years there will be a complete change-over in the methods of education. Computers, Educational TV, Teaching Machines, Team Teachings, Master-Teacher Lecturing, Flexible classrooms will be the usual rather than the exceptional and our buildings should be designed to meet the needs of the future and not only of today.

### TEACHER RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

Since Monmouth County reports 97 teacher vacancies at last count, it is im-

## RED OAK PARENTS HOLD WORKSHOP

Parents took over the classrooms and equipment of The Red Oak Cooperative Nursery School at the January meeting as they put themselves in the shoes of their pre-schoolers and experimented with finger paints, collage, plaster of paris, papier mache and more. The program was the brainchild of Director, Havi Stander, who said the idea was to give parents the "feel" of what their children are enjoying at school.

A busier and more creative group of mothers and fathers has seldom been seen in Monmouth County. While President Leila Lerner was engrossed in glueing noodles to sea shells, Veep Elaine Levine built a wagon at the woodworking bench and then painted it. Program Chairman Naomi Moessinger made the fingerpaints (the recipe includes starch, soapsuds and food coloring, boiled together) and play-dough (flour and salt). A professional looking head of papier mache was the product of Sylvia Henry's labors.

This workshop meeting, according to Mrs. Stander, is one of the ways Red Oak parents can gain greater understanding of how children work and play.

## Observer Deadlines

### PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN NOTE

The fifteenth of every month is the deadline for the OBSERVER. We ask that organizations please observe this deadline. We would also ask that material submitted be typed if at all possible. It is extremely difficult to read hand-writing and be assured of accuracy. We strive to print every article submitted that is of interest to the majority of Strathmore residents. If your article was not printed, the reason most likely is lack of space. Thank you for your co-operation.

portant that our Administrative Staff be given the go-ahead to establish a Teacher Recruitment Program.

### SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM

There is a pressing need for two new schools.

The current Board has delayed Phase II of the Building Program which was scheduled to start September 1965. The washed over and hastily drawn up construction proposals that the Board presented to the public last November were defeated. This should not be construed as a reason to procrastinate any further. The consultant should be directed to give this Phase of the current picture his top priority.

As soon as the consultant's report on building construction and future needs are presented to the Board, the revisions should be forwarded to Trenton immediately for approval and provision for a new School Board Referendum be set up at once.

## Chart I: ENROLLMENTS

Grade	63-64 Board	66-67 Board	66-67 Actual	69-70 Board	69-70 New	72-73 Board	72-73 New
K	584	803	782	659	600	659	640
1	554	621	693	571	640	659	600
2	496	569	584	549	580	659	600
3	426	584	554	692	675	659	600
4	358	554	517	621	693	571	640
5	424	496	449	569	584	549	580
K-5	2842	3627	3579	3661	3772	3756	3660
6	341	426	404	584	554	692	675
7	350	358	386	554	517	621	693
8	300	424	396	496	449	569	584
6-8	991	1208	1186	1634	1520	1882	1952
K-8	3833	4835	4765	5295	5292	5638	5612
9	285	363	373	484	440	608	590
10	278	376	333	419	410	626	540
11	243	336	315	458	440	554	460
12	194	285	269	363	340	484	400
9-12	1000	1360	1290	1724	1630	2272	1990
TOTAL	4833	6195	6055	7019	6922	7910	7602

(1) Includes board allowance for 600 Levitt home not actually occupied. Otherwise actual figures.

## Chart II: TEACHING STATION PROJECTIONS

Grade	Aver. Class Size	* Exist	66-67		** Usable		69-70 Brd		69-70 New		72-73 Brd		72-73 New	
			Req.	Defic	Pres	Req	Defic	Req	Defic	Req	Defic	Req	Defic	
K-5	25	131	145	14	107	146	39	151	44	150	43	146	39	
	27		133	2		136	29	140	33	139	32	136	29	
	30		119	(12)		122	15	126	19	125	18	122	15	
6-8	25	37	48	11	37	66	29	61	24	76	39	79	42	
	27		44	7		61	24	56	19	70	33	72	35	
	30		40	3		55	18	51	14	63	26	65	28	
K-8	25	168	191	23	144	212	68	212	68	226	82	225	81	
	27		177	9		197	53	196	52	209	65	208	64	
	30		159	(9)		177	33	177	33	188	44	187	43	
9-12	25	61	52	(9)	61	69	8	65	4	91	30	80	19	
	27		48	(13)		64	3	60	(1)	84	23	74	13	
	30		43	(18)		58	(3)	54	(7)	76	15	66	5	
Special		4	4		5	5		5		5		5		
Total	25	233	247	14	210	286	76	282	72	322	112	310	100	
	27		225	(4)		266	56	261	51	298	88	291	77	
	30		206	(27)		240	30	236	26	269	59	258	48	

\* Existing includes all existing rooms and New Lloyd Road Intermediate School.

\*\* Usable present does not include old grammar school or 5 rooms which will be lost in old high school renovation.

( ) Indicated teaching station surplus.



## Mailbox Vandalism A Serious Offense

Mailboxes are protected by Federal law, and pranksters or vandals who damage or destroy the boxes and their contents may be in for a heavy fine or imprisonment, Postmaster Haseman warned.

The Postmaster noted that some 25,000 mail receptacles were damaged or destroyed in the past year. It was also noted that 2,641 persons were arrested in the year up to June 30 for damaging or destroying mail receptacles.

Postmaster Haseman quoted from the law: "Whoever wilfully or maliciously injures, tears down or destroys any letterbox or other receptacle intended or used for the receipt or delivery of mail on any mail route, or breaks open the same or wilfully or maliciously injures, defaces or destroys any mail deposited therein, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than three years."

This applies to all mail receptacles and the mail in them, even though the boxes are bought by citizens and are their personal property, Postmaster Haseman emphasized.

"Pranksters — and especially children who do not know any better—should be made to realize the seriousness of their actions," the Postmaster said. "A \$1,000

fine or a term in jail is enough to take the humor out of any prank."

Often the mailbox damage is the work of youths, who do it for "kicks." And the courts have shown little sympathy for this youthful means of expression. In Michigan, a justice sentenced two 18 year olds to 10 days in jail, including two on a diet of baby food. The diet specification, explained the judge, was because the youths "acted like babies." They were also fined \$25 each plus \$15 costs.

In New York state, five youths were fined \$25 each plus restitution or restoration, plus no driving for an indefinite period, plus an 8 p.m. curfew, plus a written analysis by each of a magazine article entitled "A Judge Gets Tough on Hoodlums."

Two Iowa youths who damaged 39 mailboxes were required to personally apologize to each boxholder in addition to making repairs or providing a new box.

In Missouri, three 17 year olds lost their driving privileges, were given a 9 p.m. curfew, and had to report twice weekly to juvenile authorities. They had damaged 63 mailboxes.

And in Arkansas, four juveniles faced the following: (1) no driving until further notice, (2) a 10 p.m. curfew, (3) return to court in a month with letters from their school principals reporting on grades and attitudes, (4) full restitution of all damages, and (5) wear a sign for

## Farmer's & Merchants Computerizes Posting

Savings account service to its customers were greatly improved by the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, Matawan on the ninth of January, 1967. F & M placed orders many months ago with National Cash Register Company for the latest ON-LINE computerized posting machines. NCR completed delivery and installation on January 7th. At that time, direct telephone line tie-in was made to the computer center in Elizabeth, N. J.

F & M customers will discover that transaction waiting time will be greatly reduced and passbook posting performed much faster. In using the new computer-oriented posting machines, the savings teller, in one continuous operation, will identify the customer account, verify the current balance including interest earned and adjust for the deposit or withdrawal of the moment.

A general invitation is extended to all interested to visit any of the three local offices and see the new operation.

30 days stating "I have not learned to respect the property of others."

The Postmaster would also like to bring to the attention of all patrons that postal laws and regulations require that walkways to mail boxes be kept clear at all times. If this is not complied with it may be necessary to curtail mail services in some instances.

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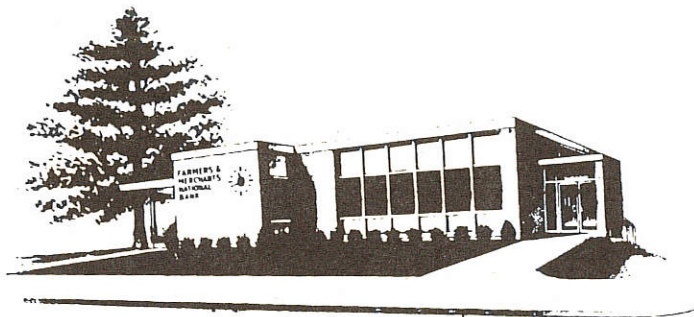
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