

## "Open House" at Gulph Road School



Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of Upper Merion schools, studies a list of registered students with five new elementary teachers, during School Night activities at the Gulph Road Elementary School. The new teachers are, from left to right, Miss Betty Jo Shreve, Miss Dorothy E. Morgan, Miss Ann Parsons, Mrs. Helen Anderson and Miss Janice DiLardi.

(Times Herald Photo)

SEPT. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1955.

## Schools Hold

Upper Merion children and their parents were treated to a special preview of school activity at a special "Open House" program, sponsored by the Township School District.

On the eve of opening day, all of the district's school facilities were opened for inspection by prospective students and parents. Teachers were on duty in their respective rooms to meet with parents and answer any questions which the children might have about the school.

The School Night "Open House" followed a dinner given by the district for members of the faculty, administration and the Township School Board.

Five teachers, each with a record of 25 or more years of service to the district, were singled out for special praise and presented with gifts at the dinner. Each instructor was given some suitable silver object, to commemorate the 25-year span of service.

Teachers honored at the dinner were: Miss Dorothy G. Rohrer, principal, Swedeland Elementary School; Mrs. M. Evans Groff, primary grades, Gulph Road School; Mrs. Marie Wolfskill, High School English; Herbert L. Hensinger, Junior High School; Norman E. Raub, Elem physical education supervisor, elementary grades.

Earlier in the day, a general staff meeting for all members of the faculty was held at the Gulph Road School. After the general

meeting, a meeting of the local Pennsylvania State Educational Association was held. Sectional meetings were scheduled during the rest of the day.

Sept. 7 Miss Per

Two adult courses in psychology will be offered during the coming year at Upper Merion High School by Paul L. Zuck, school psychologist.

The two courses will consist of a first year or introductory class, and a second year class, for those who have completed the first year or who have had some college psychology.

The second year class will meet on the second and fourth Monday of the month, starting September 12. The introductory course will meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, beginning September 13. Both courses will meet from 8 to 10 P. M. in Room 208 of the High School building.

Topics to be discussed in the first-year class are: Orientation Lesson—Pseudo vs. Scientific Psychology; A Constellation in Personality; Heredity; Environment; The Nervous System—how it operates; Glandular System—how it functions; Our Simpler Senses; Seeing; Hearing; Emotions—What They Are and How They Develop; Emotions—Some Ways to Control Them; Our Basic Wants, Needs and Urges; Fear; Jealousy; Running Away from Our Problems; Wearing Ourselves Out with Conflicts, Frustrations and Worry; Growth of Friendship, Love; Marriage Foundations and Establishing a Home; Separation and Divorce.

SEPT. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1955

## RESIDENTS ASK DATA ON SCHOOLS

The Upper Merion School Board was forced to move last night's meeting to the Gulph Rd. School Cafeteria, when a large number of residents unexpectedly attended the session. The residents, mainly from the School Side Manor and Wayne Woods sections of the Township, had come for information regarding School Board plans for their districts.

During the meeting, which lasted more than four hours, the Board approved an addition to the Swedeland Elementary School of an all-purpose room and a cafeteria room. The Board secretary was authorized to advertise for bids on the construction.

An architects report on construction progress at the District's new elementary school in Candlebrook was presented at the meeting. It was reported that construction on the new school has been proceeding according to schedule.

Sept. 13, 1955

## Bridgeport Jointure With U. Merion, W. Consho. Studied

### Possible Union With Norristown Also Under Consideration As Directors Discuss Proposal

Study of a jointure with neighboring school districts is planned by the Bridgeport School Board.

## Jointure

*Continued from Page 1*

need pay only for the children they educate, Hottenstine told the Board.

He said he also would bring the matter up with Upper Merion and West Conshohocken districts.

In meeting with the Bridgeport board before the regular business meeting got underway, the county official told the directors he felt the district should "give the matter serious thought."

Need of a jointure had been recommended by Superintendent of Schools C. C. Smith for the past several years.

The Bridgeport sport teams have felt that lack of male students as squads in football, basketball and baseball have been forced to carry on with a small number of candidates against strong competition. It has been pointed out, for example this season; only 17 players have been holding pre-season football practice. This Saturday, the squad will play Conestoga High School which had 65 players out for football.

A jointure, it was explained, would mean larger classes that would bring higher appropriation and a better school system in general.

Directors at the September meeting, last night, discussed the proposal with Gerald Hottenstine, County Superintendent of Schools, who attended the meeting and explained the procedure and advantages of jointures.

The county school officials told Directors they first should agree on a jointure, and then take proper steps to effect it.

In the discussion, it was pointed out that the jointure, if approved, possibly would be with Upper Merion and West Conshohocken districts, or Norristown.

If the districts take such action to become a jointure, it would be approximately a year before it would be put in affect, it was stated.

The respective districts would  
*Continued on Page 3—Column 4*

Sept. 13, 1955.

# South West Civic Group Elects New Officers

Annual election of officers for the South West Civic Association was held at the group's first Fall meeting. Attended by a record number of area residents.

Newly-elected officers of the Association are: J. Leonard Starkey, president; William J. Babb, vice-president; Mrs. Robert C. Ridings, recording secretary; Miss Marjorie McKaig, corresponding secretary, and James Moir, treasurer.

Guest speaker at the meeting was Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of Upper Merion schools, who explained the School Board's choice of the Croton Rd. area as the site for a proposed new elementary school. Dr. Cocklin said the section of Croton Rd., between the Bob White Farm development and Wayne Woods, is the only logical site for a school building.

He pointed out that, according to a Planning Commission survey, a child population of 400 has been predicted for that immediate locale by 1959.

Residents of Colonial Village, who attended the meeting as guests, asked Dr. Cocklin for information about the new school, which also would serve their area.

The civic Association formally recommended to the Township Board of Supervisors that Fluoridation of the local water supply is desirable at this time. Facts on

the proposed fluoridation program were made available to the Association members by Dr. Robert D. May, school physician.

The membership approved new by-laws and recommended that a committee be appointed to study a change of name for the organization. The question will be discussed at the next meeting of the organization in December.

The second Tuesdays of September, December, March and June were selected as the meeting times for the group.

Brazil normally produces more than half the world's supply of coffee.

Sept. 14, 1955

## Home and School Group Plans Membership Drive

A Township-wide membership drive, scheduled to get underway this week, was one of the main topics discussed at the first Fall meeting of the Upper Merion Home and School Association Executive Committee.

Meeting at the home of Treasurer Arthur Jenkins, School Side Manor, the Board heard Mrs. Robert F. Gilkeson, chairman, outline plans to divide the township into six main areas to facilitate the membership campaign.

Mothers named to captain the six areas are: Mrs. Eugene J. Quackenbush, Area I; Mrs. William Keim, Area II; Mrs. Norman Yoder, Area III; Mrs. Ernest Bobb, Area IV; Mrs. John M. Tirpak, Area V, and Mrs. Thomas B. Crews, Sr., Area VI.

Each captain in turn will appoint several neighborhood workers, so that all parents in the Upper Merion area will be contacted. Last year, the Home and School Association boasted 550 family members. Dues of one dollar will entitle both parents to a membership card. The first phase of the drive is scheduled to end October 1.

A news letter, the Upper Merion Messenger, issued by the organization twice last year, was sent home with all students this week. The Messenger contains items of interest about the Upper Merion schools, faculty and Home and School Association. The Publicity Chairman an-

nounced that the publication will increase to four issues during the course of the current school year.

Popular demand for another "Valentine's Dance" has resulted in definite plans to hold such an affair. The dance, with orchestra, has been scheduled for early February at the Gulph Road School cafeteria.

Board members present at the meeting were: H. Walker Peters, president; Mrs. William B. Johnson, recording secretary; Mrs. Charles F. McCracken, corresponding secretary; Arthur Jenkins, treasurer; Harry R. Maloney, member-at-large; Mrs. H. Walker Peters, publicity; Mrs. Robert F. Gilkeson, membership; Mrs. George E. Beck, III, ways and means, and Mrs. Harold E. Harkins, social and reception.

Sept. 16, 1955

#### **Upper Merion-Spring-Ford**

Upper Merion's opening-day game with Spring-Ford is a result of the recent merger of Royersford and Spring City.

Spartans slated by Coach Ogie Martella for starting action tomorrow are: John Tirpak and Frank Schultz, ends; Bill Evelyn, Bill Cook and Howard Carter, tackles; Bill Shifflet and Bill McKay, guards, and Mike McCracken, center. The backfield: Walt Kontra at quarterback, Bill Hanley and John Kontra at halves and Walt Ostrowski at full.

Spring-Ford Coach Norman Reichenbach listed this probable array: Eddie Miller and Dick Weber, ends; Charles Rantz and Dave Wisler, tackles; Dale Shaner and Joe Kandler, guards, and Donald Caparro at center; Richard Saylor at quarter, Joe Crossman and Ralph Bieber at halves and Kenneth Edwards at fullback.

## **Area School Enrollment**

A total of 1695 students is attending school in the Upper Merion Township School District, according to an enrollment report released this week by Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of schools.

Five - hundred-eighty-five students are enrolled in the Junior

and Senior High School, and 1110 are attending elementary schools in the District.

High School Principal Robert R. Strine reported that 236 students are attending three high school grades, and that 349 had been admitted to junior high grades seven to nine. Strine listed the High School faculty at 29 classroom instructors and five supervisory teachers.

In the elementary grades, Supervisor Carmen Storti announced a total of 182 children admitted to the District's first grade class. He said 188 youngsters are attending three kindergarten sections.

Storti said the 1110 children enrolled in elementary grades are distributed between the Gulph Road and Swedeland Schools in a ratio of 849 to 261, respectively.

Elementary personnel was listed at 34 classroom teachers and five supervisors.

### **Area Health Council To Meet Monday**

The Advisory Health Council of the Upper Merion School District will meet at 8.30 P. M. Monday, September 19, in the Board Room of the Gulph Road Elementary School.

The meeting will be the first since new officers were elected in June. Mrs. Clarence Murray is chairman.

# School Board To Protest Use of Local Restaurant

September 15, '55

A report that motorists traveling on Routes 202 were continuing to use the Howard Johnson Restaurant on the Delaware River Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, was received this week at a regular meeting of the Upper Merion School Board.

Under the regulations of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, the restaurant has been given a tax-free location in the Township providing it serves only motorists using the Turnpike.

Earlier this year the Board protested the alleged infraction in a letter to the Turnpike Commission, and were told that an investigation of the situation would be undertaken.

Since making the earlier protest several Board members reported that the condition still continues.

Members said patrons from Route 202 enter the restaurant grounds from an employees' entrance on the highway, despite signs prohibiting such usage.

After hearing the report, the Board moved to authorize its solicitor, Anthony L. Differ, to write a second letter of protest to the Turnpike Commission.

The Board pointed out that use of the Restaurant facilities by motorists from Route 202 was unfair to other Township merchants, who must pay taxes on their property.

A delegation of residents from the Wayne Woods and Bob White Homes communities attended the meeting and questioned the Board regarding its choice of a site for the proposed new elementary school in their area. The Board had previously chosen a site on Croton Rd. near King of Prussia Road, as the tentative location for the new school.

A spokesman for the South West Civic Association, an organization representing certain residents of the area, asked the board why that particular site had been chosen. He said the ground contained several sinkholes, and would require extensive grading.

The Board replied that the site had been chosen on the advice of the Montgomery County Planning Commission, a body which it said was well equipped and experienced to advise in such matters. Chairman Fred Baehr said most of the Township's land contains sinkholes, and that almost any site chosen by the Board would require a large amount of grading.

In answer to objections in re-

information on a proposed walkway between their development and the Gulph Elementary School. Several residents protested the possible use of their land for such a walkway.

The board replied that the question was not for them to decide, but rested with the Township Board of Supervisors, who had drawn the original development specifications. Members of the board, by a voice vote, went on record, unanimously, to adhere to the original plans which called for the walkway.

Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of schools, reported that blanket insurance coverage for all school employees using automobiles on school business, was now in effect.

Dr. Cocklin also reported that the varsity football squad had been insured by the American Progressive Insurance Co. of New York.

George M. Hein, chairman of the Board's property committee, was authorized to advertise for bids on four more portable grandstands to be used on the athletic field. Hein also was authorized to advertise for bids on additional mowing equipment needed by the School District.

The Board confirmed the appointment of Mrs. Josephine W. Reese, of Norristown, as clerk-typist in the office of the school business manager at an annual salary of \$2200.

The resignation of Mrs. Gerald W. Hicks, of Upper Darby, an elementary teacher in the Gulph Road School was accepted with regret by the Board.

The appointment of Miss Eleanor Norman, of Philadelphia, as elementary teacher in the Swedeland School at an annual salary of \$3,000, was approved by the Board.

The Board also confirmed the appointment of Dr. John C. McLoone, M. D., of Norristown, as an assistant to the school physician in examining Senior and Junior High School boys for participation in the school's athletic program.

The Board moved to send a letter to the Township Board of Supervisors, asking that body to arrange for construction of sidewalks on one side of the street in Brandywine Village and Candlebrook. The Board said the sidewalks would enable children from the area to walk to the new Candlebrook Elementary School.

Mrs. Sadie Fitzgerald, a special teacher at the Swedeland Elementary School, was granted permission by the Board to attend a conference on the education of

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In answer to objections in regard to grading of the school site, the Board decided that a topographical survey should be made of the ground, and authorized its Solicitor to make the necessary arrangements.

Another delegation of residents from the School Side Manor section came to the meeting seeking

information on a proposed walkway between their development and the Gulph Elementary School. Several residents protested the possible use of their land for such a walkway.

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Mrs. Sadie Fitzgerald, a special teacher at the Swedeland Elementary School, was granted permission by the Board to attend a conference on the education of exceptional children at Allentown, on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Secretary Hein said he had toured the District's buildings on School Visitation night, along with other members of the Board and found them to be in "excellent condition" after the Summer maintenance program.

## Area Youngsters to Get Antipolio Shots Monday

Second and third grade pupils in Upper Merion's two elementary schools will receive the second round of antipolio inoculations on Monday.

Starting at 9:15 A. M. in the Gulph Road School cafeteria, local health officials expect to

vaccinate 400 children in a half-hour period.

Only those children who received the primary inoculation, as first and second graders on April 27, will be eligible for the second round of vaccinations.

The antipolio shots will be ad-

ministered by several teams, each consisting of a physician, two nurses, two mothers and a member of the High School Future Nurses Club.

Supervising the program will be Dr. Robert May, school physician, and Dr. Fred Aldridge,

Other physicians participating are: Dr. John McLoone, Dr. Richard Loughlin, Dr. Julia Gylfe and Dr. Pauline Glanzberg.

Registered nurses who will assist during the inoculations are: Mrs. Helen S. McAlger, school nurse; Mrs. Madeline S. [unclear].

## 'It Doesn't Hurt At All'



Nancy Stevenson, a third grade pupil at Upper Merion's Gulph Road School, registers surprise as she receives her vaccination during the second phase of the antipolio inoculation program in the Township. Nancy was one of 340 second and third graders from the Township's Gulph Road, Swedeland and Sacred Heart Schools, who were vaccinated in a 40-minute session at the Gulph Road cafeteria. Nurse Nina McCracken, left, offers encouragement, while Dr. Pauline Glanzberg administers the inoculation. *(Times Herald Photo)*



December 7, 1955

## JOYCE BLUMBER LISTED IN BATON "WHOS WHO"

Joyce M. Blumber, of Swedeland, drum majorette captain at Upper Merion High School, has been listed in the 1956 Library Edition of "Who's Who in Baton Twirling" as one of the 800 outstanding young men and women in the twirling field.

The 17-year-old Senior was selected by officials of the National Baton Twirling Association, Janesville, Wisconsin, in conjunction with editors of the nationally circulated Drum Major magazine.

The 300-page book contains pictures and biographical histories of America's greatest twirling stars, the story of the evolution of the baton and twirling art, and informative reference material.

Miss Blumber, daughter of Mrs. Luke Kelly, of Swedeland, sponsors a twirling club at Upper Merion High School.

Dec. 7, 1955

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT SWEDELAND

Two important programs are scheduled before the Christmas holidays at Swedeland Public School.

Miss Dorothy Rohrer, principal, said a safety program will be held at 1.15 tomorrow afternoon, Dec. 9, in the school building. The speaker will be Upper Merion Police Chief John Boyle.

On Friday afternoon, Dec. 16, the annual Christmas program will be held at Swedeland Chapel. This will be followed by the Mothers Club tea.

Dec. 7, 1955

## AREA TEACHERS' GROUP TO NAME NEW OFFICERS

Election of officers will be held at a meeting of the Upper Merion District, Pennsylvania State Educational Association, this afternoon at 2.50 in the Gulph Road School.

As an experiment, local officers will be elected for two-year terms. Also scheduled for consideration is routine business, the president's report of the past year, and brief reports on the recent visiting day.

Dec. 7, 1955

## U. Merion Building Permits Total \$1,546,506 in November

Building permits for more than a million-and-a-half dollars worth of new construction were issued during November by Upper Merion Township. The November figure is a record monthly high for 1955.

According to a report yesterday by A. W. Martin, township engineer, permits for new construction totalling \$1,546,505 were issued.

Permits were issued for single family dwellings at a total cost of \$921,095. Also issued were permits for a school and convent building and for 15 stores.

The school and convent will be constructed by the Mother of Divine Providence Catholic Church, King of Prussia. The stores will be erected on Town Center Rd. as part of the Valley Forge Center Development.

The permit for the largest single dwelling development was issued to the Candlebrook Corp. which plans to construct 60 more dwelling units in the area at an estimated cost of \$480,000.

Second highest in the dwelling category was a permit for the construction of 26 single homes in Washington Park at an estimated cost of \$266,000. The permit was issued to Anthony Volpi.

Dec 7, 1955

## LOCAL GIRLS ATTEND CHEERLEADING CLINIC

Four Upper Merion High School girls attended a Cheerleaders Clinic, sponsored by the National Cheerleaders Association at Shippensburg High School, Shippensburg.

Local girls attending were Judy Whittam, Beverly Cook, Marie Rinker and Becky Hanley. The girls were accompanied by Mrs. Marsha Krysa, librarian.

Clinic sessions were directed by Lawrence R. Herkimer, executive secretary of the National Cheerleaders Association and former Southwest AAU tumbling champion. Herkimer has trained over 14,000 school and college yell leaders during the past eight years.

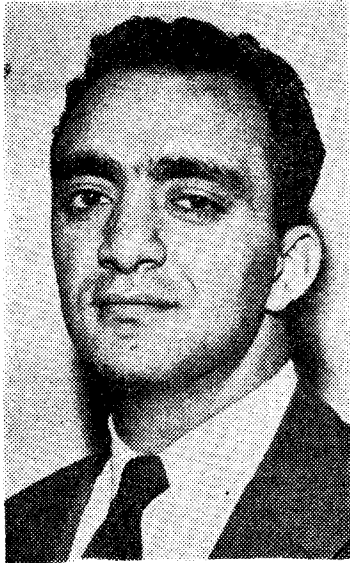
Cheerleading techniques discussed at the clinic included crowd psychology, colorful demonstrations, bonfires and parades and mass demonstrations.

# U. Merion Teacher Gets UN Post in Middle East

Michael Abboud, a member of the faculty at Upper Merion High School, has received a United Nations appointment to serve as an educational advisor in Iraq.

He will leave his teaching duties at Upper Merion on January 31 to begin special training and indoctrination for the new post.

Abboud, who resides at 62 Powderhorn Rd., Valley Forge Homes, was selected to assist with a United Nations program of increasing Western educational



**MICHAEL ABBOUD**

techniques in the Arab countries, particularly with regard to English language teaching.

After spending two months of preparation in Washington and Philadelphia, Abboud said he expects to embark for Iraq sometime in March. His wife and three children will follow him three or four months later.

Under the United Nations appointment, Abboud will be designated as advisor to the Minister of Education for the Nation of Iraq. The assignment will be for approximately three years.

Abboud has been an instructor at Upper Merion for the past five years. He currently teaches courses in health, science and driver education and is coach of the junior high basketball team. He also has been coach of the varsity baseball team.

A graduate of Temple University, Abboud holds a master's degree from the same institution. He is an alumnus of South Philadelphia High School and served as an Air Corps pilot during World War II.

Abboud said he will be stationed in the city of Bagdad and hopes to locate his family in the American colony there.