

# Bridgeport Studies Jointure With Up. Merion, W. Consho.

A resolution further to study the possibility of a proposed jointure with Upper Merion and West Conshohocken school districts was passed by the Bridgeport School Board at its February meeting, last night.

No official action was taken as result of the resolution presented by George A. Loughran, chairman of the Steering Committee named for the jointure study, and passed on motion of Director Stanley Leary, seconded by Director John Kivshak; the resolution is a further step toward the proposed jointure it was indicated.

"We want to study the plan and act for the betterment of the Bridgeport district educationally and athletically after it is thoroughly considered," said Chairman Loughran.

The resolution:

**"Resolved, that we the district of the Bridgeport School District are interested in further studying the possibility of the proposed jointure with the Upper Merion and West Conshohocken School Districts.**

**We hereby authorize Mr. Hottenstein, the County Superintendent of Schools, to notify the Districts involved that if they are interested in a jointure, that he schedule a combined meeting of the three Boards in the near future."**

It was explained that the County Superintendent of Schools will arrange a meeting of the three school districts in the proposed jointure to study the matter as a unit before any of the respective Boards take action.

Several parents participated in the discussion. John A. Turley, Green St., asked several questions pertaining to a Bridgeport jointure, and John Nicola, Ford St., expressed the benefit of such a jointure in aiding the pupil, he said, "both in education and athletics."

Nicola said without a jointure he could not see the athletic program participating with present larger schools. "And an athletic program is very important," he added.

"We are fortunate no one suffered a permanent injury in the past football season with such a small squad, (numerically)," he stated. "The Bridgeport players had to play with fewer than 20 players against schools with upwards of 40 players. Regardless of who coached, there were just not enough boys to form a winning team."

He felt athletics means much to a boy, particularly when there is a possibility of helping him with an opportunity to go to college by way of a sport scholarship. Nicola advocated sports as much as education, but felt without a jointure, there are not sufficient boys to compete against schools they are meeting.

first be made by the Athletic Committee. The study of this matter, concerning a team without a jointure by next Fall, was included in Bolger's motion.

Bolger had first made a motion to send a football coach to the shore clinic. This was seconded by Leary. But, after the problem of a question concerning the football uncertainty came into the picture, the motion was rescinded. It was because of this uncertainty that Bridgeport was dropped from the Norristown High School football schedule for next Fall, the latter district said. They (Norristown) has expressed attention of keeping Bridgeport on all other athletic schedules, boys and girls.

as education, but felt without a jointure, there are not sufficient boys to compete against schools they are meeting.

#### Plan Careful Study

Directors plan careful consideration of the proposed jointure and now awaits reaction of its resolution to meet with the other neighboring districts involved.

In addition to Loughran, the other Steering Committee members are Robert Bolger and Leary. Loughran, in the report, commended Superintendent C. C. Smith for his aid and cooperation in the jointure study made to date.

#### Football Coach Discussion

It was learned, last night — as result of a football and football coach discussion — that the high school does not have a football coach.

The Athletic Council report by Chairman Loughran started the issue.

Loughran first said the council being charged with "firing" Edson Kershner, veteran football coach, was "not so."

**"The school does not hire or fire coaches; they are appointed," he explained. "And it was the intention of the council to make various changes in the appointments."**

He said Superintendent C. C. Smith had been asked to "feel out" Mr. Kershner as to a possible change. The appointment of coaches is generally made in May, officials said. A change would not affect his teaching position.

Last night, however, Directors were virtually "put on the spot" when they read a letter from Kershner who said in part:

**"Inasmuch as the administration denied the fact in a newspaper story that I am not fired, I would like to attend, as in the past, the coaches' football clinic in Atlantic City, N. J., in March."**

It was at this point that directors seemed stymied over the football coach problem.

After discussion it boiled down to the fact "the football coaching duties terminate after football season and until new assignments are made the following May."

#### "Have No Coach"

Based on this fact, the Board said "thus we actually have no football coach." A motion of Director Bolger not to send a coach to the clinic this year was passed.

As for the school having a football team, next Fall — unless there is a jointure — a study will

ball schedule for next Fall, the latter district said. They (Norristown) has expressed attention of keeping Bridgeport on all other athletic schedules, boys and girls.

#### Approve Jr. High Football

The Board did unanimously approve of renewing competitive football for the Junior High School and authorized Faculty Director Andrew Ottaviano to arrange the proposed schedule.

#### One Bill To District

Further study on the varsity football situation will be made at the next Athletic Council meeting Monday night, Feb. 27.

**The Council reported that an independent football team in Norristown has failed to pay the district a bill of \$135 for rental of the borough athletic field last Fall. As a result, the matter was turned over to the school solicitor, Joseph McGrory.**

Request of William McGough to use the high school gymnasium for the Bridgeport-St. Augustine CYO basketball program, Wednesday night, Feb. 29, was approved — providing it does not conflict with the school or Carson team basketball schedule.

Directors expressed favor to donate to an appeal for funds by the Norristown Free Public Library but action on the amount of the contribution was deferred to next month.

A report on the Bridgeport Memorial Park Board meeting he attended was given by Director Kryska. The cafeteria report was given by Director Leary, and Director Pachella, Building and Grounds Committee, said an inspection of buildings is planned.

Treasurer Walter Streeper reported a general balance of \$39,976.38, and Tax Collector Margaret Turley turned in collections of \$863.89 for Real Estate taxes; \$619.50, Per Capita taxes, and \$409. transfer tax.

Director Gerald Dunlevy was absent, Harry Dougherty, president, presided.

# Construction To Proceed At Candlebrook School

Reporting to the Upper Merion School Board which met last night, Candlebrook school architect Joseph Wigmore stated that while no exact date for completion of the Candlebrook school can be given now, brick walls will start going up within the next week.

Delays caused solely by steel shortages are now overcome both at Candlebrook and in the Swedeland addition, as practically all necessary supplies are now on the job and are being put in place.

An attempt will be made to erect first a complete four-classroom cluster, in order that classes may be assigned. Athletic field completion also is being rushed in the hope that such may be ready for Little League competition this Spring, and that interested civic groups may be enabled to compliment the Board's efforts in readying a summer playground.

According to solicitor Anthony L. Differ, it appears now that the board may be able to negotiate the purchase of the McKaig property site for a Croton Rd. school.

Because of protests registered by residents and reconsideration of the matter by several Board members, it was felt that the Board should abandon the project of naming Upper Merion school buildings for historical figures.

A committee headed by Darwin S. Wolcott recently was directed to sponsor a contest among school children to select such names. This drew a long list of suggestions, the most popular including 27 votes for Betsy Ross, 11 for Clara Barton, 13 for Benjamin Franklin, 11 for William Penn and 13 for George Washington.

The Board was unanimous in agreement, however, that most residents prefer to know the schools by their regional names, and take pride in knowing them as Gulph Road School, Swedeland and Upper Merion High School.

The Architect, therefore, was formally authorized to name the building nearing completion simply, Candlebrook School. It was pointed out that most schools outside the Philadelphia area are so named.

Thanks were to be formally extended to the Bridgeport-Upper Merion Lions for the gift of an audiometer and to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Henderson, of King of Prussia, for presenting a baby grand piano to the Gulph Road School, resulting directly from a plea in the Home and School Association newsletter, the Upper Merion Messenger.

Letters were read by President Baehr and Dr. Warren H. Cocklin from the Upper Merion Business and Professional Women's organization in which it was stated that, with an enclosed con-

an annual Secretarial Scholarship to the Peirce School in Philadelphia, for any eligible female graduate of Upper Merion.

The 60-week course amounting to \$750, open to commercial or academic girls, is the first scholarship to be awarded at Upper Merion by an organization or service group within the community.

It was reported that substitute teacher Kenneth L. Michael, a physical education teacher who reported to the Upper Merion school on Feb. 1 to take over the duties of Michael Abboud, who resigned on January 31, had previously contracted to teach at Upper Darby High School next September.

Starting immediately, President Baehr requested a complete study of minimum and maximum salaries of teachers to be ready to be acted on by the Board at its next meeting. It was emphasized that no pressures have been brought to bear in this matter by teachers organizations, but the Board feels that revision should be in order shortly.

Daily salaries of substitute teachers were raised at the meeting to \$15 from the \$12.50 standard rate.

High School Principal Robert R. Strine and Gulph Road Superintendent Carmen F. Storti will remain at their posts a full 12 months beginning this year, with vacations of three weeks.

In a complete report on cafeteria accounts and personnel, numbering 14 workers, H. Walker Peters recommended several measures for smoother operation which the Board adopted.

Mrs. Olive Horn, chief dietician, was commended on an exemplary performance of her job.

Medical Department Secretary Mrs. Delores Leflar, resigning to devote more time to her family, is to be replaced on a temporary basis about a month from now at the Gulph Road School medical office by Mrs. Harry R. Maloney, of Montgomery Ave.

March 8 and 14 will be half day sessions in all but three Upper Merion Schools due to parent conferences with teachers on those afternoons in the elementary schools.

The request for a coffee urn at a cost of \$22 by the Swedeland Teachers for use in their rest room was granted.

Following his request for the inauguration of a complete public

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Letters were read by President Baehr and Dr. Warren H. Cocklin from the Upper Merion Business and Professional Women's organization in which it was stated that, with an enclosed contribution of \$150 more to the school dental clinic, the group was withdrawing its yearly support from the project in order to direct all fund raising efforts towards the immediate establishment of

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Following his request for the inauguration of a complete public relations program on the part of the Board, H. Walker Peters was appointed chairman of a committee to study this matter with members George C. Whittam and George Hein.

## Faculty Winner In Basketball Test

Upper Merion High School's teaching staff gave some extra-curricular lessons in basketball to the school's two varsity teams.

A male faculty team tripped the boys' varsity, 49-46, and a quintet of women instructors downed the girl's varsity, 34-20.

The two contests, played at the high school gymnasium, were part of a "Fun Night" program sponsored by the Girls' Varsity Club.

156.

## \$400 Pay Adjustment Voted For Upper Merion Teachers

A salary adjustment of \$400 for teachers in the Upper Merion School District was approved last night at a regular meeting of the School Board.

This latest adjustment, when combined with a \$200 earned increment granted by the Board in 1952 or the \$200 increment provided by State law, will raise teaching salaries in the district \$600 a year.

The salary rise was recommended by Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of schools, who pointed out that such an adjustment would bring salaries of all faculty members in line with the \$400 increment recently granted to inexperienced starting teachers.

Four new elementary teachers, who were approved by the Board for the 1956-57 school term are:

Ned Hasselquist, of Phoenixville, at a salary of \$4600; Joseph R. Chicino, of Berwyn, at a salary of \$4200; Miss Jean Evelyn Wolf, of Wayne, at a salary of \$3400, and Miss Joan M. Bryant, of Ardmore, at a salary of \$4200.

The Board approved a recommendation by School Director H. Walker Peters, who has been studying operation of the district's cafeteria system, that the cafeteria account be reimbursed for expenses in connection with the home economics class and athletic association.

Attorney Anthony L. Differ, school board solicitor, reported that negotiations on the McKaig tract at Croton Rd. have not been completed and suggested that the Board set a deadline.

The Board set Monday, March 26, and will hold a special meeting at that time to consider further action if necessary.

The McKaig tract has been selected by the School Board as the site for new elementary school.

Joseph Wigmore, architect for the new Candlebrook School, reported that construction of the unit has been progressing at a satisfactory rate. He pointed out that fill dirt may have to be obtained to insure against soil

The Ginn and Co. elementary reading series was approved by the board as a basic reading system for the district on the recommendation of Dr. Cocklin.

Fred Basher, chairman of the Board, extended the Board's thanks to all persons who give their time to operate outside-of-school activities for township youngsters. Baehr urged school officials to give their utmost cooperation to leaders of all such organizations.

Baehr presided at last night's meeting in the Board Room of Galph Elementary School.

## U- MERION LEADS IN RAPID GROWTH

Upper Merion is developing more rapidly than any other area of comparable size in the entire United States, according to Charles Wellard, a member of the Upper Merion Planning Commission.

In a talk to the quarterly meeting of the Southwest Civic Association, Wellard pointed out that Upper Merion's population has risen from 6,400 to 11,500 in the five years between 1950 and 1955, and is expected to reach 20,500 by 1961, even with curtailment of additional development.

Wellard outlined the duties, functions and powers of the local Planning Commission, which will be one year old in April. The Commission, headed by Craig A. Turner, of Colonial Village, has been charged with formulating an overall plan for the Township.

Wellard said the plan, not yet completed, should be ready for presentation to the public sometime in June. It probably will be released first to the individual civic associations throughout the Township.

At the Southwest meeting, Nominating Committee Chairman Edward A. Martin, of Wood Hill Rd., announced a list of nominees selected by his committee, which included Mrs. Harry J. Schuler, P. H. Douglass and Harold M. Engel.

The Committee named the following for election at the June meeting: for president, James Moir, of Wood Hill Rd.; for vice-president, Joseph J. Mulroy, Croton Rd.; for corresponding secretary, Mrs. Michael Kapichok, of King of Prussia Rd.; for recording secretary, Mrs. Gordon R. Geiger, of Fletcher Rd., and for treasurer, Roger L. Miller, of Sharon Drive. An additional nomination from the floor placed the name of Frank M. Hallman, Wood Hill Rd., in the race for the vice-presidency.

# Eileen Brennan Is Winner In Local U.N. Examination

Miss Eileen Brennan, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brennan, of Hughes Park, received the highest mark in a United Nations essay examination held at Upper Merion High School.

Miss Brennan's examination paper will be sent to United Nations headquarters in New York to be placed in competition with other contest winners.

The three-hour examination is given annually in public and priv-

## School Directors To Meet Tonight

Upper Merion's School Directors will hold a caucus meeting tonight to decide on further action in connection with the McKaig tract on Croton Rd.

Although the tract was selected by the School Board last year as the site for a new elementary school in that area, negotiations for acquiring the land had not been completed up to the Board's last meeting on March 12.

The Board set tonight as a deadline for completion of negotiations. Tonight's session is not open to the general public.



EILEEN BRENNAN

## ATTENDS SESSIONS OF TOOL ENGINEERS

Robert I. Strimel, of Penllyn, former Upper Merion school director, returned Saturday by plane from Chicago, Ill., where he attended the American Society Tool Engineers convention.

Strimel is a representative of the Tinius Olsen Testing Machine Co., Willow Grove. He was accompanied by T. O. Olsen, 2nd, president of the company.

Both also attended the Temple-Iowa and San Francisco-S. M. U. college NCAA basketball tournament games in Evanston, Ill. Strimel is a Temple graduate.

ate schools throughout the United States.

First prize in the contest is a \$4,000 scholarship to any college on a trip to Europe. The second-place winner will receive either a \$3,000 scholarship or a trip to Mexico.

Miss Brennan, who is a member of the Sophomore class, scored a 92 in the test.

Last year's Upper Merion winner, Roberta Ruch, scored the highest examination mark in the State.

The examination is administered at Upper Merion by Frank Yutz, senior Problem of Democracy instructor.

## Upper Merion Bloodmobile Drive Opens With Kickoff Meeting



Chairmen and Captains for the 1956 Bloodmobile Drive in Upper Merion are pictured above during a kickoff meeting at the Gulph Road School. The volunteers are: (seated, from left) Mrs. Rodger Miller, of the Southwest Civic Association; Dominick La-Sorda, chairman of the residential drive; Robert R. Strine, chairman of the industrial drive; (standing) Charles A. Turri, Merion View; Joseph Fillman, School Side Manor; Mrs. Joseph Crockett, Lower Montgomery Ave.; Mrs. R. L. Gable, Merion Hills; Carl Anselm, Swedeland; Mrs. Elmer L. Spangler, Upper Montgomery Ave.; Robert H. Krein, Candlebrook; Mrs. Dorothy M. Schultz, Gulph Mills; Mrs. Robert C. Smith, Brandywine Village; Mrs. Charles Schambron, Cinnamon Hills, and Mrs. Todd A. Watkins, Church Rd. The Bloodmobile will visit Upper Merion on April 12 and 13. *(Times Herald Photo)*

## Entertainer at Club Meeting



The problems of a housewife on moving day were portrayed in a comedy monologue by Mrs. Betty Martyn (center), a representative of the Philadelphia Dairy Council, at the March meeting of the Gulph Road School Mothers' Club. Pictured with Mrs. Martyn are Mrs. Richard Whetstone (left) and Mrs. Oscar Seen, Mothers' Club president. *(Times Herald Photo)*

## Board to Make Offer For McKaig Land

The Upper Merion School Board announced last night that it will continue negotiations for acquiring a portion of the McKaig tract on Croton Road.

Meeting in executive session, the Board decided to make a "firm offer" for the purchase of the ground which would be announced at the next regular meeting on April 9.

The land in question has been selected by the School Directors as the site for a new elementary school in that area.

Progress of negotiations was reported at the meeting by Anthony L. Differ, school board solicitor.



# Bridgeport Mothers Club To Hear Talk on Jointure

A talk on school jointure will be given members of Bridgeport elementary school Mothers Club at its April meeting this Thursday evening in the school building.

C. C. Smith, superintendent of schools, guest speaker, will give an outline of the proposed jointure being studied by the school district. Smith has been cooperating with the school board's jointure committee which is studying the jointure plans.

Of interest to parents, all members are urged to attend. Teachers of the school also will be present.

## Talk on Park Drive

Another guest speaker will be Joseph A. Bearoff, chairman of the fund-raising campaign for Bridgeport Memorial Park.

With the park drive scheduled to start this weekend, Bearoff will talk on the campaign and the importance of the recreation center sponsored by Bridgeport Community Funds.

Entertainment also will mark the April session for the mothers.

Mrs. William Ruttman, president, who will preside, said a highlight of the entertainment will be singing of a brother and sister in the school district. They include Louis Prinzivalli, Bridgeport center who is a vocalist and guitar player, and his sister, Jo Anne Prinzivalli, a pupil of the elementary building.

Hostesses will be mothers of Miss Isabel Wilkinson's sixth grade pupils. Mrs. Dolores Messere is chairman.

## JOINTURE FAVORED BY WEST SIDE BOARD

West Conshohocken School Board went on record last night as being in favor of any jointure practical with either or both the Upper Merion and Bridgeport school systems.

Meeting in the Bullock Ave. grade school, the board was observed in action by a group of interested citizens, there to urge consideration of the proposed consolidation.

The schoolmen were in agreement that the present grade school cannot be operated successfully on the present enrollment and that some new system of education is needed.

At present there are only 126 students in the six grades now operating. West Conshohocken

Continued on Page 3—Column 2

## Jointure

Continued from Page 1

sends 111 junior and senior high schools pupils to Conshohocken High School. Nine years ago, West Conshohocken High School was discontinued because of the lack of enrollment.

Illustrating the financial problems posed by the lack of pupils, the board passed a resolution to borrow enough money to last through the rest of the month. They are now awaiting \$22,000 owed them as reimbursement by the State. The treasury report revealed the present balance on hand as \$2,046.91.

Both Bridgeport and Upper Merion School Boards are reported to be considering the possible move that would combine the three school districts and enable the combined boards to finance one large, modern high school.

## \$300 Given Dental Program By Upper Merion BPW Club

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Upper Merion, responding to the aid of a dental clinic for Upper Merion school children, has contributed \$300 for a dental hygienist at the school.

This was disclosed by Upper Merion Health Council at its first meeting of the year held in Gulph Road school.

Council, on recommendation of medical officials, has told of the need of a dental clinic because of the reported poor dental record of children.

### Need Dental Committee

The need of a dental committee to take responsibility of each year was stressed as announced that the committee is to be comprised of volunteer members of the home school and mothers' clubs, one resident interested in the program.

Contributions also being sought from town industries to help finance the program. A

report of several contributions made to date was given.

### New Members

Two new members were welcomed, including Mrs. Helen S. MacLeer, school nurse, and Dr. Irving Gerson, school dentist.

Meetings of the council will be held the third Monday of each month.

Dr. Ralph Morrow, chairman, presided. Others present included Mrs. Ethel Murray, vice chairman; Mrs. Frederick Babbs, secretary; Miss Charlotte Michener, corresponding secretary; Jack Shain, Miss Marian Meyers, Alexander Scott, Arnold Kell, Dr. Irving Gerson, Mrs. Helen S. MacLeer, and Dr. Robert May, school physician.

# Upper Merion School Budget Brings Six-Mill Tax Raise

Continued from Page 1

H. Walker Peters.

## Public Relations

A new public relations policy for the school district as determined by the Board's public relations committee also was adopted at last night's session.

The new policy was developed to in an attempt to keep the public better informed on school district activity and planning.

The policy centralizes responsibility for school news releases in the office of the superintendent of schools and urges regular meetings of the superintendent with members of the press.

**The board's property committee, which has been negotiating for the purchase of part of the McKaig tract on Croton Rd., was granted time for further investigation before offering a final contract.**

The board authorized the committee to go ahead with soundings of the property in question.

Reporting on negotiations for another tract in the Belmont Hill section of the Township, also a proposed school site, the committee said it has not been able to make a specific offer since road patterns in the area have not been completed by the planning agencies.

## New Teachers

Three new teachers were approved by the Board at the meeting:

Harry Pure, of Waynesboro, for physical education and social studies in the junior high school, at

a salary of \$4,600.

Alma T. Chambron, of Cinnamon Hill, Upper Merion, for senior high mathematics, at a salary of \$5,100.

Phillip C. Scott, of Valley Forge Homes, Upper Merion, for elementary physical education, at a salary of \$4,000.

Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of schools, reported a total school district enrollment of 1,708.

An application for connecting the new Candlebrook school elementary school to the Crow Creek Sewer Co. was formally approved by the Board.

## Urges Special Class

George Hein, secretary, urged the board to study the possibility of starting special classes for retarded children in the district of high school age.

Hein said some provision should be made for those children who will be growing out of the special classes already operated by the district.

The board asked the administrative staff of the district to look into the matter.

A letter from a local teachers' committee, thanking the board for recent salary increases, was read at the meeting.

Fred Baehr, president, presided at the meeting in Gulph Elementary School. Also present were Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of schools; Robert R. Strine, high school principal; Carmen F. Storti, elementary supervisor, and Anthony L. Differ, solicitor.

# Upper Merion School Budget Is \$906,044

Increase in Expenses  
Is Up Over \$200,000  
According to Estimate

Gulph Mills — A proposed budget of \$906,044 with tax rate set at 36 mills, was submitted at a meeting of the Upper Merion Township school board Monday night and will be posted throughout the township until adoption next month.

Darwin S. Wolcott, of the budget committee, reported the six-mill tax increase over last year's rate of 30 mills was necessary because of the higher cost in educating children, running schools and of school supplies.

"The budget as it now stands is as close as we can cut it," he said. Last year's budget was \$697,750, more than \$200,000 less than the tentative one for the 1956-57 school year.

The board voted to post the budget in the high school principal's office, the superintendent's office in Gulph Rd. Elementary School, Swedeland School principal's office, township building, King of Prussia Post Office, Swedeland Post Office, Bridgeport Post Office and Auch's store in Rebel Hill.

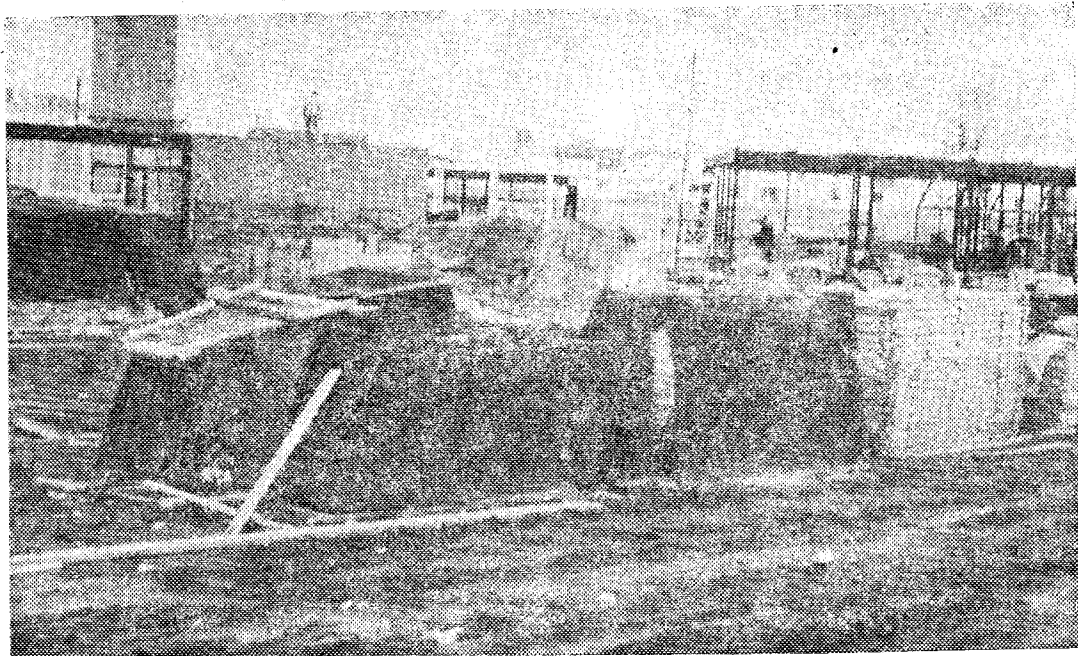
The per capita tax of \$3 and the deed transfer tax rate of \$1 per \$100 will remain the same as last year.

Largest item on the proposed budget was instruction set at \$700,850 of which \$411,200 was allotted for teachers salaries. Transportation was allotted \$55,000. Debt service including sinking fund account, redemption of short term loans and payment of interest on bonds was estimated at \$119,734.

Wolcott reported Mrs. Edgar S. McKaig's attorney had submitted a proposition from her regarding acquisition of a 10-acre portion of her property on Croton Rd. as a school site.

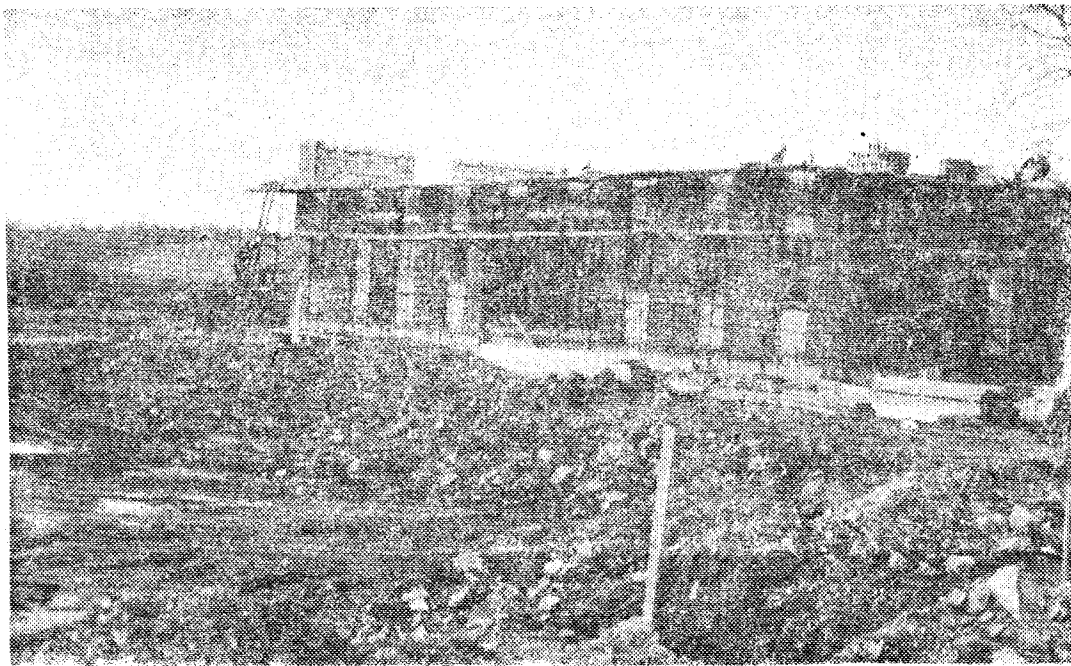
Expenditure of necessary funds to take soundings of the tract was authorized. Wolcott was instructed to consult with John Yerkes, engineer, and Joseph Wigmore, architect, to determine the extent of test borings to be taken.

## Work Progresses on Two Upper Merion Schools



(Above) After slight delays caused by bad weather, work continues on the district's new Candlebrook Elementary School at Prince Frederick St. and Country Lane, Candlebrook. School officials expect the 16-room unit to be ready for occupancy by September. General contractors are the Sanders and Thomas Co.; Joseph Wigmore is the architect. (Below) Workmen raise the walls of an eight-classroom unit for the mother of Divine Providence Parish, on Allendale Rd., King of Prussia. The new building, and an attached auditorium unit, also are expected to be ready by September. General contractors are the Lloyd Kershner Co., of Norristown; Daniel J. Swantek is architect.

*(Times Herald Photo)*



## MERGER TERMS SUBMITTED BY UPPER MERION

West Conshohocken School Board last night temporarily adopted its 1956 budget and maintained its 1955 tax rate.

A letter from Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of Upper Merion Twp. Schools, was read concerning terms for a possible merger of Upper Merion and West Conshohocken school districts.

Included in the \$86,000 budget was a blanket \$200 yearly raise for all West Conshohocken teachers.

The budget will go on public view in the Bullock Ave. Grade School office until June 7 when it will come up for final adoption. The expenditures balanced with receipts anticipated at the present tax rate of 35 mills and \$7.50 per capita.

At the same time the school supervisors approved the scheduling of another meeting with

*Continued on Page 3—Column 2*

## Merger Terms

*Continued from Page 1*

Upper Merion School Board to discuss possibilities of joining the two districts.

Other moves included the re-appointment of Herbert Kriebel as school district treasurer and Stanley B. Cooper, attorney, as solicitor for the board.

Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of Upper Merion Schools, in his letter to the West Conshohocken board, stated terms which would have to be agreed on by any district joining with Upper Merion.

The West Conshohocken educators were told that, in case of merger, control of policy in education matters would necessarily remain in the hands of the Township board. Cocklin's letter also said, in effect, that West Conshohocken would have to be prepared to pay their share of the expenses involved in the planned "increased improved offerings which the community (Upper Merion) desires."

Investigations of another merger, one with Conshohocken, also will be carried through, reports the West borough school board. They went on record as favorable to a meeting with Conshohocken on the matter but remained silent on sentiments pertaining to an East-West borough merger.

Discussion will also be held on a proposed West Conshohocken Kindergarten, addition to the present elementary education system. If found to be practical and if a large enough enrollment member.

## School May Program Tonight

Upper Merion High's May queen and king will be crowned tonight in a colorful ceremony on the school's athletic field.

The royal pair, whose names have been kept secret, were chosen by a vote of the entire student body. They were selected from members of this year's May court.

The crowning ceremony will be preceded by a pageant which includes performances by nine separate dance groups. Tonight's events will start at 6.30 with a procession of the May court led by last year's May queen Joan Gadzicki.

Members of the court are:  
Girls—Jean Ann Lacey, Loretta Kulpa, Norma Lockton, Joyce Blumber, Judy Whittam, Bette Demmers, Ann Seward.

Boys—Joseph Katrina, William McKay, Robert Shemonski, William Cook, Robert Hertzog, Robert Rex, William Hanley.

# Robert R. Strine Is Honored For 25 Year U. Merion Service

Robert R. Strine, principal of Upper Merion High School, was recognized for his 25 years of service in the township school district as a highlight of the annual dinner by the Education Association held in Gulph Elementary School cafeteria.

Sponsored by the Local Branch of the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the dinner was attended by members and guests.

The well known principal, a graduate and former athlete at Ursinus College, was praised for his "long and faithful service to Upper Merion" and presented a radio clock as a gift.

Strine expressed his appreciation in accepting the presentation.

The gift, on behalf of the members, was given by Mrs. Marcia Krysa, president, who served as toastmaster. Other officers of the Upper Merion branch include Paul Zuck, vice president; Frances Eastburn, secretary, and Marion March, treasurer.

Mrs. Doria Penkethman, of the Philadelphia Dairy Council, spoke on the theme "It's a Sure Sign." A talk was also given by the Rev. W. Osborne Rowland, pastor of Lower Providence Presbyterian Church.

Group singing was led by Mrs. Ruth Dietrich, and Miss Betty Jo Shreve was accompanist. The social committee chairman was Mrs. Kay Greiner. Joseph Vuotto was program chairman.

Members of the Board of Education were guests, as were their wives and Miss Marion Myers, Eastburn Terrace, retired member of the board. Directors include Fred Baehr, president; George M. Hein, secretary; George C. Whitlam, vice president; J. Lester Rinehart, treasurer; J. Arthur Buehler, H. Walker Peters, Darwin S. Wolcott, Attorney Anthony L. Differ, solicitor, and Charles K. Given, assistant secretary.

#### Members

Members of the Upper Merion branch of the association follow:

Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, Superintendent; Carmen F. Storti, Elementary Supervisor; Robert R. Strine, High School Principal, (25 years of service).

Helen Anderson, Jeanne R. Bowen, Doris Daub, Janice Delardi, George Eyth, Marian Hayden, Arthur Jenkins, Arturo Lopez, Ann Parsons, Frank C. Yutz, George Santoro, Esther Pollock, Eugene O'Hara, William Murray, Marjorie Vaughn, Merrill C. Young.

Isabel Barr, Helen Cummings, Betty Czop, Jennie Dixon, Nancy Fox, Olive Horne, Eleanor Hamill, Marian March, George Reinke, Paul Zuck, Ethel Maloney, Helen

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Agnes C. Cotton, Claire Daller, Ethel Diehl, Patricia Duffy, Rose Dixon, Marcia Krysa, M. Evans Groff, Norman Raub, Richard Young, Mary K. Wolle, Marie Wolfskill, Orient Martella, Jean Morrison, Kenneth Seixas, Grace K. Miller, Robert Mitchell.

Margaret S. Barrow, Robert S. Brackin, Marie E. DeHaven, Frances A. Eastburn, Elaine Gagliardi, Samuel Laudenslager, Herbert L. Hensinger, Elizabeth Sherlock, Barbara S. Stinson, J. Richard Bolton, Neil G. Campbell, Ruth K. Dietrich, Sadie Fitzgerald, Katherine Greiner, Marian McCreary, Joseph J. Vutto, Rita Montagnolo, Mildred Morancik, Mary E. Rogers, Gwendolyn Linderman, Charlotte Michener and Betty Jo Shreve.