

# INDUSTRY DAY FOR TEACHERS AT U. MERION

Upper Merion schools will be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 30, allowing teachers to participate in "Business-Education Day", a day during which faculty of the public and parochial schools of the greater Norristown area will be invited to be guests of the business people of the Upper Merion and Norristown vicinity.

Arrangements are made for the excursions in assigned groups ranging from three to 20 teachers, by the Central Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, with headquarters in Norristown. Chairman of the Committee for Business-Education this year is Ralph R. Rhodes.

Approximately 80 companies will entertain delegates of teachers, providing them with the experience of "a day in business". The program is designed to create an appreciation of the contribution of industry, commerce and the professions to the common welfare, and should equip teachers to give pupils counsel and guidance based upon actual needs and opportunities to the community.

Activities of the day will begin with a morning assembly of all teachers and representatives of the cooperating firms, in the Norristown High School Auditorium. Here, the objectives of Business-Education Day and a general outline of the project will be given, and the guests will hear a short address by an outstanding speaker. The teachers will participate in a program which includes a tour of inspection of a business or industrial establishment and a study of the administration, operations and problems of the various departments of the business.

As a result of the experience of the day, it is hoped the teacher will carry back into the classroom a better understanding of the role of business in community life. It should follow that this knowledge would have a constructive influence on the thinking of the students who will be the workers, business men and women, voters and taxpayers of the future.

## Upper Merion Board To Buy McKaig Land For New School Site

An agreement with Mrs. Edgar S. McKaig, to purchase a ten-acre portion of the McKaig estate for a Croton road school, was reached Monday evening at the meeting of the Upper Merion School Board.

A price of \$3,100 per acre was agreed upon for the piece of land, which fronts for 575 feet on Croton road (Route 252) next to the Wayne Woods section. Settlement will be held on or before September 1.

In the absence of Board president Fred Baehr, vice-president George C. Whittam conducted the meeting, at which Candlebrook School architect Joseph Wigmore cited plastering and window-glass problems, but expects completion on August 15.

Conversion of the Gulph Road Elementary School to a high school may be put off for two or three years, however, as Mr. Wigmore stated that a start cannot be made until approval of a classroom plan is granted by authorities in Harrisburg. Approval of new buildings and school additions is taking about two years to obtain, at this time.

The resignation of Clarence F. Murray, of Merion Hills, as president of the Upper Merion School Authority, was "regretfully" accepted by the Board. A successor will be named next month. Joseph J. Vuotto, presently teaching in Swedeland, was appointed to be "teaching principal" of the new Candlebrook School, when it opens with 16 elementary classes in the fall.

Continued on Page Ten

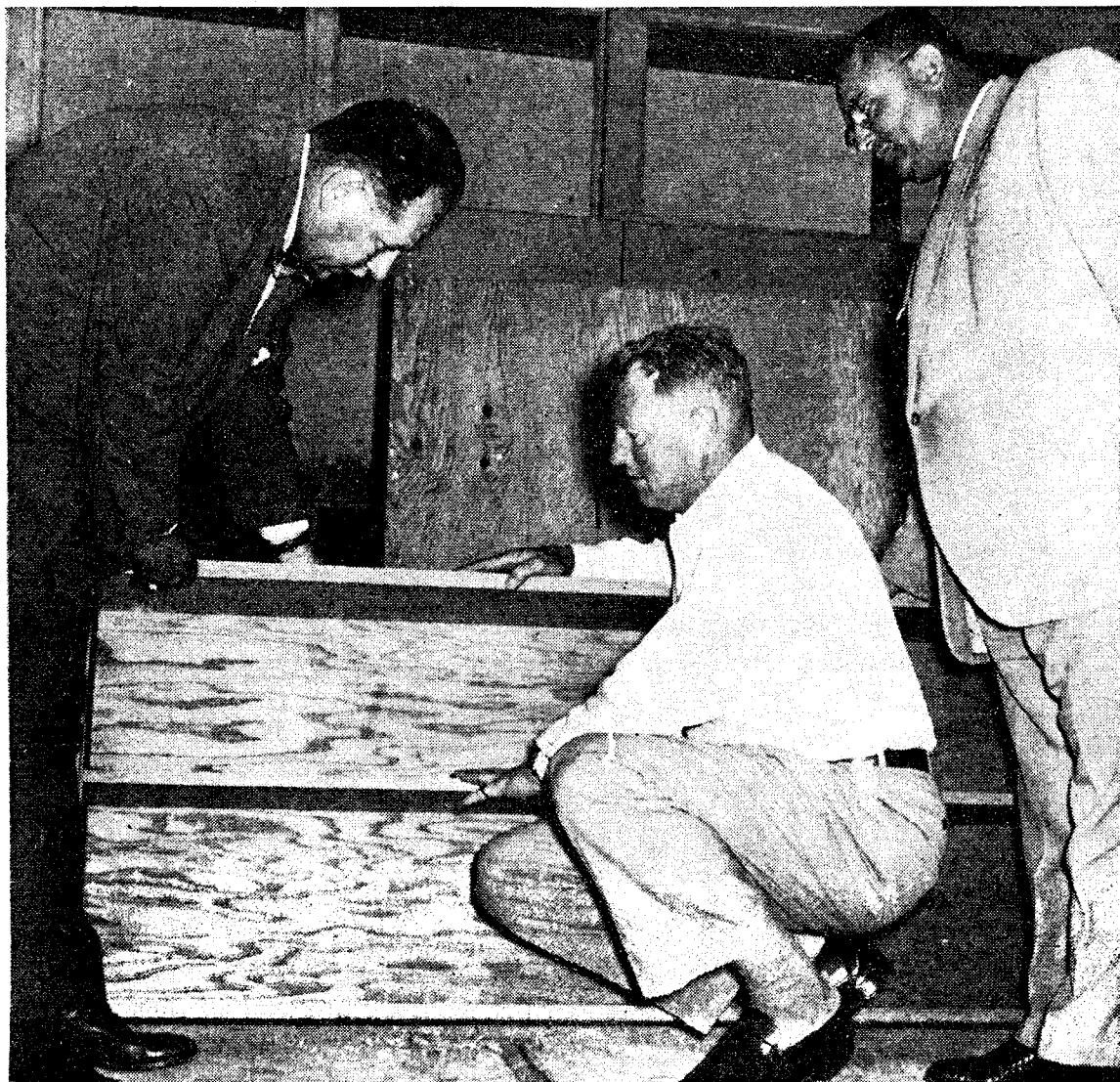
## Upper Merion Board

Continued from Page One

The Port Kennedy School, idle for the past three years, is to be re-opened next September, for the use of four Kindergarten classes (two morning and two afternoon sessions), with restoration and reconditioning of the building taking place this summer. To further care for the 249 kindergarten children already registered at Upper Merion schools for the fall, arrangements have been made for rental of the new Sunday School room at the Valley Forge Community Church in Candlebrook, for a morning and afternoon session, with the cooperation of the Rev. William R. Phillippe. With two more kindergarten classes in both the Candlebrook and Swedeland schools, this leaves sufficient rooms at the Gulph Road School to accommodate all of the 7th grade, the junior high school reading-adjustment class and a new special class on this same level, in addition to elementary classes.

Carmen F. Storti, elementary supervisor, emphasized at the meeting that redistribution of children to the Candlebrook School and other buildings, begun recently, is only temporary.

Oct 15, 1956



WHEN WILL IT BE READY?—That looms as major question of school authorities in Upper Merion township as they tour new Candlebrook School, Prince Frederick St. and Country Lane, to determine when they can occupy it for Fall use. Inspecting panels not yet in place are, from left, Joseph Wigmore, architect; Fred Baehr, president of school board, and Joseph Gadzicki, secretary of school fund. (Sentinel photo)

Report 1, 1, 6

## Up. Merion, Plymouth, Whitemarsh Lead in County Population Gain

Norristown—With a 99 per cent increase in population in the first six years of the current decade, Upper Merion township tops the growth in central Montgomery County.

This fact is revealed in a "Population—1956" report issued by the county planning commission.

It shows a gain of 122,627 since the last U. S. census was taken in 1950.

Figures from the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia show that population gains for the entire area in this period come close to matching the rate of the 1940-1950 decade.

As of April 1, the population increase from 1950 to 1956 was 14.2 per cent compared with 15.2 per cent for the preceding 10 years.

If the present rate of growth continues, the 11-county area will mark up a population gain of close to one million for the 1950 decade, chamber officials predict.

Montgomery County is expected to show nearly double the growth rate of the previous decade with 41.8 per cent over 22.1 per cent, a chamber official predicted.

The 1950 census gain Upper Merion township a population of 6,404. The estimate in April of this year was 12,735.

That is based on the planning commission report prepared by the technical staff under the direction of Alfred E. Tumminia, principal planner. It lists a total population for the county of 475,695.

The Chamber of Commerce report gives the county an estimated population April 1 of 442,000 and predicts 500,700 by 1960.

In second place in rate of growth in the central county area is Plymouth township. From 5,118 in 1950, it now is estimated at 9,255, a gain of about 80 per cent.

Whitemarsh township is third with a 72 per cent hike. The 1950 census gave it 5,977 and the current estimate is 10,300.

An increase of 6,617 is reported for Springfield township, rising from 1,403 in 1950 to 18,020 today.

Lower Merion is up from 48,745 to 57,700 while Upper Dublin township shows 9,040 against the 6,637 listed in 1950.

cially prohibitive. More than 60 per cent of the new residences are equipped with septic tanks for on-the-lot waste disposal.

Every day more than 2 million gallons of waste water enter the soil of lots. Rainy weather and impervious or water-logged soils are endangering the health both of the new residents and of nearby communities.

Fortunately, water service has been extended in most growth areas. However, more than one-fifth of the new residences, about 7,500, depend on their own wells for water. Some districts are experiencing a lowering of water tables and/or contamination of the under ground water supply.

Nearly all of the new developments depend on the automobile for transportation. More than 400 miles of wide-paved residential streets have been added to the road system inherited from the past. The limited capacities of the old, out-moded road network area strained even before full development occurs. Municipal services—schools, recreation, police, trash collection, and the others—are affected alike by the scattered developments which the current suburban expansion has featured.

Among the boroughs in central Montgomery County, West Conshohocken has shown the greater increase—eight per cent. From its census total of 2,482 the population estimate for 1956 is 2,700.

Bridgeport is up 6.5 per cent—from 5,827 to 6,220 while Conshohocken was the lowest with an estimated gain of just under five per cent. From 10,922 at the start of the decade, it now is estimated at 11,440.

The planning commission report observes that more than two-thirds of the growth has come from families coming into the county. This has resulted in a general lowering of the average age of the adults and an increase in the proportion of the 21-34 and one to nine age groups.

Mobility afforded by the automobile and septic tank has permitted a widespread scattering of small developments over most of the southeastern and central areas, the report indicates. Of the 62 municipalities, 22 townships and five boroughs have added more than 250 residents. Bulk of the growth was in the suburban townships, with the six bordering on Philadelphia receiving almost half of the new residences.

The population gain has economic implications. Automobile and truck registrations from the county have increased an estimated 60,000 over the 116,000 in 1950. Almost \$40 million in new accounts have been placed in county banks since 1950. About \$135 million residential and \$30 million non-residential tax assessments have been added.

The population dispersion primed by the automobile and the septic tank has added to the usual problems of growth areas by promoting scattered developments. Not only has utility planning lagged, but new developments often cause extension of utility services to be finan-

August 3, 1956

#### School Directors Meet

At a special meeting of the Upper Merion School Board, eight appointments to positions were approved, including two secretaries, a school nurse, elementary librarian and an art supervisors for the elementary grades.

The new teachers include, Mrs. Opal Howard, of Strafford, for the primary department at Candlebrook; Miss Rita Dydosh, of Duryea, intermediate department at Candlebrook; Mrs. Merle S. Standorfer, of Philadelphia, for kindergarten instruction at the Valley Forge Community Church. Mrs. Josephine McAuliffe, of Croton road, was approved as an additional nurse. A newly created position, art supervisor for elementary grades, will be filled by Mrs. Christine Sosna, of Rosemont. Miss Rosemary Weber, Upper Darby, will fill the position of elementary librarian.

Two secretaries appointed were Mrs. Rosemary Guminski, Merion View, who will be secretary to the high school principal, and Mrs. Frances Smith, of Brandywine Village, approved as secretary to the elementary supervisor.

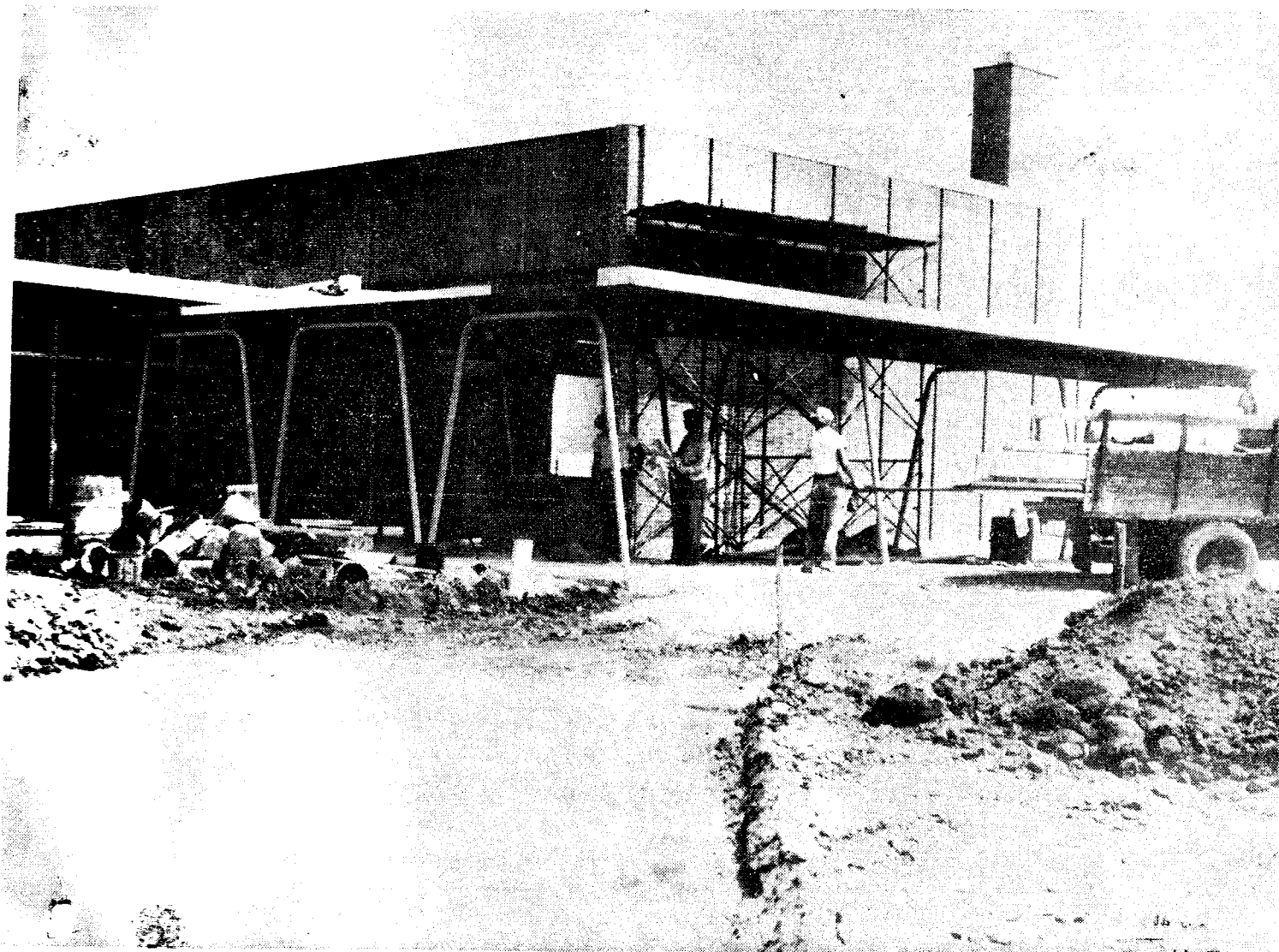
The Transportation Committee announced that a contract for the coming term has been signed with the Upper Merion Contract Carriers, Inc.

## 5-Cent Hike Looms For School Lunch

Gulph Mills — A 5-cent hike in the price of the A-type planter in the school cafeterias of Upper Merion township is in the offing.

The school board Tuesday night referred its committee study a request from the cafeteria manager to raise the charge from 25 to 30 cents to meet increased food costs and the drop in subsidy allotments from the state.

*August 31, 1956*



**TWELVE DAYS TO COMPLETE** — Upper Merion township youngsters have four-day reprieve on end of summer vacation as incomplete Candlebrook school, Prince Frederick St. and Country Lane, for ed school

board to postpone opening date from Wednesday until Sept. 11. This scene at Candlebrook greeted photographer late yesterday. Saunders and Thomas is contractor for building to accommodate 500 pupils.

# School Start Pushed Back To Sept. 11

August 30, 1956

## Upper Merion High Gridders Start Drills

Five Veterans Report  
For First Practice;  
10 Games Scheduled

Gulph Mills — Five lettermen, including co-captains Bill Evelyn and Walt Ostrowski, are among the 28 candidates for the football team at Upper Merion High School who have reported for practice sessions now under way.

Other veterans drilling for the opening game — Sept. 15 against Spring-Ford at Roversford — are John Tirpak, Gary Thompson and Fred Sutton.

Practice sessions are being conducted daily from 9:30 until 11:30 A. M. and 6 until 8 P. M. by Orient (Ogie) Martelle, who is in his third year as varsity coach, and Francis Murphy, of Svedeland, new member of the faculty this year. The prospects will work out at 3 each afternoon when school starts next Wednesday.

Fifty-five boys had signed up for the team this year and the number at practice is expected to swell after school opens.

In their 10-game schedule for 1956, the Spartans will compete for the first time with teams in the Suburban Section Two Conference. Basketball and baseball teams of the school have played in the league for several years.

Candidates for the football team now practicing are Dave Anselm, John Backetti, Steve Bednar, Don Denick, Bill Evelyn, Bill Haines, Ken Hartman, Carl Hassinger, Frank Janoski, George Kelso, Robert Lacy, Tim McCarthy, Barry Miller, Robert Murphy.

Walt Ostrowski, Don Pasquale, Bob Profera, Mike Roskos, Ken Schofield, Moses Scott, Tom Shine, Tom Street, Fred Sutton, Dave Thompson, Gary Thompson, John Tirpak, John Wilson and Dick Wirsing.

## Completion at Candlebrook Renovations at High School Blamed for Postponement

Gulph Mills — Delays in completion of the new Candlebrook elementary school and renovations at the high school have forced postponement of the opening of Upper Merion township public schools from Wednesday until Sept. 11.

The school board in special session Tuesday night, grudgingly went along with a recommendation from Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent, to hold up the opening for four days after receiving assurance from him that the time will be made up before the closing date fixed for next summer.

George Hein, secretary of the board, who presided in the absence of the president and vice president, was the lone dissenter among the four members (a bare quorum) on the motion by H. Walker Peters agreeing to the delay.

Hein argued that running half-day sessions at Candlebrook for the first three days of the term next week was the only way to get the contractor to follow through with the job. He made a counter recommendation to that effect calling for use of the two units at the school which will be ready then.

Robert Strine, principal of the high school, argued for consideration of the situation there as well, noting that while the contracts were let the previous Monday, on electrical work in the auditorium and conversion of the heating plant, nothing had yet been done there.

He warned that the auditorium is needed every day and for, practically every period. Opening school with the work still going on would create a hardship, he added.

A half-day or not, Candlebrook is not ready for the children, Dr. Cocklin asserted. He remarked that carpenters seem to have been the main cause for the delay. The superintendent had wanted to unpack the furniture this week but the contractor requested this be held up until the building is cleaned.

Joseph Gadzicki, secretary of the school authority, who attended the meeting, said it seemed foolish to him to put the children in at this stage, observing that they might be hurt with workmen there and questioned who would be responsible in that case.

Hein countered that the fence by the creek adjoining the prop-

erty won't be in place by Sept. 10 and the architect has been notified of the need to install it some time ago. If the building isn't finished what happens then, he wanted to know, citing the need to get Joseph J. Wigmore, architect, to push the job.

While Strine cited several instances where the lost time could be made up without extending the school year, Peters wanted specific dates before he would offer his motion. Dr. Cocklin proposed elimination of one of the two days set aside for Washington's birthday, and taking one day from the Schoolman's Week observance. He noted the calendar calls for 184 days while only 180 are required with the margin provided in case of bad weather.

Pledging not to extend classes in June, Dr. Cocklin said he wanted to confer with the teachers before making the necessary changes.

The plan also calls for postponement of teachers' meetings and the open house for the elementary schools, originally scheduled for Tuesday to precede the opening day, until Sept. 10.

Teachers will have their business meeting at 10:30 A. M., conferring in the afternoon with their principals, and attending a social hour at 5 at Gulph Road elementary school cafeteria. A dinner will be given by the school board at 6 P. M., prior to the open house from 7:30 until 9.

Hein noted that this conflicts with the regular September meeting of the school board set for Sept. 10.

Dr. Cocklin explained that his recommendation for the postponement had come after a conference with Wigmore, Strine, Anthony Differ, solicitor, and Carmen Storti, elementary supervisor.



**FLOORS MUST BE FINISHED** — Workmen are busy painting floor in cafeteria of new Candlebrook school, one of many details before building will be ready for occupancy for delayed opening date Sept. 11. Only two of units will be ready next week.

## Twp. School Board Fills Teaching Roster; Janitor Schedule Fixed

Gulph Mills — The appointments to the instructional staff of the Upper Merion Township schools were made by the school board last night, completing the list of personnel for the 1956-57 school year.

Named were Mrs. Marilyn Zion, of Philadelphia, returning after a year in Japan with her husband, and Mrs. Carol Godfrey, also of Philadelphia.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Zion will teach a third-grade class at Gulph Road

elementary at a salary of \$4,000. Mrs. Godfrey, teaching for the first time, will have the newly established kindergarten at Gulph Christian Church. She has studied at Pennsylvania State and Temple Universities and will receive \$3,400 annually. Both are temporary professional employees.

The board, at the special session, gave final approval to a five-day work week for the janitorial staff. The schedule provides for a shift from 7 until 3 and from 3 until 11 with organizations using the buildings for meetings after 11 P. M. and on Saturdays to pay the men at the rate of \$2.50 an hour.

One-week vacation is provided after one year's work and two weeks after two years, to be taken after school ends in June and before the start of the last full week in August. Holidays are provided on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor



# Township Schools

(Continued from Page One)

Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The board approved a salary of \$1,500 each for the couple caring for Swedeland School and authorized hiring a cleaning woman there for two hours a day at \$1.25 an hour. Salary for Mrs. Anne Ferenz, the cleaning woman at Port Kennedy School, was fixed at \$1,500.

Decision was deferred on the matter of reducing the number of janitors from eight to seven because of the illness of another member of the staff.

On the recommendation of Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent, the board employed Mrs. Elizabeth Bridges, 822 Ford St., and Mrs. Veronica Rath, 235 Hurst St., both of Bridgeport, as janitresses at the high school, and Mrs. Anna G. Shoemaker, 264 Foulkrod Blvd., Hughes Park, for Gulph Rd. school. They will receive \$1.25 an hour. Mrs. Shoemaker was the only applicant residing in the township, Dr. Cocklin said.

Named to the cafeteria staff were Mrs. Sophie Saboe, Swedeland, at

Swedeland School; Mrs. Effie Johnston, Hidden Valley; Mrs. Ernest Burke, Church Rd.; Mrs. Blanche Irwin and Mrs. Wilbur Winn, both of King Manor, and Mrs. Lon Swartley, of Rebel Hill, cashier, all for Candlebrook.

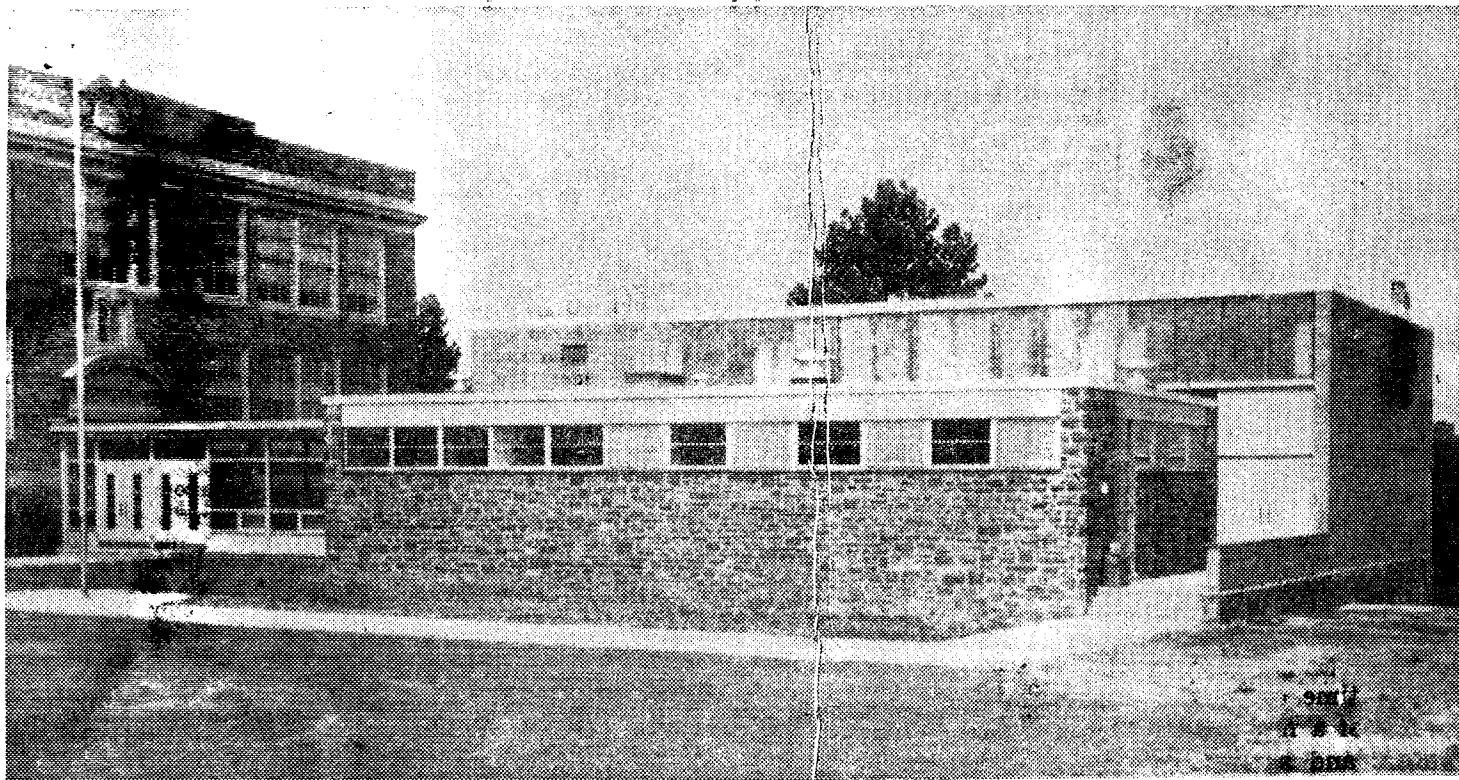
Members of the school authority, meeting jointly with the board, approved the purchase of a Ditto machine, tape recorder, motion picture projector and kitchen ware for the new Candlebrook school.

The board voted to accept the low bid of Fred Babb & Sons with the alternate on Japanese spreading rews for planting at Swedeland School. The price was \$387.50 against the bid of \$658.50 from Hansen Bros.

Selecting Carrier Corp. equipment for air conditioning of the medical suite, the board accepted the bid of \$648 from Adkins-Latta Co., of Bryn Mawr, as low of the three-quarter ton units of that make.

Installation of a telephone at Gulph Christian Church was authorized for the kindergarten the school district will operate there.

## New Addition Completed at Upper Merion's Swedeland School



Shown above is the recently-constructed addition to Upper Merion's Swedeland School. The new building contains a multi-purpose room which will be used as a cafeteria, gymnasium and auditorium. Architect for the addition was Joseph Wigmore; general contractors were the William Linker Co., of Philadelphia.

(Times Herald Photo)

# Township Schools Prepare For Record 2,000 Attendance

Upper Merion school officials are expecting a record number of 2,000 students to report to classes Sept. 11 when school bells ring for the opening of the 1956-57 term.

The latest school population figure represents an increase of 18 per cent. over last year's total of 1,700. To provide for the 300 additional pupils who will be attending school this term, the district has employed 20 more teachers and has made available 20 extra classrooms.

With the completion of the \$700,000 elementary unit at Candlebrook, the district will gain 16 badly needed classrooms for its younger students.

Two more rooms were added through the renovation and re-opening of the old Port Kennedy School has been closed since 1954. The buildings will accommodate four kindergarten sections in morning and afternoon sessions.

The district also has rented rooms at two Upper Merion churches to cope with a record kindergarten registration. Sunday School classrooms at Valley Forge Community Church, Candlebrook, and Gulph Christian Church, Gulph Mills, will house two sections each on a half-day basis.

## 26 New Teachers

Twenty-six teachers have been hired by the school district since the 1955-56 term closed in June. Of that number, 20 are for new positions created by the increased school population. The remaining six were hired to replace teachers who resigned at the end of last term.

Nine instructors have been employed to serve in the senior and junior high school departments. They are: Francis Murphy, science and mathematics; Daniel Giangulio, science and mathematics; Harry Pure, history and social science; Mrs. Alma Schambron, academic mathematics; Mrs. Virginia Smith, English; Mrs. Barbara Cressman, English and social studies; Mrs. Robin Harris, English and social studies; Mrs. Nan Cuthbert, English and social studies; Mrs. Donna Bhatt, home economics.

In the elementary department, 14 teachers and three supervising instructors have been employed during the Summer.

The three supervising teachers are: Mrs. Christine Sosna, who will serve as art supervisor for the elementary grades; Miss Rosemary Weber, who will be elementary librarian; and Phillip Scott, who will direct elementary physical education.

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Other new elementary teachers are: Alfred Bolinsky, Miss Jill Evans, Ned Hasselquist, Mrs. Jeane Dolan, Joseph Chicino and Miss Rita Gydosh, intermediate; Miss Lois Fein, Mrs. Joyce Brauns, Mrs. Jeane Bryant, Miss Barbara Henne, and Mrs. Marilyn Zion, primary; Mrs. Carol Godfrey and Mrs. Opal Howard, kindergarten, and Louis Waldo, special class.

The latest enrollment figures for the coming term, as announced by Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent of schools, at the Sept. 25 meeting of the School Board, were 1,332 students in the elementary grades and 631 students in the high school and junior high.

School officials expect total enrollment to approach 2,000 by before schools open next week.

September 8, 1950

## U. M. School Directors Vote To Increase Luncheon Price

Upper Merion's school directors voted to raise the price of the "A" type luncheon served in district schools from 25 to 30 cents.

The board's action, taken at a special meeting, followed a request by Mrs. Olive Horn, school dietician, for a 5-cent increase in order to maintain present quality of the food.

After studying the request, H. Walker Peters, chairman of the board's extracurricular committee, reported that the increase was unavoidable.

Peters said State subsidies for the food have been lessened, while food costs have increased. He said it would not be advisable to cut portions, since protein levels would thereby be reduced.

The Board voted to approve the employment of Miss Ellen Evans Estebrook, of West Norriton, as a special class teacher at \$3,600.

### Candlebrook School

President Fred Baehr told the board that he had visited the Candlebrook unit this week and found no classroom ready for immediate use by pupils.

The board expressed the opinion that school maintenance crews could work in the building during the weekend and have it ready for the district's "open house" program on Monday evening.

### Schools As Shelters

Baehr said during a trip to the Midwest he noticed that most suburban schools in that part of the country were designed for use as air raid shelters in the event of a metropolitan evacuation.

He remarked that the type of architecture now employed in Upper Merion does not lend itself to do such a purpose and suggested that, in the future, the construction of safe underground shelters in the buildings be taken into consideration.

Sept. 3, 1956

# Record 2,000 Enro

## Schools

(Continued from Page One)

around the clock during the week-end to get the Candlebrook school in shape for the opening. Delay in construction of the building had forced the school board to postpone the opening day from Sept. 5 until Tuesday in the hope that all 16 classrooms would be ready instead of eight — and they were.

Even Upper Merion High School, where the auditorium is in the midst of a renovation, greeted pupils on the first day with barely a sign of trouble.

The 10 new faculty members at the high school were presented to the student body at an opening assembly Tuesday morning. Eight are additions and two replacements.

The high school is using part of Gulph Road elementary school this term. Six sections of the seventh grade are stationed there along with a special class on the secondary level.

Elementary schools held open house for parents and youngsters Monday night and virtually the entire township took advantage of the opportunity for a first look at the lovely new Candlebrook building which still has some of its wrapping on it.

Township police were called out to direct the traffic in the neighborhood of Prince Frederick St. and Country Lane at the height of the rush.

The open houses, during which teachers were in their classrooms to greet the visitors and set at ease parents' worries about Junior's first day at school, climaxed a full day for the faculty Monday. All the staff met that morning with Dr. Cocklin and then went to their respective buildings in the afternoon for conferences with the principal.

The school board entertained them at a dinner in the Gulph Road cafeteria in the evening and Fred Baehr, president called on new members to introduce themselves.

The enrollment in the school district last June was 1,104 in the elementary grades and 583 in the high school, a total of 1,687.

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# ment in Upper Merion

## 4-Day Loss Is Handled With Ease

Gulph Mills—Public school attendance in Upper Merion township swelled past the 2,000 mark at the opening of the 1956-57 session Tuesday morning but the bumper crop of pupils was handled without a fury of trouble.

While exact enrollment figures still are not available, Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent, reported that by Monday 2,004 pupils were registered.

That's 327 more than the system closed with last June and the opening of the new \$700,000 elementary building in Candlebrook eased some of the strain.

Three additional buildings were put to use to handle the overflowing kindergarten enrollment — now in the neighborhood of 300 against

*(See pictures of new teachers on page eight).*

169 at the 1955-56 term. The old Port Kennedy school was reopened to use two rooms and the school board rented a room at both Valley Forge Community and Gulph Christian Churches to accommodate the tots.

Twenty-three additional teaching positions were created by the board to keep abreast of the growth. There now are 94 teaching or office personnel, 31 of them newcomers.

"I just can't get over it," sighed the superintendent after the half-day session Tuesday went off without a hitch. Buses ran a few seconds late but that was the only visible woe that developed and officials labeled that near perfect.

Janitorial help worked almost

*(Continued on Page Eight)*

# Laboratory Company Applies For U. Merion Construction

Little opposition was given to five appeals or applications brought before the Board of Adjustment of Upper Merion Township at a meeting last night in the Township Building. All appeals and applications remain under advisement.

The major application under discussion was one by Smith, Kline and French Laboratories to obtain authorization to use a tract of land near Swedeland Rd., Swedeland, for the manufacture, processing and storage of chemicals used in the production of pharmaceutical products and the installation and use of an incinerator in the proposed laboratory facilities. The land is owned by Anna M. Eisenberger, trustee, containing approximately 25 acres on the Southeast side of Swedeland Rd.

Only one person was opposed to the application stating the laboratory operations possibly could contaminate well water in the area.

No opposition was made to an appeal by Joseph Malinkowski to construct an addition to his existing store at 235 Jefferson St., Swedeland, in which he intends to set up a self-service operation. B. S. Gutkowski, Swedesburg funeral director, spoke in favor, stating the area needed such an operation.

Malinkowski previously was refused a permit because his prem-

ises does not have a side yard of 35 feet and a rear yard of 20 feet required by Township ordinances.

No opposition was made against an appeal by Russell Morello for the construction of a building to contain offices on his land on the West side of DeKalb Pk., North of Henderson Rd.

Construction of a tramway, sort of a small railroad car used to unload bulk flour from box cars, and the first to be used in this area outside of Jersey City, N. J., is included in an appeal made by Edwin F. Clark. The installation, if approved, is to be made on the right of way of the Pennsylvania Railroad between Long Lane and Gulph Rd., near Route 23. No opposition met the appeal.

The erection of two real estate signs was the appeal of Harold B. Hess, one to front on the Pennsylvania Turnpike on the premises of Christian D. Strawhacker, and one to front on the Philadelphia Expressway on the premises of Alexander D. Irwin. If the appeal is granted, indications are it will be on a temporary basis. There was no opposition.

*Sept. 14, 1956*



September 14, 1956

# School Enrollments Over 8,000 In Area

Over 8,000 pupils are enrolled in three local public high schools and the elementary schools of Radnor, Tredyffrin-Easttown and Upper Merion. Large increases — as much as 26 per cent — feature the enrollment picture, with Conestoga High showing 680 pupils, an increase of 140; Radnor High at 899, up 70, and Upper Merion having 650 enrolled.

## Upper Merion Board Condemns Land for Elementary School

On the eve of the opening of the Upper Merion schools, the School Board met Monday evening and reported that condemnation of property for a Belmont Terrace School was an accomplished fact as of that afternoon, and that final settlement had also been made for the site of a Croton Road School.

Attorney Anthony L. Differ pointed out that there is some indication on the part of the Belmont Terrace owners that they might desire to resume negotiations. Belmont Terrace will be a 12 to 16-room elementary building on 8.72 acres. (See the "Upper Merion Way," page 7, for further details.)

Last Monday, following teachers' meetings, the Board gave a dinner at the Gulph Road School, attended by about 125 faculty, school employees, the township school Authority and the Board. Scheduled after dinner was the annual "open house" in the elementary buildings, after which the Board held its regular monthly meeting.

On Monday night from 7:30 to 9 o'clock, teachers were on hand in the Gulph Road, Candlebrook and Swedeland elementary schools to greet the public. It marked the first opening of the doors of the new Candlebrook School, work on which had set back the start of school four days. Upper Merion children reported to all classes on Tuesday morning.

Sep 14, 1956

## Radnor Schools

Continued from Page One

instructor; Dr. Jesse Zerr, high school vocal instructor; Miss Frances Walker, crafts instructor, and Miss Ethel Encke, director of physical education and recreation.

Mrs. Ruth Nelson gave a gracious welcome and a charge to the new teachers as a representative of the "Big Sisters" who are assigned to all new teachers. Following luncheon in the high school dining room, there was a bus tour of the District and tea at the Superintendent's house.

On Wednesday, September 5, all teachers reported to their schools for principals' meetings. In the afternoon, a luncheon was given for the 117 members of the staff and for the members of the Board of School Directors. Melvin T. Thomson and Williard H. McKay spoke on behalf of the School Directors. Superintendent of Schools H. K. Idleman outlined the philosophy and goals for the year, putting emphasis upon challenging to the maximum the potentiality of the child, with special stress upon the teaching of the skill subjects and upon the education of the exceptional child, whether retarded or advanced.

## UPPER MERION SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2,050

Enrollment in the Upper Merion schools hit a peak of 2,050, with 650 in the high school; 436, Gulph Road School; 442, Candlebrook School; 189, Swedeland School. The total also includes 33 youngsters at kindergarten level.

## Little Change in Radnor

In Radnor township, while the high school enrollment was up 8.4 per cent last Thursday, a total of 2,389 pupils was counted. The elementary grades showed a surprisingly small gain of 4.7 per cent, however, while first grade enrollments actually dropped by 9.4 per cent. Enrollments by schools are as follows:

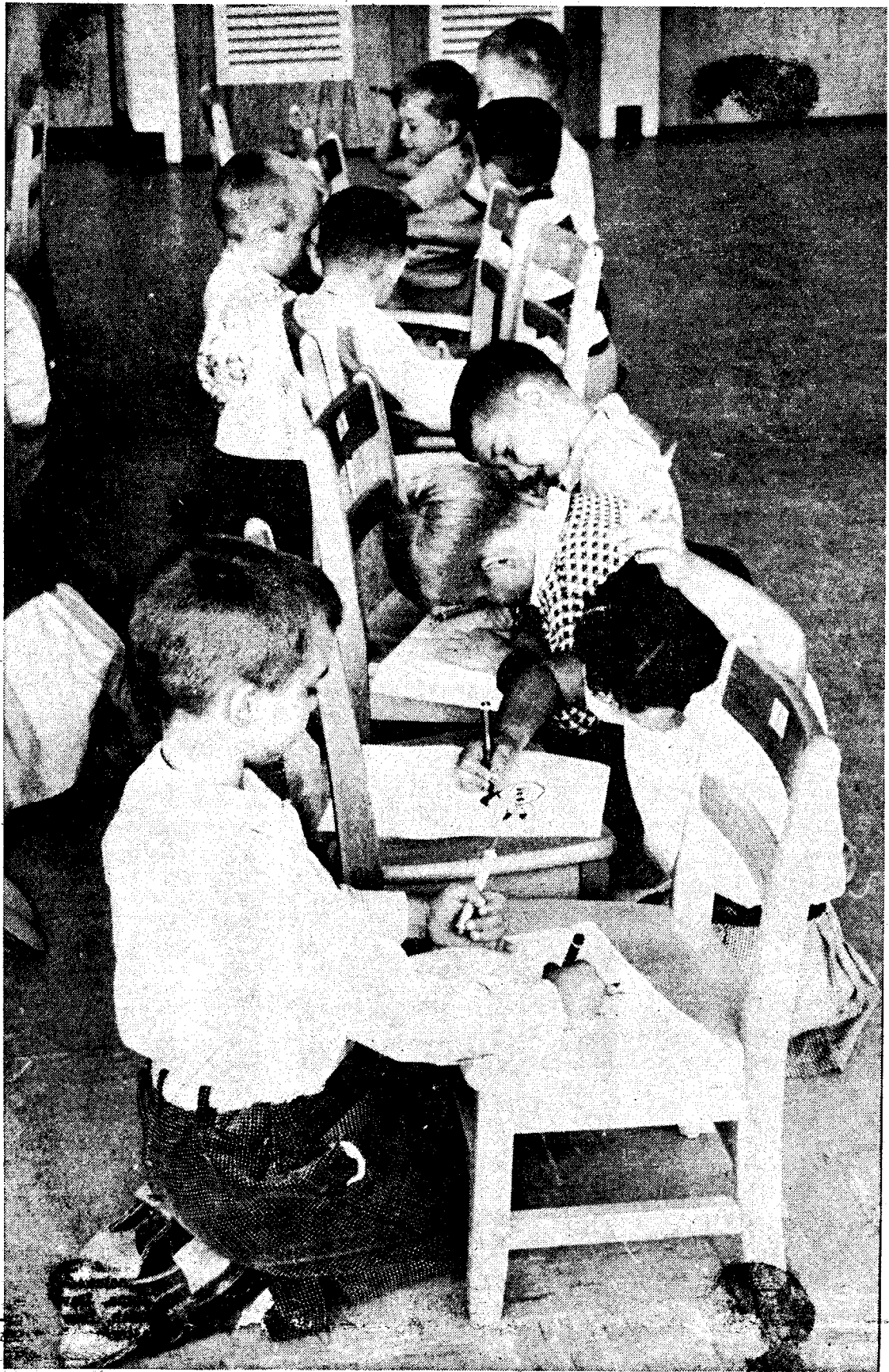
	1956	1955
Wayne	725	706
Rowland	367	336
Rosemont	398	379
Radnor High	899	829
First grades	211	233

Twenty-four new teachers have joined the staff from seventeen different colleges. A careful orientation program preceded the opening of school. The teachers met with their principals in the various buildings and got out their books and supplies. On Friday, at the Rosemont School, new teachers were given a complete briefing on the reading program in use in the Radnor schools.

Mrs. Elsie Morgan, new principal of the Rosemont School, formerly reading teacher in the District, explained the teachers' guide. She was assisted by Miss Ruth Oaks and John Frank, newly appointed reading consultants. In the afternoon, Miss Jewel Foley, District guidance coordinator, spoke of the community agencies available for help and the guidance program in effect in the Radnor School District. Mrs. Ruthanna Duncan, of the Family Service, spoke of the services that are available through the agency which she represents.

On Tuesday, September 4, new teachers met with the Superintendent and principals at the Rowland School. Richard Snyder, president of the Radnor Teachers' Association, greeted the teachers on behalf of the Association. The work of the special teachers was outlined by Miss Rosalie Leary, dental hygienist; Miss Alice MacCormick, school nurse; George Tomkins, elementary instrumental

Continued on Page Four



Jan 2,  
20, 1956

**DOWN-TO-EARTH EDUCATION** — First grade pupils in new Candlebrook Elementary School in Upper Merion Township kneel at their work on chairs until new desks, on order, arrive. Mrs. McCreary is teacher. A full page of pictures will be published next week in The Sentinel.

(Sentinel photo)

## Upper Merion Pupils Active

# 40 Gulph Road Volunteers Working in School Library

Over 40 mothers of Gulph Road School students who volunteered to help run the school library this year have started work.

Chairman of the Library Mothers is Mrs. Frederick J. Whalen, of Bob White Farm, who became interested in the project last year. A meeting was called last week of former workers, 24 of whom responded and met with Mrs. Whalen and new elementary school Librarian Miss Rosemary Weber, who will divide her time between the Gulph, Candlebrook and Swedeland School libraries.

As of last Monday, 37 women had signed up in pairs to work one morning or afternoon every two weeks, with four substitutes listed. The schedule is as follows, with sessions running from 9.15 A. M. to 11.30 A. M., and from 12.30 P. M. to 3 P. M.:

Monday mornings: Mrs. Gordon R. Geiger and Mrs. Thomas E. Robertson, alternating weeks with Mrs. Luther Wirsing and Mrs. Richard Trimble; Monday afternoons, Mrs. Richard W. Hooker and Mrs. John A. Miller working every week.

Tuesday mornings: Mrs. Woodson Knight and Mrs. Frederick J. Whalen, alternating with Mrs. Richard A. Whetstone, Jr., and Mrs. James Deakins. Tuesday afternoons: Mrs. Francis Hanney, Mrs. Parmer Scott and Mrs. Arthur Jenkins every week.

Wednesday mornings: Mrs. George Santoro and Mrs. Myrl Forth alternating with Mrs. H. Walker Peters and Mrs. John H. Mott. Afternoons, Mrs. Frederick J. Stock and Mrs. Preston Straup alternating with Mrs. Joseph A. King and Mrs. James J. Glenn.

Thursday mornings: Mrs. Henry E. Rollins, Jr., Mrs. Ralph Morrow and Mrs. John Burkhardt, 3rd, alternating with Mrs. H. Alfred Eberhardt and Mrs. E. J. Lindinger. Afternoons: Mrs. James Deakins and Mrs. James MacMillon, alternating with Mrs. J. Thomas McEver and Mrs. MacMillan.

Friday mornings: Mrs. Joseph Rossi and Mrs. Pearl Savini, alternating with Mrs. Wilmer Francis and Mrs. Robert Moore. Afternoons, Mrs. Bert J. Kreuser and Mrs. Raymond Jelinek, alternating with Mrs. Frank M. Hallman and Mrs. John H. Mott.

### Need Gulph Rd. Mothers

Gulph Road mothers are needed now to swell the substitute list, which is not quite adequate. Anyone interested may phone Mrs. Whalen at Wayne 0519. Librarian Miss Weber is anxious to receive a call from any Candlebrook or

Swedeland mother who would volunteer to help in these libraries, where the same system is about to be organized.

*Sept. 21/1956*

# **Directors Seize Belmont Terrace Tract for School**

## **Condemnation Proceeding Is Authorized by Upper Merion School Board**

Gulph Mills — Condemnation proceedings to obtain the Belmont Terrace tract for a new elementary school were authorized by the school board of Upper Merion township in special session last night.

Action came after the board met behind closed doors for an hour at the start of the meeting — from 7:30 until 8:30 — with Anthony Differ, solicitor, and A. W. Martin, township engineer.

The motion to condemn was offered by H. Walker Peters. The second was by J. Arthur Buehler.

When the meeting was opened to the public, Fred Baehr, president, explained that the board was approaching the one-year mark in its negotiations to purchase a portion of the property owned by Richard D. Schwoebel at the northeast intersection of Henderson and Valley Forge Rds., trying to arrive at a satisfactory price.

It has now been found, he continued, that the owners recently entered an agreement for sale of the entire 36-acre tract to another buyer.

The solicitor has been meeting daily for the last two weeks with a realtor representing the new purchasers to try to arrive at a mutually satisfactory figure.

Fast action is necessary, Baehr said, because a survey team from

(Continued on Page Eight)

the State Department of Public Instruction is expected here Sept. 15 to investigate the three construction projects before the board — the Croton Rd. school site, Belmont Terrace and the conversion of Upper Merion High School.

Instead of the 10 acres originally sought, the board is trying to get 8.72 acres in the extreme northwest portion of the property.

Differ, Jonathan Yerkes, former township engineer, and a committee from the board consisting of George Whittam, Darwin Walcott, Buehler and Peters will go to the site tomorrow to post boundaries preparatory to possession.

Directors expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the board of supervisors in the matter, particularly in respect to the road pattern which will be necessary to serve the new school.

Two directors were absent from last night's meeting — Walcott and Whittam.

With two construction projects still in progress and the opening of school rapidly approaching, the board authorized employment of additional help for cleaning the new Candlebrook elementary building and the auditorium at the high school during the weekend. Township schools open Tuesday, a delay of four days from the original date because of this work.

On the recommendation of Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, superintendent, the board approved employment of Miss Ellen Evans Esterbrook to teach the special class at the junior high school at a salary of \$3,600. She was graduated from Norristown High School, Ursinus College and attended the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School. She began medical studies at Hahnemann Hospital and spent one year in Switzerland in that field. Miss Esterbrook lives in West Norriton township.

# 'Operation Luncheon' Large Undertaking at Upper Merion

"Operation Luncheon" in the four cafeterias of the Upper Merion School system is a tremendous undertaking these days, with the student population nearing 2,100 and a staff of 20 employees taking part exclusively in the noontime meal program.

Mrs. Olive Horne, Upper Merion School's head dietitian, is supervising the noon feeding of the township's youngsters for her fifth year, in three elementary schools (Gulp Road, Candlebrook Swedeland) and the high school. Children are permitted to go to nearby homes for luncheon only in Candlebrook and Swedeland and in these spots most find the fare and surroundings so pleasant, very few leave school for the repast.

The hot platter, with an alternate choice of a soup platter, is still far and away the most popular choice this year, even though circumstances caused a price rise from 25c to 30c in September. A typical platter consists of a meat or meat - substitute, two vegetables, milk and dessert, which, if bought a la carte would cost 41c. The substitute "soup platter" offers for 30c, soup, sandwich, milk and dessert for the child who doesn't care for the day's menu. Here the saving is 8c over the a la carte.

Reimbursement by the state varies by the month and year. Right now, Upper Merion is receiving 5c toward each platter with milk. However, as Mrs. Horne points out, this reimbursement seems to diminish as the year goes on and state funds run out. Last year, in September, she was getting 7c for each platter; by May it had dropped to 1.7c and in June, no aid at all from the state. Further, the state allows for only a maximum number of platters per school building and in Upper Merion so very many youngsters are now choosing this economical and healthful hot luncheon that they exceed the allowed reimbursable number, and cafeteria funds are further tapped. The luncheon operation is completely non-profit, and would fall back on School Board funds, should things show up in the red. The Dietitian manages somehow to come out even at the end of every school year, and so far, public funds haven't been called on.

The drop in state help and the increasingly high platter-participation in the township account, then, for the jump to 30c for the platter this year. Mrs. Horne was against cutting down on the protein portion, which is the costliest part of the serving.

tables and/or fruits, two ounces of protein, teaspoon of butter and slice of bread. Dessert is not required, but it is served here and instead of the mandatory supplying of one-third of the daily caloric needs, Upper Merion proved one-half of these at this noon meal. Special emphasis is given to vitamins A and C at township schools.

Answering a few parents' comments on the "high percentage of starchy foods" Mrs. Horne states that a growing child requires more of these energy calories than an adult and the school provides the correct balance for a growing active child.

No candy is sold in the cafeteria and employess keep an eye open for the primary youngsters who appear to be indulging in more than he should of the potato chips, popcorn, pretzels or peanuts (the latter are high in food value, however.) The dietitian and teachers see that soup or a sandwich and milk are also on such a tray.

Only 20 to 30 menus meet dietary and cost requirements at the same time, and these are repeated no more than once a month. The three exceptions are the popularity poll winners of spaghetti, hot dogs and "zep" platters, and according to Mrs. Horne these are featured every two weeks or so. The "zep" is about the only cold sandwich used in platters and is valuable since it contains tomato, onions, meat, cheese, oil and seasoning.

Each month all elementary students are given a menu sheet describing the daily platters to be served during the next four week of school.

The luncheon hours at the Gulph Road School cafeteria used by almost 600 students from 1st through 7th grade, begin at 10:54 A. M. for 7th year pupils (they report to school a half hour earlier in the morning than do the lower six grades). At 11:30 A. M. the first grades start in, by classes, at the rate of one every four minutes until the last 6th year class files by the food counters at 12:20. The process is about the same in Candlebrook and Swedeland.

In the high school, with about 500 (plus faculty) and a smaller cafeteria room, which must be emptied out for each of three shifts, 23 minutes are allowed each group for waiting in line and finishing lunch.

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# Plan Candlebrook School's Dedication, Monday, Nov. 19

Oct. 9, 1956

Upper Merion School Directors last night set dedication of the new Candlebrook School for 8 P. M., Monday, Nov. 19, at the school. Speakers will be Dr. William Arnold, Dean of Education, University of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Wigmore, architect, was authorized to proceed in making a study to convert the present Gulph Road Elementary School into a possible high school. Board President Fred Baehr revealed the present high school is short at least four rooms and eventually the extra space will be necessary.

Also revealed was a motion that bids be submitted for a new gas-fired incinerator for the high school. The Board was advised that at least \$1,200 would be necessary to repair the present incinerator and if this was done it would not be up to date.

All bills dating back to July were ordered paid by the Board.

It was decided to spend \$1,960 to convert the present macadam sidewalks bordering the new Candlebrook School to concrete. This was made necessary by Township building ordinances which requires that all new sidewalks laid be of concrete material and of certain specifications.

The Board directed that a topographical survey be made of the land proposed for the building of the new Belmont and Croton Road Schools. The motion was made to begin the preliminary planning for the school.

A \$24,000 final bill was ordered paid by the Board which completes the cost of the new addition to Swedeland elementary school.

Approved by the board was an agreement made with the Tremco Manufacturing Co., Cleveland, O., represented by J. H. Ricketts, of Ambler, to begin work as soon as possible on the roof of the high school in an effort to stop leakage. The board made a motion to accept a Tremco proposal to guarantee for one year, at a cost of no more than \$500, a roof repair job that will not result in leakage. This agreement will carry for a period of five years, at a cost of no more than \$500 a year, until the entire roof is completed.

A letter, submitted by the King of Prussia Historical Society, was read. The letter requested that the Society desires to restore and maintain the burned-out Robert's School as a museum. The Roberts' School is located on the proposed land site of the new Croton Road School. The Board is holding the request under consideration.

Dr. Cocklin informed the board of the need of two pianos for the Candlebrook School. The pianos are needed in the all-purpose rooms.

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Miss Esther Pollock, a teacher at the Swedeland School, was granted a year's leave of absence as a result of her request for a temporary release. Miss Pollock has temporarily moved out of the state.

Plans for an athletic field at the Gulph Road Elementary School were discussed.

A motion was made for a \$200 increase to be awarded to seven school system employees and an adjustment of salaries to be made for three other employees.

The Board discussed a proposed budget of \$7,500 for 70 trees and 100 shrubs to complete the landscaping of the new Candlebrook School. This proposal was cut to \$2,500 and a motion made to suggest this amount to the School Authority.

The School Directors stated that a letter of appreciation should be sent to the Upper Merion Township police in appreciation for their enforcing of safety zones around the new Candlebrook School. The Board also suggested the police receive a schedule of when the Township Schools are open or closed for patrol purposes.

A motion was made and approved by the Board to pay a school system janitor the sum of \$2.63 a day for one and a half hour's work in transporting two students of the Township to special classes in a neighboring borough. This proposal must be sent to Harrisburg for approval.

A bill of \$415 for first appraisal of the new Candlebrook School and the addition to the Swedeland School, and an annual fee of \$41.50 a year, was approved.

Board President Baehr instructed the secretary to send a letter of appreciation to Coates-Wafer Post, 840, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bridgeport, for its contri-



Oct. 11, 1956

### **SCHOOLMEN'S WEEK**

Schoolmen's Week will be held for teachers in Upper Merion Twp. on Oct. 18 and 19. Township students will not attend school on those days.

Oct. 16, 1956

### **U. Merion Schools Closed on Friday**

All schools of the Upper Merion District will be closed Friday, Oct. 19, enabling teachers to attend Schoolmen's Week activities at the University of Pennsylvania.

Another school holiday in Upper Merion this month will be Tuesday, Oct. 30, when teachers of the district will mark "Industry Day" by visiting local industries.

No. 1, 1956

## *School Books and Pocketbooks*

# *Data on Soaring Cost of Education In Upper Merion*

"When school taxes go up, up, up," to paraphrase a popular television jingle, Upper Merion residents properly begin to examine their pocketbooks making a mental note to find out, sometime soon, whether school books are costing that much more these days . . .

(Second article in a monthly series concerning the Upper Merion Schools by Nancy K. Peters, public relations counsellor for the schools.)

There's a lot more to it than that, and while the price of a primer may be a bit more today than in 1950, that still doesn't explain why the cost of educating each pupil was \$319.54 in that year and is up to an estimated \$453.07 before the year 1956-57 is out.

The fuel and electricity bills, replacement of worn-out desks, books and paper didn't really go up too much per pupil in those years. What is really taking a big leap these days is a certain section of the budget known as "debt service", which represents the additional costs required to provide new buildings and additional facilities for the increase in pupil population, at the same time that old debts are being cleared away.

It is unlikely that most Upper Merion taxpayers have ever examined this "debt service" to find out just what it means. Another item in the budget which has increased has been the "Administration and Instruction" item, having to do with a more attractive salary schedule and enabling the administration to get and keep the services of first-rate teachers. Few would argue the long-range economy of such an investment. And finally there is the piece of the budget-pie, roughly 7½ percent, for bus transportation.

These three big and important items in the budget—debts, teachers' salaries and school buses—are given some scrutiny below, in the belief that readers wish to be better informed on these important expenditures.

The cost of putting up a new school building, or adding to an old one, must be spread out over a period of many years. It naturally follows that the Board is paying now, in 1956, for the high school building which was covered by an old "general obligation bond issue" in 1929, when Upper Merion voters approved this action. This issue is now being paid off at the rate of

at the rate of \$44,000 each year, in 1985.

(When a bond issue is being retired, bonding houses come in to bid with regard to the interest they would charge. The School Board or Authority hires the temporary services of a Bond Counsel to guide them in dealing with the bond house of its choice.)

Regarding teachers' salaries in Upper Merion, the School Board, representing the taxpayers, is trying to keep pace with the times, in order to be a bit more critical of applicants and to select better teachers. The "average" Upper Merion teacher receives \$4,746.

To arrive at this figure, the slightly higher salaries of the four administrators — Superintendent Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, elementary supervisor Carmen F. Storti, high school principal Robert R. Strine and Business Manager Charles A. Given—are excluded, as well as the lower salaries paid to clerks, maintenance people and cafeteria workers, which do not enter the picture. This left 94 teachers to divide into a total teacher-payroll of \$446,200 to find the "average". Most readers will agree that this is not enough for the services rendered a community by its teachers, but the figure does compare very favorably with teachers' pay in communities nearby and throughout the country.

This year, state-mandated raises (based on seniority) were granted to all Upper Merion teachers and additional raises were granted at the same time by the Upper Merion School Board (on the basis of merit), which added up to a \$600 raise in 1956 for all township teachers excepting two. In 1956-57, the state sets the minimum amount which may be paid to an inexperienced young teacher with two to four years' college preparation, at a starting salary of \$3,000. Upper

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In 1930, an addition was built to the high school, and toward the payment of \$21,000 remaining from that bond issue, the Board must budget \$4,300 each year. This will be paid off in 1960.

The ground for the Gulph Road elementary school constituted the next purchase and for this, bonds were issued in 1949, which are being paid off at the rate of \$3,000 a year with only \$9,000 yet due. So final payment will be made in 1959.

It would begin to appear that Upper Merion might be in good shape in 1959, and it would be, except that it has now distinguished itself as the fastest-growing community of its size and type in the United States. So school buildings are going up faster than ever now. Another general obligation bond issue amounting to \$100,000 was made in 1955 for the addition to the Swedeland School, payment of which will require budgeting \$10,000 each year until 1965.

A bond issue was floated by the Upper Merion School Authority when the Gulph Road elementary building went up, costing \$630,000 in 1952. This is being paid off at the rate of \$54,000 each year until 1972, when it will be retired. As in the case of mortgaged homes, interest enters the picture in a bond issue and makes the school cost more over a period of years than was paid the contractor for the job. Candlebrook School required a second bond issue by the Authority, costing \$700,000 in 1955 and these bonds will be retired

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Ten school buses serve Upper Merion, busily making a total of 63 trips (624 stops) each school day. This service is rendered by school bus contractors, Upper Merion Contract Carrier, Inc., at the rate of \$52,859.88 for regular transportation in the year 1955-56, plus \$2,261.84 for extra transportation (class trips, etc.) that year. The smallest of the ten buses holds 48 pupils, and the largest, 68. Contract Carrier covers all extra expenses, such as insurance, taxes, etc., out of the figure paid by the Board.

A recent survey of two nearby school districts of the approximate size of Upper Merion, which operate their own bus systems, with about the same number of buses, has shown that operating costs and the cost per mile ran a higher figure in the school budget than in Upper Merion, where the job is done by an outside contractor.

Bus transportation costs, 7½% of the school budget, are expected to run about the same or only slightly more in 1956-57 as in the past year, in spite of the fact that student enrollment has jumped 20% this fall and is expected to increase much more by next June.

Even though most of Candlebrook School's students walk to school, new to the picture this year are the three separate Kindergarten sections at opposite ends of the district, to which almost all youngsters must be transported, none of which were in operation before. The widely-scattered school buildings of the township total seven this year, compared with a mere three—the high school, Gulph Road School and Swedeland School — heretofore.

## U. Merion School Tax Setup Well Planned and Executed

"When school taxes go up, up, up", to paraphrase a popular jingle, Upper Merion residents properly begin to examine their pocketbooks making a mental note to find out, sometime soon, whether school books are costing that much more these days.

There's a lot more to it than that, and while the price of a primer may be a bit more today than in 1950, that doesn't explain why the cost of educating each pupil was \$319.54 in that year and is up to an estimated \$453.07 before the year 1956-57 is out.

### Debt Service

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It would begin to appear that Upper Merion might be in good shape in 1959, and it would be, except that it has now distinguished itself as one of the fastest-growing communities of its size in the United States. As a result more school buildings are a must. Another general obligation bond issue amounting to \$100,000 was made in 1955 for the addition to the Swedeland School, payment of which will require budgeting \$10,000 each year until 1965.

A bond issue was floated by the Upper Merion School Authority when the Gulph Road elementary building went up in 1952, costing \$660,000. This is being paid off at the rate of \$54,000 each year until 1972, when it will be retired. As in the case of mortgaged homes, interest enters the picture in a bond issue and makes the school cost more over a period of years than was paid the contractor for the job. Candlebrook School required a second bond issue by the Authority costing \$700,000 in 1955. These bonds will be retired at the rate of \$44,000 each year until 1985.

(When a bond issue is being considered, bonding houses come in to bid with regard to the interest they would charge. The School Board or Authority hires the temporary services of a Bond Counsel to guide them in dealing with the bond house of its choice.)

#### Teachers' Salaries

Regarding teachers' salaries in

A recent survey of two ~~many~~ few years ago.

# Fred Baehr Re-Elected School Board President

Members of the Upper Merion School Board re-elected Fred Baehr to his fifth term as Board president at a meeting held last night at the Gulph Elementary School. George Wittam was re-elected as vice president. The vote in favor of the two re-elected officials was unanimous.

Said Baehr after his re-election, "I wish I had more time to devote to School Board activities. But, gentlemen, this is absolutely my last year as president of the Board. In the future I wish only to serve as a member."

Many subjects of importance were brought before the board members, including a recommendation of the Medical Department to establish a limited program for Salk anti-polio vaccine inoculations for children of school age. Also presented to the Board, and adopted, was the Upper Merion Township school teachers salary schedule, effective as of last night.

## Salk Vaccine

Dr. Robert May, head of the Upper Merion School Medical Department, brought before the Board his views concerning recent **Times Herald** and other newspaper articles concerning the use of free Salk anti-polio vaccine for school children.

After a lengthy discussion and complete revelation of Dr. May's views towards mass inoculation a written recommendation was presented to the Board. It read: "That the School Board adopt the recommendation of the Medical Department to establish a limited program for Salk inoculation in the school for children of school age, whose parents have no access to State or hospital clinics.

"The School Board urges all parents who do not fall under the above categories to continue the Salk inoculation of their children, or themselves, under the direction of their private doctors, especially in light of the fact that the Medical Department has reported to the School Board that all the private doctors in Upper Merion Township have agreed to give Salk inoculations to all school age children in our township in their private offices free of any charge."

"That upon the recommendation of the Medical Department, who believe the policy to be in the best interests of the School children, this Board resolves that no future mass inoculation program for children should be undertaken in Upper Merion schools except in the event of an epidemic or emergency, or as may hereafter be provided by State law."

on a higher level after they have been graduated from high school.

Peters stressed that recent figures released by school authorities concerning the amount of Upper Merion graduates who went on to college included 14½ per cent. of the graduates. The percentage of Montgomery County High School graduates who continue their education is at about 33 per cent.

## Civil Defense

In reference to matters concerning the school civil defense program, President Baehr suggested to Joseph Rainville, Civil Defense Director, that he submit suggestions for Civilian Defense in future Upper Merion Schools to the board at a later date. This was agreed.

Dr. Robert May, Wayne, president of the King of Prussia High

are unprotected by three shots that they have agreed to volunteer their services and offer free vaccinations for all school age children at no charge, since they also feel, secondly, that mass inoculation programs in the public schools are dangerous policies in principle.

A letter sent to the School Board and written by Dr. May was read to Board members by Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, Superintendent of Schools.

#### Salary Schedule

A revision of the teacher's salary was read to the Board and later adopted.

The schedule provides: for maximum Standard Certification, \$6,400; for maximum Bachelor's Degree or equivalent, \$6,800; maximum for Master's Degree or equivalent, \$7,200. The scale for a Doctor's Degree shall be considered a separate matter to be handled by the Superintendent with the approval of the Board of Education for the satisfactory performance of duty.

When a teacher has reached the State's maximum as indicated in Act 656, the teacher shall be considered upon satisfactory service for additional increments of \$200 a year, until the maximum as indicated in the previous paragraph has been reached.

It is necessary that teachers furnish the Superintendent with properly certified credentials as to graduate work in order to enable the Superintendent to determine the increments for which teachers are eligible.

In addition to the previous increments mentioned, the administration may recommend and the Board of Education will consider, additional increments for exceptional meritorious performance regardless of years of service.

A teacher who has reached the maximum is eligible for future consideration for additional increments; however, in no event may these additional increments exceed the maximums by more than \$500.

During the period March 1 to May 1 each professional employee will be rated in writing on their yearly performance of duty and a copy of such rating shall be furnished each professional employee.

The purpose of the schedule is to devise a salary schedule which will be fundamentally Upper Merion's in procedure; provide a salary schedule which is an incentive in securing the quality of teaching personnel needed and desired in Upper Merion Township; meet the economic changes made since the adoption of the District's 1953 salary scale; and stimulate teachers professional growth.

The schedule is to be regarded as a form of policy to be followed as far as practicable in the fixing of teachers' salaries, but not as a contract. The classification of teachers for eligibility to reach different maximums shall be based on the same standards as stipulated by the school code.

#### Requests Study

Board member H. Walker Peters requested the board to

He also submitted a letter to the board encouraging new residents building in the community to maintain a colonial architecture in keeping with the historic Valley Forge area. The board appointed a committee headed by Darwin S. Wolcott to investigate and discuss the society's intentions.

President Baehr suggested to board members they examine the parcels of land now proposed for the construction of the Belmont and Croton Road elementary schools in order that the board may proceed on preliminary work concerning their construction. The board agreed on this and also to a meeting date, Tuesday, Dec. 18, at which they will further discuss the amount or rooms needed, room layout and other preliminary work.

A recommendation was adopted that screens be installed in the lower windows of the boiler room at Candlebrook.

It was recommended by the board that local bids be opened for curbing around islands and in front of the new Candlebrook school, Prince Frederick St. and Country Lane. The board received an out-of-town estimate of \$1,995 but felt if it is done by a local contractor this sum could be cut considerably.

The board also suggested that bids be received for a new gas-fired incinerator to be installed at the high school.

#### Purchase Pianos

A new piano has been purchased for use in the Swedeland School at a cost of approximately \$500. The Swedeland Mothers Club donated \$300 and the board supplied another \$200 towards the piano valued at over \$850.

A second hand piano was donated to the Candlebrook School by the Candlebrook Mothers Club.

It was adopted by the Board that Mrs. Ruth Hanney, Schoolside Manor, be retained for the remainder of the school year, as a substitute for Miss Elizabeth Sherlock, recently dismissed by the Board as teacher in Candlebrook School.

The purchase of a second-hand utility truck for the use of the school district's maintenance man was recommended at a cost not to exceed \$500.

The Board adopted the recommendation that authorized personnel, using their own automobiles for travel between various schools in the Township be reimbursed at established rates based on seven cents a mile.

The purchase of small medical and dental supplies for the high school and Candlebrook school was approved at a cost not exceeding \$348 for the high school, and \$609 for the Candlebrook school.

The Board announced the appointment of Joseph Gadzicki to the School Authority and the hiring of Mrs. Sarah Henriques as secretary to the school business manager at \$2,700 per year.

President Baehr also told the Board that the possibility of equalization of real estate tax assessments will be discussed at



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## Seven-Man Board Operates U. Merion School District

As the running of the Upper Merion School District approaches the "million dollar business" class in annual spending, township eyes are directed on the seven men of the Upper Merion School Board who spend these funds.

Business is the profession of all seven now serving at no salary. They are elected, two every two years (next election, November 1957) and three every sixth year, which results in a six-year term of office.

Meetings, open to the public, are held on the second Monday evening of each month at 8 in the Board Room of the Gulph Road School, with the exception of July and December, when state regulations direct "first Monday" meetings.

In addition, "special meetings", also open to all interested residents, are called during the course of the month, when action may be taken upon a specified pressing problems.

On occasions the Board goes into "caucus", closing part of the meeting to the public. According to Board President Fred Baehr, "we refrain only from public discussion when the personalities, or subject, involved might suffer thereby."

Primary function of the Upper Merion Board is to act as a financial guide.

Fred Baehr, of King of Prussia, has been re-elected to serve his fifth term as president of the Upper Merion School Board. He operates his own confectioners' brokerage business in Philadelphia and has a son and a daughter attending Upper Merion schools.

Vice-president, George C. Whittam, of Gulph Mills, also re-elected is in the fourth year of his first term as a Board member. Operation Superintendent at Gimbel Brothers in Philadelphia, he has two children now in the school system, his eldest an honor graduate of last June, now attending college.

Swedeland resident, George M. Hein, Board secretary for the past four years, has served 11 years, his second term expiring at the end of 1957. Hein is foreman of the Instrument Department, Coke, Chemical and Blast Furnace Division, Alan Wood Steel Co.

Senior Board-man without a question, with 29 years' experience, is J. Lester Rinehart, of Matsonford Road, Conshohocken. He has been the Board's treasurer for his entire

more, who is re-employed (or not, as the Board sees fit) for each new building project, be it the construction of a new building or two (such as Belmont Terrace and Croton Road, elementary schools currently being planned by Wigmore) or reconversion procedures such as the Gulph Road School into a high school. Plans for this reconversion are now in progress.

Finally, in order to accomplish all its work, the seven-man Board is an organization of standing committees, seven in number and made up of three men each. Each member, excepting the President, serves on three or four committees, in connection with which phase he becomes especially well versed, and on which he spends extra time each month, not only in committee meetings, but investigating this particular problem on the scene in the schools. New committees have been re-assigned to read Budget and Finance, Rinehart, Hein, Peters; Property and Janitors, Hein, Wolcott, Rinehart; Books, Supplies, Transportation, Wolcott, Rinehart, Wittam; Teachers and Personnel, Buehler, Peters, Whittam; Athletic and Extra-Curricular, Peters, Whittam, Buehler; Health, Whittam, Buehler, Wolcott; and Publicity, Peters, Wolcott and Whittam.

secretary and treasurer, who receive \$200 and \$250 respectively, a year, for the hundreds of hours put in yearly over and above the call of duty of the average unpaid Board member.

~~and to cover the expenses of their office.~~

Darwin S. Wolcott, of Colonial Village, was Board president for 15 years before Baehr and was re-elected to a fourth term on the Board just last year. Now living in retirement, Wolcott was formerly vice-president of Lukens Steel Co.

J. Arthur Buehler, of Swadeland Rd., Gulph Mills, ends his second term along with Hein. Late next year Buehler owns the Sanson Paper Co. in Philadelphia and has four grandchildren in the Upper Merion School system.

Newest Board member is H. Walker Peters, of Wayne Woods, Division Sales Manager of Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., who joined the Board last year at the time of Wolcott's re-election. Peters has a son and daughter attending elementary school in Upper Merion.

Present also at all meetings of the Upper Merion School Board is the official solicitor, Anthony L. Differ, legal advisor whose appointment is reconfirmed or not, yearly at the Board's discretion. He is paid on a retainer basis, according to the number of hours given specifically to school details and such fees in connection with new school construction, etc., as are dictated by law. Differ lives in the township and has children attending the township schools.

The latter is also true of Charles K. Given, of Valley Forge Homes, "Assistant Secretary" (as such, keeper of the Minutes) at School Board meetings and officially also the Business Manager of the District, acting as purchasing agent, director of the janitorial staff, etc.

A most important contributor and present at all meetings is Dr. Warren H. Cocklin, Superintendent of Schools, who functions as "top man" in the District, to whom all employes are responsible, directly or indirectly. Departmental heads must report to Dr. Cocklin once weekly and specifically the Friday before the Board meeting, in order that he may communicate to the Board any problems beyond his immediate jurisdiction.

Says President Baehr, "while the Board has jurisdiction over school teachers in directing their activities, it delegates this authority to a Superintendent whose direct responsibility it is to provide techniques and instructive material to insure a sound educational program, insofar as this complies with state regulations."

Elementary Supervisor, Carmen F. Storti and High School Principal, Robert R. Strine, also attend Board meetings with regularity, to be right on the spot if specific information is required of them and to

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In recent months a familiar figure at Board meetings has been Architect Joseph Wig-