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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2000 - SECTION B

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How important is that call?

We're a gabby bunch. I don't know if it's just Americans, or people in general, but we're always talking, especially on the phone. There are people who simply cannot go anywhere without having to use their cell phones. Like any technology that improves, it becomes less expensive and becomes available to just about anyone. It's not even confined to our cars anymore. I walked into a restaurant at a local restaurant not too long ago and realized just how important phone calls must be. There was a man standing there doing his business — on the phone. Now that must be an important call.

My Two Cents

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

And if it's not in the bathroom, it's the guy on the phone at Starbucks gabbing away while his kids make like it's their own personal playground. Whatever happened to pay phones? Think about it; if you can't take time out to go to the bathroom without using the phone, where can you take a break?

Are matters really that urgent that a message can't be left somewhere? Not only do we have people chatting on cell phones, but we now have the capability to access the Internet via our phones, and so much more.

More and more people have cell phones and it seems every other driver on the road is on the phone while behind the wheel. The Monmouth County town of Marlboro has received a lot of attention this summer after passing an ordinance banning hand-held phones while driving. A violation could result in a \$250 fine.

Our very own State Sen. C. Louis Bassano, R-Union, has sponsored legislation that would impose a \$50 fine on drivers who talk on their hand-held phones while behind the wheel. The state legislation, like many anti-cell phone arguments, cites a 1997 study conducted by two Canadian doctors about the safety effects of talking on the phone while driving, published in the New England Journal of Medicine. It suggests that driving while on the phone can be as dangerous as driving while intoxicated.

It's not so much the dialing of the phone that creates a hazardous situation but rather, the study suggests, it's "driver inattention."

Such driver inattention can increase the risk of a motor vehicle accident by four times. "The relative risk is similar to the hazard associated with driving with a blood alcohol level at the legal limit." According to the study, error on the part of drivers contributes to more than 90 percent of collisions. Hand-held phones didn't help; had come to do with driver attention than dexterity.

In Brazil, Israel and Australia, there are laws against using a cell phone while driving.

The legislation is currently in the Law and Public Safety Committee. Bassano would like a hearing in committee at least, and is fair on the topic. While he understands the convenience of cellular phones on one hand, on the other, they can be dangerous.

Bassano hopes to push phone companies to improve the technology to make talking on the phone while driving safer, such as reading MP3 on the windshield or a speaker in the visor.

At first, I thought this type of legislation was a great idea; keeping idiots off the phone while behind the wheel. But to be fair, if we were to pass such legislation, we also should pass laws to stop people from reaching over to pick up something that fell off the rear-view mirror, or making adjustments on the dashboard, just being careless and stupid. I'm not

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Rocker joins Senate race

Smithereens leader runs with Reform Party

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

What do the lead singer of a rock band, a multimillionaire ex-Wall Street executive, and a career politician all have in common? In addition to being longtime residents of Union County, all three hope to be New Jersey's next U.S. Senator.

Pat DiNizio, a lifelong Scotch Plains resident and founder of the modern rock band, The Smithereens, officially announced his candidacy Tuesday for the U.S. Senate seat under the Reform Party. DiNizio joins major party candidates Congressman Bob Franks of Berkeley Heights and millionaire Jon Corzine of Summit. They seek the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Frank Lautenberg.

The 1973 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wasted no time criticizing his major party opponents during a press conference at his Scotch Plains headquarters, calling them puppets of political action committees and "transglobal corporations" that contribute to their campaigns.

Quoting another musician, Grateful

Dead leader Jerry Garcia, DiNizio said, "Voting for the lesser of two evils is still voting for evil."

Charlie Smith, Franks' campaign manager, welcomed DiNizio to the Senate race, looking forward to "talking over the issues of concern in a number of forums."

"He's not shy about where he stands on the issues," said Smith, recalling that DiNizio once wrote lyrics proclaiming, "I'll say what I have to, I'll do what I have to," featured in the band's hit song, "A Girl Like You."

A message left with the Corzine 2000 campaign seeking comment was not returned by press time.

"I promise an exciting, reality-based campaign to recruit the average citizen like you and me to run for office without accepting corrupt corporate contributions," DiNizio said.

Major points of DiNizio's platform will include reforming the political process through "real campaign finance reform" and reforming America's foreign policies which are "destroying our labor market."

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Photo by Milton Hill

Pat DiNizio of The Smithereens sings 'I Believe' at a press conference Tuesday in his hometown of Scotch Plains announcing his candidacy for U.S. Senate on the Reform Party line.

Parks union okays deal

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Employees in the Department of Parks and Recreation represented by United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Local 494 may have a contract for the first time in nearly three years. Union members ratified an offer from the county July 20. The offer is similar to one the county made late last year and what a state-appointed fact finder recommended as recently as April.

"I guess it was just time to settle," said Joseph Petrosky, union president. "Members felt it was time to take the offer." There was no movement since the union last voted on the contract in the spring, he said, and there was not expected to be any movement for at least another year.

While many union members went with the president's recommendation to ratify the deal, Petrosky said some did not like the terms and felt as if he gave in.

The union's last contract expired at the end of 1997. The recently ratified contract lasts until the end of this year so negotiations on a new deal likely will begin soon.

The freeholders indicated they would accept the fact finder's recommendation, said Director of Administrative Services Joseph Saleme, who handles negotiations for the county. The contract probably will be approved at the board's August regular meeting to allow time for the actual contract to be prepared. Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan said.

The union represents about 110 employees in the Department of Parks and Recreation ranging from plumbers, carpenters and masons to employees at the stables and golf courses. Members approved the contract by a 54-14 vote during a meeting last week.

In addition to salary increases of \$750 in the first two years and \$850 this year, union members at the maximum on the salary guide — nearly three-quarters of the membership — will receive a \$500 bonus.

Union members can expect to receive raises in their pay checks in about a month. Petrosky said, and retroactive pay by September.

The two sides jointly filed an impasse in April after 12 months of negotiations. Although a fact finder's recommendation is non-binding, the county ultimately could have implemented what it wanted to.

24-hour phone hotline welcomes volunteers

Fifteen women and men were commissioned as new volunteers at a special candle lighting ceremony when Contact We Care, the Union County-based, 24-hour suicide prevention telephone hotline, held its Class 54 Commissioning Service recently in Westfield.

The new volunteers all completed Contact's 50-hour volunteer training class with the past year.

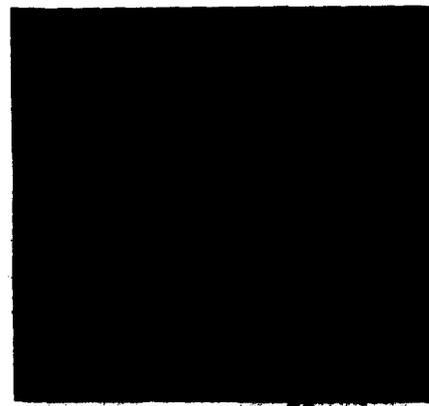
"It is such a pleasure to formally welcome these dedicated and compassionate women and men to the ranks of Contact volunteer," said Michael Nicholson, executive director of Contact We Care. "I can't emphasize enough how much their contribution of time and energy means to our agency and the thousands of callers we serve each year."

"Contact volunteers not only give so much of themselves, but also grow and benefit in unexpected ways," said the Rev. Darla D. Turlington, president of the Contact. "For each and every one of us who participate in the noble service of this agency, our own lives are touched in a most positive way."

The newly commissioned volunteers are: Union residents Deepa Bhaskaran and Theresa Tuhill; Charles Brooks of North Plainfield; Melissa Brown of Winfield; Janice Pooder of Berkeley Heights; Larrie Groves of Far Hills; Scotch Plains residents Anne Kerian, Deborah Keasler and Eleanor Miller; Westfield residents Anne Bristol, Norma Cruz, Nancy Nagron and Susanne Tanner; and Springfield residents Francine Pecora and Arlene Tanner.

Telephone volunteers for Contact We Care offer the gift of listening to callers in need. The Contact training prepares volunteers to deal with a broad range of human needs and teaches them how to actively listen and assist callers in working through their problems.

For more information or to register for the September training class, call (908) 889-4140.



Deepa Bhaskaran of Union, left, and Theresa Tuhill of Westfield light candles during the recent Contact We Care Commissioning Service welcoming them as new telephone hotline volunteers. The two women joined more than 100 people who completed Contact's volunteer training class and offer the gift of listening to callers.

Junior League seeks project ideas

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield, an organization of trained women volunteers is seeking new ideas for community projects for the 2000-2001 year. For more than 70 years, JLEP has been dedicated to meeting community needs for forming projects and partnerships with non-profit organizations throughout

Union County. New project ideas are researched annually by the league's Community Research and Development Committee and put to the membership for a vote. This year, the league is seeking new project ideas and is looking for help from the community. Since 1992, JLEP has focused its

efforts and resources on helping those in need. Recent projects include:

- **Helping Hands:** The goal of the Helping Hands Committee is to positively impact the lives of children and families in crisis through short-term projects. In the past league members have worked on such projects as collecting and donating more than 2,000 books to the Plainfield Board of Education, sorting food at the Hillside Soup Kitchen, filling duffel bags to be distributed to children entering into the foster care system by DYFS case workers, sponsoring a blood drive and working with the New Jersey Special Olympics.

- **Emergency Coccaro Pediatric Medical Day Care Center:** The center that is currently owned and operated by Children's Specialized Hospital, provides care for medically affected chronically disabled children ranging in age from 3 months to 3 years. JLEP members assist the staff in feeding and entertaining the children as well as by planning and organizing several social events for them and their siblings throughout the year.

- **Access Unlimited's Family Enrichment Program:** This will be the JLEP's first year assisting with this project. Community Access Unlimited is a nonprofit social service agency serving Union County adults with disabilities and youth at risk. The Parent Enrichment Program serves as a preventive intervention program to support these disadvantaged parents and their families.

To suggest a project for league involvement, contact the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield at 110 Walnut St., Cranford, 07016. Attn: Community Research and Development.

Honoring retirement



Freeholder Chester Holmes, center, and Vice Chairman Alexander Miralza present a resolution to Capt. Edward Fleidy on his retirement after 25 years of service. Fleidy was one of six Union County corrections officers promoted to sergeant in 1982.

Mothers & More meet Aug. 2

On Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. the Union County Chapter of Mothers & More, formerly known as FEMALE, will present "Happy Birthday To You...Party Ideas Guaranteed to Make Your Child Smile." Members will share their tips on decorating, food, games, party bags and other ingredients for making your child's party fun. The meeting will take place at Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

Mothers & More is an international not-for-profit organization supporting women who have shared their career paths in order to care for their children at home. What began as one Illinois mother finishing out 18 months in 1967 has now grown to almost 8,000 members in over 180 local chapters in the United States and Canada. The Union County chapter offers a variety of activities including reading discussion groups, guest speakers, craft nights, book discussions and weekly daycare play gatherings.

The Union County chapter holds meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Hanson House. New members are always welcome. For more information call Tricia (908) 232-7532 or Jennifer (732) 382-7578.

Here's pie in your face



Adrian Horton still has his berry cream pie on her face after Freeholder Chairman Dennis Sullivan declared her winner of the pie-eating contest at the 10th Kingdom Traveling Jubilee at Warinanco Park in Elizabeth.

COUNTY NEWS

Literacy volunteers

Literacy Volunteers of America-Union County Affiliate announces its new 2000 summer workshop programs for the training of tutors. An English as a Second Language Workshop will be at the Elmore Branch of the Elizabeth Public Library. Registration will be Saturday at 9 a.m. Classes start Saturday and run Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There is a materials fee of \$15 to cover supplies. For more information or to register for any of the above workshops call (908) 518-0600.

Cancer society to raise money with golf tournament

North Jersey golfers are gearing up for the annual Union and Hudson County Golf Tournament, benefiting the American Cancer Society, scheduled for Aug. 7 at Suburban Golf and Country Club in Union.

Since its inception, the annual golf tournament has raised record funds for life-saving American Cancer Society research, programs and services that benefit cancer patients and their families in Union and Hudson counties. Programs such as Road to Recovery, which provides free round-trip transportation to doctor visits and treatments, and Man to Man, a prostate cancer education and support program that offers community-based group education, discussion and support to men with prostate cancer, will benefit from the American Cancer Society's golf tournament.

"The Union and Hudson County Golf Tournament is an excellent way for individuals and local businesses to demonstrate their commitment in the fight against cancer," said Richard Harknett, event chairman. "The growing support for this event has helped the American Cancer Society improve the lives of cancer patients and their families in Union and Hudson counties."

The Union and Hudson County Golf Tournament is part of the American Cancer Society Golf Classic, the world's largest amateur golf tournament. The winning team from each flight will have the opportunity to advance to the State Championship at Forsgate Country Club in September, and possibly to the National Champ-

ionship at Doral Country Club in Miami.

The American Cancer Society's Union and Hudson County Golf Tournament is supported by event sponsors Union County National Bank, United National Bank and Sterling Auction.

To register for the Union County Golf Tournament, call the ACS at (908) 354-7373. Registration fees — \$275 per individual — include greens and golf cart fees, continental breakfast, lunch, cocktails and dinner. Corporate sponsorship packages also are available.

Health services program planned tonight at library

Parents dealing with difficult children, children with extreme behaviors and emotions including children with mental illness are invited to an organizing event tonight from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the public library in Roselle Park.

Union is one of the three first counties to expand mental health services under a new statewide Children's System of Care Initiative announced by Gov. Christine Whitman earlier in the year. Services will begin to change for some families as early as January.

At the same time, the new initiative provides for the organization of parents, with information, training and support, right away. Informed families will be invited to take new roles throughout the system, participate in planning, help monitor quality, and inform service professionals about their real needs because of their real-life expertise about their children and families.

However, families do not need to feel like experts to attend this meeting.

"Families like ours are often overwhelmed and intimidated by their children's needs and the complicated service system that exists today," said Kathy Wagner of the New Jersey Parents' Caucus, which is sponsoring this event. "Families are invited to come as they are, wherever they happen to be in their struggle to raise these very challenging children."

The library is accessible by public transportation. To attend, parents must register by calling Wagner at (908) 522-1120.

Refreshments will be served. Child care can be arranged, but only by prior registration.

Blood drives scheduled

The Blood Center of New Jersey is appealing to community members to donate a pint of blood for someone in need.

The Blood Center will conduct the following blood drives:

- Friday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.
- Wednesday, 3 to 8 p.m., Westfield/Mountainside Chapter, American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield; 4 to 8 p.m., Masonic Lafayette Lodge, 1550 Irving St., Rahway.
- Aug. 11, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.
- Aug. 14, 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield.

For more information or to register call (800) BLOOD-NJ.

Common sense should prevail

(Continued from Page B1)

sure laws will help people be cured of that.

If we weren't doing such moronic things behind the wheel, these tedious laws wouldn't be necessary, just using common sense. People seem to think they don't have to pay attention or concentrate while driving, be it city or highway. And when did people stop paying attention to regulations such as yielding to pedestrians or not passing on the right? God forbid someone should use a turn signal.

"The role of regulation is controversial, but the role of individual responsibility is clear," the study states.

The new cell phone ordinance is similar to things like laws requiring wearing people to wear seat belts, common sense stuff. If we keep acting like idiots, before you know it, we may find laws on the books telling us how to blow our noses.

Sheriff's Office foils bank scam

Sheriff Ralph Froehlich announced Friday that a team of sheriff's officers assigned to the Fugitive Unit apprehended Ariel Medina on July 18 at 11:30 a.m. Medina, 21, who resides on the 300 block of Franklin Place, Plainfield, is a fugitive wanted by the Union County Sheriff's Office and the Plainfield Police Department.

Sheriff's Officers Darryl Warner and Patrick Grady noticed a recent news article where Medina was named as a suspect in an elaborate check cashing scheme and identity theft that targeted local banks on three different occasions in Plainfield. They realized that this was the same person wanted by the Sheriff's Office for two domestic non-support warrants and two violations of probation for failure to appear in court.

Warner and Grady were able to develop information that led them to the residence of Medina's girlfriend on Summit Avenue in North Plainfield. The officers set up surveillance on the residence and after three hours they observed a Hispanic male fitting Medina's description leaving the residence.

Medina was wearing a bandana and had a towel draped over his head in an attempt to hide his identity. Warner and Grady grabbed Medina before he could attempt to flee and took him into custody.

Medina was turned over to the Plainfield police where he was wanted on three counts of theft by deception and three counts of fraud. His bail on the Plainfield charges has been set at \$30,000.

The four Union County warrants have been lodged as detainers. These detainers ensure that Medina will not be released, even if he makes bail on the Plainfield charges, until he comes before a Superior Court judge to answer the charges that are the basis of the Union County warrants. Medina has prior convictions for possession and distribution of controlled dangerous substances and has been the subject of five previous bench warrants.

Froehlich said the Fugitive Unit, supervised by Capt. Barry Migliore, is charged with executing all warrants that are issued by the Superior Courts.

"It's like trying to plug a hole in a dike with your little finger. I have aggressive teams of officers out there who do an outstanding job executing these warrants. They are willing to take risks and often their efforts go unrecognized."

"Unfortunately, it seems that for every warrant executed there are two new warrants issued. We do the best we can with the resources we have."

Rock singer joins Reform Party

(Continued from Page B1)

Cortine made headlines last month by spending more than \$30 million of his own half-billion-dollar personal fortune to defeat former Gov. Jim Florio in the Democratic primary. The DiNizio for Senate campaign will be run on a shoestring budget "funded only through the generosity of average people." The campaign has spent several thousand dollars so far, some of which came from his personal funds, but DiNizio declined to say how much.

"My intention is not to numb your brains" with countless examples of legislation that have "improved people's lives." Despite all the good news politicians continually spout, Americans are still buried in debt and excessive taxes while the nation's trade and budget deficits continue to mount, said DiNizio.

President Bill Clinton boasts of the productivity of the U.S. worker climbing each day, he said, but stress levels are punishing people and overwhelming society. He said the average worker works more hours and earns less money than real wages in 1973. "We're not nurturing, we're systematically dismantling the power of the American worker and American family."

DiNizio attended Middlesex County College and New York University before dropping out to form his band, which has been around for more than 20 years. The Smithereens, who have compiled nine albums, selling more than six million copies, still play every other weekend. They released their last album, "God Save The Smithereens," in October.

DiNizio joked that his campaign might increase album sales, but that's not the objective. Win or lose, he hopes to get many people registered to vote and involved in the political process.

What ultimately drove the musician to enter the political arena were the presidential impeachment hearings of 1998, as he saw "how fragmented the country was and how hypocritical both parties are."

Officially, DiNizio said he will appear on the ballot as an Independent because there is no Reform Party in New Jersey. Asked for his thoughts on Presidential Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan, DiNizio said people can be members of the same party without sharing the same beliefs. He does not share Buchanan's personal beliefs, and in fact, likes the Rev. Alan Keyes as a presidential candidate. He called the major party candidates for president — Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W.

Bush — "really the same person."

"The party is not about social issues," he said, emphasizing the importance of allowing citizens to determine and vote on nationwide issues. DiNizio described himself as a centrist, trying to look at both sides.

Although he said he can't predict the election's outcome, the 44-year-old DiNizio pointed to the state's political landscape: New Jersey has some 850,000 registered Democrats, 1.1 million registered Republicans and 2.9 million registered Independent voters. "In the end, some good will come out of this one way or the other."

Correction

In the story, "On the alert for West Nile," in the July 20 edition, chickens are kept at the Union County Public Works facility in Scotch Plains and are not transported and Chief Mosquito Control Inspector Carolyn Volero identifies the mosquitoes as to what species they are but does not test the bug to see if it carries the disease.

It is the policy of this newspaper to correct all significant errors that are brought to the editor's attention.

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Concerts continue with 'blues in the night'



Rob Paparozzi and the Hudson River Rats took over Echo Lake Park filling the air with their "blues" for the Union County Summer Arts Festival Concert series last week. On hand to commemorate the appearance are Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan, Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella with his son Alexander, Program Coordinator Florence Peterson, and Freeholders Lewis Mingo Jr. and Chester Holmes.

Rob Paparozzi and the Hudson River Rats took over Echo Lake Park filling the air with their "blues" for the Union County Summer Arts Festival Concert series last week.

"All of our concerts are outstanding, but for me blues is always my favorite, especially when Rob Paparozzi is playing his harmonica — it doesn't get much better than that," Union County Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella said.

Paparozzi and his band have appeared in concert with Sly and the Family Stone, B.B. King, Dead & Co., Bruce Springsteen and backed-up Phoebe Snow and Etta James. Some of their more familiar songs include Aretha Franklin's "Till You Come Back To Me," and Stephen Sill's "Love the One You're With."

The concert series is offered Wednesday evenings during the summer starting at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Residents are asked to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. For more information about the Summer Arts Festival, call Union County Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4900.



Karen Saunders

Cabaret singer puts heart into local club appearance

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

One couldn't think of a nicer way to spend a delightful summer evening than dining elegantly at the Manor's Cabaret Soiree in West Orange, and then being thoroughly entertained by a dynamic, award-winning cabaret singer, Karen Saunders.

It all took place July 13, and the perfect evening began with the charming *maître d'*, Sammy Odeh, guiding my companion and me to a table next to the piano to listen to fabulous musical renditions played by Bobby Richards, accompanied by a sumptuous offering of the finest food in New Jersey.

While our waiter, Alex, brought a sample of the chef's delicate, jello pepper mousse with red pepper and pesto sauce, which we slowly savored, Richards offered his own delicacy in "Summertime." For the first course, my choice was a creamy delicious Maine lobster bique, with chunks of sweet lobster, and my companion enjoyed a carpaccio of beef tenderloin, Porcini mushroom, marinated tomato and shaved Peccorino.

Following "Bees, You Is My Woman Now" and "Deep Purple," as only Richards could interpret them, a tasty salad of mixed baby greens with balsamic vinaigrette was served. For the main course — accompanied by "Rhapsody in Blue," a medley from Duke Ellington and Irving Berlin's "Check or Check" — I enjoyed an especially fine array of medallions of monkfish with zucchini crust, artichokes, beans and risotto with olive sauce, an excellent choice. My companion equally enjoyed a petit filet mignon with root vegetables, macaire potato and cabernet-thyme reduction.

Memorable music from "Cats" and "Phantom of the Opera" was appreciated with an appreciable dessert, millefeuille de raspberries with yogurt

and lime sorbet, petits fours and a grand cup of coffee.

With echoes still ringing in our ears of "Put on a Happy Face," "As Time Goes By" and "A Summer Place," we climbed up the winding steps to Le Dome to hear a splendid cabaret singer, Karen Saunders, introduce herself: "So, I'm Karen. Who are you? I'm going to sing from my heart to your heart."

And in a program, "Heart to Heart: The Standards of Love," the dark-haired performer who reminds one of Bette Midler, proceeded to sing, in a magical voice, such tunes as "I Love Being With You," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "Taking a Chance on Love," and "The Music That Makes Me Dance." The tempo and rhythm was great, and she was beautifully accompanied in grand style on the piano by Barry Levitt, a leading Broadway musical director.

Saunders' "Blues in the Night" was especially effective, and "How Deep Is the Ocean?" and "The Best Is Yet to Come," were truly incredible. When she sang "How Long Has This Been Going On?" and "Just in Time," one felt a need to get up and dance to her musical presentations. "All or Nothing at All" was provocative, and a new song, "Gone as a Man Can Get" by Lindy Robbins and John Buccino, had everyone bouncing to the rhythm. Then there was a powerful rendition of "Empty Bed Blues," and it was great to hear Saunders sing "Old Devil Moon," "Come Rain or Come Shine" and "Stormy Weather." Her powerful voice continued to entertain with "If We Only Have Love," and when the audience applauded long enough and loud enough for an encore, Saunders made everyone laugh with "You Can Have My Husband," in a jazz tempo.

Certainly, she reached the heart of her audience. After all, the whole presentation became a true "Heart to Heart" Karen Saunders.

Historical Society examines literary presidents

An intimate look into the lives of America's 42 presidents as writers, authors, poets, and literary subjects will be the subject of a talk by Nat Bodian of Cranford at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society at B.G. Fields Restaurant in Westfield, Wednesday at noon.

Bodian's talk will draw from a year's research and writing on a book about America's presidents, as well as from experience during his own 30-year career in the book publishing industry and from books he has written on publishing topics.

The talk will answer questions on varied presidential connections with the world of books and publishing, including the president whose biography became America's first bestseller, the president who wrote the longest book, the president who wrote the most books, and presidents who were published poets.

Bodian will also deal with presidential earnings from their books, both successes and failures, including one president's autobiography that failed to sell as well as a book about his dog.

He will also detail a familiar piece of presidential writing that is now

internationally recognized as a literary masterpiece, a book that got a president elected and another book written by an ex-president to help restore his tarnished reputation.

The segment about president poets will include one who composed a book of poetry on his word processor and took four years to find a publisher, another president who had his poetry published anonymously because he feared it would not find favor, and yet another president who had his poetry engraved on his dead wife's tombstone.

Questions will be answered about what president had the most books written about him, what president had the fastest book published about him, and what president's collection formed the foundation of the world's largest library.

Bodian's book on America's presidents, as yet unpublished and on which Wednesday's talk is based, is titled "Sourcebook of American Presidential Curiosities and Oddities: An Encyclopedic Treasury of Unusual and Little Known Facts."

Space permitting, the general public may attend by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon Monday.

Manor, 'Les Miz' actors say, 'Vive la France!' in song

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

The French people celebrated Bastille Day July 14 with a lot of fanfare, but the Manor people in West Orange decided to celebrate the day a little early on the evening of July 9 with exquisite French food and a superb musical program featuring the young, extremely talented cast from Broadway's "Les Misérables."

And, as Mary Jane Frankel, public relations and advertising maven, announced before the advent of the dinner, "the French will celebrate Bastille Day with the incredible picnic across 620 miles in France, we can't compete with the miles, but we certainly can — with the food. We will celebrate with a wonderful evening of dining and beautiful singing. We're in for a unique evening."

Frankel originated the idea of a Bastille Day dinner for 100 people and excerpts from "Les Miz" three years ago, and the event has had enormous success. The Colonnade Room accommodates 100 people comfortably, and reservations are swept up like bouquets.

The evening began with a champagne reception with delicate, but large amounts of hors d'oeuvres, featuring lobster and shrimp. There also was an open bar for those who preferred liquor to champagne.

In rapid succession, strangers became friends as they were assigned seats at round tables that boasted four wine glasses, glittering utensils and attractive centerpieces. The cast members from "Les Miz" had their own table.

Frankel introduced each singer at designated times and presented Dale Risinger, accompanying pianist, who is the musical supervisor and musical director of "Les Miz." Four principal singers brought the unforgettably magnificent "Les Misérables" back to life right there in the marvelous dining room.

Following Frivolites "Manoir," Erika MacLeod, who plays Fantine, sang "I Dreamed a Dream" in a beautiful, emotional presentation. A very delicate, slightly frisky tasting wine — a 1997 Chateau Rouillon, Locoise — was savored with the first course, a delicious Foie Gras Truffle Terrine

with apple jelly and port grenade reduction.

The second course, a delectable poached filet of Dover sole and salmon on tomato provencal, Beurre Blanc, was accompanied by a softly dry L'air Grand Avoche Choronay, France, 1996.

During the intermission, the diners couldn't help but snack their lips over the tart and sweet yogurt and lime sorbet, while the handsome David McDonald, who plays Javert, performed in a strong, melodic voice the musical number, "Stars." A heady 1996 Nuits-St. Georges Chateau Burgundy greeted the entire course, which consisted of tender veal medallions with ratatouille crust, artichokes, haricots verts, macaire potatoes, tastefully placed in spicy black pepper jus. And to make it even more attractive was the musical interlude introduced by the lovely Catherine Braneli, who plays Eponine in the musical, and who performed with grace, the agonizingly touching "On My Own."

Then there was a cheese course, and while the waiters poured a dry 1995 Chateau Vieux, Taillefer, Por-

merol, Poardeau, the delighted diners had delicate foie-to-the-obliviate-tasting crepe of goat cheese and pine nuts, apricot chutney. The rousing, thrilling voice of Christopher Mark Peterson, who plays Enjolras, filled the room and the hearts of the people as he sang "Do You Hear the People Sing?"

Somehow or other, one had to make room for a rich, appetizing dessert highlighting port tarie, with vanilla ice cream and William Sabey-on mignardises, in addition to a great cup of coffee, a la Manor.

The evening was a magnificent success, and Frankel even introduced the culinary stars, Jochem Voss, executive chef; Maurice Alamed, executive sous chef; Damiano Durate, chef garde manger; and Nicola Penulo, chef patissier, in addition to Michael Borowski and the publicity office of "Les Misérables" for "providing tonight's musical excellence."

Next year, this reviewer suggests that the moment the Bastille Day Dinner is announced, that the first 100 lucky diners scorch the fabulous Manor with reservations.

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Debbie Reynolds dazzles at Paper Mill

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

It was instant love!
The moment the vivacious, beautiful, lively, extraordinarily talented Debbie Reynolds glided onto the stage at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn on the evening of July 11, adorned in a sparkling red sequined gown, slit down to her ankle, the audience went wild. And when the glamorous, sexy, 68-year-old blonde greeted the patrons, love poured out of every individual, and in unison, the audience screamed, "Hi, Debbie!"



Debbie Reynolds

"It's great to be here," she replied. "It's my first visit to the Paper Mill in my 57 years in show business."

Prior to this immediate love affair, radio announcer Darryl Stiles opened the concert, and a very funny comedian, Glen Super, known as Mr. Bullhorn, provided dozens of laughs before the main event.

And from then on, to the accompaniment of a piano and drums, Reynolds took over — in a show that made the audience feel as if it was in a Las Vegas nightclub. The inveterate show woman tap-danced, sang songs of yesteryear and songs of today, told funny and risqué jokes, had a conversation with the fans in the theater, introduced a couple of old friends who were in the audience — Eddie

Bracken and Carleton Carpenter — showed scenes from her old movies and sang along with a very young Debbie Reynolds on a big screen provided by the Paper Mill — and just generally charmed the crowd adoringly. She even showed some hilarious bloopers from the MGM movies of her era.

She explained that she was 16 years old when she came to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and made friends with all the top MGM stars. When she showed

scenes from her old movies, "Two Weeks With Love," in which she sang "Abba Dabba Honey-moon," with Carpenter, and danced in "Singin' in the Rain" with Gene Kelly and Donald O'Connor down steep, dangerous steps — "Look," she pointed out, "we never even looked down — I don't know how we did that!" — they became memorable moments once again. Reynolds showed scenes from "The Singing Nun," sang along, harmonized and crossed herself, and "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," one of her favorite movies. She showed movies of Clark Gable, and sang the Judy Garland song, "Dear Mr. Gable — You Made Me Love You," then proceeded to offer a tribute to Judy Garland, and did a medley of Garland songs, including "I Feel a Song Coming On," "Sw Wonderful," "Embraceable You," "Meet Me in St. Louis," "The Boy Next Door," "The Man That Got Away," and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." She was unbelievably fantastic. She sang "I Love a Piano," and did a duet with the pianist while dancing to the music.

Reynolds grinned as she sang the song, "Love Is Wonderful the Second Time Around," and made a remark about the men in her life. She then proceeded to do her famous imitations of Zsa Zsa Gabor and Cher, and when

she did Barbra Streisand, wig and music, in a superb musical voice, Reynolds brought the house down. The audience couldn't get enough of her, and she, show gal that she is, changed her red gown to an aqua sequined gown, slit and all, that instantly astounded her fans. The highlight of the magical evening was when Reynolds was able to induce Carpenter to come up on stage to do the famous duet "Abba Dabba Honey-moon" with her. After much protesting, the tall, still handsome performer, towered over the petite Debbie, and they melted the audience with their duet. It was a moment to remember in the history of show business.

And when, after giving her all — exhausting every aspect of her talents — Debbie Reynolds said to the audience, "This is a Reynolds wrap," laughing as only the exceptional comedienne could laugh. "Thanks for being in my life all these years," she said. "Thank you for coming to see me," and the audience stood as one, with happy, tearful memories showing, and a refreshing present exuberance, and then roared with delight when she sang "Tammy."

Come back again, Debbie — come back to the Paper Mill — for will you ever find so loving an audience anywhere in the world?



Shirley Alston Reeves

Former Shirelle Shirley Reeves appears in Echo Lake concert

Take a step back in time with Shirley Alston Reeves, the original lead singer of The Shirelles, Wednesday at Echo Lake Park when the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with Atolund of the New Jersey and the Union County Education Association, presents Oldies Night. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. in the east end of the park near Springfield Avenue in Mountaineer.

from Hopatcong and a longtime friend who have been singing and playing music together for years. Previously practicing their harmony in high school hallways and locker rooms, they have since taken their talents to the stage. Not only can these men sing and play instruments, but their outstanding a cappella performance is what really sets these guys apart.

"This concert is sure to have audience members of all ages dancing and singing the hits from the '50s and '60s," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan. "It will be a night of solid gold favorites that everyone will enjoy under the stars."

All Summer Arts concerts are held Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Avenue end of Echo Lake Park, Mountaineer. Lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic baskets are encouraged. There will also be a refreshment stand available beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The evening's free concert will feature Shirley Alston Reeves and her band, with opening act Who's Johnny, a popular oldies group from Hopatcong.

The rain site for all concerts within the series will be Cranford High School, on West End Place off Springfield Avenue in Cranford. For up-to-the-minute information, call the Department of Parks and Recreation 24-hour hotline at (908) 352-8410 after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

A native of New Jersey, Shirley Alston Reeves became part of The Shirelles in 1958 while attending high school in Passaic. The group was an almost instant success. The Shirelles recorded hit after hit including favorites like "Dedicated to the One I Love," "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," "Baby, It's You," and their 5-million seller, "Soldier Boy." Voted the number one Female Vocal Group for five years in a row, The Shirelles topped the charts for years and their recording of "Boys" was even copied by The Beatles.

For other concert information or to find out about recreational activities, call the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4900.

The opening act for the evening, Who's Johnny, features four brothers

Malamut exhibit shows local artist

The current exhibit at the Lee Malamut Gallery is "The Art Work of Richard Timu," a resident of North Plainfield. The exhibit will be on display through Sept. 6. Timu studied at the Massachusetts College of Art and the Art Students League in New York City. He worked as a graphic designer and served as an art director for publications in Boston. He has exhibited in various group shows, and his paintings and drawings are in many private collections. The exhibit is open during library hours — Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed Saturdays during the summer. The Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave., Union.

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Westfield's Choral Art Society welcomes new singers

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey Inc. welcomes new members to its fall rehearsals at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield at the corner of Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street. The group meets each Tuesday at 8 p.m. under the direction of James S. Little and accompanist Mary Beth McFall.

Little is the organist and choirmaster at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit, where he directs three choirs and the Calvary Concert Series. He is a graduate of Trenton State College and Westminster Choir College. He is also director of MadJazz, a Union County a cappella group, and the Prep Choir of the Somerset Hills Children's Chorus.

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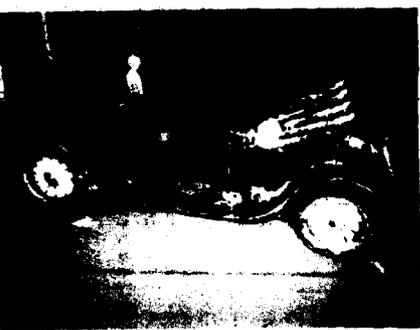
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This metal ride-on firetruck from the 1930s is among the many treasures to be found at the Village Antiques Center in Raritan.

Village Antiques Center

By Wendy Cinquanti
A&E Correspondent

The first thing the casual observer may notice upon entering the Village Antiques Center in Raritan is that it is a shop of the neat, orderly, glassed-in-cabinet variety. The potential customer would be remiss, however, to leave it at that.

This spacious, well-planned, two-floor establishment also offers traditional dealers' booths, open spaces for furniture and other oversized items, and a number of separate, smaller rooms devoted to collections arranged in a country-style fashion.

The display windows flanking the entrance offer an intriguing glimpse of what to expect once inside. Especially enticing is a 1950s-era Seeburg Hi-Fi jukebox, in working condition, complete with 100 selections on 45 rpm records.

Music fans will also find sheet music, wartime issues of Hit Parade, a small number of 78s, a nice example of an Edison wax roll player and plays piano rolls — a rare treat to stumble upon.

Those with a fancy for kitchenware will appreciate the cupboard drawer filled with metal cookie cutters and gadgetry. There are all sorts of coffee pots and tea kettles, from cast iron to enamel nickel-reversers. While on the subject of enamel, let me take the time to mention the large amount of enamelware. There are small coffee cups; ladles; a sink tray in an unusual beige tone with green trim, a lid and matching basin; several sizes of rectangular containers with lids, and a beautiful large percolator.

The toy collector should be happy with the treasures to be found in the Center, with both the contemporary — such as a collection of Breyer horses and the ever-present Barbie dolls — and the classic, most notably a 1930s ride-on firetruck.

The newly expanded Village Antiques Center features more than 50 dealers and is open seven days — Saturday to Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday and Friday from noon to 7 p.m. The Center is located at 44 W. Somerset St. in Raritan, one mile off the Somerset Circle. The Center, which accepts Visa and Mastercard, can be reached by telephone at (908) 526-7920.

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Vintner offers vintage advice to neophyte wine connoisseurs

Collecting wines — and knowledge about wine — need not be a highbrow affair. If you know how to get started, it can be a very enjoyable, fun hobby.

George Phelan, winemaker for Dunnewood Vineyards and Winery, offers these simple tips for starting a modest but diverse wine collection:

- **Read everything you can.** Most major city newspapers feature a wine column on a regular basis, as do gourmet food journals and some general interest magazines. Another good source of educational information and buying guides is wine-devoted magazines. Some magazines even have rating systems to give you a benchmark about how one wine compares to others in its category.
- **Peruse wine shelves.** Whether in your local grocery market or liquor store, take the time to study what's in stock. Try all the specials — it's an inexpensive way to explore different wines, and decide what you want to add to your collection. Read the shelf talkers for background on why the winemaker or retailer thinks a particular wine is a good choice.
- **Surf the web.** The Internet is a growing source of good wine information. Many wineries have their own sites; wine educators offer tips; and magazines have online pages.
- **Attend regional wine tastings.** Check the calendar listings in your newspaper or city magazines for wine-tasting events at local restaurants, food and beverage shows, festivals, and local wineries. These events offer opportunities to taste a variety of wines in a controlled environment. Some may even be hosted by winemakers who can answer your questions. In this area, the Paper Mill Playhouse sponsors periodic wine-tasting events.
- **Talk to your friends.** Other people are one of the best sources of good buys in your local area, and often have the best tips about interesting wines to try. It's nice to have friends who enjoy getting together for wine-tasting adventures.
- **Buy what you enjoy and know what you can serve with the foods you typically prepare.** Dunnewood offers an exciting line of North Coast wines that are the perfect choice with any meal, including Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Zinfandel, Sauvignon Blanc, and White Zinfandel. For an adventurous indulgence, try Dunnewood's Dry Silk Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.
- **Stay in a price range less than \$20.** If you're not an experienced wine drinker, don't think you need to spend a lot of money to build an impressive wine collection. Less expensive wines are often more enjoyable and easier to drink than pricier wines that are nothing more than fashion statements for the winehobblers.

Phelan's final tip: Before you buy a lot of any wine, taste it! Make sure it suits your palate. That's all that counts.

Watchung Stables welcomes two new horses

Watchung Stable Summer Campers have two new mounts to ride. Victor and Gus, two new horses were recently donated by The Watchung Riding and Driving Club for troopers to enjoy. Union County Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella thanked Ralph Checchio, president of the club, for the generous donation during a recent visit to the stables.

"We are delighted to add Victor and Gus to our stables and thank the Watchung Riding and Driving Club for their continued support. These horses are a welcome addition to

our stables will provide troopers additional riding opportunities," Mirabella said.

"The horses cost \$2,700 and were donated last month just in time for the busy summer camp sessions, which run from June 20 through Aug. 18," said Hilton Williams, manager of the stables.

The stables are open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. For more information, call the Watchung Stables at (908) 789-3665.

Freeholders' summer concerts continue

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced the line-up of star entertainers and popular performers for the 2000 Summer Arts Festival concert series.

"Beginning June 28, and continuing each Wednesday through Aug. 30, Union County music lovers are invited to the musical amphitheater area of Echo Lake Park for top-notch, free entertainment," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan. "Performances begin at 7:30 p.m., but many concert patrons take advantage of the warm summer weather in a beautiful park setting by arriving early for a picnic."

A full service snack bar is available in Echo Lake Park at the concert site for people who prefer to purchase dinner or a snack.

This year's outdoor summer concert series features:

original lead singer of the Shirelles, Shirley Alston Reeves, plus opening act "Who's Johnny," sponsored by the Union County Education Association.

• Aug. 9: Country Music Night featuring Mustang Sally.

• Aug. 16: An Evening of Motown featuring the Sensational Soul Crusiers.

• Aug. 23: Big Band Night, featuring The Brass Tacks Big Band Orchestra, sponsored by Schering-Plough Corp.

• Aug. 30: The Party Dolls, sponsored by First Union Bank.

"In addition to the corporations that have chosen to sponsor specific concerts, several other local businesses have financially supported the series through various levels of donations," said Freeholder Deborah S. Scanlon, liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. "Corporate contribu-

tors include C.R. Bard Inc.; Infineum USA L.P.; East Central District Elks National Service Committee; Felice; Gorton Heating Corp.; Industrial Rubber Company; Loizeaux Builders Supply Company; Oakite Products Inc.; The Palmat Company; and Red Devil Foundation.

Echo Lake Park is located off Route 22, between Springfield Avenue in Mountainside, and Mountain Avenue in Westfield. Concert patrons should bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on. In case of rain, call (908) 352-8410 for information after 3 p.m.

The Union County Summer Arts Festival is presented by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Parks and Recreation. For more information about the concert series or other Parks and Recreation programs, call (908) 527-4900.

Freeholders invite area residents to 'connect'

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced the Union County Calendar of Events, "Cultural Connections," is available on the county's website.

"The Cultural Connections calendar is an instant link to the county's broad range of arts, musical, educational and historical programs," said Freeholder Mary Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board. "It not only highlights our talented county organizations and individuals, but also makes it easy to plan ahead so you don't miss any special events."

Union County is rich in culture,

history and arts activities. The calendar reflects this representation with a wide variety of events from concerts to lectures, from children's programs to theatrical performances and dance.

The Union County Museum and Historical Sites schedule contains regular operating hours and special program information. Also available on the web page is the Cultural Connections Information Form, which can be printed out, completed and mailed in by any individual or group that wishes to attend events in the calendar.

To access the Union County website, simply type in www.unioncounty.nj.gov. When the

homepage is downloaded, notice the department listing on the left side of the page. Click on "County Manager," then "Economic Development," and finally "Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs," where options will be found to access the Museum listings, Current Calendar or the Information Form.

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Dieting for reunions can be quite tasty

Are you one of the many people dreading your high school reunion? Don't sweat it. Many people have attended their reunions fearing the worst, the truth is, almost everyone feels the same way.

"When I attended my high school reunion, I was afraid of what people were going to think of me. Maybe I wasn't successful enough or as pretty as I used to be," said Samantha Johnson, who works for a non-profit organization in Colorado. "But I decided to go anyway and I had a blast. I even danced with people I wasn't really close to back then. It's funny how time can change people's attitudes. The peer pressure to accept or not accept a person wasn't an issue anymore."

While Johnson didn't do much to prepare for her reunion except for buying a new evening outfit that suited her slightly bigger size, others go all out.

"I decided I wanted to lose about 15 pounds," said Barbara Thompson, a businesswoman in Tennessee. "So I started eating healthier and began a regular exercise regimen. It was harder than I thought. I only lost 10 pounds, but it did make a difference. I had a great time, worry-free. All my old friends were happy to see me again and commented on how healthy I looked."

Karen Voight, one of the most sought-after fitness consultants, said a balanced diet should include some fat, but not more than 30 percent of your daily calories. "If you haven't started exercising yet, then begin with a walking program of five to 10 minutes, then build up to 20- to 30-minute walks a day. You'll then be ready to try other activities, such as hiking, swimming or aerobic dance exercise."

Thompson said even the little things she did to change her eating habits — like substituting Molly McButter for butter or margarine in recipes — made her feel better. She also used Molly McButter sprinkled on baked potatoes and popcorn, instead of using regular butter or margarine.

Molly's Chicken Wraps
Serves 4

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 chopped red bell pepper
- 1 cup chopped cooked chicken
- 1 cup chopped cooked potatoes
- 3 tablespoons Molly McButter Roasted Garlic Flavor Sprinkles

- 4 flour tortillas, 8-inch
- Nonstick cooking spray
- Salsa, if desired

Spray skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Heat over medium heat. Sauté onion and pepper until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in remaining ingredients except tortillas and salsa. Heat through, stirring constantly. Divide chicken mixture evenly between tortillas. Fold or roll up. Serve topped with salsa if desired.

Prep time: 10 minutes.

Cook time: 10 minutes.

Per serving: 180 calories; 6 grams fat; 10 milligrams cholesterol; 360 milligrams sodium; 20 grams carbohydrates; 15 grams protein.

To receive a free sample of Molly McButter, send a legal-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Lorende Company, Attention: High School Reunion, 3365 Barham Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90068.

Union Catholic High School announces reunions

Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains has several classes that are planning reunions or have finalized plans. People who were in these classes are asked to contact the designated person.

• Class of '69: Both the Boys and Girls schools are planning a good reunion Sept. 15 at the White Sands Resort and Spa in Point Pleasant.

Contact MaryBeth Connors Zielenbach at MBzall@aol.com or (908) 276-2899.

• Class of '70: A date has been set for Nov. 24 with a tentative location. Contact Mike Venture at (908) 277-2410.

• Class of '75: A celebration is planned for Nov. 25 at the Berkeley

Plaza in Berkeley Heights. Contact Renee Hassen at rhasse10@aol.com or (732) 499-7086 for further information.

• Class of '84: A family picnic reunion is scheduled for Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Forest Lodge in Warren. Class members are asked to contact Lisa Holstader Thibault at ethibault@fac.edu.

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Screenplays are sought for contest

Anyone who has ever dreamed of writing a movie script and seeing their name on the bug screen may do a double take at this news. The grand-prize winner of the second annual "Big Break" online screenplay competition will receive \$10,000 cash and an all-expense-paid trip to Hollywood.

In addition, the winner will meet with literary agents, directors and producers, including Stephen J. Cannell and producer Wayne S. Williams — "Toy Soldiers" and "Mother's Boys" — to discuss possible production of the prize-winning script. Second- through fifth-place winners will get cash prizes and all 10 winning scripts

will be submitted to literary agents. Last year's winner, Ken Hastings, won the 1999 Final Draft International Screenwriting Competition for his screenplay "DAWG," and the screenplay has been greenlighted for production. With only a high school education, this 31-year-old New Jersey native and disc jockey at Walt Disney World has proven that anyone can write a movie script.

Express.com, an e-tailer for DVDs, music and video games, is sponsoring this year's screenwriting competition. The competition is open to anyone and entries must be submitted at the www.finaldraft.com website. All

script submissions will be reviewed and judged by a panel of industry experts, including those from Steven J. Cannell Productions.

The submission fee for each script is \$55. Each entry will receive a "one sheet" or critique sheet valued at \$100. Entries must be submitted by Sept. 30, 2000.

Big Break offers an array of features in addition to the screenwriting contest. Visitors will be able to contribute to and create a "live" work-in-progress screenplay on the Express.com website using Final Draft 5.0 software. During each week of the contest, visitors can submit their contribution to "Scene-a-Week."

Summit students set to raise the curtain

After a successful production of Steve Martin's comic one-act "WASP" last summer, the Independent Theater of Summit is back on the stage rehearsing this year's show: "The God of Isaac" by James Sherman, set to open this evening.

Funded by a generous grant from the Summit Educational Foundation, the Independent Theater of Summit is a completely student-run theater company, and a promoter of theater education in Summit.

"I'm really excited about this year's production," says producer Jamie Sample. "We're working with a larger cast this year, and it can be a real challenge to coordinate rehearsals, production meetings, and the like."

A heartwarming comedy, "God of Isaac" presents the struggle of a young man coming to terms with his long-lost Jewish heritage, and his nagging, overprotective mother.

Members of the cast include Summit High School students Marvin Lowenthal and Julia Pistell, recent graduate Jenny Kowitz, college students Dave Fay and Peter Rapp, and Summit resident Diane Gallo.

As far as the technical side of "God of Isaac" is concerned, technical director Mike Frackoviak admits, "We have a tougher task in front of us this year — 'WASP' was at Summit High School last summer, so we already had lights and a sound board at our disposal. At Christ Church, we don't have that, so we've had to arrange to rent all the equipment."

Assisting Summit High School graduate Sample and Frackoviak, a sophomore at Montclair State University, with the production are Summit High junior Trish Fairweather, assistant producer; alumnus Paul Bennett, assistant technical director; and senior director Dave Maubbeck, a senior at C.W. Post.

"The God of Isaac" will be performed this evening and Friday at 8 p.m., and Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m. at Christ Church on the corner of New England and Springfield avenues in Summit. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults. To reserve tickets, call (908) 273-2382 or send e-mail to itsummer@hotmail.com.



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Legislative bill could bring about IRA increase

By Al Cors Jr.
Correspondent

While politicians of every stripe argue about the federal budget surplus — money that you overpaid in taxes to the government — and what to do with it, most agree that individual contribution limits for both regular and Roth Individual Retirement Accounts should be raised from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

To that end, the Majority Leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives plans to hold a free-standing vote on a measure to raise the IRA contribution limit to \$5,000 in the next two months. No vote should be easier or more popular for members of Congress from both political parties.

The IRA contribution limit increase is long overdue. The last increase

occurred in 1981, almost 20 years ago. If the limits were indexed for inflation — like Social Security and the standard income tax deduction for example — starting with the introduction of the IRA in 1974, the limit would now exceed \$5,000. It's only fair that today's workers have an opportunity to adequately provide for their retirement. To do that, to literally save their future, the limit must be raised.

Some estimates indicate that more than 50 million American workers are not covered by any employment-based retirement plan. One survey conducted by Lake Research reports that 70 percent of the "Baby Boomers" surveyed said they would save more if IRA contribution limits were raised. A recent poll commissioned by

the Consumer Federation of America and DirectAdvice.com reveals that more than half of American households — 56 percent — are behind where they should be in saving for a comfortable retirement. This study also finds a larger majority — 59 percent — who expect their standard of living in old age will be "lower" than it is now. A 1998 Employee Benefit Retirement Institute survey found that 80 percent of us do not believe that Americans save adequately for retirement. The contribution limit increase must be enacted now, not tomorrow, to have an effect on retirement security.

It has long been clear that you can't count on Social Security. The number of workers supporting Social Security

recipients continues to shrink. From four workers to each recipient in 1965, the ratio will slide to 1.7 workers for each recipient in 2040. As the support the system, the pressure will build to hold down Social Security payments. Employer-sponsored pension plans can help, but without adequate IRA savings to supplement their income, tens of millions of American retirees will be facing a bleak future.

That's why legislators from both parties have been working to raise the limit. The list includes House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Senators Bill Roth and Max Baucus, and Representatives William Thomas, Rob Portman, Ben Cardin, Elton Gallegly and Dennis

Moore. This strong, bipartisan support is there because the need is real and the solution is obvious. Higher limits would raise individual savings and boost our economy through lower interest rates. Workers and retirees would gain, and our future and your retirement can be saved. Of the many good ways the overpayment of tax revenue could be returned, few make more sense than this one. The \$5,000 for all IRA contributions, the Senate and the President should add their support, and this critical legislation should be enacted into law.

Al Cors Jr. is vice president of Government Affairs of the National Taxpayers Union, America's largest taxpayer organization.

Adults on the go find go-karts aren't just for kids anymore

If you think go-karts are just for kids, Murray Go-Karts has big news for you. Sales to adults are booming, with no end in sight.

"Grown-ups see how much fun the kids are having and can't wait to get

their hands on the wheel," says Russ Ruelle, Murray product spokesperson.

In particular, adults who enjoy the outdoors have discovered that the Murray Explorer, a full-sized forest green and camouflage off-road go-

kart, is "a serious machine for serious fun," says Ruelle.

The Explorer, the first value-priced adult go-kart on the market, is joined by Murray's line of go-karts for children. Energized by substantial Knobby tires in front and rear, the affordable youth-sized go-karts mean adults don't have to leave the kids behind on their off-road adventures.

"A lot of families have discovered that go-karting is a fun way to spend high quality time together," says Ruelle. "Go-karting is a great way to teach your children driving safety while everyone is having a great time."

Both children's and adult's sizes feature easy starting overhead valve engine. With ergonomically designed seats and secure automotive-type seat belts, the go-karts are built for dura-

bility and safety on a sturdy 1.25-inch diameter welded steel tubular frame. All models include padded head rest and brush bars for added protection and comfort. For added safety, the go-karts offer an on/off key switch allowing for parental control of go-kart operation.

With a longer-than-average wheel base and front wheel suspension for better handling and control, the Explorer provides any size adult driver a safe and comfortable ride. The torque converter drive, coupled with the easy starting engine, provides optimum power and traction.

The new Murray Go Karts feature self-centering steering to improve handling and steering maneuverability. Designed and built for years of operation, the go-karts have powder coated paint, preventing rust and corrosion which provide a tough protective finish that is resistant to wear. "Whether you have kids or not, the new Murray Go Karts are an exciting, new way for adults to get in on the fun," says Ruelle. "However old you are, you are the perfect age for go-karting."

For information on the Murray Go Karts, call (800) 251-8007.

Planning doesn't end with retirement

More and more, Americans between the ages of 55 and 70 are discovering that smart retirement planning doesn't end when they officially retire.

Accumulating retirement assets is a critical — and often overlooked — element of retirement planning. When planning for income during the golden years, today's retirees need to consider some new realities.

• Americans are living longer. The fact that we're living longer reinforces the need for Americans to plan better, to avoid outliving the retirement assets we've worked so hard to accumulate.

• Inflation can take a bite out of savings. If a portfolio is heavily weighted toward income-oriented investments with very little growth potential, inflation can erode purchasing power over time.

• Social Security may not be as dependable as you had planned. Retirees would be wise to incorporate Social Security as a supplement — not the foundation — of a sound retirement income plan.

• Your expenses may not go down in your retirement years. For instance, you may have paid off your mortgage, but unexpected medical costs may come into play.

Exams now can save trouble later

In the United States, two out of three people need vision correction. They could need a new prescription or may have an undiagnosed eye disease.

That's why Sears Optical is sponsoring National Eye Exam Month, an educational and philanthropic effort to increase awareness of the importance of regular eye exams. National Eye Exam runs through Sept. 9.

According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology:

- Almost 80,000 Americans are blind from glaucoma, and another million are at risk for vision loss because they don't know they have it.

• People between the ages of 52 and 64 have a 50-percent chance of having a cataract, but they probably won't see a change in their vision until age 65.

• Amblyopia, or "lazy eye," affects two or three of every 100 people and the best time to correct this problem is in infancy or early childhood.

National Eye Exam Month is a good time to head to your local doctor of optometry and have your eyes examined. For more information, contact Prevent Blindness America at (800) 331-2020.

Bill Van Sant, Editor
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ELDER LAW: THE TIME IS NOW!
Clients often ask me to explain how "Elder Law" differs from traditional Estate Planning. Whereas the estate planner is concerned with the client's money, the Elder Law practitioner counsels the client on how to live his or her remaining years in dignity. Thus, Elder Law concentrates primarily on the person, the elder, and the type of life he or she desires, and only secondarily on his or her estate. After the Elder Law attorney and client complete their work, legal documents are drafted, tax considerations are analyzed, and a plan to protect the elder's estate is implemented.
To protect oneself and one's family in the event of death, disease or disaster, every senior citizen should have each of the following documents: Last Will & Testament, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy, and Living Will.
Elder Law attorneys are also called upon to protect life long savings from rising nursing home costs. On average, nursing home expenses in the Northeast exceed \$75,000 a year. The primary resources available to help pay for these skyrocketing costs include long term care insurance, private pay, Medicaid, and Medicaid. Proper estate planning is critical to ensure that you qualify for governmental programs like Medicaid. If so, your assets will remain protected, and can instead be distributed to your spouse, children, or favorite charity.
Benjamin D. Eckman's practice focuses on estate Planning & Elder Law - legal issues facing senior citizens. Benjamin D. Eckman received his Bachelor's Degree in Business/Accounting from Tuoro College and his law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the New Jersey Bar Association, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the Elder Law Section and Real Property, Probate and Trust Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association, and the Union County Bar Association. He can be reached at (908) 206-1000.

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For new U.S. citizen, independence meant SAGE advice

On March 25, at the age of 82, Constance McPherson fulfilled a longtime dream. It was on that day that she traveled to Newark to take her U.S. Citizenship exam, two-and-a-half years after she first applied.

"There was a long line, plenty of people ... maybe 400 to 500," McPherson said. She knew that she would be asked three questions out of the possible 100 she had studied. She answered her questions correctly: there are 13 stripes on the American flag and they stand for the 13 original colonies; Congress makes the laws; and there are 27 amendments to the Constitution.

McPherson became a citizen that day and she is very proud and happy. "There are plenty of privileges, plenty of opportunities. I'm proud to be a citizen. Very glad," she said. This year, McPherson will be voting for the first time. She can also get a pass-

port, and help from the government if she needs it.

After her mother, father, and mother's husband passed away, McPherson realized she was alone in Jamaica. In 1992, she obtained a visa and came to the United States to be with her sister and cousins. McPherson settled in Plainfield, and became active in the Plainfield Senior Citizen Services Program. When her sister moved to Florida for health reasons, McPherson remained in Plainfield, the town she loved and called home.

In May of 1999, McPherson was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with an intestinal obstruction and colon cancer. After immediate surgery, she spent seven months in a nursing home. She enjoyed the coloring activities, sketching, and games. She also made some good friends. Although she liked it there, she no longer required full-time nursing care; it was a time to move on.

"I wanted someone permanent," McPherson said. However, she was no longer able to live alone.

In January, the nursing home social worker found a home for McPherson in Springfield, under the New Jersey's Alternate Home Care Program. She now lives with a woman who opened her home to her. The woman, who is a nurse by profession, cooks and cares for McPherson and is responsible for her care plan. She suggested that McPherson, who was always very active, come to SAGE Spend-A-Day, an adult day health program in Berkeley Heights.

McPherson looks forward to coming to Spend-A-Day twice a week where she participates in full schedule of stimulating social activities, including quizzes, art, exercise, holiday parties, concerts, special entertainment, trips, and intergenerational programming. Van transportation to and from the program is included, as

well as morning snacks and hot lunch. There is also a nurse on site at all times, should McPherson require her care, and access to speech, physical, and occupational therapy. So far, her health is good and, other than having her vital signs monitored once a month, McPherson does not require additional nursing.

McPherson says that she enjoys the program very much. "I'm an active person when I come here," she said. McPherson's advice on living a happy

life? "The more friends you have, the easier it is to get by. Try to move with people, treat them with respect".

McPherson treasures the U.S. Citizenship card she received as well as the letter she received from the White House. "I am a blessed person, a lucky person," she said. SAGE Spend-A-Day is very proud of Constance McPherson and is happy to have her participate in the Spend-A-Day program. To learn more about Spend-A-Day, call (908) 464-8217.

Free booklet looks at health after 50

What you do can help keep you healthy. You've heard about eating right, staying active, quitting smoking. These and other steps can help prevent cancer, stroke and heart disease — problems that become more common as people age.

If you're older than 50, staying healthy may require more effort. This is a good time to take a look at your health risks with your doctor. It's also a good time to make sure you get the screening tests and exams you need.

A new booklet prepared by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, AARP and the federal Health Resources and Services Administration can help you do just that. "Staying Healthy at 50-Plus" offers tips and recommendations on health habits, screening tests and immunizations. It includes easy-to-use charts that can help you keep track of personal health information, suggests questions to ask health care providers and offers resources to contact for health information.

"Staying Healthy at 50-Plus" contains reliable health information because it comes from the evidence-based recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force," said AHRQ Director John M. Eisenberg M.D. "The AHRQ-supported Task Force evaluates and reports on the scientific evidence for the use of many preventive services."

An example of the information you'll find: "Staying Healthy at 50-Plus" recommends getting a fecal occult blood test each year because this test can detect colon cancer early, when it's easier to treat. Colon cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among older people. In addition, people age 50-plus should get a sigmoidoscopy — a test in which the doctor looks inside the rectum and colon using a small, lighted tube —

every five to 10 years.

Other topics in the booklet include osteoporosis, vision problems, hearing loss, menopause, pneumococcal and flu vaccines, blood pressure, diabetes, depression and tobacco use.

"People with good physical and mental health can enjoy their older years and continue to be productive, active members of their families and communities," said HRSA Administrator Claude Earl Fox M.D. "Staying Healthy at 50-Plus" gives people a guide to healthy living habits and a

schedule for screening tests and immunizations all in one easy place."

You can order a free copy of "Staying Healthy at 50-Plus" — AHRQ publication number AHRQ00-0002 — from the AHRQ Clearinghouse by calling (800) 368-9295 or writing: AHRQ Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 8547, Silver Spring, MD 20907. For Spanish language versions, ask for AHRQ publication number AHRQ00-0010. "Staying Healthy at 50-Plus" is also available on the web at www/ahrq.gov/ppj/ppjcover.htm.

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POOL SAFETY

Drowning is the second major cause of accidental deaths in children, the first being motor vehicle accidents. The incidence is highest in children younger than 5. For children younger than 1, drowning usually occur in bath tub. For children 1 to 4 years old, falling into the swimming pool is the commonest cause. Residential swimming pools should be enclosed by 4 sided fences with self-closing self-latching gates. Using the house as one side of the fence allows children direct access and may not be safe. Adults who live in a home with a pool should preferably be trained and certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) techniques. There should be a safety line to designate where pool water deepens. Small children and infants playing in "baby pools" must also be under adult supervision at all times. When children drown, they rarely fall around or make any noise.

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THE DOCTOR IS IN

Leisure
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The Historian's Corner

'Colorful' Crane-Phillips House earns national recognition

Cranford's Crane-Phillips House Museum is being featured in the August 2000 issue of Victorian Homes magazine.

The Cranford Historical Society's historic house was named a runner-up winner in the national magazine's second annual "Color Contest." Victorian Homes, a leading magazine in the area of "Victorian," sponsored its second annual contest judging the colors of Victorian era homes that have been restored.

"There are few topics dearer to a Victorian homeowner's heart than exterior paint schemes," writes Erika Kotite, the magazine's editor, in the August issue. "Victorian house colors are extremely important not only because they are a different and expensive part of the restoration chore, but because they highlight and identify the architectural details."

This is true with the Crane-Phillips House, a little cottage in the architectural style of Andrew Jackson Down-

'We knew as soon as we heard about the contest that the museum was perfect for it.'

— Pat Pavlak, president,
Cranford Historical Society

ing, widely considered America's first architect. Downing espoused the use of colors found in nature, colors that blend in with natural surroundings but at the same time stand out. The historic house, two-tone green with red trim and a peach front door, bears out Downing's theory well. "We knew as soon as we heard about the contest that the museum was perfect for it," said Pat Pavlak, presi-

dent of the Cranford Historical Society.

Entrants in the contest were required to send the magazine a 500-word essay explaining how they chose the colors, why they work best with the house and what research was done to ensure the color slides, paint brand, color names and number, and where each color appears on the house.

The overall winner was an 1874 Italianate style home located in Metuchen, and the second runner up is an 1888 Queen Anne located in Springfield, Mass.

The contest was judged by three color experts. Robert Schweitzer teaches historic preservation and architecture history at Eastern Michigan University. He also operates a nationwide business, Historic Exterior Color Service, and is co-author of "American's Favorite Homes."

Bob Buckter operates Bob Buckter Color Consultant in San Francisco. His work ranges from Victorian to art deco to contemporary modern. He

consults on about 400 projects annually, both residential and commercial. Many of his designs have received local and national awards.

James Martin is the owner of The Color People, a Denver-based architectural color consulting company. Martin teaches color seminars and has written articles for numerous magazines.

The Crane-Phillips House Living Museum is open Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., September through June. The Victoria Shop, the museum's gift shop, is open Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. The museum is located at 14 Union Ave. North in Cranford.

Tracing one's family roots can begin close to home

As citizens of the world's most ethnically diverse country, Americans are naturally curious about their past. Many are eager to discover their ancestors' countries of origin or to learn about their families' medical histories.

This desire to research family roots, also known as genealogy, has intensified as families have grown more mobile and drift further apart geographically. Ancestry.com, the most comprehensive online service for tracing family roots, has some tips for people who want to start researching their family roots:

- **Begin with the present.** The first step in family history research begins with stories and traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation — grandparents and great-grandparents — tales you can ask them to relate.
- **Prepare for the interview.** Before interviewing your relatives, give them a list of questions so they can prepare. If you tape-record the interview, practice using the recorder, and bring extra batteries and cassettes. Remember that it is a narrative — let the interviewee tell the story to ensure a clearer picture of the past.
- **Video tape your relatives.** Video cameras can move interviews from formal environments to more casual ones. For example, ask your grandmother to bake bread as she always has, without a cookbook. Also, use a video camera to record visits to old schools or the family's first home.
- **Look for home sources.** A home source can be a wedding band etched with a date of marriage, a quilt with the name of the quilter and the date of completion on it, or an old family letter documenting events.
- **Record your progress.** Begin by writing down what you remember and what you've learned. Maintaining a log of activities and citing all sources of information will enable you to use your research time more productively.
- **Go online.** After learning basic information, visit a family history website and type in names of your ancestors. Databases, such as the Social Security Death Index and obituaries, can help. Once you have some of the pieces, create your family tree online, so everyone can share the family history.

Book reveals Titanic's secrets

An exciting new book dispels some myths and reveals some surprising new truths about the extraordinary ship that seems to float forever in the imaginations of people everywhere.

In his new nonfiction book, "Ghosts of the Titanic," available from William Morrow for \$26, Charles Pellegrino brings startling new information to light about the shipwreck and the human dramas of survivors, reconstructed from letters, diaries and oral histories.

Pellegrino is an oceanographer who draws on his 1996 deep-sea expedition to the Titanic as well as other marine scientists' recent research to dispel some myths and reveal some surprising new truths.

Contrary to the popular notion that the ship succumbed to a gigantic gash after hitting an iceberg, he shows that the Titanic was felled by a series of ice stubs and bullet-hole-like punctures adding up to just 12 square feet of openings through which tons of water poured.

In addition, Pellegrino reveals:

- Who was looting cabins as the ship went down.
- The surprising fate of the Grand Stairway.
- Why the lookout never saw the iceberg before it was too late.

For more information on this book go to www.HarperCollinsPublisher.com.

Museum Guide

The Museum Guide is compiled by Worrall Community Newspapers. It is a list of museums and historic sites in Union County and the surrounding area. To add to the list, send the relevant information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill Van Sant at Worrall Community Newspapers, 1291 Sluyvestant Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

- **Liberty Hall Museum**, 1003 Morris Ave., Union. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday. Call (908) 527-0400.
- **Little-Lord Farmhouse, Museum and Farmstead**, 31 Horseshoe Road, Berkeley Heights. Open 2 to 4 p.m. the third Sunday of each month from April through December or by appointment. Call (908) 464-0961.
- **Dr. William Robinson Plantation Museum**, 593 Madison Hill Road, Clark. Open 1 to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of each month from April through December. Call (732) 381-3081.
- **Crane-Phillips House Museum**, 124 Union Ave. N., Cranford. Open 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays from September through June, or by appointment. Call (908) 276-0082.
- **Belcher-Ogden Mansion**, 1046 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. By appointment only. Call (908) 351-2500.
- **Boxwood Hall**, 1073 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (908) 648-4540.
- **Woodruff House/Eaton Store Museum**, 111 Conant St., Hillside. Open 2 to 4 p.m. the third Sunday of each month or by appointment. Call (908) 352-9270.
- **Deacon Andrew Hetfield House**, Constitution Plaza, 1385 Route 22, Mountaintop. By appointment only.
- **Trailside Nature and Science Center**, 452 New Providence Road, Mountaintop. Open 1 to 5 p.m. daily. Call (908) 789-3670.
- **The Saltbox Museum**, 1350 Springfield Ave., New Providence. Open 1 to 3 p.m. the first and third Sundays of the month, and 10 a.m. to noon on each Thursday of the month.
- **Drake House Museum**, 602 W. Front St., Plainfield. Closed for the summer. Open 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays September to June. Call (908) 755-5831.
- **Merchants and Drivers Tavern**, 1632 St. Georges Ave., Rahway. Currently under restoration. By appointment only. Call (732) 381-0441.
- **Abraham Clark House**, 101 West Ninth Ave. at Chestnut Street, Roselle. By appointment only. Call (908) 486-1783.
- **Roselle Park Museum**, 9 West Grant Ave. at Chestnut Street in Roselle Park. Is open Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (908) 245-1776.
- **Osborn Cannonball House**, 1840 Front St., Scotch Plains. Open 2 to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of the month. Call (908) 233-9165.

THE CALDWELL PARSONAGE, at 909 Caldwell Ave. in Union, is home to the Union Township Historical Society.

- **The Cannonball House**, 126 Morris Ave., Springfield. By appointment only. Call (973) 379-2634.
- **Donald B. Palmer Museum** of the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. Open 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday. Call (973) 376-4930.
- **Benjamin Carter House**, 90 Butler Parkway, Summit. Open 9:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays; 1:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, and 2 to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of the month or by appointment. Call (908) 277-1747.
- **Reeves-Reed Arboretum**, 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. Grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk; office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Call (908) 273-8787.
- **Caldwell Parsonage**, 909 Caldwell Ave., Union. Open 2 to 4 p.m. the third Sunday of the month or by appointment. Closed December and January. Call (908) 687-8129.
- **Miller-Cory House Museum**, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. Open 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays from September through June — closed during the summer — and 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays in January and February, or by appointment. Call (908) 232-1776.
- **Deserted Village of Felville-Glenside Park**. By appointment only during daylight hours. Call (908) 527-4911.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU

Professional Training for the Future Chef

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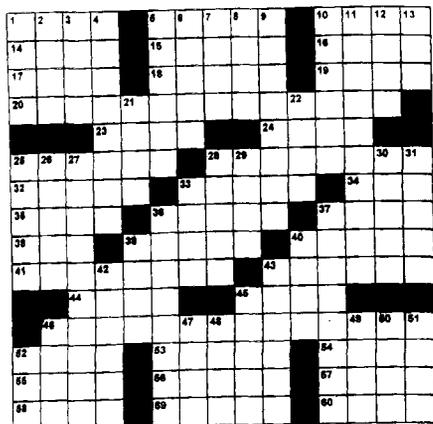
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- 3 Medicinal shrub
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- 15 Yoga posture
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- 17 Ale order
- 18 Loses steam
- 19 Look for
- 20 Car parts
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- 35 Got ripe
- 36 Guitari Eddy
- 37 Jakarta's island
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- 45 Maim's county
- 46 White Sox high fielder
- 52 Secular
- 53 Criminals slang
- 54 'OB VII' author
- 56 ABC's Aeriege
- 57 Festival
- 58 Pashas
- 59 Railroad car
- 60 Bedstead part

DOWN

- 1 Closes a jacket
- 2 Apartment
- 3 Zilch
- 4 Put in the ground
- 5 Luxurious fabrics
- 6 Operating
- 7 Actress Heigenberger
- 8 Once more
- 9 Sweater material
- 10 Make a claim
- 11 'Private Lives' playwright
- 12 Pedal appendages
- 13 Pan fluid
- 14 Wheel tracks
- 22 Corn servings
- 25 Philatelist's purchase
- 26 Viking of the comics
- 27 Flower with white petals
- 28 Black and fire
- 29 Family vehicles
- 30 Omphalos
- 31 Clean a blackboard
- 33 Clubs or diamonds
- 36 Where ships take shape
- 37 Large, brown beetles
- 39 Citizen of Helsinki
- 40 Final passage
- 42 -- With Wolves
- 43 More corpulent
- 45 Pitiless plane
- 46 Evans or Robertson
- 47 Picard subordinate
- 48 Dramatic conflict
- 49 River or mountains
- 50 Oscar-winner
- 51 Futare attorney's exult
- 52 Was ahead

Continued on page 12

See ANSWERS on Page B14

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY
August 6th, 2000
EVENT: GIANT FLEA MARKET
CRAFTS & COLLECTIBLES
OUTDOORS
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue (off Joralemon Street), Belleville, NJ
TIME: 9:00am-6:00pm
PRICE: Over 100 quality dealers selling a variety of unique merchandise! For information call 201-987-9638
ORGANIZATION: BMS CREW

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is prepared and costs just \$20.00 for 2 weeks for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both. Your notice must be in our Maplewood office (463 Valley Street) by 4:00 PM on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisements may also be placed at 170 Scotland Road, Orange, 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Ave. Union For more information call 763-9411

Brookside swim reunion planned

Remember where you were in the summers of 1955 and 1970? If you were like many of Central Jersey's Baby Boomers, you spent July and August at Brookside Swim Club in Union. Known for its large pool, grass, day camp, biddy field, Noah's-Teria, and Juice Box area, this swim club was a summer icon for 15 years.

Finally, through years of communications, contacts and planning, a committee -- Laurie Stein Kovacs, Felice Sacher Schneider, Jani Kovacs Jonas, Neal Berger, Leonia Levy Kessel, Gary Rosen, and Larry Chiger -- has planned a reunion to be held Sept. 10, at the YM-YWHA of Union County, 501 Green Lane, Union.

The party will be an informal gathering of "Brooksideers" and friends, who will be sharing photos, memorabilia, movies, and stories of summers past.

A disc jockey will play summer hits of 1955 to 1970, everyone will get a Brookside T-shirt, and a Memory Book will be put together. All Brooksideers, young and old, are encouraged to make contact, even if they cannot attend.

Contact Kowicz at (973) 467-2541, Schnetzler at (908) 522-0537, or Jonas at (973) 467-0548 or at the "Y's" at (908) 289-8112.

Alumni sought for directory

The Scotch Plains High School Alumni Directory is near completion -- but organizers are still waiting to hear from several alumni.

The new directory will be the most up-to-date and complete reference ever compiled on the Scotch Plains High School alumni and will feature detailed personal and professional information on graduates from all class years -- making it easier than ever to find old friends as well as to network professionally.

To ensure proper and accurate directory listing, contact the directory editor, Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, to provide details such as current name, address, phone number and professional information.

All Scotch Plains High School graduates are welcome to call in their information at (800) 654-4548. They may also fax information to (800) 860-9085 or send an e-mail to gcupdata@bcharrispub.com. For regular mail, forward information to the Scotch Plains High School Alumni Directory Project, c/o Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company Inc., Graduate Connection, 6300 Center Drive, Norfolk, VA 23502.

REUNIONS

- Summit High School Class of 1990 will conduct its 10th reunion Saturday. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1980 reunion is scheduled for Aug. 19. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Classes of 1950 to 1959 will conduct a '50s

- Reunion Picnic Aug. 26 at Memorial Park on South Wood Avenue, Linden, from 1 p.m. to dusk. For information, call Gail Blustak at (908) 862-4272.
- Roselle Park High School Class of 1940 reunion luncheon is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Westwood, Garwood. For reservations, call George or Doris Miller Phillips at (609) 294-2144 or e-mail JHMUNK@aol.com.

- Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, Class of 1948 will conduct its 52nd reunion Sept. 22 to 24. For information, call Mary Frances (Cline) Gavey at (908) 276-5727.
- Members of Alpha Phi Delta of Upsala College interested in an early October 2000 reunion luncheon are asked to contact Irene DiBiasi McHugh at (732) 892-3569 or Boss Meyer Terp at (609) 296-9335.
- Summit High School Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Oct. 7. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Cranford High School Class of 1975 will conduct its 25th reunion Oct. 7. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Class of 1950 will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 7 at the Pines. For information, contact Doris Mazur Cyran at (732) 381-6384 or Michael Pileggi at (908) 862-2497.
- Jefferson High School, Elizabeth, Class of 1945 will conduct its 55th reunion Oct. 13 at Galloping Hill Inn in Union. For information, call Frank Caputo at (908) 688-9394 or write to him at 1023 Lorraine Ave., Union, NJ 07083.
- Cranford High School Class of 1974 will conduct its 26th reunion Oct. 14. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1970 will conduct its 30th reunion Nov. 24. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Cranford High School Class of 1980 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 25. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

HOROSCOPE

For July 31 to Aug. 6

- ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Stay away from speculative ventures. Thoughts about a romantic entanglement have you feeling uneasy. Relax and go with the flow.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Emotions take on a special intensity. Find an effective outlet for expressing yourself without hurting loved ones or stepping on too many toes.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 21):** Intelligence is emphasized. You have what it takes to solve the most difficult and challenging problems. Get focused and deliver the goods.
- CANCER (June 22-July 22):** Your moneymaking instincts are very sharp. Follow up on what could be the next financial trend for making big bucks and cash in.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** When the planet Mars moves into your sign this week, you can look forward to an

- extra burst of energy. Plan ahead for the best success.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You can be more imaginative or creative than you ever dreamed possible at this time. Using meditation, yoga, tap in and make use of your talents.
- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Kindness and friendly cooperation are the keys to putting together a successful group endeavor. Let your motto be, "all for one and one for all."
- SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21):** A boss or superior lets you know how pleased he is with your job dedication and quality of work. Set your sights on a possible raise or promotion.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You owe it to your co-workers to be responsible and accountable. Avoid acting without first thinking about the consequences.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** This is no time to take chances with other people's money. If you must be in the

- game, seek out the most safe and secure investment possible.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** There will be moments of doubt connected to a close personal relationship. Do what must be done to establish trust and make you feel secure.
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Add a little flair to routine matters and break free of the rut you've been caught up in lately. Accept an invitation to dinner, a play or movie.
- If your birthday is this week, your outlook, confidence and thirst for success is above average during the coming year. Harness your personal power and use it to promote yourself and further your career goals, aspirations and dreams. You will also face new challenges on the domestic front, but it's nothing you can't handle. Clear the air with loved ones with an honest expression of your thoughts and feelings. Get a handle on impulsive spending and organize your financial affairs.
- Also born this week: Evonne Coo-lagang, Herman Melville, James Baldwin, Ernie Pyle, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Neil Armstrong, and Lucille Ball.

Bill Van Sant, Editor

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 Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, New Jersey, 07083.

Happy Birthday

If you would like everyone to join in the celebration of your child's birthday, just clip out the coupon below and send your child's photo along with the information requested and we will print it as near the big day as possible. Photos must be received two weeks prior to publication. Only children 12 and under are eligible.

Enclose a 2x3" or larger photo (black & white is best but we'll take color shots) with your child's name on the back. Relatives or their parents must put return address on the back of the picture. Fill out the following form. **Clip and Mail to:**

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 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, P.O. Box 3109
 Union, N.J. 07083

If you have any questions, please call 686-7700

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 (first and last names)
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 will celebrate his/her _____ birthday on _____
 (age)
 joining in the celebration are _____
 (sister/brothers)
 and _____ of _____
 (grandparents names)
 (city) and _____
 of _____

Be sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of your child's photo.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS: STATE OF NJ. JOSE CHAVEZ, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and their or any of their successors in right, title and interest.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon ZUCKER, GOLDBERG & ACKERMAN, ESQ'S, 3000 7th Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07102, a telephone number 973-233-8800, an Answer to the Complaint, Second Amendment to Complaint, and a copy of the Affidavit of Service, together with your check in the sum of \$108.00 representing the filing fee in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure. This action has been commenced for the purpose of (1) terminating a Mortgage debt in the name of Jose Chavez as mortgagor to National City Mortgage Co. (hereinafter "NCMC") and (2) to collect a debt. The Court will hold a hearing on August 19, 1998 in Book 0621 of Mortgages for Union County.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LAMAR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 GRIMAN'S COURT DIVISION
 IN RE: INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO D.R.,
 TO: HUDSON BROWN and LINDA REID, PARENTS OF D.R.
 NO. A3900-98

NOTICE OF HEARING

A Hearing will be held in Courtroom 301 on and to all rights you have to your child, D.R. The Court will take a hearing to consider ending your rights to your child. This hearing will be held in Courtroom 301 on the 1st Floor of the Lamar County Courthouse, 5th and Main Street, Lamont, Pennsylvania on August 19, 1998 at 9:30 A.M. You are warned that even if you fail to appear at the scheduled hearing, the hearing will go on without you and your child's name will be placed on the list of children without your being present. You have a right to be represented at the hearing by a lawyer. You should take this notice to your lawyer or, if you do not have a lawyer, you should go to the telephone office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

LAMAR COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
 LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION
 1114 WALNUT STREET
 ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18102
 TELEPHONE: (610) 452-7654

VALERIE S. CAMMARERE, ESQUIRE
 LEAH M. BERRY, OFFICE OF
 CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES
 17 S. BOWEN ST.
 ALLENTOWN, PA 18101-9600
 (610) 782-6644

U1126 WCN July 27, August 3, 2000

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Are You Having An Event? And Would Like To Let Every One Know.

Place Your Notice In What's Going On

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is PRE-PAID and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) in Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in one of our Offices by 4:30 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Offices are located at 463 Valley St., Maplewood, 170 Scotland Rd., Orange, 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union

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- Big Planet i Phone <http://www.bigplanet.com/vm/midatlery>
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- Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce <http://www.bloomfieldcham.com/bcc>
- Broad National Bank <http://www.broad-national-bank.com>
- Camp Horizons <http://www.camphorizons.com>
- Clinton Hill Baptist Church <http://www.chcusa.com/CIIBC>
- Essex County Clerk <http://www.essexclerk.com>
- Eye Care Center of NJ <http://www.eyecare.com>
- First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange <http://community.nj.com/firstnight-soma>
- Forest Hill Properties <http://www.foresthill.com/direct/foresthillproperties>
- Grand Sanitation <http://www.grandsanitation.com>
- Holy Cross Church <http://www.holycrossnj.com>
- Hospital Center at Orange <http://www.healthcarehealthcare.org>
- Jump America <http://www.jumpamerica.com>
- Mellinville Homes <http://www.mellinvillehomes.com>
- Mountsinaiide Hospital <http://www.atlantic-health.org>
- NJ Avenue <http://www.njavenue.com>
- Prudential White Realty Co. <http://www.whiteirealty.com>
- Rite Institute <http://www.rite-institute.com>
- South Mountain Yoga <http://www.yogagale.com/southmountain>
- Sovereign Bank <http://www.sovereignbank.com>
- Summit Area Jaycees <http://www.summitjaycees.com>
- Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad <http://www.summitvols.com>
- Synergy Federal Savings Bank <http://www.syneryfab.com>
- Township of Union <http://www.uniontownship.com>
- Turning Point <http://www.turningpointnj.org>
- Union Center National Bank <http://www.ucnb.com>
- United Charities of Essex County <http://www.unityessexnj.usa.org>
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UNION COUNTY

1291 Styvessant Ave., Union

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 Display Rates.....\$25.50 per column inch
 Contract Rates Available
 Blind Box Number.....\$12.00 per insertion



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 West Orange Chronicle • East Orange Record
 Orange Transcript • The Glen Ridge Paper
 Nuffley Journal • Belleville Post
 Irvington Herald • Valleyburg Leader
 The Independent Press of Bloomfield

DEADLINES

Business Directory 4 PM Thursday
 Display - Space reservation 5 PM Friday
 Ad Copy 12 noon Monday
 In-column 3 PM Tuesday

ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments: We make every effort to avoid mistakes in your classified advertisement. Please check your ad each time it appears, should an error occur please notify the classified department within seven days of publication. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. shall not be liable for errors or omissions in cost of actual space occupied by item in which error or omissions occurred. We can not be held liable for failure, for any cause, to insert an ad. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to reject, revise or reclassify any advertisement at any time.

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REAL ESTATE

RE/MAX boasts formation of new company

RE/MAX of New Jersey announced the formation of RE/MAX Commercial Real Estate. Industry veterans Richard Falkin, Ian M. Grud and Herbert Horn are the principals in the new company.

"RE/MAX of New Jersey is one of the state's largest organizations with 110 offices. This new commercial operation will have the full support of the entire RE/MAX system, which will offer the necessary resources and expertise to service our customers and clients throughout New Jersey," said Joseph Vonnestea, president of RE/MAX of New Jersey. "We are excited by the experience and track record of these proven producers and look forward to the networking opportunities with the other offices."

Combined, Falkin, Grud and Horn have represented numerous corporations in the acquisitions and disposition of more than 10 million square feet of commercial transactions.

The firm will be located in Cranford and will specialize in industrial, office and retail brokerage, as well as property management.

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AUTOMOTIVE

When it comes to cycles, there are Harleys and the others

By Jerry Garrett
Copley News Service

The more you know about motorcycle cycles, it has been said, the less likely you are to buy a cruiser.

Proficient riders, who want speed, aerodynamics and handling, choose sport bikes. Long-distance riders want a windshield, saddle-bags and other creature comforts, so they pick touring bikes. Cruiser owners want to make a fashion statement.

Cruisers have always been easy motorcycles to spot. They're the ones going places on trailers, because they're so uncomfortable to ride for long distances.

"The best-selling cruisers," notes one motorcycle rating service, "are the models that are the heaviest, slowest, poorest-handling and least technologically advanced."

Another reviewer asked, "How can flat, slow, heavy, ill-handling bikes sell so well?"

Cruise Main Street on Saturday night. Check out the beach's boardwalk. Idle around at 33 mph all evening, seeing and being seen. Some cruisers, it seems, never get out of first and second gear. Besides, without a windshield, why would you want to?

The average cruiser buyer, according to one demographic survey, is 45 to 55 years old, twice divorced, with two grown kids and a wad of disposable income. Owners typically ride fewer than 5,000 miles a year. That means these bulky, chrome-laden, flautant-sounding cruiser motorcycles are little more than a mid-life crisis fashion accessory.

Motorcycle manufacturers aren't offended. They just want to do whatever it takes, to supply the perceived needs of potential cruiser buyers. That's understandable, because cruisers are most major manufacturers' best-selling models.

While the cruiser segment is not exactly a "youth" market — will your bank loan "youths" \$20,000 for a chopper? It is a desirable one. That's because of its decided skew toward well-to-do professionals.

Several times a year, many of these lawyers, doctors, stockbrokers and accountants feel the need to put on a

leather vest, a bandana, leather chaps and chunky boots and start singing Steppenwolf tunes and ride off in search of lost youth, anti-establishment excitement and impressionable women.

For those sorts of folks, a Harley is a Harley. Everything else ... is ... NOT!

So, Harley-Davidson, the first, last and only major American motorcycle manufacturer, is the clear leader in this field.

The Milwaukee-based bike maker is cruising toward its 15th consecutive year of record-shattering sales. Harley's lead zeppelins will account for nearly 200,000 units sold in 2000. Harley has a whopping 54 percent of the over-750cc slice of the pie.

The last American motorcycle manufacturer to remain in continuous operation — since 1903 — can barely keep up with demand. Nor does it necessarily want to. "That which is in rare supply, is in great demand," said the great economist Keynes.

In imitation the sincerest form of flattery? Motorcycle makers seem to think so.

Here's a look at some of the cruiser offerings for the summer of 2000.

Harleys and the Non-Harleys

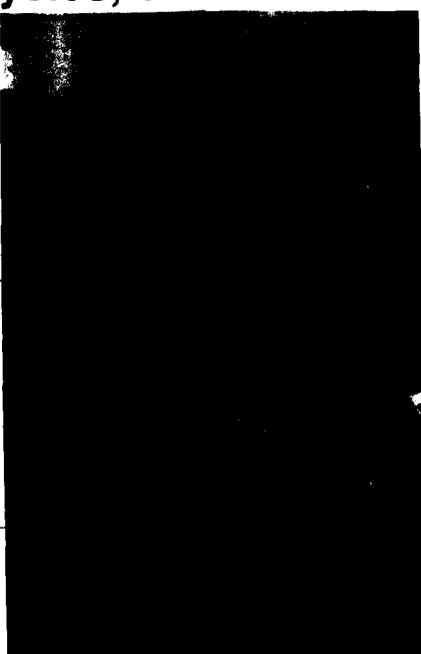
The keep-up-with-the-unrequited demand for Harleys, the market for Harley clones is proliferating faster than the Internet. It's about as easy to get into a starting your own web page — and a lot more profitable.

These days, almost anyone with a Snap-On rollaway and J.C. Whitney catalog can set up a company and start manufacturing imitations. The result can easily be comparable to, even better than, the originals.

All the parts and pieces are readily available: from S&S V-twin Harley clone engines, and Softail and Dyna Glide frame knock-offs, toissy bars and saddlebags.

Nobody's shy about it. Titan, a clone industry leader, proudly notes in its company prospectus it's the "non-Harley Harley."

Do you save money by buying a clone, instead of the real thing? Not necessarily. Titan is successfully charging \$10,000 more than Harley's



The Harley Big Twin Engine is a favorite with Harley fans, but it's got a lot of competition.

MSRP. Talk about sticker shock: Titan's Gecko lists at \$30,275.

Titan is even working with Carroll Shelby to produce a \$50,000 two-wheeled companion to his new sports car.

Titan, CMC, Big Dog, Confederate Boar, Ultra and many others sell all the clones they can make. Each clone factory has its own wrinkle; some are more subtle than others. Titan boasts that its executives each lovingly hand-

assembled by a single technician.

CMC specializes in celebrity editions, from Peter Fonda's "Easy Rider" to Evel Knievel's gold- and chrome-plated special. Big Dog's motto is, "A leg up on the competition."

It's an industry with attitude and with clone prices of \$15,000 to \$30,000, this is one industry that can afford attitude.

Part of the attitude is that technolo-

gy doesn't matter. "Retro" is the polite word for cruiser design specs. We're not talking about anything as primitive as suicide clutches, seat springs, sidewinder shifters or unprung suspensions, but the more retro the better.

For 2000, Harley redesigned its popular Heritage Softail Classic to look more like its 1941 "Knucklehead" model. The new Softail Springer now looks more like a 1948 "Panhead."

And Harley's Sportster remains, as always, little changed from the version that debuted four decades ago. A recent H-D print ad boasts its gas tank hasn't changed since 1936 "because truth never changes."

That's not necessarily true for everyone else, however.

Excelsior-Henderson, a great name from American motorcycling's past, was resurrected last year, to cash in on the cruiser craze. Revivalists proudly noted the calendar in their styling studio still read "1931" — the last year the original bike was made.

Unfortunately, the ill-mannered reincarnation of the old E-H Super X met with nearly total ennui; not the least of its problems was an \$18,000 price tag. The new Excelsior-Henderson has since gone bankrupt.

Indian

The Indian, another of the growing ranks of motorcycling's undead, is being revived with styling nearly identical to its 1948 Chieftain model.

A Canadian company paid \$17 million in 1998 for the right to the Indian name and then chose clone-mill CMC to manufacture its bike.

A fake Harley now masquerades as a fake Indian, loyalists groan; for them, apparently nothing less than the "original" will do.

Fifty thousand pre-1950 Indians are still registered for road use. Sales of the new \$24,000 Indian are building, but slowly.

Is there added cachet in naming your clone after one of motorcycling's many legends, but long-defunct marques? Maybe not, but those also trying to resuscitate Triumph, Norton and Royal Enfield are hoping so. No word yet on BSA, Velocitas or Flying Merkel.

Demand for porcine cruisers has been so great it seemed, until this year, that Harley-Davidson could afford not to address nagging quality issues.

"Harleys have traditionally leaked oil, shed parts as they went down the road, and shaken themselves to death," says motorcycle television analyst Dave Despain.

Last year, a national magazine tested "mega-cruisers" powered by 1300cc or larger V-twins — so named for their massive, simultaneously firing two cylinders. Just 200 miles into the ride, editors found Harley's Fat Boy engine was ready to fall out in the street, after its motor mount bolts shook out. Staffers duct-taped it back in.

That wasn't all. Later in that same test, a writer confided, "The turn signals fell off."

That's not the case for every owner, of course, but a cover story in a Harley owners magazine railed about reliability problems for the new, allegedly technologically advanced Twin Cam 88 1450cc engine. It became the subject of a major recall.

That was then, says Harley-Davidson. This is now. An improved 88B engine has debuted on all eight Softail cruiser models this year, outfitted with twin, vibration-killing counter-balancers. "The renowned Harley-Davidson sound is still there," notes a company press release, "but the feel is quite different."

Last year, when we tested the Fat Boy, America's best-selling bike, the engine coughed up oil. Engine heat burned our boots and scorched our pant legs. The chassis squeaked, flexed and nearly vibrated a passenger off the back seat.

With this year's model, we not only looked great riding it, we felt great, too. No shake. Less flex, thanks to a stiffer frame and a rigid-mount motor and easy-shifting tranny. The only vibes were good ones.

And the \$15,280 Fat Boy isn't even the star of H-D's cruiser line. That honor falls to the new \$15,995 Duesse, a customizer's dream with stretched fuel tank, stacked shotgun exhausts.

See HQ, Page B18

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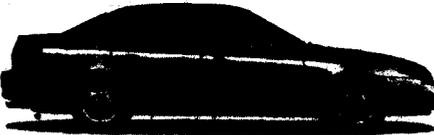


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No easy winner in cycle war

(Continued from Page B17)
chrome forks, special styling touches and exotic paint.
Harley makes 11 other Big Twin models, from tourers to sport bikes, still equipped with last year's "Evolution" 88 engine, all would be improved with the 88B.
Harley's stiffest competition, other than from its own models, comes from four Japanese bike makers, and one promising American start-up. The competition seems to be raising the bar for the entire cruiser class, in safety, fuel-efficiency, reliability, affordability and technological sophistication.

Yamaha Road Star
Yamaha's gorgeous Road Star is a perfect example. Powered by an industry-leading 1600cc V-twin — turned to 48 degrees, as opposed to H-D's 45 degrees — the Road Star is the ultimate armchair operator.

Like a '57 Chrysler, it's longer, lower and wider than most cruisers. Though it often wins buff book comparos, critics fault it as the "Miller Lite" of cruisers — not enough heavy metal thunder for some.

One editor noted the three-year-old styling now looks "dated." In this class, that's compliment. At \$10,499, it's five-grand — one third — less than any comparable Harley.

Kawasaki Vulcan 1500
Mr. Personality in this class is Kawasaki's attractive \$11,499 Vulcan 1500 Drifter. Its styling is so reminiscent of the classic Indian, Kawasaki Motors paid a \$75,000 fee to the Indian estate for trademark infringements.

Dubbed as a "ponderous slug" by one writer, but lauded by another for "snag" from its 1470cc, 48-horsepower twin, and for its "unafraid" handling on winding roads, be assured Kawasaki has no trouble selling all 2,000 it makes each year.

KMC also makes a more Harley-esque \$9,999 Vulcan Normad 1500, which has great road presence, and effortless ride and tone of accessory choices.

Suzuki Intruder 1500LC
Suzuki's \$9,499 Intruder 1500LC is the blue-light special in the cruiser class. Riders either love it or hate it. Tourers score it at the top or the bottom of ratings — never in between.

It's big, bony and bulky. Those are the negatives because you are wondering. To be fair, the 1462cc engine

pours out gobs of back-tire-burnin' torque and a Harley-style exhaust note.

The Intruder could get lost in this class, because cruiser buyers tend to the status, not cost, conscious.

Polaris Victory 92C
Polaris, the maker of snow-mobiles and personal watercraft, decided to take the cruiser market plunge in 1998 with its well-mannered Victory 92C, modestly priced at \$13,399.

Cycle World immediately named it 1998's Best Cruiser in its 10 Best Bikes contest, even before the Best Bike, Iowa-made bike actually hit dealer showrooms. The honor was repeated in 1999. "Best chassis in all cruiserdom," raved the editors, which may not have been saying much in this class.

And the 92C has been joined by a \$13,999 923C — for Sport Cruiser — this year. Victory is not the only manufacturer blurring the lines between tourers, cruisers and sport bikes for "touring cruisers," "sport cruisers," even cruiser-like sport-tourers" are now hitting showrooms.

BMW and Motor Guzzi
Myriad cruiser options exist in the 1400cc and 1100cc engine range. Two bikes worth noting are BMW's \$14,200 R1200C, a technological marvel with ABS and Moto Guzzi's blazingly fast V11, winner of a recent Cycle World 11-bike shootout.

Lovers of mega-cruisers, however, seem unimpressed with smaller, 1100cc V-twins like Honda's cool Shadow or Yamaha's speedy V-Star.

Honda Valkyrie
Is a big V-twin engine the answer in the cruiser class? Not if Honda's asking the question. Honda's Valkyrie is unique.

The all American-made Valkyrie is powered by a six-cylinder motor, which pushes the 100-horsepower envelope — almost twice what Big Twins usually produce. It commands respect even from Harley riders — never underestimate the snob appeal of six-chrome exhaust.

Jerry Garrett is a San Diego-based free-lance automotive and motorsports writer and contributing editor for Car and Driver magazine. He started riding motorcycles 35 years ago and has owned many bikes, cruisers and otherwise, until he recently sold his full-dress tourer.

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NEW 2000 MAZDA PROTEGE LX

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VIN #Y0241224, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/b, am/fm cass, MSRP: \$16,190.

\$15550

VIN #Y5182190, 4 cyl., 5 spd., a/c, p/s/b/winds/lks, MSRP: \$19,225.

0.9%
APR financing

NEW 2000 MAZDA MPV DX

NEW 2000 MAZDA MIATA

\$19246

VIN #Y0148374, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/lks, DX power pkg, MSRP: \$21,970.

\$19499

VIN #Y0148648, 4 cyl., 5 spd., a/c, p/s/b, am/fm cass, MSRP: \$21,740.

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Audi



NEW 2000 AUDI \$4

VIN #YA085541, 6 cyl., 5 spd., a/c, p/s/b/winds/lks/mirrors/seats, leather, cold weather pkg, convenience pkg, airlocks, alarm, Bi-Xenon quad opt., Navigation, MSRP: \$42,130. \$2095 down pymt + \$488.88 1st mo. pymt. + \$0 ref see dep. + \$499 bank fee + \$3974.88 due at inception + taxes, licensing & registration.

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