

School Miscellanea— Raccoon

Compiled from:
The Burgettstown Enterprise
& Local Donations

Fort Vance Historical Society

MUMPS INVADE JOFFRE SCHOOL. QUARANTINE FORTY-SIX CHILDREN

One-third of the pupils enrolled in the Joffre building of Smith township schools were under quarantine for mumps this week. Teachers sent 55 children home on Monday, said children having reported for school with suspicious looking and swollen cheeks.

Dr. Lee Martin and Miss Anna Swanik, school health officials made an investigation on Tuesday and out of the 55 children dismissed, 46 were placed under quarantine for Mumps. The school's total enrollment is 170 pupils, and teachers are expecting further dismissals as expected cases develop in the future. Active quarantine for Mumps is 21 days, and since the disease develops from 15 to 20 days after exposure to contagion, and many of the children enrolled come in family groups of 3 and 4 it is feared that more cases will develop.

W. R. Proudfit, principal of the school, believed the outbreak of Mumps was due to exposure of the children to an indigent family that appeared in the neighborhood recently as children in this family appeared to be ill of the disease.

School officials are watching for similar cases at Bulger schools, but to date none have been reported. Mr. Nethercoat, principal at Cherry Valley reported four students from his school quarantined for mumps. They are Eunice McClements, Albert Costa, John Nizik and Hugh Tustin.

Pupils of Joffre school who are reported under quarantine are: Paul Wolfe, Bertha Chappell, Irene Kovak, Lillian Shiels, Mary Kraeer, Steve Zibritosky, Eddie Joseph, Bobby Lander, Bobby Maltoney, Jimmy Robinson, Dan Shiels, John Wolfe, Bill Kovak, George Chappel, Mitchel Joseph, Geraldine Joseph, Irene Kovach, Mickey Shiel, Joseph Kovak, Rhoda Lander, Betty Jane Venner, Edward Chappell, Ruth Wolfe, William Shiel, Margery Kraeer, Dale Joseph Louisa Kraeer, Elmer Chappell, Ruth Venner, Joan Maltony, Helen Zibtrasky, Pearle Wolfe, Marlene De Valkeneer, Mary Lou Kovack, Ralph Chappell, Agatha Joseph, Raymond Wolfe, Edward Shiel, Lawrence Lander.

**Mumps Invade Joffre School-Quarantine 46 Children
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 30, 1941 Edition**

Turkey Dinner Features Christmas Program At Smith Township Schools



UHM BOY THAT LOOKS GOOD—appears to be the thoughts running through the heads of these Raccoon Grade School Children as they line up in the cafeteria for the Christmas dinner served by the school on Thursday.

"BUT MY DEARS—you must simply try these nut rolls." These little ladies at Raccoon school pause for a minute in front of the desert for the Christmas dinner served at the cafeteria.

Smith Township schools led-off the Christmas season for students last week with plays, parties and a sumptuous turkey dinner served in the cafeterias of Raccoon and Atlasburg schools.

At Raccoon School on Thursday, December 20 Christmas pageants and music program were presented. A special orchestra under the direction of Union high school's bandmaster, Joseph Snyder was featured in the Yuletide program.

Miss Shirley Robb, Smith Township dietician, supervised the preparation of a delicious turkey dinner in the school cafeteria. Included were: of course the turkey, potatoes, string beans, cranberry sauce, stuffing, milk, bread and butter, nut rolls and fruit cocktail for dessert.

Atlasburg school held their Christmas dinner and school program on Tuesday. Cooks at Atlasburg, who served 175 dinners included Mrs. V. Sweder and Mrs. D. Przenkop. An extra cook who helped-out was Mrs. A. Stankovich.

The culinary department of Raccoon school were Mrs. Marie Turkily and Mrs. E. Ruskowski. They were assisted by Mrs. Sophie McFarland.



CHRISTMAS IS FOR CHILDREN is the expression and these first graders at Raccoon Elementary school aptly illustrate the phrase. Dennis Daley, Susan Pirih, William DiNinio, Marylin Kerekes, Teresa Rupani and Dean Roach admire the Christmas tree in the front hall of Raccoon School. The decorations on the tree were made by students.

Raccoon Elementary School-Turkey Dinner
Burgettstown Enterprise-December 27, 1956 Edition



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Raccoon Elementary School
Burgettstown Enterprise-December 27, 1956 Edition

New Smith Township School to be Dedicated

Dedication services for the beautiful \$350,000 Smith township school, located at Raccoon on the Cherry Valley Road, will take place in the auditorium of the new building Wednesday evening, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend.

The following program will be presented with Supervising Principal, William P. Miller as Master of Ceremonies:

Opening exercises; introduction of faculty; music by school chorus composed of children from the new school under the direction of Miss Ione Rodkey; introduction of the school board of directors; greetings by Alban Dalverny, president of the board, introduction of platform guests; music by the school chorus.

Greetings from William H. Donaldson, county superintendent of schools; dedication address, "Schools, Present and Future", by Dr. Harry N. Gasser, chief of elementary study, department of public instruction, Harrisburg; music by the school chorus.

Following the dedication, the building will be open for public inspection.

Raccoon Grade School to be Dedicated
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 16, 1954 Edition



**Raccoon Grade School-Grade 2
1961-1962**

Front Row, L-R: Johanna Scopel, Donna Malone, Eugene Tabone, Renee Prado, Tracy Lilly, and Lois Cassidy. Second Row, L-R: Marion Stanish, James Diley, Robert Crow, James McGaughey, Mickey Allison, Ed Moss, and Charles Bubenhiem. Third Row, L-R: Miss Ralston, Peggy Landers, Jean Ann Elias, Barbara Ginosky, Susan Davis, Debbie Sella, and Helen Karas.

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

New Teacher For Raccoon Sixth Grade



William D. Price (above) has signed a contract with the Burgettstown Area School District and will teach the sixth grade at Raccoon school. Mr. Price, whose home is at Van Voohris, graduated from Charleroi high school in 1955 and from California State Teachers' college in 1959. He was a history and geography major. He has had teaching experience in Charleroi Junior high school and the Fallowfield Junior high school.

**William D. Price-New Teacher for Raccoon Sixth Grade
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 3, 1959 Edition**

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



**Raccoon Grade School-Grade 4
1964-1965**

First Row, L-R: Lois Cassidy, Donna Malone, Susan Davis, Marilyn Moss, Debbie Sella, Renee Prado, Tracy Lilly, and Jean Ann Elias.

Second Row, L-R: Debbie Moore, Helen Karas, Janet Scurry, Marion Stanish, and Barbara Ginosky.

Third Row, L-R: Mrs. Shirley Woodling, Eugene Tabone, William Donaldson, David Sterkle, James McGaughey, Ed Moss, and Jim Nogier.



**Raccoon Grade School-Grade 5
1965-1966**

First Row, L-R: Johanna Scopel, Karen Redman, Michele Yanek, Robbi Gilbert, Debbie Porter, Peggy Landers, Cheryl Donaldson, Judy Bokulich, and Jackie Roach. **Second Row, L-R:** Laurie Farner, Michael Allison, Danny Leman, Tony Bell, Bill Kerekes, John Bartoletti, Dave Fender, Bob Jancart, Mark Vranjes, Janet Scurry, and Greg Martin, Janet Thomas, Debbie Lukcansik, Nicki Burnette, **Third Row, L-R:** Frank Wozinak, Dennis Zalaznik, Eric Schotenhimer, Bob Crow, Chuck Bubenhiem, Larry Scariot, Larry Benish, and Bill Ackley.

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



Way back when

This is a 1936 photo of Raccoon School Grade 3. The picture was submitted by Gin Scopel for Dolly Janeshek (Mildred Fabian). From left, first row, Irene Orgovan, Netta Gobleck, Ann Zibritosky; second row, Lloyd DeBrackleer, Joe Kandray, Ida DeCook, Adeline Krovak, Bob Gilbert, Ray DePaul; third row, Virginia Campbell, Ann Pendracky, Mildred Fabian, Michael Morris, Louise Kraeer, Mary Alouise, Lib Binnack; fourth row, Tom Kata, Mickey Shields, Bill Kovach, Jeppy Moore.

Way Back When...1936 Raccoon Grade School-Grade 3
The Enterprise-July 7, 1993 Edition



NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SMITH TWP. SCHOOL DISTRICT
BEING CONSTRUCTED BY
STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL BLDG. AUTHORITY
PROJECT NO. 206-244

ARTHUR E. TENNYSON	ARCHITECT
H-M CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	GENERAL CONTRACTOR
MICARLS PLUMBING AND HEATING CO.	HEATING CONTRACTOR
EDWARD R. KOCH	PLUMBING CONTRACTOR
JOHN DOBECK	ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
ELECTRIC KITCHENS	EQUIPMENT CONTRACTOR

← DELIVERY OF MATERIAL

**Ground Breaking
for
Raccoon Grade School**

RACCOON KINDERGARTEN



Tiny tots from Raccoon who are the special proteges of Miss Marion Line, directress of Raccoon Mission, and who attend her Kindergarten are: top row, left to right, Gloria Mike, Donna Kristoff, Edward Maltony, Joseph Kovach, Frances Gratchen, Rosella Checposky and Howard Bruce.

Lower row: left to right, Agatha Joseph, Katherine Smydo, Leona June Deliere, Charles Zillich and Alda Cole.

Raccoon Kindergarten
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 7, 1938 Edition

Miss Marion Louise Line, who began her work as head of the Raccoon Mission last September received her official appointment from the Presbytery of Pittsburgh on April 1. She succeeds Miss Louella Sawhill who conducted the Mission for several years but was forced to retire because of ill health. Miss Sawhill is now a patient in the Washington hospital, where she is convalescing after suffering a stroke.

The new director of the Mission



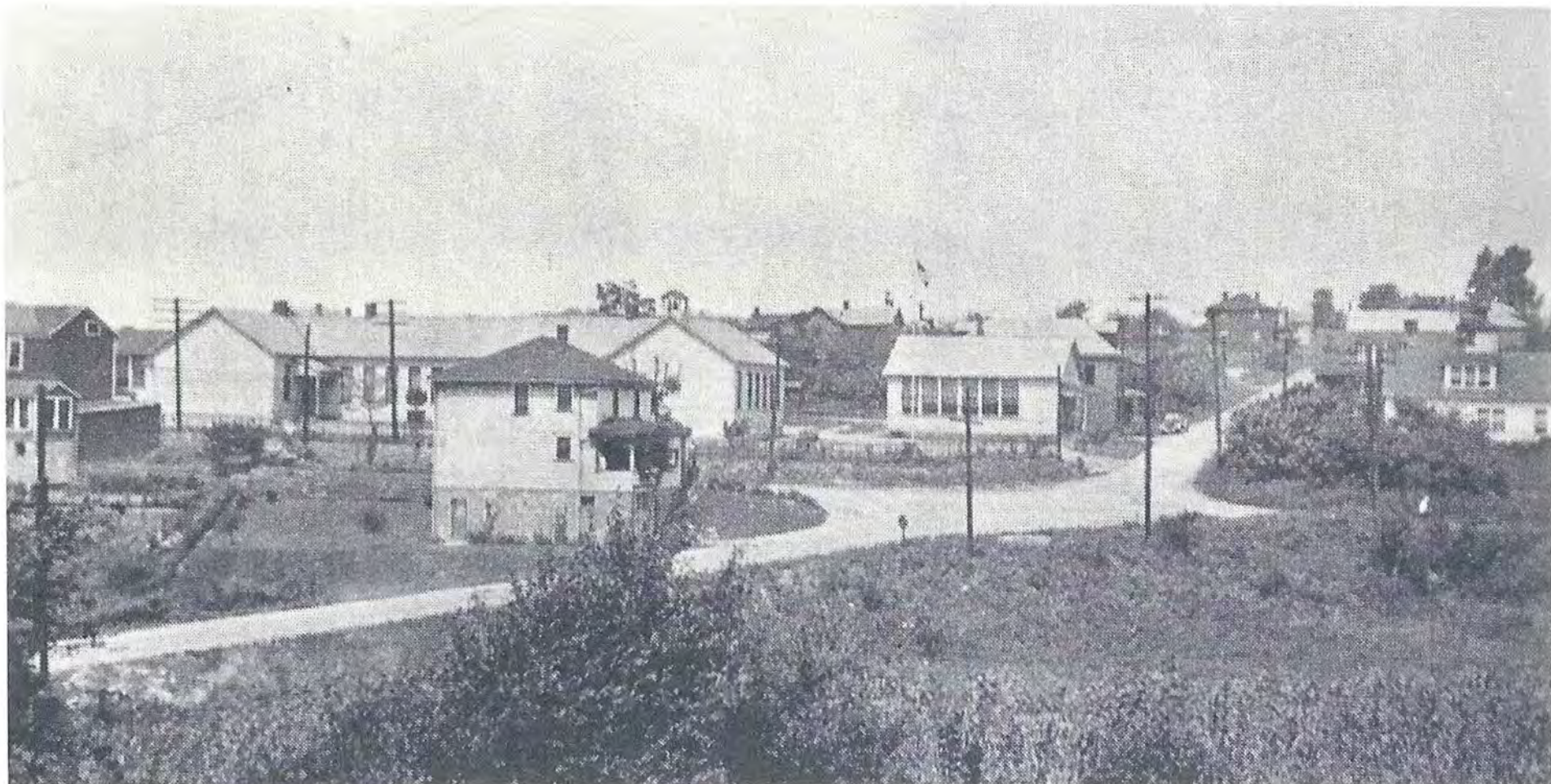
MARION LINE

comes to Raccoon community well recommended and prepared for her labors. Her home is in Ocean Grove, N. J. She is graduate of the four year course in Bible study and evangelism of the Philadelphia School of Bible. Following her graduation from school she was chosen as a member of a Gospel team to represent the school in a tour of seven New England states.

Miss Line has already inaugurated ~~an entire program of mission~~ where she reaches 57 families of all nationalities, through clubs and boys and girls groups. Her regular weekly routine includes the following: calling day, Tuesday; kindergarten for pre-school age tots, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings from 9 to 11:20. During the rest period each morning, the children are taught table grace and served crackers. They learn Bible songs and stories, and play games; girls club, 9 to 14 years of age, Saturday afternoon; Friday night, Chri-Se-Lo club for girls from 14 to 22 years of age; Saturday evening, boys' club, ages 11 to 20; Wednesday evening, prayer meeting; Sunday evening, Christian Endeavor for boys and girls, 15 and over.

At the present time, Miss Line is deep in plans for the daily vacation Bible School, which begins soon after the close of public school term and continues with daily morning periods for three weeks. She has issued a call for volunteer teachers to assist with this school and will be happy to receive aid from Burgeteer church workers who are interested in the work. At the completion of the Bible school course, certificates of graduation are awarded the attendants.

**Marion Louise Line, Head of Raccoon Mission
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 7, 1938 Edition**



Joffre (Raccoon)
Large buildings on the upper right are school buildings.

Smith Directors Agree On Raccoon Cafeteria

Directors of Smith township school district met Wednesday evening, Oct. 6, in the new Raccoon school, with principal John Harris, Mrs. Ethel Scopel clerk, and the cafeteria employees to review the cafeteria's status.

In the financial report it was learned that a \$59.45 loss was incurred for the first month's operation. The loss was attributed to surplus foods which had not been received in September. An average of 233 persons were served daily at lunchtime at 25c for pupils and 35c for teachers.

At a later meeting held Monday evening, Oct. 11, in Union high school, four directors in attendance passed the following motion to clarify management of the cafeteria:

Motion by Ermil Caleffie, seconded by Joseph Bertovich, that this board give W. P. Miller and John Harris a vote of confidence on operation of the cafeteria and that we continue to authorize them to operate it in the most efficient manner so that the children will be given the full benefit of the cafeteria. This motion is made with the thought of cost and quality of meals to the student body. Approving the motion was Alban Dalverny and Geno Bianchi.

A second motion was passed, stated by Caleffie and seconded by Bianchi, to ask the Raccoon Parent Teachers Association to offer a rotating advisory committee of three members to work with Mr. Harris in the cafeteria's management.

John W. Bierlein, commercial customer representative of West Penn Power Company, was present to discuss advantages of electrical cooking.

Dewey Travis of the Permutit Water Softener Company appeared before the board to discuss the water hardness at Raccoon and Langeloth schools and he presented an analysis together with a recommendation to use a softener. The board agreed to advertise for quotations on water softener.

Joseph Abate, tax collector, was appointed as delinquent collector effective Oct. 6, which is expiration date of the former delinquent collector John Darras.

It was agreed that cooks in the Raccoon cafeteria be granted sick leave, the same as full time employees.

Smith Directors Agree on Raccoon Cafeteria
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 21, 1954 Edition

1st Row left to right
 - 6 Tom Sawyer
 9 Mike "Shute"
 12 Mike Andrus
 13 Frank Christy
 14 John Padgug
 Second Row

1 Bill Argenta
 3 Mike Angus
 4 Ray Phillip

3rd Row

2 Mitchell Peterson
 5 Sebastian De Cook
 6 Mary Keleus

Last Row

7 Elizabeth Weaver
 3 Judy Peterson

Last Row

4 Marie Cenis
 5 Laura Argenta
 7 Stella Keleus

Miss J. St. Shultz - owner

1914-1915

Rosemary
 1 + 2nd

Mary Fretter Bros. Famous Post Cards
 Made at Bridgeport, O.

POST
 OFFICE

POST OFFICE

1914-1915
 Rosemary
 1 + 2nd



Wagon 1914-1915

Township Board Buys Oil & Gas Rights To Raccoon Property

At a brief meeting of the Smith township school directors, Wednesday evening, October 15, board members voted to purchase oil and gas rights for 4.949 acres upon which the new Raccoon school will be constructed. The purchase was made from C. C. Warton for \$200.

Bills totaling \$27,929.15 were approved for payment and the board agreed to borrow necessary money to meet the payroll.

W. P. Miller, supervising principal, was authorized to direct the building of several bus shelters in the district.

Announcement was made that classes for studying model airplanes were underway at the Slovan school house in the evening.

The board adjourned shortly after nine o'clock.

**Township Board Buys Oil & Gas Rights to Raccoon Property
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 23, 1952 Edition**



1931

Raccoon School- Room 8

First Row-Frank Evans, George Kovach, Frank Dellaria, Leon De Brackeleer, Stan Ptak, John Koleno

Second Row- Ann Sherockman, Ruth Loraski, Minnie Trenary, Mary Veledan, Josephine Gobleck, Arvella Durain, Mary Turak

Third Row-Betty Phillips, Leah Argenta, Harry Spence, John Sovyak, Joe Balogh, John Casteline, Charles Mc Farland

Bottom Row- Helen Spahar and Mary Dominski

Missing- Betty Kophazi and Daisy Robertson

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Smith Directors Agree on Raccoon Cafeteria
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 21, 1954 Edition

Raccoon School Bldg. Problems Discussed

Problems related to the construction of the new school building at Raccoon occupied the attention of the Smith Township school directors at a regular meeting of the board Wednesday evening, August 12. Supervising Principal W. P. Miller outlined the various projects for the board's consideration, and approval was given to three of six different items. It was decided that lights should be installed outdoors, particularly at the rear of the building, and Mr. Miller was advised to secure a bid on the job, since the regular contractor's bid exceeded the limit of \$300 set by the school law. At least two bids must be received. Approval was given for wiring to be done in one of the basement rooms. It was thought advisable to send a letter to the state school authorities asking for re-imbursment for making a change in the heating system. It was discovered during the installation that a mistake in engineering had been made and approved by the authorities which will necessitate the expenditure of more than one hundred, possibly two hundred dollars. Minor problems related to sewage, the installation of a railing or pickets for safety along an outside excavation, and differences in the color of asphalt tiles to be used in flooring were tabled until a later date.

The Slovan school will be closed this term, and children who formerly attended will be transported to Atlasburg and Raccoon. Francis Mine children in second and third grades will go to Atlasburg. Other Francis Mine children will go to Langeloth. Pupils near the Raccoon area will attend school at Raccoon; those along the valley toward Atlasburg will go to Atlasburg school.

Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Ryan, former Slovan teachers, will be at Atlasburg school. Miss Luella Felch will teach at Raccoon.

Two full time drivers for buses will be hired before the school term opens owing to the recent resignations of Plato Anestis and Roy Struwing from the high school teaching staff. The board voted not only to hire two new bus drivers but to arrange the other drivers to fit the bus schedule, any eliminations to be made according to seniority. It is the desire of the board in time to replace all teachers who are driving buses with full time regular drivers.

Collision, fire and comprehensive insurance on school buses was renewed with Langhart, Daelhousen and May; Victor Lescovitz being the insurance agent.

It was decided to sell three lots in the township; one to Ted Nick-sick; No. 134 of the Dunbar Plan; and two near Cherry Valley to John Hamilton.

Bills totaling \$12,621.21 were approved for payment and the board voted to advertise for coal bids for the ensuing year. Money will be borrowed to meet the next month's payroll. The board adjourned about 9:30 p.m.

Classroom At Raccoon School To Close

One elementary classroom will not open in the Burgettstown Area School District due to declining enrollment.

Directors at Monday's school board meeting voted 6-1, with Edward DiNino opposed, to close the sixth grade at Raccoon Elementary School for the 1990-91 year.

There are just 12 students projected to attend sixth grade at Raccoon. According to Superintendent Eugene Sangiuliano, plans are to move 11 students to Hanover School and one to Atlasburg.

Another elementary student transfer may be in the future after DiNino inquired about the number of projected fourth graders. Elementary Supervisor Robert Peach said he will investigate the possibility of moving some of the 34 students at Atlasburg to Raccoon, which has just 18.

The Burgettstown Area School District was the recipient of two commendations at Monday's meeting. It was awarded a certificate for compliance with the vocational education regulations and standards established by the state Board of Education. A letter of commendation was also received from Auditor General

Donald M. Carroll after audits for fiscal years ending June 30, 1987 and 1988 were approved with no findings of errors or omissions. This marks six consecutive years district audits have been found error-free.

The board voted to participate in a regional sewage strategy report to be prepared by engineers Metcalf and Eddy, as a member of the Airport-West Council of Governments. The motion passed by a 5-2 vote, with DiNino and Floyd Thomas opposed.

In other business, the board:

- Approved \$1,800 salary increases for administrators Dr. Marjorie DePaul, William Price, Dr. Constance Gottardi and Robert Peach.

- Granted 6 percent pay increases for non-professional staff members Donna Gavatorta, Jean Pasquale, Ramona Cunningham and Irene Cox.

- Accepted the following as members of the district Educational Advisory Council: Frani Strobe, Joyce Lemley, Diane Nadik, Nikki Cooke, Michael Krynak, Carol Yamber, Gary Stevenson, Sandra Faulk and Arletta

Zelenko from the community, and Regina O'Hern and Phillip Esno from the professional staff.

- Accepted interest earned from the coal removal project in the amount of \$37.81, raising the total in the bank to \$10,187.67.