

BRIDGETON WOMAN STARTS ROW OVER SCHOOL PROJECT

Mrs. Elizabeth Perrine Has Members of Council "Groggy at Bell," but \$200,000 Appropriation for Building Overrides Her Protests

"I'll give 'em —!" said Mrs. Perrine, and she did.

The Town Council of Bridgeton, N. J., last night held an open meeting to consider a \$200,000 appropriation for a new high school.

The public was invited to express its views, and Mrs. Elizabeth Perrine, of 301 Broad street, took advantage of that invitation in a manner which had the town fathers hanging on the ropes in the first round.

Bridgeton is a South Jersey town of some 20,000 inhabitants. Its evolution has progressed beyond that stage at which every one goes down to the depot to see the 3:22 come in, but the drug stores still cut patent medicine displays in their windows.

Although Mrs. Perrine is sixty-eight years old, she is and always has been active in municipal affairs. Her keen black eyes have been trained through long experience to discern the Ethiopian in the political woodpile, and she has never been lacking in courage to reveal his presence in no uncertain terms.

At 8 o'clock she wrapped her cashmere shawl about her and proceeded to the City Hall, where the meeting was to take place.

Battle Clouds Gather

The nine Councilmen were seated around a table in a room named at one end of the room. The rest of the chamber was filled with the interested populace. Mrs. Perrine took a seat as near as possible to the members of Council and regarded them fixedly. They in turn registered elaborate precautions.

John S. Hahn, president of Council, called the meeting to order and a half hour was consumed in the disposal of preliminary business. Then the matter of the high school appropriation was brought up and laid for discussion.

Mrs. Perrine was on her feet in an instant.

"You all know me," she said, in clear, deliberate tones, "and I know all of you. You know that I will say anything to your face that I would say to your back."

Bell Clangs for Round One

"Now I am going to tell you a few things, and I don't give a ——— thing I say."

"In the first place, look at our school finances. Last year teachers' salaries total of \$125,112 and current expenses were \$24,399.21. There was a deficit over and above the appropriation of \$33,377.29. And now you want to add to that."

"In that connection Mr. Hahn there reported that the total for teachers' salaries was only \$105,000. I pointed out to him that he had left a good many

out, and he said, 'I know it.' I asked him whether he thought that was square and he said, 'Well—hardly.' And he said that he reported what they wanted him to report."

At this point Mr. Hahn rose from his place at the table and entered a passionate denial. The charge was repeated, and both parties referred disparagingly to the other's veracity. Mrs. Perrine continued to repeat her statement until her adversary was silenced, and resumed the thread of her discourse.

"Why is it claimed that we need a new high school? Because of over-crowding. And why are we over-crowded? Because County Superintendent Unger keeps sending children here that might easily be educated somewhere else."

"And why does he send them here? Because he wants to make us build a new high school. And why does he want that? There's a reason. And our own superintendent, Dorsey, is just his tool. I can't for the resignation."

Mr. Hahn rapped loudly with his gavel.

"That is a matter for the Board of Education," he said with dignity. "I must ask you to keep to the subject of this appropriation, or——"

Hahn "Out" Standing Up

Designation of Unger, and Porter, and for——"

"Unger," exclaimed Mr. Hahn, "I please you keep to the subject of——"

"I am prepared to give proof of everything I say."

"Sit down, Mrs. Perrine, before it is necessary to——"

"—say," continued the latter with unabated vigor. "Our tax rate here is \$2.8225, and this new outlay would mean that it would go even higher."

"I want to treat you like a lady, Mrs. Perrine, and I should like to have you treat me like a gentleman."

"Gentlemen! Ha! You invite the public here to say what they think, and then you insult them. A friend of mine——"

Here Councilman Holmes had an inspiration. He moved that Council take a recess, and the motion was carried, to the accompaniment of Mrs. Perrine's perspiration.

"In the building business says that a year from now the construction can be done for \$125,000 less. Forty thousand won't equip it. \$80,000 won't run it for a year. There is no excuse for adding this burden now. The taxpayers are down-trodden by the authorities here, and it is about time there was a revolution."

"Times! I'm through. That's what I say, and I repeat—I don't give a ——— who knows it."

After which they passed the appropriation.

JAIL FOR BOARD JUMPER

Philadelphia Will Live Free in Bucks County for Six Months

Skipping his board bill of \$10 in Morrisville proved disastrous to Harry Sperling, of this city, when he faced Judge William C. Ryan at Doylestown yesterday at a session of miscellaneous court, where he had pleaded guilty.

"I am going to send you to another lodging place where you will not have to pay board and to a lodging place where experience will show you that you cannot abscond."

And then Sperling was sentenced to six months in the Bucks County Prison.

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PAVLOVA SCORES TRIUMPH IN NEW BALLET PROGRAM

Danceuse Returns to Academy With Attractive Program

Academy of Music—Philadelphia welcomed Anna Pavlova back again last night and testified to its approval loud and often as the danceuse demonstrated the many angles of her versatility.

In the first place, Miss Pavlova has brought with her this time a symphony orchestra much larger than usual, which, under the leadership of Theodore Stier, did its share of the evening's work wonderfully well.

The two ballets presented last night were "Anna Blav" and "The Polish Wedding," both in one act. The first had all the state's dignity and poetic beauty of a day at Versailles in the reign of Louis Seize, with a dash of wild abandon supplied by the band of gypsies. This ballet gave Pavlova her best opportunity of showing and all disclosed the financial ability of Laurent Novikoff, one of the leading dancers of the company. The music of Glazounoff and Brige ranged in movement with the action of the story and brought the best out of the company.

The other ballet, "The Polish Wedding," probably the more popular of the two, was noted for remarkably fine chorus work and a spirit of vitality that carried all before it. Seldom has Pavlova had a feature that was so plainly and unmistakably loved by us.

The diversions, including two in which the star appeared, had variety and charm.

MATINEE MUSICAL

Rich-Kindler-Hammann Trio Furnishes Attractive Program

The Rich-Kindler-Hammann Trio furnished the principal numbers of the program at yesterday afternoon's concert of the Matinee Musical at the Bellevue-Stratford before a very large and appreciative audience.

The organization, which has rarely appeared to better advantage in its unity of performance and beauty of tone, gave the first Beethoven trio in E flat, the first Schubert and the scherzo of the Mendelssohn trio in D minor, and the Mendelssohn trio in the same key, playing all four movements, of which the third movement, the Kluge, composed in memory of the great Russian cellist, Davidoff was, as it always is, the most effective.

The trio was assisted by Mary Merkle, soprano, who sang Hindog's "Carni Salve" and Bishop's "Lo, the Goodly Lark," and by Ruth Lloyd Kinney, contralto, who sang "Al, Mon Elie" from "The Prophet" and "Ireland's Lullaby" from "The Steppenwolf." Both were in excellent voice and were well received.

Fire Company Elects

The Hillis Park Fire Company has nominated the following officers, who will be installed at the annual banquet this month: President, W. O. W. Smith; vice president, Charles A. Carl; treasurer, L. D. Paine; secretary, Earl J. Jardine; chief engineer, M. E. Freeman, and assistants, A. E. Congdon, Jr., and R. J. Rogers.

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