

The Rye



Chronicle

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DO IT YOURSELF VERSUS URBAN RENEWAL—Volunteers engage in demolishing seven cottages in Beck-Wainwright area in step toward improving blighted condition as opposed to urban renewal plan. Councilman Don Fendler at far right supervised the work. (Al Porto Photo)

Wounded Rye Man Talks To Parents From Viet Nam

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Balls of 33 Horton Street received a phone call at 2 a.m. Wednesday from their son, Edward H. Balls, who is in a hospital in Viet Nam as a result of wounds on June 29, in an operation against enemy forces just south east of Saigon.

He was a former member of the famed green Beret, but transferred to the 173rd Airborne unit when they requested volunteers for immediate combat. P.F.C. Balls was previously wounded in May, but was not hospitalized at that time.

He stated he was recovering nicely and was due to be released in about two weeks. He was in high spirits and is counting the days when he will return to the United States sometime in September.

The phone call was made possible by the U. S. Allies Program "MAHS" which contact soldiers family made possible by special radio set up from Viet Nam. Lieut. Balls said they talked to their son for about ten minutes and it was the last phone call he ever received.

P. C. Balls completed two years of his four year tour of duty in June.

DO-IT-YOURSELF ACTION PUT INTO EFFECT TO END BLIGHT

"Do-it-yourself" community action to end blight in Rye was demonstrated Friday and Saturday in the removal of seven uninhabitable cottages in the Beck-Wainwright area for which Federal Urban Renewal has been proposed, and strongly opposed. Clearing of the property was a combined effort of residents from the area and from elsewhere in Rye, union, contractors, and departments of the City of Rye.

The cottages occupied a tract fronting on Roosevelt Avenue between Beck Avenue and Wainwright Street. Action began when the Rye Fire Department asked the owner, Miss Roberta Bellchambers, to have electric and gas service to the cottages disconnected as a safety measure. To this was added a request by the Ryan Park Association, composed of residents of the area, that the cottages be boarded up.

Miss Bellchambers replied that she would be willing to have the cottages razed and burned, as was recently done on property between Beck Avenue and Playland Parkway. Since on-site burning was not possible because of the close proximity of homes to the Bellchambers

property, the Ryan Park Association and Councilman Donald C. Fendler developed an alternate plan to which Miss Bellchambers agreed.

With funds raised by the Ryan Park Association, Jos. R. Carriere & Sons, Port Chester contractors, were employed to raze the cottages with a bulldozer on Friday. Clear-

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Edgar Named To Head Rye United Fund Campaign

John A. Edgar, Jr. has been named chairman of this year's Rye United Fund. Mr. Edgar has been active in the fund for the past eight years. The fund has raised its goal to \$216,000 for the 1966-67 fund drive, an increase of six thousand dollars over last year. Now in its eleventh year of operation, the fund has never failed to meet its commitments to its members agencies.

Mr. Edgar reported that the tremendous increase in cost of operations for the member agencies make it imperative that the fund once again reaches its goal. He explained that the bulk of the funds collected will be distributed to agencies that serve the Rye community directly: United Hospital, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Rye Girl Scouts, Rye Neck Girl Scouts and Visiting Nurses.

Mr. Edgar is a graduate of Philip Exeter Academy and Williams College. He received a masters degree in business administration at Columbia University in 1960, after having served two years on active duty in the U.S. Army. Mr. Edgar is associated with the investment brokerage firm of Baker, Weeks & Co., New York. He and his wife, the former Mary David Saunders and their three sons, George, Jamie and David, live on Kirby Lane in Rye.

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WEIGHTED VOTING IN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN EFFECT

The County Board of Supervisors put into effect Monday the court-ordered weighted voting system to provide more equitable representation of the population in accordance with the decision of the federal Supreme Court. There is, however, some dissent among the supervisors, although it is recognized that the great majority prefer the new system rather than a district reapportionment plan whereby the board would be considerably reduced in size.

Acting under a decision by State Supreme Court Justice Gerald Nolan the weighted voting system gives each of the 45 members one vote for each 1,000 persons they represent or a major fraction thereof. As a result the votes on the board now range from three in North Salem and Pound Ridge to 83 in Greenburgh among the towns, and from 15 votes in the City of Rye to 204 in Yonkers.

There is some questions as to how long the weighted voting system will continue. Justice Nolan, while allowing the use of weighted voting as a temporary measure, did not rule on whether it could be used permanently. Opponents to weighted voting point out that State Court of Appeals decisions involving the

Erie and Herkimer County Boards have stated that weighted voting cannot be used as a permanent remedy.

Under the voting system which became effective Monday each town supervisor will have the following voting power: Bedford 13, Cortlandt 31, Eastchester 34, Greenburgh 83, Harrison 20, Lewisboro 5, Mamaroneck 31, Mount Pleasant 37, New Castle 16, North Castle 8, North Salem 3, Ossining 31, Pelham 14, Pound Ridge 3, Rye 40, Scarsdale 18, Somers 7, Yorktown 22.

Among the cities, Mount Vernon gets 75 votes with each of the five supervisors getting 15 votes; New Rochelle would get 76 votes with each of the four supervisors getting 19; Peekskill 18 votes with each of the two supervisors getting 9; Rye City 15 votes with one supervisor; White Plains 51 votes with each of the three supervisors casting 17 and Yonkers 204 votes with each of the 12 supervisors casting 17 votes.

Under the old system, the Republican had 29 of the 45 votes on the board—or 64.5 per cent to 16 Democratic votes or 35.6 per cent. Now the Republicans will have 555 votes or 64.7 per cent and the Democrats 303 votes or 35.3 per cent.

Under a district system, the board members would be chosen from specially created districts, some of which would take in more than one city or town. Up to now, the board has shied away from any plan that would eliminate town and city supervisors from composing the board. The basic fear is that the supervisors would not want to vote themselves out of power.

Weighted voting was ordered by Justice Nolan last month after the board failed to come up with a satisfactory reapportionment plan. The weighted voting will be in effect until December 1—the deadline for submission of a new reapportionment plan.

In the meanwhile the Legislative Committee headed by Supervisor Manlio Severino, R-Mount Vernon, is engaged in drafting reapportionment plans. Mr. Severino has been quoted as saying he favors a districting plan.



John A. Edgar, Jr.

RYE HIGH SCHOOL AMONG VICTIMS OF BIG FRAUD

David W. Ren, who mulcted the Rye High School General Organization of \$875, has been indicted for fraud. Posing as a talent scout for top entertainers, it is alleged he made \$50,000 through fraudulent bookings from high schools and colleges.

He was accused Monday of passing himself off as regional director of a company called National Artists Productions and of fraudulently booking the Smothers Brothers and the Duke Ellington and Stan Kenton orchestras into shows sponsored by high schools, colleges and youth organizations over the past two years.

Dr. Anthony Campo, acting superintendent of Rye Schools, explained that Ren, 43, contacted the student organization of Rye High School more than a year ago concerning upcoming plans for a school concert. He supposedly contracted the Drifters, a rock and roll band, for \$1,750 and collected one-half the contract fee in advance.

Dr. Campo said that Ren then phoned in a cancellation shortly before the concert date.

He was indicted by a federal grand jury Monday on 66 counts. The maximum penalty is five years (Continued on Page 4)

MID ISLAND WINS N. Y. STATE RYE BABE RUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

The 1966 New York State Babe Ruth League tournament at Rye's Rec Park ended Sunday when Mid Island nipped Rockville Centre, 6-4, and thus won for themselves the proud title of "State Champions." Rockville Centre had "postponed" Mid Island's crowning when they came from behind Saturday to defeat Mid Island, 3-2.

Stars for the Mid Island team, which won four games while losing only one, were Danny Yaccarino and Pete Ulyso. Yaccarino was the winning pitcher in three of the ball-

games and helped to win another ball game with his bat when he went 3 for 4 at the plate. Ulyso, while only batting 111 with 2 hits in 18 at-bats, never-the-less was such a defensive standout that the strong-armed receiver was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Rye, the host team, bowed out of the tourney last Thursday night when they were beaten by Baldwin, 1-0, on a seventh-inning two-base error. Pitcher Bob Coombs was the

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