

In Area Schools

Literacy Tests Set For New Voters

The New York State Regents' literacy test for new voters will be given this year in public schools from 5 P. M. to 10:30 P. M. Oct. 8 and 9 and from 7 P. M. to 10:30 P. M. on Oct. 11.

Schools in which the test will be given include John Ericsson Junior High School and Public Schools 16, 17, 19, 31, 59, 110, 122, 132 and 147.

ACCORDING to the state election law, a new voter "must be able, except for physical disability, to read and write English."

Such a voter, native or foreign born, is one who became qualified to vote in the state since Jan. 1, 1922, but who has not voted in New York State previously.

Any person who qualified to vote before that date, regardless of his or her literacy and regardless of whether that person has previously voted in the state, is not a "new voter" under law.

Such a person need not show a diploma nor a certificate of literacy in order to vote.

AMONG WAYS in which evidence of literacy may be established are:

Presentation to the Registry Board of a diploma or certificate as evidence of graduation from an eight year public or private school, where English was the language of instruction, or by the presentation of evi-

dence showing attendance in a higher grade at such a public or private school or higher institution.

By presenting to the Registry Board a matriculation card issued by a college or university to a student then at such institution or certificate or a letter signed by an official of the university or college certifying to such attendance.

Presentation to the Registry Board of a certificate of an honorable discharge from any of the armed forces of the United States by a person who was a resident of the State of New York at the time he became a member of the armed forces, and who is entitled to such discharge, shall constitute conclusive proof of his or her literacy.

By passing a New York State Regents' literacy test.

Midshipmen Return to Md.

Midshipmen Sal Nunziata and James Kerwick have returned to Annapolis, Md., after spending the summer months with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Nunziata of 128 Beadel street, and Mr. and Mrs. James Kerwick of North Henry street.

Both are beginning their third year at the academy. Nunziata is a graduate of St. Cecilia's parochial school and Kerwick from St. Stan's. They also are graduates of Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School.



(Star Photo by Dan Sforza)

Imam Alex Yasinsky, Polish-born religious leader of Williamsburg's Moslem Mosque reads from the Koran, Islam's sacred book. Behind him is the Mihrab (prayer niche) indicating the direction of Mecca. The ornate Arabic inscription in the circle names the prophets and includes Jesus and Mohammed.

DA Continues Probe Of Youth's Arrest

A probe by the Kings County District Attorney's office into the arrest of Daniel Swiatkowski, 17, of 213 Grand street, accused of slaying a 78-year-old woman, continued this week.

It was learned that the investigation by the DA's office is incomplete and no date has been set as yet for the Grand Jury hearing.

Swiatkowski, charged with the slaying July 28 of Mrs. Katherine Zaviskey in her junk-filled apartment at 87 Grand

street has been held since Aug. 3 in the Raymond street jail. Police officers involved in the arrest and questioning of Swiatkowski have reportedly been questioned by the DA's office.

INVESTIGATION was reopened following the submission of affidavits by 12 witnesses who swore that Swiatkowski was in Mastic, L. I., from July 23 to Aug. 1 and thus could not have committed the crime. Police reported that Swiatkowski, under questioning at time of arrest, admitted killing the woman and ransacking her apartment.

MACK PANTHERS TO RECEIVE TWO TROPHIES

The Greenpoint's Connie Mack Panthers will receive both a national and a state trophy when the Garden Spot honors its baseball players Oct. 16 in the annual Awards Night ceremony.

Leo Gender, manager of the Panthers, said he has been informed that the Greenpoint team, the first to cop both state and district honors, would be presented with the trophies in the auditorium of the Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades.

Awards Night is held each autumn to pay tribute to winning teams, outstanding players and others in the Little League, Babe Ruth and Connie Mack organizations.

Methodists To Hold Courses

Plans have been completed by the Board of Education of the New York East Methodist Conference for several fall events which will offer special courses for teachers and training for workers with youth and young adults.

A convocation of adult workers with youth will be held Sept. 11-12 at Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island.

Camp Quinipet will also be the scene of a planning retreat of the Board of Education Sept. 17-19, and a Young Adult Conference Sept. 25-27.

Church School teachers in Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, Westchester Counties and southeastern Connecticut will participate in laboratory schools slated Oct. 4-8 in Mamaroneck, and Oct. 21-23 and Oct. 26 and 27 in Valley Stream.

Teen Gang Law Urged

Mrs. Pauline Malter James, chairman of legislation for the Kings County Council Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans, urged a law this week which would make membership in a "warring gang" illegal as a step in smashing juvenile violence.

Mrs. Malter, who is secretary to the City Planning Commission, said that the gangs have brought on a "blood bath" terrorizing citizens through the five boroughs. Apparently, many of these gangs cannot be dealt with in any other manner than by halting their operation.

AT THE SAME TIME, Mrs. Malter urged laws to separate first offenders from hardened criminals. Here she joined with Assemblyman Max M. Turshen, who promised to introduce such a measure in the coming session of the legislature.

Mrs. Malter claimed that herding hardened criminals in with the first offenders "put two strikes on the non-repeater." It is nearly impossible to rehabilitate these persons after they have been exposed to the methods of the ruthless, habitual criminal, Mrs. Malter said.

Church Society To Receive Oct. 11 St. Ann's Society of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church will receive holy communion on Sunday, Oct. 11, at the 8:30 A.M. mass.

A communion breakfast will follow in the parish hall on Eagle street. The Rev. Michael Budny is moderator; Mrs. Wanda Jankowski, president, and Mrs. Eva Kraus and Mrs. Julia Mullen, chairmen.

MOSQUE

(Continued from Page 1)

pire did not disappear then. It broke up into several pieces.

To Kubla Khan went Cathay. To Batu went nearly all of what is now European Russia.

FROM SARAI, their Volga capital, the descendants of Batu ruled over the legacy of the Golden Horde. They, like all of Genghis's descendants save those of China and Mongolia and the Kalmucks, became Moslem.

Meanwhile, Poland recovered from the invasions and, united with Lithuania, became a powerful and flourishing kingdom.

Moskovy, the Grand duchy that was to become the Russian Empire, also grew from a tributary of the Tatars to a threate to both the Golden Horde and the Polish-Lithuanian kingdom.

FOR A BRIEF TIME, Moskovy's threat was countered by a combination of its foes.

One of the results of this alliance was the dispatch of Tatar troops by the Khan to the king of Poland.

Settled in Poland after the wars, the descendants of these troops were granted special rights to practice their Moslem faith.

Although they lost their Tatar speech and lived closely with their Christian neighbors, these Tatars had one distinguishing characteristic that linked them to the East—their religion.

IN 1907, arriving with other immigrants from Tsarist Russia, a group of these Moslems founded the mosque in Williamsburg.

TODAY, the congregation of 200 families has spread all over the city and into many parts of New England.

Nevertheless, on the great Moslem holidays such as Muharram (New Year), Kurban Bayram (the feast of Abraham) and the month-long fast of Ramadan, they visit the Williamsburg mosque at least once to worship.

"Most of us are American-born and all of us are proud to be Americans," Imam Ratkewitch said.

"OUR YOUNG people come regularly to the mosque to study the Koran and we have a youth organization with its own social program. There is little or no juvenile delinquency," he added.

On the first floor of the mosque is a hall where social functions are held and a room for funeral rites to be performed.

There is also a kitchen on the first floor.

To ascend to the second floor, worshippers remove their shoes and perform the "abdes," their ritual ablution with running water.

THE CARPETED mosque is separated by thick curtains into two sections.

The rear section is the one in which, according to the rules of modesty set down by the Prophet Mohammed, the women, veiled during services, pray.

On a raised platform is the "mihrab," or prayer niche, decorated with the names of the angels and prophets of the Old Testament, Jesus and Mohammed.

THIS INDICATES the direction of Mecca and occupies a place of prominence similar to the Christian altar or Jewish tabernacle. It is before the mihrab that the Imam intones the Koran as worshippers, heads covered, prostrate themselves in veneration.

"We are Sunni Moslems," the religious leaders explained. This means that they are orthodox believers who follow the "Sheriat," or Moslem canon law and the "Hadis" or traditions of the Prophet.

Other Moslems, belonging to the dissenting "Shi'a" sects, follow other interpretations of Moslem theology.

THE COMMUNITY also maintains a burial plot in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Flushing.

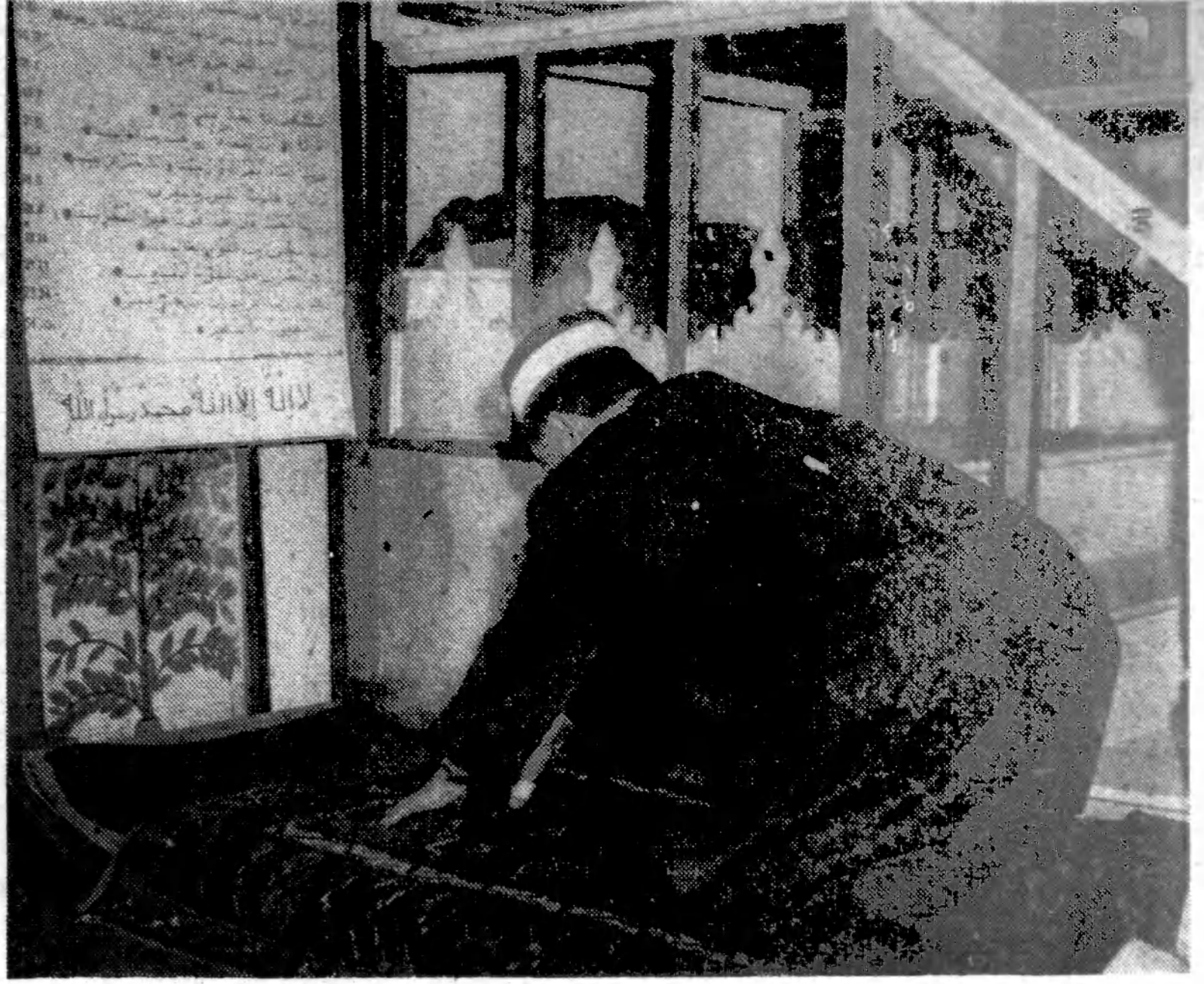
"We maintain the mosque, but pay no salaries," the president of the congregation said.

The two religious leaders, in fact, hold outside jobs to support themselves. Imam Yasinsky is a fur dresser. Imam Ratkewitch is employed as a mechanic on a military installation.

"It is God's work," they said, explaining their religious tasks.

TODAY, some newcomers from the Near East, the Balkans, and Central Asia help swell the numbers of worshippers at the mosque. "We are all new in our religion," the leaders said.

Thus in the very heart of Williamsburg, the exercise of one of the world's major faiths is carried on by proud Tatar-Americans with Slavic names and an abiding conviction—that "There is no God but God, and Mohammed is His Messenger."



(Star Photo by Dan Sforza)

Imam Yasinsky, leading his Mohammedan congregation in prayer, performs a "raka'at" or deep prostration toward Mecca. Facing him are quotations from the Koran. The mosque, America's oldest, is at 104 Powers street.

Advertisement for White Eagle Self-Service Meat Market. Features prices for various meats like HAMS (73c), PORK CHOPS (39c), SIRLOIN STEAKS (89c), and Smoked BUTTS (59c). Also includes coffee and eggs.

Advertisement for Millionaire Bedding Shops, Inc. Promoting "Buy of the Month" with bunk bed outfits for \$69. Includes details about bedding, springs, and contact information.

Advertisement for Mobilheat Automatic Personal Care with Mobil Fuel Oil. Promotes a 12-point personal service contract for \$17.50.

Advertisement for The Green Point Savings Bank. Lists names and addresses of people who have deposited money, such as Boden, John or Anna, Crawford, Gertrude, etc.

Advertisement for The Green Point Savings Bank. Features the slogan 'Your Neighborhood Savings Bank' and lists branches in Manhattan Ave., Washington Ave., and Church Ave.