

New Chapter In Fitch Way Saga: 'The Return Of Frank Elliott'

By Donald E. Lippincott

There are scores of chapters in the long and fascinating story of the John Fitch Way project. One of the most in triguing has unfolded this past m

I think we shall call it "The Return of Frank Elliott." When Frank Elliott walked into City Hall the first time he was a gauging 28-year-old, completely unknown in Treaton and fresh from a year's experience with the Urban Renewal Administration's regional office in Philadelphia

He was friendly enough most of the time, but a no-n fellow. Some thought him cocky. With the blessing of the URA, he had just landed a big job with the city—urban re-

The City Commission, in that year of 1958, had just taken over the John Fitch Way project from the Trenton Housing Authority in the first of a series of such shifts, which in themselves constitute an incredible yarn.

Elliott was not a politician and he was imported by the commissioners to administer the 104-acre, multi-million dollar project for that reason and because some URA officials said he could do the job.

Frank Elliott did his job but he had trouble in City Hall almost from the start. He didn't have an office when he showed up for work on the morning of June 2, but after a while they cleared out the phone booth-sized ladies' lunch room on the second floor and Elliott was ensconced.

Elliott didn't know how to deal with politicians. Sometimes they infuriated him, sometimes it was vice-versa.

By the time his political education was very far along, school Sometimes Frank was too frank. He talked with reporters

freely. At first he was prone to carry the ball toward victory over blight without bothering to check on political implications. There was the time he let it be known that Trinity Lutheran Church on South Broad Street would have to go, for instance Soon, City Hall was alive with irate Lutherans. After weighing all the arguments, taking a careful head count and casting an eye toward election day, the City Commission ruled that

Trinity Lutheran was there to stay.

Elliott was seldom the diplomat. Neither was he very modest. He managed to make some enemies. He was also a hard worker, brilliant, aggressive and visionary. A present city official with access to the records testifies that Elliott turned out a tremendous volume of work.

By Christmas Eve, 1958, Elliott was able to announce that the U.S. had approved the John Fitch Way General Neighborhood Renewal Program. But the gremlins, human and otherwise, which have plagued the Fitch Way project for years, were about their task that Christmas.

Sentiment was mounting to hand the project back to the Housing Authority. And, early in 1959, the Civil Service Commission announced a test to be held May 8 for urban renewal director, either under the City Commission or THA.

The blow came when Civil Service said only those who had been Trenton residents for at least a year would be eligible. Elliott had been here 11 months. Among the eligibles was Joseph E. Garrigan, who had held the post of THA redevelopment director for nearly three years without having to take a

The city asked Civil Service to postpane the test so that El-liott would become eligible. The battle was fought at the State House, largely behind closed doors, with Garrigan's attorney,

Senator Sido Ridolfi, taking a prominent role. The Civil Service Commission turned thumbs down on the city. On July 8, over Elliott's protest, Fitch Way was turned back to THA. A week later Civil Service announced that Gar-

rigan, a veteran, had placed first. • Elliott's job was automatically abolished August 1, 1959 and he left City Hall, understandably bitter.

Frank Elliott has returned to City Hall.

He sits on the opposite side of the table from the city officials negotiating a complicated agreement for development of the commercial section of Fitch Way.

He is vice president of Hyman Korman Inc., a partner with Capital Center Inc., in the development proposal. He joined : firm a year ago after going back to URA. rising to as sistant to the regional director and then assistant to the regional administrator of the Housing and Home Finance

Elliott drives a hard bargain. He is easily the most impressive of the negotiators—sharp, resourceful.

Not all of those in the marathon negotiating sessions can appreciate the irony of the situation. But Frank Elliott can

Absecon's Beacon Will Welcome '64

The New Jersey Tercentenary Newton, announced plans for a Commission has announced the tercentenary network to broadhistoric Absecon Lighthouse in cast the proceedings live from in need of air pollution con-Atlantic City will be lit New midnight to 12:30 a.m.

Year's Eve for the first time: Hickman said the broadcast in more than three decades. will originate with Trenton sta-Gov. Richard J. Hughes will tion WBUD and WBUD-FM. will be completed and re-leased to the public, show that other words, State officials Gov. Richard J. Hughes will tion WBUD and WBUD-FM.

push a button turning on the lighthouse at a New Year's Eve party in the State House cele-brating the state's 300th birth-

The 110-year-old lighthouse is being restored for the tercentenary celebration by Atlantic City. A fireworks display of historic New Jersey scenes is scheduled to start at the lighthouse at 11 p.m.

The commission said it has acquired Indian tribal dancers and the deputy bailiff of the Isle of Jersey in the British Isles for the New Year's Eve party

Judy and Juanita Wackeyonii 18-year-old sisters from Andar-ko, Okla., will perform tribal dances accompanied by drum-mer - singer Matthew Whitehorse. They are direct descendants of the Lenni Lenape Indians, the original populants of

Francis De Lisle Bois, deputy bailiff of the Isle of Jersey, for which New Jersey was named. will be on hand to present tercentenary greetings from old

Jersey to New Jersey. Ronald Hickman, president of the New Jersey Broadcasters Association and general manager of radio station WNNJ,



Jesse Parnell, as Washington's bodyguard, throws a log on campfire before start of river crossing. With him are Peter Pellegrino (standing) as Colonel Glover and reporter Wilson St. John Terrell (standing right) as General Washington, prepares to cast off for the Jersey shore. Standing also is John Neal as General Sullivan. Seated with flag is Robert L. Walters as Lt. James Monroe.

Trenton Evening Times.

No. 52 Trenton, N. J., Thursday, December 26, 1963

Air Pollution Climbs In N.J.'s Urban Areas

By John Curley

Eighty-seven percent of the time, the Newark-Jersey City area experiences the same moderate smoke pollution condition as Succasumna in rural Morris County. But it's the other 13 percent that state officials worry about.

William A. Munroe, chief of New Jersey's air pollution program, made this comparison in discussing the State's effort to interpret data ob-tained from 34 instruments that measure smoke throughout New Jersey.

"We can't attach a number to air pollution and measure Munroe said. "But we can measure certain things. About seven years ago, I de-cided on a measuring project in terms of the soiling char-acteristics in smoke. We put air sampling devices at various locations across the state and recorded soiling or smoke

levels for a year.". These devices, operating automatically in 21 communities, produced a visual indication of smoke density by pumping air onto a filter paper tape. By means of a timing mechanism the tape advanced to a new position at two - hour intervals, producing 12 spots in 24 hours.

The test showed Lakehurst and Sparts were the cleanest. while Camden, Newark, Jersey City, Trenton, Paterson, Union, Elizabeth, Plainfield and Phillipsburg were dirtiest in terms of smoke levels.

Second Survey Begins Now a second smoke survey is under way at 34 test sites. cates that Cape May is the cleanest city in New Jer-sey while the densely populat-

trol programs. These studies, which soon

tween 5 and 9 a.m. and during the Winter. This means that home heating units are large contributors of pollutants to the air. Munroe said.

Discussing the comparison

between urban and rural areas, Monroe used the Newark- Jersev City area and Succasunna as an example. During 87 percent of 1962, light or moderate smoke levels were recorded in both. But 13 percent of the time, the smoke index soared in the Newark-Jersey City area. During the latter period, smoke was considered heavy more than nine percent of the time, very heavy three percent of the period and extremely heavy less than one percent of the time.

Munroe hopes this research will lead to increased air pollution programs. "It's hard convincing someone to spend money to correct something we can't prove is necessary.

New Jersey's air pollution control program was born in 1954 through an act of the Legislature, which established the New Jersey Air Pollution Conspecific causes of air pollution through an air pollution control code, which has six chapters and may have a sev-

enth before long. Chapter I deals with definitions and Chapter III says the code does not supersede municipal codes that are not consistent with it.

Chapter II controls air polresulting from refuse disposal and salvage operations, but it does not apply to burning on residential proper-

ties.
Chapter IV controls the type of smoke that is discharged through smoke stacks. Chapter V controls air pollution resulting from combus-

tion of solid fuel. Chapter VI is a broad provision prohibiting air pollu-tions in terms of effect. In

then determine who is causing

the property and the chemical composition of the dust.

the following way:

Let's suppose Mrs. Jones complains to the health department that soot from a company is dirtying her laundry. Using the Ringelmann chart, which categoriese the darkness of smoke. rizes the darkness of smoke, the State investigates and determines the complaint is valid because the smoke is darker than No. 2, or 40 percent black. This means any smoke darker than charcoal gray.

how much time the company should be given to correct the situation. If the firm requests a hearing it is given one. Otherwise an order to correct the situation is issued to the plant. Failure to act in the specified with \$25 and climbing to \$100 for a third violation. After three offenses the matter is referred to the Attorney General. Fines are levied not for violating the code but for violating the health department

From January 1 through October 20 of this year, the health department issued 237 orders under Chapters II (burning) and IV (combustion of solid fuel). Munroe said this represents improvement over the first year the code was in effect when more than 300 orders were issued annually under section two and more than 350 under section four.

Munroe said that for the most part these orders have been adhered to and these sources of air pollution have been "substantially elimi-nated."

ington's 2,400 ragged troops, who captured Trenton 8 miles downstream 187 years ago to-

Chapter. VII, if adopted, would stipulate the amount of solid particles that can be discharged by any source. Determining factors would be the height of a stack, its distance to the nearest boundary of

The State Health Department enforces the code in

No Blistering Fire ... But By Gregory Farrell
Times Staff Writer Sixty men and women of night marching from Washington Crossing to Trenton.
They began at McKonkey's
Ferry and ended at the Trent Health officials then decide House. They were gay and

talkative when they assembled at about 12:30 a.m., and surprisingly, ten miles and six and a half hours later they were still gay and still talkative, though very sore. Their idea was to recreate Washington's Christmas night march on Trenton in 1776. Dr. Kemble Widmer, state geologist and amateur military historian, planned the route. briefed the marchers, staged scenes and described events order to correct the problem.

along the way.

Robert Smock, chairman of one committee for Washington's march on Trenton said the purpose was "to focus greater attention on this historic area and to spark interest in the important part it played in our country's history."
Smock said this year's

marc'i was meant to be-a test, a dress rehearsal for a bigger and better version in the tercentenary year of 1964. Hopefully, he said, the march might even become an annual walk, George Washington or Several of the marchers fell affair. Any money realized no, adapted to the ordeal in asleep at breakfast.

from this year's march, he individual ways. The history added, (marchers contributed buffs at the end of the procesfrom two to five dollars each). would go toward improvement reporter — spent Christmas of the Trenton Battle Monument and the establishment of a visitors' center in Tren-

sank over the cold, calm Dela-

Thanks to Terrell, this re

'Raced' Leak

Christmas March Hazardous;

Washington Crossed Here

By Wilson Barto

WASHINGTON CROSSING

- It takes only one trip on

a Durham-like boat across the

day.
More than 2,400 spectators

left the holiday warmth of

their homes yesterday to watch Lambertville showman

St. John Terrell and his band

of compatriots re-enact the

After almost two hours of briefing, doughnut - eating and coffee - sipping at the barn of McKonkey's Ferry, the marchers tramped to a bonfire in Sullivan's grove to fire in Sullivan's grove to up" and "slow down." They hear recorded fife and drum held up and slowed down, but music and receive their last marching instructions. A meswas read.

Then they proceeded off through the woods, approximating Washington's route as closely as possible, stopping en route only at the West Trenton fire house for the evening's second supply of coffee and doughnuts.

The procession itself probably would have startled Washington. A police car preceded the entourage, and another brought up the rear.

Explorer Scouts at the head of the procession carried bright, foul-smelling flares for safety's sake. An occasional undisciplined soldier hurled a firecracker at the pesky redcoats in the woods.

The marchers, soon aware they were in for a good long greeting by Mayor Holland.

minute race to beat the water that seeped surprisingly slow-

What followed was a 10-

porter — wearing the uniform of a Colonial soldier — rode ly into the 11-by-3-foot replica of the 44-foot-long Durham boats Washington had used. Delaware River here to make in the bow of the boat, which embarked from a point 500 master stroke of George Wash-But besides his men, Wash-Pennsylvania end of the Wash-ington Crossing Bridge. Its course took it under the bridge ington had ferried cannons and horses for the assault onthe Hessian troops holding Trenton that Christmastime, and into a berth cut in the ice 1776, the first year of Amerijust upstream from the bridge on the banks of New Jersey.

signal to cast off.

So Did I...In Leaky Boat

can independence. That original crossing "was nothing less than miraculous, The spectators, who cheered, joked and snapped piccommented Peter Pellegrino tures of the authentic colonial Newton RD 2 resident who portrayed Colonel John Glover.

sion discussed military tactics

and the foibles of certain Rev-

olutionary generals. The ex-

plorer scouts at the head of the procession marched. They

were good at marching, and

in condition for marching,

and soon left some of their

elders puffing as much as a quarter - mile behind them.

This led to calls of "hold

explained the procedure for

past four and a half miles,"

ton's Continentals - 1963 ver-

breakfast and an official

unhappy," Smock said.

troops handled the boats in the icy, windswept Delaware that historical night. Pellegrino put off a West

Coast business trip to take part.

We paddled furiously as the craft moved to midstream. But unlike the night Washing-ton's crossing had been pla-gued with wind and snow, the wind died down as the craft turned upstream vesterday toward the slit cut in the ice on the Jersey side.

At this point, I exchanged my paddle for the 13-star flag and pole held by Robert L. Walter of Pipersville, Pa., a veteran of other Christmasveteran or other Christmas-day crossings. His grandson was fascinated by Walter's uniform and portrayal of Lt. James Monroe, the nation's fifth president. As a young officer, Monroe was wounded in the fighting that December 26 in King Street, now Tren-ton's Warren Street.

It was just before the river crossing was completed that I had to use the flagpole to push aside the only cake of ice we encountered yesterday. That, too, was unlike the historic

But, Terrell noted, this year river conditions resembled those of 187 years ago, when the river also was jammed up with ice at Trenton and prevented Yankee forces downstream from crossing and join

ing in the assault. Terrell, in his role as Gennature would soon again take nature would soon again take eral Washington, had his own hold, and the two police cars, historically authentic bodymarking the head and the tail of the column, would get furyear. He was Jesse Parnell ther and further apart until of 5725 Mitchell Road, Levitagain there were calls of hold up" and "slow down." who portraved Willie Lee and The procession stopped briefly at the unlit Trenton to whom all of us were looking for help if the boat shipped Battle Monument while Dr. too much water too far from Widmer explained certain aspects of the battle and Smock

either bank.

Set For Scaking It was estimated that above the bridge, at least, the water

getting breakfast at the Trent House. "I don't want anyone would come up to Jesse's shoulders — making it bad for most of us. We all signed reto go away from this thing leases so the park could not "Ive been unhappy for the be held liable if the expedione marcher said. Everyone tion proved, er . . uh . . un-I a u g h e d. The marcher laughed. And then Washing-General Washington's two

stellar generals were portray-ed by West Amwell Township sion - marched down to Mayor Louis Simonye as Gen. Nathanael Greene and by Levittown attorney John S. Neal as General John Sullivan. The late afternoon ceren

ies began with a retreat formation by military units from Fort Dix.
They ended with the depar-

ture for New Jersey after Ter-rell recalled the historic night Washington's troops pushed through the icy waters and down Jersey roads to Trenton—and on to the victory that turned the tide of the Revolu-

After the Jersey landing, Terrell led his tiny force to the McKonkey Ferry House museum in Washington Cross-ing State Park. Washington had rested there while the rest of his troops, cannon and horses were crossing the river. And yesterday, too, the oc-

structure, Mr. and Mrs. William Cocker, hosted the group who had made the crossing for the 11th year since Terrell began staging the historic re-The Delaware currents were kind to the small band who

recalled again the master military stroke by Washington. This is a big part of the legend that has built up around him and has prompted some military strategists to write of him as one of the greatest generals of all time.

Year Of The Bonds Little Production, Lots Of Fun At State House

By John Hall

From the standpoint of production, 1963 may have been a lean year at the State House but a good time was had by all. It will be remembered as the

year of the bonds. The \$750 million bond issue, which evoked more angry com-mentary than any other controversy, also was the center of the yuks.

His Own Idea They started on the very day the omnibus borrowing proposal was unveiled by Gov. Richard J. Hughes in February.

There, at Hughes' news con ference, sat budget director Abram M. Vermeulen, known far and wide for his no - nonesense fiscal viewpoints.

When the question arose whether it was Hughes who acwhether it was hughes who ac-tually dreamed up the turnpike-financed scheme, the Governor bristled. Swiveling in his chair suddenly to face Vermeulen,

who was quietly minding his own business, he asked abrupt-

"Who thought of this idea,

"You did, sir," came the an-It will never be known whether that reply was a disclaimer or a loyal reflex action.

High Noon On Aug. 26, State House newsmen were jolted when they received a one-paragraph an -nouncement from Democratic state headquarters that state chairman Thorn Lord would meet his Republican counter part, Webster Todd, at high

noon in Todd's headquarters. Remembering that only nine days earlier Hughes had called Todd a "ruthless, self - seeking and ambitious man," reporters expected the opposing chairmen

to have their guns drawn. Lord walked across the street into GOP headquarters, where he found Todd sitting behind his desk in shirtsleeves. Todd was wearing suspenders decorated with pink ele-phants. The tension mounted.

"How you been doing?" Lord asked tentatively. "Nice to see you," responded

Then Lord deposited a list of 20 questions about the Repub-lican stand against the bond is-sue for Todd to answer and left. Not a shot was fired. Only the questions were load-

World Circling Bonds Toward the end of the cam-paign, both sides were franticalsearching for something new to say about the bond issue.

The New Jersey Taxpayers Association finally resorted to announcing that if all 750 million dollar bills were strung end to end they would go around the world three times. Furthermore, the interest on the debt would add 48,000 miles to the total. the association said incre-Historic Court Rulings

It was the year the Appellate Division of Superior Court gave official recognition to "the female ability to deceive the unwitting male by false appear-The court reversed a liquor

license suspension against a barkeep who served and employed two under-aged girls, unable to see tender youth beneath the mascara. The same court ruled that a

flatfooted employe of the Motor Vehicles Division was not entitled to a special permit to park in a state lot. His boss. Ned J. Parsekian, said he had observed the plaintiff "on many occasions during the working day...and noted that he is agile foot and walks about the building and up and down stairs with no apparent hesita-tion of gait and no apparent It was the year the Legisla-

ture passed and Hughes signed a bill permitting municipal sidewalk cleaners to operate on municipal sidewalks. Cakes, More Cakes

It was the year of the 21foot high cake -- scores of 21foot high cakes — baked for celebrations of the New Jersey

Tercentenary Commission. At the unveiling of the Tercenten-ary Commission's New York World's Fair podium, one dignitary bent over and ended up with globs of sticky frosting on the seat of his pants. It was the year the Appropri-

ations Committee found out that the Legalized Games of Chance Commission employes six elderly women — bingo addicts all as undercover agents. Their job: to play bingo five nights a week. On To Hawaii

And it was the year of the trip to Hawaii.

On Feb. 14, at an Appropriations Committee meeting, Sen.

Thomas J. Hillcry, a wry Republican from rich, rural Morris County who insists on frugality, jokingly prodded legislators about a planned all - expensepaid trip to Honolulu for the annual National Legislative Conference in August.

"We'd better get a travel agent in here," he chortled. That joke touched off a controversy that raged for months and forced the committee to cut the budget for the trip in half. But 17 legislators and aides attended anyway and spent nearly \$5,000 more than appro-The Legislature got out of the

red only after a verbal battle on the Senate floor at the end of the year over the supplemental appropriation, during which Sen. Charles W. Sandman Jr., R-Cape May, remarked that as a legislator he was paid a nickel an hour for time worked.

Line those nickels up end to end and they'll stretch all the way to Hawaii.

. 1