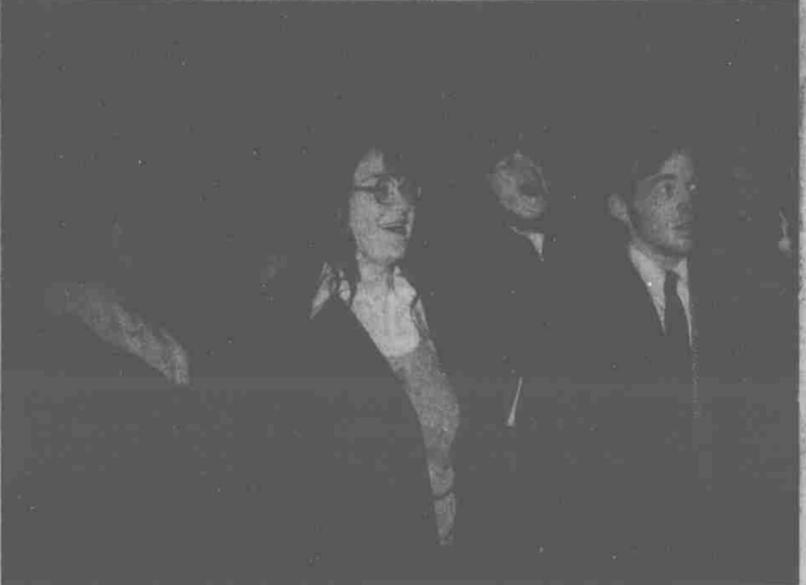


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Staff photo by Robin Garr III

CAROLING their way through Jeffersontown on Sunday evening were over 100 young people from area churches. The ecumenical Yuletide event was sponsored by the Jeffersontown Association of Christian Congregations.

Gibson to stay as inspector

By Sandy Hinton
Staff Writer

During his almost two years of service as Jeffersontown building inspector, Ralph I. Gibson has seen new buildings in the city spiral to an unparalleled peak.

"This year it has been three times as large as ever before in one year, and I doubt that in the foreseeable future, it will ever be that much again," he said.

Last week, Gibson was hired by the New Direction Team to continue in his capacity as building inspector after the new administration takes office.

"I will do just as good a job for them as I am doing for the Mayor (Franklin J. Chambers)," he said.

"In all the positions I've held, I've enjoyed this one with the city government of Jeffersontown more than any other. For one thing—I am at home. Also, they are fine people to work with, at City Hall, and I'm among friends," the building inspector continued.

His only regret about his job, Gibson said, is that he would like to have taken a more active part in city government by being of more assistance to the mayor.

"He really and truly is one of the finest men and honest men I've ever met in my life," he said of Mayor Chambers.

Gibson recalled the first time he met the mayor, "back when we moved here and had that big flood. My basement was full of water, and he came to my house and helped me get it out."

He ran against Chambers for city councilman in 1960, and was defeated by the then-new Taxpayer's Party. "But, I've always been on his side," Gibson said.

Gibson said now he plans to relax. "We are going to visit some friends we haven't seen in many, many years," Gibson and his wife, the former Elva Isaacs, moved to Jeffersontown 15 years ago. "When we came here, there were just two-lane roads from Louisville. We thought we were moving to the country."

He claims the people of Jeffersontown haven't changed at all, just the city. He is proud of the small town way of life that exists so close to a large city, saying, "...where you can still consider people honest-to-God friends... I don't think you'll find that in any other city."

Gibson's government work did not start in Jeffersontown. He possesses a long, impressive list of accomplishments and many awards received during his years with state, federal, city and county agencies.

A native of Science Hill, in Pulaski County, Gibson graduated from Science Hill High School. He served in the U.S. Air Force overseas for 21 months.

For six years, he was a financial specialist with the federal government. He held positions with Louisville and Jefferson County governments from 1964 until 1968. He was in charge of the driver's license bureau for the county and was housing and building inspector for Louisville. He also was manager of the city parks department repair garage.

Prior to his appointment as Jeffersontown building inspector, Gibson joined

the Kentucky State Department of Parks for four years, under the administration of former Gov. Louie B. Nunn.

"I started managing the smallest park in Kentucky (General Burnside) and in two and a half years went to the largest (Lake Barkley)," he recalled.

During his months at Lake Barkley, he said, he was responsible for making it "one of the best parks facilities in the state." He received the State Merit Award there, the first given in the parks system.

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Staff photo by Robin Garr III
RALPH I. GIBSON

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Merioneth signal awaits 'getting heads together'

By Rogin Garr III
Staff Writer

Work could begin this spring on the long-awaited road improvements and signal light installation at Taylorsville Road and Merioneth Drive.

But a final go-ahead by state bureau of highways officials appears to await a decision by Highbaugh Enterprises, Inc., on paying for one-third of the project's estimated \$37,000 cost.

The outgoing Jeffersontown City Council last week agreed to set aside \$12,000 as its share.

Monday, State Highway Commissioner James Gray said, "Any time we (the state, the city and Highbaugh) can get our heads together, we can get right out and get the project advertised for bids, possibly soon after the first of the year."

If the project can be advertised by early March, Gray added, all work could be completed and the light in operation by July.

"Our policy," the highway commissioner said, "is that everything is going to cost money. We like to have local participation."

"If they ask us to undertake a project

of this magnitude," Gray said, "we try to get the local people to make some contribution. Then, they understand and have more appreciation of what it costs to do these things."

Highbaugh enters the picture, Gray added, as owner of property that could affect traffic at the busy intersection -- a 16-acre tract on Grassland Drive near Merioneth.

Last summer, Highbaugh applied for apartment zoning on the property, and the County Planning Commission recommended Jeffersontown City Council approve the zone change.

The application, though, has remained locked in the council's economic development committee for four months. At the Dec. 17 council meeting, Mayor Franklin J. Chambers directed the incoming New Direction Team's attention to the docket.

The mayor said the incumbent council "held up (on making a decision) because we felt Merioneth Drive would be too much of a traffic problem to permit rezoning."

"We ask the developer to participate because the traffic problem will be made worse by development of the apartment project there," Commissioner Gray said.

"The developer, in effect, will magnify what problem we already have by developing there, so we ask him to make a contribution, too. He, in effect, is the fellow that created the problem," Gray added.

At a recent meeting of the Jeffersontown Chamber of Commerce, Highbaugh's representative, Wilbur Jones, who also is a chamber board member, said the developer was prepared to make a cash contribution toward the traffic signal. But he did not commit the firm to a dollar amount.

Jones could not be reached for comment this week because of the holiday season.

In any event, Commissioner Gray concluded, the state is ready to proceed with the project as soon as funding is worked out. Engineering drawings are under way, and paper work necessary to allocate the state's share of the cost is virtually complete, he said.

Gray said the Merioneth installation is a high-cost job because extensive road reconstruction will be required, including installation of a stacking lane for left-turn traffic, and a positive warning signal located on or near the Southern

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Band plays, bagpipe skirts as JHS band director weds

By Kathy French
Staff Writer

The band played and bagpipes wailed last Friday evening, as Jeffersontown High School band director Lannar Richardson and the former Judi Neal were married.

The ceremony was at the Immanuel United Church of Christ, 2501 Doup Avenue. The Rev. William J. Schultz, pastor of the church, officiated.

The bride, the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Heeb, exchanged vows and rings with Richardson, the son of Mrs. Pauline Richardson. The maid of honor was Karen Bennett, a niece of the bride, Billy Romanelli was Richardson's best man, and Charlie Doll served as usher.

Two of the attendants and many of the guests are associated with the high school band, the Marching Chargers. Miss Bennett is a member of the band and reportedly introduced Richardson to his bride, Mr. Doll's daughter, Debbie, also plays in the band.

At Richardson's request, a group of 10 Chargers played five melodies, in-

cluding "Ode to Joy" and "Trumpet Voluntary" before the ceremony.

After the bridal couple exchanged vows, Jennifer Blanton, standing in the church vestibule, played the bagpipes in the haunting song, "Amazing Grace." While the bridal couple remained at the altar, the band struck up the Bridal Chorus. As the couple marched down the aisle, the band filled the church with the "Wedding March."

Following the ceremony the guests attended a reception in the adjoining church hall.

Mrs. Richardson is a private secretary at South Central Bell Telephone Company. Her co-workers catered the reception for the bride.

One of the guests was Howard K. Hardin, principal of Jeffersontown High School. After the ceremony, Hardin commented that Richardson was the first man he knew who was young, never had been married but already had 100 children -- the marching band members.

After their wedding trip, the new Mr. and Mrs. Richardson will make their home in Jeffersontown.

Mazzoli won't turn down brother's aid

By Sandy Hinton
Staff Writer

Councilman-elect Richard L. (Rich) Mazzoli, who claims to be inexperienced in politics, and dislikes campaigning, has visions of a better Jeffersontown.

Brother of Romano (Ron) Mazzoli, Third District U. S. Representative, Rich said he shares Ron's "aggressiveness, independence and dynamic personalities." There, the distinct similarities stop, Richard Mazzoli readily admits he does not believe in party politics.

"Ronnie is a Democrat and I'm a Republican, but that doesn't mean a thing to me," Mazzoli said.

Mazzoli, 38, is a partner in Mazzoli and Associates, a tile firm which contracts for construction work. The construction business and a brother in Washington may bring him a few headaches while serving as councilman, he said.

He knows he may be asked certain "favors" by some, and as a matter of fact, said he feels "like I've already been approached, but I wasn't really aware that's what was going on -- I told you I'm an amateur at this thing." He declined to give specific details of the situation.

"I don't plan to bid on any work the city has any interest in," Mazzoli added.



Staff photo by Sandy Hinton
RICHARD L. MAZZOLI

He recalled when he did the tile work on the I-64 Cochran Hill tunnels, before Rep. Mazzoli was elected to the state legislature, people thought he got the job because of his brother.

He said his brother will be called on to help Jeffersontown, particularly in the area of federal funding. "If I can help Jeffersontown by any influence I'd have with Ronnie, hell, I'll do it," he said.

He said Rep. Mazzoli can "steer me to the right person. You know, a lot of times, it's just finding the right person, I've told Ronnie this and he will cooperate any way he can," he said.

The Mazzoli family moved here in 1966, and he remembers when mail came addressed to him as "Richard Mazzoli, J'town, Ky."

He doesn't believe the city administration should just "fill up the city for a tax base, but make it a nice place to live with the money we can get. I just don't see much reason for rapid expansion."

Town Square, he said, should be kept the way it is, and he would like to see every building erected in the city have characteristics of the Gaslight era. He would hire an architect to design a certain type front for the businesses, similar to Brown County, Ind., or Williamsburg, Va.

Mazzoli said he ran for councilman because "I always figured I could run things better than they were being run."

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**Around Jeffersontown**
267-8421

Hopewell Baptist Church plans a "watch night service" on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, from 6:30 pm to midnight.

THE FIRST Church of God has scheduled a New Year's Eve Service on Dec. 31, from 9 pm to midnight. The service will be informal in nature, ending with fellowship worship and a youth program.

JEFFERSONTOWN Masonic Lodge 774 F&M, will hold their annual election and installation of officers on Thursday, Dec. 27, at 7:30 pm.

Dinner will begin at 6 pm. Lodge brother C. J. Hyde will be after-dinner speaker, at the lodge across Watterson Trail from City Hall.

A "WATCH service" and revival will begin on Monday, Dec. 31, at the First Apostolic Church of Jeffersontown, 3109 Thomas Lane, at 7:30 pm.

Missouri evangelist Harold Shepard will be the speaker. Services will continue daily at 7:30 pm.

Ho, ho, ho!

MONTE J. TILLER, president of Tiller Piano and Organ, Inc., in the Bluegrass Manor Shopping Center, gave Santa Claus a helping hand last Friday.

When the Jeffersontown Jaycees advertised a phone number for children to call Santa in last week's paper, an unhappy error resulted in the wrong number being printed. As a result, many Jeffersontown-area children called Tiller instead of Santa.

When Santa told Mr. Tiller about the problem, the piano store owner quickly agreed to help. Thursday afternoon and all day Friday, he answered his phone with a jolly "ho, ho, ho," and sent the youthful callers on to Santa Claus.



Staff photo by Robin Garr III