

Metropolitan Briefs

Piagentini-Jones Graduates First Class

Piagentini and Jones Intermediate School 192, in the Bronx, the first public school here to be named after two New York City policemen killed in the line of duty, honored those officers as the two-year-old school graduated its first class.

The ceremony was conducted at Herbert H. Lehman High School in the Bronx. It was attended by Police Commissioner Michael J. Codd and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Piagentini, parents of one of the slain police officers. The Jones family was invited to the ceremony, but did not attend.

Officers Joseph A. Piagentini, 28 years old, and Waverly M. Jones, his 33-year-old partner from the Bronx, were shot in the back on May 21, 1971, after responding to a call in a housing development on the northern edge of Harlem.

Mrs. Piagentini presented an award in her son's memory to Joseph Simonetti, an eighth-grade student.

City to Intercept Rents to Collect Debt

In an effort to collect some of the \$26-million that defaulting landlords owe the city for making emergency repairs in their buildings, the city next month will begin a pilot program under which certain tenants on welfare can send their rent checks directly to the Housing and Development Administration.

The program, scheduled to run six months, will involve 1,000 families in Bronx buildings. These families pay rents totaling \$140,000 a month.

If the pilot program succeeds, it will be expanded to cover 2,200 more welfare households throughout the city, whose monthly rents total \$360,000.

Co-op City Rents to Go to Judge

About \$2.5-million in June carrying charges that "rent-strike" leaders in Co-op City are withholding from management is to be turned over today to an Appellate Division judge while that court weighs an appeal of a lower court order to end the strike protesting a 25 per cent rent increase.

While organizers yesterday vowed to continue the strike at the 35-building, 15,372-family Bronx complex, the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal formally raised monthly, per-room carrying charges by \$10.65, from an average of \$42.81 to \$53.46, retroactive to April 1.

A Lease on Life for Coney Cyclone

The Coney Island Cyclone, whose future in recent months has had nearly as many ups and downs as the ride itself, apparently will open this summer. After weeks of delay, a Coney Island businessman signed a 10-month lease on the city-owned roller coaster—one of the world's largest—for \$54,000.

"We hope to have it running for the July 4th weekend," said the new lessor, Dewey Albert, who owns the Astroland Amusement Park directly across the street.

Jersey Jobless Rate in May Was 13%

The unemployment rate in New Jersey set a record, reaching 13 per cent for the month of May, an increase of 1.4 percentage points. It means that one of every eight workers in New Jersey is now without a job, according to State Labor Commissioner Joseph A. Hoffman. Despite indications that the national economy is recovering, Mr. Hoffman said, he expects the current trend to continue through 1975.

Teacher Injured by Falling Stool

A 46-year-old teacher at DeWitt Clinton High School was struck on the head yesterday by a stool thrown or dropped from a third-floor window at the school, at Mosholu Parkway and Paul Avenue in the Bronx. The police said the teacher, Ruth Richman, was treated for head injuries at Montefiore Hospital and released. Detectives are investigating the incident.