

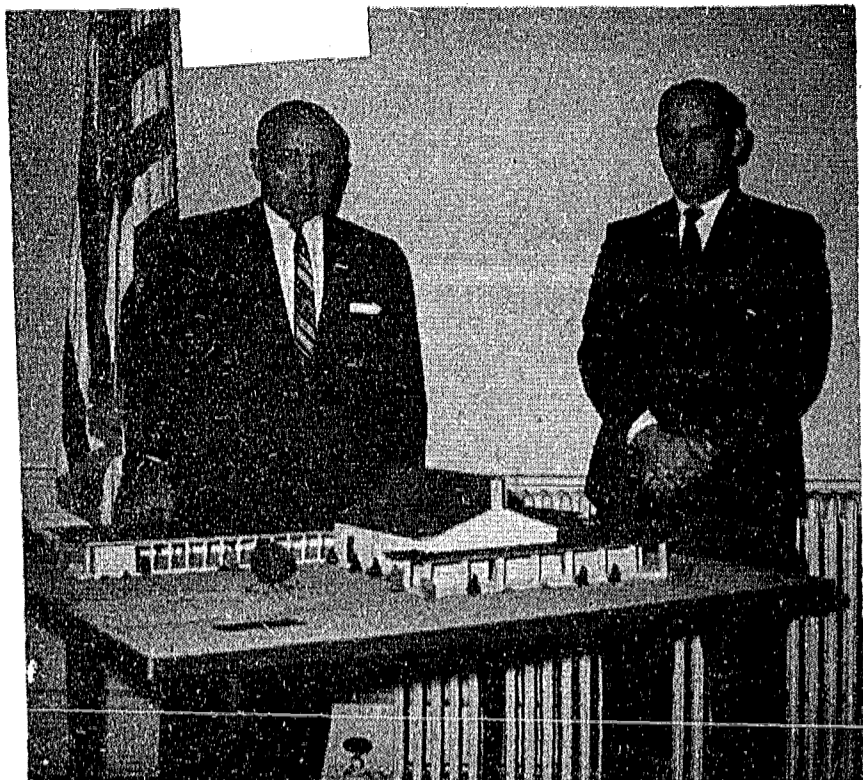
# THE TIMES

FORMERLY  
 THE  
 SCOTCH PLAINS TIMES  
 AND  
 FANWOOD  
 INDEPENDENT

VOL 9 NO. 11

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J., THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1968

10 CENTS A COPY



The Rev. Alfred E. Willett, minister of First Methodist Church of Scotch Plains (left) and James J. Hopes, general chairman of a joint crusade to raise funds for the building campaign and budget operating expenses, inspect model of first section of new church plant to be constructed in Terrill Road near King Street.

## Goals Set for Building Fund Drive

"Our Next Step Forward" is the theme of a joint crusade of First Methodist Church of Scotch Plains to raise funds for its building campaign and church operating expenses for the new year. The second appeal for building funds marks the close of the initial drive which opened three years ago. The church proposes construction soon on a \$200,000 church building in Terrill Road, the first step in a 2-part building program.

James J. Hopes, general chairman of the joint crusade, said the goal of the combined drive is \$40,114 of which \$20,000 will be earmarked for the building fund and \$20,114 allocated for general budget expenses.

The campaign will be kicked-off at a canvassers' dinner Sunday (March 17) at 6 p.m. at the church, Mountain Ave. and Forest Rd.

Gordon R. Ewy, building chairman, said the 98-year-old congregation expects to begin construction this summer on the first part of a two-part program for a complete plant on the 3-1/2 acre Terrill Road tract.

Initial phase calls for a Fellowship Hall to double as a temporary worship center, and an Education Building containing six classrooms, church office, kitchen, storage rooms and rest facilities. The one-story connecting buildings will be of brick exterior on slab construction with a layout permitting the addition of a sanctuary at a future date. The complex, of modified contemporary design, has been planned by Mrs. Ann Willis, Wayne architect.

Three years ago the first building crusade resulted in pledges totaling \$66,000 and in recent weeks the Methodist Conference Board of Missions provided aid in the amount of \$30,000. Ewy said these monies, augmented by funds on hand and an anticipated commercial loan, warrant immediate construction to fulfill the church's need for expanded adult and youth programs.

The congregation was given

Continued On Page 11

## School Authorities Handling of Charges Praised as Fair

### Bomb Mishap Costs Youth Four Fingers

John Stroud, 14, of 2021 Brookside Avenue, Scotch Plains was seriously injured yesterday while making a bomb in his home. He was taken to Muhlenberg Hospital at 4 p.m. by the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad where he remains intensive care section. Local police reported that the boy lost four fingers in the accident.

The Police Department said that the boy had stuffed a U-shaped galvanized pipe with matchheads. While crimping the edges of the pipe with a hammer, the bomb exploded. The police said they had found two similar bombs, one already exploded, and one which had not gone off. They said the other two bombs were made by area boys of the same age. The boys, the police said, crimp the pipe ends together, and drill a hole in the pipe, into which a fuse is inserted. When the fuse is lighted, the bomb goes off.

## School Board Clarifies Its Position on Professional Day

There have appeared numerous opinions and expressions pro and con in print recently regarding the "Professional Day" engaged in by our teachers on March 8, 1968. On that day, approximately 83% of the professional staff remained away from their teaching or other stations and attended off-school activities sponsored by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association.

The expressed intent of this action, according to the Association, was to demonstrate "concern with the direction in which our educational program is moving" and to point up the fact that teachers' "responsibility is to the individual child in these communities." Further, the "Professional Day" was implemented to demonstrate the teachers' concern with the "cuts in the originally proposed budget and what these cuts mean to the development of our school program", according to the Association's circularized statement.

The Board gives credence to these ideals and principles and recognizes that the teaching staff conducted itself in a gentlemanly fashion during the declared "Professional Day" eschewing the undesirable practices employed in neighboring communities.

However, the Board of Education is acutely aware that there are but two legal "Professional Days" available to teachers during the year and that observance of these days are (1) only upon specific application to the Board and (2) for the specific and sole purpose of attending the Teach-

ers' Convention held annually in Atlantic City, N.J.

Since there are no provisions for "Professional Days" other than the abovementioned, the Board must recognize the day, March 8, 1968, designated as a "Professional Day" by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association a day of unauthorized absence from duty by all participating teachers and other professional staff.

We, the members of the Board of Education, are totally conscious of our responsibilities to the voters of both communities in the establishment and maintenance of the most efficient program of learning for our children within the limits prescribed by the residents at the polls. To meet this challenge, it also is necessary to create an environment which will attract and hold teachers of the highest caliber possible.

The unauthorized actions of the SPFEA on March 8, 1968 could lead to an impairment of the kind of environment we have enjoyed and hope to further in the future. The Board of Education does not condone this action.

Speaking of recent talks between Negro parents and high school authorities, Alonzo Stewart, a spokesman for the Negro parents, said he believed that the community had been "treated very fairly by both Dr. Tyson and Mr. Laberge" and he was certain that "we can iron out these difficulties". Stewart expressed a hope that whatever decisions were made on the color guard could be used in determining whether or not there was discrimination in other areas.

Mr. Stewart said he was afraid that perhaps some teachers might have a wrong impression of sentiments of Negro parents. He said the parents were very pleased with the education their children were receiving. He said the education was beyond comparison, and the quality of teaching did not "even enter into it". The parents questioned psychological effects upon their children resulting from discriminatory attitudes.

### Resigns After 24 Years on Library Board

Hon. Carl O. Sayward resigned from the Board of Trustees of the Fanwood Memorial Library at the March 4 meeting. In recognition of his outstanding library service the Board immediately elected him Trustee Emeritus.

In his letter of resignation Mr. Sayward wrote, "I want to be able to say to myself that I have served long enough, but I don't want any informed, fair-minded person to say that 'he has served too long.' The activities and the associations of the Library Board have meant a great deal to me...the decision to resign is one of the most difficult I have made during our long residence in Fanwood."

Mr. Sayward has served twenty-four years as a Trustee and has held the office of President, Vice president, Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, and Treasurer of the Library Gift Fund.

His scope of library interest has extended beyond the local area to active participation in the affairs of the state and national trustee associations. In recognition of distinguished service and meritorious accomplishments as Trustee of Fanwood Memorial Library the New Jersey Library Association awarded Hon. Carl O. Sayward the 1960 Citation as Trustee of the Year.

### Judy Cole Will Talk on Theatre

Mrs. Judy Cole of the Scotch Plains Players, will address Junior High students on the techniques of acting on this evening (March 14) at 7:30 at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, Grand Street and Union Avenue, Scotch Plains. Mrs. Cole will talk about the theatre, make-up, what goes into producing a play, and will direct several of the players in brief roles.

Any Junior High student in Fanwood and Scotch Plains is invited to attend.

A seven-member color guard at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School was temporarily disbanded on March 6 by Dr. Perry Tyson, High School Principal. Dr. Tyson said that the primary purpose of the color guard was to promote school spirit and student morale. He said it was, instead, causing disagreement among the students. He appointed a nineteen-member committee to study criteria for selection of students to the honor guard, and possibly to study other areas of student activity.

Discrimination in the selection of color guard members had been charged by representatives of the Negro community in town following the failure of a Negro girl to be selected to the guard. A sit-in of approximately 50 Negro students occurred at the school on February 14, following the final tryouts for the guard.

Following Dr. Tyson's March 6 announcement of the disbanding of the group, he and two assistant principals, James Cerasa and Raymond Schnitzer, met with representatives of the Negroes. During the meeting, Tyson named members to a Principal's Advisory Committee. They include four white and four Negro students, three white and three Negro parents, and five members of the faculty, including administrators.

The Advisory Committee met for the first time on Monday. The initial meeting was primarily organizational and was described by Assistant Principal James Cerasa as "very congenial, productive, and honest". To date, no recommendations concerning color guard have been made. Cerasa said that the meeting included introductions, a restatement of problems to date, and a discussion of ways to get a good dialogue going. He said a description of past events was necessary so that both sides would have a common understanding of what happened. He said he felt the time had been well spent. The committee will meet again today. Mr. Cerasa indicated that suggestions might not be forthcoming for some time, since the goals of the Principal's Advisory Committee are far-reaching and long-range, and it is hoped that suggestions made concerning the color guard selection might also be applicable to other competitive student activities.