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## Agnoli Traces Revolutionary History



Fanwood Bell Ringing - Back Row left to Right Jack Dorton, Fanwood Recreation Commission Chairman; Mr. Gibby of S.A.R. Roselle (Abraham Clark Chapter); Councilman Boryea of Fanwood. Front - J. J. Agnoli, Master of Ceremonies; Roland Beetham, Fanwood Mayor; Mr. John Henry Frazee, Oldest Living Member of S.A.R. (95 years old); Oceana Briggs, in costume of Washington's Day.

Residents of the area were transported back in time to Revolutionary days last Thursday, as they watched a dramatic presentation of a Revolutionary War incident which took place along now - familiar streets. "The British Are Coming" was presented during the annual Fourth of July bell-ringing ceremony on the steps of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church. It was written by Justus Agnoli, a Fanwood resident well versed in the history of the area. He was assisted in production by Oceana Briggs.

"The British Are Coming" related an incident in General Washington's defense of his position in the Watchung Mountains

at Middle Brook. Two British columns, attempting to march to Philadelphia, advanced from Perth Amboy. One column came by way of Woodbridge, the other through Metuchen. They joined forces in Samptown (South Plainfield). Agnoli traced their activities as the British attempted to make a surprise passage through the Scotch Plains Gap to the valley beyond the first Watchung Ridge. He cited an engagement at Short Hills (now the Plainfield Country Club), the British passage along Old Raritan Road, Cooper Road, and Martine Avenue.

Another section of British troops proceeded along Old Rari-

tan Road, where they stopped at the corner of Terrill Road to request bread from now-famous Aunt Betsy Frazee. Her home is now the location of Terralou Farms. Agnoli pointed out, in the dramatic incident, homes of Revolutionary War origin which still stand in the community, the role of the famed Fanwood Oak, the Stage House Inn, and familiar locations of today which figured in the history, such as New Providence Road, Tamaques Reservation, West Broad Street in Westfield, and Martine Avenue. General Washington's shrewd appraisal of General Howe's intentions resulted in a victory for the Continental Army and retreat of the British.

ant public issue. I'm pleased, too that 95 percent of my constituents (based on the figures I cited) appear to support my own position on gun controls; that is, that interstate mail orders of all firearms and over-the-counter sales to minors and out-of-state residents should be prohibited while registration of weapons and licensing of owners should be required.

These are hardly extreme measures. They are neither harassing in their effect nor arduous to comply with -- far less so, for example, than the analogous registration, licensing and inspection requirements which States impose on owners and operators of automobiles. If we insist on such restrictions for automobiles, and for most American autos are essential in this highly mobile world, surely the same kind of minimum limitations are justified in the case of guns which are, at best, a hobby, and at worst an invitation to death and destruction.

Try as I have -- and the debate on gun controls, as you know, has been raging now for several

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## School Parking Plans Hit by Local Residents

### Hearings Continued to July 18

Approximately 55 residents of streets surrounding Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School attended the second night of the Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment hearing on Board of Education plans for new parking arrangements at the school on Tuesday, July 2 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Many of those in attendance asked that revisions be made and alternative arrangements considered. Hearings will continue on July 18 at 8:15 p.m. in the Municipal Hall.

New parking arrangements, necessitated by the erection of an addition behind the school which will occupy the area of the present lot, include a long strip with 91 spaces alongside Evergreen School, space for 52 vehicles in a lot bordering on Cedar Street, a small lot in front of the school for business personnel, and a parking strip alongside the high school, behind West Court. There would be ingress to the various areas from Westfield Road, Evergreen Avenue, and Cedar Street, one-way traffic flow on all roadways and egress out Westfield Road, Evergreen Avenue, and Cedar Street.

John Blanche of Micklewright and Mountford, Hamnet, Bouman and Blanche, architect for the addition, testified before the Board of Adjustment, that the 27 acres of high school land was very limited, and that the Board of Education had decided to keep all available space for educational use, using the perimeter of Evergreen School for parking. Blanche said the elimination of parking on access drives and roadways and space taken up by addition reduced present parking to 52 spaces. He said fences around the parking areas were not in original plans. He stated that no changes were under consideration, nor was any consideration given to grading the practice field and areas behind the school.

Residents from West Court were represented by an attorney. Other homeowners from Monica Place, Carol Place, Evergreen Avenue, and Sunrise Court have submitted a petition, with 160 signatures, requesting changes in the proposal. They protested that there will be heavy traffic on Evergreen Avenue, endangering children going to Evergreen School. They also said the residential nature of the streets would be changed. Several expressed concern that the parking strip near Evergreen Avenue was long and would be conducive to speeding, and that racing would occur around the various areas after school hours. Robert Griffin of West Court asked that consideration be given to using the right rear area behind the high school building for all parking, with entrance and exit on Westfield Road and possibly a new entrance and exit at Cedar Street. His suggestion, Griffin said, would allow for parking for 390 spaces, would effect substantial savings for the community, and would reduce traffic hazards. Griffin said the present plan uses 4800 square feet of lost property for

buffer zones along nearby properties. Don Mahar, also of West Court, offered an opinion that there was no real justification for the traffic flow around a grade school, and said he felt the plan was not the best for either the Board of Education or the residents.

Dr. Perry Tyson, principal of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High

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## S.P. Pilot is "Guest" of Russians

Henry J. Treger, Jr., of 2045 Jersey Avenue returned home last Thursday, a bit tired, but otherwise fine, after spending two days as the "guest" of the Russians. Treger was the co-pilot on a Seaboard World Airlines plane which was intercepted by Russian MIGs on July 1, and brought down on Iturup Island, one of the Kurile Islands group in the Pacific. The plane, a DC8, was carrying military personnel to Vietnam. According to Treger, the plane was not violating Soviet air space, as claimed by the Russians.

During the two-day stay, Treger, his sixteen fellow crewmen, and the 214 military passengers were well-treated, he said. They spent most of their time inside the airplane, but were allowed out of the plane to walk around during Monday evening. The Russians provided three meals a day -- mostly C-rations-type food packaged in small boxes.

Treger, a 1959 graduate of Scotch Plains - Fanwood High School, has been making the Vietnam run for about a year. A Navy veteran, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and was a commercial pilot and instructor in Colt's Neck, N.J. before he joined Seaboard in 1967.

After the United States apologized for the intrusion, the airplane was released by the Russians, and continued its flight to Vietnam, where they discharged the passengers, returning home with 219 troops returning from duty.

Treger now plans to take a few days off. He said his experience was an interesting one, perhaps because U.S.-Russian relations are at a high point. Treger's co-pilot was Captain Joseph Tosolini of Bethany, Conn.

## Rep. Dwyer Cites Need for Gun Control

One of the healthiest things that have happened to Congress in recent years has been the massive, and continuing, outpouring of letters, telegrams and petitions demanding that Congress enact stronger gun control laws.

Healthy, because Congress needs to be reminded from time to time that people do care, that they care enough to write and watch what Congress does, and that they aren't content to leave the channels of communication exclusively in the hands of special interests.

Healthy, too, because effective gun control legislation will be passed ONLY if the people's capacity to persist on this issue outlasts Congress' well-known ability to delay. For it is clear that opponents of stronger gun controls are basing their strategy in Congress on the expectation that popular apathy will soon

leave the field in the hands of those who are committed to the unrestricted trade in guns. Even though they're greatly outnumbered, opponents believe that their own convictions are deeper and more lasting than those of gun control supporters, and so in the end they will prevail in Congress.

Time will tell. But in the meantime, residents of the 12th Congressional District, including many of you who read this report, have sided overwhelmingly with those who advocate more effective gun controls. As of the date this is written (July 6), the count is 3,872 FOR stronger controls and 200 AGAINST. And the trend continues lop-sidedly in favor of restricting gun sales. In today's latest mail deliveries, the score is 31 for, 8 against.

As most of you know by now, I am personally deeply pleased at this impressive manifestation of citizen concern about an import-