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End Of A Landmark



Scotch Plains lost one of its oldest landmarks on Saturday, when the town's first one-room schoolhouse, dating to 1768, was gutted by fire.

The house, which once stood in Park Avenue, had been moved to 356 Stout Avenue in the 1870's, was used as a residence in recent years. The present owner, Mrs. Georgiana Brown, and her four children were safely removed from the second floor of the house after the fire alarm was turned in at 11:16 a.m. Saturday morning.

The old building was said to be the oldest of a group of 35 buildings in Scotch Plains which had been designated as historic by the Committee to Preserve Historic Sites.

Records indicate that the one-room school originally was built on land given to the Scotch Plains Baptist Society by William Darby. It was run by the society,

and leased to the town of Westfield for \$10 per year. Tuition for the 100 children registered hit the family budgets of that time for a healthy \$1.87 per term, from which monies schoolmaster William Coles received his \$90 per year salary.

The early schoolroom was typical of school facilities of its day, with benches and desks running the length of the schoolroom and the traditional pot-bellied stove in the middle of the room to warm chilly toes.

The building was used as a school until 1871, when the land upon which it stood was labeled for a new church. It was auctioned off in 1873 for \$85. The old Baptist church which stood beside the school in Park Avenue has also been moved, and is now the Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA building in Grand Street.

Dems Take 2 Township Committee Seats

Municipal Pool Proposal Is Defeated 4486-3397

Scotch Plains residents obviously did quite a bit of vote splitting yesterday, as they elected two Democratic Township Committeemen, and also cast a Presidential total in favor of Republican Richard M. Nixon.

With an 86 percent voter turnout, Democratic candidates Michael Regan and Robert Griffin unseated incumbent Republican Committeeman William Kitz and defeated Lawrence Wolf for the seat to be vacated by Democrat Mrs. Edith Powers. Total votes cast were: Regan, 4807; Griffin, 4615; Kitz, 4434; and Wolf, 4331.

Scotch Plains voters also defeated a non-binding referendum for a municipal pool by a vote of 4486 to 3397.

The composition of the Township Committee will now include Republicans Thomas Santo Salvo, Albert Theurer, Ray Schnitzer, and Democrats Griffin and Regan. Santo Salvo and Theurer were elected on the regular Republican ticket, while Schnitzer ran as an independent, and has voted with outgoing Democrat Edith Powers on several occasions recently.

The last Democratic victory here was in 1965, when voters elected Mrs. Powers and Ray Waterkotte. Waterkotte died before taking office, however, and Kitz was appointed in his place.

In other areas of the ballot, Scotch Plains voters chose Nixon by 5437 over Humphrey and Wallace, with 3484 and 564 votes respectively; Republican freeholders Zurav, Dunne, and Maguire;

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ROBERT GRIFFIN



MICHAEL REGAN

Students Ride a Million Miles

Students transported on school buses in Scotch Plains and Fanwood rode more than a million miles to and from school last year according to Michael Klick, Administrative Assistant for the public schools.

To help maintain the excellent driving and safety record established by local school bus drivers, the first in a series of school bus driver safety workshops took place at Terrill Junior High School in Scotch Plains on Monday, November 4, 1968. The program concentrated on practical applications and suggestions of safe driving techniques and practices.

Mr. Steve Lovett, Transportation Coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Education provided a slide and film presentation dealing with student safety and accident prevention. A defensive driving session conducted by Sgt. Jack Doyle of the Trenton Barracks of the New Jersey State Police was also included in the program.

A general session and question and answer period concluded the evening's program.

School bus drivers, contractors, and transportation directors from Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools, Union County Regional School District, Breza Bus Service, Inc., Brunner's Transportation, Cito Transportation Service, Edison and Tri-R Bus Company, Terzella Bus Company and Wussler Bus Service participated in the workshop.

twined large and small H's. Helping Hand might best be entitled an insurance policy for children, a haven in time of need.

When is a Helping Hand home used? At any time by any child passing by who might be hurt in a fall, frightened by a bully, approached by a stranger, followed by a dog, or in any other similar situation. The Helping Hand parent does not administer First Aid or drugs. She serves only as a link to help. She'll call a parent, alert school authorities, or summon police or Rescue Squad.

To date, there are no tallies on the application of Helping Hand assistance here. Perhaps there's been nothing more serious than a few scratched knees, or a battle

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Massive Re-organization In Helping Hand Program

"A giant telephone booth" is one definition used to describe a Helping Hand home by Mrs. Donald Holmgaard, Senior Chairman of the Joint PTA Safety Committee. Helping Hand, in effect for two years in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school system, is undergoing a massive re-organization and re-educational program beginning today. After two years in action, it is time for all parents to take another look at the meaning of Helping Hand, and its importance in the life of all school children.

Helping Hand, begun at LaGrande School in Fanwood in 1966 and instituted system-wide six months later, is a school safety program. Under the plan, a volunteer mother on each residential block throughout both communities places a sign in her front window as a signal to passing children that her home is open to them in any emergency. The eye-catching sign features a red background, with two hands, an adult hand reaching toward a child's hand, and inter-

Rep. Dwyer Critical of 90th Congress

Rep. Florence P. Dwyer (R-12th Dist., N.J.) is reporting to constituents this week that the 2nd session of the 90th Congress "made considerable progress but should and could have made a great deal more."

In a session-and review of what Congress did and did not accomplish, which has just been printed in the "Congressional Record", Congresswoman Dwyer compared the 2nd session with the 1st and concluded that neither fully met "the needs of a swiftly changing and crisis-ridden nation."

Among its major achievements, Mrs. Dwyer listed the Housing and Urban Development Act, new consumer protection laws, including the Truth-in-Lending Act, a number of measures which "improve the ability of law enforcement agencies to cope with crime and civil disorder more effectively," improvements in higher education and vocational educational programs, and several actions in the area of conservation including establishment of the Great

Swamp Wilderness Area and the Redwood National Park.

In terms of quality, if not of quantity, the session's failures were "at least as significant," the Congresswoman said.

"Number one," she emphasized, "was the failure to pay no more than passing formal attention in the House to the most costly, the most divisive the bitterest political issue that has torn our people apart in an entire generation," the war in Vietnam.

Congresswoman Dwyer also criticized Congressional refusal to reorganize the Executive Branch, modernize its own operations, reform election laws, and in general, make government work more effectively, produce greater results and respond more reliably to people's needs and wishes.