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VOLUME

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Ann...ner Celebrates YMCA 25th Anniversary

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA is a quarter-century old this year, and directors, trustees, staff, and community supporters noted the important milestone at the annual recognition dinner on Monday, February 7 at Snuffy's Restaurant.

"Silver" was the theme for the evening, and table decor featured silver pots filled with silver branches, decorated with small silver cups of mints and nuts.

Appropriately, E.H. Peterson, son of one of the original founders of the local YMCA, was Master of Ceremonies. He reminisced, recalling the 25-year history of the local facility. His mother cut a large birthday cake, which was served to guests.

President of the Board of Directors Joseph W. Duff, detailed the highlights of the past year at the YMCA. Trustees and directors, past and present, have done the hard work which made possible realization of goals, Duff noted. He pointed out an interesting contrast in funding past, funding present. In the first year of operation as an independent YMCA branch, the local YMCA had an income of \$4,200. During the past year, the income was 50 times that, reflecting the wide variety of activity and the great number of children served.

One of the program features was a trip back through the 25-year history of the YMCA, a slide program presented by Program Director Richard Pollock, narrated by Henry C. Friedrichs, Jr. The slides included pictures of the old parish house of

1912 which now served the community as the Grand Street YMCA, the Coles family who donated the building, shots of present day activities, and pictures of old fee schedules, listing junior memberships at \$1 a year.

Among the community members recognized for their service to the YMCA was a citation to outgoing trustee Mrs. Richard Hatfield, and retiring directors Mrs. Walther Ott, Joseph M. Guty, and Pierre E. Peterson.

Robert R. Risher, who served as Chairman of the Building Committee for the new Family Center on Martine Avenue and as vice president for Long Range Planning, received a special award for his efforts.

The "Service to Youth" award, the highest award presented by the YMCA to laymen, was the concluding point of the night -- the award going to Pierre E. Peterson. Peterson has served as Director for seven years, three of those as President of the Board of Directors. He was a leader in the Capital Fund Campaign of 1969, which led to the building of the new Family Center.

Lay members of the community who have contributed many hours

Continued On Page 24

Dinner Honors Retiring Fanwood Boro Officials

Five public servants who have recently retired from positions in the Fanwood government were feted at a surprise testimonial dinner Friday night at Snuffy's. In the spotlight were former Mayor Roland M. Beetham, former Councilmen M. Douglass Beals, Charles Smith, William Nelson, and former Borough Attorney Beard. Approximately 225 people gathered to pay tribute to the five, and the crowd included former mayors and councilmen, as well as representatives from all boards, commissions and agencies, and from community service clubs and organizations.

The dinner was arranged by a committee which included Mrs. Robert Geer, Councilmen Van Dyke Pollitt and John Coulter, and Borough Administrator John Campbell, Jr. Mrs. Geer and Pollitt were mistress and master of ceremonies.

Table decorations, designed by Betty Holck, featured miniature replicas of the Fanwood Community House, complete in every detail, right down to the brass doorknobs and bulletin board, which read "Testimonial Dinner." They were made from styrofoam and painted by Mrs. Pollitt, Mrs. Beetham, Dorothy Goodyear, Theo Nightingale, and Pat Samse.

Following the Dutch Treat cocktail hour and dinner, a series of gifts were awarded. First came the "joke" gifts. Judge Beard, who has faced Campbell across a narrow table through many long years of Council meetings, received an autographed picture of Campbell. Smith, who headed Public Works Committee, will hand his autographed picture of Ray Manfra, head of the Public Works Department, while Beals will undoubtedly "remember the Master Plan" whenever he glances at his autographed photo of Justus Agnoli of the

Planning Board. Nelson, who served as Police Commissioner, now has a new addition for his walls -- an autographed picture of Police Chief Joseph Gorsky -- and the final -- a gift for former Mayor Beetham -- an autographed picture of President Nixon. (Perhaps signifying new worlds to conquer?)

The Republican Club presented the five with serving trays, and the Dinner Committee presented as the main gift from the many in attendance identical clocks engraved "From a Grateful Community."

The entertainment featured a twenty-minute speech of reminiscence, "Fanwood Then and Now" delivered by Clarence Slocum, Mayor from 1930 to 1933. It was amusing, homey and anecdotal, detailing the old and new of Fanwood life.

The Scotch Plains Township Committee was on hand to fete the outgoing officials, as were three former mayors -- Slocum, Charles Todd, and Carl Sayward. Former Mayor E. Sidney Hulsizer sent greetings. Twelve former councilmen and a host of friends and citizens completed the large gathering.

Heliport Issue Heats Up Public Hearing

Listening Post Hears 25 Gripes

The "Listening Post" celebrated its first anniversary with coffee, cake and twenty-five residents who came down with complaints or concerns. Mayor Albert W. Theurer sent a letter of thanks to Committeemen Augustine, Grote, and Newcomb for conducting the session, which offers residents an opportunity to meet informally with members of the Township Committee. Former Mayor William Kitz also was on hand to be of assistance at this anniversary meeting.

Many of the residents who visited the "Listening Post" took time out before going into their personal concerns to express appreciation and congratulations on its one-year history. Nevertheless, the Saturday evening session lasted until 11 p.m., an hour longer than usual to hear a range of complaints and suggestions from garbage collection problems, speeding on Morse Avenue, flooding insurance, and the advisability to license cats.

Two cases brought before the Committeemen were not discussed in detail due to the fact that one case is scheduled for Municipal Court and the other is before the Board of Adjustment.

Britton Is Named Board President

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education unanimously named Peter N. Britton, Jr. as president for 1972, at the annual reorganization meeting of the board, held at Terrill Junior High School on Monday, February 7. Britton was elected to a second term on the board in February 1 elections. His name was offered in nomination by newly elected member Charles Ferguson, and seconded by Sheldon Anderson.

In a split decision, Richard Bard defeated Charles Ferguson 5-4 for the vice presidency. Bard, a Fanwood member, had served as vice president last year. His name was offered in nomination by John McCormick, seconded by Joseph Parry.

Ferguson, who was elected to the board on February 1, had served two previous terms and had served in the post of vice president. He was nominated by Sheldon Anderson, seconded by Walter Siff, also a newcomer. The balloting was secret.

The board voted Michael Klick as acting secretary. Superintendent of Schools Fred Laberge had been serving in the acting secretary position in recent months, following the board's action last spring in not granting tenure to former Assistant Superintendent for Business Albert Freeland. The board has

South Side Residents Voice Strong Objections To Proposed Facility In Their Area

It was Standing Room Only at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Tuesday night -- not an unusual situation when public hearings are on the agenda. However, the meeting may have been precedent-setting, since for once a crowd of over 70 citizens and the Township Committee appeared to be of one opinion. That opinion might boil down to the fact that Scotch Plains residents don't want helicopter pads, heliports, helipads, or helicopter facilities by any other name. They don't want private ones, and they seriously question the need for a municipal facility either. Many are hopeful that pending legislation at the state level may save the day.

The meeting was held by the Township Committee to provide the public with the results of a study of possible municipal heliport sites made by a Planning Board Committee. The Committee, when first confronted with the assignment, felt that all heliports should be opposed, according to a Planning Board member George Piccoli, who spoke Tuesday. However, they then considered possible effects. If a license for a private heliport were to be granted to a Scotch Plains applicant by the state, in direct violation of township prohibition of heliports or helipads, and the township were then forced to take the case to court, the township might not be in a position to win if all such facilities were prohibited. However, if the township, in court, were able to point to a municipal heliport facility, located in an uncrowded area as possible, it might negate the arguments in favor of private licenses.

The question has been boiling for months on the north side of Scotch Plains, where a construction firm, D'Annunzio Brothers, applied last summer to the state for a license which would permit rented helicopters to land and take off on the firm property, which is within 100 feet of nine homes, and is within a mile of five schools. Residents on the north side have been steadily active in opposition, conducting flyer distributions and letter-writing campaigns to Trenton officials.

Now the Planning Board has found that, if Scotch Plains were to have a municipal heliport, two sites would be desirable. Both would be located on the south side on the extension of Martine Avenue to be constructed soon. One site is on the left side of the ex-

not appointed anyone to fill the post once held by Freeland, since Freeland has brought suit against the board regarding the tenure issue.

Klick is Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

Mr. Ferguson introduced a motion of appreciation to former board members Owen P. Lynch, Frederick Eyer, and Mrs. Muriel Ramsden. Mrs. Ramsden, who served six years, did not seek re-election. Lynch and Eyer did, but were defeated. Ferguson's comments noted the efforts, cooperation, and dedication of the three to the school children of Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

tension, past Raritan Road intersection, the other is on the right side of the extension. Both about the Ashbrook Swamp.

With the heliport possibility now moving to the south side of Scotch Plains, another new and vocal force of taxpayers has joined the fray.

Why does the township need a municipal heliport? Mayor Theurer was asked. Theurer said that in discussions with state Aeronautics Division officials, during which the Scotch Plains governing body had registered strong opposition to the granting of the private heliport license to D'Annunzio, the state officials had intimated that private licenses might not be granted if there were a municipal facility. The state has indicated that it is an either/or basis, Theurer said. Theurer said if D'Annunzio should get his private license, other applications from other industrial businesses might be forthcoming in the future.

"Who is the state? We ARE the state," one resident said. Another noted that a vast number of law abiding, tax paying citizens are having a helicopter facility of some sort jammed down their throats. Still a third urged that the township not give in to the state, and instead take the issue to court.

One woman pointed out the strong need for a state-wide Master Plan on air traffic. She feels adjacent towns should join forces and demand a Master Plan, and a justification for such heliports to avoid spot placing. She also questioned the insurance situation on properties adjacent to such facilities, stating that they

Continued On Page 24

ATTENTION Dog Owners

Dog licenses are overdue and may be obtained from the office of the Township Clerk between the hours of 9 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. The fee is \$3.50. Also, licenses may be applied for by mailing a check to this office together with a description of the dog, age, sex, length of hair, color, and name. A stamped self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.