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Old Clubhouse At Scotch Hills Has Rich Colonial History

By JOAN MONAHAN

It began life as a small Dutch Colonial farmhouse, way back in 1749. Today, it is a clubhouse for the Scotch Hills Municipal Golf Course. In between, the interesting old house has had a wide and diversified history. At one point it served as a nightclub which featured the noted black entertainers of the 1940s. Last week, a representative of the Scotch Plains Women's Club approached the town fathers of Scotch Plains seeking a Master Plan for the improvement of the club over the next few years. In the view of Mrs. Marie Giggannon, of the Women's Club, the clubhouse now serves many local groups, who use it for meetings and civic activities, but it needs a plan for decorating and structural improvement.

Those who have never visited Scotch Hills (which had included this reporter) might be interested in just what the old building houses. We toured the facility this week with Mrs. Giggannon and Charles Derwiller, a local architect who is known nationwide for many of his efforts in restoring old buildings. His work includes Stage House Village in Scotch Plains and a building in Mystic Seaport, Connecticut.

Scotch Hills, not unlike many another 18th century building, was a sturdy farmhouse which has grown, more less in a helter-skelter fashion through the years. The central core is the 1700's section - a classic example of a center hall Dutch Colonial, with many vestiges of its years still in evidence. As one enters the front door, he finds himself in a small living room-foyer type room. The door frame is the original, with the old side lights and doorway trim. The batten doors in this room are old and quite low, and early hand-made nails can be spotted.

The furnishings include a rock maple recreation room-type set of furniture and some old and rather soiled carpeting. The room has pretty painted columns, and hand-hewn beams in the ceiling.

Through a doorway to the right, one enters a very large

room, suitable for receptions and meetings. It is approximately 22 by 60 feet in size, and it makes no pretense of adhering to the historical authenticity of the main body of the room. A very wide new brick hearth and fireplace built in 1964, is centered on the long wall. This room has bare floors. The Women's Club is contemplating the addition of an acoustical tile ceiling as a contribution.

To the left of the entrance room is a small passageway type room, with the original brick hearth and Dutch oven. However, a new front of brick has been constructed over the original fireplace. An ancient black cauldron sits at the hearth. Once again, there are several old paneled and batten doorways, lower than one customarily finds today.

Golfers who lunch at Scotch Hills use a third very small lunchroom which has been added somewhere along the line. It has four square tables covered in oilcloth, a counter with marbled tile topping, peach-colored synthetic curtains, and a Coke machine.

In the back of the building is a very large room, now unused and condemned. While the useable portion of the building is sturdy, (and old) this back room

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Restraining Order Is Served In Verdic Case

A temporary restraining order was served recently on Verdic's Nursery, pending a Superior Court case expected to be heard around the first of the year. Under the temporary restraining order, the nursery may operate only under certain specified conditions.

Verdic's, located at the corner of Second Street and Flanders Avenue in the Scotch Plains business district, has occasioned extensive complaint during the past year from residents in adjacent homes and from nearby homeowners, because of a topsoil business operated at the location. Residents appeared many times at meetings of the Township Committee, seeking cessation of the dust, dirt, and the noise created by trucks which carried the soil to the small corner lot and away after the soil had been sifted. Businessmen have also complained of the mud caused when the topsoil spills into the street and is wet, and is later tracked into stores.

The township was joined by five homeowners in seeking court relief. Under terms of the restraining order, Verdic's Nursery was commanded and enjoined to

desist, refrain and limit the operation of the processing of top soil, sifting, screening and storage to specified conditions.

The mounds of top soil or dirt stored on the lot must be in mounds or piles which do not exceed the height of a hedge located between the Verdic property and an adjacent residential property. That hedge, according to the order, is approximately 10 to 12 feet high.

The operation of all sifting equipment, tractors, bucket loaders and bulldozers is limited to the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

No topsoil, earth or dirt or vehicles are permitted to be parked on the public right-of-way bordering the Verdic property, and if earth falls upon this right-of-way, the restraining order specifies that it shall be re-

Yes, There Will Be Holiday Decorations In Scotch Plains

Fanwood Goes A'Caroling

The Fanwood Community Carol Sing, a highlight of the Christmas Season in Fanwood, has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 21. Everyone in the borough is invited and urged to join their fellow citizens in welcoming in Christmas with a healthy round of old-time traditional carols, a few rounds of Jingle Bells, some Deck the Halls, etc.

Audrey Martin and Evelyn Troy will lead the song and Sackel, popular music teacher at La Grande School, will accompany. The setting is designed for the cover of a Christmas card, as everybody gathers around the lovely community Christmas tree at the Community Center, north side of the Fanwood Railroad Station.

Hot cocoa, coffee and cookies are on the schedule for post-caroling warmup! Everybody's welcome. The Fanwood Recreation Commission urges you to take an hour or so and spend it in a meaningful way, amidst your fellow citizens in a spirit of fellowship and holiday cheer.

Remember - see you on December 21 at 8 p.m. around the big tree.

Annual Home Decorating Contest

Scotch Plains Recreation Commission will conduct their annual Home Decorating Contest on Thursday, December 21st starting at 7 p.m. This contest is open to any interested home owner in Scotch Plains. Please call the Recreation office at 322-6700, Ext. 21 or 22, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you wish to enter your home for judging, Awards will be presented in the following categories: Most Original, best overall, best door decoration and best public building display. You must register your house, door or building in order to be judged.

Santa Claus will arrive at the Municipal Building on Friday evening, December 22nd at 7 p.m. to greet all the children and distribute Christmas stockings. Everyone is invited to make Santa's arrival from the North Pole a welcome one.

moved by Verdic's without unreasonable delay.

The restrictions are to remain in force until a further order of the court.

The local Environmental Action Group had joined the residents in their protests before the restraining order was issued. Members of that body had stated that the dust and dirt in the air were unhealthy for nearby residents.

Businessmen Received Many Inquiries, Mayor Says Proposed Construction Delayed Decision

A bare, unvarnished, undecorated center of town in the pre-holiday season apparently got to many a local resident, according to reports from some of the businessmen in the Park Avenue shopping district. Some have been receiving telephone calls of complaint from irate citizens who want to know where the garland decorations are this year. In previous years, the garlands were strung across the business district, and were lighted just after Thanksgiving, and the municipal Christmas creche scene was in place on the lawn of the municipal building.

According to Mayor Albert Theurer, Scotch Plains will observe the holiday season. The lack of decorations has occurred through one of those uncontrollable situations and not by design. First of all, Theurer pointed out, the Christmas crib is always located on a section of the lawn in front of the old municipal building, and directly in line with the path of a new pipeline which was to be laid in conjunction with new construction.

When would the lawn be dug up for the new sewer pipes? Nobody knew, Theurer pointed out, and therefore the Recreation Commission had to wait until very close to Christmas to determine the contractor's plans. The pipeline will not interfere with the Christmas season, and at last report, the crib scene was scheduled to be erected at any moment. It is the same creche which was used last year, with statues of the family and the angels.

For many years, the township had a live animal scene, which attracted considerable traffic and accompanying headaches for safety officials. The scene was discontinued last year.

As for the garlands, only a limited number will be put up this year. One local businessman detailed the problems which a handful of merchants have faced in the past with regard to the garlands. The decorating project was undertaken by the Businessmen's Association, which now is defunct. There is no longer an organized group of businessmen. In past years, not all the merchants and businesses were willing to participate financially in the project, leaving only a limited number to bear the brunt of the project. There are still bills overdue from last year's Christmas lighting project, and the handful of merchants feel they cannot afford to go ahead once again.

How much did the project cost? A lot more than the average citizen might realize, a merchant reported. He said manpower and maintenance to hang the lights cost \$100 per string each Christmas season. This does not include the cost of the garlands themselves, since they were paid for some time ago. The insurance for the total project tallied

around \$400 annually, and the electrical bills were monumental, since the strings, which were tied into each store's electrical outlet, were on 24 hours a day.

One owner of a business, who asked not to be identified, said the store has received numerous telephone calls of complaint about the lighting. The merchant said few people realize that in almost all towns the lighting projects are undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce and/or Businessmen's Association rather than municipal officials. However, "we are not Westfield or Plainfield" but only a very small shopping area, reported the store owner. The total of approximately \$4,000 each year for the project was carried by so few businesses located within the town limits but outside the business district were often unwilling to become involved, it was noted.

Mayor Theurer said he had approached Mr. Ted Miller of Bowcraft, who has been a leader in the decorating projects in past years, and Miller had agreed to see what could be done to arrange for a more limited decorating project.

Members of the Father Nelligan Council #5730, Knights of Columbus, sought a meeting with Theurer some time ago to discuss the question of decorations. According to Al Bertolotti, a member of the KC group, an offer was made by that organization to fund decorations. However, Bertolotti noted that Theurer had worked with the Knights and also had sought the cooperation of the businessmen.

Santa Is Coming

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Jaycees would like to tell the children that "Santa's coming to town."

On December 16th at Fanwood Railroad Station between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon Santa will hand out candy canes and the Jaycees will serve cocoa.

Chairman, Joe Hobbs would like to remind you if you get there early you will see the "fat little man" in the red suit arrive on a fire engine.