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THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 14, NO.

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1973

15 CENTS A COPY

A Rose By Any Other Name...

Council-Manager Team Takes Over In Scotch Plains

Five men who called themselves Township Committeemen in Scotch Plains at 11:59 on New Year's Eve got new names with the New Year, as Scotch Plains introduced its new Council-Manager form of government, which replaces the Township Committee. The five men are all Republicans - William Kitz, Albert W. Theurer, Alan M. Augustine, Walter Grote, and B. Lawrence Newcomb.

From their midst, they elected William Kitz to the mayoralty. He was Mayor in 1968 and again in 1971. Walter Grote was elected deputy mayor.

Eventually, the new Council will hire a full-time town manager. For the interim months when they are screening applicants, the Council named Mrs. Shirley Capone to the post of interim township manager, at a salary of \$15,000. The salary is expected to be higher for a permanent town manager. It was noted that there have been many applicants for the job, which was advertised in New York newspapers and elsewhere.

Mrs. Capone has served as Administrative Secretary to the Administrator of Scotch Plains, from which position she has been granted a six-month leave of absence. She also was secretary to the Planning Board. She received high praise from town officials, who pointed out that she had assumed the duties of the former township administrator when he left this fall, and had carried on two positions capably.

"We are delighted she has accepted, and we couldn't have found anyone more suitably qualified to serve during this period,"

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Forum Will Hear Commuters On R.R. Shutdown Threat

On The Dais Tonight...

As we go to press, last minute notification of the guests who plan to attend tonight's Commuter's Forum at Park Junior High School, 8:00 p.m.

John Kohl, N.J. Commissioner of Transportation.

George Kugler, N.J. Attorney General (or his first deputy) Assemblyman Peter J. McDonough, R-Union, Chairman of the N.J. Assembly Transportation Committee.

Gordon Fuller, General Manager of Passenger Operations, Central Railroad of N.J.

Want answers on the Central Railroad dilemma? Attend the forum arranged by the Fanwood Borough Council. All factions will be represented - the Department of Transportation, the Governor, the Railroad, and the State Legislature!

Meeting Set For Tonight In Park Jr. High Auditorium

The very first railroad came chugging through Fanwood in 1838, seven years after it was chartered on February 9, 1831. The town actually got its name from the president of the railroad line, John Taylor Johnson, and about 350 acres surrounding the railroad line were owned by the Central Land Improvement Company.

Since its beginnings, the railroad has played a prime role in Fanwood life, for the commuting aspects have drawn many a homeowner to the borough and land values have inched steadily upward as homes easily accessible to New York offices have grown in demand. Therefore, it is with grave concern that Mayor Theodore Trumpp has responded to the threat of a railroad shutdown on January 21. He has called a forum for commuters, to be held tonight, Thursday, January 4, at Park Junior High School.

The forum is at 8:00 p.m. and is open to all area commuters.

Assemblyman Peter J. McDonough, chairman of the Assembly Committee on Transportation and Mr. Gordon R. Fuller, General Manager of Passenger Operations, Central Railroad of New Jersey, will be present to discuss the recent court order directing the CNJ to abandon passenger service and to answer the public's questions regarding it.

"We have seen conflicting newspaper accounts regarding the U.S. District Court order, and the appeal, later withdrawn, that would have challenged that order," Mayor Trumpp said. The Mayor and Council have invited governing bodies and commuters from surrounding communities, and have utilized every available means to alert local commuters, including distribution of circulars at the Corner Store, the Scotchwood Pharmacy and the railroad station.

Council President Van Dyke Pollitt, who conceived the forum idea, noted that "press accounts since the court order was issued on December 18 have done little to eliminate the confusion regarding this essential service. Instead, it appears that each faction has been more interested in justifying their positions in the

press rather than to the suffering commuters. The forum will help clarify these positions and give the commuters some idea re-

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Student Is Board Of Ed. Candidate

Steven R. Markscheid, a resident of Scotch Plains for 13 years, has announced his candidacy for the Board of Education. Mr. Markscheid attended Shackamaxon School, Coles School, Terrill Junior High School, and graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High last June.

He is currently enrolled at Princeton University.

Markscheid has taught French at Brunner School on a regular basis and has also assisted in

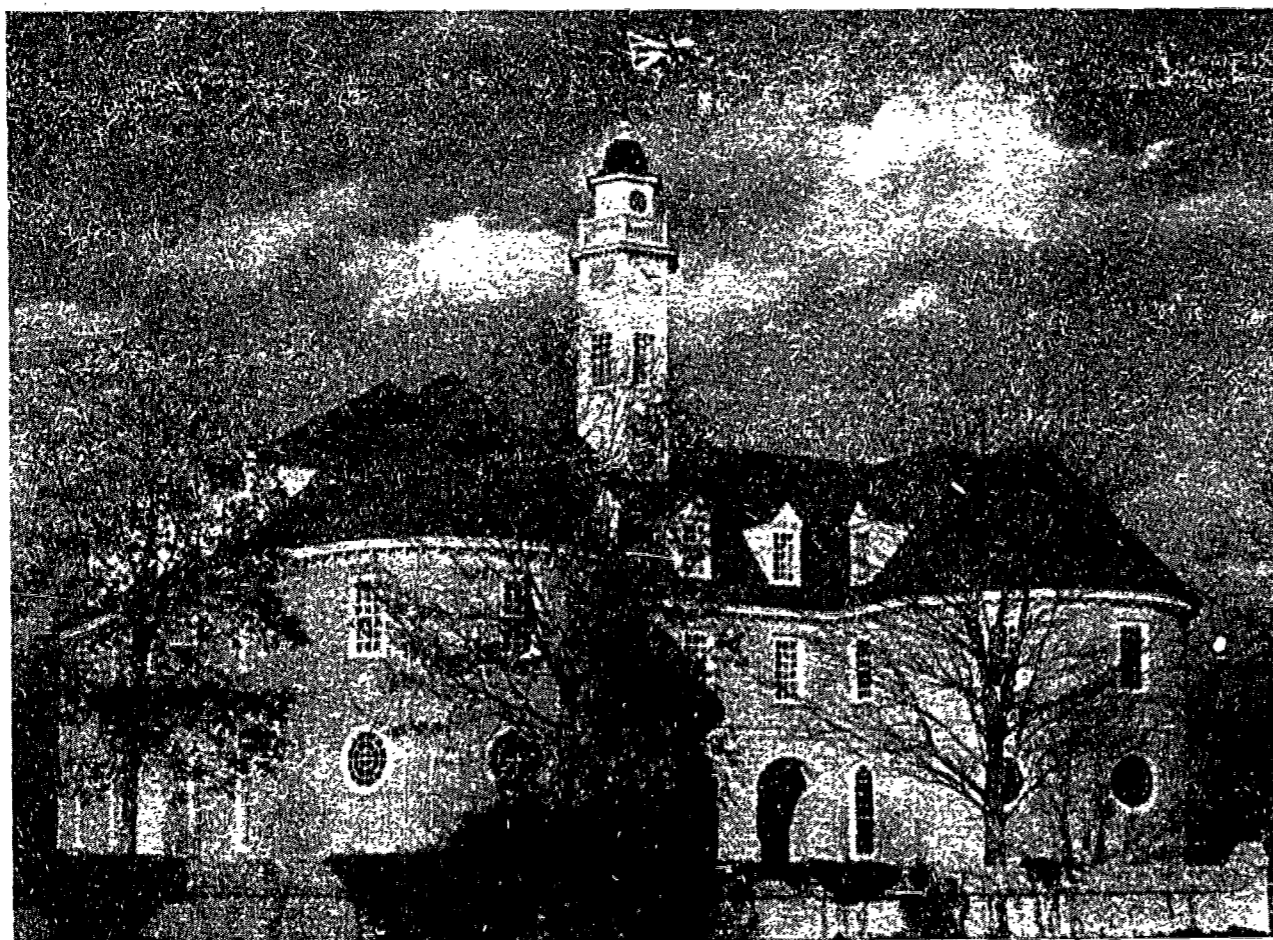


STEVEN R. MARKSCHEID

instructional programs at Shackamaxon and McGinn Schools. A National Merit Scholar, he was the first recipient of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #10122 Americanism Award. He has also worked extensively with the Police and town council on the problem of drug abuse in the community.

Mr. Markscheid views in his election an opportunity for the township to achieve a more diverse representation on the school board. As a full-time student, he feels capable of offering valuable insight into specific problems and needs of the educational system. Grateful for the fine education he has received in Scotch Plains, Mr. Markscheid is anxious to maintain the excellence which has distinguished our school system. He is pursuing a degree in public affairs and plans to attend law school.

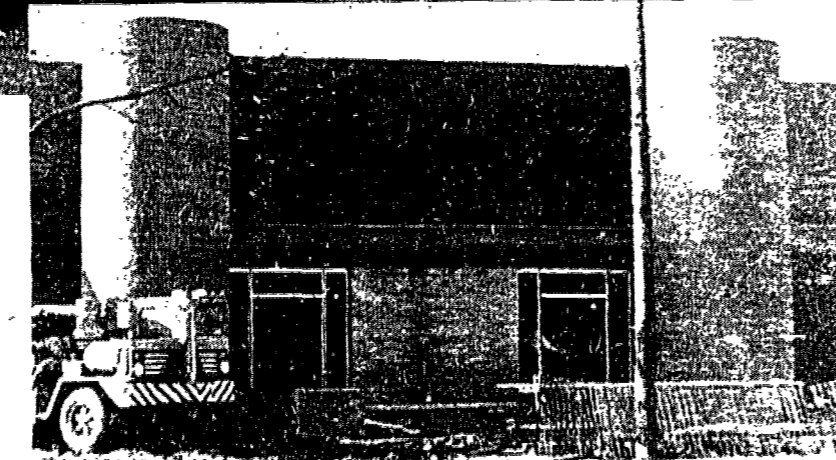
See A Resemblance?



The new Scotch Plains Municipal Building which is under construction in Park Avenue has already elicited some negative citizen comment, and indeed some rather poor press in recent weeks. The center of the controversy has been the alleged failure of the building to adhere to authentic colonial architectural tenets.

Government officials came to the defense of the building last Monday, however, as they met for the annual governmental reorganization meeting.

Former Mayor Albert Theurer, in summing up the year's activities, noted the start of construction, and added: "This was not a quick decision made with



our eyes closed at three o'clock in the morning." Theurer pointed out: that the building design, which features two large towers in the front, is a compromise between colonial and modern "that we felt would blend in" with other buildings in town.

Committeeman Walter Grote said similar towers can be found in at least one old building in colonial Williamsburg. He showed the above picture from a book entitled "Colonial Williamsburg, Its Buildings and Gardens," by Kocker and Dearstyne.

Listening Post

The regular monthly Listening Post session conducted by Scotch Plains Committeemen Alan Augustine, Walter Grote and B. Lawrence Newcomb has been set for Saturday, from 10 to 12 noon. The public is invited to the informal meeting, which is held on the first Saturday morning of each month in the Committee Chambers, Municipal Building, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.