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This Is Vanwood Is A Nice Place To Live

It might be because Joan and Bob Geer are popular and well-known civic leaders. Joan is a former Girl Scout leader and is very active in local political affairs while Bob is a former United Fund chairman and is a member of the Board of Adjustment.

Schwiering In Race For Board Seat



HENRY SCHWIERING

Henry L. Schwiering, long-time resident of Fanwood, today announced his candidacy for a seat on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education. Mr. Schwiering has previously served for 6-1/2 years on the Board, with two terms as Board President.

Schwiering stated that his decision to run was prompted by a deep conviction that the present divisiveness on the Board is seriously affecting the educational process, impairing teacher morale, and confusing the administrative personnel, thus adversely affecting the education of the children of this school district. "There seems to be no leadership or direction from the Board to the administration," he said. As an example, he cited the decision by the administration this fall to charge each student a fee for participation in our athletic program because the budget had been so curtailed that funds were not available to support our normal sports program. "It seems to me," Schwiering said, "absolutely ridiculous for a student to have to pay to participate as a member of an athletic squad. The Board was seriously at fault in not providing the funds to support these essential programs."

He also questioned the advisability of spending \$100,000 for a computer for the School District, plus the expense of maintenance, upkeep, software, programming, etc. "There are many people in our communities," he said, "with experience in computer operation and programming, and it would seem to me most advisable to

Judge Wood In Hospital

Judge George A. Wood, Assistant Township Attorney is hospitalized at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Judge Wood is a former Municipal Judge of the Township of Scotch Plains.

Local Commuter Forum Plays To Full House

Nearly 600 Frustrated CRNJ Riders Jam School Auditorium

The commuters of the local area gathered last Thursday, almost 600 strong, at a commuter forum organized by the Fanwood Borough Council. If they came to hear about how we've all arrived at this juncture - that is, the threatened discontinuation of Jersey Central rail commuter service on January 21 - they went away satisfied. However, if they were in attendance to glean some hint of just how they might be getting to their New York jobs after January 21, they went home very frustrated and it appeared that that was the case for many a commuter.

Fanwood Council Van Dyke J. Pollitt was moderator for the forum. He introduced the speakers and interpreted audience questions.

On the dias were top brass from Trenton and the railroad. The guests of honor at the forum were: New Jersey Attorney George Kugler; Deputy Attorney General Robert Basalt; New Jersey Transportation Commissioner John C. Kohl; Assemblyman Peter McDonough, Chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee; and Gordon Fuller, Chairman of Passenger Operations for the Central Railroad.

Fuller painted a picture of a railroad with the equipment and men and expertise to provide commuter service, yet suffering too great losses to continue such services. The line needs additional subsidies from the state in order to continue, Fuller indicated.

How much more? Fuller said the railroad had never asked for \$18 million more, as has been bandied about, but has requested \$1.4 million over and above the \$5. million now given. The additional \$1.4 million would permit continuance until June 30, 1973, after which time the railroad would "expect to be compensated," with a subsidy depending upon the state. If the state wants to entice drivers off the roads, the subsidy would be high, to permit low fares, or the opposite, depending upon state goals for quantity and quality.

"The Central Railroad is in better shape now than in 15 years," said the representative of the bankrupt line. "We think we can make it but would like the chance," he added.

Later he pointed out that though the line is in better shape than in 15 years, it is still in desperate financial condition.

Attorney General George F. Kugler, Jr., the next speaker, painted quite a different picture of the Central.

The three railroads, Central, Lehigh Valley and Reading, are all bankrupt and subsidized by the state. Kugler noted that Governor William Cahill met with trustees last year and it was made clear that they should make an effort at consolidation. Lehigh Valley and Reading prepared some consolidation plans to meet the Governor's order, Kugler said. Although Fuller later told the audience that the Central had also entered consolidation negotiations late in the picture, Kugler indicated the railroad had been uncooperative in this area.

Doggies... There Comes A Time

Attention, canines of Scotch Plains. This is the month of dog licensing in Scotch Plains. Your owners must buy for each of you one dog license. You may obtain it at the office of the Township Clerk, Municipal Building, Scotch Plains or, better yet, conveniently by mail.

By mail, you will need to send in the following: name and address of owner; sex, breed, age, color, name, and indication of hair length (dog, short, medium, or long haired); a check for \$3.50 made payable to Township of Scotch Plains, and a self-addressed envelope for the mailing back of your new license.

How much does the railroad seek in subsidies? Kugler said sworn testimony in court, where bondholders sought a court order for the railroad to cease all service, had indicated the line lost \$130,000 in one month. Railroad officials stated thus in November, he said.

Also, in court, the railroad men said they were losing \$500,000 per month on passenger service. The estimates of subsidies needed ranged up and down, including a figure of \$21 million at one point, Kugler said. However, at no point in the court testimony did the railroad state that it could continue until June for \$1.4 million.

When the Central trustee Timpany was asked how much would be needed after June, he stated that the railroad would let the state know at that point.

"Before we talk any more we want certain conditions for taxpayers," Kugler said. He cited: consolidation, to eliminate separate identities, equipment, trustees, management, etc. and said the state has seen no light in this area; commitment from the bondholders, to insure that if the state buys equipment and puts money into the railroad, the state gets first liens if things go wrong; and release on the part of the railroad of a lot of land it owns, which communities could put to good use.

"Without a change of attitude on the part of this railroad administration, the state position is that we're just pouring money in," Kugler concluded.

The state does have an appeal in the third circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, and is

Board Of Ed Meets Tonite

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education will hold a special meeting tonight, January 11, at Terrill Junior High at 8:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the tentative 1973-74 School budget.

Listening Post Hears Varied Problems

It was a new year, a new Listening Post and some new faces attended the first of the Listening Post sessions for 1973.

Among the new faces was that of Shirley Capone, Township Manager, on hand to answer those questions or concerns that came under the jurisdiction of the Township Manager.

Mayor William Kitsz, Councilmen Walter Grote, Allan Augustine and Larry Newcomb were also in attendance.

Several residents from Maple Hill Road came to the Listening Post to report that the mothers who pick up or drop off their children from McGinn School entrance on Maple Hill Road are still major causes of traffic problems and hazards by parking and double parking in restricted areas. They suggested no parking to the corner, paralleling the white line on Maple Hill Road and requested that the school PTA be again appraised of the problem.

Vandalism of Christmas Tree decorations was brought to the attention of the Listening Post. The Homestead Terrace section's Christmas Eve display was the victim of destructive action by an automobile whose driver deliberately crushed many of the candle displays. The Maple Hill Farm section was also the victim of theft and destruction of light bulbs.

The Councilmen were questioned about the disposition of the federal revenue sharing funds that will be received by Scotch Plains. The resident raising the question was told that as soon as the money was received it was invested at 5 and 3/4 percent interest. A study will be made to determine those projects that will be undertaken with revenue sharing funds. Informed sources have advised the council that the funds must be expended in two years.

Puddles on Mountain Avenue, the new hours for scavenger service and drainage being diverted into the bird sanctuary by the contractor building the addition to the McGinn School were also items mentioned at the Listening Post as concerns of the residents.

That might be the reason. However, it might just be the nature of Fanwood citizens.

Fire gutted the Geer's Burns Way home last Friday. The combination of flame, smoke, and water damaged or destroyed just about everything they owned. And then the people of Fanwood rallied.

It started with the Fire Department. They are trained to put out fires and to save as much personal property as possible in the process. But it seemed that Chief Piekarski and the other volunteers did more than that.

It was the little things. Like the ornamental bottle carefully removed from the living room to prevent its breaking, and much of Mrs. Geer's miniature elephant collection carefully relocated from a danger area. Everything that could be covered was covered to minimize water damage.

And the thoughtfulness of all the neighbors who comforted the family while the firemen worked. And the 15 or 20 offers of lodging until the family could get resettled. And the scores of offers of clothing and food and other essentials to keep the family going. And, late that night, other volunteers boarding up the broken windows and holes to keep out the threatened snow.

The next day, Saturday, another friend found a house for rent on Park Avenue in nearby Scotch Plains. "Much better than a motel because the family can be together -- near the schools and near the station and near their friends.

The rental home was completely unfurnished -- but only for a few hours. It was now that Fanwood really showed its colors.

First, a family offered a refrigerator and another provided a truck to transport it. The word

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form a Citizens Committee to investigate all facets of the problem and all alternatives before expending so large a portion of our tax dollars."

Schwiering indicated that there are many more areas of concern that he sees in the present operation of the Board. For the first time in our history, he said, this community has had to deal with representatives of the N.J. E.A. in reaching decisions on teacher contracts. This has been most costly to the residents of the Borough inasmuch as it has been necessary to rely heavily on the services of the Board attorney for advice in the bargaining process. The end result was that, after impasse and fact finding (that found in favor of the teachers) the highest dollar increase in the history of this community was granted, exceeding the budget amount by \$100,000.

A further elaboration of his views will be made at the public hearing sponsored by the League of Women Voters on January 16.

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