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Downtc ..n Landmark Will Soon Be Gone

Mementos Still Available For A Lucky Few—But Hurry

The Scotch Plains Municipal Building has served a community long and well. Within the next week or so, it will be only a memory, as demolitión experts come in to level the site to provide parking space. Sentimentalists, former Mayors and Committeemen, and township employees may have feelings of regret as the wrecker's ball first strikes - - - - - but they may have a memento to keep forever if they act quickly. Mayor William Kitsz announced last week that the township will attempt to arrange with the contractor to set aside small mementoes for those interested.

"This doesn't mean the public will be allowed to take the building apart piecemeal," Kitsz said. If someone wants an odd stone or chunk of marble or whatever, he should contact township manager Daniel Allen at 322-6700 to submit the request. A charge may be made, to be determined by the contractor. The demolition will begin next Wednesday, December 5. Meanwhile, the building is locked and inaccessible to the public.

What's inside the building now? A quick tour last week indicated there isn't too much in the way of mementoes. As Kitsz pointed out, the building has been basically stripped of materials and furniture to be used in either the

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Firm Will Sue Board Of Education, More Delays Anticipated

Bomarc Firm Suit Charges Conspiracy To Transfer Contract To Competitor

The Bomarc Corporation, an electrical concern hired last year for school construction and later terminated, has filed suit in Superior Court against the Board of Education, the Superintendent Fred Laberge, Clerk of the Works Gerald Coffman, and William Lubeck Company of North Plainfield. As a result of the continuing construction delays which have plagued the district for months, Laberge said yesterday that he has no idea when the new elementary school, School One, will be habitable or when Park Junior High renovations will be fully completed.

Bomarc's said charges that those sued conspired to renege on the contract so the Lubeck firm could replace Bomarc.

Bomarc was one of five prime contractors hired for the $1.25 million school construction project. The firm was low bidder for electrical work at $700,000, According to Bomarc, only $377, 000 has been paid, and 90 percent of the labor and 65 percent of the materials had been furnished.

It is customary, in situations in which a contract is terminated, for the bonding company to re-bid the terminated area.

When the school board terminated the contract on September 20, it was claimed that Bomarc did not supply a sufficient number of skilled workmen and materials for the job, and did not make prompt payment to employees. Contracts were awarded on September of 1972, and called for August 24, 1973 completion. None of the work was completed then. Bomarc's suit claims other contractors held up the electrical work.

The failure of contractors to complete the work caused extensive objection and anger on the part of parents and PTA from Park Junior High, one of the oldest schools involved, and a school much in need of renovation. Following the termination of the Bomarc contract, some electrical work was undertaken on an emergency basis by the Lubeck firm.

The failure of electricians to complete their work has held up construction, Laberg said. At Park and School One, lighting, communication equipment, bells, clocks, some heating work, outlets, panel boxes and distribution systems are still incomplete. Since there are still ceiling fixtures missing, other contractors cannot finish off ceiling plastering. Vinyl wall and ceiling tiles scheduled for installation in School One can't be put in since delays in electrical disallows functioning of the heating and lighting system and workmen cannot continue in dark, cold buildings. Similarly, unless heat is soon available at the new school, the plumber is threatening to pull off the job because he can't continue, Laberge said. Then the entire system would have to be drained to avoid freezing and bursting of pipes.

Laberge said the only area at Park now not functional is the Home Economics department, which will be in operation by January 1 through emergency efforts, the remainder of the Park building is useable, and the four new elementary additions are essentially functional, the Superintendent said.

Listening Post

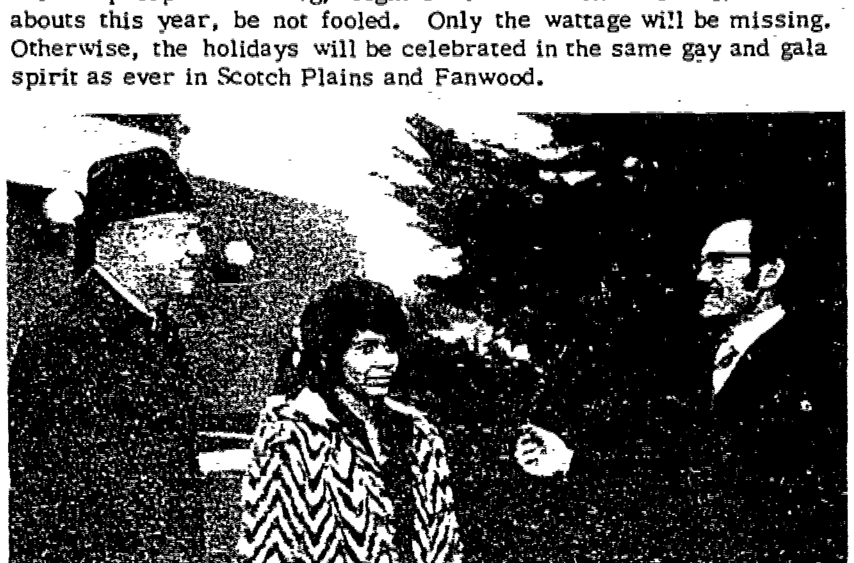
Both the Scotch Plains Township Listening Post and the Board of Education Listening Post will meet this Saturday.

To avoid conflict the Board of Education Listening Post is scheduled for 9 a.m. till 10 a.m. and the Township Listening Post from 10 a.m. till Noon.

For those anxious talkers who might like to really be heard, it is now possible to scurry to the Board Listening Post in the Choral Room at the High School and then on to the Township forum in the Council Chambers.

Maybe No Bright Lights —But No Less Jolly

If the prospects of a big, bright Christmas seem a bit dulled hereabouts this year, be not fooled. Only the wattage will be missing. Otherwise, the holidays will be celebrated in the same gay and gala spirit as ever in Scotch Plains and Fanwood.



Mayor Kitsz, Lydia Flagg and Charles Baculis pose in front of the new evergreen which graces the municipal lawn.

Scotch Plains has a brand new Christmas motif which will last for decades, hopefully. It's a live evergreen tree, which was planted in the center of the lawn at the new Municipal Building last week. The tree, some 16 to 18 feet in height, was contributed by the Kitsz Nursery, with the local Chamber of Commerce providing the funds for digging and installation.

Newly elected Chamber president Lydia Flagg was on hand, as was Mayor William Kitsz, Charles Baculis, and Sam Damiano of the Plainfield Chamber, to welcome the tree to its new home.

Mrs. Flagg said energy shortages and ecological considerations were behind the decision to plant the evergreen.

An evergreen has always featured in the official Fanwood Christmas, too - the big, bushy and beautiful evergreen that graces the railroad station in front of the Community House. That tree is traditionally garlanded with bulbs, which will be absent this year, leaving the station area darkened for commuters. However, when December 19 rolls around, the Community House will be as Christmas-spirited and jolly as ever, as the Fanwood Recreation Commission sponsors its annual caroling program.

The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission will have to forego its traditional house-lighting contest, but the Commission had not yet made a decision regarding whether to go with a no-lights contest or not. Director Richard Marks said a final decision would be forthcoming at next Monday's meeting.

Councilman Lawrence Newcomb, for one, wants to see the decorating contest continued, bulbs or no bulbs. He wrote to the Recreation Commission last week, suggesting a daytime contest which would continue a "delightful Scotch Plains custom."

Blood Bank To Be Held On Saturday

In the event a local family might need blood in an emergency, each pint needed could cost that family $50 or $60 - - - - - or absolutely nothing. If a single member of the family participates in a Community Blood Bank on December 8, an entire family, both sets of parents and grandparents receive all the blood they might need, completely free.

Sound like a great and inexpensive form of medical insurance? The Jaycees think it is. This is the eighth year that the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Jaycees will sponsor the bank, to be held from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. at Park Junior High.

Although this annual undertaking is entitled a "community" blood bank, in actuality only participants may take advantage of the free blood.

The Jaycees operate in arrangements, publicity and registration of donors, while Red Cross fully qualified personnel are on hand to accept the donations. In recent years, between 150 and 180 people have taken advantage of the blood bank.

This year, for the first time, the donated blood will remain in banks in the state of New Jersey rather than in New York, as in the past.

Advance appointments may be made by calling either of the Jaycee Co-Chairmen Tony Mc Call (889-1289) or Andrew Montgomery (322-2370) or the Plainfield Red Cross (756-6414). Mr. Montgomery estimated that the average donor would spend approximately a half-hour in making his contribution.

Community - wide support is welcomed.

A Fanwood Walking Tour — Looking For Litter

If you spot any rather curious-looking women strolling around the Fanwood business district, poking about the side and rear lots of the stores, they're probably members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Environmental Group on one of their weekly inspection tours. Last Monday, Lucille Kluckas, a member of the group, took the tour, complete with her notebook and her forms wherein the members record their impressions of conditions around the stores. She checked just about every store along Martine Avenue and South Avenue in Fanwood, and expressed delight in some cases, distress in others.

"Look at this. The A&P has made a truly major effort to clean up the parking lot and the rear where the refuse cans are kept," Mrs. Kluckas noted. Last week, the environmentalists had turned in a report citing rotting garbage down along the railroad tracks behind the supermarket, plenty of scraps and paper litter throughout the parking lot and along the property lines, uncovered garbage cans, and empty and broken bottles propped alongside the store, uncollected for over a week. In contrast, last Monday's trip disclosed a new length of fencing up behind the store to deter litterers, a parking lot that had been swept and cleaned, the front street line swept, etc.

Ponzio Oil on Second Street had also received one of the worst reports from the group, and had been among the offenders listed by the group in verbal complaints before the Borough Coun-

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