

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1974

15 CENTS A COPY

You Bet... ve!



"Weren't no fish story! Richard Sanders, 14, of Scotch Plains, caught the sailfin shown above while fishing from the Mondo Cane, a fishing boat out of Miami Beach, Florida. Richard is an eighth grader at Park Junior High School. The "big one that didn't get away" was the only fish caught on April 19, 1974 aboard Mondo Cane. It measured seven feet, nine inches. Admiring Pop stands by.

Now, Richard, will your Park Junior classmates believe YOU???

## Will Ask State Probe Of Mercer Dismissal

Concerned Citizens for Athletics, a group of citizens formed recently to protest the denial of tenure to high school football coach-teacher Harold Mercer, has announced plans to attempt to bring the case to the state level. CCA representatives said last week that they plan to request the New Jersey Commissioner of Education to reinstate Mercer.

Seven CCA members waited in front of Board of Education offices one evening last week for over an hour, in expectation of a meeting with the Board of Education on the Mercer matter. No board members appeared, and Board of Education president Charles Ferguson said the CCA had been told that on advice of attorney, the board would not discuss the Mercer issue. Board policy dictates that personnel matters are private and evaluations and similar information is never released to the public.

Mercer was denied tenure last month, when it was said that he had been evaluated for his role as a teacher. His coaching has been consistently praised by school officials.

Ferguson said that to date the board has not met as a committee of the whole, and therefore no further discussion of the Mercer issue has been forthcoming. The CCA is pressing the board to reverse its earlier decision on the tenure question. The denial had been recommended by the superintendent.

If Mercer were to be offered a contract any time before July

30, he would have tenure within the district.

Alex Molten, co-chairman of the CAA, said that group would ask the New Jersey Education Association for support in its fight on the coach's behalf. Molten said there was increasing support for the Mercer issue from many segments of the community dissatisfied with other aspects of the school district.

On Monday of this week, another group, consisting primarily of women, gathered in front of the Second Street Board of Education offices. Representatives of CCA were among the picketers, as were representatives of other groups, including Alert Parents for Good Schools, Junior Reders (a local young boys' football league), and Parents of Children With Learning Disabilities. In a press release, these demonstrators stated that their one-day picket line had been formed out of their deep concern on two major issues:

1. The total integrity of our school system which incorporates academics and athletics.
2. The unwillingness of our Board to openly discuss issues which the community opposes and

## Split Vote Decision Postpones Sale Of School Property

In Next Week's

**TIMES**

A Special  
**PULL-OUT  
SECTION**

Will Note The  
Dedication  
Of The New  
**MUNICIPAL  
BUILDING**

## She Will Toss Out First Ball

It's custom to have the leading dignitary toss out the first ball for the opening of baseball season, right? Sure. The President does it in Washington, the Mayor does it in Fanwood... or does he?? No, as a matter of fact, Mayor Ted Trumpp has been bypassed in favor of his spouse, Jean. She's the chosen one to start the action in the newly formed Women's Softball League of Fanwood.

Appropriately, "Ms." Trumpp will be on hand at 6:45 p.m. next Tuesday, May 14, when the season opens at Shackamaxon Field.

The new league includes six teams with about 18 members each an impressive beginning for the women of Fanwood. Everybody's welcome to come watch each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night. Games will be held at Shack field from May through June 27. Then the ladies will move to Forest Road, where they'll continue their season until the end of July.

their unfairness in shutting off meetings to the public. This was exemplified at the public meeting on April 25, 1974."

The press release referred to a special meeting of the Board of Education, held for the purpose of acquainting the public with results of a district-wide education questionnaire conducted last year. The meeting was also opened for discussion of the Mercer issue, but was brought to a close by Board President Charles Ferguson at 10:35 p.m.

The release stated that other demonstrations are planned for different locations in the near future.

Molten is joined as co-chairman of CCA by Mauro Checchio. Continued On Page 2

## Public Hearing On Rezoning Continued Till Next Session

The Board of Education has planned for some time to sell a three-acre portion of land it owns behind Terrill Junior High School on Essex Road. The land is now zoned P-Public, and in order to be sold, it would have to be rezoned. The Board of Education has requested a redesignation of the land, but the Township Council deferred decision on Tuesday, in a split vote.

A public hearing on an ordinance which would have rezoned the Essex Road property to residential is being continued until the next session of the Township Council. Councilmen William Kitz, Albert Theurer and Alan Augustine has reservations about selling of school property without notification and/or permission of state educational authorities. Kitz said last night that he is well acquainted with the necessity of going to Trenton to gain approval for school construction, and the accompanying discussions of how much acreage is available. Approval is required to build schools on sub-standard property, Kitz said, and therefore he wondered whether state permission is necessary to sell some of the same sub-standard land.

The Council had been presented with a letter from Michael Klick, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, stating that the sale is not in violation of any state laws, and noting that site sizes are suggestions, not mandates. Klick pointed out that an analysis of the Board of Education and the educational staff indicated that the site would be sufficient to meet needs of Terrill students without the three-acre piece of land, and the board attorney had checked that no legal requirement exists for approval of the state commissioner.

Councilman Larry Newcomb said he was satisfied, and Mayor

Walter Grote was defeated in his vote to proceed on the rezoning, an issue which has been hanging for some time.

In other school-related matters, the Mayor and Council referred to attorney and Council request from Alert Parents for Good Schools. Alert Parents have asked the mayors of Scotch Plains and Fanwood to appoint a blue ribbon committee to investigate the "allegations arising from the practices and procedures of the school administration and Board of Education."

Mrs. Pauline Anderson, President of Alert Parents, said following the meeting that the request for the committee had been made following a recent meeting of seven citizens' groups to discuss school issues.

Another member of Alert Parents, Mrs. Lois Patterson, asked Mayor Grote to confirm or deny a charge which she said was made by Board of Education member Robert Carlson at Saturday's Listening Post session. Mrs. Patterson said Carlson suggested that Mrs. Patterson ask how much excess tax rate she was paying and how much Scotch Plains town government had "in a sock." Did the government, indeed, have excess money in a sock, she asked Grote.

Grote said all the balances and surpluses are very well defined in the budget. "I don't know what sock means," Grote said, but

Continued On Page 24

## Bike Inspections To Begin On Saturday

By June 30, 1974, every cyclist in Fanwood will require a registration, displayed on his bicycle. Five registration sessions have been scheduled by the Fanwood Police Department for inspection and licensing of borough bicycles in compliance with the borough's newly adopted bicycle ordinance. The first licensing session is slated for this Saturday, May 11, at Forest Road Park in the vicinity of the parking lot.

The inspection begins at 10 a.m. Police will conduct an inspection of each bicycle and tests of riding skills. They will be assisted by the Fanwood Optimist Club, the new Public Safety Advisory Council, PTA, and police reserves.

According to Sgt. Anthony Parent, Safety Officer of the Fanwood Police Department, the Optimists plan to lend a hand to kids whose bikes need minor adjustments in order to pass inspection. The Optimists will have a collection of wrenches, pliers, screwdrivers, etc. on hand in order to tighten a handlebar here, adjust the front pedal there.

In conjunction with the registration, the department will provide a display of bicycle locks and safety equipment from Schwinn, and an extensive supply of brochures and other literature on bicycle operation and safety.

The Forest Road inspection is the first of five similar opportunities for bike licensing. The department has attempted to schedule the inspections conveniently, in all quadrants of the borough. The next such inspection will be on May 16 at La Grande Park. In case of rain on the Saturday dates, Sunday of the same weekend will be the raindate alternative.