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15 CENTS

Parent Says Bike Registration Reduces Thefts In Fanwood

Fanwood cyclers have reacted overwhelmingly in registering and licensing their bicycles, according to Lt. Anthony Parenti of the Fanwood Police Department. To date, 3,146 bike owners had registered their two-wheelers, and enactment of the registration ordinance has resulted in a reduction in thefts and an upswing in returns for 1974.

Two years ago, a branch of the federal Health, Education and Welfare Department released statistics indicating that, in suburban areas, there are 40 bikes for every 100 in population. With Fanwood population at 9,500, there should be 3,800 bikes registered, so the count of 3,146 indicates a great success.

The Fanwood ordinance became effective in June, 1974. For the entire year of 1974, with the ordinance in effect only six months of the total year, bikes reported stolen numbered 99, in contrast with 106 reported stolen in 1973. The greatest drop in monthly theft averages was in the later half of the year, Parenti said.

During the past year, 53 bikes were found by police or citizens, in contrast with 49 found in 1973. The police were able to connect owner with lost bike in 23 cases in 1974, while in 1973 only 18 such contacts were possible.

Parenti is excited about the identification possibilities. Just recently, two bikes were found by police in Scotch Plains, bearing Fanwood stickers, and families of owners were notified before the kids even knew the bikes were gone. The bikes had been taken from the Park Junior High

rack, identified and returned before the owners even got out of school.

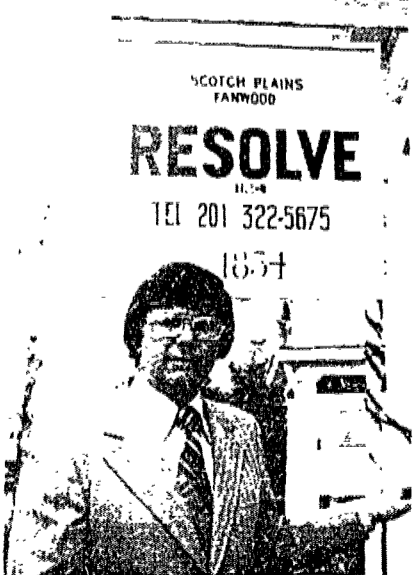
Another success story reported by Parenti involves a lost child. A child from Edison was visiting a Fanwood family with his mother, borrowed a local bike to go for a spin, and found himself lost. He wheeled into police headquarters for solution of his dilemma, but he didn't know the name of the Fanwood family he was visiting. Police saw the bike sticker of the Fanwood child and restored youth to mom.

"Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the bike ordinance is getting close to kids again," Parenti said. "As you put the sticker on, you talk a bit, kids get a positive identification with police." He says young kids come in to tell him about bike-riding violations they spot. They're proud as peacocks to have an official step to take. They want the license as soon as they get the bike, and in the week after Christmas, in freezing temperatures, 22 of them found their way to Watson Road for licenses. The bikes had to be brought inside to warm up for adhesion of decals.

The children know they have an obligation and meet it, Parenti said.

Local Attorney Named President Of Resolve

Douglas W. Hansen, an attorney with offices at 1824 Front Street, Scotch Plains, just next door and within shouting distance of RESOLVE headquarters, assumes the post of President of the Board of the professional counseling service this month.



DOUGLAS W. HANSEN

Hansen, who is 30, lists experience as the former Assistant Deputy Public Defender for Union County and former Clark Township Municipal Prosecutor.

Hansen brings to the post a wealth of experience in juvenile and correction areas. He is a

member of the Board of Directors of the Plainfield Area Red Cross and the president of the Union County Chapter of the New Jersey Association on Correction and a member of the state-level Board of Directors, Planning Board Attorney for the Township of Clark and a faculty member of Rutgers University Institute for Continuing Legal Education. Mr. Hansen also holds membership in the Civil Defense Committee for the city of Plainfield and served with Scotch Plains Civil Defense.

The Hansens live at 931 Post Drive in Plainfield, and Doug and Marcia are parents of one daughter, Kristen Lee. Mr. Hansen is a native of North Plainfield and graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A. with honors in Political Science. In 1969, he received a Juris Doctor degree from the School of Law, University of Maryland. He was a law clerk to Superior Court Judge John L. Ard and Union County Court Judge William Fillmore Wood.

RESOLVE Aids Young People In Trouble

94 Youths And 85 Families Served During Year 1974

In 1974, 94 young people from Scotch Plains-Fanwood found their way to a small white house on Front Street in Scotch Plains, seeking professional counseling. Their destination was RESOLVE - a service funded by a combination of federal, state, and local funds, providing free counseling help to young people and their families. At the end of its first full year of operation here, RESOLVE steps back to take a long look at its accomplishments, and the needs of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community.

Who are our children in trouble? Where are they from? What causes their problems, and where are the answers to be found? Selma Gwatkin, who heads the RESOLVE operation, answered these questions this week.

Those who think drugs and drug abuse constitute the bulk of our local teenage problems are grossly mistaken. A host of other offenses bring children to RESOLVE. For instance, a trio of three young boys received counseling recently for a series of thefts. The boys had stolen many school keys and were opening storage areas and closets at schools, stealing materials. Other children are similarly counseled for stealing, at schools, stores, homes.

Some young people abuse alcohol. In fact, alcohol is fast becoming one of the main problems of teenagers.

RESOLVE counsels many families of runaways. Running away from home is particularly common among girls. It's their way of demonstrating their resentments, their aggressive tendencies.

What causes problems among our local teenagers? The problems occur across the board throughout the Scotch Plains-Fanwood community, and are not confined to any one area or economic level. Almost every time a child needs help, the family situation is disturbed, Mrs. Gwatkin points out. The child is most often acting out some problem occurring within the family framework, and the most difficult part of the counseling help often is getting parents convinced that they have a role. Lack of personal self-esteem and lacks in family management and family communication are the causes, almost invariably.

Youth comes to RESOLVE from a number of sources. The two police departments refer many children, as do the schools. Families seek the help on their own, too. Last year, in addition to the 94 children who received counseling, 85 families were involved.

The goal of RESOLVE is one of prevention - of keeping children out of the court system and avoiding youthful offenses. Reality therapy is provided at the RESOLVE headquarters. Dealing with a youth's everyday living situation is the aim of the staff, and they attempt to reach this goal in any number of ways, including individual, family, and group counseling approaches. Professional psychiatric help isn't offered at the local RESOLVE. However, the local unit does have a professional psychologist on

staff - Dr. Blanche Isaacs - and she's in on every evaluation. RESOLVE has roots and contacts for necessary services throughout the county, and oftentimes a child being counseled at RESOLVE may simultaneously be receiving psychiatric help elsewhere. Sometimes a RESOLVE counselor can be the stepping stone in helping a family to acknowledge the need for professional psychiatric help, other times RESOLVE is the only source of counseling required.

The children are treated for varying lengths of time - some for a month, some for six months.

In addition to the full scope of professional counseling services, the preventative aspect of RESOLVE has led to a score of other activities designed to contact youth locally, and to avoid juvenile delinquency. Since youth under 18 are responsible for over 60 percent of police contact with lawbreakers in Scotch Plains and Fanwood, a close identification with police is necessary to RESOLVE success. During the past year, RESOLVE conducted two police training sessions, each 22 hours long. The program was developed cooperatively with officers from both departments, and was developed to build police skills in working with youth and their families.

Families from Scotch Plains-Fanwood needn't have problem teenagers to avail themselves of services. Adolescence is a difficult period for most families, and learning to deal with problems of normal adolescence is helpful. Over 200 parents participated in four-session educational groups learning to cope with normal adolescence.

During last summer, a 10-week summer program was conducted, four evenings a week, by RESOLVE staff and 15 community volunteers. It provided semi-structured evening for 30-60 youths nightly, as an alternative to unsupervised and sometimes delinquent activity.

Kids need adults as models . . . but sometimes they need other kids, too, and RESOLVE acknowledges the value of positive peer pressure. Now, RESOLVE is training high school youth to work with junior high kids as tutors and peer models, and to date, 23 tutors and 24 students report satisfying tutoring sessions.

One of RESOLVE's sources of pride was its selection by Rutgers University Graduate School of Social Work as a training experience for students, and

Listening Post

The regular monthly Listening Post session conducted by the Scotch Plains Township Council will be held as usual on the first Saturday of the month, February 1. The Board of Education will schedule no Listening Post sessions until further notice.

Meet The School Board Candidates

Come meet the candidate's for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education on February 6, 8:00 p.m. at Terrill Junior High School Auditorium.

Two specific questions will be discussed by the group for thirty minutes each.

Question 1: If you could raise the current proposed budget by 10% what would be your spending priorities and if you had to cut the current proposed budget by 10% what areas would you reduce?

Question 2: How do you think the community perceives the philosophy of this school district?

Followed by an hour for questions from the floor, after the open question period, each candidate will be given the opportunity to make a closing statement.

All candidates have been invited to attend, and have been asked to submit a biographical statement which will be distributed to the audience.

Sponsored by the Joint PTA Council in association with the Alert Parents for Good Schools, the Human Rights Council, the Jaycees, the Joint Civic Committee, the League of Women Voters of the Westfield Area, the Optimists and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association.

School Budget Hearing Set For Tonight

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has scheduled a public hearing on its tentative budget for 1975-76. The public session will be held tonight, January 30, at Terrill Junior High School at 8 p.m.

The Board will outline the provisions of the budget proposal, and will then entertain questions and comments from the community. Formal adoption of a budget figure to appear on the March 4 ballot will not be undertaken tonight. A second budget session, including public comment opportunity, has been slated for February 11, a Tuesday night, at Terrill Junior High School, 8 p.m.