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15 CENTS

## One Viet Childer Finds Safer Life In Scotch Plains

This week has been a particularly heartbreaking one for Americans everywhere, as they watch newscasts of tiny Vietnamese children dragged by parents and grandparents, searching for a safe haven from North Vietnamese conquerors.



The fate of the Sisters and children of Sacred Heart is uncertain.

Pictures on television and in newspapers show picture after picture of pitiful war victims, their tiny stomachs swollen with malnutrition, their family life disintegrated, their homes gone. In contrast, nine-month old Christina Winey of 55 Shady Lane in Fanwood grins a great big grin as she sucks on her fingers to alleviate the pain of teething. She's oblivious of the plight of her people, as she enjoys her new family and her new home. Christina was an orphan in a Saigon nursery until she arrived here in December. For her family, the Bill Wineys, and the many other families in the immediate area who have been most active in fund-raising in behalf of Children of Vietnam, the week is an especially poignant and painful one, as they wonder whether they will ever again be able to send supplies and help to these needy children.

Friends of Children of Vietnam is locally based, and it is directed toward fund-raising rather than adoption. However, some of the 45 volunteers have joined because they have adopted Vietnamese orphans, others have adopted following their exposure to the charms of the small children they've met through the agency. Until this week, the group in conjunction with similar organizations throughout the nation, has been supporting five baby nurseries and three orphan-

ages, caring for about 1,000 children. At the local level, three Catholic orphanages, one in Da Nang, one in Qui Nhon, and one in Camb Ran, plus a baby nursery in Saigon, are the recipients of the efforts. As these humanitarians watch the map of Vietnam, indicating Communist takeover of one major stronghold after another, their spirits get lower and lower. Mrs. Winey, who is fund raising chairman for the group, said, "Usually, the phones ring constantly as we compare notes and exchange news, but this week it's all very quiet and depressing." One baby was due to arrive on Tuesday of this week, to become a part of the Victor Challeat family on Oakwood Court in Fanwood, but the word is out to all agencies concerned with adoption and assistance to complete all paperwork now in process and to get the final children through. No new requests for adoptions will be honored or initiated. As the political situation goes from bad to worse, eight Central Jersey families anxiously await news. They have already been approved ad adoptive parents. What's more, they have in their possession the pictures of their new sons or daughters, but they have no idea of where these children are now or whether they will arrive.

Knowing you are the parent of one of these children, yet not

## Plains Citizens Say Westfield Dump Is Health Hazard

### 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, April 5. The Board of Education will schedule no Listening Post Sessions until further notice.

yet having the child, is a difficult time, Bill Winey indicated. Once they had their picture of Christina, they already felt parental toward her. "We felt people were babysitting for her until she could get here," he said.

The Wineys and their fellow fundraisers bemoan the recent political turn of events. The agencies throughout the United States had just begun to have good fortune in arranging adoptions readily. "It had become a matter of a waiting game. If you filed the proper papers, you'd receive a child within 12 to 18 months," Janet Winey said. People were accepting the Vietnamese children more readily, and progress was speedy.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains area has been one of the most active in adoptions as well as fund raising. Within 1.2-mile square Fanwood, there will be two Vietnamese children this week, in addition to two adopted by the Jerry Gards and one by the David Arias' of Scotch Plains.

In addition to the 45 active volunteers in the local Friends of Children of Vietnam, there are about 400 member units in New Jersey and about 700 total in the nation. On the local scene, funds have been raised in many unusual ways. For example, a Vietnamese dinner for 100 last year netted \$1,000. Office groups have foregone Christmas card exchanges to contribute, others

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### Council OK's '75 Budget

Scotch Plains Township Council voted final approval of its 1975 budget at a special meeting held on Monday, March 1. The \$4 million budget received unanimous approval. The amount set to be raised by taxation is \$1,570,975.

The Council had delayed final action on the budget last week, requiring another session in order to clear up a few minor details. Among the amendments incorporated in the final version were payment of an old electric bill, addition of \$7,300 for land for access to a leaf disposal site, addition of \$525 to the library account to bring that account up to qualify for state aid, and several other minor changes.

The 1975 tax rate has been estimated at \$3.84 per \$100. It represents a 4.1 percent increase over 1974.

### Complain That Unpleasant Odors Continue To Increase

The Westfield Recycling Center, a facility which has been received with far less than enthusiasm here since its inception, is once again the source of irritation to residents whose homes abut the garden-refuse recycling site. They came to the Township Council of Scotch Plains on Tuesday, seeking aid in their plight.

Mark S. Comora of Jacobs Lane issued an impassioned plea for action. Mr. Comora said the ecological center yields smells which continue to grow, in both intensity and in frequency. He challenged that Westfield is not living up to the terms of the consent decree which resulted when Scotch Plains went to court to attempt to block the center when it was first opened. When it opened, as at present, the site is utilized to recycle garden refuse. Leaves yield compost, branches and trees are returnable to Westfield residents in the form of wood chips.

However, recently Westfield announced consideration of extending the center to include recycling of household refuse, then announced abandonment of that consideration. Even the fact that Westfield made that announcement indicates lack of intent to live up to terms of the decree, Comora said.

As a taxpayer, Comora said he represents his neighbors in demanding reexamination of the decree and forcing of Westfield to the terms of the document. Homes in the area are declining in value, he said. The effects of smells and traffic problems involve perhaps 300 to 600 homes, Comora noted.

Thomas DeLuca echoed the complaints. One home sold far below its assessed value, he claimed. He said Westfield does a beautiful public relations job describing the center to state agencies. He says slide presentations show birds, flowers, trees, and lovely landscaping, when in actuality "it's a dump." Anything that smells like that is a dump, DeLuca claimed. Westfield has burdened Scotch Plains with their blight, he challenged.

DeLuca said leaves piled, then wet by rainfall, and allowed to rot smell intensely when turned over.

Bernice Slater, another Jacobs Lane resident, said Westfield never completed a fence specified in the legal decree - a fence which was to screen equipment from neighboring backyards. She claimed that residents are not only unable to entertain or use their yards because of smell, but must also put up with mosquitoes, bugs, flies, and health hazards.

The Council sympathized with the residents. "We'd like to get it out of there too," Mayor Griffin said. However, the Council is not authorized to do this. The courts have made the final determination, he indicated. The attorney was directed to examine the decree, and Griffin urged citizens to specify exact instances of violation as they happen.

### Fanwood Zoning Committee Will Meet

Tonight, the Building and Zoning Committee of the Fanwood Borough Council will hold a public meeting at Borough Hall at 8 p.m. to discuss a petition calling for screening and storage of van and trailers in the Borough. There is also another petition asking that Council not call for screening or storage. Both factions are invited to attend and to voice your opinions in these regards. "Open government calls for public hearings before decisions are made," said John Swindlehurst, chairman of Building and Zoning. He urges all interested people to attend.

Mrs. Antoinette D'Annunzio appeared before Council and also wrote, asking for sidewalks along Cooper Road, for safety of school children. Her children and others attending Shackamaxon School must cross Cooper three times between Terrill and Martine, she said. It was also pointed out that teenagers from the Parkwood section travel the same sidewalkless route to Terrill Junior High. Mrs. D'Annunzio further noted that there are no crossing guards.

Her request was referred to Engineer, Manager, Council and attorney. The need has been established, Council Walter Grote said. Mayor Griffin said the new Council members would look into it. There are no commitments for the sidewalks in question at this time, but Griffin indicated a reply would be forwarded to Mrs. D'Annunzio.

Two new members were named to the committee studying the possibilities for senior citizen housing here. They include Josephine Rustignolia, President of the Scotch Plains Golden Age Club, and William Barry.

Council approved a resolution for acquisition of property fronting on Madison Place, for future access to other land owned by the township and destined as a leaf disposal site. At present, the township is using a site on Lake Avenue, which is about 80 percent filled.

Council approved six ordinances, all authorizing traffic signals. The signals have all been in effect for some time, and the legislation is necessary only to correct a past failure to provide the necessary legal authorization.