

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

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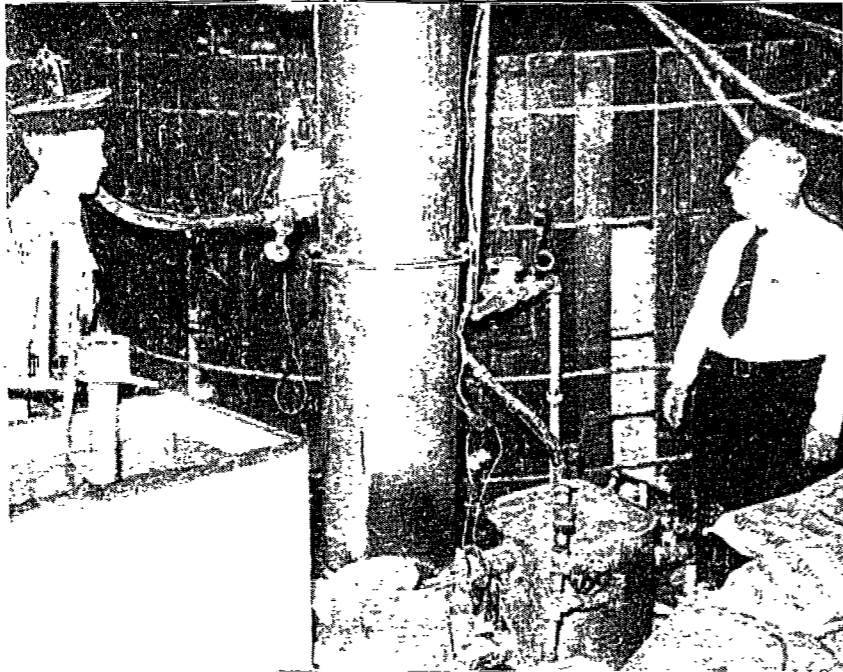
SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975

15 CENTS

## Scotch Hills Police Mark 75th Anniversary

"We've come a long way in 75 years . . . . and one of the major steps has been in the last five years," commented Detective Lieutenant Bob Luce as he prepared for National Police Week, which falls on May 11 through 17. Luce and his fellow officers will spend a special Police Week this year, as they join in marking the 75th Anniversary of the local force. Today, the department is housed in luxurious, modern, and up-to-the-minute accommodations on the main floor of a new municipal building. A complexity of the very latest communications equipment eases the job of keeping track of records, stolen bike numbers, license numbers, etc.



Once upon a time in Scotch Plains, "thar was plenty of good hard likker!" The good old days of Scotch Plains policing - above, former Chief James Osnato joins a state trooper in raiding a still on Terrill Road in Scotch Plains.

"Twasn't always quite so involved. When the force was formed, back on Friday, July 20, 1900, only three men were present - Mr. T.J. Nicholl, Mr. William H. Terry and Mr. Theodore Bruchmann. They elected Nicholl Chairman of the Board of Police of Fanwood Township, and they voted Edward D. Hand as Clerk.

None of this Civil Service examination nonsense. It is obvious from the first carefully lettered records that policemen need not even apply for the job! Mr. Nicholl nominated two men as the first officers - but they refused the appointment, and the appointment was therefore rescinded! Subsequently, Messrs.

## County Prosecutor Vindicates Summer School Directors

The directors of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Summer Session have been vindicated of any criminal acts by the Union County Prosecutor's Office, and are preparing plans for a 1975 summer session, which they will present for approval to the Board of Education.

According to Dr. Terry Riegel, Director of the school, a communication was received last week from the Prosecutor carrying the good news. In 1974, an unidentified source within the community sought a prosecutor's investigation of the school, which operates as a private corporation with local school administrators as the officers. The prosecutor took the books of the summer session organization, and there was no news of the investigation for several months.

The six-man Board of Directors met last Wednesday and decided to formulate plans to continue the school. The six directors include former Superintendent of School Fred Laberge, former Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Henry Bluhm, Acting Superintendent Perry Tyson, Assistant Superintendent for Business Michael Klick, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Donald Sheldon, and Riegel. The operation has been a non-profit one, with classes meeting in the senior high school. Academic instruction

has been provided at the secondary level, while music, art, drama and several other offerings have been made available for elementary youngsters.

Dr. Riegel has been director of the Summer School for the past few summers, assuming the position as an additional summer assignment. The directors of the school have not been salaried. Fees have been charged to children attending the classes, to offset costs for staffing, supplies, etc.

The Directors will prepare a motion seeking Board approval to continue operations on a private basis again this summer, but incorporated within that motion will be a suggestion that it is the duty of the Board of Education itself to provide a summer school here, and an expression of intention from the private corporation that this is their final year in sponsorship of the service.

Within the state, there are between 350 and 400 summer schools provided. About half of these charge fees to children attending the sessions.

## Recreation Complex Proposal Stirs Ire Of Plains Citizens

### Rabies Shots For Doggies

Rabies vaccine which is valid for three years will be used again this year by the Fanwood Board of Health. This vaccine is for "dogs" only. Dogs that were vaccinated last year will not be due until 1977. The vaccine is for dogs only and cannot be used to immunize any other pets.

The rabies shot will be given May 17 from nine a.m. until one p.m. at the Fanwood Boro Garage.

Henry Guerrier and Charles Haberly were appointed. For their efforts, they received two dollars per 24-hour day. Today, headquarters may be fully equipped with consoles and police cars, a rifle range and automatic door closers, but back in 1900, the equipment needed to police the Borough of Fanwood included six badges, numbering from one to six, six bullets, two caps, two pair of handcuffs and two pair of nippers. This elaborate equipment was placed in the hands of the clerk for "distribution," and a receipt for same was taken by the clerk.

Excelsior Hall was headquarters. The new force set out to insure peace and harmony in Fanwood Township. As one reads over the pages of yesteryear, it is evident that crime may not pay, but it sure doesn't change much from year to year!

Just as today's patrolmen keep a close eye on parks and playgrounds, these areas were a source of trouble back then, too. In 1901, for instance, the records state: "Complaint was made to the Board that crowds of men and boys had been in the habit of assembling on the Recreation grounds on Sunday for the purpose of gambling and on motion of Mr. Nicholl, Mr. Bruchmann was appointed a Committee to visit the grounds with the police officers and arrest all who violated the law."

Sure enough, the arm of the law reached out, and in a May, 1901 meeting of the Board, report was made of a "raid" upon the "grounds known as Recreation Park" and two men were arrested and fined \$5 each. The police blotter of 1901 might have been considered a bit discriminatory in today's world, for the arrested were identified by name, and one was also labeled as (colored).

The "raid" didn't appear to solve too much, for all through the long, hot summer of 1901, the Recreation Grounds represented a headache for the gentlemen. It appears that the townspeople were having a ball in said Recreation Grounds, especially on Sundays, but the police were back time after time through June and July. The officers are on record as putting

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### 200 Vocal Objectors Prolong Council Meeting Till Midnight

Apparently, there are plenty of citizens in Scotch Plains who definitely do not want to see Scotch Hills Municipal Golf Course turned into a swimming pool and/or a recreational complex. They turned out 200 strong to tell Mayor Robert Griffin and the Township Council of their reasons on Tuesday night. The reasons ran the gamut, from golf enthusiasm to preservation of green acreage, from concern over traffic to fears that the pool would be a losing proposition financially.

Two weeks ago, Griffin announced that he planned to form a committee to study the feasibility of a recreational complex, which could include a pool, tennis courts, paddle tennis courts, pitch and putt. He specifically cited the Scotch Hills site, stating that the golf facility loses money and the membership is declining. Griffin further favors a study of the possibility of new recreational facilities as a unit, rather than spotting them patchwork here and there throughout the community.

As he listened to the negative comment Tuesday night, Griffin said his announcement of the study group was made strictly to determine community sentiment on recreation. "If the people don't want it, we're not going to do it," he stressed. He indicated no plans would be formulated and no changes made without extensive public hearings. In the past, the community has added "a little park here, a little park there," now the Recreation Commission seeks a paddle court at the end of a street, Griffin said. He'd prefer a planned development program.

There was obvious dissension on the Council over Griffin's announcement. Republican Councilmen Walter Grote and Larry Newcomb criticized the Mayor for failing to involve them and the Recreation Commission before making his announcement. Grote said he failed to see why a pool or other recreational facilities should have to compete with a golf course. Furthermore, nobody at any Listening Post sessions in past years has indicated a desire for a community pool. He suggested Griffin should have consulted those appointed to the Recreation Commission.

Newcomb scored the Democratic Mayor for failing to discuss the matter at Council level. It was read off once, on a list of actions being considered by Griffin, Newcomb said.

Councilwoman Ann Wodjenski argued that she has long felt a need for a public pool complex, and feels it is unfortunate that Scotch Plains is one of very few towns of this size and economic status without a pool. The Recreation Commission volunteers have to spend "astronomical" amounts of time now, and added burdens of studying subjects such as a pool shouldn't be placed upon them, she said in arguing for a committee.

Kenneth Tjaden was one of the first of dozens of speakers. He represented the Scotch Hills membership, citing aesthetic and sports value. He predicted a more favorable financial picture in the future, and said he had collected 1,500 signatures asking for preservation of the course. The community cannot turn back and restore the course once it is destroyed, he said. A fellow golfer later indicated that membership would burgeon if the membership costs of \$25 were reduced to \$5, and the difference would quickly be made up in greens fees, he said.

Thomas Kret of Concord Road, also representing the local golf world, said statistics on losses were unrealistic. He said the municipal facility had lost \$13,000 in 1966, but losses had been dropping in recent years. Last year, the total loss to the community was only \$276, he said. Many residents cited the value of a golf facility for young golfers, including the high school golf team, and to senior citizens.

Veronica DeNoia pointed out that recreation must cost money, and in a question of comparisons, the community could provide golf for a loss of \$276, which allows a nine-month season for many citizens. A pool would only be open about ten weeks each year, she said, and would be far less desirable to senior citizens than golf.

Griffin pointed out that the membership statistics indicate that of a total membership of 452 in 1974, only 377 were from Scotch Plains. This included 154 Scotch Plains adult memberships, 57 spouse memberships, 58 senior citizens and 108 teenagers. Therefore, the community is providing a facility which is open to those from surrounding towns.

Mrs. Marie Gilgannon spoke as a representative of the Scotch Plains Women's Club and as a realtor. The club has worked hard to restore the historic home which now serves as the clubhouse, and opposes the recreation complex idea, she said. She

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### Y.E.S. Board Will Meet

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of Youth Employment Service at 1790 Front St. on Monday, May 12th at 8:00 p.m.