

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

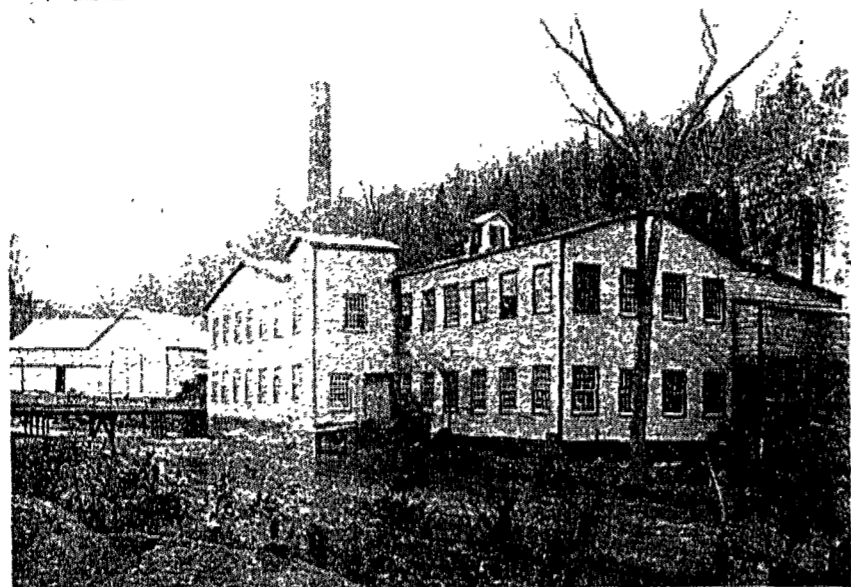
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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1975

15 CENTS

## Interested Hikers Can Visit Sites Of Early Historical Structures



Seeley's Paper Mill 1898

Adventurers who hike on the County-owned lands of Green and Blue Brooks can readily see evidences of over 300 years of our earliest producers -- an ancient mudsill, stone foundations, remnants of mill raceways and early millstones. Milling became the basic occupation of the brook area from the 1680s until the turn of the present century.

The natural dam of the vivid green and blue brooks that formed in the gap of the cliffs in the first mountain from the sea attracted the first settlers to the area. They were Scots.

Tradition has it that a man by the name of Brown was the first miller. The area around the existing "fur" mill in the Route 22 overpass became known as "Brownstown;" and his wooden slats are still embedded in the retaining walls of the Union County Park.

Historians believe that Grandma Mooney's home at 64 New Providence Road was originally miller Brown's. Brown's "Top-of-the-Mountain" home stood for years past the present stone crusher.

The large green building operating now as Custom Vacuum Systems in the loop of Park Avenue and Bonnie Burn Road, is believed to date to 1724. It was the grist mill of Elijah Sites, whose home, now gone, was known to be of this date. It is dif-

icult to visualize a farm through the maze of heavy traffic that now controls the area, yet some can picture the old homestead. It was later known as "Johnston's-on-the-Brook," and was so close to the Green Brook its rear dooryard was sometimes washed by its waters.

The diary of one of Washington's aides tells of the old fur mill in Scot's Plains that made the felt for the Colonists' famous tri-corner hats. He also notes that the Jersey Blues spent the night at the mill on three different occasions during the Revolution.

In the mid-1800s Loftus F. Hollingsworth purchased the mill and moved into the house which now stands behind it, built by miller Hetfield. By 1862 he left the little house, which became the home of the mill manager Gibbs, and built what was then a mansion on the hill. Before he left, Gibbs, in his early study of thermodynamics, installed the

## School Board Cuts Final Director Post

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education met in special session last Wednesday, taking action on elimination of a seventh, and final, director's post, naming coaches, and assuming sponsorship of a summer school.

Earlier this year, the Board eliminated six director's posts. Last week, they took similar action on Director of Special Education. The post has been held by James Donovan.

At the Board's regular meeting in June, Acting Superintendent Perry Tyson asked the board to grant teaching jobs to those directors who did not have tenure as teachers in the district. The Board approved such a move this week. The decision to offer the teaching posts to the four thus affected was on a split vote. Board president Richard Bard, Frank Festa and Thomas Fallon opposed.

The four directors to be employed here next year are Estelle Harris, who held the directorship of reading; Donald Peck, former director of science; Mrs. Martha Booth of language arts; and John Gardello of math. Charles Bihler, who held the direc-

torship of media, already had teaching experience here and Robert Carchman of the social studies department has another position.

The three board members who voted against eliminating the director of special education said it is a necessary position, and will add ammunition to the case now pending, in which the local Learning Disabilities Association have claimed to the state commissioner that the local district fails to meet its mandated obligations in special education. The three were Darrell Brownawell, Robbie Mason and Henry Schwiering.

No action has been taken as yet on naming of a new athletic director, but board president Richard Bard said he hopes to see such action soon. Athletic coaches were named for the 1975-76 year.

## Board Of Education In Unanimous Vote For Summer School

### Listening Post

The regular monthly Listening Post session conducted by Scotch Plains Councilmen has been set for Saturday, from 10 to 12 noon. The public is invited to the informal meeting, which is held on the first Saturday morning of each month in the Committee Chambers, Municipal Building, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

area's first indoor heated bathtub in the house. The cast-iron tub was filled from the brook water heated with live steam from the mill boilers which fed the dye vats.

James Vellone and sons have owned the historic old mill since 1914. It operated as the Ornamental Iron Works in 1964. Today the tangible relic of the Revolution has had over 250 years of continual service.

Until the advent of the automobile and Route 22, the "Brownstown" section was a favorite recreation area of citizens from far and wide. Young people flocked to Marshes' Pond and Seeley's Ponds to skate, swim or picnic. Many of the town's senior citizens can remember sledding from the top of Bonnie Burn Road down to Park Avenue.

At 100 Bonnie Burn Road, the early American homestead of the millers Darby, then H. Hollingsworth and then Spenser has been converted into modern-day living. Another home that has become a landmark of the town is at 175 Union Avenue, home of John Marsh, built in 1872. John's daughter, Josephine, married Albert Hollingsworth, Loftus' son. The cove of the opposite side of the brook near the Pond was often called Lovers' Retreat.

In the early 1900s the large house was the summer residence of a socially prominent New York family, the Hendersons. The lawns, which were a gathering place of the children of the neighborhood, were given by the Hendersons as a public playground "in perpetuity," and have

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## The Election In Fanwood

Fanwood voters went to the polls in very small numbers on Tuesday. With no contest on the ballot, Republicans nominated Republican Mayor Theodore F. Trumpp with 321 votes for the mayoralty race. Two Republican Councilmen who plan to seek re-election, Robert J. McCarthy and William Winey, gathered 320 and 317 votes respectively.

Councilman John Swindlehurst will seek the mayor's seat. He received 115 primary votes. Democrats Robert M. Carchman and Patrick J. Dunne, who will run for Council, got 111 votes each in the primary.

## Expect To Offer Courses In History, English, Inc.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education will be sponsors of a summer school this summer. The Board voted unanimously last week, at a special meeting, to take over the operation of a program similar to that which had been run by a private corporation of administrators here for over a decade.

What form the board-sponsored school will take is not known exactly at the present time, according to Acting Superintendent of Schools Perry Tyson. Dr. Tyson said the first step is acquisition of a director. Notices of the availability of the director position had been posted in all schools here, following the Board vote last Wednesday, and Tyson said early this week that he expected to complete his final interview for the position by Wednesday. Then he expected to make a recommendation of a director to the Board of Education.

It would be the director's responsibility to plan the program, staff it, and arrange for communications and informational releases, Tyson said. Although the program or curriculum has not yet been established, the Acting Superintendent said it is safe to assume that the school will provide remedial courses for

those students having difficulty in required courses, such as U.S. History, English, Mathematics or foreign languages.

Tyson did not yet know what further offerings may be provided. In past years, the private corporation-based school has offered a very popular music school as well as enrichment courses in art, speed reading, study habits, etc. In addition, the summer list had included a summer theatre workshop which provided teenagers with an opportunity to participate in preparation of a musical comedy.

Tuition has not yet been established for the new summer school. However, it has been determined that the new summer session will charge tuition. Students who are unable to pay tuition will be allowed to attend free. The current Board of Education sought legal advice and

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## Realtors Petition For Sign Limitation

A group of realtors from Scotch Plains and Fanwood formally presented a petition to the Scotch Plains Township Council, and also spoke publicly, seeking restrictions on placement of signs in residential neighborhoods. The realtors asked that Scotch Plains fashion an ordinance based upon the laws now in force in Westfield, which call for size restrictions and prohibit any identifying realtor on a sign. In Westfield, signs may read "for sale, inquire within," or may bear a telephone number.

For many years, long established local realtors governed themselves, but a rash of signs by one or two realtors have led others to seek legal limits. E. W. Koster, of Koster-Magee, said the signs are a benefit to brokers, not to owners, and represent free advertising. Many of them in one neighborhood, which can happen just by chance, lead potential buyers to think something is wrong with the neighborhood, Koster said.

Hank Friedrichs of H. Clay Friedrichs said self defense may force all realtors to place signs if no restrictions are set. He said there are currently 120 homes for sale in Scotch Plains and Fanwood, and that many signs "would look like everybody's leaving."

Councilman Walter Grote, while agreeing with the request and in favor of no signs, said a political campaign confrontation over lawn signs a couple of years ago had resulted in a legal decision that signs were placed wherever desired. There was discussion over whether this applies to political or real estate.

Grote and his fellow Republican Councilman, Larry Newcomb, continue to object to legal fees,

citing \$60 to \$75 charges. Grote said he remembered back a couple of months that Council planned to write to the Planning Board objecting to fees of \$75, and has heard nothing since.

Councilman Noel Musial indicated he could not understand Grote's objections, since he moved the bill list in May, and Newcomb seconded it. He called Grote's objections political rhetoric, and said \$60 is not unreasonable for attorney's fees for a town the size of Scotch Plains. He said he has checked out the fees personally.

The Republicans also raised question on a salary raise for

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## Local Attorney Wins Primary

Scotch Plains attorney Donald DiFrancesco tallied 3,093 votes in the District 22 primary race on Tuesday. He and his running mate William Maguire, who tallied 3,118 votes, were party-backed and defeated former Assemblyman Arthur Manner of Berkeley Heights and Mrs. Linda Wnuck of Rahway for the nomination. Manner took 1,925 votes, and Mrs. Wnuck got 1,399.