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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1975

15 CENTS

Flag Day Follow Historic Old Mill Trail

The days when the mills along the Green Brook meant our livelihood were relived on Saturday, June 14th, during the Flag Day celebration and historic hike sponsored by the Scotch Plains Bicentennial Committee.



The hike ended at Seeley's Picnic Area in the Watching Reservation where the Color Guard of the New Jersey Army National Guard, 4th Battalion, 112th Field Artillery conducted a ceremony of raising the first flag of the nation. One member of the Color Guard wore the Blue uniform with blue and red trim of the Revolutionary period; two the gold and blue of the Civil War period and two were in brown modern summer wear. Each carried weapons from the various periods. "Next year we'll give you

a gun salute," said Sgt. Michael Cappola, leader of the Color Guard.

The soldiers marched to the pipe and drum music played by four members of the Shackamaxon School Carnival Band. Nancy Neely on the flute, Craig and Peter Sjonell on clarinets and Scott Hatton, the drummer boy.

Judge William Elliott gave a short address on the significance of the day which honored the first time the United States flag was flown in battle, "where the

Fanwood Council Asks Changes In Zoning

The Fanwood Council has asked the Planning Board to take under consideration changes in the borough zoning laws to incorporate a ban on commercial real estate signs and specific limitations on the storage of trailers in residential neighborhoods.

Recently, a group of eleven realtors from Scotch Plains and Fanwood petitioned both governing bodies to restrict "For Sale" and/or "Sold" signs, carrying identifying realtor labels, in residential neighborhoods. The realtors, who noted that such signs do, in fact, bring in new business, said they were acting in the interests of aesthetics in seeking the ban. If all realtors placed signs in front of every home for sale within the dual communities, the appearance would be unattractive, they indicated. The realtors who petitioned said in the past they have found they have been able, by cooperative agreement, to police themselves, but one or two other realtors are now making a practice of placing signs everywhere, which places the petitioners in a

position of having to follow suit in self defense.

Henry Friedrichs, president of the Westfield Board of Realtors, addressed Council, thanking them for their promptness in responding to the request.

On the subject of trailers, it was indicated that Borough Attorney Edward Beglin has rendered an opinion that the borough already has on the books authority to regulate parking and storage of trailers on residential property, since they would fall under restrictions governing structures. Trailers fall under the zoning definition of structures, Beglin said. The typical house trailer, whether self-propelled or towed, is becoming more prevalent in a leisure-oriented society, Beglin noted,

Residents Petition For Continuation Of Listening Post

Green Brook crosses the Valley Road in The Bloody Gap, during the Battle of the Short Hills on June 26, 1777.

Stationed at historic sites along the hike route were some of our citizens who grew up in the area. Among them were Marion Clark at Marsh's Pond; Anthony DeNitzio at Cook's Quarry and Pond; Harold Hill at Seeley's Paper Mill; and Mrs. Horace (Seeley) Bunker and Mr. Bunker at the Seeley House and garden area. Charles Detwiller, Bicentennial Co-Chairman and an expert on early architecture, pointed out the successive uses of the pre-Revolutionary Old Fur Mill, the green structure in the Park Avenue overpass of Route 22.

The President of the West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, George Rounds, sat on one of the big basalt rocks in the Gap to tell the story of that hot day in June when our soldiers were driven back, step by step, up the Green Brook into The Gap, where they were joined by 3,000 sick and wounded from the hospitals above. Bloody fighting ensued, but we were successful in keeping the British out of Washington's mountain stronghold.

The hike, organized by the Scotch Plains Environmental Association under the chairmanship of Mrs. Daniel McKenna, followed a trail on the right (looking upstream) side of the Green Brook, newly cleared by the Union County Park Commission and Boy Scout Troop #37, under the direction of Richard Ames. Hike leaders to the 14 stops along the brook were members of Girl Scout Cadette Troops 291 and 542 -- Nancy Lariviere, Ginny Pysker, Cindy Birrell, Donna Lariviere, Ursula Bischoff, Jeanmarie Guidi, Karen Myszka, Jo Ann Facciponti and Lori Hill, joined by Miriam Hahnsch of the

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and stated that it is his view that ordinance provisions are valid to either prohibit or restrict.

In contrast to several neighboring communities where specific trailer laws are now on the books, Fanwood does not have any provision governing outdoor storage or parking of noncommercial trailer vehicles. When considered as structures, they are subject to the various bulk requirements of residential zones, and are subject to yard and area coverage requirements as well as "clear sight" open space requirements for corner lots.

Beglin recommends particular regulations be developed applicable only to trailers (whether self-powered, towed, intended to carry people or things). Stipulations could be developed for portions of the lot where they may be located, and a minimum yard requirement might be provided so that open space exists between trailer and property line, Beglin felt. He added his view

Claim Sessions Provide For In Depth Discussions Of Critical Township Concerns

In the opinion of a couple of residents of Scotch Plains concerned with flooding, the routine monthly Listening Post sessions have provided citizens with an opportunity for in-depth discussion of concerns, in a situation where they are not monopolizing the public input portion of the Council meetings. Therefore, two or three people asked Scotch Plains Council members to continue the sessions.

Charles Doyle of Cecilia Place pressed the Democratic Council members for declarations of intent to attend. Mayor Robert Griffin indicated he is now available by telephone at any time for discussion of issues with citizens. Councilman Noel Musial noted that he has been in attendance in the past, but found the number of attendees disturbing. He'd like greater attendance and more opportunity for citizen input to justify his attendance, since he ordinarily works on Saturdays. He will attend in the future if shown that attendance will increase, but meanwhile favors instead a response sheet on township newsletters, giving citizens a place to jot down thoughts and impressions to mail to Council.

Similarly, Councilwoman Ann Wodjenski has attended on several occasions but refrained from promises of routine attendance, stating that until the sessions are updated or improved, she'll attend whenever possible.

Listening Post was originated by the Republicans. They will not hold sessions during the summer months. GOP Councilman Larry Newcomb said that as long as he is on Council he'll endeavor to continue them, since they provide an avenue for citizen participation. Attendance depends upon severity of problems, he said, and "if only three people show, maybe our problems are not so bad."

In other actions, Council received a report from Township Manager James J. Hauser, Jr. comparing attorney fees in various municipalities in the area. Recently, the Scotch Plains Council has wrangled monthly over the portion of the bill list involving payment for municipal legal services, with Republicans challenging a \$60 per hour figure paid to the township attorney. The Republicans claimed that the attorney who served when Republicans controlled Council was paid only \$35 per hour.

Scotch Plains and thirteen other communities were included. Hauser contacted 24 municipalities, but received response from only 13. Nine com-

that Council should consider adding a necessity for Planning Board site plan approval in relation to outdoor trailer storage. This is done in some other communities now. At no time may such vehicles be used in

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munities paid pre-established hourly rates to municipal attorneys. Of the nine, six paid \$40, one paid \$50 (Westfield), and one paid \$40 - \$50 (Plainfield). The only \$60 hourly rate listed was for the Scotch Plains Board of Education attorney - the only Board of Education listed on the sheet. The rest were municipalities.

There was a very broad range of base salaries paid to the attorneys in addition to their hourly rates. For instance, Fanwood pays \$3,000 base salary plus \$40 per hour, Kenilworth pays \$10,000 per year base plus \$40 per hour, Plainfield pays \$12,000 base plus \$40 - \$50 per hour, and Elizabeth pay \$21,500 base plus \$40 per hour.

In his letter to Council, Hauser notes that responses really do not provide the totals paid per year to attorneys. He further notes that there are differences in population, and that it might be appropriate to consider the total expenditures for legal fees in conjunction with the case load and the scope of the cases.

Listening Post Is Questioned

The Listening Post for June was held Saturday, June 7th. Three residents residing in the neighborhood of the Bowcraft Amusement attended for the first time to bring to the attention of the township flooding and poor housekeeping conditions they feel are caused by Bowcraft.

Other problems and concerns discussed at the Listening Post were the maintenance of property code, neighborhood problems caused by swimming pools, and a request to abandon a "paper street" located in the township.

Inasmuch as councilman Walter Grote and administrative secretary Shirley Capone were the only township officials present, several attendees wanted to know if this was an indication that the council was losing interest in future scheduling of The Listening Post. Councilman Grote informed those present that Councilman Newcomb had a personal commitment that prevented him from attending. He assured the group that prior notice will be given if The Listening Post is to be discontinued or not scheduled.