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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1977

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Cold Catch!



This past Saturday, April 9, was the coldest on record for New Jersey. That didn't deter local fishermen, however. They were on hand for the opening of trout fishing season. However, the trout themselves were apparently a bit deterred by the chilly thermometer. Locally, catches were down in comparison with past opening days. However, Seely's Pond in Scotch Plains got a workout, as anglers shivered and hoped.

Photo by Robert A. Luce

Dance Is Over, But \$\$\$ Memories Linger On

Twenty-one years ago, Don Nicola Mascuilli, a priest from Montazzoli, Italy, visited the parishioners of St. Bartholomew's Parish here. He came at the invitation of then pastor, Father John Nelligan. The Italian priest was no stranger to the local parishioners, for hundreds and hundreds of Scotch Plains families had their roots in Montazzoli, Italy. While here, Don Mascuilli detailed the need for a day nursery in the small village "back home," to care for young children whose parents had to work in the fields.

Response was immediate. Italians here in Scotch Plains shared a close identity with their home village, and many of them wanted to help to form the nursery school. Paul DiFrancesco, who is now 74 years old, was a forerunner in fund-raising efforts. Within two years, through a door-to-door fund drive, and a dinner dance at Martinsville Inn, the local Italian community had raised \$8,500 to sent to Montazzoli — \$6,000 for a home to house the small children, and an additional contribution of \$2,500 for equipment.

The first annual Montazzoli dinner dance was the start of a tradition. For twenty years, from 1956 through 1976, hundreds of people gathered each spring for the annual fundraiser. Originally, in its earlier years, the dinner dance was mainly a reunion for the many families of Italian origin here. Later, the highly popular social event began to draw Irish and Germans, Poles and Swedes —

local and state politicians, township employees, and many others interested in the worthwhile cause. At the peak, there were over 700 people at each dance.

Now, Paul DiFrancesco has announced that there will be no dinner dance in 1977. After 20 years, the dance tradition has come to an end. However, the contributions will continue to flow, for the annual fund-raiser has now resulted in a trust fund which will yield at least \$2,000 annually to continue operations of the nursery school.

Support was beginning to wane, and the Committee for Montazzolese Children's Welfare realized that the financial support could continue without the dance. DiFrancesco called the success of the fund-raising

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Board Pat On Cheer. Issue

Despite pleas for reconsideration from parents of girls selected for the high school varsity cheerleading squad, it appears as of now that the Board of Education will stand by its original decision to direct the high school principal to re-do cheering try-outs. Last Thursday, the Board of Education met, and failed to take any action on the cheerleading issue, thereby leaving in effect its mandate to Dr. Terry Riegel to arrange for re-trials.

Parents of girls who had tried out for the squad and made it had met with the Board before the April 7 meeting, seeking further investigation of charges by a high school teacher, James Mason, that tryouts had been illegal and rigged. The parents have repeatedly cited information gathered by Reigel and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Reigh Carpenter indicating that judges have been interviewed

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Fined \$75 For Polluting Brook

Scotch Plains Health Officer Melvin Kramer reported this week that Jim Tomer of Phillipsburg, New Jersey pleaded guilty in municipal court here on April 12, to charges of unlawful discharge of industrial waste effluent into a storm sewer adjoining the Green Brook. His action was contrary to provisions of the township's new water pollution ordinance. Mr. Tomer was fined \$75 by Judge John Appezatto for his actions of March 23.

Kramer reminded residents that when they are changing oil in automobiles, they are not permitted to deposit the old oil into storm sewers. The proper method of disposal is to place the old oil in a container and dispose of it in the regular municipal trash, Kramer said.

Calendar

Thursday, April 14 — Board of Education, regular monthly agenda-setting session, Administration Building, Plainfield Avenue, S.P. - 8 pm.

Thursday, April 14 — Caucus Meeting, Scotch Plains Township Council, Municipal Building, Rooms 204-206, 7:30 pm.

Tuesday, April 19 — Scotch Plains Township Council, regular monthly meeting, Municipal Building, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains - 8:30 pm.

Tuesday, April 19 — Formal hearings on PATH commuter service.

Board Wrestles With Budget Cuts

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Reigh Carpenter gave the Board of Education his suggestions for meeting the budget cuts imposed upon the district by the combined Councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood last week. Carpenter provided two alternatives. One would eliminate \$205,000 in staff positions. The second alternative would provide for closing of one elementary school for a saving of \$158,000, and a cutting of \$47,000 in staff positions to meet the \$205,000 deficit. There was no indication that the Board will ride with either of these alternatives. Instead, various Board members suggested other areas to look at, and those present planned to give the budget an in-depth look again, before meeting next Wednesday to firm up decisions on areas to be pared.

The Board voted last week to accept a \$583,000 reduction for 77-78. There is also a deficit in the insurance amounts of \$95,000, for a total reduction to be considered of \$688,000, Carpenter's report said. Where could this \$688,000 come from? He indicated seven possible reductions or reallocations which total \$483,000, leaving the \$205,000 deficit, for which he suggested the two alternatives.

The \$483,000 saving could be realized in over-budgeting in the salary account, \$245,000; monies set aside for resolution of some salary contracts, and no longer required for that purpose, \$5,000; reduction in substitute teacher account, \$6,000; reduc-

tion in health benefits for two eliminated custodian positions (the two positions had been eliminated earlier, in the budget proposed to voters) \$2,000; cutback in overtime, \$50,000; cancellation of "W" orders, \$30,000; use of surplus, \$145,000.

The district had accumulated a surplus of \$358,000 at the end of the 1975-76 school year. Of this, \$213,000 had already been applied to the 1977-78 budget, leaving \$145,000 as surplus. In addition, school officials project a surplus of approximately \$100,000 to accumulate by this

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Fanwood Roads Slated For Renovation

Eight streets are on the list for resurfacing in Fanwood, and the Borough Council indicated, during its Monday night agenda session, that legislation will be introduced this week to provide for \$40,000 of new street surfaces. The affected streets include Sun Valley Way, Montrose Avenue, Birch Street, Watchung View Court, Ridge Way, Ranier Road, Timberline Drive, and Shasta Pass.

New curbing and drainage are slated for Arlene Court and Pleasant Avenue, under terms of another ordinance expected for introduction during the Wednesday Council session.

The old "Blue goose," a converted milk wagon which has served as Fanwood's Civil Defense truck, would be replaced under terms of another ordinance due for introduction this week. The ordinance would authorize Council to bid for the acquisition of a new Civil Defense truck — new to the Borough, but secondhand in vintage. The ordinance would establish a top of \$5,000 for the bidding.

Rescue Squad members have discussed the desirability of a Civil Defense truck which will soon be sold by the municipality of Flemington.

Council will vote on the introduction of the uniform construction code, which has been mandated by the state for implementation in the various municipalities. The changes incorporated in the ordinance up for introduction would bring

Fanwood's construction codes in line with the new state codes.

Another ordinance scheduled for introduction this week would place Fanwood on file for available Community Development funds.

Fanwood plans to approve an agreement with the County of Union, which would provide for a joint effort in the replacement of the bridge at Staagard Place.

Plans Firming For Battle Commemorative

The American Revolution Battle Commemorative Committee of Scotch Plains has recently been informed that the dedication ceremonies and battle re-enactment, scheduled for June 25 and 26, 1977, will now be considered as a fourth festival of the Union County Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board. That Board will absorb costs of

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ATTENTION
KIDS
 There is a FREE

coming
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