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SCOTCH PLAINS

THE TIMES



FANWOOD

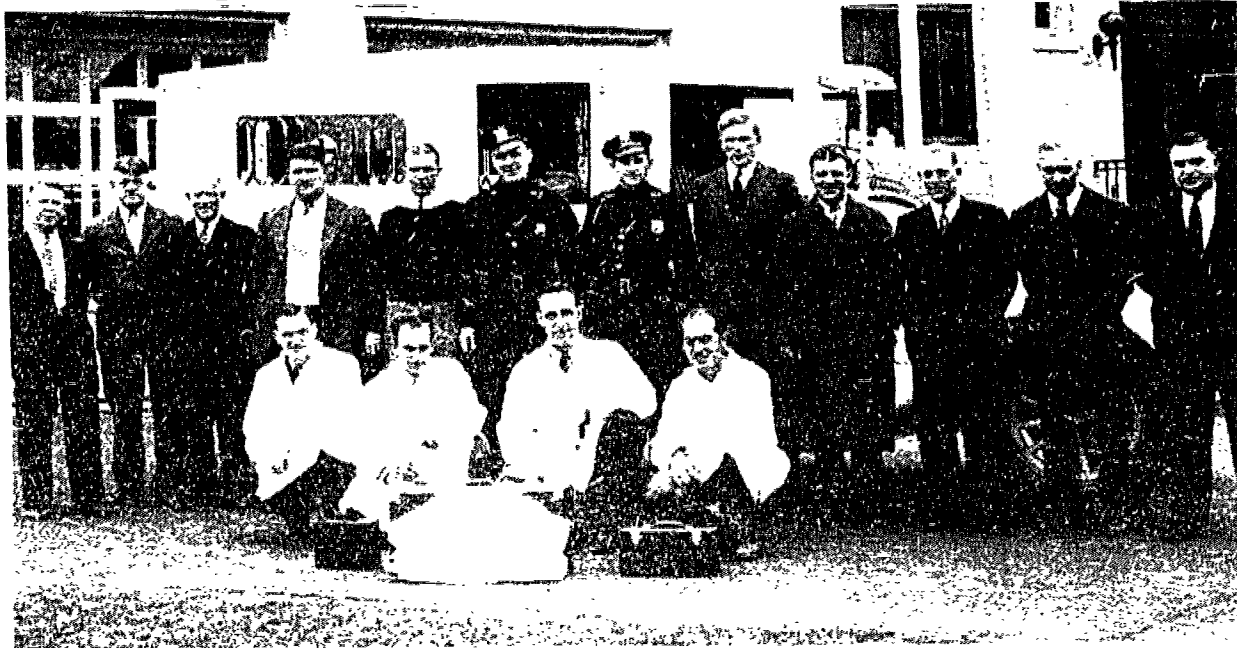
VOLUME 19 NO. 16

SCOTCH PLAINS • FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1977

20 CENTS

1937 Beginning



The year was 1937. These men were the charter members of the First Rescue Squad in Scotch Plains. Harold Hill Sr. (third from left in front) remains a member today.

Scotch Plains Squad... 40 Years Of Service

The year was 1937. Scotch Plains was lots smaller than it is today... but even then, Route 22 was creating traffic casualties, and the tiny town was growing. Welfare of the citizens of Scotch Plains was a prime consideration of the volunteer firemen and municipal leaders, and there was concern over the occasional delays in emergency service. Muhlenberg Hospital was then the only source of help for emergency, and Rescue Squads were unheard of in the Union County area.

A public announcement that Muhlenberg Hospital planned to replace its ambulance triggered a call for discussion in March of 1937. Firemen and officials sat down to talk... and it wasn't much later that the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad — first independent and privately maintained organization of its kind of Union County — was a reality. Within a short period, the 1924 ambulance was purchased from Muhlenberg Hospital for \$250. It was housed at Town Hall, and the \$250 was collected by a donation here, a donation there.

"Eventually, we all got our money back," says Harold C. Hill, Sr. Harold Hill, the man who is familiar to hundreds of Scotch Plains citizens as the former Police Chief, was one of the original members of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad and the only charter member still serving today. However, many of the men who formed the Squad 37 years ago this month logged many long years of service in behalf of the citizenry.

Among the first people involved with the Squad were Robert Gendall, then Township Treasurer; Theodore W. Day, Police Chief; Samuel B. Macaulley, Fire Chief; Robert Anson, Chester Rumsey, Theodore Swarer, James Osnato, Alexander Muir, Hill, Herm Tonnison, Charles Meyer, Thomas Paff, Edwin Sharkey, Robert Pangborne, Sylvester Ward, Nick Ponzio, Harry Orr, Harry Erholm, and Preston Ehmann.

From its modest beginnings forty years ago, the Squad has grown today, to a point where there are three ambulances, 30 full-time members, and highly sophisticated equipment and performance requirements.

Funding and the training of members have represented major focus of concentration through the years. When the first ambulance required \$250, public-spirited citizens dug deep.

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Watch For The Check!

On or about May 1, 1977 the Township will be mailing approximately 7,500 checks totalling close to \$855,000 to taxpayers of record during the calendar year 1976. In the event property exchanged hands during 1976, the refund will be pro-rated between the property owners for the period involved. Property with delinquent taxes will have the refund applied to the tax arrears, and the balance, if any, will go to the property owner, accompanied by a written notice of the action taken by the Township as promulgated by the Director of the State Division of Local Government Services.

The refunds will be un-budgeted State School Aid received by the School District during the school year 1976-1977.

The Township was required by State law to process the refund checks, which will cost the Township approximately \$1,800 for mailing and printing.

Yes, Virginia, There Will Be A Cleanup

Last week, the Scotch Plains Township Council announced that spring cleanup would be "delayed." With all those attics and garages filled with broken toys, inoperative appliances, unuseable furniture — the eager housecleaners of Scotch Plains have asked: "When?"

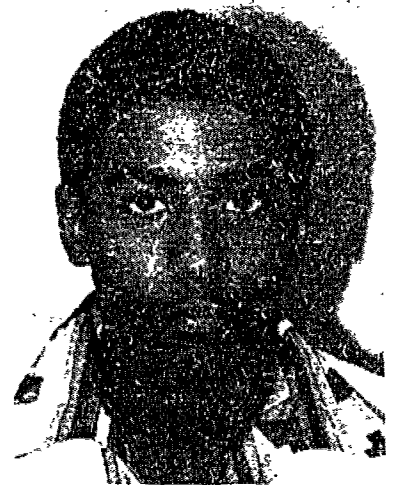
Mayor Anne Wodjenski explained this week. The cleanup was bid. Although seven different people picked up specifications for bidding, a single bidder finally bid. He bid \$11,000 more than last year's spring cleanup cost — so that

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'Skeets' -- Hurdling To More Records

Skeets Nehemiah... it's a name that's in headlines these days. It's a name that is becoming more and more familiar to Scotch Plains residents, whether they follow the sports pages or not. "Skeets" is a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High, but his reputation spreads far beyond the community. In recent weeks, he's been shattering track records right and left, and as of now, the sky's the limit for the young hurdler.

Over the past two years, "Skeets" notoriety has been primarily in the area of hurdles. His very first major triumph came as a junior last year, when he broke the state high hurdles record by a tenth of a second. "It was a relatively responsible achievement, and my first inkling of the great potential he had," says Raider Track Coach Jean Poquette. The hurdles facing Skeets in that competition were 39 inches high — standard for high school competition. Poquette thought it might be valuable for Nehemiah to get a bit of "seasoning" and experience. Never dreaming they'd win a thing, he took Skeets to Knoxville, Tenn. last year for the AAU Junior National Championship — a competition mainly among collegians, under 19 years old. Only nine high school students even entered the Knoxville meet — and Skeets surprised everybody with placement in the finals — one of only two high school stu-



RENALDO NEHEMIAH

dents to achieve this status. Skeets at this point was competing in higher 42-inch hurdles, standard for collegiate competition.

At that point, young Nehemiah was only 5'-10½". He grew a bit over the summer, and now he's 6 feet, 160 pounds.

Over the winter, his hurdling triumphs continued. He tied the

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Where The School Budget Cuts Will Be Made

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, faced with a \$593,000 reduction in its 1977-78 school budget, announced last week where cuts would be made to live within its reduced budget. The Board voted the budget reduction, following negotiations with the combined Councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

The major cut will be in the teaching salary account, where the district will operate with \$300,000 less than originally proposed in the budget defeated by voters in March. Of the \$300,000 total, \$245,000 represents an over-budgeting area, discovered by Scotch Plains Finance Officer Dennis O'Neill when he reviewed the books. Another \$50,000 is overtime incorrectly placed in salary accounts, and \$5,000 which had been earmarked for settlement of administrative and secretarial contracts. These negotiations had not been finalized at the time, but have been completed since, and the \$5,000 represents the amount not required for next year.

There will be no cuts in teaching assignments next year. The board voted not to renew contracts of 21 full-time and four part-time teachers. Carpenter explained that some of these represent teaching positions not required due to declining enroll-

ments, while others represent teachers hired to replace other tenured teachers, who had been out of leaves of absence, and now plan to return next year.

Teacher aide account will be trimmed by \$10,960 for next year. However, Carpenter noted early this week that this does not necessarily indicate that there will be less teacher-aide coverage or working hours next year. The district will have to follow state mandates calling for provision of a lunch program in all schools next year, including elementary schools, and there are indications that costs of teacher-aide supervision for assignments related to the cafeteria may be taken from the cafeteria profits at the schools. Therefore, the aides will be retained, but their salaries will no longer be required in the budget.

Another major area of cut is within the surplus account. The school district had accumulated

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Calendar

Saturday, April 30 — "Democratic Response," 11 am, Council Chambers, S.P. Municipal Building.

Tuesday, May 3 — S.P. Township Council, Council Chambers, S.P. Municipal Building, 8:30 pm.

Wednesday, May 4 — Public Safety Advisory Council, Community House, 8 pm.

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