



SCOTCH PLAINS

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20 CENTS

Between N.J. And Cal.



Dave Martin takes the pause that refreshes, along his summer route to California. He was joined by his twin brother.

Wheels Were Spinning During The Summer Mos.

BY JOAN T. MONAHAN

Many an Easterner finds California beckoning as a summer vacation destination. Three June graduates from SPFHs were no exception. They journeyed to California over the summer months. However, their trips were a bit distinctive, for the three traveled the hard way — on bicycles. Geoffrey Ames, 18, of Mountain Avenue did the trip all by himself, while twins Dave and Steve Martin, 19 year olds from Black Birch Road, bicycled together. Ames left Scotch Plains on June 25 and arrived in San Francisco six weeks later. The Martins left from Ashland, Virginia on June 28 and expected to reach 'Frisco yesterday.

The Martin twins, who moved here from California two years ago, had been reading about the Central Bike Bicentennial Trail for over a year. It's a bike routing service, similar to the A.A.U service for auto tourists. The thoughts of cycling along the centennial trail across the nation intrigued them, especially since they were planning to begin their college educations at California State University in Northridge, in the San Fernando Valley, in September. The bike trail began in Ashland, so that's where the Martins began their tour.

They particularly enjoyed the Shenandoah area of Virginia and Kentucky — even tougher than the Rockies! The people were nicest in Kansas. Their travels took them through Colorado to Wyoming where they crossed the Continental Divide three different times. They stopped at the Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, Yellowstone in Montana, through the Royal Gorge in Colorado, then headed west through the Snake River in Idaho thence on to Oregon.

Meanwhile, their classmate Geoff Ames was also pumping away, setting his goals at the same 100-mile per day pattern as the Martin twins. However, Geoff's route was north, then west. He rode anywhere from eight to 14 hours daily.

He sort of meandered along, planning his route as he went.

He headed north in N.J., to High Point, then into New York, diagonally across the state to Niagara Falls, then crossed over into Ontario. He crossed back into Michigan at the Walpole Island Indian Reservation in Ontario, continuing on to Rochester, Michigan to stay with relatives for a half-day.

Next it was on to Ann Arbor, then Oak Park, Illinois where he picked up Route 6 to Iowa. In Iowa, he went west, then north, staying for a couple of days at a farm owned by relatives in Byrd, Iowa. On to the Black Hills of South Dakota, into Wyoming, through Yellowstone, with a 2-1/2 day stop at Carpenters Workshop — an Assembly of God worship site.

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Geiger To Leave School District

Philip Geiger, who has served the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district as Director of Administrative Services, plans to leave the district to accept a new position as Superintendent of Schools. His new assignment will be in Gallway, New Jersey — a school district about 12 miles west of Atlantic City.

Geiger follows several other top administrators who have also submitted resignations in recent months. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Reigh Carpenter has informed the Board that he is not interested in being considered for contract renewal when his contract expires next

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Ptl. Peterson On The Mend

Patrolman Joseph Peterson of the Fanwood Police Department is on the mend, and Chief Tony Parenti reports that within a couple of weeks, there should be definitive news on when Peterson will be back on duty. Peterson was driving the Traffic Safety vehicle back in April, when a driver behind the wheel of a van hit him broadside, driving the safety car into another automobile.

Peterson has been out since that time, recuperating from a multitude of serious injuries, including a fractured skull, broken ribs, a dislocated shoulder, and a dislocated pelvis.

Correction

In last week's issue, an account of a building decision on sub-size lots on South Avenue in Fanwood attributed the variance to the Fanwood Planning Board. In actuality, it was the Fanwood Board of Adjustment which approved the variance application — a decision now being appealed to the Fanwood Borough Council by several citizens. Also, Mr. Norman O. Geuder, Sr., the Fanwood Construction Official, was referred to as Norman Geuder Jr.

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Schools Open On Wednesday



The classes are getting smaller! Who know — maybe we'll soon be down to THIS size — a class from School #4 (now LaGrande) — in 1926.

The days of swim clubs and lemonade, cutoffs and playground programs are on the wane. September 7 is the big day hovering just around the corner. School opens for the 1977-78 school year.

The new school year will find fewer students in the classrooms of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district. Projected enrollment figures released this week by the central office estimate a total of 6,236 children — down 314 from September enrollments just one year ago, and down 725 students from the first day of school in 1975.

At the elementary level, enrollments are projected to drop by 404 students from last year — from 6951 to 6236, while at the junior high schools, the drop is 138, from 1749 to 1611. At Scotch Plains-Fanwood High, where the largest class in the history of the school district enters its senior year, there will be an anticipated 173 fewer students — from 1905 last year to 1732 this year.

The smallest projected enrollment will be at LaGrande where 234 students are expected, the highest at the high school, 1732.

The enrollment declines are being watched particularly closely by a special citizens committee charged with studying the possible closing of one or more schools in the district.

There will be little basic change in the program offered to students this year, with a single exception — a pre-school speech screening program, funded from a \$40,000 federal grant, with details to be announced very soon.

Philip Geiger, Director of Administrative Services for the

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Gearing Up For National Jogging Day

If you think the highways and byways can't accommodate one more jogger...folks, you "ain't seen nuthin' yet." If Rick Sprague and Jim Young have their way, the streets will be alive with runners next October 8—National Jogging Day! Sprague, representing the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, and Young, from the Plainfield YMCA, are planning a "super run" to mark National Jogging Day here in New Jersey.

Last year, 50,000 people took part in various special jogging events across the country. There were all sorts of novel approaches, including a "lights on" jogging group who ran along with illuminated flashlights. This year, Harvey Mills of Atlanta, Georgia, National Chairman of Jogging Day, aims for participation of 200,000 people during the 1977 New Jersey Day period alone!

The obvious question—why? Simple! The goal of National Jogging Day is to spread the

message of fun and fitness to all.

Locally, Sprague and Young have set a 10-mile course, which will take runners from Martine Avenue YMCA to the Plainfield YMCA on Watchung Avenue, and back. There will be local sponsors—including businesses and the media. Avis, International Billiards of Plainfield, Pugliesi and Venezia Insurance, Plainfield Times, Scotch Plains Times and WERA are but a few of the names which will appear on T shirts, to be

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