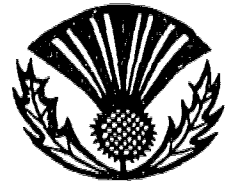


December 15,  
1977

## Hometown Holiday Shopping begins on Page 15

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SCOTCH PLAINS

# THE TIMES



FANWOOD

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 50

SCOTCH PLAINS • FANWOOD, N.J.

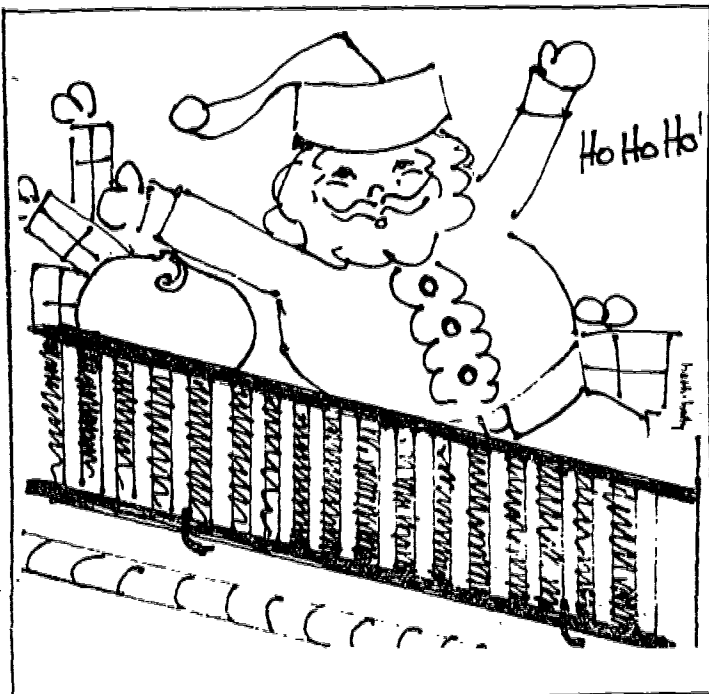
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1977

20 CENTS

## Here Comes Santa Not Once, But Twice

Children of Fanwood, we're about to let you in on a giant secret. The great man himself — Santa Claus — must have heard some awfully good reports about you kids! Guess what he has decided to do? He plans to take time out from his early-evening sled-packing to visit Fanwood early on Christmas Eve, and he'll be checking in, not once, but twice!

Yes, siree, Mr. Claus will be out scouting, peeking in windows, looking in doors, and watching to see who's naughty or nice, early in the evening. You can't miss him. He'll be *Very Visible*. In fact, if you watch out the window, somewhere between 4:30 and 6:30 pm, what to your wondrous eyes will appear but a giant red fire engine, and some smaller police-car escorts! Atop the engine will be Santa, dressed all in red from his head to his toes. Spring to the window, throw open the sash, and you'll be able to spot that famous belly, that'll shake when he laughs, like a bowl full of



jelly. If you listen real close, you'll hear him call, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

The Recreation Commission arranged this special preview visit, with the cooperation of the Fanwood Police Department PBA. The Fire Company volunteered to chauffeur. Santa will tour as many streets as he can. If you

have lots of kids on your street, and you want to make sure Santa sees you, have your mom call John Philips at 889-6532, and he'll put your street on the tour list.

After he's gone by, get out the milk and cookies, tuck in under the covers, and after you are asleep, he'll return for the real business at hand!

## Where Christmas Charity Begins

Caught up in the purchase of Christmas trees and ornaments, wrappings and festive dinners, as we all are, it's all too often that the true Christmas spirit eludes us in the rush. Giving to the less privileged, and thinking of others is the real spirit of the season which is upon us.

We are fortunate as a community, for most of us enjoy a comfortable standard of living, comfortable homes, and stable families. However, in our own midst and in our surrounding area, the needy are there, and at least two agencies in town welcome help.

At Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish on Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains, parishioners have adopted a sister parish — Immaculate Heart of Mary in Elizabeth — where parishioners are truly needy. The parish members keep a close eye on their less fortunate fellows in the Elizabeth vicinity throughout the year, and particularly at holiday times. Right now, Immaculate Heart here is collecting useful canned goods, and toys for children. Father George Byrne, pastor, emphasizes that the parish isn't in the toy repair business, and suggests that any toy contributions be new or in nearly new condition. This Saturday, December 17, young people of the parish will be on hand from 10 am to 4 pm to receive any contributions local residents of all faiths may wish to make.

Clothing is not needed at this time, since a Thanksgiving clothing drive has left the parish with an abundance.

St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church is working in close cooperation with the DECA Club at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, to fill some empty stockings. Father Doherty of St. Bartholomew's has high praise for the efforts of the high school students. He encourages support for their toy drive,

Continued On Page 21

## Santa Art Contest For Kids

The *Times* is sponsoring a holiday art contest for children. We're looking for pictures in holiday spirit — pencil, crayon, paints, whatever. Children are invited to enter, and should have all entries delivered or mailed to the *Times* office, 1600 E. 2nd Street, Scotch Plains, no later than noon on Thursday, December 22.

Entries will be judged by our art staff — Director Val Ginther and her assistant, Beth-Holly — and a \$5 prize will be awarded for the best picture in each of six categories: kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.

Each entry should include identification: name, address, telephone number and grade level. In our issue of Thursday, December 29, we'll publish the winning entries. They should be on paper no larger than 9 x 12.

## Conrail Found Guilty In Fanwood Court

Conrail, the rail system serving Fanwood-Scotch Plains commuters, has been found guilty in Fanwood Municipal Court on charges of permitting dirty and littered conditions along the railroad property. There have been suggestions of harboring of rodents, from the Fanwood Board of Health.

Judge Melvin Whitkin has given the railroad a week to submit a basic cleanup schedule to Board of Health officials, before sentencing. A fine of up to \$500 per day is possible under Fanwood law.

## Santa Will Visit SP Wed.

The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission announces the arrival of Santa Claus on December 21 at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building at 6:45 pm.

Santa will greet each and every child and distribute candy, while young choristers made up of elementary school children sing Christmas carols.

Local Jaycees will provide hot chocolate and assist Rose Marie Donnelly, Program and Special Events Director for the Commission, in coordinating the event.

Plan to come out boys and girls to meet Santa. Merry Christmas!

## Parents Seek Retention Of School

Approximately 35 people, 25 of them parents of LaGrande school, conveyed strong opposition to a closing of LaGrande School, at a public input session held by the Board of Education on Monday. The board plans to act tonight on closing of a facility in the school district. The Board has received a report from an Ad Hoc Citizens Committee which studied facility closing, with a recommendation to close the Administration Building at Muir School, and an accompanying suggestion to close LaGrande.

Betty Swisher of Fanwood asked why the Board would consider closing LaGrande when the majority report from the Committee suggested Muir. Philip Labasi of Scotch Plains took issue with the focus placed upon the minority report. The official position of the majority favors Muir closing, he said, but Board statements and press coverage have given prominence to the minority position.

Board President August Ruggiero emphasized that the Board retains the ultimate prerogative to make decisions, while Board member Edward Spack noted that the charge to the Committee was to formulate a recom-

mendation, "with a minority report if need be."

"Has anyone consulted the children?" asked Les Rubin. He challenged that, in interests of economics, children are shuffled around without a school identity. Rubin also voiced concern that there would be no school identity for Fanwood if the only school in that community were to be closed. Rubin said that at a school closing meeting last year, a huge turnout of people opposed any school closing.

Ruggiero noted that the meeting in question drew parents from three schools, contributing to the turnout.

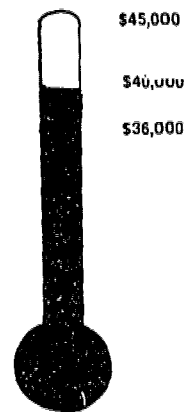
Parents questioned school  
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## Manger Scene Returns



Members of Scotch Plains P.B.A. Local #87 are shown assembling a manger scene on Park Ave. The costs were defrayed by the P.B.A. and the Scotch Plains Business Association. Animals will be provided by Terrylo Zoo, fencing by New Jersey Fence Co. and audio by Station Radio & Appliance, all of Scotch Plains. The Scotch Plains Recreation Comm. also assisted with the lighting.

## S.P. Community Fund Drive



PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX-  
DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO  
BOX 381  
SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY

### CALENDAR

Thursday, Dec. 15 — Bd. of Ed., Regular Monthly Meeting, 8 pm.  
Saturday, Dec. 17 — Raider Band Paper Drive, High School, 9 am-2 pm  
Monday, Dec. 19 — Sr. Citizen Housing Corp., S.P. Municipal Bldg., Room 202, 8 pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 20 — Community Caroling, Fanwood RR Station, 7 pm

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