

## SOX BEFORE SHOES



The Living Poem Theatre will present their original production of *Sox Before Shoes* on March 10 at Terrill Jr. High, Scotch Plains, 2:30 p.m. This fast-paced comedy, with original music, mime, and improvisation is in its' second full season of touring. *Sox* is an imaginative treatment of the hurts, the joys, and the lessons of growing up. It points out that even though there is always someone bigger, our feelings is what's important.

The LPT was founded in 1974 and creates collectively on its farm in Massachusetts. In addition to their performances the company offers workshops in creative dramatics, mime, clowning, and in-service days for teachers and professionals who work with children. LPT is dedicated to freeing the creative potential in children. They believe each child must learn to be unafraid and give life to their visions and dreams.

### CRUSADE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Fanwood Cancer Campaign is seeking residents interested in helping with this year's drive. The campaign will be conducted during the month of April, with special emphasis placed on completion of the bulk of the drive by April 13.

Volunteers are needed as residential co-chairpersons, district captains, block workers, event coordinators, and envelope stuffers. There is a job to suit the time and inclinations of every volunteer. Interested residents are asked to telephone co-chairman Bob Lee at 889-8845, or Bud Haines at 889-8079.

### NEED P.D. AUXILIARIES

Police Chief Michael Rossi today issued a call for aspiring Police Auxiliary Candidates to submit their applications prior to March 13, 1979.

March 13th is the opening day of a six week Basic Civil Defense Police Course to be given at Union College each Tuesday and Thursday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and applications are to be processed prior to said date.

Applications may be obtained from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Police Headquarters, Monday to Friday. If you are unable to stop in, call Police Headquarters at 322-7100 leaving the necessary information at the desk and an application will be forwarded to you.

### WANT A RAILROAD STATION?

The New Jersey Department of Transportation has announced that it will allow local municipalities to take over control of the railroad stations in their municipalities. The communities who so elect would maintain the stations, and in many cases, combine the ticket sales booth with other desirable community uses. Fanwood is one of the communities which would be eligible to assume a lease - at a very minimal cost. However, Mayor Ted Trumpp doubts that the Fanwood Council would be interested.

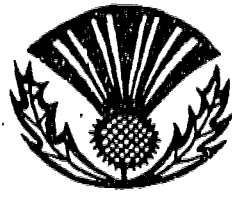
Fanwood already acquired the main station building some years back, and converted it to a very attractive community house. Now, the small and very rundown ticket booth on the south side of the station would be up for grabs. Trumpp said he had trouble envisioning any potential use. This, combined with the fact that it might cost Fanwood money to maintain the ramshackle building, caused him to feel negatively about taking advantage of the D.O.T.'s forthcoming offer. However, Fanwood has long been interested in acquiring some additional parking space on the southside of the station. There is a small and unused railroad spur at the west end of the parking lot, adjacent to the tracks. If this land were available, Fanwood would probably try to acquire it for conversion to additional parking slots, Trumpp said.

### HOME FROM IRAN



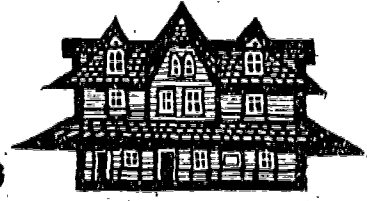
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Smith had a bird's eye view of recent events in Iran. The Scotch Plains couple returned recently from a three-month stay in the troubled country. Read their story, on page 3.

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# THE TIMES

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## Trenton denies \$933M cap waiver request for school

The request of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district to exceed its allowable "cap" limits in the 1979-80 school budget has been denied by State Commissioner of Education Fred Burke. The local district sought to submit to voters a budget that was \$933,000 above permissible limits on the amount to be raised by taxation. The Board of Education voted last week to appeal Burke's decision, hoping for a reversal from the State Board of Education.

The tentative 1979-80 budget formulated here represents only a 6.1 percent increase over the current year. However, the amount to be raised from property taxes to support that budget is much higher in percentage increase. Dr. Robert Howlett, Superintendent of Schools, explained that the district has been applying surplus to the school budget in recent years to defray the impact on property taxes. There was zero surplus available this year to apply to next year's budget. Therefore, increased property taxes would be required for acquisition of support funds.

State "cap" limitations apply to tax-impact totals, not to total budget amounts. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood re-

quest was necessary, in part, because the Councils of Scotch Plains and Fanwood cut \$572,616 from the current year's budget, following voter defeat. At present, a Board of Education appeal for restoration of the cut funds is pending in Trenton. The amount the district needs from taxes would be reduced by whatever amount of funds are restored. A total restoration of \$366,000 will be recommended to Burke by a hearing officer. If Burke restores this amount, the excess above permissible cap limits would be \$567,000.

Dr. Howlett explained the denial. Burke uses three criteria in judging eligibility for cap waivers. One criterion is a district wherein enrollment is increasing (not applicable to Scotch Plains-Fanwood). A second is a district unable to provide "thorough and efficient" education without granting of a waiver. Howlett said this district took such a position and provided extensive rationale to Trenton for documentation. The third - a new criterion this year - disallows waivers for districts above the 65th percentile of

per-pupil expenditure in New Jersey. The 65th percentile is \$1,993 per student; Scotch Plains-Fanwood is spending \$2,044 in the current year. It was this criterion upon which Burke rendered the negative decision to the local district, Howlett said. Well over 100 districts in the state have applied for waivers. Some received full or partial waivers, others did not.

Last year and the year before, our budgets were \$800,000 below cap, Howlett said. "We kept tightening up, applying surplus. You

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## Mothers' unite: new group offers support and sharing

Organizing to cope with mutual problems - it's the wave of today, a phenomenon of our times. Women as a group - they're organized in NOW, the ERA movement, etc. Alcoholics are organized, and the people who suffer along with them are organized as a support group. Compulsive gamblers have their meetings, and "fatties" work as a unit to lose weight. Workers organize in powerful unions, and special interest groups

organize in lobbies. Yet, with this swarm of support systems all about us, an enormous segment of our society has been coping all alone, without the special benefits of experience-sharing and guidance. It's the Moms of this world. Until very recently, moms were on their own, with only the words of a family pediatrician, or a copy of Dr. Spock, to help them wend their way through one of life's most challenging assignments.

That's changing now. Recently, 80 mothers turned out at the Scotch Plains Library for the first meeting of the "Mothers' Center of Central New Jersey" - a moveable feast of assistance for area mothers.

Ann Saltzman, keynote speaker and a motivating force in the new organization, explained the challenges of mothering. "Mothers of all ages face psychological stresses, and physical ones, also, when children are young. They're held accountable for the child's emotional, social, intellectual and physical development - an awesome role - yet they have received no training, other than what is offered in books on parenting, and these are oriented toward 'what to do for the child.'"

Mothers are an isolated group, and the "advice books" usually fail to take into account mothers' feelings, which can run the gamut from resentment to anger, guilt to lack of confidence, Saltzman explained. There are two primary schools of advice on child-rearing. The behavioral

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## Four seek board seats

Four candidates will run uncontested for seats in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education elections in April. Edward Spack, currently serving on the Board as vice president, has filed to run for the two years remaining in the term of Andy Pastor. Pastor, a Scotch Plains member, has resigned due to a business change and family move. From Fanwood, Peter M. Rogalin will run for the seat to be vacated by Lawrence Andrews, and Dorothy Ericsson and Paul H. Smith will seek two Scotch Plains seats now held by August Ruggiero and Edward Perry.

Spack, a 15 year resident, lives with his wife and family at 1861 Wood Road, Scotch Plains. His 25-year old son Ted, a graduate of Muhlenberg College, is enrolled in a biology doctoral program at Johns Hopkins; Jean, 21, is a business major at University of Delaware. Bill, 19, is a sophomore at University of Maryland and David, 15, is a ninth grader at Terrill Junior High. The Spack children have been educated in the local public school system.

Spack served on a Board-appointed Ad Hoc Committee on Community Relations and as chairman of a similar committee on Philosophy of Education. He has served as a board member for three years and is now vice president and chairman of the budget committee. He founded the local Music Boosters Association, served as president of the group for several years and has been a trustee for several years. Mr. Spack is a department head at Bell Telephone Laboratories in Holmdel, in management of Technical Projects. Spack said: "We've made progress in building credibility and improving our image. We have a top notch administrative team. The next couple of years are critical in strengthening the total system, while we are faced with closing schools, budget problems and declining enrollment." Spack hadn't planned to seek re-election, but felt some continuity was important in light of Pastor's resignation.

The Peter Rogalins have lived in Fanwood, on Thorne Place, for six years. They

have a son, 7, in first grade at School One and a 2-1/2 year old daughter. Peter Rogalin is Manager of Financial Planning and International Taxes for Sterling International, a drug firm.

He has been involved in Old Men's Volleyball in Fanwood, and is anxious to become involved in the educational picture because of "concern." "I'm an active person, I like to get involved in things that interest me, and am very much impressed with the current Board Of Educa-

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## Oops! We almost shut the door on PJH!

The Times issue of last week almost "closed the door" on a very worthwhile community offering, "Open A New Door," by providing the wrong information on dates. "Open A New Door" is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28 at Park Junior High School. Somehow, the event appeared on our office calendar as Wednesday, February 28 rather than

Wednesday, March 28. "Open A New Door" is a one-night adult school experience, offering residents exposure to a host of new hobbies and interests, through the medium of short workshops. Sponsored by the Park Junior High PTA, it's open to all residents. Circle your calendar (in the correct month) and watch these pages for further details.