

SPRUCE UP MAILBOXES

May 21-26 is "Mailbox Improvement Week," and Postmaster J.J. Rein III urged all local customers to paint and repair unkept or damaged mail receptacles, in town and on rural routes.

"Customers should be sure their boxes provide adequate protection to the mail and are easily reached by carriers to help speed collection and delivery of their mail," Postmaster Rein said.

The Postmaster recalled that a man named Ira F. Collins was among the first to show interest in improving the appearance and security of the mailbox.

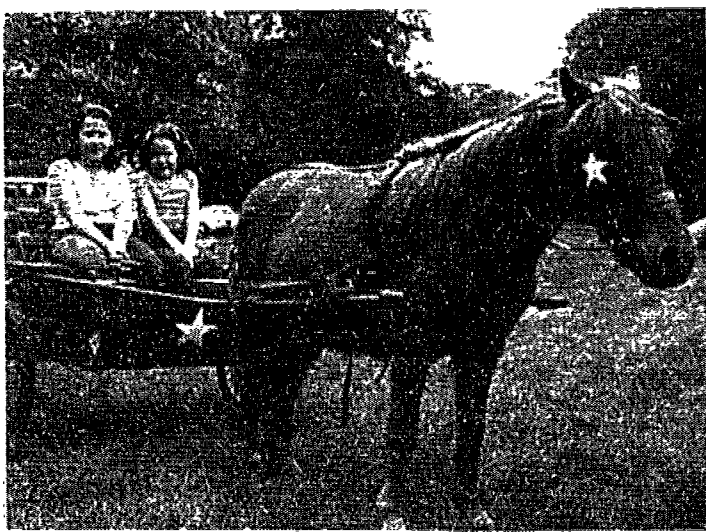
On April 29, 1903, he filed an application with the U.S. Patent Office for a two-part, cylindrical mail receptacle. It consisted of a detachable scoop with a weather-proof outer casing, and a metal flag that could be raised to indicate when mail was to be collected.

"Until Collins came along," Postmaster Rein said, "many makeshift receptacles -- including tin cans nailed to trees -- were used as mailboxes, particularly after rural mail service began in 1896."

Today, he said, a variety of approved commercial mailbox designs are available for use with decorative posts, and those who prefer a custom made mailbox may check with the Scotch Plains, Post Office to make sure it meets specifications and requirements.

During Mailbox Improvement Week, resident should examine their mailboxes to determine whether they have been damaged by weather or vandalism -- particularly those located along rural routes, city curblines, and highways -- and should make any necessary repairs or improvements.

CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY



Pony cart rides (above) and square dancing (below) were two of the Memorial Day activities at LaGrande Park. A parade, municipal picnic, and some unwelcome insect visitors played a part in the weekend festivities (see story, page 2).



TRAIN CARS TO BEAR OUR NAMES

Proud commuters (and train-watchers as well) will soon point with pride to two train cars on the PATH commuter line, bearing the names of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The "Fanwood" and the "Scotch Plains" cars will bear plaques honoring the communities for which they're named. Each community government has been provided with the opportunity to author a short bit of local history to be included on the plaques.

The practice of naming the cars is a recent introduction on the part of Port Authority of New York (PATH). Mayor Alan Augustine of Scotch Plains and Mayor Ted Trumpp of Fanwood have been invited to ceremonies on June 8, when the official designations will be made. Ceremonies will take place at the Communications Center at Journal Square in Jersey City, and, following a tour of the center, the Mayors will be hosted at lunch at the World Trade Center.

UCHS - TOPS IN ESPANOL!

Union Catholic placed first in the State with the highest team score. Teams were represented from around the State from public, private high schools. The contest was held at J.B. Stevens High School in Edison. The members of the UC Team are: Mark Keenan - Fanwood, Kathy Monroe - Plainfield, Paulette Dudos - Linden, Mary Beth Ryan - Mountainside, Constance Marchak - Hillside.

Mary Beth Ryan placed first in the third year division. The contest consists of a grammar test and reading comprehension and a listening comprehension and speaking ability.

In the Seven Years of the Contest, Union Catholic has placed first - four times!

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THE TIMES

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20 CENTS

Dedicate new Fanwood building

Fanwood political leaders of the past and the present gathered with about 200 private citizens, to observe the dedication of Fanwood's new municipal building on Monday, following the Memorial Day Parade. The building, on the site of the former Slocum house on N. Martine Avenue, is almost completed, with only interior walls and furnishings to be added. "This building is the start of an efficient, centralized facility to provide greater effectiveness in dealing with the public in administrative affairs and also to insure the con-

tinuation of a high performance standard by the Fanwood Policy Department consisting of 21 people," Mayor Ted Trumpp told the assembly. Citing the spirit of Fanwood as one of people and small town concern with one's neighbor, Trumpp said the community wasn't only dedicating a building, but a symbol of a continuation of faith in small towns, which have been the backbone of America over its 203-year history.

Father Francis Reinbold of St. Bartholomew's Church echoed similar sentiments in

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Congressman Matthew Rinaldo addresses citizens, gathered for the dedication of Fanwood's new Municipal Building. Rinaldo drew applause, with comments on the national gasoline situation (see page 2). Left to right, seated, Father Francis Reinbold, William Matthews, Freeholder Walter Boright, Mayor Ted Trumpp, Council President Pat Dunne, former Council President Robert McCarthy.

Gas crunch had little effect on weekend

Did gasoline shortages (real or threatened) change lifestyles here, as the summer season debuted with Memorial Day weekend? TIMES editor Joan Monahan and photographer Dave Jaczko of Reflections Studio toured downtown Scotch Plains on Tuesday, quizzing passersby on the impact of gasoline on their holiday.

problem. Would I cut back? My only worry will be the dollars I'll have to spend. One the price is up, the supply will be OK."



TONY ACOCELLA

Tony Acocella, proprietor of Tony's Pharmacy on 2nd Street in Scotch Plains: Gasoline shortages didn't affect my weekend at all, because I planned ahead. We had a wedding scheduled at the shore, bought gas ahead of time, and didn't worry because we'd heard there would be limited allotments available on the Parkway. We got gas on the parkway...and we even enjoyed the wedding!"

on holiday weekends. If the gas crunch gets worse, or even continues along the same lines, I'm going to have to buy a more economical car. I've got an eight-cylinder Mustang now-I know it runs well, have no problems with it, but it won't be good enough in mileage so I'll look for a smaller, imported car. If the shortage were real, I'd imagine the oil companies would be falling all over themselves looking for alternatives. If your source of income were about to expire, wouldn't you think they'd be pushing Detroit for more economical cars? All they do is jack up the prices. I believe we may run out of oil eventually, but right now I think the situation is created for dollar profit."



FRANK ROWENS

Frank and Steve Rowens were repairing light fixtures at a local Exxon station. That's the sole function of their firm, S. Rowens Porcelain. Frank Rowens stayed close to home in Clifton. "Normally, I'd go to the shore, but I was afraid I wouldn't get gas. I wouldn't travel distances. We're worried quite a bit about getting gas for business travel."



BERNIE ANDERSON

Bernie Anderson of J.D. Trophy in Scotch Plains: "The gas situation didn't change my weekend, since we were close to home anyway, visiting my mother who is in a nursing home. Generally, I've tried to cut back a little, by combining trips and errands...but if I planned a long-distance trip, I'd go anyway. From what I've seen on television, people have come from as far away as Florida and had no problems getting gas til they reached Jersey. I think maybe we're getting ripped off right here."



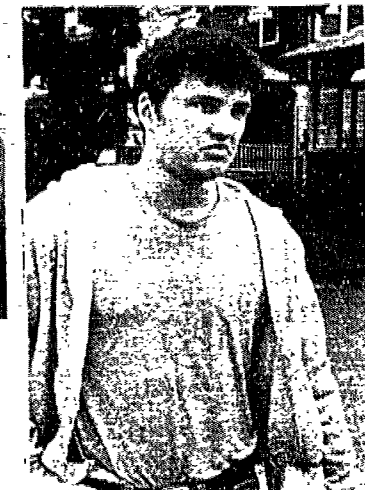
TOM DE NITZIO

Tom Denitzio, a Scotch Plains patrolman, stationed at Park and Second Street on Tuesday morning: "It didn't change my plans...but that's because I prefer to stay home



JOHN TOBY

John Toby of the Union County Public Works Department: "I had no problem at all over the weekend. I went up to Cape Cod. There wasn't any problem getting gas. Stations were open. The first time I ran into any problem was in New Jersey, at the Value Station on Route 22 in Union. It was the only one open and there were lines. I was driving a truck with two 32-gallon gas tanks, and towing a boat, without a



TOM HORAN

Tom Horan of Scotch Plains: "No problems. I went to Pennsylvania, below Philadelphia, in a Maverick. It only took a half tank of gas, but I probably wouldn't take off for much further than Pennsylvania, with gas so difficult to get."



LILLIAN INGOGLIA

Lillian Ingoglia of Scotch Plains did a bit of traveling over the holiday. "We had the plans before the gas shortage started, and we went to Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The rest of the weekend, we stayed home...but we usually stay home anyway on Memorial Day weekend."