



THE TIMES



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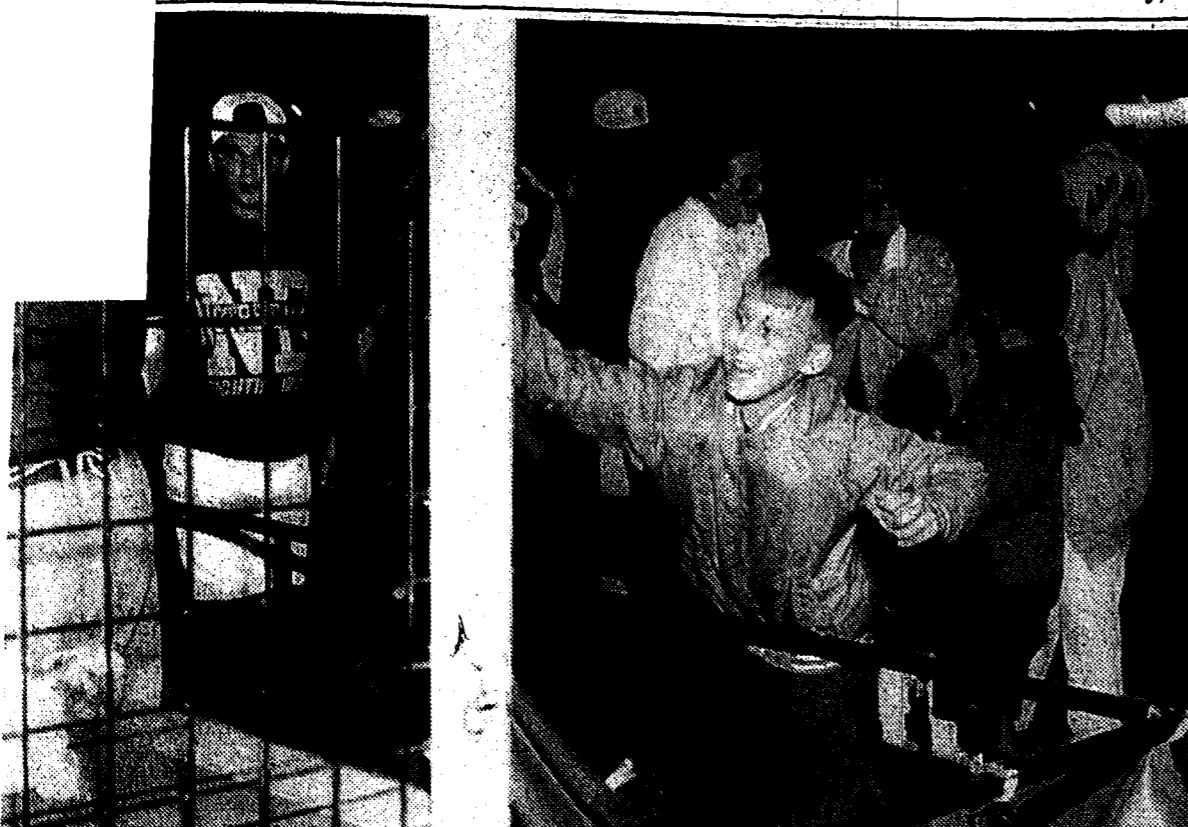
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FORTY CENTS



STRIKE THREE... Christopher Brien of Scotch Plains takes his best throw at the pitching cage during part of festivities held at the Saint Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church Festival held September 3, through 5. The 20th annual event was attended by about 30,000 persons, highlighted by a parade through the fairgrounds and ending at the statue of Saint Nicholas.

Officials Struggle to Reach Fair Decision On Home Built Slightly Too Close to House

The Structure Extended 1.8 Feet Over 30-Foot Minimum Sideyard Setback Requirement

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

A dispute between two neighboring families over a partially-constructed addition on the one family's home drew emotional testimony from the opposing parties as officials struggled to reach a fair verdict during last Thursday's meeting of the Scotch Plains Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Board members ultimately voted in favor of Mr. and Mrs. David Rien, owners of the subject property at 18 Fenimore Drive, who sought a variance for work to resume on the addition to their two-story home. The couple, who have two children, want to ex-

pand their living quarters to include a larger kitchen and recreational space.

Mr. and Mrs. Rien, accompanied by Scotch Plains attorney Thomas Russo, explained that work begun approximately June 1 on their home was 80 to 90 per cent completed when they were forced to halt construction in mid-July after a surveyor hired by their next-door neighbor discovered that the structure extended 1.8 feet over the 30-foot minimum sideyard setback mandated by the Building Code.

The applicants, who had received approval for the addition from the Scotch Plains Building

Department before construction began, testified the cease-and-desist order had restricted their current living space for the past six weeks and left their home improperly insulated and vulnerable to intruders.

Mrs. Rien, in an emotional appeal to the board, said the partial construction cut into the existing residence, making it impossible to fully air condition their home for their young son's asthma nor to heat it, and begged officials not to postpone their decision until the body's October 13 meeting, when cooler weather is expected.

The couple emphasized that they had notified the 10 families, as required, within 200 feet of their home, and that nearly all had been very supportive of their variance bid. They added that they have also received numerous compliments from passersby who feel the addition, designed to appear as if it was part of the original structure, has enhanced the neighborhood.

An exception was Don Erdley, the next-door neighbor living at 20 Fenimore Drive, who contested the variance application with charges of "willful negligence on the part of agents of the property owners," including the architect who designed the Riens' site plan, the Building Department and construction officials.

Mr. Erdley, a civil engineer, stated in a prepared written statement that individuals and agencies responsible for developing the site plan and approving the plan and the building permit for the addition "should have insisted on staying within municipal regulations" and indicated that he would appeal a decision by the board allowing construction on the Rien house to progress.

The neighbor, subsequently called by the board to testify under oath, stated there had been no previous dispute with the Riens over the property line, though he said he and his wife had twice advised the couple not to exceed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Township Will Spend \$4,000 to Fight Proposed Rate Hike by Water Company

Overall Increase Could Amount to Around \$11.7 Million for Municipality and Residents

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

In a move that would add Scotch Plains to a coalition of six other towns, the Township Council last night agreed to spend an estimated \$4,000 to fight the Elizabethtown Water Company's proposed rate increase.

The increase, scheduled to take effect Sunday, January 1, would be a substantial increase for residents, as well as township public entities, Director of Finance Ulrich "Al" Steinberg said in a letter to Municipal Manager Thomas E. Atkins.

Mr. Steinberg sees the overall increase of 11.9 per cent totaling \$11,783,690 per year for Scotch Plains. The increase for residents would be 20.4 per cent on facility charges and 14.6 per cent on consumption charges. Increases on the Public Fire Service would be 7.68 per cent. Scotch Plains spends about \$282,000 per year now, for 426 fire hydrants and the water lines connected to them, Mr. Atkins said at the council conference meeting.

Other towns in the coalition are Branchburg, Readington, Union, Montgomery, Raritan and Warren.

The coalition is directed by staff lawyers of Analytic Resources, Inc., a consulting firm based in Wall Township.

Towns have been asked to commit to joining the coalition with a resolution by today.

On the agenda for the council's first gathering since August were two items:

- Completion of the roadway improvements for Jackson and Hoe Avenues and St. Ann Street will require an additional \$115,000.

- A bond ordinance amendment will be necessary to supplement

the \$65,000 from the Community Development funds, Mr. Atkins said.

No federal government funds are available for this, he added. The drainage work is already completed and the township will receive bids for the work Friday, September 23.

At the Tuesday, September 13, meeting, the council will continue the public hearing and have the second and final reading on the ordinance amendment to its traffic ordinances concerning the setting of Lake Avenue speed limits.

At this time, the township legal counsel has asked the state Bureau of Traffic Engineering whether Lake Avenue is wholly

contained within Scotch Plains. This would affect the authority the township has to set speed limits on Lake Avenue.

A town ordinance amendment was unanimously recommended to the council by the Planning Board regarding the use of all brick or combination of concrete and brick walkways in the business district primarily along East Second Street and Park Avenue.

Mayor William F. McClintock, Jr. noted there had been requests for guidance from merchants as to design of the brick pavements. The Mayor said those he had seen that were already done looked good.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Bowcraft Ride Probed For Clues to Accident

Doctors Say Boy Will Recover From 50-Foot Fall

A six-year-old Union boy who fell 50 feet from the top of a ferris wheel August 30 at the Bowcraft Amusement Park in Scotch Plains is expected to make a full recovery, according to published reports.

Evan Manganiello suffered a fractured skull from the fall to the concrete pavement below and had to be transported by helicopter to Morristown Memorial Hospital.

As the boy plunged from the carriage where he, his brother and a friend were sitting, he struck the spokes of the giant wheel which doctors now say prevented more serious injuries, such as brain damage.

A doctor who was at the park when the accident occurred is also credited with preventing further medical complications. He is said to have instructed the boy's mother to apply pressure to the boy's head to lessen the bleeding until paramedics arrived.

The other two children, Tyler Manganiello, 7, and Brittany Pezzillo, 6, fell out of their carriage but managed to hold on to the safety bar until a bystander and park employee, Dwayne Gilliam of Scotch Plains, climbed to rescue them.

The accident occurred when the ride came to a sudden stop which caused the safety bar to spring loose.

Police are trying to determine why the bar came loose. Scotch Plains

Detective Carl Sicola was quoted as saying it is assumed the bar was not properly secured.

No charges will be pressed against the employee, Gary Gadek, 18, of Westfield, responsible for the ferris wheel, police said.

The park management has said the ferris wheel will not be run until state officials say it is safe.

State investigators from the Labor Department started their probe on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



THAT'S A BIG TOMATO... Alecia Lamborn of Scotch Plains won first place in the children's contest of the 17th Annual New Jersey Tomato Championship held August 27. Her tomato weighed one pound and 13.8 ounces. The adult contest was won by a woman from Monmouth County whose entry weighed 4.3 pounds. The Union County contest was held at Williams Nursery in Westfield, an official weigh station for the contest for the past six years. Pictured with Alecia is David Williams of the nursery.

DEADLINES HELP PAPERS SERVE YOU

Those preparing press releases for submission to *The Westfield Leader* or *The Times* are reminded all copy should be in the hands of the Editor at 50 Elm Street, Westfield, by 4 p.m. on the Friday before the Thursday on which they wish it to appear.

Leader releases also may be mailed to Post Office Box 250, Westfield, 07091, and Times releases to Post Office Box 368, Scotch Plains, 07076, to meet the above requirements.

For events which happen the week-end prior to publication, press releases should reach the Editor by Monday of the week of publication at 10 a.m.

Obituaries will be taken until Tuesday at 5 p.m.

For events which are planned weeks or months in advance, we encourage submission of stories as early as possible prior to the event.

The above deadlines are meant to enable us to prepare your copy carefully.

HOW TO GET THE TIMES

Just Fill in the Form
On Page 10
And Return It to Us!



AND THE BAND PLAYED ON... The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Marching Band invited their parents to the high school field on September 1 to preview the band's new show. Band members completed Band Camp that evening. The presentation gave them an opportunity to demonstrate how much they had accomplished during their practice sessions. Musical selections in this year's show are from the Broadway musical *City of Angels*. The front squad performs flag-twirling routines to the music. Band members will begin reporting to school at 6:50 a.m. today, Thursday, September 8, for rehearsals which will continue through next month.