



SCOTCH PLAINS

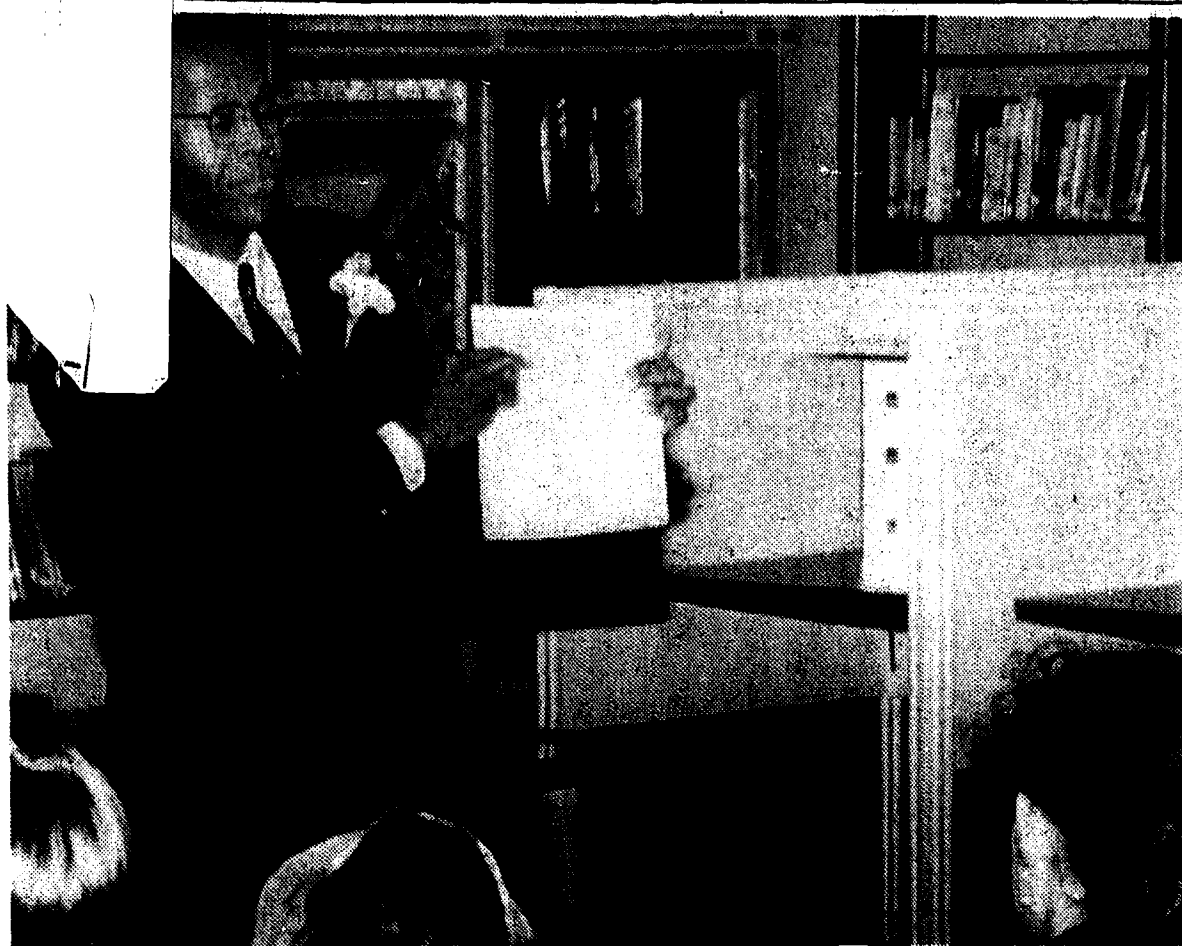
THE TIMES

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FANWOOD

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JUDICIAL VISIT...Judge James H. Coleman Jr., recently nominated to the State's Supreme Court, gives children at the Park Middle School a lesson in how the court system operates.

Judge Coleman Encourages Children At Park School to Keep Studying

Township Resident to Become First Black State Supreme Court Justice Next Month

More than 80 students at the Park Middle School in Scotch Plains learned about the state's court system firsthand from newly named Supreme Court Justice James H. Coleman, Jr.

The school's multi-cultural club sponsored the judge's visit. The Scotch Plains resident was nominated over the summer by the Governor, Mrs. Christine Todd Whitman, to replace retiring Justice Robert L. Clifford who has reached the mandatory retirement age of 70. Judge Coleman is 61.

Judge Coleman, who will officially be sworn in at a ceremony next month, told the children his experiences over the past 30 years as an attorney and a judge. He has served as a Judge on the Appellate Division of the Superior Court and as a Presiding Appellate Court Judge.

As the state high court's first black Associate Justice, Judge Coleman told the children that his advancement, from the son of a sharecropper who

grew up in a segregated Virginia to his recent nomination on the high court, is proof that a person can achieve a goal if he works at it.

He told the children the tests their teachers give them are important because they are the only measuring sticks to see how much a class has learned.

Mrs. Mary Williams, the advisor for Multicultural Committee told a reporter, "The important message he gave them was it's cool to be smart."

Student Latoya Jones, President of the club, said the visit will be always remembered fondly by her classmates.

Mrs. Margaret Fitzgerald said the school's faculty decided to invite Judge Coleman after learning he resided in Scotch Plains. The judge accepted the invitation a few days later.

She said the most important part of the judge's talk was his insistence to students that they perform their best

in their classes.

She said that statement was, "invaluable for someone of his stature to say that."

Eighth-grader Samone Clemons told a reporter that Judge Coleman has motivated her "to become a judge, and he taught me that you have to get good grades to become a lawyer and a judge."

Another eighth-grader, Matthew Pavoni, said he now has a better understanding of the state's judicial system. He also said he has been motivated to achieve good grades in school.

Judge Coleman graduated from Virginia State College in 1956, now called Virginia State University, in Petersburg, Virginia, and from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. in 1959.

Upon his approval to the court by the State Senate in October, the judge was quoted as saying, "My appointment should serve as a symbol of hope to deprived people that if you work hard enough and stay clean there is a chance you can succeed."

The judge grew up in Lawrenceville, Virginia and attended a schoolhouse which had no indoor bathroom. In addition, the school had a wood-burning stove which the students kept burning.

At the age of 7, Judge Coleman chopped wood, did yard work and picked tobacco to earn extra money to purchase clothing and school supplies.

Judge Coleman showed his leadership qualities at a young age, serving as head of his elementary school class and as President all four years at the all-black James Solomon Russell High School from which he graduated in 1952.

While in high school, he was a member of both football and baseball teams.

Originally planning to become a surgeon, Judge Coleman said he was forced to abandon that goal due to his allergy to formaldehyde.

Upon graduating high school, the judge moved to New Jersey where he stayed with his brother and his wife and two children. During his stay he worked for \$1 hour at a Newark brewery.

The job enabled the judge to save enough money to attend Virginia State that fall. He later worked summer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

REPRESENTATIVE FRANKS CALLS CONCEPT INSIGNIFICANT

Agency's Plan to Reroute Planes Called Unacceptable to Reduce Air Traffic Noise Problem

Proposal Would Shift Patterns Away From County; Opposition Group Wants Airlines to Fly Over Ocean

A proposal by the Federal Aviation Administration to reroute aircraft, presently flying over eastern Union County, to the north and central part of the state was declared unacceptable by county residents and elected officials during a public hearing earlier this month.

The agency's new plan would reroute airplanes over wide sections of the state in order to provide some 19,000 residents of the western portion of the county relief from the noise. That number, the agency has indicated, would account for 40 per cent of those county residents who are subjected to the aircraft noise.

An alternative proposal put forward by the New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise calls for the aircraft to have their routes shifted over the Atlantic Ocean. The plan is said to have been developed by a consultant who once was employed by the aviation agency.

The agency said such a proposal is not a solution since it would simply shift the problem to some 460,000 residents of Ocean County and the southern part of the state. The agency's representatives told those attending the November 14 hearing in Cranford the coalitions proposal would have aircraft fly over the ocean until they reached the Barnegat Inlet in Ocean County where they would start flying over land at 20,000 feet in altitude.

Agency officials have indicated the plan would only provide relief for 685,000 residents in Union, Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth and Morris Counties.

Aircraft noise first became an issue in 1987 when the aviation agency implemented its Expanded East Coast Plan which rerouted airplanes in or-

der to reduce delays at Newark and John F. Kennedy International Airports and LaGuardia Airport. Kennedy and LaGuardia airports are both located in the Borough of Queens in New York City.

Residents as far as 40 miles from the closest airport complained of increased jetliner noise over their homes. The agency is said to have first denied there was a problem.

It released a revised environmental study in September in response to a directive by Congress in 1990. The study included the agency's first recommendation to address the problem.

One of those who spoke at the hearing was Representative Robert D. Franks, who represents the Seventh Congressional District, which includes Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood, who said he does not believe the agency's proposal will provide "comprehensive relief" to solve the aircraft noise problem.

Representative Franks called the agency's claim that its proposal would not increase noise in some areas of the state "preposterous." In addition, he was quoted as saying the agency's proposal would "merely result in other communities being subjected to intolerable levels of aircraft noise."

He accused the agency of "transferring" the noise to another part of the state which deemed was "unacceptable" and for which he was "extremely concerned."

Upon their investigation, members of Representative Franks' office have determined the agency's proposal would only reduce air traffic noise by three-tenths of a decibel in two Cranford neighborhoods which the Representative said would be "insignificant."

Two Scotch Plains residents also spoke during the hearing with one in favor and one against the agency's recommendation. Dennis Hardie said he was in favor of the agency's plan, which he helped develop, because it would provide immediate relief for Union County residents. Mr. Hardie was the only member of the coalition's 22 directors to vote in favor of the agency's plan.

Kiwanis Clubs to Sell Luminaries: Page 3

Mr. Hardie explained the plan would shift air traffic departures from a navigation device located at Newark International to one at the Solberg Airport in Hunterdon County. He told those in attendance that no matter which solution is implemented, airplanes will fly over populated areas.

He said the coalition's proposal to shift air traffic over the ocean would cause airplanes to fly over populated areas of Staten Island and Monmouth County.

Richard Obrock came to the meeting dressed as a clown in order to put an emphasis on why the agency is opposed to rerouting air traffic over the ocean.

When identifying himself as a Scotch Plains resident he reportedly noted, "For the record, that's Plains not Planes."

Mr. Obrock gave 10 reasons of why he felt the aviation agency was against the coalition's proposal. The top reason was, "It makes perfect sense." The agency also held hearings in Tinton Falls and Bridgewater.

Garages, Utility Areas Seen As Not Part of Lot Coverages

LoBraces' Variance, Involving This Question, Approved

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specials Writer for The Times

The Fanwood Board of Adjustment made clear Thursday night that the determination of per cent lot coverage of a house when applying for a variance will not include the square footage of garages or utility areas, but does include attached decks.

Zoning Officer Jeremiah P. O'Neil referred to neighboring Westfield's variance code after saying the borough code was "unspecific" on what was included in lot coverage calculations. The Westfield code totals year-round habitable areas of the house, he said.

In a separate letter, board member Randall Dollber said he will leave the board when his three-year term ends in December. Citing increased work duties, Mr. Dollber, an engineer, said he was first asked to join the board by then-Mayor, Mrs. Patricia Kuran, after complaining about sidewalks.

The question of what to include in lot coverage totals was highlighted when a neighbor objected to the application for coverage and sideyard variances of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett LoBrace of 8 Birchwood Terrace. The neighbor, Robert Theising of 6

Birchwood Terrace, also complained of storm water drainage problems. Eventually, the variances were granted.

Mr. Theising said his original concern arose over the LoBraces' 1987 variance in which lot coverage was described as 42.2 per cent.

Mr. Theising said he was a member of the Board of Adjustment at that time. However, at last month's initial hearing, the applicant's lot coverage was said to be somewhere between 36 and 38 per cent. At that point, the hearing adjourned until accurate data could be gathered.

According to counsel for the board, Charles H. Brandt, variances for 40 per cent lot coverage and over require different proof on the part of the applicant and unanimous approval by the board.

Mr. O'Neil provided new measurements of the LoBraces' house when the hearing resumed this month. He said lot coverage with the proposed additions is 26.6 per cent. The LoBraces' application is for a vari-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Floridian Restaurant Application Given Go Ahead by Planning Board

Public Hearing on Township Master Plan Is Expected Soon

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specials Writer for The Times

The Scotch Plains Planning Board held an informal discussion on Monday concerning the township's pending revision of its Master Plan which will serve as the foundation for community development over the next six years and which is expected to receive a public hearing soon.

Board members led by Master Plan Review Committee Chairwoman, Mrs. Maria Sartor, attempted to formulate with members of the Downtown Business Alliance a tentative timeline for finalizing development of the plan which represents a cooperative effort between local government, members of the public and business leaders.

Reports on the Master Plan re-examination are being prepared for the board by the planning consulting firm of Moskowitz, Hoyer & Gruel, and The Atlantic Group.

The plan is expected to reflect significant input not only from the Township Council and the Planning Board but also from local merchants who hope to benefit from the burgeoning effort to revitalize the downtown business area. It is anticipated future development of the downtown area, as well as other commercial pockets in Scotch Plains, will be covered extensively in the Master Plan.

In other business, the Planning Board memorialized a resolution confirming its October 3 approval with conditions of a site plan application for area restaurateur Harry Lagos to open an establishment to be known as the Floridian Family Restaurant at 367 and 375 Terrill Road, the current site of a Mobil service station.

The board approved the application with several conditions, including stipulations that all sidewalks around the restaurant conform to a local ordinance; sidewalks must be four feet wide wherever possible; the northerly corner of the parking lot be lit and that the lot be moved forward by 18 inches.

New Executive Director Chosen For YMCA, Please See Page 2



ABORTION PROTEST...Anti-abortion demonstrators picketed outside the Scotch Plains medical offices of Dr. Phillip S. Green, Dr. Marian K. Schwartz and Dr. Joanne F. Pellicano on Second Street on November 21. The group was led by Mrs. Mary Ellen Mutholland and Mrs. Margaret Cowan, both of Fanwood.

DEADLINES HELP PAPERS SERVE YOU

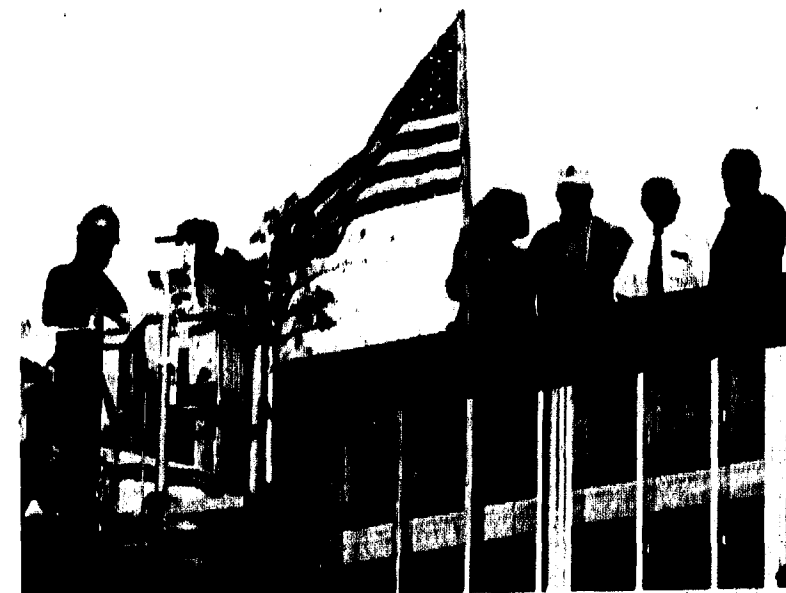
Those preparing press releases for submission to *The Westfield Leader* or *The Times* are reminded all copy should be in the hands of the Editor at 50 Elm Street, Westfield, by 4 p.m. on the Friday before the Thursday on which they wish it to appear.

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 weekend 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.



FLAG UNFURLED...Scotch Plains officials are shown atop the new Senior Citizens Housing Complex in the township raising an American flag. Shown, left to right, are: Frank Clemmshaw, the Chairman of the Senior Citizens Housing Corporation; Jonathan Ellis, the Fire Chief; Councilwoman, Mrs. Irene Schmidt; Earl Nagle, the Resident Engineer; George Reider, the Chairman of the Building Committee for the Senior Citizens Housing Corporation; and Anthony Capitt, the Superintendent for the contractor. The complex will be ready for habitation sometime next year.

30 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT TO CHRISTMAS

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