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THE TIMES

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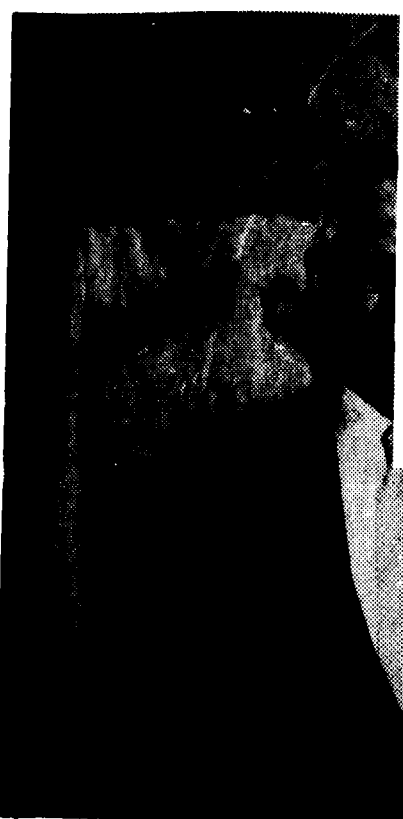
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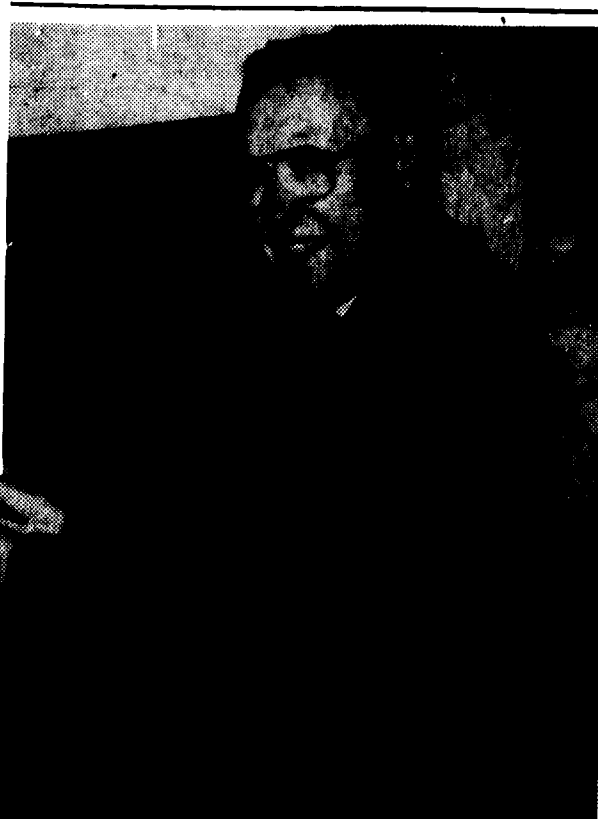
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IN RECOGNITION... Chester Ring, Past President of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club, right, presents a second "Paul Harris Fellow" recognition pin to Peter Peterson for special services. This award was presented as an acknowledgment of service for the financial support by Mr. Peterson to the Rotary International Foundation. Mr. Peterson, also a Past President, is one of the 38 Harris Fellows in the club. The presentation of a Paul Harris Fellowship is one of the most significant types of recognition for good service by a member, a club spokesman said. Only a limited number of Rotarians are given this award. The club meets each week on Wednesdays at the Park Place Restaurant in Scotch Plains.

New York City Police Detective Details Evidence Uncovered at Edward Leary's Scotch Plains Home

Testimony Focuses on Gloves Found Underneath Brooklyn Telephone Booth

Manhattan prosecutors in the ongoing trial of accused subway firebomber and Scotch Plains resident Edward Leary this week focused on the testimony by the victims of the December, 1994 blast and of the po-

lice investigation.

New York Police Detective Daniel Walsh testified that upon the investigation of Leary's 10-room house on Glenside Avenue, located across the street from the Watchung Reserva-

tion, he found wire, wire cutters, an electronic tester, 9-volt battery connectors, light bulbs, a drill, drill bits, a small glass jar half full of a black and gray powder, pliers, tongs and an attaché case.

The detective said he discovered six handwritten pages inside the attaché case describing an extortion plan in which Leary refers to himself as the "Terror Mad Bomber."

Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Peter Casolaro said Leary had developed a plot to bomb subway trains unless he received a payoff from the New York Transit Authority. Mr. Casolaro also charged that Leary was responsible for the bombing of a Harlem subway train which occurred six days before the firebombing on the No. 4 subway train. The Harlem blast injured two teenagers while the other blast injured 48 passengers.

Under cross examination from Leary's attorney, Ira London, Mr. Casolaro said based on tests conducted on the evidence uncovered by authorities and on the bombs themselves, they appear to have been used to make the devices.

Mr. London has told the jury in his opening statement his client committed the crimes but cannot be held

responsible because he had been given unmonitored prescriptions of Prozac and other mind-altering drugs. The defense has claimed Leary was under the care of a psychiatrist who did not monitor the medication he put his patient under for depression.

During testimony last week, police officers described how they first encountered Leary 30 minutes after the explosion in Brooklyn. An officer said Leary asked him to get help while he called his wife from a pay telephone.

Police said Leary placed a pair of ski gloves, still wet and singed at the tips, under the telephone booth in the Clark Street subway station of the IRT No. 2 subway line in Brooklyn. Police, however, did not realize the gloves were missing until an hour later when two plainclothes officers went back to the station to look for them.

The gloves had initially been discovered by a peddler who said he had retrieved them from a garbage bag he had thrown them in after Leary left. Much of the testimony on February 3 focused on whether the defendant had deliberately tried to hide evidence or had absently minded left

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

State Cuts School Aid To District by \$200,000

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Receives Reduction of 6.06 Per Cent

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District got the bad news from Trenton last week that it will receive a cut of almost \$200,000, or 6.06 per cent, in state aid from the previous school year, the eighth largest of the 22 school district in Union County, according to figures released by the state Department of Education. The district will receive about \$3.1 million in aid.

Neighboring Westfield will receive \$2.6 million, a cut of some \$270,000, or 9.30 per cent, below what it got last year, the second largest in the county. The Union County Vocational-Technical Schools, based in Scotch Plains, will get just over \$1 million, which is \$134,000 less for the 1996-1997 school budget, a cut of 11.79 per cent, the largest in the county.

Despite the bad news to the three districts, overall, Union County districts will receive about \$880,000 over the current budgets, an increase of 4.30 per cent. Overall the state will be spending \$3.9 billion or about \$46 million over what they spent for the current school year. State aid accounts for 24 per cent of the state's overall \$16.5 billion state budget.

State aid is being slashed to 293 districts while 310 districts will receive more aid. The state's spending on public schools has slowly declined over the past decade from its all-time high of 44.1 per cent, from 1985 to 1987, during the administration of former Governor Thomas H. Kean.

According to Frank Belluscio, a spokesman for the New Jersey School Boards Association, this is the fourth consecutive year school aid has either remained the same or been reduced.

State Commissioner of Education, Dr. Leo F. Klagholz, explained the state's 30 poorest districts will receive the bulk of this year's increase in funding as ordered by a 1991 state Supreme Court decision. In its decision, the court ruled the state must

close the gap between the poorest and wealthiest districts.

This year those 30 districts, labeled as "special needs" districts, will receive \$57.8 in increased aid. However, 5 per cent of those districts will actually receive less funding this year.

State officials cut in half its overall funding transitional aid.

Dr. Klagholz said the poorer districts are currently at 86 to 87 per cent of the 120 wealthiest districts.

The court has said the Newark-based Education Law Center can come back to court if they deem the state has not made "substantial" progress toward closing the gap.

Superior Court Judge Walsh Honored Upon His Retirement from the Bench

He Was Appointed by Former Governor Thomas H. Kean in 1984

Union County Superior Court Judge James J. Walsh was honored for his 11 years on the bench during a retirement dinner last month. The Scotch Plains resident was first appointed on July 13, 1984. He was later reappointed in 1991. Judge Walsh is stepping down as part of the state's mandatory retirement age of 70 for judges.

Judge Walsh and his wife, the former Miss Grace Bauer, were honored during a reception held in his honor on January 19. The evening was presided over by attorney Mark Sperber.

Speakers at the dinner included Union County Superior Court and Assignment Judge Edward W. Beglin, Jr., Superior Court Judge Rudolph N. Hawkins, Jr., also in Union County; Superior Court Judge Stephen H. Womack in Passaic County, and Executive Assistant Union County Prosecutor Robert P. O'Leary. Presentations were given by state

Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco and Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine, both of Scotch Plains. Assemblyman Augustine is also serving as Scotch Plains Mayor while Senator DiFrancesco serves as the Township Attorney.

Born in New York on January 15, 1926, Judge Walsh moved to New Jersey and attended the Newark Public Schools. He enlisted in the United States Army during the end of World War II in 1944. He was honorably discharged in 1946 and served three years in the Air Force Reserve.

Judge Walsh attended the former Seton Hall College in South Orange, now Seton Hall University, and Rutgers University in New Brunswick. He received his law degree in 1952, was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1953 and began a private law practice in Scotch Plains in 1956.

Associated with the township as its Assistant Township Attorney and Prosecutor, Judge Walsh also served as the attorney to the Board of Adjustment and was the municipality's attorney for six years.

Judge Walsh was appointed a the Scotch Plains Municipal Judge from 1979 to 1984. He served as Township Attorney in Berkeley Heights from 1976 to 1984. During this period, from 1979 to 1890, the judge was an Associate Professor on the staff at Kean College in Union, teaching administrative law.

Judge Walsh was nominated to the Superior Court in 1984 by former Governor Thomas H. Kean. Superior Court judges are appointed for terms of seven years. Judge Walsh's nomination was confirmed, as required by law, by the state Senate. He was reappointed by Governor James J. Florio in 1991.

During his tenure on the Superior Court, Judge Walsh also sat in the Essex County Family Division from

February to October 1986.

Since he began his career in law, Judge Walsh has been active in the American, New Jersey, Union County and Plainfield Bar Associations and the Union County Municipal Court Judges Association.

He also belongs to the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion. Judge Walsh has also been active in the New Jersey and National Councils of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. In fact, Judge Walsh served as President of the New Jersey council from 1991 to 1992.

Judge and Mrs. Walsh will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary in April. The couple have raised 10 children.

SPENDING PLAN WOULD RISE \$619,400 OR 4.8 PER CENT

Tentative Scotch Plains Budget Of \$13.4 Million Would Hike Property Taxes by One Point

Water Company Hearing on Rate Increases Set for March 7; Township to Resubmit Plan to Affordable Housing Council

By GLENN R. KAPLINSKY
Specialty Writer for The Times

Scotch Plains is in the process of resubmitting an application to the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing for Substantive Certification, Township Manager Thomas E. Atkins announced at Tuesday's Township Council Conference meeting.

Mr. Atkins explained the process would mean, if approval was granted, Scotch Plains would be immune from Mount Laurel lawsuits from developers concerning affordable housing until the year 2002. The township manager noted Scotch Plains still has over 100 acres of land which is unde-

veloped.

In an unrelated matter, Mr. Atkins went on to criticize municipalities including Scotch Plains, who, while they pass resolutions against the proposed Elizabethtown Water Company rate hike, refuse to join a coalition of 10 communities which has been formed to fight any rate hike. Other towns in the coalition include South Brunswick and Readington.

Elizabethtown has proposed to increase rates for company-owned fire hydrants 29.6 per cent and is asking for residential rate hikes of 32.25 per cent.

Mr. Atkins stressed the "monumental" financial impact any increase in water rates would have on the township.

The current monthly charge levied by the Elizabethtown Water Company for fire hydrants is \$23,290. This rate has been in effect since February of last year. The total charge for 1996, including hydrants, will be \$279,480.

The proposed rate increases will not go into effect until approved by the state Board of Public Utilities. Mr. Atkins mentioned that a preliminary public hearing on the proposed rate increase will be held on Thursday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building in Westfield. He urged all residents to attend.

Mr. Atkins then discussed the 1996 municipal budget. He reserved the right to make modifications in the spending plan he is recommending to the council.

Last year's municipal budget, excluding reserve for uncollected taxes, was \$12,781,131.

The proposed recommended budget for this, excluding reserve for uncollected taxes, is \$13,400,500.

The projected increase is \$619,369 or 4.8 per cent. One tax point equals approximately \$92,000.

Mr. Atkins explained the projected budget increase, exclusive of the reserve for uncollected taxes, is 6.7 tax points prior to revenue examination.

Municipal auditors should have a financial statement ready this week, the township manager said. The financial statement will contain fund balance, surplus, details.

Almost the entire proposed budgetary increase was due to the following:

- Police and Firemen's Retirement System contribution, \$90,000.
- Contribution to the Public Employees Retirement System, \$5,000.
- Social Security contribution, \$13,000.
- Debt Service, \$141,075.
- Police Interest Arbitration, \$105,000.
- Streets and roads and other expenses for winter weather, \$110,000.
- Streets and roads, salaries and wages for winter weather, \$80,000.
- Fire hydrant Rental, \$15,000.
- General Insurance, \$24,468.

When the nine items above are added up, the total comes to \$583,543, which represents 94.2 per cent of the recommended budget increase of \$619,369 excluding the revenue for

uncollected taxes, Mr. Atkins explained. Budget hearings will be held on Wednesday, February 14, and Thursday, February 22, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers.

In other business, a meeting was held at the municipal building on February 1 with Killam Engineering representatives and members of the township's professional staff.

Killam plans to install flow meters at both the Raritan Road and Lamberts Mill Road pumping stations on or about Thursday, February 15.

Killam hopes to complete their evaluation by the end of May of during June. Much of their work will be devoted to the analysis of the pumping stations at Raritan Road and Lamberts Mill Road.

This analysis, with the probable adoption of a capital improvement ordinance this year for pumping station improvements and other possible sanitary sewer upgrades, is one of the top municipal priorities in 1996, officials said.

The municipality will sign a new contract with Resolve, officials said. A slight increase is proposed from \$26 to \$27 per employee. Scotch Plains employs 120 people. Resolve will assist any full-time township employee with its counseling services. Resolve is a private, non-profit youth and family counseling agency.

The council is considering a draft ordinance amendment which would permit garbage trucks to park for up to one hour on streets where such parking is not otherwise prohibited.

Township Zoning Officer Robert La Costa said the need for the revision became apparent when a resident engaged in the hauling of garbage was unable to park his truck on Ramapo Way in front of his home when he stood for a brief period for lunch each day.

The revised ordinance, he said, should accommodate this situation without affecting the township's other traffic ordinances.

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

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On Page 10
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Judge and Mrs. James J. Walsh

IN CONCERT... The United States Air Force Air Combat Command Heritage of American Band from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, will perform in concert at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School this Wednesday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m. The performance is being sponsored by the New Jersey 821st Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps unit at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and the Union-Morris Chapter of the Air Force Association. The concert is free but admission tickets are required for the first-come, first-served open seating. The band is a musical organization which has performed at state, national and international events. The 60-member band travels nearly 30,000 miles, gives over 500 performances and entertains more than one million people annually. They offer a program of familiar classics, rousing marches, contemporary selections, a featured soloist and patriotic music. Admission tickets for the performance are available at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Main Office between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The audience is asked to be in their seats by 7:15 p.m.