

THE Scotch Plainsman

Vol. 1 No. 3

SCOTCH PLAINS, N. J.

July 1944

SCOTCH PLAINS 5th WAR LOAN DRIVE A SMASHING SUCCESS.

In Roy Carlson's 1943 best seller "Under Cover", he mentions Scotch Plains as "a pretty, sleepy little village one hour's train ride from New York". We won't argue the "pretty" reference but that word "sleepy" is a fighting word.

The author would have to eat that word if he visited Scotch Plains at any time during the past eight months. A succession of drives, starting with the National War Fund last November, followed by the spectacular Red Cross Roll Call in March and climaxed now by a rousing, unprecedented performance in the Fifth War Loan has developed a civic aggressiveness and civic pride that completely belies Mr. Carlson's "sleepy little village" description.

Scotch Plains in war-time is a live, vigorous community, wide-awake to its responsibilities and to its opportunities. Local servicemen all over the world will be glad to learn that the home-folks have responded nobly to the Fifth War Loan and in a manner that has evoked wide praise, of which the following Plainfield Courier News editorial is typical:

"First To Reach Goal.

Hats off to Scotch Plains -- the first community in the Plainfield area to reach its quota in the Fifth War Loan Drive.

The Scotch Plains goal was \$100,000 and this mark was passed before the campaign had been under way two weeks - just 10 days after the drive opened, to be exact.

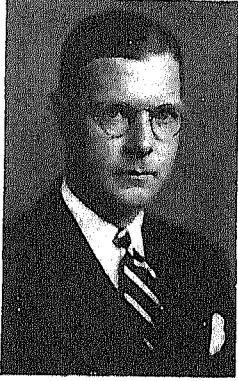
Now that Scotch Plains has filled its quota in such record time it would be an excellent idea, and a big help to other communities in the Plainfield area, if the citizens of that community would continue their bond-selling efforts until July 8th in an attempt to establish an all-time high for other places to shoot at.

The other municipalities comprising the Plainfield bond drive area still have a long, hard row to hoe and it is going to mean unceasing work from now on if we are to reach our high goal of \$5,000,000.

Scotch Plains has set a splendid example for the other four communities in the Plainfield area. Its accomplishment should be an incentive to the others to strive for their goals and to attain them as quickly as possible.

Whether or not W. Seward Lyon, Chairman of the Scotch Plains Fifth War Loan Committee, and his fellow

workers needed the challenge of that editorial to keep on keeping on, we have no means of knowing. We do know though that after the \$175,000 mark had been passed, Chairman Lyon and his Zone Chairmen set their sights on a new target and they decided to double their quota and establish a particularly difficult task of selling \$108,000 in Savings Bonds alone dedicated to the purchase of a Curtis Hell-Diver to be named the Spirit of Scotch Plains, N.J. What they actually accomplished is now a matter of history:



W. Seward Lyon

Chairman; and "HATS OFF" to Zone Chairmen Harry Erholm, Zone 1; Harry L. Paff, Zone 2; Arthur Taber, Zone 3; Elvin D. Groom, Zone 4; Frank J. Mason, Zone 5; Raymond A. Carter, Zone 6; and Gerald L. Furman, Zone 7.

"HATS OFF", we continue the cry, to Fred. Chemidlin and John Morel of the Commercial Committee and to Elwood Van Allen and Ralph Kehs of the headquarters staff.

And above all, "HATS OFF" to the many volunteer workers who honey-combed the town, house by house, to produce these record bond sales.

As a result of their work and of the support of the citizens of the Township, sometime soon on some battle-front, a Scotch Plains boy will look into the skies and see the

SPIRIT OF SCOTCH PLAINS, N. J.

winging its way to victory.

Sleepy little village, Mr. Carlson?

The Scotch Plainsman continues to receive names of local servicemen and women omitted from the original list and not included in later supplements. To the original list of 458 names, 98 have been added.

In addition to these Scotch Plains service folks, this issue of The Scotch Plainsman is being mailed to 55 servicemen from neighboring towns chiefly from Fanwood.

YE OLDE TOWNE OF SCOTS' PLAINS.

SCOTS PLAINS, as it was called by the Scots who founded it in 1684, is rich in historic tradition. In 1720 it was by far the largest settlement of a number of villages, Willow Grove Locust Grove (Mountainside), Branch Mills (Echo Lake), Crane's Ford (Cranford) and Westfield, all lying within the region then known as the West Fields of Elizabeth Town. The historian Edwin F. Hatfield, writing in 1868, described this area as being, in 1720, "the extreme border of civilization. Neither church nor minister was to be found in the regions beyond toward the setting sun".

Until 1794, this entire area continued a part of Elizabeth Town. In that year Westfield Township was created and included, in addition to considerable area immediately adjacent to the present town of Westfield, the village of Scotch Plains and what is now Plainfield.

Plainfield remained a part of Westfield until 1847, while Scotch Plains became a separate political unit in 1878 with the name Township of Fanwood - this from the community that had been established on the Central Railroad of New Jersey and named for Miss Fannie Wood, daughter of a railroad official.

The Borough of Fanwood was organized in 1895 with its present limits and not until 1916 did the Township go back to its original colonial name of Scotch Plains.

As a regular feature of The Scotch Plainsman it is our purpose to reach back into the pages of yesterday for human interest stories of Scotch Plains' early settlers, their homes, their schools and churches and events associated with them, in the hope that they will prove interesting to you service men and women of Scotch Plains - history makers of the present.

The first in this series of historical features - the encounter of Aunt Betty Frazee with Lord Cornwallis, is presented in this issue.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club, which meets each Wednesday at the Maison Billie, on Terrill Road, has inaugurated the custom of inviting to its luncheons Fanwood and Scotch Plains service folks home on furlough. Recent service guests have included 2nd Lt. Jos. L. Blotner, Seaman E. S. Braun, Avn. Cadet John J. Carrona, S 1/C (AMM) Donald W. Cowell, S 1/C Mario DiProspero, Pfc. John Lee, T/4 Persis T. Peterson and Ensign Philip Stauderman.