

Dedication of Fanwood Flag Pole and Honor Roll

"Worth while waiting for" sums up the opinions of the many hundreds of people who witnessed the impressive ceremonies attending the dedication of Fanwood's new flag-pole and honor roll in Station Park.

The honor roll, which stands 15 feet high, is in the form of a three quarter open volume against a background of white. The book is topped by an eagle perched on a gold leaf scroll with the lettering "Fanwood Honor Roll" in black. Opening to a width of 21 feet, the book is edged in blue with white shadows to mark the open pages. Names are 1 1/4 inches high in black lettering, with those men who have lost their lives being indicated by a gold star. The entire plaque rests on a base of gray concrete flanked by shrubbery.

The design was made for the Fanwood Council, which sponsored the project, by Edward H. Burdick of the Diarama Corp. of Am., New York. It was built by the United Advertising Corp. of Newark and landscaping details were carried out by Dominick Verdic of Scotch Plains.

American Legion Post No. 209, the Boy Scouts, Cubs, Girl Scouts and Brownies participated in the ceremonies. The Camp Kilmer Band played under the direction of Warrant Officer Howard E. Kelly.

The guest speaker, Lieut. Comm. F. Richard Williams, U.S. Navy Chaplain, spoke near the end of the dedication following Mayor H. Everett Peters' address presenting the honor roll to the borough residents. Invocation was pronounced by the Rev. David W. Baker, pastor of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

The names of 227 Fanwood men and women are contained on the original roll. Additional names are being added as omissions are reported. Because the names would not be readable in the photographic reproduction on the opposite page, a separate listing is shown below.

Fanwood service men and women are rightly proud of the Honor Roll monument erected in their honor by their townspeople. We consider it the best we have seen in this area.

Gold stars opposite the names of John T. MacDermott and Theodore Ginder indicate they have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country.

Lieut. Jack T. MacDermott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. MacDermott, of 102 Martine Ave., Fanwood, and husband of the former Muriel Manning was killed in action in Italy on October 10, 1943.

Jack, who served with an artillery unit, entered the Army in April, 1941, was trained at Fort Bragg, N. C. and commissioned in August, 1942, at Ft. Sill, Okla. He had been overseas since April, 1943.

Lieut. MacDermott was a graduate of Plainfield High School and attended Newark College of Engineering and Rutgers University.

Besides his widow, his son and parents, he is survived by one brother, Sgt. James MacDermott of the Army.

Pvt. Theodore F. Ginder, son of Mrs. Sophie Ginder of 125 Midway Ave. Fanwood, was killed in action in Italy on November 5th, 1943.

Ted had made attempts to enlist in the Navy and the Merchant Marine but was rejected because of his eyes. He was inducted into the Army March 27, 1943 and from Fort Dix was sent to Fort Mc Clellan, Ala., for training with the infantry. He received final training at Fort Rucker, Ala., before being sent overseas.

The youth was born in Scotch Plains, and his family moved to their present residence in Fanwood when he was a year old. He was a graduate of Scotch Plains High School. Two brothers, Joseph and Andrew also are in the Army. Besides these, he is survived by another brother, Walter, and three sisters, Jean, Mary and Rose.

Pfc. Andrew J. Ginder was wounded in Normandy, France, on June 12th. Andrew was awarded the Purple Heart for the shrapnel wounds he received in that engagement.

Sgt. Joseph Ginder was stationed in Texas recently after having seen service in Panama.

THE SCOTCH PLAINSMAN has been mailed regularly to the thirty-five Fanwood boys who comprised the overseas contingent in May. This has been made possible through generous donations by Mr. F.J. Chemidlin, the Scotch Plains P.B.A. Local #87, and Mr. H. Clay Friederichs, along with a contribution of ten subscriptions, by The Scotch Plainsman itself.

Operating on a budget controlled entirely by the number of local paid subscriptions and by donations, The Scotch Plainsman, of necessity, has had to restrict its free service mailings to Scotch Plains boys and girls.

The following letters from Fanwood boys who have been receiving the paper evidence their interest:

Pfc. A.B. Lawrence Jr. (12093673) Co.D, 333d Engrs., APO 350, c/o P.M. New York, writes:

"I received the July issue of The Scotch Plainsman which was my first issue. I thought it was very good.

"All the time I have been overseas I have run into just one fellow from Scotch Plains. He is in the same outfit but in another company. It is Mike DiFrancesco, Co.B. of the same outfit. He hasn't been getting the paper from you and I guess he would like to. I showed him the July issue and he liked it a lot.

"I would like to get in touch with anyone in the class of '42. Could you put my address in the paper and I hope they will see it."

Pfc. Donald Weldon (USMC) Corps Repln. Bn. Transient Cntr. (Fwd. Ech) Admin. Command, Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific, c/o F.P.O., San Francisco, Calif. writes:

"I would like to acknowledge receipt of the first Plainsman to reach me. The value of such a publication cannot be over-emphasized, especially in transmitting news of local events to those of us overseas.

Perhaps you might be interested in a brief review of my service record. I enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 20, 1942 and was sent to Parris Island, S. C. for boot training. From there I was sent to New River,

N. C. and San Diego, Calif. Since April, 1943, I have been serving overseas. I hope to be able to return to Scotch Plains and Fanwood within the next year.

I wish you continued success with your paper and the service that it renders to the sons and daughters of Uncle Sam."

From Guadalcanal comes a letter which we find extremely interesting. It was written by P.F.C. Kenelmn W. Harris (32769521), 3768 QM Trk. Co., APO 709, c/o P.M. San Francisco, Cal.

"I wish to express my thanks and congratulations for the excellent work done by your staff. I have received numbers 2, 3 and 4 of the Plainsman and enjoyed them tremendously. I think the drawings in the latest issue are very well done with excellent printing. I appreciate getting the addresses of my high school (SPHS of course-class of 43). No. 4 had a paragraph about a Fanwood boy. Having lived in Fanwood all my life, I would naturally like to see more from there.

Buddy Baumann (Class of 42) of Martine Ave. Fanwood has been sending us a mimeograph page or two every few weeks, and he could, I am sure, help on addresses and information. But I realize how short on space you must be and wish to cover your own boys as much as possible.

Speaking of addresses, do you have my brother's? Cpl. R. Monroe Harris (32156189) Co.D - 10th ASFT Bn., Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Your publishing the score of the Fanwood Men's Club - Crestwood Acres soft-ball game has really given me something to crow about to Don Cowell (AMM) from Crestwood Acres.

I think the Stories of Old Scotch Plains are swell too.

I wonder if it would be possible to send me a copy of the first edition of The Scotch Plainsman?

I surely do appreciate being on your mailing list. With all the good and cheer it is doing, I am sure it will continue to meet with every success. It's layout and news coverage is of the best - a remarkably good paper for its size and backing."

Three Fanwood boys have been reported missing in action.

Donald E. Vinton, QM 3/G, Fanwood's first reported casualty, is the son of Mrs. F. M. Vinton, 205 North Ave. In January, 1943, he was reported by the Navy Department as 'missing in action in the service of his country.

Lieut. Hugh MacLennan Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh MacLennan, of Russell Road, was reported missing January 15th of this year after a bombing expedition. He joined the Canadian Air Force in 1942 while a student at Northwestern University.

Lieut. William J. Brohm 3rd, son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Brohm Jr. of 59 Russell Road, has been missing in action over Germany since February 22nd. He was a bombardier with the 15th AAF and had successfully completed 13 missions over enemy territory.
