

TOWNSHIP TOPICS

COPS FLUNK OUT IN PENNANT RACE

That loud sibilant buzzzzzzzzzz you heard around Scotch Plains this past summer was the pennant bug in Chief Erholm's bonnet.

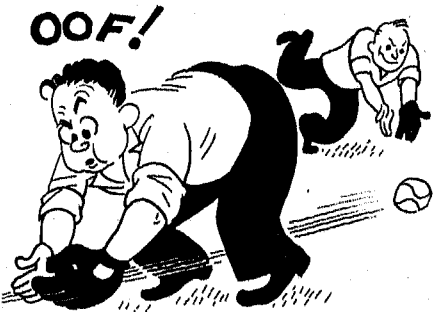
Up until the villainous Mountain side constables took Chief Harry's boys into camp by a 6 to 4 score in the play-off game and the Fanwood copsters followed it with a 15 to 9 lambasting, Harry tickled the little bug under the antennae and cooed to him in a form of baby talk but we feel the details are too intimate for publicity.

The little bug has gone AWOL and the pennant will not fly in Scotch Plains this year. But, like the true Dodger fan of old, Chief Harry says, "Watch us next year."

Well, we may not have the police pennant but we do have the trickiest keystone combination in the league. Remember that 'oriel' (cross-word for bay-window) Sgt. Jimmy Osnato sported before you went away? Well thereby hangs our tale.

On a hard-hit ground ball down toward second, Jimmy races over to intercept it, bends over to make a stop, emits a loud o-o-o-oof! -- and comes up smiling WITHOUT THE BALL. Anticipating the play, Johnny Andrusky has backed up Jimmy, pounces on the ball and fires it to first.

Yes, it's the trickiest play we have ever seen around the keystone sack. Only one thing wrong with it -- the runners always reach the bags safely.



SGT. JIMMY STOOPS TO CONQUER.

Better news comes from another quarter though in the report that the CRESTWOOD ACRES soft-ball team turned the tables on the FANWOOD MENS' CLUB by the tune of 9 to 5. Charley Rittweger's work on the mound and Bill Horning's spectacular catch of a foul fly highlighted Crestwood's revenge. (Now Don Cowel can crow over Kenelm Harris out in the far reaches of the Pacific).

We covered these police and Crestwood games out of a sense of duty as a reporter. (Are we heading for trouble making that confession). But, when we want to see a real GOOD game, know where we'd go? To where ever the Walker-Turner (Plainfield) girls team was playing. Now THERE'S a team. We think they can take over the cops, Crestwood or Fanwood any day of the week.

For know-how, ability, pulchritude and charm, they've got everything stopped.

Look the team over yourself.



Front row (LtoR) Helen Danchik, Julia Indico, Betty Lenhart, Doris Gunder-son and Jo Koval.

Second row - Walter Antener, Alma Sullivan, Jen Pfister, Bea Kuhlthau, Bert Kuhlthau, Janet Nobile, Margaret Dellaventura and John S. Bicknell Manager, and Coach.

Miss Bea Kuhlthau is the pitching star responsible for keeping the opponent's scores so low and one of the batting stars responsible for the skyscraping W-T scores.

STORIES OF OLDE SCOTCH PLAINS

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HISTORY OF SCOTCH PLAINS SCHOOLS

The first school of which we have any record was erected sometime after 1768. A copy of a deed now in the possession of the Board of Education indicates that a piece of "land near the Scotch Plains Meeting House" was deeded for the purpose of building a school. This land was given by an early settler, William Darby, for the sum of four shillings. This school as nearly as can be determined was located just north of the present Baptist Church along Park Avenue. The picture below is a photograph of the old school.

The inscription on the sketch indicates that this school was erected in 1780, apparently the second school house. This building is still standing, although moved to a new location on Stout Avenue where it now serves as the residence of Isen Neal.

The school, as most educational institutions in those days, was organized by the church, in this case 'The Scotch Plains Baptist School Society'. Income for operating the school was derived from the pupils' tuition of \$1.87 1/2 per quarter. Considering the fact that education was not compulsory and attendance poor, the teacher did not fare so well financially. The average salary was about \$90.00 a year. The records indicate that the first teacher was William Cole, a local surveyor.

Another early teacher was William Cleaver. A note on the back of the original photograph makes the following statement, "I taught in the Old School House at Scotch Plains in the years A.D. 1822, 1823, 1824 and 1825; and recognize in the accompanying photograph a very accurate representation of the old building," signed William H. Cleaver.

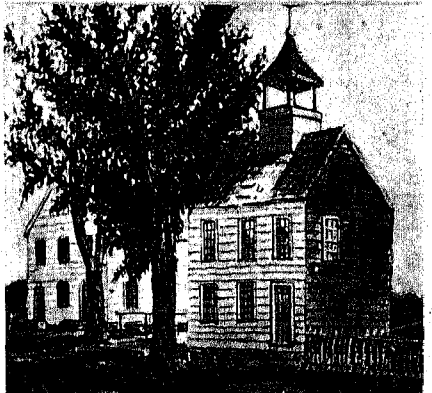
Another early school in the township was the old Jackson School House erected in the early 1800's near the corner of Terrill and Cushing Roads. It was here that the late Arthur Brisbane, famous editorial writer, received his early education. The Jackson School ceased to be used as a school sometime after the middle of the nineteenth century. The building stood for a number of years but was finally torn down in 1910.

David Hand, once a pupil in the Jackson School, wrote the following verse about the school:

How dear to this heart is the school of my childhood,
When fond recollections present it to view!
The blue pail and dipper, the slab seats we sat on,
And the old hickory gad that we youngsters all knew;
The teacher's big arm chair, the desks that stood by it,
And the stove, and the woodbox we all had to fill.
O, the little old school house!
The storm-beaten school house!
The Old Jackson School House that stands o'er the hill!

The Willow Grove School in another section of the town was built in 1814 in the neighborhood of Lamberts Mills. A picture of this early school now hangs in the present Willow Grove Chapel. This building was in use until 1870 when it was replaced by a new school house. Many pupils attended from Westfield which at that time was part of this school district. Miss Anna Littell was the last teacher to teach in this building in 1903. Many of you will remember her as a most inspiring teacher of history.

This building was replaced by a new two-room wooden building known as School No. 2 on Raritan Road just beyond Two Bridges. The Board of Education minutes of 1904 report "that the new School No. 2 was opened and occupied by the children residing in that portion of the district on Monday, October 31. The opening exercises were participated in by the President of the Board of Education and Principal H. D. White of School No. 1." Miss Littell was elected Principal of this building at the increased salary of \$500 per year.



FIRST SCOTCH PLAINS SCHOOL

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