

SUBURBAN-NEWS
NOVEMBER 21, 1973

Fanwood Squad Awarded For Rescue

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The highly coveted Don Luther Memorial Award Honorable Mention, presented for the "Outstanding Rescue of the Year," will be displayed in Fanwood Borough Hall, having been awarded to the Fanwood

Squad after competition with their sister squads from across the state.

The cited rescue occurred last Memorial Day. The local parade had been underway for some time when a spectator, a visitor from Lake Hopatcong, collapsed near the intersection of Martine and Midway Avenues. She was the victim of an apparent heart attack.

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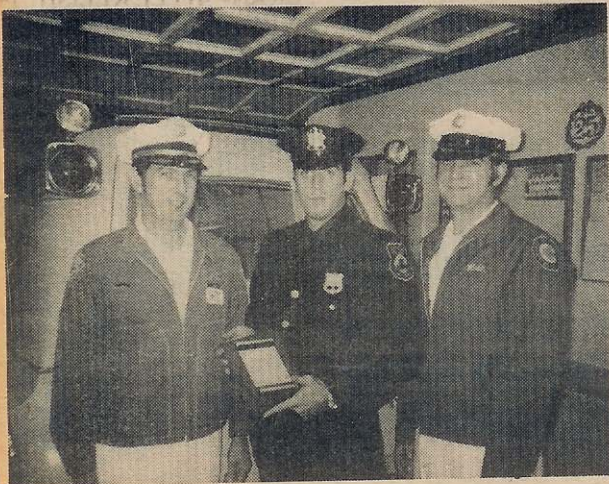
squadman, was summoned to help. He removed the victim from her automobile, placed her on hard ground, and began cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. The squad ambulance was alerted by radio as it approached the parade reviewing stand. By prearranged routine signal the "Alert Crew" boarded the ambulance and arrived at the victim's side in less than three minutes.

The Alert Crew, Squadmen William Winey and Robert Scala assisted by John Pasko and Jim Sherman, relieved Arnold and moved the victim to Muhlenberg Hospital while continuing life-sustaining functions. After assisting with an orderly transfer to

the Hospital staff, they retired.

The perfect coordination of training, planning, communications, speed of response and dedication to service had saved a life.

Of equal significance to the Award is the fact that the Fanwood Rescue Squad received the Don Luther Memorial Award for a different exemplary rescue two years ago in tribute to the Squad's service at an accident on December 8, 1970.



AWARD WINNING Fanwood Rescue Squad Members Robert Scala (left) and William Winey (right) are pictured with Mitchell Arnold.

COURIER-NEWS
OCT 25, 1973

Squad receives award

FANWOOD — For the second time in two years, the local Rescue Squad has received an award from the New Jersey First Aid Council.

The squad was cited for saving the life of a spectator at this year's Memorial Day parade in an honorable mention, second place to the Don Luther Memorial Award of the council for the outstanding rescue of the year.

Two years ago, the Fanwood squad received the top award itself for the rescue of an accident victim on Dec. 8, 1970.

Squads from throughout the state competed for this year's awards at the First Aid Council's 45th annual convention in Atlantic City last weekend.

The award, which will be displayed in Borough Hall, will be formally received by the Borough Council at its Nov. 14 public meeting.

In the Memorial Day rescue, Patrolman Mitchell Arnold, who was on traffic duty and who also is a member of the Rescue Squad, aided a woman who collapsed of an apparent heart attack while watching the parade at Martine and Midway Avenues.

The policeman began cardio-pulmonary resuscitation while the Rescue Squad was alerted. In less than three minutes, the squad's "Alert Crew" of William Winey and Robert Scala arrived with the ambulance. Assisted by squadsmen John Pasko and James Sherman, they continued life-sustaining functions while moving the victim to Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield.

Fanwood Rescue Squad Award Is On Display

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Praise For Rescue Squad

The Fanwood Rescue Squad received the Donald Luther Memorial Award Honorable Mention when they attended the 45th Convention of N.J. Rescue Squads recently. The award was made for the efforts of squadmembers in helping a person stricken during the Memorial Day parade here last May.

Patrolman Mitchell Arnold of the Fanwood Police Department was patrolling at the Martine-Midway intersection during the parade, and was summoned to the scene where a woman was

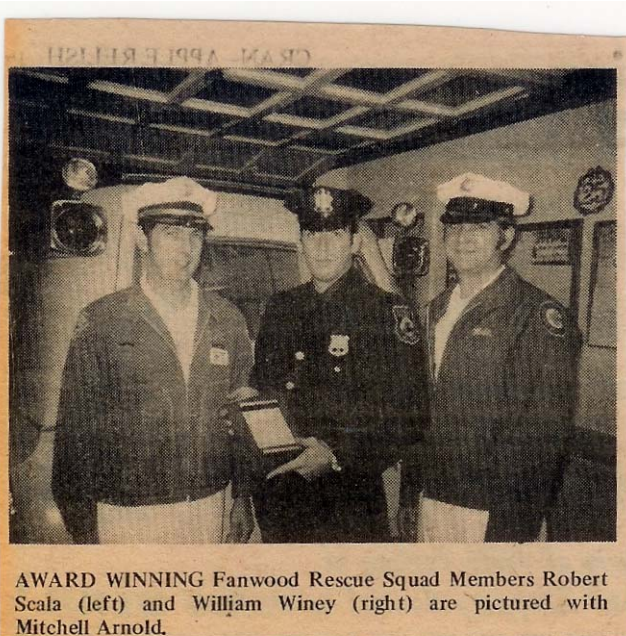
apparently having a heart attack. He performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and summoned the Rescue Squad. The ambulance was pulled out of the parade and squadmembers John Pasco, James Sherman, William Winey and Robert Scala took the stricken woman to the hospital, utilizing their cardio-pulmonary resuscitation equipment and talents en route.

They were commended by the hospital as well.

Captain James accepted the award and congratulations from the Borough Council last week.

In other safety-related matters, it was announced that the Fanwood Police reserve unit has been reactivated and revitalized. The new reserve unit's first as-

signment was assisting with the annual Halloween parade. Lt. Anthony Parenti of the police department is liaison.



AWARD WINNING Fanwood Rescue Squad Members Robert Scala (left) and William Winey (right) are pictured with Mitchell Arnold.

Rescue squad, police honored for saving borough

Shalom Sorkin, 72, is the first Fanwood resident saved by squad's new defibrillator

By ELLEN CAHILL

PRESS CORRESPONDENT

The Fanwood Rescue Squad and Fanwood Police got what they deserved at a borough meeting April 11: Honor and gratitude for saving the life of a 72-year-old resident.

Shalom Sorkin was visiting his cousin, Mara Vekhnis, at her daughter's Fanwood home Jan. 17, when he went into cardiac arrest.

"We were talking, and then he suddenly passed out," said Mrs. Vekhnis. "I called 911, but when the police arrived, I told them I thought it was too late. Shalom had stopped breathing."

Police officer Mark Gottlick administered CPR until the Rescue Squad arrived with the portable cardiac defibrillator which saved the man's life. Although Mr. Sorkin was unconscious for 24 hours after the attack, he has completely recovered.

"This was our first success with the defibrillator," said squad Captain Sue Davis. "Everything has to be just right, and you just never know. Still, early CPR and the defibrillator are a cardiac victim's best hope."

A happy and healthy Mr. Sorkin reported remembering very little of

the incident, but his family will never forget. "When the woman [Sue Davis] was treating him, I heard someone say, 'He's in good hands,'" said Ms. Vekhnis. "I thought it was too late, and later we worried about brain damage. But look at him!"

"He's feeling good," said a smiling Mrs. Sorkin.

Representatives from Prudential Insurance awarded squad members Bill Crosby, Bob Kruthers, Earl Phillips, Ms. Davis and police officers Jim Pasko and Mark Gottlick with special pins for their quick action and heroic efforts. The defibrillator that saved Mr. Sorkin's life was purchased with matching funds from The Prudential Helping Hearts program.

Mayor Maryanne Connelly recognized the town heroes on behalf of the Borough Council. "We express deep gratitude for their exemplary service," she said.

Mayor Connelly also declared April "Fanwood Rescue Squad Month" and asked that citizens join in honoring their local volunteers. She then presented awards to every member of the squad.

Attending the ceremony was Mr. Sorkin, his wife, and his cousin Mara Vekhnis. Following the pre-

sentation, Prudential representatives, police and squad members, the Sorkins, and family gathered for refreshments and talked further about their experience.

"It was gratifying to each of us," said Mr. Crosby. "Something that doesn't happen too often."

When asked if he was worried at any point during the procedure, Mr. Crosby said, "Whenever you hear it's a 'code,' you worry on the way there. Once you arrive, you don't think about anything but doing your job."

Officer Gottlick, who is certified as an emergency medical technician, agreed. "Time has no concept," he said. "We [the police] were there one minute after we got the call. Everyone else was there within three minutes."

Albert Rossi, a medic from Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, was also dispatched to the scene. He claims the save rate in these circumstances is "less than 20 percent."

Rachel Ingber, spokeswoman for Prudential, explained how the defibrillator works. "Very basically, it's a machine which resets the heart beat during cardiac failure," she said. "It shocks the heart back into a normal rhythm."



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Fanwood Rescue Squad Captain Sue Davis, squad members Bill Crosby and Sorkin, Prudential representative John Benton, Shalom Sorkin, Muhlenberg r and Fanwood patrolman Mark Gottlick attend the April 11 ceremony.

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If ever there were a living, breathing advertisement for the power of a battery operated box called a defibrillator, it is Jack Ruh. A 45 year veteran of the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Department, Jack has dealt with his share of dangerous situations. But none equaled the one he faced early on the morning of December 17, 2000, when Jack, responding to a fire call, collapsed in the kitchen of the firehouse on Watson Road.

"I have no memory of that moment or the week following it," Jack recalled recently during a chat in his home (right).

He learned later he suffered a case of sudden cardiac arrest. According to the American Heart Association, 95% of cardiac arrest victims die before even getting to a hospital. But when an electric shock is applied to the heart within the first 6 to 10 minutes, the survival rate is almost 50%.

As luck would have it, Jack collapsed in a room full of firefighters, several of whom were EMT's who are also members of the Fanwood Rescue Squad. They quickly pulled a portable defibrillator from one of the ambulances parked just 50 feet away and within just a couple minutes applied the shocks according to their training. Once they got a pulse, Jack was rushed to the hospital. He returned home the day after Christmas with his new best friend--an implanted pacemaker/defibrillator.



Portable automated external defibrillators (AED's) are standard equipment on the Fanwood's ambulances and police cars and, soon, fire engines. With money from grants and donations (no taxpayer funds), seven new Lifepak 500 defibrillators (left) have been purchased. Each of the Rescue Squad's two ambulances got one to replace the older First Medic models. The Lifepak 500, manufactured by Medtronic Physio-Control, costs about \$2,600.

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Jack Ruh passed away July 15, 2003. He will always hold a special place in our hearts.

FANWOOD POLICE SAVE AREA RESIDENT WITH NEWLY-ACQUIRED DEFIBRILLATOR

by Suzette Stalker (published with permission from the [Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood](#))

Just a little more than two weeks after the Fanwood Police Department received several defibrillator units for its patrol cars, one of the devices was used to save the life of a man who went into cardiac arrest May 27, 2001, while visiting a restaurant in the borough.

A defibrillator uses electronic impulses to restore a person's heartbeat to its normal rhythm following cardiac arrest. Besides the ones now available to the police department, the unit is also part of the Fanwood Volunteer Rescue Squad's inventory of equipment. Pictured is a representative of Merck donating a defibrillator to police chief Robert Carboy, left, and squad member Steve Siegal.

Lawrence Susman, 72, of Westfield was sitting in the main dining room of the Sun Tavern, located at South Avenue and Terrill Road, with his wife, Barbara, and their friends when he collapsed, according to Mrs. Susman. They had gone to a movie before coming to the eatery and had just placed their order when Mr. Susman was stricken at 6:30pm, his wife told the Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. She noted that while her husband has had heart trouble, there were no warning signs earlier in the day that a crisis was soon to occur.

Patrolmen Michael Schilling and Russell Yeager of the Fanwood Police Department were on the scene within minutes, quickly followed by members of the rescue squad, Mrs. Susman said. The patrolmen utilized the defibrillator they had in their patrol car to revive Mr. Susman, who had stopped breathing and did not have a pulse when the officers arrived, according to Fanwood Police Chief Robert Carboy (pictured right, with Merck public safety director



Richard Harris and Rescue Squad member Steve Siegal). He said the defibrillator restored Mr. Susman's heartbeat "almost instantaneously."

Mr. Susman was subsequently transported by the rescue squad to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield, where his wife said he was continuing to improve. She added that her husband was expected to be transferred to Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown earlier this week for follow-up care.

Mrs. Susman extended her appreciation to Officers Schilling and Yeager, as well as to the rescue squad personnel, for their combined efforts in saving her husband's life.

"They were all outstanding," she said, observing that her husband "would not be alive" without them and without the defibrillator being on hand during the first critical minutes after her husband went into cardiac arrest.

"They should really be proud," Mrs. Susman said.

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Evelyn suddenly slumped in her chair and became unresponsive. Ken called 911 immediately and a minute later, Fanwood Police Officer Kevin Stomber and Corporal Ron Greco raced into the home carrying a life saving defibrillator. They immediately began the steps of CPR and attached the defibrillator pads to Evelyn's chest. Within two or three minutes of their arrival, they had already administered the first shock.

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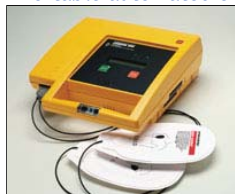
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- Ed Sargent, Rescue Squad
- Dave Zawodniak, Rescue Squad and Firefighter

Jack Ruh passed away July 15, 2003. He will always hold a special place in our hearts.

FANWOOD POLICE SAVE AREA RESIDENT WITH NEWLY-ACQUIRED DEFIBRILLATOR

by Suzette Stalker (published with permission from the [Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood](#))

Just a little more than two weeks after the Fanwood Police Department received several defibrillator units for its patrol cars, one of the devices was used to save the life of a man who went into cardiac arrest May 27, 2001, while visiting a restaurant in the borough.

A defibrillator uses electronic impulses to restore a person's heartbeat to its normal rhythm following cardiac arrest. Besides the ones now available to the police department, the unit is also part of the Fanwood Volunteer Rescue Squad's inventory of equipment. Pictured is a representative of Merck donating a defibrillator to police chief Robert Carboy, left, and squad member Steve Siegal.

Lawrence Susman, 72, of Westfield was sitting in the main dining room of the Sun Tavern, located at South Avenue and Terrill Road, with his wife, Barbara, and their friends when he collapsed, according to Mrs. Susman. They had gone to a movie before coming to the eatery and had just placed their order when Mr. Susman was stricken at 6:30pm, his wife told the Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. She noted that while her husband has had heart trouble, there were no warning signs earlier in the day that a crisis was soon to occur.

Patrolmen Michael Schilling and Russell Yeager of the Fanwood Police Department were on the scene within minutes, quickly followed by members of the rescue squad, Mrs. Susman said. The patrolmen utilized the defibrillator they had in their patrol car to revive Mr. Susman, who had stopped breathing and did not have a pulse when the officers arrived, according to Fanwood Police Chief Robert Carboy (pictured right, with Merck public safety director



Richard Harris and Rescue Squad member Steve Siegal). He said the defibrillator restored Mr. Susman's heartbeat "almost instantaneously."

Mr. Susman was subsequently transported by the rescue squad to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield, where his wife said he was continuing to improve. She added that her husband was expected to be transferred to Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown earlier this week for follow-up care.

Mrs. Susman extended her appreciation to Officers Schilling and Yeager, as well as to the rescue squad personnel, for their combined efforts in saving her husband's life.

"They were all outstanding," she said, observing that her husband "would not be alive" without them and without the defibrillator being on hand during the first critical minutes after her husband went into cardiac arrest.

"They should really be proud," Mrs. Susman said.

A LIFE SAVED APPROACHING EMS MONTH

by Tom Kranz, EMT-B



Ken Troy isn't a huge fan of television. So, when his wife Evelyn (left) watches in the living room, he usually goes elsewhere and leaves her alone in her chair. But on the night of April 16, 2008, he decided to stay in the living room, a random change in routine that probably helped save his wife's life.

Evelyn suddenly slumped in her chair and became unresponsive. Ken called 911 immediately and a minute later, Fanwood Police Officer Kevin Stomber and Corporal Ron Greco raced into the home carrying a life saving defibrillator. They immediately began the steps of CPR and attached the defibrillator pads to Evelyn's chest. Within two or three minutes of their arrival, they had already administered the first shock.

After another minute or so, the first EMT from the Fanwood Rescue Squad arrived to assist. The automated defibrillator voice announced it was time to shock again and Corporal Greco did so. Within a minute of the second shock, Evelyn started breathing again and her pulse returned.

Almost at the same moment, the rest of the cavalry arrived-- more members of the Rescue Squad and paramedics from Muhlenberg Hospital. By six or seven minutes into the event, Evelyn was breathing and her

heartbeat returned. She was transported to Muhlenberg in the Rescue Squad ambulance with the paramedics monitoring her heart rate and respiration during the six minute trip.

"I don't remember a thing," said Evelyn three weeks later, back home with Ken (right) and doing well with her new best friend, an implanted defibrillator/pacemaker. "I guess God decided it wasn't my time yet. We are so grateful."

Quick action, trained responders and a little bit of luck all came together to keep Evelyn Troy with us a while longer.

Those responding from the Fanwood Rescue Squad were EMT's Patty Buckridee, Jim Drewes, Tom FitzGibbon, Tom Kranz, Melissa Padulsky and first responder Bob Hoyer.

