

Fanwood Rescue Squad helps Oatis' debut

Saturday morning, January 10, began as a routine morning in the lives of John and Bonnie Oatis of Fanwood. That situation changed rather abruptly at 8:00 a.m., however, as Bonnie began to experience labor pains. After a consultation with her doctor, John and Bonnie decided to leave for Overlook Hospital in Summit.

As a member of the Fanwood Rescue Squad, Mr. Oatis made the next decision - to call for assistance from

police and the Rescue Squad. Within minutes, Bonnie and John, accompanied by five Squad members, took off, some in the Oatis car, with Oatis himself acting as crew chief, others in the ambulance. He requested that Overlook be notified and made aware of the situation.

"Although I witnessed the birth of my son Keith two years ago, and also assisted in an emergency birth of a baby girl at a North Plainfield residence, the events that took place on this particular

occasion was an experience which I'll never forget," Oatis said. Just four blocks short of Overlook, on Morris Avenue, the ambulance came to a halt, and at the same time, Medi 1 (Overlook's mobile intensive care unit) arrived on the scene with three para-medica aboard. At this point, Holly Alayne Oatis was welcomed into the world and the Fanwood ambulance by the team of Janet Nawrock, Bill MacHrone, Bill Winey, and Bill Crosby, by members of the Overlook crew and her own father.

John!

The ambulance continued on to Overlook, where it was met at the entrance by doctors, nurses and police. Traffic on Morris Avenue was backed up in both directions for about 20 minutes, to facilitate Holly's debut.

Holly weighed 6 lbs., 4 oz. at birth, spent the routine four days in the hospital, and has spent her remaining days at home with her parents at 122 Watson Road, where everybody's reportedly doing just fine.



John Oatis, hours after the birth of daughter Holly in the Fanwood Rescue Squad Ambulance, January 10, 1981.



John and Bonnie Oatis with baby Holly on January 11, 1981, the day after her dramatic birth in the ambulance.