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The economic structure of Roosevelt

by Peter Warren

Now that Roosevelt has been defined as a historic place, it is interesting to look at its economic structure, from information provided by the Census and other sources.

Our borough has something of the shape of a butterfly, alighting in Millstone Township, its boundaries determined by the original amalgamation of farms purchased to form Jersey Homesteads. The wings of the butterfly, of unequal size, are composed of farmland and green-acres, the body of its residential area. The total area is 1,235 acres, just under two square miles. It comes of something as a surprise to realize that 30 of Monmouth County's 53 municipalities are smaller in area than Roosevelt.

The largest single land use is for farming, with about half of the area zoned, and for the most part, actually used, for this purpose. The farmland is held by nine owners, of whom four own about 71%. Another 60

acres, now farmed, is zoned for industrial use. Only a small part of the farm land is owned by residents of Roosevelt, and, apart from providing a pastoral setting for the town, it plays little economic or social role in the town. It does, however, provide about \$25,000 a year in tax revenue. Apart from a half dozen larger lots, 250 residences are on the typical half acre lot, laid out in the Thirties or in construction since then. About 90% are owner-occupied, with about 25 rented, the latter often to relatives or to persons with relatives in Roosevelt. In the 1980 Census, the average value of a house was \$54,543, and the average rent \$481 per month. The median value of an owner-occupied house increased between 1970 and 1980 by a factor of 2.6, slightly higher than for Monmouth County as a whole. In 1980, however, the median value of a house in

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Roosevelt was \$49,200, while for the County, it was \$65,500. Residential taxes provide about \$480,000, or 47% of the Borough's total revenues for administration, education and utilities. At the present time, about 50 acres are zoned for residential growth, including nine half-acre lots, 12 lots of about 2.3 acres each, one of five acres, and one, as yet undivided, of 15 acres. About 70 acres are zoned for industry although industrial operations take place only in the original factory building and two adjacent smaller buildings on North Valley Road. Commercial land is limited to the two stores, the post office, the garage and two swim clubs. Little additional land is currently zoned for commercial expansion. Commerce and industry provide about \$24,000 a year in taxes to the borough.

Since its original establishment in the mid-Thirties, Roosevelt has grown slowly in population:

Population Growth

1940.....	698	
1950.....	720	+3%
1960.....	764	+6%
1970.....	814	+7%
1980.....	835	+3%

Monmouth County Planning Board estimates that the population declined to 825 between 1980 and 1982. If so, the decline was more than offset by an increase of 16 new residents who moved into the Senior Citizen development in late 1983. Since lots are available for

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construction, the population of Roosevelt will probably continue to grow between 1984 and 1990. Roosevelt has the second smallest population in Monmouth County, and a low population density of 433 per square mile; only five municipalities (each with a much larger area) are more sparsely populated. Unlike many communities in Monmouth County between 1970 and 1980, Roosevelt did not decline in population; of 53 municipalities, 20 lost population during that period. At the other extreme, Monmouth Beach grew by 63%, Millstone by 55% and Allentown by 22%.

The population of Millstone is estimated to have continued to grow between 1980 and 1982, from 3,926 to 4,048, while Allentown declined from 1,962 to 1,937. Between the last two census periods, the age distribution in Roosevelt changed significantly, with the number of residents of school age dropping from 30% to 23% and the number of residents of working age rising from 54% to 59%. In 1980, Roosevelt had a lower proportion of school-age population and a higher percentage of working-age population than either Monmouth County or the United States as a whole. The over-65 age group grew from 9% to 11%. The decline of 22% in school-age children was, however, less than for the County as a whole but leaves the Roosevelt school with excess capacity for future growth. In terms of average family income, Roosevelt is 30% above the national average; \$27,321 in the 1980 census (figures for 1979), compared with \$21,063 for the United States. This was about \$1,000 less than the average for Monmouth County. As was true throughout the

country, the purchasing power of the average income in 1980 was slightly less than 1970. This does not mean that Roosevelt is a poor community. In Roosevelt, 81% of families earned over \$15,000 a year in 1979, compared to 75% in Monmouth County and 67% in the United States. Roosevelt does not have large extremes of very poor or very rich.

Distribution of Income in 1979

	<u>Roosevelt</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>U.S.</u>
-\$5,000	1%	5%	6%
\$5,000-	7%	9%	13%
\$10,000			
\$10,000-11%		11%	14%
\$15,000			
\$15,000-32%		26%	28%
\$25,000			
\$25,000-43%		39%	32%
\$50,000			
+\$50,000	6%	10%	7%

Nevertheless, the census showed some persons and families living below the poverty level; 5% of individuals, and 2% of families - compared to 10% and 8% for New Jersey as a whole.

To earn a living, 68% of those employed worked in private industry, 19% worked for federal, state or local government (local government employees being mostly teachers); 13% were self-employed at the time of the census. The largest single category - 27% - classified themselves as professionals, followed by 19% who were managers; 12% were administrative support and clerical, 9% in sales and 8% in crafts and repair. We worked in a wide range of industries; 20% in manufacturing, and 17% in trade. Two-thirds of us worked outside Monmouth County, and 9% outside New Jersey. Only 5% worked at

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Roosevelt

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home of the 20% who worked in Monmouth County. To get to work, 59% drove alone, but 27% used a car pool; 6% used public transportation, and 9 people walked to work. Three quarters of the houses had at least two cars. The average travel time was 37 minutes. A lucky 30% got to work in less than 20 minutes, but it took 21% more than an hour. Of the people with jobs, 14% were unemployed at some time in 1979. Of the 226 families in the census, 142 had two or more workers.

Roosevelt counted 282 households in the census. Of these, 35% consisted of two people, 20% of three, 14% of five, 13% of four, 12% of one and 6% with six or more persons. The "married-couple" family had 2.1 children. There were 28 male non-family householders, and another 28 female non-family householders, sharing among them 26 "non relatives." The census learned that 59% of those over age five had been living in the same house in 1975. But half of the persons living in Roosevelt were born in a different state and 10% were born abroad.

One final characteristic differentiates residents of Roosevelt (over age 25) from the rest of Monmouth County: 41% have graduated from college, and another 20% have attended 1-3 years, compared with 22% and 16% respectively, for the County.

It costs about \$1 million a year to provide public services for Roosevelt: education, utilities and general government. This amount is raised by residential, farm,

industry and commercial property taxes, which contribute 54% of the revenue, by education and other grants which contribute 36% and by utility fees which contribute 10%. About 69% of the expenditures go to education, 12% to municipal administration, 9% to utilities, 8% to Monmouth County and 2% to debt service.

Since Roosevelt does not have a large industrial base to provide tax revenue, the municipality benefits from the New Jersey equalization fund and other state and (to a small extent) federal grants which together provided more than \$300,000 in 1983, which would otherwise have to have been raised from property taxes. As a result, the homeowner, with an average income of \$27,000 a year, would pay about 7% of his income in property taxes, far less than he pays in federal income tax. The structure of revenue sources affects the structure of the borough. Since the equalization fund came into existence some years ago, new industry has ceased to be attractive as a source of revenue, because industrial property taxes would simply be offset by a loss in equalization revenues. On the other hand, the net contribution to tax revenues of further residential growth in Roosevelt depends on demographics and on whether residents remain in Roosevelt after their children have left school.

Our mayor speaks

The following remarks were made by Mayor Freda Hepner at the installation ceremony sponsored by the Roosevelt Citizens' Council

Editors

Happy New Year! This has certainly been a landmark year for us! Roosevelt was awarded historic designation by both the state and the federal governments. As we approach our 50th anniversary as a community, we find that more and more historians, writers and artists are interested in our beginnings. An oral history, compiled by local residents, has been completed and is ready for cataloging. This year, we also celebrated FDR's centennial with a 3 day festival. Curtis Roosevelt, FDR's grandson, visited here and reminisced with us about his grandfather. The weekend, filled with music, literature and visual arts, all presented by our residents, who are professionals in these fields, was a very special tribute to the president for whom this community was named.

A new film on our town called "Visions of Utopia" was premiered here and has been shown on NJ TV channels. The historic designation may or may not bring more such endeavors to town but I think we can be assured that what the newspapers recently called our "eccentric" qualities may continue to attract an unusual amount of public interest.

Maybe this is a good day for bragging. Roosevelt is a microcosm of the country, only better. We have some of the

same problems that plague every small town, but we have a diversity in our people that is special. We are engaged in almost every kind of work, hobby, sport, political, social, artistic group I can think of. We don't pigeon hole people into age groups, ethnic or gender groups. By and large, we do not impose our values on our neighbors. That, for me, is the best part about living here.

This is not a town for stars or heroes, but for everybody. When I review the list of people who serve on public boards, volunteer for the fire company and the first aid squad, work with children's programs and in a host of other unpaid jobs - I see at least one member of almost every household in town. Recently when a group of people became concerned about increased criminal and drug activities in town, they called a meeting to discuss the issues and this room was filled with people of all ages and stages who came to talk, to listen, and most of all to volunteer help in very specific ways.

The census report indicates that in 1980 there were 835 residents of Roosevelt. With this year's addition of the Senior Citizens Solar Village, we add about 25 new people to our roster. Perhaps this is the reason the Post Office Department has seen fit to build a new imposing structure for our use. Certainly, that has done a lot to spruce up our commercial district.

Our financial situation is in some ways the same as it has been for the 20 years I

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Our mayor

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live here. The percentages have remained pretty much the same, but the dollars are many more. In 1983, we allocated almost \$550,000 to be raised in local taxes. Of this amount, 71% was earmarked for the school and approved by the voters. 18.3% was paid in county taxes and 10.7% was for municipal use. Council members have worked hard to keep up with the increasing needs and at the same time be sensitive to the inflation rate and diminishing state and federal aids. Continuous attention has been given to the improvement of the water treatment system and we have seen some improvement. Yet more has to be done and it is expensive. This year garbage collections will be cut by 50% and yet the cost will remain the same. The EPA has finally decided to clean up some of the pollution in our landfills and like everybody else in the state, we will pay for it. We need more funding for restructuring and equipping the sewer plant. We badly need extensive repairs to our roads and streets. These are major problems and the council will be working diligently at finding the best solutions.

Along with finding the best solution to problems, our local government must start to look to the future. We cannot remain a community that only reacts to proposals brought to our attention by outside sources. We must become a community that plans for its future so that Roosevelt con-

tinues to be the vibrant community it always has been. If we are considered eccentric, it is because we are independent, creative and active. Experts and consultants are necessary to a volunteer government, but all the expertise must be carefully evaluated and used properly for the best interests of the people who live here. This year we will work toward that goal!

Thank you!

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F.D.R., who was he and what?

Conclusion

by Peter Berlinrut

In previous installments I suggested that Franklin Delano Roosevelt's role in directing the New Deal didn't originate in his social beginnings nor in an innate liberalism nor in his Harvard education. It began in his hard encounter with poliomyelitis, his experience of suffering and his development of a will to overcome. If human adversity yielded at all, it yielded to courage, determination, resourcefulness. That was as true of a social crisis as a personal one. It bred his flexibility and readiness to try another thing if the first didn't work.

I suggested also that most of the reforms he tried to institute didn't hatch in his own mind. He borrowed them from what was at work in the American mind at the time. The country was surfeited with the gospel of rugged individualism, each man for himself and the devil take the hindmost. It wanted unemployment insurance for people thrown out of work through no fault of their own, not charity or relief handouts or going hungry and in want. It wanted pensions or payments to the elderly based on actuarial premiums paid in during a working career, not dependence on family, or poorhouse or private philanthropy. And so on.

Most of these provisions were already in effect in advanced countries, so why should they be absent in the richest nation in the world? There wasn't an important stratum in the country's population that didn't seethe with a clamor for reform. F.D.R., made sensitive by his own ordeal, heard and heeded. And proceeded to work a quiet

revolution that changed the social order in a basic way.

He made blunders, two very severe ones that I shall deal with here. Those who wish to close their eyes to this do no service to his reputation or memory. His achievement comes through all the more clearly after we subtract the debits. He himself staked out no claim for infallibility, content to think of himself as an effective politician, agile in the use of guile or polemic to outwit opponents out to frustrate the reforms he sought.

The important thing was to have an accurate set of priorities and to stick to it no matter what. And if that meant violating a principle of lesser importance in order to serve a more important one, there was no room for squeamishness. For example, he was charged with abandoning one of his important reforms shortly after (or just before) we entered the war. His answer was (I quote from memory but, I am confident, accurately), "Earlier we were following the prescriptions of Dr. New Deal but now we must follow the prescriptions of Dr. Win-The-War." This has to be grasped clearly if his blunders are to be seen in perspective and lead to a better understanding of why he made them.

The first such was his failure to come to the aid of Spanish democracy. The time was 1936, and a touchy time it was. The Western world had heard again and again that democracy was kaput, finished, historically exhausted. The future belonged to fascism or communism, take your pick

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according to which brand of totalitarianism you preferred. To many, this had all the attractiveness of death either by drowning or asphyxiation. It was no choice at all. It was therefore a ray of hope when a coalition of parties including the Socialists, the Anarchists, the Communists and heterogeneous groups won power in an election in Spain. They were barely in office when Spanish fascism embodied in General Francisco Franco and the Phalangist party launched a military attack to oust them. Hitler and Mussolini lent aid in differing degrees to this fascist violence against a legitimate democracy. Chamberlain did nothing; Roosevelt did nothing to help Spanish democracy, each for possibly differing reasons but with the same tragic outcome: the overthrow of democracy after a cruel and bloody civil war.

Some historians have claimed this failure of the great democracies to act gave encouragement to the Nazis and Fascists to push on with aggressive expansionism which ultimately led to World War II. This issue will probably be in debate a long time. Each of the important democracies had its own reason or reasons for failing the Spanish coalition.

In Roosevelt's case, the likeliest one was his unwillingness to jeopardize the ratification of his domestic reforms. The country was sharply divided, the conservatives and the church hierarchy favoring Franco and the Phalange, the liberals and left favoring the democratic coalition. F.D.R. needed the support of the former and was unwilling to risk alienating it. It was thought central to his belief that this country and its internal life was pivotal

to the fate of the entire world. If America could demonstrate democracy worked, it would be the strongest influence on the development of other societies in the world. Being a practical politician, he was ready to lose a skirmish or battle if it put him in a better position to win the war. First things first and if standing firmly by a plausible order of priorities led to a passing injustice, that had to be accepted. Again, this logic is debatable. Whatever the case, the abandonment of Spanish democracy was a tragedy.

The second blunder was an even more serious and much greater moral lapse, with even less justification in terms of political realism. I refer to his role in the Holocaust. It began overtly with his disinclination to open any American ports to those Jews able to escape from the Hitlerist extermination and seeking asylum somewhere in their leaky boats. (These were the original boat people and they fared even worse than the later Asian refugees.) Again, the political realist in F.D.R. surged to the fore. The anti-Semitic virus was running high in the country then, what with Nazi propaganda via the American Bund, Father Coughlin's tirades against exploiting bankers (always those with Jewish names), the Christian Front and other assorted 'hate' groups. By then, F.D.R. was almost certainly with the conviction that this country would have to come to the aid of the democracies if freedom and civilization were to survive. It wasn't going to be easy to give this aid, let alone become militarily involved. Isolationist sentiment was strong. (Cont'd. on next page)

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Before the Soviet Union was attacked by Hitler, the Communists here didn't care much about democracy or civilization (in their lexicon, it was bourgeois democracy and civilization) and they were shouting the slogan, "The Yanks are not coming!" More important was the isolationism of the America First Committee, one of whose most notable spokesmen was Charles A. Lindberg, a national hero and highly influential. In a famous speech he declared that it was the Jews who were pressing for American intervention against Germany out of their opposition to Hitler and that this country had little at stake in this European war. Therefore as F.D.R. saw it, it would strengthen the stand of the isolationists and bar aid to the beleaguered democracies if he were in any way to become identified with sympathy for the misfortune befalling Jews. American ports stayed closed to Jews trying to save their lives. And if that was a tragedy, it was a price that had to be paid for the support he was determined to give England and France.

Let me at this point have recourse to a book which is distorted and badly biased in some respects but which is quite accurate in its delineation of the role of F.D.R. vis-a-vis the Holocaust. It is Ben Hecht's autobiography, *A CHILD OF THE CENTURY*. Hecht was a gifted writer, beginning as a newspaper reporter but then branching out into novels, plays, and films. Hecht had never had organizational ties to Jewish life in any form but he had warm personal ties to parents, aunts, uncles that were perhaps even stronger. He became an inflamed protester

against the Nazi massacre of Jews and also a fanatical supporter of the Irgun, the one Jewish organization that carried on militant opposition to the British and their refusal to open Palestine to Jews seeking refuge. And he turned bitter about F.D.R.'s unwillingness to interest himself in the plight of Jews.

Hecht claimed Roosevelt was never too fond of Jews even though they were well represented in his retinue and became increasingly testy on the subject as World War II and its horrors rolled on. He tells of an episode in which F.D.R. said sharply to an old friend, a Jew who had free and frequent access to the White House and who tried to convey the terrible shadow resting over European Jews, "I don't want you to talk about Jews to me. Now or never. I haven't time to listen to Jewish wailing." Hecht claims he heard the story from the man involved, who incidentally never lost his respect and veneration for Roosevelt. (Hecht himself never wavered in his support of F.D.R.'s role in the New Deal.)

Considerable other evidence was adduced by Hecht. Item: he tried through influential connections to get F.D.R. to declare a National Day of Mourning. The purpose was to increase the impact of pageants of protest that Hecht was writing and producing to publicize the Nazi exterminations. The request was refused. Ironically Thomas E. Dewey, F.D.R.'s opponent in the presidential election and Governor of New York State, did heed the request and declare such a day of mourning.

Item: news reached the world that Rumania, knowing that its borders were shortly to be

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F. D. R.

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invaded by the Nazis, offered to release seventy thousand Jews to some specified place at fifty dollars a person. The offer was reported in several places in the world and was subsequently confirmed by several reliable persons in this country. Hecht claims that when the committee he served on asked the State Department about the offer with the possibility of acting on it, they were informed there was no such offer (at F.D.R.'s order, according to Hecht.)

Item: Hecht's committee pleaded with F.D.R. to issue a stiff warning to the Nazis that they would be held sternly accountable for the extermination of Jews. It was disregarded at the time it was made. A year later when the Allies finally got round to such a warning, it spoke in generalities of war crimes, never mentioning Jews specifically by name. By that time, at least three million Jews had been put to death.

Item: F.D.R. refused to urge the British to open Palestine's ports to Jews in flight for their lives. On the contrary, he was more concerned with helping Great Britain cling to its Empire in the mid-east and reassuring Ibn Saud that not a single Rumanian Jew would ever set foot in Palestine.

Finally, an item that Hecht does not mention but that I have come across several times. Urgent representations were made to Roosevelt to have our bombers lay waste the death camps as the only effective (if terrible) way to end their operation. He is said to have turned the matter over to the Air Corps which decided this

would not be "in the best interest of the war effort." The death camps went on operating almost to the very end of World War II.

Even if Hecht in the throes of indignation, pain and bitterness may have been a bit one-sided in his indictment of F.D.R., much of it has to be declared warranted. He didn't leave much room for any extenuating understanding of the terrible problems Roosevelt faced in the twelve years he was in office. (F.D.R.'s full smiling face in 1933 when he took office and his ravaged face at the Yalta Conference, exuding impending death, tell the story.) But some of the blame he assigned to F.D.R. has to be considered justified.

Other observers have pointed out additional mistakes made by F.D.R. which is to be expected. He himself did not hold himself beyond errors of judgment for all the jaunty assurance the essential role he played in American history: the man with just that capability to register the cue given him by the needs of a critical time and to institute the sweeping reforms that were necessary. He died in April 1945, before the reality and extent of the Holocaust came to light. One can only speculate how he would have felt had he lived another six months or a year and learned of it. Certainly he would have been grieved even if he exonerated himself for not having done anything about it. I repeat an earlier thought: this town can feel secure about bearing a worthy name.

Why Roosevelt is a historic site

by Peter Warren

The designation of Roosevelt on both the New Jersey and national registers of historic places is explained by the following information which is quoted from the nomination form prepared by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Sources for data available on request.)

The Borough of Roosevelt is an intact New Deal planned community originally known as Jersey Homesteads. Its political origins, social background, and physical form reflect major currents in twentieth century American government, thought, and culture. The significance of the district lies in the following interrelated areas:

Politics/Government

Roosevelt is part of a prominent chapter in American political history in which the Federal Government participated and experimented in community building, public housing, economic planning, and population redistribution. In response to the hardships of the 1930's Depression, a strong back-to-the-land sentiment and the appeal of subsistence farming brought together individuals and groups of widely divergent political philosophies. Out of a panoply of ideologies and schemes emerged the New Deal community program. Roosevelt is one of thirty-four communities which were developed during 1933 and 1934 by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads in the Department of the Interior. In 1935 the program was transferred to the Resettlement Administration, and then to the Farm Security Administration in 1937.

Eventually there were ninety-nine New Deal communities, counting the thirty-seven later initiated by the Resettlement Administration, and the twenty-eight relief communities planned by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

The subsistence homesteads program, which was first directed by M.L. Wilson, and later, under the Resettlement Administration, by Rexford G. Tugwell, was devised as a method of relieving mass industrial unemployment, by relocating urban workers to rural areas and by demonstrating the economic value of combining seasonal industrial work with part-time farming or gardening. The general guiding principle was to establish experimental but permanent communities as object lessons in decentralized industry and a new pattern of life, based on greater economic security, an improved physical environment, and closeness to nature. The communities included four types: experimental farm colonies; subsistence gardens for urban workers; colonies for stranded workers; and homesteads for part-time (seasonal) industrial workers. Because Jersey Homesteads was organized economically around a garment factory, it falls into the last category, which included twenty-nine communities, located mainly in the South and Midwest. In terms of constructed units, Jersey Homesteads was the ninth largest of all the communities. It was planned during 1933 and 1934, constructed between 1935 and 1938, and cost \$3,402,382.

Roosevelt is unique among
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the New Deal communities for three reasons:

(1) It was planned as the only triple cooperative agro-industrial community of the subsistence homesteads program. Except for home ownership and subsistence garden plots, every aspect of Jersey Homesteads was organized on the cooperative idea, with cooperative factory, farms, and retail stores. The Workers Aim Cooperative Association, founded in 1936, owned and operated the garment factory, which manufactured suits, coats, dresses, as well as hats. As planned, most of the homesteaders (about 100) were initially employed in the factory. The farm cooperative, owned and operated by the Jersey Homesteads Agricultural Association organized in 1936, included a dairy, poultry farm, and general-crop farm. The farms employed nine to thirteen homesteaders; contrary to the original plan to supply only the community, the agricultural cooperative developed as a commercial enterprise. A cooperative clothing store, grocery, and tea room completed the economic structure of the town.

Because of a combination of factors--including inexperienced management, differing goals and interests among the homesteaders, and an economic market not conducive to experimental enterprises--all of Jersey Homesteads' cooperatives soon failed. The factory and farms were sold in 1939 and 1940 respectively. A women's hat manufacturer subsequently owned the factory, followed by several light-manufacturing firms (it now houses a woodworking shop and studios). The farm cooperative was divided into five private farms, each cultivating approximately eighty acres, and three poultry farms, each with about

1400 chickens. All of the eight private farmers had been former operators of the cooperative. The three consumer cooperatives (clothing store, grocery, and tea room) continued to operate until the 1940's. The Federal Government continued to own the land and the houses, renting at \$14 to \$17 a month, until 1947 when the houses were sold to residents, thus liquidating the Government's investment in the community.

(2) Roosevelt's community plan remains physically intact with original buildings, public open space, and green belt. (See discussion on the plan's significance under COMMUNITY PLANNING.) Many of the other homesteads communities have lost important elements of their original plans and appearance, or have been annexed to neighboring municipalities, or have been severely altered by later development. When Jersey Homesteads became a borough with its own town government in 1937, it incorporated all of the original land area of the New Deal community, and municipal boundaries have remained unchanged to the present. (The borough name was changed in 1945 to honor the recently-deceased President.) Subsequent physical growth generally has conformed to the 1938 Zoning and Land Use Plan.

(3) Roosevelt was the only New Deal community to be settled by a homogeneous population of urban Jewish garment workers.

Social/Humanitarian

Although Roosevelt's political genesis was in the New Deal era, its social roots reach back into a long history of Jewish agricultural and industrial colonization in the

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 United States. Roosevelt is socially significant because of its ties to past efforts of Jewish immigrants in America to go on the land and to develop strong agricultural communities. As early as 1881, an agrarian group called Am Olam began establishing Jewish farm colonies. The first permanent Jewish agricultural settlement in the United States was founded in southern New Jersey at a place called Alliance. New Jersey became the locus of several enduring colonies started in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including those at Norma, Brotmanville, Carmel, Rosenhayn, Garten Road, Woodbine (Vineland), Bound Brook, and West Farms (Farmingdale). The Jewish Agricultural Society, set up in 1900 with funds from the Baron de Hirsch, was instrumental in the organization and finance of Jewish agricultural colonies. The society's advocacy of agro-industrial communities, decentralization of industry, and cooperatives provided ideological and practical precedents for the New Deal subsistence homesteads program.

Benjamin Brown, a well-known enthusiast of the cooperative movement, a Jewish immigrant from the Ukraine, and a New Jersey farmer, was the link between this history of Jewish agricultural colonization and the realization of Jersey Homesteads. He had long desired to establish cooperative agro-industrial communities for Jewish needleworkers from New York City. When the subsistence homesteads program was announced in 1933, he was ready with a specific back-to-the-land proposal for a community to be located near Hightstown, New Jersey (not far from his own farm). The objectives of the

experiment, as Brown outlined, were to "(1) establish a cooperatively owned and managed set of enterprises that were sufficiently large to provide practically all the members of the community with jobs; (2) decentralize a clothing factory; (3) develop subsistence gardening to enable industrial workers to supplement low cash income; and (4) create a social community that would be satisfying to its members." (Lord and Johnstone, p. 138.) With the acceptance of his ideas and political support from Washington, and with the determination of the Manhattan garment workers who rallied around his leadership, Benjamin Brown fathered Jersey Homesteads.

Benjamin Brown's central role in spearheading the Jersey Homesteads project was to influence the social and ethnic composition of the original population. He and Samuel Finklier, an official in the Division of Subsistence Homesteads, were primarily responsible for selecting the homesteaders. Out of over 800 applications, 120 families were selected based on the following criteria: union membership in good standing (if the family head was employed in the needle trades); sufficient occupational skills; understanding of cooperative enterprises and willingness to participate in them; evidence of responsible and well-managed family life; and \$500 cash to invest in the cooperative clothing factory. By and large, the chosen homesteaders shared a common background: most had worked in the clothing industry in New York City as cutters, binders, pressers, or operators, and most were members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. All of the original

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(Cont'd. from previous page) historic site

120 families were Jewish; approximately ninety percent were foreign-born, from Russia, Poland, Bulgaria, and Rumania. Furthermore, as the majority of the homesteaders were over thirty-five (80% of the men and 71% of the women) and had invested most or all of their life savings in the experiment, they had a strong personal commitment to the successful actualization of the project. During delays of over two years in constructing Jersey Homesteads, the chosen homesteaders showed their determination by organized insistence that the Government complete the project as planned. These families "regarded themselves, not as recipients of special Government aid, but as specially selected individuals ready to invest most of their savings (\$500 for each family) in a social experiment that was to serve as a guide for other groups of workers." (Lord and Johnstone, p. 146)

Due to the economic problems of the cooperative clothing factory in 1938 and its eventual failure in 1939, the Government had difficulty filling the approximately eighty remaining houses in the 198-unit community. Subsequently they were rented to families from the local area who were not participating in the original program of the Jersey Homesteads project, and this resulted in a more heterogeneous population after 1940. Today, few of the original homesteaders remain. But there are still a significant number (though less than one-third of the population of c. 850) who are "second generation" settlers who moved into Roosevelt in the 1940's and 1950's, or are descendants of the original homesteaders.

Community Planning

Roosevelt failed to find an existence as a cooperative colony as conceived by Benjamin Brown, or as a subsistence homesteads community as planned by M.L. Wilson, Rexford G. Tugwell, and other New Deal visionaries. Still, it indisputably survives as a significant example of community planning in the United States. In addition to those aspects of economic and social planning which relate to the subsistence homesteads program discussed above, Roosevelt can claim a place among a handful of American communities which approximate the Garden City idea as espoused by Ebenezer Howard of England. Unlike the model Garden Cities of Welwyn and Letchworth in England, Roosevelt is not a nucleated village with full community infrastructure. In form and function, it more closely resembles a "garden suburb." Furthermore, Roosevelt's land was never community-owned in toto, nor does its physical plan emphasize multi-family residential units, courtyards, or cul-de-sac street patterns. However, Roosevelt's plan contains strong Garden City idioms: the integration of residential units with community-owned open space and parks; the green belt of farm land and conservation areas; and the provision for decentralized industry, garden plots, and community services. The plan also exhibits "American" qualities in its amplitude of scale (particularly the half-acre house lots), the long Olmstedian strips of green space, and the invocation of the single or semidetached house as an ideal. The attention to pre-existing natural

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(Cont'd. from previous page) features (such as creeks and topography), the curvilinear street layout, and the careful siting of buildings in relation to one another and to the total plan are also elements of advanced community planning found in Roosevelt.

The English Garden Cities were well-known among New Deal planners and intellectuals, chiefly Rexford G. Tugwell (head of the Resettlement Administration), who believed in many of Ebenezer Howard's basic theories and who personally knew Raymond Unwin, English Garden City architect and spokesman. Tugwell had assigned a Technical Research Unit to study English housing and Garden Cities. He and his staff certainly influenced the physical form of Jersey Homesteads, but its over-all planning design is attributed to architect-planner Alfred Kastner (1901-75). After several plans for Jersey Homesteads had proved unsatisfactory, Kastner was asked in 1935 to supervise the design and construction of the project. Kastner's background made him well-suited for the job. Educated at the State University in Hamburg before emigrating to the United States in 1924, he was familiar with pioneering efforts in his native Germany to provide well-planned housing and communities for urban workers (such as Baumhof, Alfredshof, Margaretenhohe, and Ratshof). During his partnership in the 1930's with Oscar Stonorov (1903-70), German-born architect, city planner, and sculptor, Kastner was involved in the planning of several public housing projects. In 1934, for example, the firm designed the Carl Mackley Houses in Philadelphia, which were built for the Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers and which featured a cooperative nursery

school and a cooperative grocery.

There appears to be no direct correlation between Kastner's German background and his plan for Jersey Homesteads. Aside from the fact that German architects and planners were also advancing garden cities ideas, which were known and selectively employed by Parker, Unwin, and other English architects, there are no direct German planning precedents evident in Roosevelt's plan, which is clearly an American, suburban expression of the English Garden City Idea.

In addition to Roosevelt's national significance as a planned community, it also exists as an important twentieth century representative in New Jersey's planning history, which includes a wide range of communities such as the North American Phalanx, Llewellyn Park, Ocean Grove, the Jewish agricultural colonies mentioned above, Radburn, and others.

Architecture

While the physical elements of Roosevelt's plan are associated with the English Garden City Idea, the district's architectural significance stems from its modernist, Bauhaus-influenced buildings, and connection with the early work of one of America's foremost twentieth century architects, Louis I. Kahn (1901-70). Kahn served as Kastner's assistant on the Jersey Homesteads project; from 1935 to 1937 he was Assistant Principal Architect in the firm of Kastner and Stonorov. Although there were other preliminary proposals, including Tom Hibben's tamped-earth houses and Quentin Twahtman's unsuccessful prefabricated cement

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historic site

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houses, Louis Kahn is attributed with the eventual designs of the individual buildings. The houses, factory, and school are early, simple expressions of the International Style in the United States. Their compositions of juxtaposed recti-linear forms, with horizontal massing, open plans, and smooth exterior surfaces painted white, follow the stark, functional, unadorned modernist aesthetic. Although a number have undergone minor and major alterations (see Property Inventory), the architectural integrity of the district's original buildings is still apparent.

Roosevelt's houses, in particular, appeared quite futuristic in the 1930's, and their aesthetics and construction were the object of much

comment and criticism. While the house designs did not always appeal to the press, visitors to the community, or the inhabitants ("they give the impression of so many well-lighted commodious garages," wrote the Saturday Evening Post in 1938), the designers' choice of Bauhaus-influenced architecture for Jersey Homesteads must have seemed appropriate to the experimental nature and underlying principles of the original community. Modern architecture, in the view of its early adherents, especially in Germany, was not only to fulfill the functional needs of the twentieth century but also to assume a social role in bringing about a reformed and collective society.

(To be continued)

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Police blotter

During the last week of October 1983 there was an attempted burglary of a Lake Drive Single Family residence. The alleged perpetrator/s had cut the screen on a rear kitchen window in an attempt to gain entry into the residence; however, nothing of value was taken.

Between November 11 and 13, 1983 a North Valley Road home was burglarized by an unknown method, and the perpetrator/s sought only monetary items. The owner of the home was on vacation during this period.

During the first week of December a borough home was vandalized by juveniles who broke windows on a single family home. Three juveniles are suspected, and complaints will be signed by Tpr. Dave Williams; however, the names cannot be released due to the confiden-

tiality of juvenile cases.

Between December 12 and 13 a Pine Drive family had a 20" Kia bicycle, red in color with high handle bars, stolen out of their driveway. Case is still under investigation at this time.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT THE BARRACKS (448-0073) ABOUT ALL SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES AND PERSONS SEEN IN THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH AREA. IF POSSIBLE WRITE DOWN A LICENSE PLATE OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE VEHICLE OR PERSON. ALL INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND COULD BE HELPFUL IN CUTTING DOWN THE LIKELIHOOD OF CRIMES BEING COMMITTED IN TOWN. REMEMBER TO CONTACT THE BARRACKS OR A TRUSTED NEIGHBOR WHEN GOING ON VACATION SO AN EXTRA EYE CAN BE KEPT ON YOUR HOMES.

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TEENS

Young adults, do you babysit, mow or rake lawns, shovel driveways, or do any other odd job? Would you like to get paid for one of these jobs? If you are a teenager in Roosevelt, and you would like your name on this odd job list, call Debbie Nahmias, 443-5290.



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Mycologists have more fungi

by Rod Tulloss

Starting in late June, mushrooms begin to appear in great variety in the Pine Barrens. No one has attempted a scientific survey of the fungi in New Jersey since 1904. No one has ever made a study of the fungi of the Pine Barrens. Glassboro State College will host the 1984 Northeast Mycological Foray (NEMP). Recently folks in Roosevelt have been looking for some interesting alternative activities: Something New To Do. Here's an idea.

Beginning with a small group we could organize a series of mushroom collecting trips beginning in June and culminating in participation in the NEMP at Glassboro. Amateur mycology (the study of fungi) is open to a wide range of levels of interest. You can go for the walk. You can learn to collect for the table. You can do it for photography or watercolor painting. You can do it for science--if you're the meticulous type that would like to measure spores that are a few millionths of a meter in length and width or would like to see the many bizarre and beautiful microscopic structures that make up the fungi.

Kids who are old enough to walk for an hour or two at a stretch and keep alert to what they might step on before they do step on it...and adults who meet the same criteria...would be properly qualified participants.

We needn't wait until Spring to get started. Field identification can be learned to some degree from books and colored slides. There are New Jersey Mycological Society activities on weekends that

we could attend by carpooling to Somerset County Environmental Education Center. I have a large library and slide collection that could be used. We could talk about related projects (such as learning about microscope techniques) which would provide the opportunity for participants in the proposed "Roosevelt Mushroom Group" to read up on some subject at the library and present it to the others in the group. There are lots of possibilities.

For RPS and high school kids who want increased exposure to science without grades, but with an opportunity to go as deep as they personally want to go into the subject, here is one opportunity. 4-H-ers may want to try growing mushrooms at home---you can grow varieties that you can't get fresh in the stores! Boy Scouts could use mushrooming activities to satisfy requirements 2 and 3 of the Environmental Science merit badge--one of the badges required for Eagle.

There are lots of other interesting questions to check out: How old are the fungi? Are there fossil fungi? What is a species? What is the history of using fungi for medicine (for example, penicillin)? How do you get a whole mushroom in focus when you take a close up picture? How can a home computer be applied to Botany? What are some good Medieval recipes for mushrooms? What's the best mushroom cookbook? Why were many of the first American mycologists travelling clergymen? Are there any mushrooms still undescribed to science?


(Cont'd. on next page)

Mycologists

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(Yes! and some of them are in the Pine Barrens.)

I'm pretty sure that I could count on Mark (age 14) and David (age 11) Tulloss to help with field trips; they know quite a bit about mushroom collecting in New Jersey. If you'd be interested in helping to organize a mushrooming club in Roosevelt, call me (Rod Tulloss) at 448-5096.

A
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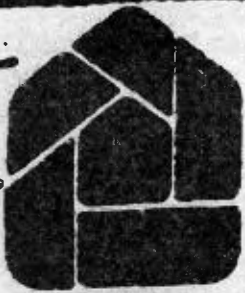
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	Debbie Metzger	448-3759	84
	Howard Chasan	448-2062	85
	Bernard Leefer	443-6009	84
	Carol Watchler	443-6540	86
	Louis Esakoff	448-3166	86

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Public Safety	Metzger, Counterman, Chasan
Streets and Roads	Counterman, Leefer, Watchler
Recreation & Culture	Watchler, Metzger, Esakoff
Public Property & Cemetery	Leefer, Esakoff, Chasan

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2	Peter Berlinrut	84	Diana Mueller	86
3	Louis Esakoff	84	George Levenson	85
4	Aaron Datz	87 (4 Yrs.)	Judith Goetzmann	84
4	Mel Friedman	85 "	Timothy Hartley	84
4	Lynn Frank	84 "	Harold Haught	87
4	Ralph Seligman	86 "	Jonathan Shahn	87
(Alt)	Connie Herrstrom	84	Frieda Anish (Alt. 1)	85
2(Alt)	Virginia Edwards	85	David Leff (Alt. 2)	84

<u>Board of Park Commissioners (3 Yrs)</u>		<u>Welfare Board</u>		<u>(4 Yrs)</u>
	Bernarda Shahn	85	Peggy Malkin (Director)	85
	Jessica Winslow	85	Louis Esakoff	85
	Peter Berlinrut	84	John Grauel	84
	Carol Watchler	86	Jeannette Koffler	84
	David Vitolo	86	Edwin Schmalzbach	87

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

by A. Weiner

Mayor Freda Hepner, at the opening meeting of the Borough Council on January 10, 1984, described the aim of local government to be to solve municipal problems as fairly as possible. This statement was made in the course of public discussion of the issue of preferential rates of \$15.00 per month for water/sewer service for occupants of the Solar Housing development as against \$30.00 for all other residents. She strongly supported the opinion, expressed by other Council members as well, that though the Borough had no special obligation toward the independent and privately-run project, the municipality should nevertheless help it to succeed.

In the discussion, residents Dave Bulkin and Paul Eichler had expanded on a written communication to the effect that the 50% reduction in fee for water usage was discriminatory and in violation of the Council's commitment that the Senior Citizens' project would not entail any cost to the borough. The new Finance Committee chair, Lou Esakoff, and Mayor Hepner replied that the Council has already taken steps to review the matter with the new Borough attorney since a question of procedural legality had also arisen. "Give us time to consult and we will try to do the fair thing," said Ms. Hepner. Councilman Chasan made the point that the only truly fair method would be to meter actual usage for every household and charge accordingly. Although this was acknowledged to be true, the Mayor reminded the group that to activate the

meter system would require an initial outlay of \$25,000.

Again in connection with the Senior Housing project, the Council passed a motion (with H. Chasan dissenting) to acquire three-fifths of an acre of land at a cost of \$2000.00 to fulfill the projected extension of Farm Lane across Valley Road. This purchase will ease traffic and parking problems in the area.

Councilman Counterman noted that new snow removal arrangements with Galliker Co. were generally satisfactory but will need further refinements in the future. Residents are reminded of the ordinance forbidding cars to be parked in the street during a snowfall. Future violations will be met with the towing away of every car found on the street regardless of location in the borough.

A change in another parking ordinance was adopted which requires "no parking" in place of "emergency parking" in front of Borough Hall, a change which will be strictly enforced to insure free movement of First Aid and Fire Co. equipment at all times. Better access to Borough Hall for the handicapped will be provided by repavement of the ramp leading from the parking lot.

During December the Borough Council investigated various plans and bids to deal with the garbage collection crisis arising from increased landfill fees. The outcome was a contractual arrangement with Atlantic Sanitation Co. for one collection per week with no mandatory recycling provisions. The contractor declined to offer any gainful reductions regarding recyclable materials.

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COUNCIL


(Cont'd. from previous page)

Other items of business concluded at the January meeting include the following actions:

- To set up a Citizens Cable-TV Committee
- To cover the cost of a course in Municipal Finance for the Borough Clerk
- To appoint the Mayor as Community Development representative
- To pay a new water/sewer collector a salary of \$1200 per year
- To authorize Jersey Central Power and Light Co. to install three street lamps on Cemetery Road
- To allow a group of Rutgers students access to factory grounds for a landscaping study, with the consent of the occupants.
- Ordinance 52-4 was introduced which requires a minimal designation of a burial site by a marker or monument of some sort. Its purpose is to demarcate a used area to avoid possible difficulty and confusion in locating an interment.

On January 2, as many as one hundred residents of Roosevelt turned out for the inauguration of new officials and to offer appreciation for past service. The rites of passage were marked by an award to Ex-Mayor Barth of a Stefan Martin print and the administration of the oath of office to Mayor Freda Hepner and other newly elected officials. Speeches were given and cheered all around. Music and refreshments were in abundance thanks to the home-baking efforts of Frieda Anish and her committee. A general sentiment clearly prevailed that this was a meet

and happy way to express our respect for and confidence in popular community government. Our gratitude to the Citizens' Group, chiefly Peter Warren and Leslie Weiner for the inspiration and organization of this event, which, it is hoped, will become a local tradition.



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Roosevelt Community and School CalendarFEBRUARY 1984

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 2 | Thursday, 10-11 a.m. | Exercise class - Borough Hall |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Senior Citizens' meeting -
Borough Hall |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Fire Co. meeting - Borough Hall |
| 6 | Monday, 8:00 p.m. | Deborah meeting - Borough Hall |
| | | Council Agenda meeting -
Borough Hall |
| 7 | Tuesday, 10-11 a.m. | Exercise class - Borough Hall |
| 8 | Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. | Council meeting - Borough Hall |
| 9 | Thursday, 10-11 a.m. | Exercise class - Borough Hall |
| | 5-9 p.m. | Blood Drive - Borough Hall |
| 13 | Monday, 8:00 p.m. | Council special meeting -
intro of budget - Borough
Hall |
| 14 | Tuesday | Valentine's Day |
| | 10-11 a.m. | Exercise class - Borough Hall |
| 16 | Thursday, 10-11 a.m. | Exercise class - Borough Hall |
| | | Boy Scouts - Borough Hall |
| 20 | Monday | President's Day |
| 21 | Tuesday, 10-11 a.m. | Exercise class - Borough Hall |
| | | Food Co-op - Borough Hall |
| 23 | Thursday, 10-11 a.m. | Exercise class - Borough Hall |
| 28 | Tuesday, 10-11 a.m. | Exercise class - Borough Hall |
| | | First Aid - Borough Hall |

Inch by Inch*January thoughts*

by M.J. Berlinrut

It is traditional for a garden-writer in January to do either a piece on houseplants or a survey of the new catalogues now coming out. I shall do neither. Houseplants I decided to cut back on when last year they threatened to take over the house. Except for five I've nursed from infancy through many winters that have now arrived at the status of family members: an avocado grown from a pit now so tall I had to chop its top off; a jade plant given me as a tiny rooted cutting many years ago that, having been repotted several times, now boasts a trunk 5 inches in circumference; a rex begonia already a permanent fixture in this house when I came into it; a gardenia and a Christmas cactus both bought at post-season sales for a quarter each, both virtually dead but having responded to good doses of TLC. (The cactus blooms heartily every Thanksgiving and the gardenia perfumes the house gloriously starting about late February.) To these has been added an enormous gift poinsettia which fills our new bay window with its bold pure crimson, leaving just enough space for the cat to take her ease in the morning sun. Window sills? They belong entirely to the cat who indifferently knocks off anything interfering with her comfort. Therefore, this past fall

with grim determination I hardened my heart and left to the frost all the lesser things I normally pot up and bring in for cuttings. Instead, I'll buy such replacements as I need come spring.

As for catalogues, they're a snare for the unwary. I always buy more than I can possibly use and wind up with many packets of seed either half used or unopened. Though I carefully store them for the next season, when the time comes I always forget them or can't find them. This year, I tell myself sternly, I'll not even look at the catalogues--well, maybe just a peek, at the pictures--I'll buy seeds and started plants when I know exactly what I need. And, remembering last spring's frustrations, when I've got the ground ready to receive them.

So what, then, am I left with? Winter itself. And birds. And this winter there's a lot of both to write about. We have two feeders, one in a tree outside the bay window in the front, one outside an upstairs window in the back. Each holds a couple of quarts or more of seed but there are enough customers to empty both every couple of days, more often when the weather is severe. I find these notes in my journal:

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve:
Temperature plummeting after

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January

(Cont'd. from previous page)

last night's light snow, 8 degrees by early afternoon. Birds flocking to the feeders filled midday (with sunflower seed, unmixed) and eaten half-way down by dusk. For the insect, fruit, and ground feeders, put out peanut butter with chopped peanuts mixed in, cut-up apple, overripe banana, cheese parings, dry oatmeal and all table scraps--peanut butter in holes drilled in a sawn-off log, the rest scattered on the ground. The birds come in hordes, seventeen varieties I counted, including as many as 20 or more each, house finches and evening grosbeaks. Pigs they are, not birds, and scrappy. One stranger -- all over olive-greenish head, bright rusty orange-yellow breast (what is it? nearest thing in the book is a female northern oriole but wing bars and some other markings don't match), went avidly for apple and peanut butter only to be set upon and chased away by the starlings. There is no amiable sharing in the bird kingdom. The finches fight each other for position at the feeder, the big fat yellow grosbeaks fight everybody off, then, momentarily sated, disappear all at once in a swirl as suddenly as they came. Only the chickadees and titmice are mannerly--they grab one seed at a time and fly off to a nearby branch where holding it in their feet against the branch they hammer its hard shell open with their bills to get the kernel. (I should think that would hurt?) Back and forth they come till they get enough to sustain them. It takes a lot of fuel to keep these little birds alive at these temperatures.

Christmas morning: Temperature at 7 a.m. stands at 2 above. Squirrel at upstairs feeder. When I drew the blinds he didn't budge, squatting determinedly on the sill shovelling it in. Read in "Science" magazine recently that hibernating mammals go into deep hibernation in 14 day cycles between which they rouse and wander about for 12-24 hours. This, however, was no day to venture forth. Dummy! But the rate he's chomping, I'd guess he'll sleep right through his next waking period. All goodies thrown on the ground yesterday gone...replenished. I try to count them but give up, they dart about so fast. The cat sits in the bay window, counting too. Or has she some less scientific thought in mind? Probably, but no wish apparently to carry it further. Besides the winter usuals there's a female towhee and a cedar waxwing neither of which should be here this time of year. Hope they don't come to grief like my mystery bird which I found frozen on the ground. Poor pretty thing! I put it in the freezer in the hope someone can identify it later.

December 31: Clear and somewhat warmer, up to 10! Ice sheathes the twigs and branches of the thickets and small trees along the edge of the field opposite. Glistens in the pale morning sun. Frost pictures on the windows, not like those when I was little. They were real sweeping landscapes with hills and valleys, little fences dividing them, distinct edging of trees and woods along the hilltops--I could imagine walking in them. These today are more like thick rubbery

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January

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undersea plants. We didn't have double glazing then and I suppose the heat loss through the single pane led somehow to more interestingly detailed pictures. What we did have, though--and I wish they'd come back--were shutters, movable shutters with movable slats that could be cranked from the inside to close over the glass. They could be closed all the way flat across the window or so the two panels just met leaving a triangular opening top and bottom. The slats could be opened or closed too. Thus even in summer they were useful since cranked across the windows, you could have the window open in a storm and still have plenty of air without the rain coming in.

Now we are well into January.

So far the month has been very Januaryish, dark, dull, no lift for the spirit out there. Russell Baker in his January 1st column said: "If January comes, can spring be far behind? Indeed it can, exactly two months and 21 days behind!" To which I add another old saw: As the days begin to lengthen, the cold begins to strengthen. With both these in mind, it's nevertheless hard not to take heart with the passing of each January day. There will come a day when suddenly one is aware of a change in the quality of the light and a certainty that, yes, the days are getting longer. Even if the cold does strengthen, it sits less heavy on us. Cold is not so penetrating when the skies are bright.



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To Health**School lunch: a no win approach to life?**

by Becky Russell

Nutritional abuse of children is a subtle form of child abuse.

--Sara Sloan

The purpose of a school lunch is to nourish minds and bodies, not just fill bellies and satisfy taste buds. Children might be happy eating only ice cream and cake, but that doesn't mean we should serve it to them. It is the job of parents, teachers and schools to teach children the kind of food their bodies need, and the best way to teach is by example. School lunches and home meals are setting that example. It is irresponsible to neglect the teaching potential of school lunches, because what children learn to eat affects their health for the rest of their lives.

In November I observed the lunch periods at Roosevelt Public School to learn firsthand the quality of the food the children eat there. My initial concern was the hot lunch that the school provides, but after seeing what children are bringing to school with them I realize that as bad as the hot meal is, it may be superior to what is in some brown bags! Ingredient labels for the hot lunches reveal white flour, sugar, hydrogenated fats, imitation "cheese," chemical preservatives, artificial coloring and a variety of non-nutritive fillers. This food is fortified with vitamins and minerals but the label does not state the amounts, and the minerals are in an inorganic form that is poorly absorbed.

The chocolate milk contains substances that can make calcium unavailable, so it is a potential source of expensive dental problems, and the monthly menu that the school publishes shows much repetition and only sporadic use of green and yellow vegetables.

On the other hand, brown bag lunches contained few fruits or vegetables, and most used white bread and a high proportion of other empty foods such as doughnuts, pretzels, potato chips, cookies and sodas. The few nutritious foods left hardly comprised an adequate lunch. Even if these lunches are supplying one third of the United States Recommended Daily Allowance for all nutrients, individual needs vary and can exceed USRDAs and four-food-groups guidelines, so the diet should surpass these standards, not just meet them. And the four-food-groups idea is too general since it does not specify food quality. This makes it essential that parents take greater care in nourishing their children.

Some people complain that better quality foods are too expensive, but that is not always so. Convenience is more expensive than quality, and there are hidden costs in the standard lunch program and lunchbox meal. Many doctor and dentist bills result from poor eating habits, and learning disabilities and behavioral problems are often diet related. Special education can cost thousands of extra dollars per student, and

(Cont'd. on next page)

School lunch

(Cont'd. from previous page)
troublemakers can disrupt classrooms and interfere with learning, which wastes money that taxpayers think the school is using wisely. So we can play the odds that diet has nothing to do with education--and pay later if we are wrong--or we can simply feed our children right. It is not too expensive at all.

An alternative school lunch is easy if enough parents and teachers decide to make it work. Many other schools are instituting successful lunch programs fashioned after the Nutra Lunch of Fulton County Schools in Georgia. These schools make use of federally donated foods such as brown rice, nonfat dry milk, oatmeal and bulgur; they buy from local farmers, and they order bulk foods from natural foods distributors such as the one that supplies the Roosevelt co-op. We can do all of that too--the USDA publishes a farmer's market bulletin, and we can hold fund-raising drives to help pay for the proper lunchroom facilities. Children need a midday meal, and the school has a room for that purpose. We can no more debate whether we shall provide a good lunch than we can bicker about supplying heating oil or textbooks. Proper nutrition is necessary to implement education, and parents have delegated that responsibility to the school.

Even if we do not improve the school lunch program, parents certainly can provide better bag lunches and snacks. With the proper approach, you can teach your children to like good food. Gradually introduce more nutritious foods--for example half whole wheat, half white bread. Con-

centrate on eye and taste appeal and give innovative names to foods. Encourage children to participate as much as possible in the growing and preparation of food; children often will eat anything that they prepare themselves. Be creative with lunches: whole wheat pita (pocket) bread with tuna or egg salad and sprouts, peanut butter mixed with non-fat dry milk and raisins and rolled in seeds or sugarless granola, carrot and celery sticks with a tofu or bean dip, thermoses of hot vegetable soup or spiced apple cider--the list is the size of your imagination.

Despite its limitations, the school also can do much more to teach better eating habits. There should be a policy concerning classroom snacks. Several teachers have tried to make children more aware of nutrition (and minimize behavioral problems as well) by prohibiting sugary snacks. But the following year a different teacher would not set such standards, making what the children learned appear arbitrary and obsolete. And some parents objected to these restrictions--they did not understand that they were for the well-being of their children. This indicates a need for nutritional education for parents and teachers, and we could accomplish that by holding a "nutrition awareness day" with speakers and demonstrations, and finding out about adult nutrition course offerings. In addition to a snack policy, children could learn by doing with such classroom projects as growing sprouts or planning a community garden and tending it throughout the season. These things are

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instructive and enable students to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

So consider whether school lunches and home meals are protecting health or undermining it, promoting learning or hindering it. Like it or not, we are biological creatures and bad eating habits are a NO WIN approach to life. Serving poor quality food indicates to what extent we care for our children, so let us serve them the best. Our future depends on it.

CORRECTION

Louis Esakoff served 2 terms on the Borough Council (6 years and a few months), not one, as reported in the last issue.

Editors

CABLE T.V.

The Storer Cable TV Co. has installed the machinery enabling Roosevelt residents to subscribe to their service, as per the 1983 agreement with the Borough Council. Some Rooseveltians have already subscribed and more may decide to in the future.

Because cable television companies are not bound by F.C.C. regulations yet, many municipalities, including Hightstown and East Windsor, have established Cable TV Citizen's Advisory Committees. It seems wise for Roosevelt to follow this practice, at least for the first two years. Committee members would serve as liason between Council, subscribers and Storer Cable to ensure contractual compliance. They would establish mutually agreed upon guidelines for service on all levels.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please leave your name with Pat Antosky at the Borough Hall. Thank you.

Freda Hepner



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NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS

All dogs 7 months or older must be re:licensed in the month of January for the year of 1984. Any license you may now have expires December 31, 1983.

You may obtain a license in either of the following two ways.

1. Come to the Borough Hall between January 1 and January 31, 1984, Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring:

A. Your dog's rabies vaccination certificate.

B. Proof of sterilization from a veterinarian

C. The fee of \$5.00 for a sterilized dog or \$8.00 for an unsterilized dog.

2. You may obtain your dog's license by mail. Send:

A. Your dog's rabies vaccination certificate.

B. Description of dog and your phone no. Age, sex, coloring.

C. Statement from a veterinarian saying dog has been spayed or neutered (no matter what age the dog is, this is needed).

D. Check to the Borough of Roosevelt in the amount of:

e. \$5.00 for a sterilized dog.

f. \$8.00 for an unsterilized dog.

Please take notice, the extra three dollar fee for dogs that are not sterilized is mandated by the state and a charge we have no control over.

Take Warning

According to Roosevelt's Dog Ordinance 22-6, all owners of unlicensed dogs are subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 90 days, or both. This ordinance also provides for a one dollar a month penalty for each month a dog is not licensed.

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ROOSEVELT RESIDENTS GROUP

by Andrew Hazell

A while back people in town were invited to attend a gathering at the Borough Hall to discuss the various problems that the town was facing. The particular concern at that meeting was the problems that our children had, or were creating. Many things were suggested as possible solutions (or aids to a solution) at the original meeting, one of which was to form some type of parents group.

THIS IS IT!

A few (about ten I think) of us met on Monday, November 28th each with ideas of what could, or should be done. What resulted was the idea that, although we had all got together because we thought our kids needed help, it was also true that we needed help ourselves. This idea came about from many sources, one of which was the desire, not only to improve our relationship with our own kids, but to improve our relationship with other people's kids, and in their turn, for them to better understand our kids. For this to be achieved we had first to learn to communicate adequately with ourselves and with each other.

Learning how to communicate however, could not be the total answer to the problems that had brought us together. The group also felt that some type of Network or organization, that could give support to people when those people needed it (as opposed to when some other professional group or agency could fit the people into their already full schedule), would also help those of us under

stress. This idea was later expanded to include some type of long term support.

The meeting ended after adopting the following aims:-

1. To improve communication skills, with ourselves and with each other.

2. To offer immediate emotional support to anyone under stress.

3. To offer long term support to individuals and families, to assist them in solving their own problems.

Subsequent meetings will be reported on in later issues of the Roosevelt Bulletin.

YOUR INPUT, TO THIS PROJECT IS BOTH DESIRED AND NEEDED.

CLORA ADLERMAN

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THE NEWCOMERS - PART I

by Peter Warren

Who are these pleasant people whom we smile at when we meet them at the Post Office but whom we can't quite put a name to? The people who have moved in during the past year or so - what are they like, and why did they pick Roosevelt (of all places) for their new home? Let's meet some of them. We'll start (in this issue) with newcomers who already had family ties in town, and then go on to chat with other homeowners, renters (but not 'a boarder by a renter'), and residents of the Senior Citizen Solar project.

Allison moved back because it was Bob who fell in love with Roosevelt. She was Allison Edwards and grew up here - loved it as a kid, felt trapped as a teen ager. At the University of Pennsylvania, she majored in Classics and did graduate work in Medieval Studies. She taught Latin for nine years (anyone want to get together for a Latin class?). Three years ago she married Bob Petrilla. Bob had majored in Philosophy at Thiel. Then, among other professional interests, he was a staff member of the Bucks County Planning Board for eight years - Bob has read our Master Plan with a practiced eye - and speaks warmly of the innovative planning carried out by the Board, which has received national recognition.

When the married couple came back to visit Ginny Edwards, Bob immediately liked what he calls the "sense of place," the intimate scale of Roosevelt, the mix of age groups, so unlike the typical development. He liked the "creative cottage industries" and the lack of pressure to "be like everyone else" or to keep up with the

neighbors. Now they have lived in Roosevelt a little over a year. They have their own rare book business: selling, appraising. They like the proximity of Roosevelt to New York and Philadelphia and its separation from the urban conglomerations. They enjoy the sense of community, and particularly the gatherings, such as the Art Show and the Mayor's Inaugural. If they regret anything, it is that Roosevelt is no longer as secure as in the old days.

Mary Ann Henderson is the "unknown child" in a photograph published in the Bulletin a few years back. The child was the daughter of the Monks. She left Roosevelt after High School. First her sister, now Nancy Warnick, moved back, then Mary Ann, who had always wanted to come back, did. She came back last summer with her husband Ray, to whom she has been married 7 years, and their daughter who is in kindergarten. Mary Ann thinks that for most people, it is awkward when they first move into a community, as she felt when she moved to Virginia, and that it would be important for Roosevelt to have some organization along the lines of a "welcome wagon." But she admits that she and Ray have been too busy to take part in such a project. They both work; Ray is an auto body man, and Mary Ann works at McGraw-Hill, and their free time has been taken up - as with many newcomers - in improving their house. She hasn't had time to look up old friends or to register to vote. For a hobby, she used to raise rabbits and now has a goat. Ray's hobby is horse racing. Mary Ann finds Roosevelt "virtually unchanged" from her childhood. Very

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friendly, like a family. She can't think of anything she dislikes about the town.

Sam Adlerman, he says, "never left home." This is not literally true. Sam did attend Lehigh University in 1978, studying government and business, and meeting Pat Hess in Bethlehem. They came back to Roosevelt last summer, and Sam is now managing the East Brunswick branch of the family travel business, while Pat is a nurses' aide and shop steward at Meadow Lakes. They came back because Sam thinks Roosevelt is a great place for kids - in this case, Pat's four year old son, Joshua. He has not yet had time to think about community affairs, between being involved with his family and work, and his new membership in the Knights of Pythias. They watch Dynasty and talk about gardening. What Sam likes best about Roosevelt is the people - what he likes least are rumors, but he accepts them as an aspect of human nature, and thinks Roosevelt is a "great place to live."

Ani and Bill Leech represent the continuing artistic tradition. Ani Roskam left 17 years ago at the age of 15, to attend the Tyler School of Arts in Philadelphia. She met Bill Leech, who came from a small town in Kansas, at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine in 1973, and they married 10 years later. The Skowhegan School, through the affiliation of the Shahn's, has a relation to Roosevelt. Ani is employed by the Princeton architect, Michael Graves, and will be shortly going to Frankfort with him to work on the painting of one of his buildings. Before returning to Roosevelt, she lived in Boston

for 8 years, working in art restoration and teaching painting. She currently is the recipient of a grant from the New Jersey Council of the Arts. Bill graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute and exhibits at the Betsey Van Buren Gallery. He supplements their income as a house painter. Both of them devote their free time to painting. It was Bill who saw in Roosevelt the kind of place he had grown up in; Ani found it harder to come back to, but took for granted that it would be as great as when she was a kid. They found Boston both expensive and rough, with break-ins and tough teenagers, and New York too expensive for young artists. What would they like here? A place where painters and their friends could congregate. The European cafe.

Dan Solomon's father Joe (you know his column in the Bulletin) has lived here for several years, so when Daya (Compassion in Sanskrit), Dan's wife started studying lay midwifery in New York, Dan transferred from RCA in Moorestown to Hightstown and they settled here, liking the rural surroundings and quiet streets. As Dan says, "You can stand in your driveway and look at the stars." Dan works on satellite design - attitude control. He studied mathematics at Rutgers and then at Wisconsin, where he got his MA and met Daya. She was studying movement therapy - an adjunct to psychotherapy to help people who can't express their emotions verbally. She has broadened this interest with studies of stress reduction, yoga and nutrition, to which natural childbirth and hence midwifery are related. They have rented a house from a doctor who grew up in Roosevelt and who plans to return for

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NEWCOMERS

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retirement. What with re-
pairing damage done by the
previous tenant, and awaiting
the birth of their baby next
month, their first month in
Roosevelt has kept them
occupied. But they are plan-
ning their garden and might
be interested in joining a
newcomers' group. What don't
they like? The garbage in the
woods!

SENIOR CITIZENS' MEETING -
JANUARY 5, 1984

by Helga Wisowaty

Ms. Golden of the Office of
Aging in Freehold came to
assist some of our members to
fill out forms for PAA, etc.
Transportation was spoken about.
There is a need for transporta-
tion to doctors' appointments
for members who do not have
cars. Ms. Golden promised to
do her best to help us. Dues
were paid at this meeting and
officers were elected for
this year. Esther Pogrebin
will serve as President;
Min Wind is first Vice-
President; Jeannette Koffler is
second Vice-President; Helga
Wisowaty is Secretary; Faye
Libove is Treasurer. Paul
Corman and Ethel Salmonsohn will
be Hospitality Chairmen; Lena
Segal and Esther Gelman will
be coordinators at the Senior
Housing project. A corresponding
secretary will be appointed
later in the year.

Jeannette told us that we
are invited to an afternoon at
Convention Hall in Asbury Park.
Lunch will be served and a band
will play. This takes place
on February 1 -- storm date is
February 29. This is on a
Wednesday and is free of charge.
Reservations must be made by
January 20.

In February Ilse Reisinfield
will attend and will bring a
group to perform for a musical
afternoon.

In March Esther Pogrebin
will ask Dolores Chasan to get
a movie for us.

Refreshments were served by
Lena Segal and Ethel Salmonsohn
and everything was enjoyed by
all.



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Love of Words**A polyglot pile of preposterous puns**

by Josef G. Solomon

You lucky people! You are about to receive a column that should really please you. It has the following highly desirable attributes:

1. It consists entirely of puns.
2. None of the puns will be explained.
3. Each of the puns involves at least a few words of at least one foreign language. They are, of course, the key to the pun.
4. None of the foreign words is translated.

You'll love it--especially if you're inclined to be masochistic.

Greek and French

Several years ago, I discovered a small deli whose owner made sandwiches and salad for the lunch trade. She made a Greek salad that was really nice. I made the tactical error of telling my colleagues at work about it, with the result that she was too busy at lunch-time to make a salad for me. She did suggest a solution to the problem: Call first, and order one. So I did, from then on. And, thereafter, when I walked in the door, she would confront me with a feta accompi.

Spanish

Some years ago, I taught at a state college. As is well known, nobody goes into college teaching for the money--although many leave it for the money. Inasmuch as we taught day and evening classes, some of the faculty brown-bagged supper. One of my friends, a professor of Spanish, remarked to me one evening, "My wife must think

we're rich. She didn't pack supper for me tonight." I replied, "Pero estamos profesores." He corrected me immediately: "Somos." I hadn't set this up, honest, but I gelefully replied, "Ojala!" (And I was right, because we have both left teaching.)

Yiddish

How do you say in Yiddish, "You left your horseradish at my house"? Answer: "Bei mir host du chrayn."

Greek and Italian

It's been almost twenty years, now, but I provoked a burst of laughter from a Greek friend of mine by referring to a certain chamber music group as "I Psolisti di Zagreb".

Spanish

Que animal es el mas perezoso del mundo?
El pez.
Porque?
Que hace el pez todo el dia?
Nada

Latin

Years ago, a friend had a vasectomy, in the days when that operation was still unusual. Some months later, I was talking to his wife on the phone, and asked her to ask her husband whether the operation had made a vas deferens in his life. Misunderstanding, she turned and called to him, "Joe Solomon wants to know whether the operation has made a vast difference in your life." Inasmuch as she had mentioned my name, he figured out what I must have said and I could hear him laughing.

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(Cont'd. from previous page) **puns**

French

(Note: This is actually a rebus. I hope that helps.)
Once, in Paris, a man was in a bistro with several of his friends. He straightened out a napkin, and on it he wrote:

G a
When his friends had figured it out, they saluted his ingenuity by taking him to dinner.

Yiddish

How would you describe in Yiddish a turkey farm that had only hens? Answer: Es hot nisht kayn Tom.

Spanish

A Hispanic who spoke no English was trying to buy a pair of socks, but the clerk spoke no Spanish. Realizing their total inability to talk to each other, the clerk took the customer by the arm, gestured all around the store, and they started walking together. Finally, the customer saw some socks, and said triumphantly, "Eso si que es!" The clerk responded, "Well, why didn't you spell it in the first place?"

French and Spanish

On a windy day, a Frenchman and a Spaniard were walking down the sidewalk. An attractive girl was walking toward them. They watched her, of course. All of a sudden, a gust of wind blew her skirt high. The Frenchman said, "C'est la vie!" The Spaniard said, "Se la vi tambien!" (Here's the only clue you're going to get: They're pronounced the same.)

French

On my first day at a new job, my boss handed me a two-page computer listing. It was the listing of a program written by an outside consultant. There was no documentation to explain the program, and the consultant was no longer available. I could not penetrate the program, and was moderately upset--after all, my first assignment. Fortunately, I discovered that the consultant was someone I had known in graduate school. I hadn't seen him in years, but I called, and described my predicament. He was sympathetic, but couldn't do much to help me, because he had written the program more than a year earlier, and didn't remember it any more. After pointing out several reasons why it would be a difficult assignment for me, he summed up by saying, "The problem they have given you is akin to solving the Rosetta Stone." I immediately said, "In that case, what I must do is appuyer sur le Champollion." He burst out laughing. I have since then told that joke to several carefully selected people--natives of France, or at least people who were fluent in French. Nobody else has gotten it. Depressing.

French

Quand vous avez une rendez-vous avec une femme, arrivez au premier. Il ne faut pas faire la femme attendre. On peut dire, c'est une "faut pas".

Spanish

Cuántas gotas tiene el mar? Cincuenta.
(Hint: Say it slowly.)

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A TRUANCY PROBLEM IN ROOSEVELT?

Concern has been voiced by several residents regarding truancy, particularly among our high school students. The Bulletin editors have interviewed Dr. Stanley Sussman, R.P.S. principal, and Lynn Friedman, school attendance officer, and have learned:

* There is no problem of truancy in the elementary school.

* Lateness at R.P.S. is a problem, new this year. It is handled by having the child who comes late make up the time missed. This has been successful in reducing lateness. Recurrent, even everyday, lateness, is handled on an individual basis, in conferences with the parents, and if needed, with the school social worker, Ann Hogue.

* Some reported instances of truancy of high school students are not truancy at all. A child seen in town during usual school hours may have been suspended from school, or may go to an off campus school with differing hours. In some instances the child may have a changed program with changed hours to meet special needs, known to the parents and the school.

* A child reported "chased" from the Roosevelt Deli was later delivered to the school by Ms. Friedman. On occasion she has also delivered students who were late for the bus and decided to stay home for the day.

* Many courses of action are open to the attendance officer in cases of truancy. Home visits are made, and the parents involved in discussion. If the parents are not cooperative, and it is a

recurring problem, the police may be called. Parents of a student under 18 may be taken to court. Stiff fines, up to \$100 per day may be levied by the court. Students over 18 are themselves taken to court.

* Dr. Sussman and Ms. Friedman urge that people notify the school about students who seem to be truants. The school will immediately investigate and take appropriate action.



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Movie reviews

by Neil R. Selden

The Big Chill Utterly charming, hilarious, tear-provoking if not thought-provoking, and studded with radiant performances, this remarkable pearl of a film--one discovers only when released from the immediacy of its delights--lacks only a core of grit that might have led its makers perhaps to opt for truth rather than a highly sophisticated happy-ending Hollywood movie masquerading as reality. Drawn together for the first time since their radical college days by the suicide of the best and the brightest of them, these warm, appealing characters are everyone's wish-fulfillment for the kind of men and women we'd most like to have loved and been loved by in our ideal of university life, especially if our teenage consciousness had been conditioned by the radical sixties. Unfortunately it seems a bit much that all of them are so damned attractive and successful, and that even the embittered drug-pushing war Veteran, made impotent by his Vietnam wound (and totally huggable by the rich inner life of actor William Hurt) should achieve, only moments before the film's end, not only a tender relationship with the dead man's young and sexy girlfriend but a beautiful though unfinished log cabin in the woods where he and she can plant the seeds of a new and happier life. An ending that will warm the cockles of any and every box-office. Add to this the daring editing and remarkably evocative sound track of more than a dozen songs and

you have the recipe for an Academy Award.

Terms of Endearment This uneven film deserves the price of admission if only because it is a movie in which actors, director and writer have striven to create the kinds of characters one too rarely encounters on the American screen, characters capable of all the farce, anger, cupidity, rough edges and smooth, the love, the pain and the contradictions that are the stew of life. The film ultimately fails, largely because it seems to have no premise to give organicity to its somewhat spastic plot development, though even on that score the movie deserves kudos for the highly original way in which it dares to skip nakedly forward in time by leaps and bounds in a nine year span, sans the time-work expository devices that cinematic flesh is usually heir to. But putting aside all pluses and minuses, there is the joy of watching Shirley Maclaine grow from a narcissistic, nit-picking, rigid sexually-repressed widow and grandmother into a sexually radiant woman of compassion, anger and vulnerability, while Jack Nicholson masterfully makes a bigbellied alcoholic skirt-chasing sex-obsessed former astronaut into Ms. Maclaine's charming and totally lovable lover, who, with her, wins our hearts in yet another pseudo-gritty Hollywood happy-ending.

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The Right Stuff The mythic image of Chuck Yeager--ace American test pilot--galloping astride a snorting mustang past stunted desert Joshua trees to a rendezvous with another infinitely more ferocious steed in the sleek shape of a record-breaking jet plane flaming with readiness for someone with "the right stuff" to climb aboard and tame it--this brilliant juxtaposition of images early in the film version of Tom Wolfe's best-selling book about the lives and wives of the daring fliers who led America through the sound barrier and on into space, builds expectations

that are, unfortunately, never fulfilled. Instead of welding a flow of such mythic juxtapositions into a groundbreaking movie that reaches toward the Homeric, The Right Stuff quickly reveals itself as a big brash touching funny and always entertaining movie which makes us patriotic as hell but never dares to challenge the way we think and feel.

Local Hero A film to be seen again and again, cherished and relished, by those who love eccentric off-beat humor and all the delightful touches of oddity and excellence that make for a truly original style.

HOW ABOUT A CLOWN ALLEY?

Want to be a clown? Seriously! It means selecting a face, a name, a personality, a gimmick, And it means being a member of a Clown Alley--a group of collaborating clowns. If there is sufficient interest in town (from persons of any age), members of the Western Electric Personnel Club's Clown Alley (Hopewell, N.J.) are willing to come and help Roosevelt set up a Clown Alley of our own. Learn how to make up. Learn the traditions of clowning. Clowns help with public fund raising for good causes. They visit the sick or shut-in. They cheer people confined to institutions. They are participating in many public service projects and having lots of fun doing it. If you'd like to be introduced to clowning by the Western Electric Clown Alley clowns, call Tena Scalph at 443-5776 and help set up a time for a first get-together.



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References available

Principal's Letter

For the last few months I have been reviewing the current research studies aimed at the status of America's schools. These studies have not only identified problems but have also highlighted public opinion. The questions I have been asked recently relate to our state of New Jersey and in particular to the Roosevelt School District.

In New Jersey the Governor and the Commissioner of Education have placed great emphasis on many of the areas highlighted in the studies. Recent media releases have emphasized new proposals for teaching skills and knowledge of subject areas. The Commissioner has currently proposed new certification regulations aimed at knowledge of subject areas. He has also proposed, and is in the process of establishing, an academy for the improvement of teaching skills. Discipline and pupil control have also been major areas of concern. Both the Governor and the Commissioner have placed great emphasis on improving student behavior.

Another area under sharp focus in our state, as well as the nation, is the area of academic achievement. New mandates call for a change in the evaluation of skills on grade levels 3, 6, and 9. In addition high school graduation requirements have been increased. Other state mandates include programs for all children with special needs. The basic skills and the talented and gifted programs are examples of special needs programs.

This new statewide emphasis and mandated regulations have had decided impact on the structure and conduct of New Jersey's schools. In order to monitor the operation of the schools and to insure improved

educational quality the Commissioner has instituted a process of auditing local school districts. The process includes a team of state monitors who are empowered with the responsibility of investigating all aspects of a school district. During the audit process they check school district records, visit classrooms, check teacher plans, observe lessons, interview teachers and check facilities (including closets, basements and all corners of every building).

The auditing process covers sixty-one elements. The elements are divided into ten areas: school/community relations; curriculum and instruction; student attendance; facilities; professional staff; mandated programs; student achievement; affirmative action; and financial.

Each of the sixty-one elements is rated either acceptable or unacceptable. Specific criteria have been established for each item.

This article is being written on the day after our district was audited. We received notification, in December, that our audit was scheduled for January. The audit was complete, intense, and thorough. Following the audit the team reviewed the results with the administrator. Fifty-eight of the sixty-one elements were rated acceptable. Only three elements were rated unacceptable. One unacceptable element was concerned with a single element of record keeping. Adding a simple step to our procedures will correct this element. The second element was in the area of facilities maintenance. It involves a short list of easily correctable items, such

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as painting the words "Fire Door, Keep Closed" on the door to the boiler room. The third element was in the area of curriculum. Our district is currently completing science and social studies curriculums. As soon as these are complete that item will also become acceptable.

The team was lavish in its praise for the accomplishments of our district. Their praise for our teaching staff was extensive. They spoke of the staff's professionalism, planning, knowledge of curriculum and teaching skills. They commended our pupils for their excellent behavior and for our high level of pupil attendance.

They paid specific attention to several of our programs. One program which received particular comment is the one which includes the attendance officer and the high school liason. This program is aimed at reducing truancy and easing problems our students may have in the high school. It has already produced favorable results.

Overall they expressed strong positive feelings toward our recent accomplishments and program development.

All of this could not have been accomplished without many hours of hard work by our staff. The excellent results of the audit are a tribute to their hard work and dedication. A special word of appreciation is appropriate for our previous and current Boards of Education. Their cooperation and support have facilitated these accomplishments. Our current members of the Board of Education: Mary King; Jean Shahn, Margaret Katz; Howard Kaufman; John Burghardt; Gary Edelstein; and Barbara Halpern; have spent many hours helping prepare for this

audit.

I believe the community can and should take real pride in the performance of our staff and our Boards of Education. In addition we should not forget our parents and pupils whose positive attitudes and cooperation have provided us with a strong positive base upon which to build our school program.

--Stanley Sussman

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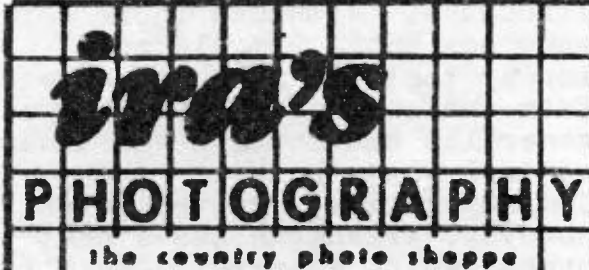
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Fire Co. news

by Adeenah Yeger

On December 24 the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Department was called out for mutual aid with the Allentown (Hope) Fire Company for a chimney fire in Assunpink on the far side of Allentown's territory near Roosevelt. The call for help turned out to be vital. Allentown Fire Company was at least 15 minutes away, while Roosevelt was only two or three minutes away. Upon arriving, Roosevelt firefighters went through standard procedures for chimney fires -- using flares in the fireplace to smother the fire; laddering the roof to smother the fire from the other end; and being prepared in case of a structure fire. Roosevelt's chief went through the house to see if the fire extended to the structure. Although there were some hot spots, it did not appear that the fire had spread from the chimney. The fire was generally out and all was under control when the Hope Fire Company arrived minutes later. However, Allentown had a heat probe, which Roosevelt doesn't. What the Roosevelt chief had evaluated as hot spots the probe had registered as borderline ignition temperature problems. After some of the panelling around the chimney was removed, the wood on the inside was still hot to the touch. If the chimney fire wasn't put under control when it was, it would have turned into a structure fire.

Mutual aid responses such as this one are vital to areas like ours and our fire company, along with others, works together to overcome such problems, and to better serve the community.

The results of the election

of officers for 1984 is as follows:

Chief.....Steve Yeger
 Assistant Chief.....Pat Archambo
 President.....Kim Dexheimer
 Secretary/Treasurer.....Pat Archambo

Roosevelt had 30 fire calls in 1983:

2 structure fires
 1 appliance fire
 3 car fires (actual fire with water and/or foam used)
 6 motor vehicle accidents (washdown and/or search)
 1 trash fire
 3 brush fires
 8 false alarms
 5 mutual aid calls (barn fire, propane fires, motor vehicle accidents, search and rescue, house fires)
 1 gas line break

Examination of responses in terms of manpower shows that an average of 5 people responded to all alarms. Considering that paid fire companies have 3 to 4 men on a truck, the Roosevelt Fire Company feels that its responses are more than adequate to handle calls in the borough.

The chief and assistant chief will be attending Monmouth County Fire Academy at the end of January for a fire officers course.

SOUP

Dolores Chasan, June Counter-
 man, Lynn Friedman and Dr.
 Stanley Sussman took part in a
 three day orientation program
 of the Statewide Community
 Organization Program to initiate
 a local task force to address
 the many problems facing our
 youth. They will be meeting
 monthly to come up with pro-
 grams to serve the needs of
 our community. Anyone inter-
 ested in working with them
 should feel free to contact
 anyone of them.

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"WE MAKE TRAVEL A BREEZE"

YOUTH COUNSELLING GROUP

by Dolores Chasan

What do you do when you
 see the incidence of problems
 involving some teenagers
 suddenly exploding and parents
 frustrated and pleading for
 help? You try to help - but
 the problem is too big for
 any one person.

It was time to get everyone
 together, discuss the problems
 and feelings involved, and
 find a way to try to help one
 another.

Mayor Barth, the Borough
 Council and the PTA immediately
 responded to a plea to finance
 four town meetings to provide
 a forum for parents (as well
 as any other interested adults)
 and the children of the
 community with the guidance and
 support of two social workers,
 Ron Danko of Princeton's
 Corner House and Ann Hogue the
 R.P.S. social worker. Both of
 them are familiar with Roose-
 velt, and with many of its
 residents.

As the Bulletin goes to
 press two of these meetings
 have taken place. Fifty
 children and adults attended
 the first meeting and forty

braved the cold and ice for
 the second meeting. Both
 were just about equally
 attended by those above and
 below voting age. There was
 a sharing of problems,
 questions, feelings and some
 ideas of how we can begin to
 help each other.

January 26 is the date set
 for the next meeting. We look
 forward to this meeting being
 as well attended and as
 successful.

The last of these four
 meetings is scheduled to take
 place at the Roosevelt Borough
 Hall on Thursday, February 9,
 1984 at 8:00 p.m. Reserve the
 date on your calendar now.
 Don't hesitate to come late
 rather than not at all.

we are hoping to find the
 funding to keep this forum an
 on-going service for our town.

We have already received,
 and will continue to accept,
 any personal contributions.

A VALENTINE

by Harry Mack

I CAN'T GIVE YOU:
 CANDY
 OR FLOWERS
 OR MUSICAL SHOWS,
 NO RINGERS
 FOR FINGERS
 NO BELLS
 FOR THE TOES.
 NO CAVIAR,
 CHAMPAGNE OR
 OTHER EXOTIC BREW
 NO RUBIES
 NO PEARLS
 TO OFFER T'YOU.
 NO SILVER OR GOLD,
 PEWTER OR BRASS,
 NO KOH- I- NOOR DIAMOND
 OR FOR THAT MATTER
 GLASS.
 NO KITCHEN WARE
 STITCHIN' WEAR
 STOCKINGS
 OR SCANTIES,
 NO SILKS
 OR THEIR ILKS,
 NO LACY FRINGED
 PANTIES.

I CAN SAFELY DECLARE:
 THIS HEART AND ARROW-
THIS MEMENTO
 BETWEEN US-
 IS LIKE WILDE
 TO THE CUSTOMS MAN
 DECLARING
 "NOTHING BUT
 HIS GENIUS!"

I CAN'T GIVE YOU:
 A TITLE
 OR A PALACE,
 NOR LUXURIES
 OF KINGS,
 OR OTHER FABULOUS,
 RARE
 AND EXTRAVAGANT
 THINGS. BUT-
 ONE THING IS CERTAIN
 FROM A GENT
 TO A LADY

..... I CAN'T GIVE YOU
 ANYTHING BUT LOVE BABY!