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ROOSEVELT BOROUGH



BULLETIN

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ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 1987

Community Handbook Appears

The long-awaited first edition of the community handbook, sponsored by the Borough Bulletin, was distributed to all residences early in April and will be available to newcomers who move into town in the future.

Contents of the 19-page guide include information on municipal services, the school, community events, senior citizen services, among other topics.

Credits go to Pearl Seligman for design and production, Hortense Socholitzy for copy editing, David Teich for typography and production, and Peter Warren for Text. Bernarda Shahn kindly gave permission to reproduce illustrations from the Roosevelt School mural by Ben Shahn.

The Bulletin expresses its deep gratitude to Freida Anish, Leon Barth, Paul Bauman, Joe Bolletin, Aaron Datz, Edward Grossman, Margaret Guyette, Bill Margolis, Harold Melvin, Howard Prezant, Carol Rossi, Peter Rossi, Bernarda Shahn, Herb Steinberg, Ralph Warnick and Leslie Weiner whose contributions paid for the printing.

Out-of-town subscribers who donate to the Bulletin's current fund drive will receive a copy of the Handbook.

The Editor

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

School Budget Fails

In a close vote indicating a town nearly divided in half, the current school budget was voted down. Out of 512 registered voters, 197 actually voted, with 94 voting for the budget and 103 voting against. Pamela Winslow received 132 votes, Robin McLaughlin 133, Edward Grossman 148, and Helen Przychocki 119. Two absentee ballots were outstanding at press time.

The council has three weeks from election (until April 28) in which to certify or recommend changes in the rejected budget at a properly advertised public meeting. The decision is then sent to the County Board of Taxation. If the Board of Education accepts the Council's decision, that's the end of the matter. If not, the Board can appeal the decision to the State Commissioner of Education within 15 days. He can agree with the Council, the School Board or offer recommendations of his own. If the Board rejects the Commissioner's recommendations, it may appeal to the Appellate Court.

ARTS PROJECT

New Music A Hit

The fourth event of the Roosevelt Arts Project, a concert of New Music by Roosevelt composers, was held on Sunday evening, March 29. The house (Borough Hall) was full chairs had been added from Temple Anshei so that there were seats for over one hundred) and the audience was friendly and enthusiastic as Allan Mallach (piano) and Judith Nicosia (voice) performed.

Mr. Mallach, playing on a concert grand imported from Trenton for the occasion, opened with Laurie Altman's "To Robert Motherwell...An Appreciation," composed in 1983. The piece consisted of 6 short sketches inspired by six of Motherwell's paintings, "Joy of Living," "Jour La Maison, Nuit La Rue," "Little Spanish Prison", "Pancho Villa, Dead or Alive," "The Voyage," and "The Poet," plus an introduction and interlude.

This was followed by a performance of music written by Mr. Altman to Roosevelt poet David Herrstrom's "In Midsummer The Snow," also composed in 1983. Ms. Nicosia, faculty member at Westminster Choir College, joined Mr. Mallach for this performance.

After an intermission, Mr. Mallach performed his own music, firstly, along with Ms. Nicosia, "Six Japanese Poems," composed this year. This is a series of songs (or song cycle) written to poems from possibly the first anthology of poems ever compiled, the "Anthology of One Hundred Poems" including works by Emperor Koko (830-887), Lady Katoko (b.999) and Takako (d.996) recently re-issued by Princeton U. Press in 1982.

Mr. Mallach followed this with his composition "Sonata for Piano," composed in 1985.

Editor- David Brahinsky

Contributing Writers

Peter Berlinrut, Bob Clark, Aaron Datz, Peter Warren, Hero Johnson, Gloria Hazell, Florie Johnson, Becky Russell, Helga Wisowaty, Arthur Shapiro, Joe Solomon, Adeline Weiner.

Production- Lynn Friedman, Gloria Hazell

Business- Lynn Friedman, Adeline Weiner, Lillian Warren

The fifth and final event for this year will be held on Sunday evening, April 26, at 7:30 at the Borough Hall, a series of readings by Roosevelt Poets.

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VIEWPOINT

R.P.S. Graduates Speak

By Virginia Edwards Stout

Roosevelt children live in a tiny town with no access to public transportation, with most parents away at work and chauffeurs in short supply. They attend a school so small that the 10 or 12 kids in their class are destined to become as familiar as family, as fixed in the childhood landscape as trees. They are in for a total immersion experience socially. The educational smorgasbord spread for them will, over the years, range from slim pickings to a reasonably rich feast.

Sounds sort of terrible, doesn't it? It needn't be. In fact, a surprising number of people who grew up in Roosevelt stayed on to raise their children here, or brought their new families back to town. Whatever their other reasons for remaining or returning, these residents tend to have passionate feelings about their years in Roosevelt Public School. The feelings are often passionately positive, but RPS grads also express concerns and reservations that should be interesting and helpful to "first time round" RPS parents and pupils.

We contacted representatives of 20 deeply rooted families - former pupils who were graduated from RPS between 1938 and 1967 - and asked them about the pros, cons and caveats of school life in this town. Some of those interviewed have already seen their children through college and thus have a double "deja vu" perspective on the long-term influence of this most local of local schools. Others currently have children in elementary school or preschoolers waiting in the wings.

The majority of parents we talked with remembered their school days

here as the best of times. For a few, however, the RPS years were the worst. Some parents are afraid their children won't have the experiences they did; others are afraid they will.

A common theme ran through the interviews-- the awareness, born of experience, that there is no such thing as THE Roosevelt School because only the building is that. Since education is essentially an internal affair, each generation of Roosevelt pupils actually attends a different school that reflects the changes occurring in education and society at the time. The physical plant that houses the experiences happens to stand on School Lane.

As we listen to what early and later RPS grads have to say, we remember that we are hearing about different schools in different times, all operating under the flat roof so familiar to us all. Almost everybody said, wistfully in some cases and prayerfully in others, "Nothing stays the same, does it?"

Here are the older parents talking about the social side of elementary school life. The most common summary -- "I loved it..I LOVED it."

"My main memory is of togetherness. Everybody belonged, we were all part of each other. We all had individual friends, of course, but as a group we were one big friend..."

School is a big part of growing up anywhere. In Roosevelt, it was even more so. We had such great times, such good times. I still think about them and smile."

"Being in a small class, together for so many years, taught us how to deal with differences very early. We couldn't get away from each other so we had to learn to get along with each other. To this day, the bonds between RPS kids transcend time, distance and even personality. There are Roosevelt kids all over the world now and "Roosevelt" is the magic, no-fail password that gets you an evening of hysterical reminiscence and any help you need wherever you are and no matter how far apart you've grown.

"Outsiders always saw us as a group, as the 'the Roosevelt kids'. Whether we were Jewish or Christian, from conservative or liberal families, we all got plastered with the same labels -- 'kike or commie' -- and this welded us together. We felt at home in each other's houses and welcome in each other's families. We got to know everybody's grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. We were unbelievably close."

"Roosevelt kids stuck together. Our class, maybe 14 of us, even practiced kissing together, not because we were attracted to each other that way but because we felt Roosevelt kids should be good at that too."

It was a close-knit community, a healthy place to grow up in. Busy as they were, our parents were very involved with our doings and we felt the town was proud of us as well. There was a lot of freedom to play in too -- Scouts, 4-H, square dances from kindergarten on, girls' and boys' sports nights, canteen."

We were something different in this rural area, a new element. We developed ideas and values that were new to a lot of people outside town, but we weren't belligerent about it. Looking back,

the conviction that people are people regardless of their race, religion and background probably grew out of our friendships and cohesiveness. In those days, most of the kids were Jewish. I fit right in. We all attended each other's celebrations and shared any sad times. I moved back so my children would experience some of the same things.

As To Education

The general enjoyment of elementary school social life extended to the educational arena. Most of the RPS grads interviewed felt, right up to the mid-sixties, that they had an A-OK academic start. They were proud of Roosevelt's reputation as an incubator of school achievers and most entered high school felling fully prepared and competent. (Apprehensions seemed to center in the social realm. Some kids had a hard time adjusting to the weakened support network of friends as the tiny class merged with the larger student body.)

Most of us had always assumed we were going to College. Education was a top priority in our families and in the town. You should have seen graduation nights then. The whole town flocked to the ceremony at the school and to the parties. Nobody stayed home. Everybody celebrated US! It was a great feeling for the kids to have."

"In high school we did well in math from the first, were pretty good at writing papers and reports and had a head start in Spanish. One of our principals gave us a good foundation in science. I'd like to thank him for that."

Most of our teachers were mediocre, a few were outstanding. But on the whole, RPS kids made good high school records and a lot of them have done very well in the

world. I think our early experiences in Roosevelt had a lot to do with this."

The Next Generation

In contrast, these parent's opinions about their own children's educational experiences at RPS are not as uniformly euphoric. Over the years, principals and teachers arrived and departed frequently. Changings of the guard in many cases involved fierce battles between residents with and without children. The passions aroused burned long afterward -- until the next upheaval.

As one RPS grad remembers it, "The continuous changes of principals and teachers shook us up. We got the feeling that we, the kids, were the only stable force in the school".

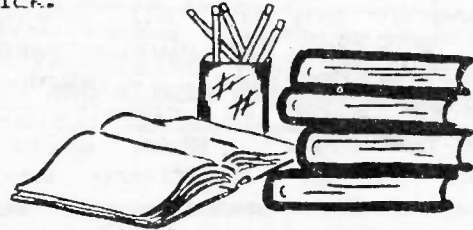
Inevitably, educational bandwagons rattled through the school at irregular intervals. Some children were borne forward on these bandwagons of innovative teaching techniques and materials; others fell beneath the wheels. As the local school mirrored the radical changes in society's structures and scriptures, many parents felt obliged to enroll their children in private schools as insurance against educational deficits. Most did this reluctantly, feeling that their children had been cheated of the surprisingly good education they themselves had received in "our school".

A parent who did not remove her youngsters from the school during this period regrets it. Admittedly bitter, she says "they had a lot of painful catching up to do, academically. They paid a high price for my failure to tune into what was going on in the school".

Next time around we'll hear from RPS grads who have children in the school now, or future pupils at

home. And we'll hear from those who found that the ingrown social life that characterizes so many Roosevelt childhoods did not suit them at all. Last of all, we'll list their children's years in Roosevelt the very best they can be.

So far, Rooseveltians interviewed are, alphabetically: Helen Topal Barth, Michael Block, Howard Chasan, Frank DiGiorgio, Katrina Drapala, Melvin Friedman, Mary Ann Monk Henderson, Lynn Wind Lawson, Ani Roskam Leech, Stefan Martin, Diana Lobl Mueller, Faith Sherak Penalver, Alison Edwards Petrilla, Sara Libsohn Prestopino, Paul Prestopino, Louise Bunkin Prezant, Margaret Meigs Schlinski, Claire Nadler Sacharoff, Jonathan Shahn, Arthur Shapiro and Nancy Monk Warnick.



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COUNCIL REPORT

By Adeline Weiner

Budget Making

Halfway into the regular April meeting of the Boro Council, several residents who had come to participate in a Budget Hearing as advertised, requested that the subject be taken up as soon as possible. With agreement of the Council, several budget issues were promptly raised and debated. John Burghardt, Board of Education Chair, asked why the budget called for such a high surplus balance (116,791). Mayor Hepner replied that it was an amount deemed necessary to cover emergencies arising in any and all areas of town function, including breakdowns in the school plant, a point she tried to make at recent school board hearings. When asked by Arthur Unger if there were a formula for arriving at budget figures, Ms. Hepner explained that the procedures for constructing a budget were determined by two major factors: first, that increases in expenditures were limited to a 3 1/2% "cap" restriction and second, that the municipality required a certain list of expenditures to keep it functioning. Every departmental committee strove to keep expenses down, with budget items juggled among costs, revenues and state mandates.

Although this year garbage collection was placed outside the "cap" to allow for the large rises in cost, increases in total taxes must still be held to minimum levels. Or, for instance, because it is impossible to foresee what recycling will eventually cost, the surplus must be available but held in reasonable balance. The budget then is built by working out rising

expenses of government so that necessary yearly increases are kept incrementally small and without sudden up and down shifts.

The budget and amendments will receive a final hearing on Monday, April 20th, at the Boro Hall.

Sewer Headaches

Although Councilmember Moser was absent, the Public Utilities Committee report included proposals by Engineer Birdsall, who was present, to advertise for bids for sewer system repair. These include improvements to Trickling Filters, painting the inside of the plant which he proposed could only be done safely by professionals, and for a new chlorine building. He explained the purpose and limits of two new pumps at the end of Lake Drive (near the horse farm) and discussed his reasoning behind a proposal either to close down or fix the entire length of the Brown Street pipe line. Mr. Leefer challenged the need for anything beyond the repair of a single break which he said he had located by external viewing. Mr. Birdsall felt that the only sure way to tell where and how many breaks there were would be too costly, i.e. by extended televised examination. This question which is a crucial part of the state-mandated improvement plan has not been resolved.

As regards the sewer alarm system, Birdsall reported that the installation has been halted because the Council observed a previous objection by Leefer who proposed an alternative alarm set. The Council agreed to have the latter evaluated and compared in performance to the current system.

Angry Over Potholes

For the Streets and Road Committee, Chair Leefer's report announced that potholes would be patched soon and that the bill for snow removal would be paid despite a contract which he criticized as lacking "controls", unspecified. The public discussion portion of the meeting was attended by a large group of Eleanor Lane residents who came to protest vigorously what they characterized as the hopelessly impassable state of their thorough-fare, especially after the heavy rains. They described driving and even walking as hazardous to both adults and children. They addressed their protest mainly to Mr. Leefer who they claimed had agreed after the last set of complaints, that the road would be periodically replenished with gravel in order to maintain it as a navigable rural, unpaved street.

Mr. Leefer denied that he gave them such assurances and offered to play back tapes of their earlier meeting. Last year he had personally arranged the delivery of gravel, he said, a service he declined to repeat. He urged a new meeting to discuss a long range solution; a meeting that would also include a lawyer. Heated discussion followed among Council members and visitors. Esther Pogrebin commented that the sub-dividers should have been required to pave that street in the first place, to which Mayor Hepner expressed hearty agreement. Following Councilmember Seligman's remarks, Mr. Leefer and his committee will call to the meeting in addition to the above, representatives of all possible users of Eleanor Lane such as people visiting the cemetery, members of the Pine Valley Swim Club, etc., in order to arrive at an equitable plan. In the meantime Leefer advised the visitors who were

pressing for immediate assistance, to call the Boro Council Secretary to alert the Boro crew to somehow patch up the potholes.

Season Changes

Mr. Alt, Chair of the Public Property Committee reported among several other matters, that the contract for mowing grass in the Boro will be offered to low bidder Leon Lawson provided he makes satisfactory arrangements for insurance. Alt publicly thanked Catherine Carter for her inestimable assistance in beautifying our public grounds and announced a call for volunteers to help her undertake new and bigger projects.

According to attorney McManus, our cemetery ordinance passes muster with the law since it provides for burial in suitable ways for everyone who lives in the town, without discrimination. Ms. Pogrebin was assured that Solar Village residents are included. The Mayor felt that local legal review of the ordinance was worthwhile in view of our specific needs.

Dave Bulkin raised several questions from the floor, among them the failure to use the Boro's two lawn-mowers and the need to repair the Boro Hall parking lot.

Several items under Public Safety were acted on: Ms. Selden, chair of this Committee, reported that signs will be posted against use of fire-arms beyond legal limits and that the State Police who have agreed to cooperate, will be further urged to act promptly. Funding from the NJ Dept. of Community Affairs of \$462.00 to the Fire Dept. was announced, accepted, and a coordinator appointed. New applications for the Fire dept. bring the count up to nine people in service. With

Spring here, Ms. Selden reminds us all to walk against traffic and bi-cycle with traffic!

Jack Yudin has returned and will resume crossing-guard duty. The Council thanked Nina Burghardt and Terrell Spence for filling in so valiantly during the cold winter season.

Ms. Hepner announced that the Bookmobile's absence despite the hefty County tax we pay for services is due to the illness of the driver. As a temporary measure, books were to be made available at the Boro Hall. But an updated report was received that, due to Ms. Hepner's strong persuasion, a van will be coming to the Post Office parking lot complete with librarian and books on April 29th and Wednesdays thereafter. Look for an announcement.

In a statement offering full cooperation, Mr. Burghardt proposed an early meeting of the Board of Education with the Boro Council. Mayor Hepner thanked him and explained that the Council had not had time to decide as yet, but that a joint session will be organized as soon as possible.

LETTER TO EDITOR

In his letter to the March Bulletin, Ed. Moser has his facts wrong regarding the 1984 dog census. According to the Windsor-Heights Herald "Mayor Hepner and Council members said the borough was justified in firing Mr. Warren for disobeying orders" (my underline).

Ed can verify for himself that the order disobeyed - for the dog census taker to give a court summons to any resident with an unlicensed dog - was and is illegal, and is forbidden by the laws of New Jersey.

He can also verify whether or not the Mayor and council issued this illegal order in any year other than 1984, or whether it was a one-shot deal.

Then he may give us his opinion on this matter.

Peter Warren

Sunday School Going Strong

The Aleph-Bet Jewish Sunday School held its model Seder for all at Congregation Anshei on April 12, the day before Passover. The programs' schedule for the rest of the school year is as follows:

- May 3 Topic: Israeli Independence Day
- May 10 No School
- May 17 Topic: Lag B'Omer
- May 24 Topic: Shabbat
- May 31 No School
- June 7 Closing Day Party

We will reopen in September, and everyone interested in enrolling a child between the ages of three and seven, please call Karyn Grunwald at 426-9064

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ISSUES IN TOWN GOVERNMENT**Our Land Use Policy Needs Review**

By Solomon Metzger

The immediate reason for this letter is a recent decision of the Council denying a zone change for the land between the Borough Hall, Oscar Drive, and the factory. This is an 11 acre parcel zoned industrial on which an applicant wanted authorization to build 2 houses with on site disposal systems (septic tanks). The Planning Board recommended the necessary zone change, to R-100, the Council denied it. The Council's expressed reason was that it wanted the applicant to hook up to our sewer system so that more payers would be available for the costs that face us there. The Council was prepared to permit five units to make the project feasible. Unfortunately, the expense of hooking up because of distance to the closest sewer connection, and the probable need of a DEP Stream Encroachment Permit with its attendant delays made the process overly burdensome to this applicant. He was simply interested in building his own home and making that somewhat affordable by selling a second lot. He has apparently gone away after many months of appearances before both the Planning Board and Council.

I have never met the applicant and my concern is not for him. The episode however, presents our land use policy in microcosm and I suggest that a serious review is in order. As an updated master plan is in the making, this is a good time.

For better or worse we are in the path of development. In years past we have been able to say no to small builders and leaf factory developers who may have been

underfinanced, looking for cheap land, or otherwise seeking to site an unpopular project in a place of least resistance. The next generation of builders who come here will be different. They will propose legitimate projects for which there is a general demand in the area. They will not be underfinanced and they will not go away because we say so. Some of our near neighbors have had to pay dearly to learn this lesson. The Centex Corporation, a large Texas developer, litigated with East Windsor for many years over land along York Road near the Peddie School. The case was up and down the New Jersey court system until in the end East Windsor found it preferable to settle rather than continue to incur the costs of the suit. While I do not recall the exact numbers, the terms of settlement call for the construction of at least 500 or 600 units. The infrastructure for that project will probably start to go in this summer. Cranburry is another neighbor which recently fought and then settled a suit on terms which permit the construction of a large number of units. Parenthetically, Cranburry's claim to the historicity of its town center, did not protect its open fields.

I am afraid I have as many examples of this phenomenon as anyone can bear to read. My point however, is not to cry that the sky is falling but rather to urge and encourage others to urge, a more realistic growth policy now so as to avoid high impact growth later. With some luck we may still have a few years and in that time could accomplish much by way of preserving open space.

We once could say with relative equanimity that we were part of a larger agricultural area and that significant growth would interfere with this land use. While the area may continue to see some farming during the coming transition period, agriculture will not be viable here in the future. Unless we see this fact coldly we cannot make the land use decisions now which will best serve our interests later on. Much of the land in neighboring Millstone, East Windsor, and Upper Freehold has already been quietly sold by the farmers to builders. Those farmers that continue to hold their acreage, do so primarily for speculative reasons, but because they expect to continue farming much longer. With every field that goes up in one of these communities, we lose a piece of our best defense for the agricultural zone. Roosevelt is a logical target for high impact growth. Despite the ancient and crumbling vessels of our sewer system, it is the only such system in the immediate area. Correction is only a question of money and the time is approaching when that will not be an impediment to a builder proposing large scale growth.

The foregoing was unfortunately necessary to explain my disappointment with the denial of the two lot rezoning on Oscar Drive. Permitting that applicant his two lots would have secured much of that 11 acres for open space in perpetuity. The houses could have been sited in such a way as to barely be visible and a minimum of trees would have been lost. I cannot imagine a less intrusive use. Now the land remains industrial. Without having surveyed town sentiment, I doubt there is much of a constituency for a factory or even for clean office space on this site. If we are not ready for the impact of a few more houses, are we ready for

the cars and employees that a factory or office plaza will bring?

I have reviewed the proposed master plan update and note that it essentially retains the status quo. In this respect, neither the Planning Board or Council are being realistic. As the master plan becomes inconsistent with the surrounding realities, it is more and more vulnerable to challenge. Our previous reliance upon agricultural zones for retention of open space worked because land values did not dictate a higher use and because we were part of a larger agricultural community. In the future we will have to make some compromises to retain open space. The longer we delay the more we are likely to give up.

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Three Soviets Visit Roosevelt

By Herb Johnson

On March 12, Roosevelt Boro was visited by three Soviet citizens. They came as part of a Bridges for Peace exchange in response to fifteen New Jerseyans visiting Moscow and other cities in Russia last fall. Twenty eight Rooseveltians enjoyed a pot-luck supper and discussion with the visitors at Flo Johnson's house, just after John Burghardt, Herb Johnson, Norma Kushner, and Jon Shahn showed the guests the Ben Shahn mural in the school. Discussions before and after supper were sometimes heated and controversial, but overall they were heart-warming.

The three Soviets were: Victor Borizyuk, a researcher who specializes in U.S. and Canadian history (and was able to name three union leaders in the Ben Shahn mural!); Olympiada Butina, a crew leader in a chocolate factory, who is a member of the Supreme Soviet, the U.S.S.R.'s 1,517 member legislative body (Victor quipped, "She may become our Geraldine Ferraro"); and Alla Smirnova who interpreted for Olympiada, and is an administrator for youth recreation programs. She showed fine rapport with children while being interviewed in the school by Xantha Burghardt, who recorded the interview for the school radio program on her tape recorder.

In the discussion after supper, Ann Baker and others probed the visitors about their view of USSR intervention in Afghanistan. Victor summarized his view by saying it was an unhappy necessity, an answer many participants found wanting.

At the 7 hour conference at Woodrow Wilson Hall two days later, Victor indicated that the Soviet

people are deeply moved by the new Soviet movie, "Repentance," which shows how insidious and brutal Stalin's internal policies were. He claimed that a new sense of revolution is sweeping over much of his country citing the liberalizations and other changes Gorbachev's administration is pushing. "Think about this," he said. "Our government is only 70 years old." He didn't make any comparison with the U.S. but some Americans were quick to reveal that they had never thought of that before and they cited slavery and slaughter of American natives as some of the brutal U.S. policies which extended far more than 70 years.

The Soviet visitors spent their last evening in the U.S. by attending the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament's annual membership dinner meeting, attended by almost 400 people including some Rooseveltians. The speaker was Prof. Robert Tucker, Princeton University's specialist in Sovietology. In a 50 minute talk followed by a lively 15 minute discussion, he presented his findings about developments in the last two years in the USSR, confirming the main points made by the Soviet visitors, the Bridges for Peace director, and the New Jerseyans who had been to the Soviet Union last fall. Gorbachev is challenging many old concepts, but the groundwork for changes in economic, military, and freedom of expression was begun in many ways years ago. He claimed that a great spirit of progress is evident in Soviet people as national policies and local practices are rapidly evolving to a new stage. Nevertheless, the overwhelming major concern of people in the Soviet Union is for secure national defense, a secure country, and

ending the threat of destroying civilization with nuclear weapons.

Victor responded to Professor Tucker's speech and his humor and general good will stirred everyone. He admitted that they had not been informed correctly about how Americans exploited people. Now they have first hand knowledge, after being kept going about 20 hours a day for 14 days straight!

In conclusion, after some serious responses to Tucker's talk, he said Gorbachev still has much opposition, but he has much support as well. He agreed that, as Bob Moore said, "The Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament cannot succeed by means of the ingenuity and efforts of the staff and volunteer leaders alone. We need the ideas and efforts of all of you members as well, in order to achieve the foals for which the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament was created."

A lot of people here are counting on Victor, Olympiada, Alla, and others like these who visited Roosevelt and other parts of the U.S.A., to exert great efforts to secure human rights for all people as the USSR continues to evolve. Furthermore, there was whole-hearted agreement with the proposal one of the conference discussion groups made: "To prevent the US and the USSR from ever exchanging 50,000 nuclear weapons, let's exchange 50,000 citizens per year."



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ISSUES IN TOWN GOVERNMENT II

On The Administration's Handling
of Water/Sewer Problems

By Peter Warren

"Our sewer system is a case in point," the Mayor writes. "For almost fifty years, it has not only not been properly maintained, but it had not been brought up to state and federal standards to provide even adequate health and safety service."

Curious about the accuracy of this statement, I reread the background studies for the 1987 Master Plan. Sure enough, they contradict what the mayor writes.

With regard to water supply, one of the original wells was replaced in 1958 and new equipment for aeration, chlorination, fluoridation and filtration was installed at the same time. By 1973, the flow of this well dwindled, and it was subsequently replaced. The storage tank and riser pipe were original equipment and were still in good condition in 1973.

Water consumption doubled between 1965 and 1973.

The Master Plan study says "The sewer plant treats a range of 125,000 - 250,000 gallons a day. All houses (except for a few farms) are connected with the plant. Effluent flows into a tributary of the Assumpink Creek, using the Imhoff System. It is considered satisfactory by the State Department of Health (My underline). Installation of a grit removal system and replacement of distributor arms on the trickling filters in 1965 contributed to the increase in capacity."

The study continues "Much of the increased treatment is due to the

infiltration of groundwater into the terra cotta pipes in low-lying areas of the Borough, resulting in higher costs. In addition, the storm water drainage system is in poor condition. Most of its pipes are rusted and heavy rains cause flooded streets around intersections."

And, lastly "The water and sewer authority is operated by a qualified sanitary engineer. Operation of the authority, on a normal basis, requires less than full-time administration; it does, however, require the constant availability of the engineer in case of emergency to prevent inconvenience to the community and the possibility of serious disruption of services."

The Master Plan recommended that the Council "Collect data for a feasibility study showing cost elements in providing for various levels of expansion of water and sewer facilities." It didn't say anything about neglect.

But the sewer plant continued to age, the volume of water continued to increase, and DEP continued to raise its standards.

Between 1978 and 1983, the Borough responded to these challenges by ordering the Borough engineer to prepare a series of detailed engineering studies on the sewer plant. When these studies were available, the Borough started looking for financing - under increasing pressure from DEP.

When she took office in 1984, the new mayor abruptly changed

engineers and, as far as the public knows, did nothing about the sewer plant for three years instead of moving ahead swiftly on the basis of the extensive preliminary engineering work that had already been done.

The mayor's attempt to present a ready-made scapegoat looks like an effort in advance to deflect expected community criticism from what may be a hastily prepared, poorly thought-out and needlessly expensive sewer rehabilitation project.

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Public Discusses Master Plan

On April first - at a meeting re-scheduled from March 16 - a goodly assembly of 32 citizens, many of them relative newcomers to Roosevelt, listened attentively to the first public presentation of the draft master plan revision by Planning Board Chairman Alan Mallach and responded with many pertinent questions and comments.

Chairman Mallach emphasized his wish that the public would contribute its ideas to the planning process, and the public did.

The plan revision has been well summarized ("This is your future")


in the February 1987 Bulletin, but merits reading in full by everyone before the next public meeting. It is well-written and brief. A copy may be perused at the Borough Hall.

Attention of the public was focussed on implications of possible development of the 105-acre Notterman tract, bounded by houses on Eleanor Lane and North Valley Road, but in addition, Peter Nurko asked permission to present a proposal for re-zoning 83 acres of farmland elsewhere in the Borough at the next meeting of the Planning Board.

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LOVE OF WORLD

He's Getting Older But Wiser Too

By Joseph G. Solomon

Perhaps it is merely a function of my advancing age. Thirty years ago, a physics professor told me that, "As physicists get older, they tend to become philosophers." Well, I certainly am thirty years older than I was then, so here goes.

What kind of a world do you live in? What kind of a world do you see when you look around you? How you see the world determines how you face the world, and hence how the world sees you. Many years ago, I read a fantasy story about a man who was convinced that his house hated him, that it was only his wife's presence that kept the house from attacking him. (The house liked her.) One day, she went out for a few hours. Sure enough, the house attacked him-- killed him, too, I think. Is that the way you see the world? Out to get you? "Modernizations" of famous proverbs can be amusing. The example relevant here is, "Do unto others-- before they do unto you." People who see a hostile world around them live that way. They certainly drive that way.

Power Tends to Corrupt

People who are insecure tend to abuse power when they get any. These are the people who browbeat waitresses and clerks, for example. One of the greatest one-line descriptions I have ever heard came about when I was talking with a friend at work one day, and someone she knew wandered by. After he was out of range, she said to me, idly, "I wonder if he sends food back home?" What a picture that conjures up. She went on to explain that she won't go out to lunch with him any more, because his actions are so embarrassing to her. He always sends food back. Once, she said, he even sent back spaghetti-- at an Italian restaurant! (Do you remember the movie "Swept Away"? The heroine-- or anti-heroine-- was on her yacht. At one

meal, she sent back the spaghetti, insulted the steward, and shouted at him that she wanted it "al dente". That, of course, is exactly how and where he wanted to deliver the spaghetti to her.)

For such people, it isn't really that power tends to corrupt; it's that power gives them the chance to be bigger than somebody else. In a manner of speaking, it allows them to expose the corruption that already existed in their souls.

Does It Matter?

It seems to me that it usually doesn't much matter whether we help each other. The world is a little nicer, if we do, but it's still tolerable, even if we don't. There are, however, a few areas of human difference. One such area (can you guess?) is the area-- perhaps I should say the arena-- of driving an automobile. Frequently, drivers are amazingly rude to each other. Face to face, one can't be that rude, or one will get stomped on. Behind the steel shield of an automobile, some people feel emboldened to reveal their true nature: They cut in front of other cars, block intersections, park illegally in spaces reserved for handicapped drivers, etc. They also snarl, and make obscene gestures.

Anti-social behavior like this is one result of seeing traffic as a competition: Driving is a race, and the important thing is to get there first (wherever "there" is). Recently, I have begun to see traffic as a cooperative effort. We will all be happier if we help each other. So I wave people in ahead of me-- one at a time, though, not crowds. (My love of my fellow man is large, but not infinite.) So far, no one has had a heart attack, although must have been quite startled.

The big trucks pose a different problem. Not only are they in a hurry, but, because they are so heavy, it's

difficult for them to slow down; also, because they are so heavy, it's difficult for them to get up to speed again. For both reasons, they don't want to slow down. Also, truck-drivers, too, can be hostile. Therefore, you are liable to be flattened by a speeding semi if you don't get out of the way.

Competition versus Cooperation

It is possible to take a friendly view of the world. One can see the world we live in as a place where we have to help each other. Isaac Newton described himself rather humbly, when he said, "If I have been able to see farther than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants." The essence of scientific research is cooperation: You might work alone, but you publish your results, so that everyone will know what you have discovered, and other people can build on your results. Thus, the world's store of knowledge is increased.

Even in such a noble calling, however, it must be admitted that there are limits. The team that later won the Nobel Prize for discovering the double-helix structure of DNA regularly published their results, as everyone does. However, there was an x-ray photograph that they kept secret. At that time, several groups were racing to see who would be the first to be able to crack the secret of DNA. It was fairly clear that whoever won the race was sure of winning a Nobel Prize. One member of the winning team explained later that they were afraid that, if they published that photograph-- which they were not yet able to interpret-- Linus Pauling would understand it, and then he would win. And after all, he already had two Nobel Prizes! So they kept their photograph secret until they could understand it, and they won the Prize.



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Nursery School To Open In September

Yes, parents of preschoolers -- it's "all systems go" for the Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School! We have a site, a working budget, and an enrollment package slated to hit the stands on May 20.

The Nursery School has already been officially incorporated as a private, non-profit corporation, and Congregation Anshei is allowing us to use the "old chapel" portion of the synagogue as a classroom for our nonsectarian, five-day-a-week program. The Roosevelt Nursery School will be state-certified, and our professional staff will be assisted by parent volunteers. Prices will be competitive with those of other area preschools, and come May, we will be enrolling three-, four- and "missed-the-kindergarten-deadline" five-year olds for the September opening.

Our hardworking organizers still need YOUR help, though, to enable us to go ahead with this community project. Funding is still a major necessity, and any (tax deductible) donations you send will be greatly appreciated -- and wisely used, we can guarantee. Checks can be mailed to: Fundraising Committee, Roosevelt Cooperative Nursery School, P.O. Box 153, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank again those wonderful Rooseveltians who have already contributed to our school.

Our Spring fundraising push is going strong in other areas as well, so please keep an eye out for our upcoming efforts. (And if you think you'd like to bake for us, THANKS and please call Joan Grossman at 448-9385 for details.) We will soon be posting a list of school equipment needs, and any

contributions towards specific items will be gratefully acknowledged and most welcome.

We are also advertising in local newspapers for a director and a group teacher eligible to work in a state-certified program. If you would like to be considered for either position, please send a resume and cover letter to: Screening Committee, RCNS, P.O. Box 153, Roosevelt, before May 4. If, on the other hand, you would like to join our screening committee and help us choose our staff, please drop a note to the Administrative Committee, RCNS, P.O. Box 153, Roosevelt, by May 5. Our seven-member Board consists of Dahni Barkley (Administrative Chairman); Arlene Rashkin (Site Committee); Joan Grossman and Diana Moore (Fundraising); Diane Rocchia (Operations); and Karyn Grunwald and Alison Petrilla (Outreach). Any and all of us would be pleased to talk with you, receive your "spur-of-the-moment" donations, etc., at anytime.

And a final reminder to PARENTS -- on May 20, our enrollment package, including program description, rate information, and application form, will be ready for mailing. And watch for details on our Open House soon after!

Thank you again, contributors! Your support will help us to make our nursery school a reality!

Alison Petrilla





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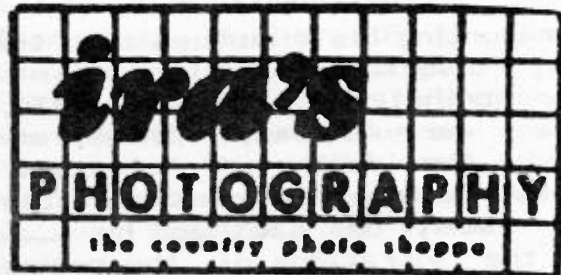
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Announces Candidacy For Mayor

One of Roosevelt's authors Ed Roskam wrote a book about Roosevelt. He called it ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY - BIG DREAMS IN A SMALL TOWN AND WHAT TIME DID TO THEM. He told of the beginning utopian dream and the evolution of the community that became our unique town.

In reporting his dialogues with the thinly disguised characters, it was apparent that even then, in 1972, there were already those who foresaw the death of Roosevelt. But he disagreed. Towns don't die that easily, he said, and he could feel the vibrations of the engine giving the town life.

In this respect, at least, he was right. We continued to live. We thrived. And the engine, with care and generous government funding, continued to vibrate.

The author, of course, was talking about a spiritual engine. But what I want to talk about now is the actual machinery, the plant that keeps us physically alive. That plant, our infrastructure, consists of our roads and parks and our public utilities - water and sewer. That engine is now badly in need of geriatric care, and government funding is now only a happy memory.

No one can deny that we have plenty of spirit. Our arts and culture have never been better. But what our plant needs now is hard-headed engineering skill, business administration and common sense to bring it up to snuff at minimum cost. We need those skills and someone with the time, energy and dedication to apply them professionally, and without a profit motive, to our physical machine.

To paraphrase Sondheim's song, it's time for the romanticists to send in the engineers. I am an engineer, and a good one. I have all the above qualities and dedication, and can apply them full time.

During his tenure as Councilman, our until-now unopposed Mayoral candidate, Ed Moser, has demonstrated his incompetence. Fortunately, he can only work at this job part time. I have no confidence that his election would improve his performance or the time spent on it.

So, in the absence of any other suitable candidate, I have declared my own candidacy on the Democratic ticket in the primary election, June 2, for the office of Mayor of Roosevelt. Unlike Moser, I am qualified for the job.

Apart from the cost of running our school, which consumes half our tax dollar and over which we have only limited control; operation, repair, replacement and modernization of our infrastructure takes most of our discretionary budget.

The current administration has distinguished itself by its extravagance and carelessness. The Mayor appointed Moser chairman of the Public Utilities (Sewer and Water) committee. Under her tutelage he has guided the modernization towards an unnecessarily large increase in our town's debt, which is already near its upper permissible limit. An inevitable consequence of this must be much higher taxes and/or utility rates sooner or later.

The only sensible and realistic way to moderate such increases is to

be very careful with and critical of the engineering requirements and recommendations made by our Borough engineer, to insure that everything proposed is indeed needed, that its costs are at the lowest level possible commensurate with adequacy, and that we are not being sold a Mercedes when a Ford will do as well. And having contracted for a Ford, we need to inspect it on delivery to make sure it runs as specified before we pay out our hard earned tax dollars for it. NONE OF THIS IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE.

It is in this area that I can be most effective, as a result of my training and experience. And it is just these errors of omission and commission that I hope to be able to correct.

Most of my career was spent in the supervision and administration of engineering and R & D projects and programs, after I had completed my years of "apprenticeship" at the journeyman levels. I am well versed in engineering, in related contract negotiation, administration and control of contractor efforts, as well as being familiar with the myriad details that are needed in running an organization successfully.

As a young engineering student I worked during my school holidays and for a short time after my graduation under the supervision of Oscar Nisnevitz, our first Borough Engineer, on the then new infrastructure which is failing today.

My ties to Roosevelt go back to its earliest days, when my family settled here among the first group of Homesteaders in 1936. Those ties weren't severed during the years I pursued my career elsewhere, first as a junior, and then ever more senior Registered

Professional Engineer. While I was away from Roosevelt achieving my professional goals, my parents lived in this house, where Figgie and I now live in our retirement. This was always home. The ties have persisted without interruption from the beginning to the present day.

I'm proud of my educational and professional achievements, of my commendations, awards and patents. I look forward to using the skills that brought me those accomplishments and honors for the benefit of this town. I want you to give me the chance to make the town engine stop lurching and start vibrating again for all of us as it did for Ed Roskam. Then I'll be pleased to step down and call back the romanticists.

So that we can get acquainted - particularly those of you who are fairly new in town - I would like to invite you all over for coffee and cake on May 20 at 8 PM. For those who can't make that date, we'll be at Home again same time May 27. Please call first so that we'll have an idea of how many to expect. We live at 12 Homestead Lane. Our phone number is 443-6009.

Phone me if you can't make either date. I'll be glad to discuss my qualifications and my goals as Mayor, as well as answer any questions you may have.

Bernard Leefer

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Don Winters Runs For Council

Don Winters may be the first licensed farmer to run for Borough Council. And he and Lyn may be the first couple to move to Roosevelt because their rental agreement allowed them to keep dogs.

They have since bought the house on Farm Lane which they occupied three years ago just after they married, and a lot of other things have changed since then. Lyn is still working at Princeton Insurance Company, where she has just been promoted to supervisor, but they are now the parents of John, age eight months, and are looking ahead to when he will enter kindergarten at the Roosevelt Public School.

Don is running for Council because he wants to make sure that we have as good a school as we can when John is ready to go. And he is aware of the other pressures on Roosevelt - the sewer question, the need for a study of our tax base and other problems which he has discussed with his neighbors. He wants to help solve them.

It isn't quite exact to say that Don just works for UPS, since UPS is actually owned by its managers, and he is a Central Jersey Operations Supervisor, which means simply that he is responsible for managing all phases of a fairly large business in this area. Furthermore, UPS not only gives managers incentives for being efficient, but constantly improves their management skills to help them become better.

The management skills that he brings to his job every day can be translated into the skills that it takes to make the decisions on the Council of a small town like Roosevelt.

Dennis Connaughton Runs For Council

Dennis Connaughton has decided to run for Council a few years earlier than he originally intended. The issue that politicized him was the failure of the school budget to be passed by the town voters.

Like many of the young couples who have recently moved into Roosevelt - the Connaughtons prize the small town atmosphere and the importance of the school. They have two daughters, ages twelve and six. He wants to represent the interests of everyone who has a long-term stake in Roosevelt as a place for their children to grow up.

Like many couples in Roosevelt, Dennis and Donna both work. He operates a fork lift at Channel Home Centers; she is a customer service representative for Travenol.

The other side of Dennis is that he is a rock guitarist, whose professional career dates back 20 years. Listeners may remember the Radio City Band or Old Glory, two of his groups. He has also recorded: Into the Night and Small Town Girl, Two of his songs.

Rooseveltians may also remember the fabulous open house music festival held at the Connaughtons on Pine Drive last 4th of July - or chatting with the bearded young man in his mid-thirties who worked weekends at Roosevelt Wine & Liquor last winter.

Dennis will bring to the Council his experience as shop steward at his workplace for Teamster Local # 408, working to arbitrate problems between workers and management - a good background for working with voters and town government.



Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata*

FLYING NOT FLYING

Mi pluma
es mi feather
I want to
or not;
I say
I write
with a weight
and Si,
I could try.

The matter of flying
it swings, you see,
from the plot in the ground
to the can-see-on aire
in the sky.

Slow the high deal
of flying
might fine be hablated
in an ether
and ore use of dos
(two) languages,
might co-munerate both
or-mythologies
at once, so see?

It is not
an equestrian
of nouns and birds
but, finely,
of riding with wings,
with words, as
"volo no volo"--
it rerings and swings;

that it sings
should be part of
it swings.

So illogic of flight
is both up- and re-proached
in this flying
not flying restatement
three things: the Si,
and the No, and the Wright,

being
Me.

CRAIG WRIGHT

For Cynthia's Sixtieth April

I

Listen! Last year's oak leaves
on the branches
are scratching the back
of an April wind.



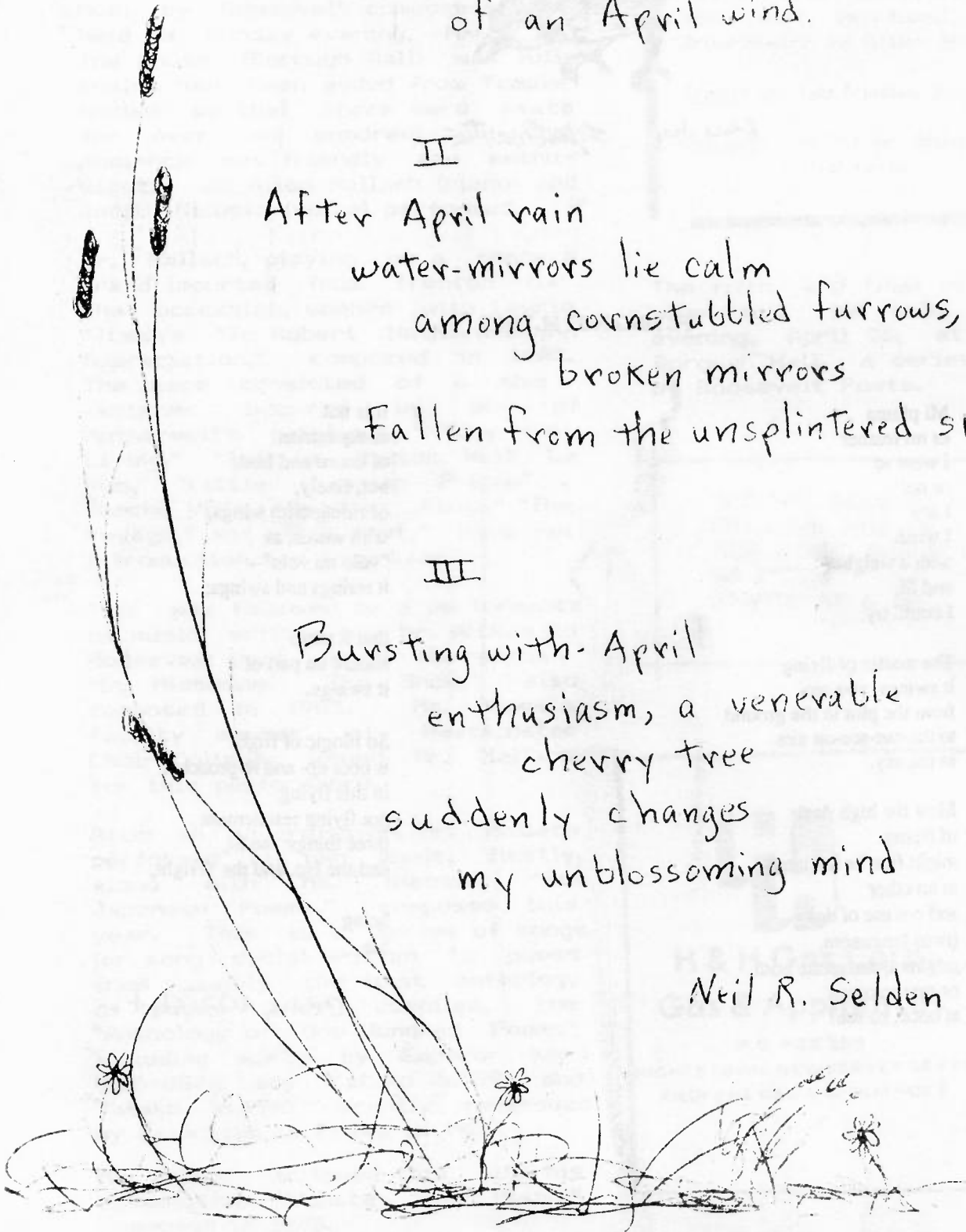
II

After April rain
water-mirrors lie calm
among cornstubbled furrows,
broken mirrors
Fallen from the unsplintered sky

III

Bursting with April
enthusiasm, a venerable
cherry tree
suddenly changes
my unblossoming mind

Neil R. Selden

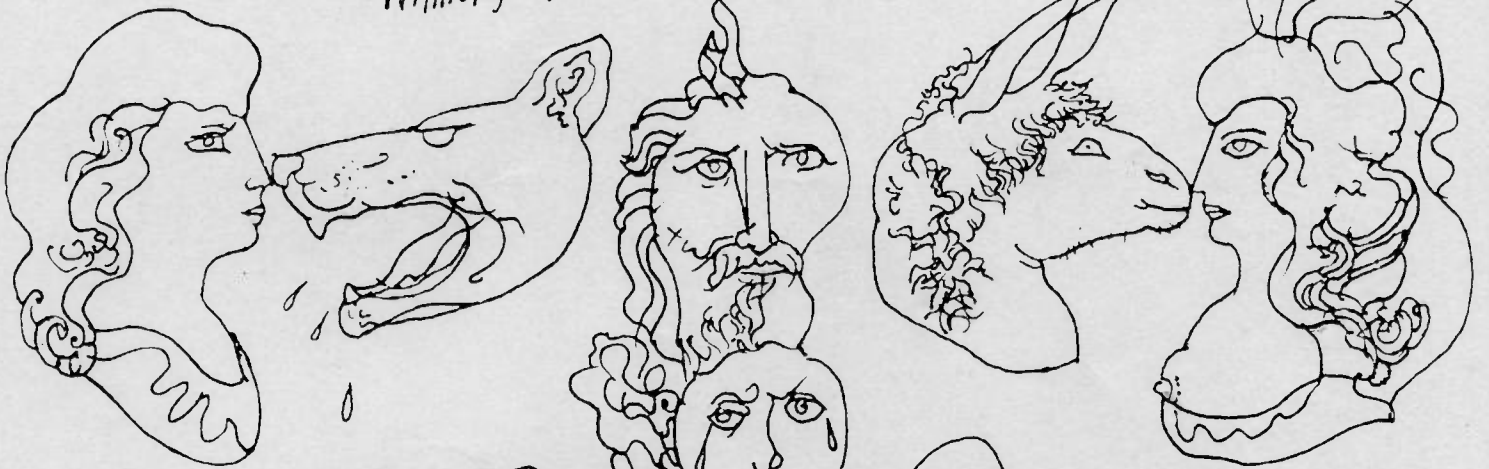


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