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ROOSEVELT
BOROUGH



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ROOSEVELT, NEW JERSEY

January 1987

ARTS PROJECT

The Professor Wows 'Em

"Now I know why parents will kill to send their children to Princeton". So said event curator Leslie Weiner after A. Walton Litz, Professor of English at Princeton University, finished his lecture on the work of William Butler Yeats. The audience could only assent. The lecture was marvelous - the Professor (in precisely one hour) drew such a clear and vivid picture of Yeats the poet and Yeats the man that even those who had never read the poet at all found themselves drawn in, enthralled.

Professor Litz focused on the severe changes Yeats went through in his work, comparing him to Picasso in that respect. He also spent time discussing Yeat's esoteric philosophy, especially his concept of history as cyclical and how this influenced and entered his lyrical work.

The talk, held at the Borough Hall on Saturday, January 10, at 8 PM., was the second event in the recently organized Roosevelt Arts Project. It was an unqualified success, thanks to Mr. Weiner, Professor Litz, a number of volunteers who produced and delivered leaflets, made telephone calls, organized the seating and served refreshments, and the people of Roosevelt who, let it be noted, showed up. The room

was filled - and the people went home happy.

The next event in the series, a presentation of the folk music of the late Canadian folk musician Stan Rogers, will be held on Saturday, February 7, at 8 PM., at the Borough Hall. Mr. Rogers had already become famous in his own country and was becoming better known here when he died in a burning airplane that had landed in Cincinatti in June, 1983 (the one where a fire started in the bathroom). He went back into the plane time after time to rescue people but was caught in the conflagration in the end becoming one of the 23 who did not survive (23 did survive). This genuine human hero wrote music of astounding beauty, power and depth, mostly about working people. Presenting the music will be the Roosevelt Ad Hoc String Band, with David Brahinsky (guitar, vocals), Joshua Brahinsky (Acoustic and Electric Bass), Paul Prestopino (Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Dobrow), and Ed Cedar (Guitar, Fiddle, Flute). Refreshments will be served. (It is recommended that some bring pillows to sit on as it is anticipated that the number of chairs currently left in the Borough Hall will not suffice. Room will be made up front for rug-sitters.

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Dear Neighbors,

The media always spend a lot of energy, during December and January, reviewing the major events of the past year. Along with Chernobyl, Reygavik and Contragate, we, in Roosevelt, had some events that were special to us in 1986.

We celebrated our 50th anniversary in traditional Roosevelt ways which included art, music, food, guests, talk and even a commemorative postal cancellation. The year also brought us some new neighbors, in new houses, on North Valley Road and Eleanor Lane. In fact, quite a few people have begun to express interest in building new homes in Roosevelt.

The Planning board has been mindful of the housing explosion in nearby communities and is pursuing its work with careful attention to the Borough's needs. The Board has completed a draft of the state mandated Master Plan update and we will present it for community consideration in the spring. This will give us a good opportunity to discuss in what ways we want the community to grow during the next 50 years. A major advantage of living in a small town is that everyone can contribute his/her thoughts to the municipality's planning process. This is a good year to think about why we enjoy living here and to reflect upon what we need to do to assure our comfort and pleasure in future years.

A major undertaking in 1987 will be the proceeding with a schedule of state mandated repairs and replacements to our sewer system. Council began work in 1986 and a detailed three year works program is being arranged with the Department of Environmental Protection. We will also continue to carefully monitor the possible siting of a hazardous waste facility in Millstone; mandated recycling programs; and back-breaking insurance costs. I have been appointed to the League of Municipalities legislative committee which

decides what issues to support and lobby for in the legislature. Be assured that I will bring these concerns to their attention whenever possible.

So, there is a lot for all of us to do. Let's get busy! Happy New Year!

Freda Hepner

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VIEWPOINT

You Don't Believe We're On the Eve of Destruction

*"Don't you understand what I'm trying to say?
Can't you feel the fears I'm feeling today?
If the button is pushed, there's no running away.
There'll be no one to save
With the world in its grave.*

In this day and age, where we are achieving great advantages in medicine and technology, we are faced with a danger even greater than famine and disease called the nuclear threat: the possibility that one day mankind will confront a horror known as world war three. Some people may think that the chances of this happening in our lifetime are slim; but we can't forget two very important factors, both connected to the arms race. First, if we do not use the bombs we have in this lifetime, they can still be used long after we pass away, on our children and our children's children. Second, we have already used the bomb twice in this century, in World War II, at Nagasaki and Hiroshima. And the effects of that bombing can still be seen today.

We have been led to believe that the more nuclear weapons we have, the less chance there is of their being used. I kon't think this is true. As long as we have these weapons, we have the threat that they will be used. It does not even have to be intentional. The slightest mistake in their control can lead us right on to the path of war.

But let us put that aside for the moment and just assume for the sake of argument that the bomb is heading our way now. What do you do? It has been estimated that you will have anywhere between twelve and twenty minutes to prepare. You are in school, and at least one of your parents is at work. If you have a car, you wouldn't be able to use it; other people would also be trying to get somewhere; the roads would be jammed. You could try walking, but unless the place you want to get to is around the corner, you wouldn't get very far. Everyone would

*Take a look around you, boy
It's bound to scare you, boy
And you tell me, over and over again,
my friend
You don't believe we're on the eve of
destruction."*

P.F.Sloan

probably be panicking, running all around, screaming and shouting. Don't even bother to use the phone; you wouldn't be able to reach an operator. So, you're stuck. You can't be with your family or your friends. You can't say good-bye to anyone. You're all alone.

Now, say you are in Roosevelt or Hightstown and you manage to survive the initial attack .. there's no real way of knowing that, You'll just have to hope you do. If you've survived the immediate nuclear blast, you have to be careful of the fallout and the radiation. The chances of not being contaminated are very, very slim, especially when you remember that everything from your front door to your candy bar is also contaminated, one way or another. The air you breathe will be contaminated; the rain, the sky will be filled with the aftereffects of the bomb. You don't really have that many advantages going for you. All in all, one way or another you will eventually die. The longer you live, the longer you will be exposed, the longer you'll have to live in a world that has been destroyed.

Now back to reality. The bomb is not on its way. You're safe; life is alright, for today. One of the scariest things about a nuclear war is that you don't know when it's going to happen until it's far too late. And then there's nothing you can do. But we can do something now. Let people know how we feel about the arms race, write to a Congressman, a Senator, even the President. It's been said that the future is in the hands of the kids. And it is. Let's make it a future worth living in.

By P.D. Hazell

COUNCIL REPORT

By Adeline Weiner

December 10: Three members of the Boro Council (Moser, Watchler and Stout) were present, along with Mayor Hepner, at the last meeting of the year. Among the several items calling for action were committee reports and recommendations:

Administrative Committee Chair Carol Watchler proposed acceptance of the low bid, \$35,060 garbage collection contract submitted by Intercity Co., the current collector. Watchler noted that since recycling will not be mandatory in 1987, the bid is lower by \$1000. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Mayor Freda Hepner reported that the Millstone toxic waste case was lost in court (at a cost of \$70,000) and that State Senator Dodd announced a postponement of the site search for at least 18 months.

Ferris Stout, Chair of Public Utilities, reported and recommended payment of \$2300 to Bioassay for water tests performed at the sewer plant. He noted that due to the personal efforts of Tom Karpick (water and sewer licensed operator for the Boro) the testing process was saved as much as \$1500. Next year will see an expected rise in costs.

Stout also called attention to a new problem with pump number three and in view of his departure from the Council, stressed the need to pursue a strict schedule of upgrading the sewer system as a whole.

Ed Moser, Public Property and Cemetary Chair, reported on an agreement with the Hendrickson firm to lime the cemetery to improve grass growth.

In response to an appeal from the Boro of Somerville the Council voted to designate the Roosevelt Amphitheater as a symbolic Peace Site. (Stout opposed). The goal of placing a plaque to mark the designation was suggested by Councilmember Watchler.

Motions to pay for truck repair (\$361.33), for Fire Department supplies

(\$152) and safety equipment (not to exceed \$2500) were passed.

A payment of \$457.84 to the Nottermans for interest due on Boro outlay for Farm Lane extension land evoked some discussion. A check sent in payment last October was somehow lost, thus accruing the interest. A court case was considered but, on the legal advice that costs would be prohibitive, was dropped. The Mayor, when questioned further, cited as an example of cost a \$100 an hour fee for testifying required by the Boro Treasurer.

The Council later passed a resolution directing the treasurer to report on any checks that remain unpaid for as long as three months.

The Council agreed in principle to reimburse Juan Castro for repairs of sewer - line blockage on Lake Drive proper.

Under Good and Welfare, the Council voiced thanks to Tom Karpick for undertaking temporary school crossing guard duty. A quest is on for someone to take the post for one-half hour between 8 and 8:30AM (at \$4.50 an hour) until March, when Jack Yudin returns from Florida.

The Mayor, speaking for the Council as a whole, thanked Councilmember Ferris Stout for his "ardent and conscientious service" during his term in office.

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January 5th Reorganization Meeting

The annual reorganization meeting first swore into office two incumbents, Carol Watchler and Ed Moser and one new councilmember, Jim Alt. After Carol Watchler was elected President of the Council, the following appointments of Mayor Hepner were approved by voice vote:

- Municipal Accountant.....Joseph Faccione & Jerome Fien
- Municipal Engineer.....William Birdsall
- Municipal Attorney.....Richard J. McManus
- Insurance Agency.....Allen and Stults
- Municipal Judge.....Leslie B. Tinkler
- Court Clerk.....Karen Hankins
- Roosevelt Court.....Millstone Court

Further appointments made by the Mayor were approved with one vote opposed (Leefer):

- Water/Sewer Licensed Operator
- Streets & Roads.....Tom Karpick
- Water/Sewer Utility Collector...Geraldine Millar
- Building Inspector.....Harold Haught
- Zoning Officer.....Paul Eichler
- Deputy Borough Clerk.....Nancy Warnick
- Registrar of Vital Statistics...Krystyna Bieracka

The Mayor also announced the personnel for Council Committees as follows: (Chair is underlined)

- Administration.....Watchler, Moser, Seligman
- Public Utilities.....Moser, Leefer, Selden
- Public Safety.....Selden, Watchler, Moser
- Public Property and Cemetery...Alt, Seligman, Leefer
- Culture and Recreation.....Seligman, Watchler, Alt
- Streets and Roads.....Leefer, Selden, Alt

Other appointments:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Planning Board</u> | <u>Zoning Board of Adjustment</u> |
| Haught | Chasen |
| Datz | Esakoff |
| Mallach | Leff |
| Cervantes | |
| Seligman- Council Rep. | |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Bd. of Park Commissioners</u> | <u>Welfare Board</u> |
| C. Carter | N. Brahinsky |
| A. Schwendeman | |
| R. Seligman- Council Rep. | |

- Cable Advisory Commission
- R. Warnick
- R. Seligman- Council Rep.

At a special meeting held earlier at 7 PM, the Council adopted a statement incorporating new rules for use of the Boro Hall by community groups, with one vote opposed (Selden). The main features are a reminder of the power of the Council to withdraw use and privileges, and a requirement of three signatories to undertake responsibility and liabil-

ity for damages, repairs and reimbursements.

A proposal for cooperation with the Juvenile Conference Committee in the use of appropriate space in the Boro Hall and for service and employment projects for juvenile offenders was adopted.

Another proposal directing the Boro Attorney to prepare a formal opinion on the legality and viability of the current ordinance was adopted. Informal suggestions for resolving ensuing problems was suggested as well.

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ISSUES & DEBATE

For a More Open Borough Government

By Peter Warren

With primary elections coming in June, Bulletin readers could start making New Year's resolutions about running for the mayoralty and council seats that will be vacant in November. With so few Republicans in town, the real contest would probably come in the primary rather than the final election.

Our town has a problem. There hasn't been any real political discussion in years - nor has there been a contested election. We might just as well be a little corner of East Windsor or Millstone for all we care about local government.

After coming back from a country where people don't have the right to contest elections, I have been perhaps a little critical of the way our town is being managed in the absence of community interest.

What I see - perhaps colored by my African experiences - is a government which is secretive, defensive about what it does, unwilling to let the public in on the arcane mysteries of

government - careless with money and sloppy with procedures.

The mayor tells the New York Times that the borough can "call upon the professionals among its residents for services that other municipalities pay dearly for." Yes, but does it? It doesn't match my experience.

Like recycling? When I handed the new administration a recycling proposal that Leon Barth had asked me to write just before his term as mayor ended, it was pigeon-holed. Six months later, when the Borough Clerk read aloud my letter asking their reactions - their reaction was to skip to the next order of business. Call on professionals?

Like grants? It has never been easy to get a federal or state grant - they aren't picked off trees. First of all, even after the School Board shelled out money to a grantsman who didn't produce anything, the Council went out and did the same thing. The School Board, learning from its mistake, asked the school superintendent to rewrite the

grant - he did and the school got the grant, a grant which is going into improvements that will save on operating costs. The Council paid out some \$4,000 of taxpayer money...for nothing. After all, \$4,000 only buys about 10 days' work, at current rates.

What were their options?

They started out in 1984 by firing borough engineers who had served Roosevelt for 10 years or more - a large well-established firm which knew all the grants there were to get - it got business that way, and had brought Roosevelt grants in the past. That was one option.

The second option was to take the big catalog of grant sources which was sitting around the Borough Hall and ask "the professionals among its residents" to comb its pages for anything that looked useful and obtainable - and then see if we were capable of writing a proposal.

When the \$37,000 state road fund grant to repave city streets, fell in our laps, the chairman of the Roads and Streets Committee wasn't told before someone decided to pave Homestead Lane. It just happened, like the four crab-apple trees the County Shadetree Commission planted on school land.

Perhaps Rooseveltians might have been asked their choice of streets to be paved. My suggestion would have been Brown Street or Spruce Lane. But not Homestead which had a perfectly good surface.

Contrary to the statement in the Times, costly mistakes are being made over and over again because professionals - lawyers, engineers, accountants in the town - or past mayors and council members with years of experience in handling town problems are not being consulted.

A few years ago, some of our best legal minds had been volunteering their services to codify the borough ordinances - until they were discouraged from doing it. Not unrelated is the macabre incident when a town official let someone, who wasn't entitled, be buried in our cemetery.

A final example of wasted effort is the confusion over Farm Lane exten-

sion by Solar Village. The former mayor had reached an understanding over price with the owner of the land. Instead of sticking to that agreement, the present administration has kept a running problem for three years, wasting its own time and our money. A little professional advice would have been helpful here, too.

The point of these examples is to suggest that we need more participation in the management of our public affairs, and more give-and-take between local government bodies and the rest of us.

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ISSUES & DEBATE II

Food Co-op Complaint

By David Teich

The Roosevelt Food Co-op is a group of (presently) 35 families who purchase wholesome food in bulk to obtain lower prices. The previous Roosevelt administration, under Leon Barth, granted the Co-op the right to use the Boro Hall to store a refrigerator, weigh scales, and other tools used in co-op business as well as the use of the Boro Hall one day a month to distribute food to members. There were never any problems politically until this past summer.

We began to get messages by phone, from the Boro Clerk, that the mayor wanted our refrigerator moved out of its present location at the back of the Boro Hall. Our response was, 'OK -- where do you want it?' We got no answer but weeks later were again told to move it, so naturally we wanted to know: where? Still no answer. This went on until November. At the November Council Meeting, Mayor Hepner and Borough Property Officer Ed Moser claimed that they had never gotten any communication from the Co-op on the issue, despite the fact that Councilperson Watchler said that she had presented the same question every time the issue had come up in council. At this meeting feelings on the part of the Council ran high -- threats were made to the effect that if the fridge wasn't moved, the council would move it for us. When presented again with the question of "where?" the Council felt it was not their responsibility to tell us where. This is, I think, what's known as a Catch-22. We're at fault for not moving it, but they won't tell us where they want it.

After the meeting, we worked out a couple of possibilities for where the refrigerator could be stored. The Co-op would have to make a formal request for the space from the Boro Council, the Fire Department and the First Aid Squad. Letters were written and delivered to the Boro Clerk, but

they were somehow misplaced. A few days before the holiday we received the following letter sent to three different Co-op board members by registered mail:

Ms. Evelyn Edelstein
Roosevelt Food Co-op
Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Dear Ms. Edelstein

On or about December 1, 1986, you called me on the telephone to ask permission to keep the Food Co-op's refrigerator in the firehouse garage. I asked you to call me back that evening, but I also told you that you would have to put your request in writing, and that you would have to obtain written permission. You didn't call back, and you didn't write for permission.

Since then, a Borough employee stored the refrigerator in the firehouse garage to get it out of the community room. This does not imply that that permission has been granted to keep the refrigerator there.

There is no conviction on the Council that the Food Co-op is prepared to maintain or care for its equipment responsibly, or to respond if there are circumstances which require repair or removal of its equipment.

Until we have such assurance, and written undertakings and waivers to substantiate the assurance, there will be no permission granted to keep equipment in the Borough Hall or its appurtenances. So far, you have not even been willing to take the minimal step of writing for permission.

Understand that the Borough Hall is not a public storage area, open to any member of the community who runs short of space on his/her property. It belongs to the entire community for community needs, not to individual members of it for their individual

purposes.

Very Truly Yours,
Ed Moser, Chair
Public Property
and Cemetery Committee

So the letters requesting space were rewritten and delivered. This time they got through. Apparently, though, we were not responding quickly enough for Borough Property Officer Ed. Moser. At a special council meeting on January 5th, he proposed that the Council adopt a policy solely at the Food Co-op. The document reads as follows:

Policy on Storing A Refrigerator And Food At the Borough Hall (An extension of General Policy On Use)

1. Storing equipment in the Borough Hall is a privilege extended by the Mayor and Council. It is not a right of any group. The privilege may be revoked at any time by the Mayor and Council.

2. The using group is responsible for its equipment, and for any damage caused by that equipment. Three responsible members of the group, each individually empowered by the group to act for it, must register with the Borough Clerk, and sign this document. The signers must leave their addresses and telephone numbers with the Borough Clerk and with the members of the Public Property and Cemetery Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the using group to inform the Borough Clerk and Mayor and Council of any changes in the responsible parties, and to have the new responsible parties sign a copy of the policy.

3. The using group will make repairs or moves when requested by the Borough Clerk. Such repairs or moves will be effected within 5 days of notification by the Clerk by Certified Mail. Emergency repairs, if the Clerk cannot reach the members by telephone, will be effected by the Borough and reimbursed by the group. The signers make themselves individually and jointly responsible for the reimbursements. Failure to respond to requests by the Borough

to repair or move the equipment, or that which is stored in it, or to reimburse the Borough for repairs, immediately conveys the equipment and its contents to the Borough to be disposed of in an appropriate manner. Such conveyance does not relieve the group or the signers of liability.

I have read the above policy. I understand and accept all the conditions freely and without reservation. I am empowered by the using group to act for it.

----- Date
----- Date
----- Date


Some council members objected to the hyper-specificity of this policy, saying it should be amended to include any group who uses the borough hall to store equipment. No one seconded any amendment to change the policy and it was adopted as is, with only Lee Selden voting 'no'.

If the Co-op must abide by these restrictions, why not other groups which use the Boro Hall? The policy is designed, plainly, to drive the Co-op out of the Boro Hall.

Some members of the Council argue that the building should be available to the community as much as possible. The refrigerator issue itself is so small that it's absurd. The amount of energy the Council has lavished on it, however, is no joke. This is politics at its worst. This should have been handled in a more dignified manner. Is this how our Council operates? We don't deserve such shabby treatment.

The Co-op is a community group -- open to all who are interested in quality food and in interacting with other members of the community. Groups such as ours should be welcomed.

We would like to hear what others think about this issue.



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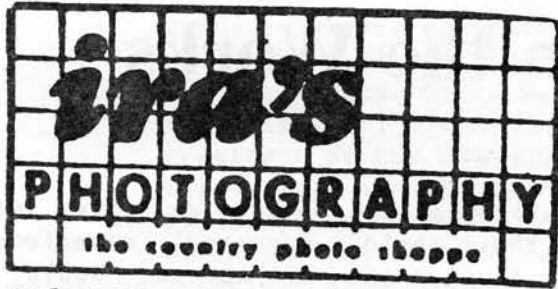
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Nursery School in the Works

By Allison Petrilla
Media/P.R. Committee

Moms, dads, grandparents, childcare folks -- does chauffeuring your favorite preschooler to nursery school seem to be getting more stressful with every trip? Is that toddler starting to show signs of Commuter Burnout? Then join us in our efforts to create a state-certified Nursery School right in town!

We are a group of nearly 20 Roosevelt mothers and we are right now exploring likely sites, discussing fundraising and grant possibilities, and searching for local volunteers to advise us in areas such as carpentry work, plumbing, toy donations, etc.

The nursery school, as we see it, would be run as a modified co-op, which

enables parents to take an active role in their child's preschool experience. Our teacher(s), of course, would be certified professionals.

We have already met several times and formed a number of working committees, but we are eager for more new ideas -- and new co-workers.

Our next general meeting will be Sunday Feb. 1st at 3 PM -- please come. We know there are more of you out there who would like to see a community-based activity for our youngest Rooseveltians!

Contact Karyn Grunwald at 426-9064 for information about our meeting place, committees, etc.

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SHORT TAKESTrash

In a county by county review of the state-wide trash crunch (Michael Booth, Trenton Times), Monmouth County is described as being the only county to have enough remaining capacity at its Tinton Falls landfill to last 3 to 6 more years before being required to site another landfill. Mercer County has settled on Dutch Island for its incinerator site but has still to designate a new landfill site.

Toxic Waste

Senator Frank Lautenberg has taken on a new role, that of Toxic Avenger. He is head of the newly created Senate Superfund Oversight Committee. Environmentalists believe that the Senator working with fellow Democrat James J. Florio, who wrote the original Super-fund legislation, will greatly improve conditions in New Jersey, which has 98 major toxic waste sites slated for clean-up.

Traffic

A research group known as TRIP (The Road Information Program) in a recent press conference, named the Princeton-Hightstown Rd. (Rte 571) among several in New Jersey considered as "deficient". The condition will be improved by means of a \$435,000 project involving shoulder reconstruction and repair of 9,050 feet of the road from Rte 535 to Rabbit Hill Rd. in West Windsor, to begin this year, according to Robert Carmignani, Mercer County Director of Public Works.

The intelligent man finds almost everything ridiculous, the sensible man almost nothing.

J.W. Goethe

(Submitted by Maline Monk)

LETTER TO EDITOR**Decries Local Litter**

To The Editor

It is a pity that visitors to the Art Fair were greeted by empty beer bottles on the ground next to the entrance to the school. This town is a mess. There are beer and soda bottles and cans strewn all over the place, as well as countless potato chip and candy wrappers. It is beginning to look like downtown Trenton. How about chewing out the people who litter and stopping people from drinking in our public places. Let them drink in their own yards and litter their own gardens.

Thank you,
Jenifer Nina Burghardt

LETTER TO EDITOR

Hello,

Have a donation.

I like Joe Solomon's columns best of all. I'd say I'm his big-gest fan except I guess my mother is. She's his mother too...

Prosper, flourish, and thanks for the pleasure.

Naomi Corven
Tappen, NY

Thanks Naomi and readers who have not yet contributed: Please do! We need it badly. DB

Notice

Anyone interested in obtaining a Roosevelt Phone Book (\$5.00), please contact Ann Cohen 448-2453 or Lynn Friedman 448-5186. Please make the following corrections to your book:

1. Cybulski Michael and Susan..426-0645
2. Francis Robert and Ellen ..Unlisted
3. Goldberg Irving and Sarah...448-7432
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5. Prezant Howard and Louise...448-2659
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SENIOR CITIZEN COLUMN

By Helga Wisowaty

Mayor Hepner and Lou Esakoff came to this meeting to inform us a little bit about "Recycling" which will be Mandatory by April or October, 1987. The first three materials will be 1. Leaves 2. Aluminum 3. Glass.

There are various ways to dispose of the leaves, but nothing has been determined yet. There are many problems to be worked out before this starts and letters will be sent to every household explaining everything in detail. Meanwhile Lou suggested that we discuss recycling and voice any questions we have. We appreciate the Mayor and Lou Esakoff coming to give us a preview of this situation.

Riders on the "Scat" bus for shopping have been confused about notices requiring payment for riding. However, a letter from Freehold today informed us that any donation is Voluntary.

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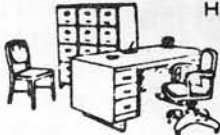
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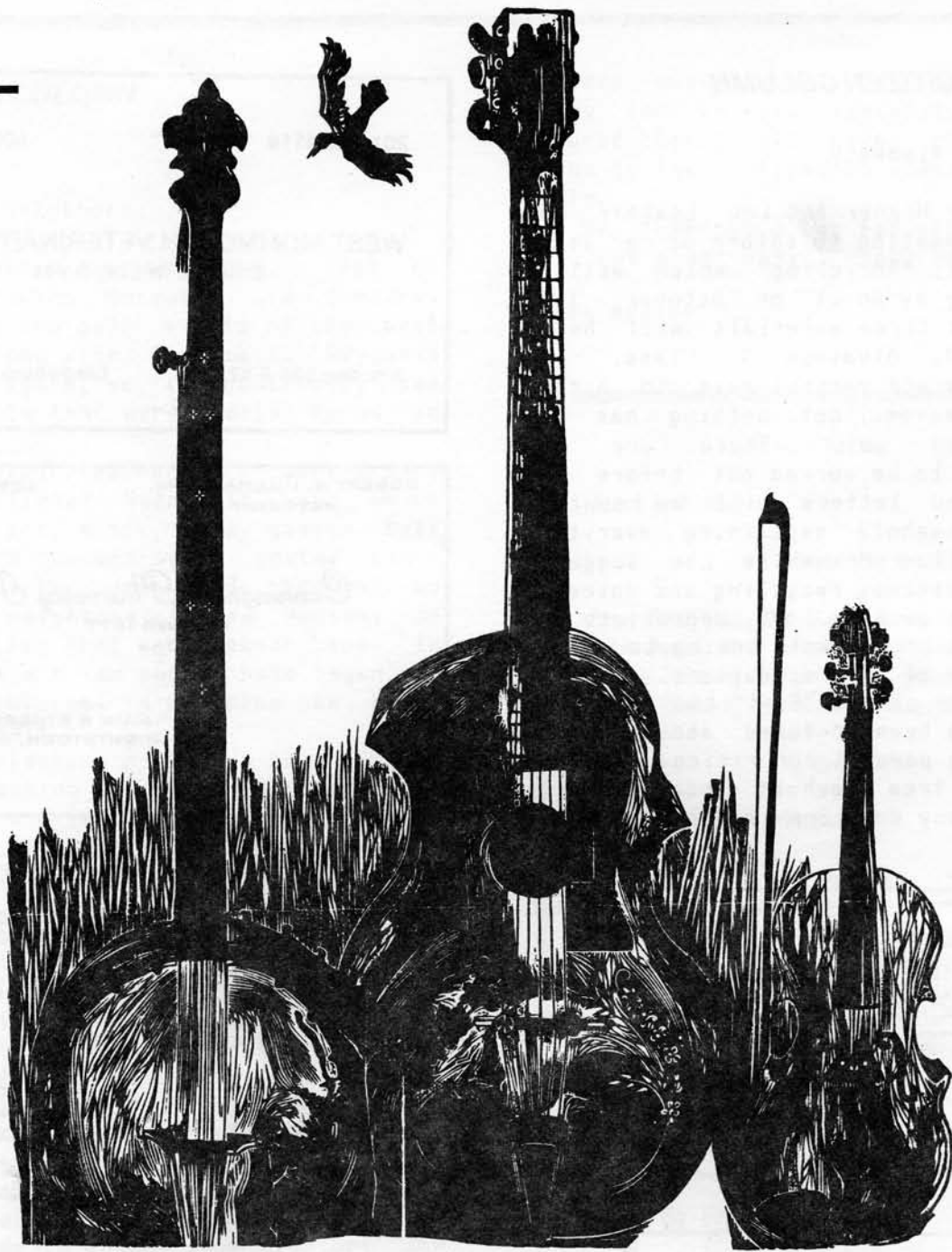
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The Roosevelt Arts Project will present as the 3rd event in its 1986-87 series, DAVID BRAHINSKY (guitar, vocals); JOSHUA BRAHINSKY (acoustic bass, electric bass); ED CEDAR (fiddle, electric guitar); PAUL PRESTOPINO (guitar, banjo, mandolin, Dobro, etc); billed as The Roosevelt Ad Hoc String Band performing the music of Canadian folk musician Stan Rogers.

date: Saturday February 7th (Bring Pillows for extra seating)
Time: 8 p.m.
place: Borough Hall. (Contribution \$2; seniors, students \$1)
(refreshments)